

## RARC Annual Christmas Meeting December 16, 2004

A great time was had by all at the annual RARC Christmas meeting held at Ryan's Steak House in Union City, TN. Please see [Recent Events](#) for details.

## EmComm Meeting December 7, 2004

The first of several organizational emergency communications meetings was held this date. Intended as an introduction to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), ten licensed amateurs and four visitors attended. The visitors included LeRoy Segraves, Assistant Administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital - Union City, Mike George, Obion County Emergency Management, and Pat Hogan, representing Obion County Red Cross and Rescue Squad. ARES field officers present were DEC, Gary, W4GT, Obion County EC, Jamie, WB4YDL, and Weakley County EC, Alan, KA4BNI. An introductory presentation was made by Jamie, WB4YDL, outlining the ARES organization regionally as well as a discussion of RACES and Skywarn. The basics of an emergency response was reviewed and the introductory short film "At Any Moment" was shown. The Powerpoint® presentation can be downloaded [here](#). After a short recess, Ron, W9RVR gave a very informative presentation on the "Go Bag" used by ARES volunteers to carry radio equipment and important personal care and survival items. Excerpts from the ARES Field Manual regarding this can be found [here](#). This is a PDF file and requires [Adobe Acrobat® Reader](#) to display. After this presentation, everyone agreed that the meeting was worthwhile and expectations are that further ARES meetings will be held with future training. Assistant EC's Ron, W9RVR and Glenn, N4MJ, along with Obion County EC, Jamie, WB4YDL will comprise a planning committee to arrange and coordinate future regular meetings.

## RARC Meeting October 28, 2004

There were 18 licensed ham operators present at this meeting - a very good showing. Mentioned in 'old business' was the fact that formal National Traffic System (NTS) messages were passed during the last session of the West TN West KY Emergency Net this past Sunday. This segue-way ed nicely with the 'new business' topics that boiled down to the need for more training and training opportunities. There is an interest in the possibility of this club becoming a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) club and the possibility of holding volunteer 'Elmer' sessions to teach radio electronics with the specific goal of obtaining an Amateur Radio license. Bob, K9IL will obtain initial information from the ARRL and other participating clubs and advise us during the next club meeting. Additionally, there was much discussion about emergency communications (EmComm) and the need for further training, coordination, and integration into the local emergency services. Jamie, WB4YDL, EC of Obion County, will organize a special session of the RARC specific to EmComm training. There is good talent in the membership with Alan, KA4BNI, EC of Weakley County, Gary, DEC of this district of West TN, and with the addition of Ron, W9RVR, who has EmComm experience at his native Illinois QTH. Additionally, Terry, KC4YLK, who has the most experience with NCS duties of the West TN West KY Emergency Net, will be instrumental in assisting in this effort. Emphasis was placed on the ARRL Emergency Communications training courses and the Skywarn spotters course. Additionally, mention was made of training made available through the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) and the Red Cross. Notices of the special Emcomm meeting will be posted on this web site.

There will be a change in the By-laws that will reflect the need to either pro-rate dues as members join in other than the February meeting, or organize a fiscal year dues collection per each member organized in a database. Pros and cons were discussed and a decision will be made at the next club meeting.

A web site report was made that stated 312 hits on the site with an average of 3 hits per day. Also, Field Day 2004 results have been recently posted on the ARRL web site. This places Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club in the top 10% of all entries and at the top 16% of all entries in our class

(2A). This is a tremendous effort for our fledgling club and portends good things for future events !

After the break, Steve, KQ4UB gave a scintillating talk on the Elecraft KX1 QRP CW kit with some discussion of other offerings by this very fine kit company. Indeed, [Elecraft](#) has become the Heathkit of our day ! Comparisons were made with manufacturers of commercial amateur gear, particularly in regards to receiver performance, and these were truly eye-popping ! Bob, K9IL ran 800 CW contacts during Field Day on Jamie's, WB4YDL Elecraft K2/100 and was duly impressed. Show 'n' Tell with the Elecraft KX1, K1, and K2 (under construction) was presented.

Glenn, N4MJ made final comments regarding the need for emergency communications capability in this area (particularly linking with Memphis and Paducah) as well as, in the future, developing a club station active in all phases of amateur communications.

## RARC Meeting August 26, 2004

We welcomed visitors Gene Evans, AB4IR and John Curtis, KG4VWP to the meeting. Gene also became our newest member. The next VEC testing session will be in Trenton on September 11, 2004. Dolly, XYL to Ray, N4SLY will be taking the Technician examination. The successful Field Day event was mentioned with recommendations to maintain the same location for next year's event. The Treasurer's report was given and demonstrated strong support for the club. The Christmas meeting will be in December and discussion was opened as to when and where we might congregate. Mention was made of four restaurants and Glenn, N4MJ will be making contact and arrangements. Best wishes were made to Gary Tuck, W4GT who is recovering from coronary artery bypass surgery. A card was signed by all and Britt, KB4IBW was to take it, along with a basket, to him at the hospital in Memphis. Jamie, WB4YDL showed a prototype of the forthcoming club web site. A request was made for everybody's email address and any ideas for the web site. The program was given by Jamie, WB4YDL on Emergency Communications and ARES. The Powerpoint presentation can be downloaded here - [ARES-Winlink.ppt](#). Jamie is the Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Obion County and Alan, KA4BNI is the EC for Weakley County. All members were encouraged to make contact with their EC to join the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Final comments were made by Glenn and a welcome was made to our

newest member Gene, AB4IR.

## RARC Meeting June 24, 2004

Mike George, Obion County Emergency Management Director, was a guest speaker at this meeting. He spoke on his concerns regarding emergency communications in this county. As different agencies use different radio frequencies, he would like to see amateur radio employed in every major industry in the county. There was some discussion of the radio presently found at the police station, used last in an emergency in 1992.

The official club call sign is now K4RFT and this will be reflected on the Tennessee ARRL web page. The Field Day report was given by Jamie, WB4YDL. Geomagnetic conditions should be good to fair. Setup will begin at 7 AM at the location in Graham Park. Bonus point plans were discussed as well as media publicity. People who are not operating should serve as 'tour guides' for the visiting public and to also watch that no one gets hurt. Talk-in will be on the Union City repeater 146.70 / .10.

Alan, KA4BNI is now the repeater coordinator for West Tennessee as part of SERA, the Southeast Repeater Association. A new policy will be that new repeaters should have a PL tone.

Jamie, WB4YDL and Alan, KA4BNI demonstrated the Field Day software to be used that is written by N3FJP. Networking was demonstrated although this will not be used this year. Also sending of CW via keyboard macros to an Elecraft K2 was demonstrated via a USB-serial adapter.

## RARC Meeting April 22, 2004

Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club regained affiliation with the American Radio Relay League. The proposed Constitution and By-Laws were voted on and approved by the membership present. Club liability insurance was discussed and forms were sent to the ARRL sponsoring company. Local insurance company possibilities were also entertained. The Field Day committee gave an extensive report including the following: 1) the Graham Park site was verified, 2) station equipment verified for operation as class 2A with GOTA and VHF/UHF stations, 3) media

publication in local newspaper, 4) emergency power, 5) message handling, 6) possible satellite contact, 7) alternate power consisting of solar panel and gel cell with the CW station, 8) W1AW bulletin, 9) site visitation by an elected government official and an agency representative, 10) computer logging recommended. It was also recommended that the old club call sign, KG4MJO be retired in favor of a new club vanity call sign. Different call signs were discussed and Lee, N4ABU was to determine availability and proceed with the application. Alan, KA4BNI reports that the Union City repeater now has a CW ID'er. Plans are to also relocate the antennas on a new tower that should dramatically increase the range. Lee, N4ABU reported on the interference problem with the Martin repeater. Plans are for a 100 watt amplifier to be installed soon. Jamie, WB4YDL gave a program and demonstration of PSK31, a relatively new digital mode. The Powerpoint presentation of this program may be downloaded - [PSK31.ppt](#).

## RARC Meeting February 26, 2004

This was the first meeting of the newly revitalized Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club. Many were in attendance at Ryan's Steak House for the meeting. Many organizational items were discussed such as meeting frequency, location, dues, and the need for ARRL re-affiliation. It was decided to take advantage of the very nice new facility at the Obion County Public Library and meet on a bi-monthly basis, on the fourth Thursday, with the December meeting being a Christmas gathering at a local restaurant. Membership dues are \$ 30 per year per ham with \$ 5 additional for a family membership. These dues are for the fiscal year beginning in February. There was some repeater news and Robin, WA4YGM donated a UHF repeater to Alan, KA4BNI for local use.

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