

*“KAR”* ***Kansas Amateur Radio*** *“KAR”*  
*SCOUT SPRING CAMPOREE SPECIAL*

A group of Wichita Amateur Radio operators went out and setup a station at the Scout White Buffalo/High Plains Spring Camporee at Lake Afton. More than 400 scouts and 100 adults attended. We were one of the events, competing with EMS, Army, Rope Bridge, Frisbee Golf and other events.

Harvey Jones, James Whitfield, Joseph Jones, and Robert Johnstone started setup just after the rain stopped Friday. Our location was a shelter without sides, so we put up tarps to enclose 3 sides of the shelter. We erected Dennis Gaskill's Arrow dual-band J-Pole at about 25 feet. We erected an old Alpha-Delta DX-LB Plus using James's aluminum poles. We also erected Harvey's Hi-Gain vertical, except for the ground radials. We learned in the past that if the vertical's ground radials are up after dark, a scout will find it while walking causing damage and lost radials. Only one radio was hooked up, James's FT-8900R. We ran only 5 Watts and we were able to reach BEARS, Tech-ni-Chat, and .85 WARC. Four of the boys attended a Radio Merit badge class the Saturday before and completed their requirements Friday night.

The event leadership expected/hoped that the Wichita Astronomy club would come out and operate Friday evening but that fell through due to weather. We were the only event for the boys Friday evening. We had about 50 to 60 boys come by our shack Friday night, on into Saturday morning.

Saturday started early. We setup the BEARS ICOM 756 Pro for HF voice and Harvey's FT 857 and computer for PSK-31. Randy Wing joined the group about 1:00 PM.

About 40 more boys came by our shack on Saturday. They just meandered by, stopped in, some talked on the radio and some just asked questions. I was surprised at how popular PSK-31 was with the boys. The adults were more interested in HF. Of note, the bands are opening, we hear a lot more Europe.

Spring Camporee was our chance to introduce Scouts, 12 years old and above, to Amateur Radio. We introduced a number of the boys back as WEBELOS during JOTA/WEBELOS Woods. No instant success, but the more they see the greater chance that some day they will pick up a book, take a test, and join us in this hobby.

Next year our hope is to get more operators on Friday night and to also work up volunteers at home to talk on HF and PSK-31 to the boys.

Many many many of you had your radio's on and spent time talking with the Scouts. For that we thank you.

With much thanks,

**James Whitfield (N5GUI) & Harvey Jones (AC0EG)**

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