

## Looking Back and Looking Forward

As we head into 2024 and I look back at 2023, I'm happy to have been a part of what we've accomplished and look forward to what we can do in the next year. In 2023, we moved the Club's website to a new host, plus we now have our own groups.io page (thank you Robin Marks (KR7MC) for setting that up); we have a great new newsletter (thanks to Tom Schiller (N6BT) for editing and publishing it); we moved the repeater to a new location with great coverage (thanks again to Tom and Alyce for hosting the repeater at their home); we hosted the first swap meet that the Club has had in quite some time (thank you again, Billy, for providing us with a venue); we passed an amendment to the Club's Constitution and By-Laws; we launched our first amateur radio balloons; we even got some positive national attention for our little club. And we wrapped up the year by participating in an NVIS test with London Bridge Amateur Radio Association in Lake Havasu City, as well as some members of the Spirit Mountain Amateur Radio Club who were operating in Needles, CA. There's a lot to be proud of as we head into 2024.

And as we head into 2024, we should say a big thank you to our outgoing President, Rick Cooper (K7CNT). Thank you, Rick, for all that you've done this past year.

We have some changes in the Club Officers for 2024, as well as new members of the Board of Directors; Jerry Zitterkopf (WS7T) has stepped into the President role and Scott Henry is our new Vice President, while Candice Hart (KD9EKI) and myself retain our positions as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. So, for your reference, here's the line-up for 2024.

Club **Officers**:

President, Jerry Zitterkopf (WS7T)

Vice President, Scott Henry (KK7KBQ)

Treasurer, Candice Hart (KD9EKI)

Secretary, Mike Risser (KG6ECW)

Board of Directors:

Rick Cooper (K7CNT)

Viki Zumwalt (N6KLS)

Alan Serl (KM6KPW)

(Just for clarification, per the Constitution and By-Laws, the Board of Directors consists of the current Club Officers, the previous President and two elected members from the general membership.)

I, for one, am excited to see what 2024 holds for us as a Club. There is so much more for us to do and to enjoy.

## Portable Operations

Although we've only managed to have one so far, I've received a fair amount of positive feedback on the Second Saturdays Portable event. I'm glad that there are so many who are interested, although, to be

fair, it wouldn't matter if it was only me, I'd still be doing it. It's something that I enjoy, and everyone, Club member or not, who is interested, curious, or just looking to socialize, is welcome to come along. More about portable ops in a minute, as that is a perfect segway into another topic...

## Activities

You don't need to wait on someone else to get something going. If there is something that you are interested in and you think that there might be others interested in it, set something up and let the Club know when and where. That's what I did with Second Saturdays Portable, it's not an "official" club event, it's just something that I decided that I wanted to do, and I basically said, "hey I'm going to be going out and operating portable... you're welcome to join me." I encourage you to do the same.

## More on Portable Operations

Back to portable ops. My current plan is to do a POTA activation in April or May, I may do an impromptu one sooner as I drive right by a POTA entity every day, but definitely April or May, depending on weather conditions. If you're interested, let me know.

For those who may not be familiar, POTA stands for Parks on the Air®, and is centered around portable operations in State and National Parks, Preserves, Refuges, etc. not only here in the U.S. but also around the world. There are two areas of participation in POTA, Activators and Hunters. Activators go out and operate portable from one or more of the designated POTA entities. The activation is considered successful after 10 QSOs during the same visit to the entity. Hunters are the ones who are completing the QSOs with the Activators, usually from the comfort of their own shacks. Both Activators and Hunters can earn awards for participating, but Hunters have the advantage of not having to do anything other than have QSOs with the Activators, they don't need to submit logs, fill out award applications, nothing except register with Parks on the Air®. The Activators take care of uploading the logs and the system takes care of tallying up the contacts and handing out the awards. I encourage you to consider registering and Hunting, even if you don't want to go out and activate a park, it's a lot of fun. You can find out more at [parksontheair.com](http://parksontheair.com).

The next Second Saturdays portable is tentatively scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup>, it's entirely dependent on the weather, I'll let you know the particulars through the Club's Facebook page. Everyone, club member or not, is more than welcome to come out to any of the Second Saturdays Portable events.

If you have any questions about portable ops or anything else, shoot me an email, catch me after a meeting, at the monthly breakfast, or give me a shout on the Club's repeater, you'll find me there most weekday mornings and evenings during my commute.

73 de KG6ECW