

RARC Meeting December 9, 2005

Please see the [Recent Events](#) page for details. There was no business side to this meeting - just food and fun at Ryan's Steakhouse in Union City, TN!

RARC Meeting October 27, 2005

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 13 members in attendance. Susie, KD4ASA was unable to attend; however, the Treasurer's report was given by Lee, N4ABU. In old business, the previously referenced towers to be taken down in Dresden have not as yet been disassembled. Alan, KA4BNI who was to assist in this endeavor, has been unavailable due to prior commitments. Hopefully, this will be addressed soon. Britt, KB4IBW is back in Nashville for further treatment of his medical condition. Inquiries were made as to how to send cards and email to him. Again, our best wishes and prayers are with Britt and his family during these times. SERA dues for the W4UTM repeater in Martin was discussed briefly and was tabled to a future meeting.

Field Day 2005 results have been posted on the ARRL web site. Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club, with a posted score of 6044 points, placed 2nd in the 2A division, Tennessee section. This also placed RARC in the top 50 nationally, placing 49th in division 2A. This is a particularly fine accomplishment as RARC managed this with merely 10 participants !Thanks go out to Glenn, N4MJ and XYL Linda for providing refreshments for this meeting.

After the break, Larry Vernon of Ad Pro Designs was welcomed to the meeting. Discussions began as to a club logo design and application to various items such as patches , caps, and badges. Ron, W9RVR was unable to attend the meeting; however, he sent preliminary art work of a potential logo to the meeting. The present membership appreciated this work and decided that a multi-color design of a sunset over a rustic home next to a radio tower would be quite satisfactory. This was given to Mr. Vernon along with contact information to Ron, W9RVR who will be coordinating the art work. This will be further discussed at the next RARC meeting. It was decided to have our annual Holiday RARC meeting again at Ryan's Steakhouse in Union City on Friday, December, 9th at 6:30 PM.

Robin, WA4YGM discussed the progress made recently on the Baptist Hospital EOC station. Antenna cabling has been performed from the main communications tower to the radio room in the Emergency Department. In addition, the Diamond X-50 VHF/UHF antenna has been mounted and is approximately 95 feet AGL. The HF inverted V antenna has not yet been deployed. It was mentioned that Volunteer Hospital in Martin, TN has also planned for and deployed an emergency amateur radio station. Jamie, WB4YDL has been developing a template Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that it is anticipated will be developed with Obion County Department of Emergency Services and Baptist Memorial Hospital - Union City. This will be under the banner of Obion County ARES. It is also desirable to combine this effort with our neighboring Weakley County. Unfortunately, the Emergency Coordinator for Weakley County is Britt, KB4IBW who is ill at present, and AEC Alan, KA4BNI is consumed by his job duties. It is hoped that this will come together soon. Jamie, WB4YDL also has made contact with the chief developer of [Winlink 2000](#), Steve Waterman, K4CJX and inquired as to a potential speaking engagement at a future meeting. What he got back was a gracious invitation for all interested ARES and other emergency volunteers to visit him and the other emergency field team members at Williamson County to inspect and learn how Winlink was effectively deployed. This is an exciting opportunity to get an up-close look at how things are done in a larger community and learn how this technology might be deployed here at our nascent stage. Hopefully we will be able to gather several members as well as county DES and hospital officials to take Steve up on this gracious offer and report back at the next RARC meeting. Ottis, K5BSE was recently deployed to EmComm duty at Slidell, LA and found that Winlink was put to very good use.

Glenn, N4MJ finished the meeting with a discussion of how we, as a club, can increase our exposure to the public in order to attract and train new members. Several possibilities were initially discussed such as presentations to the Boy Scouts. Robin, WA4YGM who is a member of Cumberland Presbyterian Church, mentioned that Troop 570 has now been moved to that facility and presents a possible opportunity to introduce radio communications to our community's youth. Also mentioned was the need to donate specific ham radio related books as well as a QST magazine subscription to the public library. An inquiry will be made to ARRL as to possible affiliated club aid in this regard. On a finishing note, webmaster Jamie, WB4YDL asks that any contributions to the web site in the form of blog articles, a frequently asked question (FAQ) or announcements be forwarded to him.

RARC Meeting September 22, 2005

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 14 members in attendance. Susie, KD4ASA was unable to attend; therefore, there was no Treasurer's report. The Union City repeater, WA4YGM, on 146.70 MHz is now operational and working exceptionally well. Alan, KA4BNI states that he will be adding a Kenwood receiver (which has better 'ears' for DTMF tones) and installing the new repeater controller hopefully this weekend. Britt, KB4IBW also added that the repeater now has full generator backup. Incidentally, Britt recently underwent testing at Vanderbilt University Hospital for a recent ailment. We all wished Britt well and a speedy recovery. Also in old business, the towers located in Dresden by Bob, K9IL need to be taken down. Glenn, N4MJ will arrange for the assistance of the Weakley County Electric Company.

The National Guard Engineering Unit 913, which is locally stationed, is being deployed for overseas duty. There are banners and ribbons all along the planned route when they ship out on 7:30 AM this Saturday. All are encouraged to join the flag-waving send off. Next, the discussion shifted to the adoption of a club logo. This has been simmering on the back burner for awhile and all agree that it was time to get this accomplished. Finalization of artwork will be performed with Ron, W9RVR's help this coming month. Possible uses of this logo include caps / hats, patches, and badges, with the possible inclusion later of shirts. Two vendors will be invited to next month's

meeting to show their wares. This will be arranged by Jamie, WB4YDL and Jeff, W5VNH.

Refreshments were provided this meeting by June and Jamie, WB4YDL and were greatly appreciated. Afterwards, Glenn, N4MJ discussed the emergency amateur radio response during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Examples were cited for good and not-so-good operation during the many net operations on 40 and 75 meters. Band conditions during those days raised havoc and required enormous perseverance and patience on the part of the net control station and those passing traffic. Overall, amateur radio stood tall when there was virtually no other communications out of the afflicted area. The need for training was again emphasized and Jamie, WB4YDL pointed out the availability of the Emergency Communications Course offered by the ARRL as a wise starting point. A draft plan for Emergency Communications by the RARC is being developed and it is anticipated that the new Baptist Hospital emergency station, currently being constructed, would become a base of operation in the event of an actual emergency. Ron, W9RVR also encouraged participation in the public service events that occur from time to time in Jackson, TN with the WTARS, until such time as these are pursued and offered here locally. Further to the draft plan, the Weakley county hams, many of which are RARC members, will be asked to coordinate with the Obion county hams, as numerically, there are very few ARES members in either county alone. An effort will be made to discover if Volunteer Community Hospital in Martin, TN is a participant in the hospital grant that places an emergency amateur station at its site. The meeting concluded after further informal discussion on emergency communications.

RARC Meeting August 25, 2005

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 13 members in attendance. Susie, KD4ASA was unable to attend; however, Lee N4ABU turned in the Treasurer's report. A welcome was extended to our newest member Bill Dahnke, KD4QCP, a native of Union City with a General Class license. He is also an avid tennis player. An update on the emergency amateur radio station to be located at Baptist Memorial Hospital - Union City was presented. A meeting was held August 5th at the hospital with LeRoy Segraves, Asst. Administrator of BMH-UC, and the chief maintenance officer at the proposed location for the station. This station will be located in a room adjacent to the Emergency Department and appears to be about 10' x 15' in dimension. Also in

attendance, was Glenn, N4MJ and Robin, WA4YGM. The communications tower was surveyed and plans were made to run two lengths of hardline and one length of LMR-600 from the base of this tower to an outlet box with lightning suppressors at the station room. Also discussed was the need for battery backup and a computer to run logging and other communications software. Construction is expected to begin soon. Alan, KA4BNI, who has been very busy with construction of new dispatch centers in locations such as Chattanooga, was able to attend and report that he hopes to effect repairs on the WA4YGM 146.700 repeater by mid September. There has been quite a few problems reported such as preamp failure and substantial interference. Alan is searching for a potential replacement (ie. a synthesized mobile). Additionally, there will be weather and 440 MHz links and the associated repeater controller. Presently, the repeater housing at the tower is undergoing renovation. There will be a road rally held on September 3-4th in Linden, TN in Perry County. WTARS is trying to organize ham radio coverage for this event. Information for the event can be found on the [Rally Tennessee](#) web site. Bob, K9IL placed an ad in the Weakley County paper to solicit interested persons with TV antenna towers to have them taken down for our club use. To date, Bob has had two responses with towers in the 40-50 foot height range - one is a Rohn 20 and the other a Rohn 25 tower. Both are located in residential areas in Dresden, TN. Alan, KA4BNI will inspect these towers for safe disassembly and will make recommendations. Also applauded was Rose, KB9CEX who recently upgraded her license to Technician while attending the Huntsville Hamfest. Congratulations, Rose !

Dolly, KN4SLY provided refreshments for our enjoyment at this meeting. Thank you, Dolly ! After the refreshment break, Jamie, WB4YDL presented a talk on Introduction to Satellite Communications. This presentation was in follow up to the recent series of satellite communications articles now appearing on the Blog. The presentation was well received and generated a lot of interest both in those who have made contacts of this kind and those who would be new to this mode. This presentation is certainly timely considering the dearth of HF activity of late with the lack of sunspots. An attempt was made at a live demonstration with Echo AO-51 using an Arrow antenna and a Kenwood TH-D7 and Hamtronics LNK-450 preamp. Unfortunately, the pass was not elevated enough to avoid intervening trees and buildings and was not successful. We'll have better luck next time ! The meeting was concluded at this point.

[RARC Meeting July 28, 2005](#)

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was an informal occasion held at B. Marcum's Restaurant in Fulton, KY. There were 9 members in attendance with the subject of discussion being our club's outstanding result during Field Day 2005 over dinner. Steak and fish was the general fare and a good time was had by all. Pictures of the Field Day event were passed around by Jamie, WB4YDL and Ray, N4SLY. Also in attendance was June (XYL de Jamie WB4YDL) and Gladys (XYL de Ron, W9RVR). During the meeting part of the social event, Jamie gave the overall club result during Field Day 2005. All agreed that it was a lot of work during a particularly hot and humid June weekend, but with the fun and camaraderie had by all, and with the great points result, it was certainly worth it. It was also acclaimed that Ray, N4SLY was the most improved operator. During this event, Ray 'amassed' 38 contacts on the GOTA station - which was 37 more than the previous year ! And he wore the same hat doing it ! Congratulations, Ray ! There was some informal discussion on VHF contesting, which Jamie, WB4YDL recently tried his hand in the recent CQ WW VHF Contest. It was a new experience and much was learned - more will be discussed at a later meeting. Also mentioned was the desire to introduce ham radio to the youth of the area, perhaps with the Boy Scouts as a possible vehicle. More on this will be discussed at a later meeting. The next meeting in August will be at the Obion County library with Jamie, WB4YDL giving a presentation on introductory satellite communications. The meeting was adjourned after a good time was had by all.

RARC Meeting June 23, 2005

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 17 in attendance. Susie, KD4ASA gave the Treasurer's report and was accepted by acclamation. A big welcome was paid to recent licensee and new member, Heather Mitchell, KI4KPB (now N4SIS), who, at age 14, is our club's youngest member. Congratulations and welcome, Heather ! As a matter of 'old business', next month's dinner meeting was affirmed at B. Marcum's Restaurant in Fulton, KY at 6:30 PM on July 28, 2005. Also, the web site renewal with Network Solutions is now paid for 5 years. A brief discussion of training materials that could be used to help prospective amateur operators was made and Jamie, WB4YDL presented to the club the ARRL Technician Video Course for this purpose. Heather, KI4KPB (now N4SIS) brought up that all of her studies were done via the

internet. This will be of further interest as time goes on and new prospective hams present for possible training. The remainder of the meeting concentrated on Field Day 2005 preparations, which will be held this coming weekend (June 25-26th). Kudos were paid to Glenn, N4MJ for a fine public announcement presented on the front page of the Union City Messenger yesterday. Glenn stated that invitations for both elected and appointed officials have been made. Emphasis was made regarding the Youth Participation bonus points and for all to bring their cameras. An additional feature of the Field Day deployment this year will be the presence of an APRS beacon and the use of the same setup to potentially obtain the satellite bonus points by packet via the ISS. Setup will begin at 1 PM local time at the Field Day site on Friday, June 24th. Special thanks to Ron, W9RVR and Gladys for providing refreshments to this meeting. Jamie, WB4YDL presented the N3FJP Field Day software for review and hands on training. This will be utilized at the Phone, CW, and VHF stations. Everybody is encouraged to come over to Field Day and enjoy the camaraderie and have fun !

RARC Meeting May 26, 2005

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 12 in attendance. Due to the absence of Susie, KD4ASA, a Treasurer's report was not made. However, there were no expenditures during the previous month. On 'old business', the web site domain renewal will come due with Network Solutions in August 2005. The best, most cost-effective solution is a 5 year renewal for \$100. A motion was made to this effect and was passed without objection. There was no change in status regarding the new repeater controller for the WA4YGM Union City repeater. Jamie, WB4YDL met with Leroy Segraves, Assistant Administrator for Baptist Hospital in Union City and inspected the proposed amateur radio emergency station site. This will be located very near the Emergency Department at the hospital. Leroy is very appreciative of the local ham community's willingness to help put this station together. A meeting will be arranged with Leroy, local ARES officers and Robin, WA4YGM at a date to be determined to plan construction.

There will be a Swapfest on June 11th hosted by Freed-Hardeman University Amateur Radio Club inside the FHU Sports Complex beginning at 8:30 AM. This will be indoors, with door prizes, and VE Testing. Tables are \$5 and admission is free. To reserve tables, contact w4fhu@fhu.edu . More

info : www.w4fho.org .

The July meeting of the RARC will be a "eating meeting". Glenn, N4MJ will be looking at B. Marcum's restaurant in Fulton, KY for reservations on July 28th at 6:30 PM. It is anticipated that we will show lots of pictures and gloat on our Field Day results ! Statistics on the status of the ham population of this country were presented and discussed. These were obtained from K3UD and were compiled over a five year timeframe. Over the past five years there have been roughly 4000 new ham operators, but there have been roughly 6000 hams getting out of the hobby one way or the other. This gave a net loss of roughly 2000 hams over the five years studied. More information may be obtained at [FCC Ham Radio Statistics](#) .

After a break which included refreshments graciously provided Rose and Bob Miles, discussion moved to Field Day 2005 preparation. Jamie, WB4YDL, Ron, W9RVR, and Glenn, N4MJ comprise the Field Day committee. Jamie, WB4YDL presented a map of the FD site with discussion on possible station placement. The idea is to minimize inter-station QRM which was a significant problem last year. Thanks to Steve, KQ4UB we will have a full set of bandpass filters at the SSB station in addition to the CW station. Station placement for the HF stations should have at least 200 feet separation. XYL's Gladys (W9RVR's), June (WB4YDL's), and Linda (N4MJ's) will comprise the 'Nutrition Committee' for the event. This year, we will have two RV's present which will house the Phone HF station and the VHF stations. This will eliminate the need for one of the two tents that we had last year, not to mention that this will provide air conditioning ! Mastings for support of the two beams and wire antennae have been obtained and should allow optimal antenna configuration to minimize interference. The GOTA station callsign will again be N4MJ. Glenn will be providing a Yaesu FT-736 and a 6M beam for the VHF station. Ron, W9RVR will provide a Icom IC-746 for the HF Phone station. Jamie will provide a Kenwood TS-440S and PSK31 interface for the GOTA station and an Elecraft K2/100 for the CW station. Bonus point opportunities were discussed in some detail. This year there is a new Youth Participation bonus for contacts made by youngsters age <18 years. Each QSO carries a bonus of 20 points up to a maximum of 100 points. Contacts are being made to, first, obtain permission papers from the Parks Commission, and to contact the City Administrator and Obion County Emergency Management director for visitation to the FD site. A newspaper article will be prepared and new handouts will be designed to include information about our club and web site. A satellite contact

will be made with equipment provided by Jamie, WB4YDL, and special modes will be demonstrated as last year - APRS, packet, and SSTV (thanks Steve, KQ4UB). Attempts will also be made this year to pass more formal NTS messages besides the Section Manager message via the 75M TN Phone Net. Overall, it was agreed that preparations were progressing nicely and it is anticipated that it will truly showcase amateur radio and RARC during this most popular event - Field Day 2005. Be There, Have Fun !

RARC Meeting April 28, 2005

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 14 in attendance. A hearty *Welcome Back !* was paid to Lucille, KB4CJS, who has recovered significantly after sustaining a stroke. On 'old business', no decision has been made regarding the club logo. The old logo from the old club has not as yet been located. More effort will be made to try and locate this old logo before design of a new one will begin. The Union City repeater (146.700) will undergo renovation after the Dayton Hamvention. The new channel element has been received. Elements of the new Baptist Memorial Hospital emergency station have been received and are posted elsewhere on this site. Efforts will begin to coordinate construction of this station with the administration of the hospital. The Field Day committee was idle this past month; however, discussion was made about obtaining permission from the Parks Commission to use the same general site as last year in Graham Park. Some refinement of the site may occur and the Field Day committee will report back at next month's meeting. Radio equipment (with reserves), antennae, and auxiliary equipment, as well as food planning, will be further discussed. Money is now being collected to order as a club the ARRL Field Day T-shirts and pins (both Field Day and GOTA). Some discussion was made regarding the possibility of purchasing a limited number of ARRL caps to offer on a first come - basis as an incentive to help set up the Field Day operation. It was decided at this time to table this plan and wait on the club logo to further develop this idea.

International Reply Coupons (IRC) are not available at any of the area post offices. The only source is to travel to larger cities to obtain these at their post offices. With this in mind, Jamie, WB4YDL is collecting money to obtain these in Memphis. Jamie's mother, who lives in Memphis, will be visiting during Mother's Day weekend and has graciously offered to obtain these for club members who need them for their DX QSL'ing. A motion was made by Lee, N4ABU to make

Lucille, KB4CJS a Life Member of RARC for her outstanding service to the club, past and present. This motion was seconded by Harold, KI4HAI and was carried by voice vote. *Congratulations, Lucille !*

Ron, W9RVR gave a fascinating presentation on Fox Hunting - the art of radio direction finding. He discussed his past experiences with this interesting aspect of our hobby with his previous club affiliation in the Chicago area. Many of his anecdotes were quite humorous and inspired interest to get involved and learn Fox Hunting. Ron showed many of his wares - antennae, attenuators, and radios - that are used in the hunt. All of these items (except the radios) were home-brew from PVC tubing and parts obtained from old TV antennas. Ron has written an excellent article introducing Fox Hunting and it is posted on the Blog. A follow-up article will be posted as well as links to the hand outs that were made available at the meeting. Excellent, Ron !

In a final bit of business prior to adjournment, the web site domain fee will come due in August of this year. A decision will be made at the next meeting whether to go with the 5 year plan for \$100 or accept a different plan.

RARC Meeting March 24, 2005

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 19 in attendance, including one new member, Jeff Luther, W5VNH. Ron, W9RVR, started things out by presenting several drafts of potential club logos for consideration by the membership. This was presented mainly as food for thought and no action was voted on concerning the club logo. The old logo of the club will hopefully be found by Robin, WA4YGM for comparison and possible incorporation into the new logo. Otherwise, a new logo will be designed.

Britt, KB4IBW presented the repeater report on the WA4YGM repeater (146.70-). A separate phone number with a dedicated line can be obtained for the new repeater controller should a decision be made to go with an autopatch. A change in chassis for the repeater will be effected prior to incorporating the new repeater controller. The new repeater controller has been acquired. Some further repairs to the receive audio are ongoing.

A motion was made to make Robin Wood, WA4YGM a Life Member to the RARC for his contributions to amateur radio and particularly the Union City repeater and server access for this web site. The motion was seconded and approved on voice vote with no objection.

Lee, N4ABU brought up for discussion the question of reimbursement of refreshments. Several in attendance brought up the fact that this was a voluntary activity as part of the Refreshment Committee and no remuneration was being sought. The discussion on this subject ended with no motion being made.

Jamie, WB4YDL reported that the Baptist Memorial Hospital emergency amateur radio station has been ordered. It consists of a Kenwood package that will enable operation on HF, VHF, and UHF frequencies. Notification will be made when this equipment is received. Britt, KB4IBW mentioned that the Regional Health Departments in Tennessee have already enabled amateur radio operations at their facilities.

Jamie, WB4YDL and Britt, KB4IBW (Field Day committee members) discussed alternative locations for Field Day operations this year. In consideration was the grounds of the old Reelfoot packing plant on Reelfoot Avenue in Union City. Concerns were raised regarding the suitability of the site for camping and raising antennas, etc. Also, the area is known to be hot with RF, and would likely cause considerable QRN during FD operations. Presently, plans are to concentrate on Graham Park in Union City, which was the site of last year's successful FD operation. There are possibilities inside Graham Park for a better location and this will be explored by the FD committee. It is anticipated that next meeting will provide more detail regarding equipment line-up, pursuit of maximum bonus points, and antenna / station location to minimize inter-station interference. The FD operation will again be 2A TN with VHF/UHF and GOTA stations.

After the refreshment period, Bob, K9IL gave a very interesting and educational presentation on the design and construction of his antenna 'farm'. Bob has two tower supported yagis and wire antennae and supports for all bands from 80M to 70 cm. Bob is also an avid DX'er and CW enthusiast. Of particular highlight was his explanation of his 40M half-square antenna. Bob uses an edger for cutting slots in the dirt for burial of radials for his vertical antennae and insulates the vertical radiator from its support in a unique fashion. FB Bob !

RARC Meeting February 24, 2005

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 10 members in attendance. Dues were collected for the current year including new member, Rose (unlicensed - Bob K9IL's XYL). By a majority vote, it was decided to amend the By-Laws regarding dues collection whereby new members joining the club on a month other than February, would have their dues pro-rated for that year. Full dues will be assessed on the next and subsequent Februarys. The next item of business was the election of club officers for 2005. Glenn, N4MJ was nominated for President, and by acclamation, was re-elected for another year. Congratulations, Glenn ! Bob, K8IL was nominated for Vice-President, ran unopposed, and was elected to this position by acclamation. Susie, KD4ASA, who was not present, was nominated for Secretary-Treasurer, and was elected by acclamation, pending her acceptance. Congratulations to our officers !

After a refreshment break, Alan, KA4BNI, presented, with good detail, a repeater controller for consideration by the club for the WA4YGM 146.700 MHz repeater. This was the Micro Computer Concepts RC-1000V. This is a complete, full featured, controller which includes a built-in autopatch. Features include voice and CW ID which can be remotely recorded, built-in autopatch with special 911 emergency access coding, and complete control access by DTMF. Voice messages can be recorded for club announcements and weather alerting is possible with interfacing to a weather receiver. Also important is that it has non-volatile EEPROM memory. It was decided by the present members to purchase this controller for the WA4YGM repeater but delay enabling the autopatch until further information is obtained regarding the cost of this feature.

Next, Gary, W4GT suggested the possibility of obtaining embroidered patches and badges with a club logo. Britt, KB4IBW mentioned that the former club may already have a logo and that he would inquire about from Robin, WA4YGM. Ron, W9RVR mentioned that he has available many tools of the graphics trade that could be useful in upgrading (or creating) this logo.

Ray, N4SLY brought up what many had been interested in for the club - the move to monthly meetings. It was realized that the club has a core membership of about 10 who consistently attend the meetings as presently configured. There are about 10 other members who have some difficulty attending the meetings. Realizing that the EmComm (ARES) meetings could easily be

incorporated into the regular meeting format, it was decided to hold regular RARC meetings on a monthly basis. This would allow flexibility for those members unable to attend on a regular basis and also foster recruitment of new ARES members. It is anticipated that further meetings can be scheduled for ARES on a supplemental basis. Gary, W4GT also would like to see more "eatin' meetin's" on perhaps a quarterly basis for more socializing. Gary and Britt, KB4IBW are going to explore these possibilities further and this will be discussed at the next meeting - March 24, 2005. Given that meetings are now to be held monthly, Glenn N4MJ suggested that a 'refreshment committee' be formed whose responsibility it would be to provide refreshments on a rotating basis for future meetings. Many thanks were expressed to Jamie, WB4YDL and his XYL June who had, up to this point, provided refreshments for all meetings. A schedule of this committee's assignments will be posted on the web site.

The Field Day committee was chosen and consists of Alan KA4BNI, Jamie WB4YDL, Britt KB4IBW, and Gary W4GT. It is anticipated that the Field Day site will again be at Graham Park, although there may be some modification of exact placement - uh, to avoid mosquitoes ! Also the class entry will again be 2A with GOTA and VHF/UHF capability.

Finally, Bob, K9IL presented some fascinating QSL cards he has received in over 45 years of DX chasing. Some cards were from deleted entities and many had great pictures. These sure caused some to be a bit green with envy ! Thanks Bob ! This three hour meeting then adjourned with many items accomplished.

Reelfoot EmComm Group Meeting January, 27, 2005

Members of Obion and Weakley county ARES groups met in a "study group" format at the Obion County Public Library this date. There were 10 members present including DEC, Gary W4GT, EC's, Jamie WB4YDL and Britt KA4BNI, and Obion AEC's Ron W9RVR and Glenn N4MJ. Also in attendance was Clyde KI4HYG (Dyer county), Jim Grady (unlicensed), and Ron's XYL Gladys.

Jamie WB4YDL setup a display of APRS with a Kenwood TH-D7 and a laptop computer running UI-View with Precision Mapping. The local map was quickly populated by icons during the meeting. Glenn N4MJ started off the discussion by relating his impressions of the Level I ARRL

Emergency Communications Course he is currently taking. It was again ***heavily stressed*** that this course should be taken by all ARES members for a basic fund of knowledge in EmComm. Glenn was very positively impressed with the overall format of the course. Next, Jamie WB4YDL presented for discussion handouts entitled [Introduction to Emergency Nets](#) and [Basic Message Handling](#). This material was synthesized from the ARRL ECC level I course material. After a question and answer period, Ron W9RVR had some sample Radiograms prepared that we practiced receiving and interpreting. It was emphasized that formal message handling takes practice and that future meetings will have more message training. The next meeting of the Reelfoot EmComm Group is to be scheduled on March 24, 2005. Subsequent meetings will be held on the 4th Thursday on the alternate months that the regular RARC meeting will not be held.

[Obion County ARES Planning Meeting January 15, 2005](#)

Obion County EC, Jamie WB4YDL and AEC, Glenn N4MJ met at the shack of AEC, Ron W9RVR for discussion of the direction of this fledgling group. Many things were discussed including the need for regular EmComm meetings, recruiting new members, and primary / secondary 'watch' frequencies. This will be reviewed at this month's EmComm meeting. It was also felt to be important to include EC Alan KA4BNI and his ARES group for a combined "Reelfoot EmComm Group" effort. Ron brought up several issues regarding involvement of the 'served agencies' and these will be addressed 'one at a time' as our group grows in number and functional training. An emphasis was placed on "Public Service", not particularly agency service. A very important aspect to standardizing training is the taking of the Level I Emergency Communications Course given by the ARRL. Formal meetings will be held on the alternate months that RARC will not be meeting and will include training discussions primarily from the Level I ECC material. Drill radiograms will be planned for and passed on Sunday evening's West TN West KY Emergency Net. It was felt that the primary repeater should be Union City 146.70(-) with the secondary repeater the Martin 146.625(-). Primary simplex call / watch frequency would be the national call frequency of 146.52 with the ARES frequency of 146.55 MHz. This will be discussed further at the full meeting. There were many other topics during our 3 hour meeting including SKYWARN training and earthquake awareness. These will be topics at future meetings. The Baptist Hospital EmComm station was

briefly discussed with recommendations to be presented at the formal meeting.