

## RARC Meeting October 26, 2006

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 10 members and one visitor in attendance. After the Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL, Andrew Hollomon of Kenton, TN was welcomed as a guest. He plans to take the Technician Class exam at the upcoming VE session to be held on November 4th. On 'Old Business', the folks of Dyersburg Amateur Radio Club along with Ron W9RVR and their XYL's had a wonderful time last week at Reelfoot Wildlife Refuge campsite. There they activated special event station W4R as part of a multi-site celebration of Wildlife Refuge Week. Please see the picture of this motley crew on the News page. Also mentioned was the Boy Scout Camporee which was held at Big Cyprus Tree State Park in Greenfield, TN. Glenn N4MJ and Stan W4RB, along with Rice Campbell KD4JHI, set up Glenn's Ten-Tec Argonaut and a 20 meter dipole and made several Q's. There was lots of interest by many scouts and scout leaders and this may develop into offering instruction for the Radio Merit Badge. There was some talk about some missing antenna support weights in a certain tree, but that's another story ! Unfortunately, no one thought to bring a camera and take pictures.

On Saturday, November 4th, at the Obion County Public Library, the first quarterly VE session will be held for license testing. All elements will be available for testing and Stan W4RB states he has received all materials from the ARRL. Additionally, reservations have been made for the next years quarterly sessions with the library. All VE's will be on hand to assist in this session.

The Christmas Holiday gathering (which is a combination of November and December meetings)

will be held at B. Marcum's in South Fulton on Saturday, December 9th beginning at 4:30 PM. This will be an 'eating meeting' was some agenda items for discussion being next years' items for activity. These will include Technician license course instruction, the forthcoming library display, and future meeting programs. The meeting was adjourned at this time.

## RARC Meeting September 28, 2006

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 12 members and 4 visitors in attendance. After the Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL, a special welcome was extended to Howard, W4HLR and Dave, WT8R of the Dyersburg Amateur Radio Club. Also visiting was Campbell, KD4JHI and Donald, K4DZK. To start off, Glenn N4MJ showed slides of his visit to the Ten-Tec facility in East Tennessee and showed off his new Argonaut, a Ten-Tec QRP rig. Glenn's best DX thus far is VK-land on 30 meters. On old news, the request for material items for the reconstruction of the Martin repeater has been submitted to the 'powers-that-be' in Knoxville. In their usual glacial pace, we'll find out when we find out ! There will be the possibility of an additional 440 MHz repeater. Our first VE session is set for November 4th at the Obion County Public Library from 9 AM to 2 PM local. Stan W4RB is heading this up and will relay details as time approaches. A Boy Scout Camporee will be set up in Rives, TN on October 14th. Campbell, KD4JHI took time out from his fire station duties to attend and tell us about this event. They are requesting a portable station setup for the hours of 1-3 PM local at this site. Volunteers were accepted at this time. There was no new news on the presentation to be given at South Fulton High School at this time. It is still anticipated that the first half of November will be when this will occur. Jamie WB4YDL mentioned that he had some old ham magazines that could be disbursed to interested scouts or SFHS kids.

On new business, it was tentatively established that the December Christmas dinner meeting will be at B. Marcum's in Fulton on either December 9th or 16th - Saturday - at 5 PM local. Also brought up is the need to proceed with scheduling of the library meeting area for the year 2007. Jamie WB4YDL will endeavor to get this done next week. The recent West TN Simulated Emergency Test article, which was published in the Union City Messenger, was also published in the Weakley County Press. Jamie WB4YDL sent this article to the ARRL for consideration for a "Media Hit" in an upcoming QST publication. Jamie WB4YDL recently wrote a Blog article for

the club web site on an easy to build roll-up J-pole antenna for 2M/440MHz use. Ron W9RVR printed this out as a hand-out for the meeting.

Many thanks to Rose W9DHD and Bob K9IL for providing the refreshments for the meeting ! After the break, Dave WT8R gave a very interesting talk of one of his main interests in amateur radio - the building of HF linear amplifiers. The pictures Dave provided showed off his excellent workmanship and were the stuff of many daydreams ! Howard W4HLR talked to us about the upcoming special event station to be set up at the Reelfoot Lake camp site for National Wildlife Refuge Week 2006. His plan is to set up a portable station at his camp on October 14th and spend the night by the campfire. All are welcome to attend, visit, and setup their own station, if desired. The web link for this special event is [here](#). The meeting was adjourned at this time.

## RARC Meeting August 24, 2006

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 14 members and one visitor in attendance. After the Treasurer's report by Jamie WB4YDL, a special welcome was extended to Donald Ray, K4DZK who was visiting the club. Don has been a long-time ham and is now getting reacquainted with 21st Century ham radio. Also in attendance was Terri KI4HIN who was up from Florida visiting her family, Dolly and Ray. A press release was submitted by Glenn N4MJ after our club's successful participation in the West TN Simulated Emergency Test held on August 12th. This was printed in the Union City Messenger on August 23rd and is linked [here](#). This will be sent to the ARRL for consideration for published "Media Hits" in a future issue of QST. Next on the agenda was a discussion of the Martin W4UTM repeater which sustained some recent lightning damage. What is known so far is that the receiver power supply needs some repair. Lee N4ABU, along with Ottis K5BSE, will be evaluating what is needed to get this repeater back in good working order and get back to the club. Also on the horizon is the fact that the present tower on the UT-Martin campus that the repeater antennas are located is scheduled to be moved. A list of what items we require for the repeater is being requested by those constructing the new tower. Lee and Ottis, as well as Gary W4GT and Bob K9IL, will be getting this list together for the club's review. Since this is due before the next meeting, the club reflector will be used to discuss this matter. It was also pointed out that Internet Messaging could be used (MSN, Yahoo, etc.) for conferencing.

Volunteer Examination sessions will officially begin by Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club tentatively on either November 4th or 11th. Stan W4RB will be the administrator and head this up. VE's we now have in the club besides Stan are Jamie WB4YDL, Glenn N4MJ, Gary W4GT, and Bob K9IL. Likely testing locations were discussed for consideration and include the Obion County Public Library, Weldon Library in Martin, the University Center on the UTM campus, and the conference rooms at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Union City. This will be firmed up and discussed at the next club meeting. Also being tentatively scheduled for the first half of November, is a presentation to the upper class of South Fulton High School as part of their science class. Glenn N4MJ is arranging this with instructors at the high school. Stan W4RB also mentions that the Boy Scout troop in Union City would like RARC to give a program on their October 14th troop meeting. The [Tennessee Soybean Festival](#) will be held from September 2-10, 2006 in Martin, TN. This involves a 5K Road Race and a 135 mile "Bikers for Books Poker Run" on Saturday, September 9th. It was suggested that the RARC could lend logistical support to these two events with monitoring and emergency communications. Ottis K5BSE will discuss this with the sponsors and let us know via club reflector.

## [RARC Meeting July 28, 2006](#)

It was a beautiful evening with cool temperatures and low humidity after a day of mostly rain. Approximately 20 RARC members and their XYL's gathered at the QTH of Jamie WB4YDL and XYL June for a social and cook-out. Everybody enjoyed themselves and the food and atmosphere were excellent. Chicken Cordon Bleu was the main course and several side dishes were provided by other club members as well as deserts. Some of the pictures taken during this past Field Day were passed around and everybody thought we were quite successful this year. Many things were discussed but no actual meeting business was made in favor of a strictly social affair. It was a well attended event and everybody enjoyed seeing and talking with everyone.

## [RARC Meeting June 22, 2006](#)

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 16 members and one visitor in

attendance. After the Treasurer's report by Jamie WB4YDL, a special welcome was paid to Jim Hall who was visiting the club. The remainder of the entire meeting was devoted to Field Day 2006 preparation. The final details of vertical antenna support was given after Bob K9IL revealed that his oft-rumored tower with tilt-over base plate will be available for the phone station. Ron W9RVR's Rohn 25 tower will be the 30 foot support for the Force 12 C3S beam at the CW position. Construction of the Field Day site will proceed on Friday afternoon and continue until operations commence on 18Z the following day. Everybody is invited to attend and contribute to the club effort. As usual, the results with pictures will be posted on this web site on the Recent Events page. Also mentioned was the fact that contact had been made with both the Red Cross and Obion County Emergency Services. The draft of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been delivered to Mr. Mike George of Obion CES and he would like representatives of this club to give a short presentation at a future CES meeting.

Jamie WB4YDL invited one and all to the annual July (post-FD) meeting at his QTH. This will be an informal social event to exchange pictures and basically gloat about our success in Field Day 2006 ! The pool will be available. The meeting was adjourned at this point. See you at Field Day !

## **RARC Meeting May 25, 2006**

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 11 members in attendance. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL, who is recovering from recent back/spine surgery. There was no new information on the status of the WA4YGM Union City repeater upgrade. Alan KA4BNI has been unable to attend to this due to his work commitments. He is hopeful that he will soon have some spare time to work on this. Jamie WB4YDL brought in the new caps sporting club logos and about half of the prior orders were delivered. They look great ! Information was passed on two items - there will be a W5YI testing session in Trenton at the EOC on June 3rd beginning at 9 AM. Also on June 3rd will be the annual Minifest at Freed Hardeman University. There will also be ARRL testing given at this minifest. Refreshments were provided by Dolly KN4SLY and were much appreciated by all. After the break, Jamie WB4YDL gave a comprehensive preview on our efforts for Field Day 2006. This year, we will attempt a somewhat 'lighter, faster' approach to deployment of antennas and vertical supports. As it stands now, there will be 7 vertical supports on which 3 of them will reside heavier items, such as yagi antennas.

Jamie went over each station with its proposed layout and equipment. Proper guying technique was emphasized as a point of safety and standard 3-point guying was reviewed. This year, we will not need to deploy one tent since we will have an RV, a '5th wheel' and a camper - all with air conditioning !! This will also make a difference in night lighting and overall comfort (read - mosquito-free). The GOTA station will again be stationed at the open pavilion. The many opportunities for obtaining bonus points were carefully reviewed. Of particular note was the rules change for the GOTA station and the opportunity to double bonus points with the assignment of a GOTA 'Coach'. Jamie WB4YDL was to deploy a significant satellite station with a dual entry into the AMSAT Field Day for the club; however, due to his recent surgery, this will be cancelled this year. It will be planned for during next year's Field Day and, with any luck, we should have a new 'bird' or two with which to communicate. Jamie also took orders for ARRL Field Day T-shirts and pins which will be presented at next month's meeting. To wrap up, Alan KA4BNI showed his pictures of his visit to the Dayton Hamvention. Some interesting shots were displayed including those of hail on the picnic table, the general layout at Hara Arena, and some of the faces and equipment seen. This concluded the meeting.

## RARC Meeting April 27, 2006

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 15 members in attendance. After the Treasurer's report, Alan KA4BNI gave the repeater report specific for the WA4YGM repeater in Union City. The new Motorola repeater with its new controller has not yet been installed due to Alan's other work commitments. It is hoped that this will be installed very soon. Alan has completed work on the Cookeville dispatch center and will be off to Chattanooga early in the morning for work to be done there. A bandpass filter was recently installed in the present repeater to allay intermodulation problems. The IRLP function has been temporarily unavailable due to an audio problem. Also, the DX cluster radio was replaced and is back up to 25 watts output. Jamie WB4YDL mentioned that the ordered caps with our logo have been shipped and are to be delivered this next week.

Harold ex-KI4HAI, is now N4HAR. Glenn N4MJ brought up the possibility of making a presentation to students at South Fulton High School next school year. It is not yet clear what format this presentation will take, but all are advised to be thinking about this very important

event. Jamie WB4YDL was asked about Field Day 2006 preparations. Things are beginning to take shape and Alan KA4BNI advised that his "fifth wheel" will be made available for this event. This was immediately pressed into service as the CW station shack ! As it stands now, we will have air-conditioned environments for the phone, CW and VHF stations ! The satellite station will be housed in a screen house and the GOTA station will again be positioned at the pavilion. Should there be rain, the GOTA station could quickly be repositioned at the satellite station tent. Also Jamie mentioned that bar-B-Q will be on the menu and has been pre-arranged. It was also emphasized that the low bands will be key during the bottom of the sunspot cycle. A 2-wavelength loop (~540 feet) is being planned for the CW station. The center-fed doublets will again be used on the GOTA and phone stations. Tri-band beams (read- 20 meter antenna) will again be supported on mast-towers. To wrap up the discussion, Jamie mentioned that the PR aspects will become important and account for significant bonus points as time grows close. We will need posters and flyers and GOTA station operators. This will again be a KEY station this year for bonus points.

Alan mentioned that the gentleman who was to help acquire the two Rohn 20 towers is now working for Frontier phone company in Weakley County. Alan and Bob K9IL will be talking to him in an effort to move this project along. Jeff W5VNH provided an excellent spread of food and drink and was much appreciated by all. After an intermission, Alan KA4BNI gave a very informative presentation on IRLP (Internet Repeater Linking Project), which is one of a few voice-over-internet (VoIP) formats that allows for linking of repeaters so configured, to link across the world. This allows hams with simple HT's to access a repeater and speak to another ham across the planet who is talking on a similar radio. It was brought up that Ron W9RVR was able to talk to a ham stationed at Palmer Station, Antarctica via IRLP - and this was witnessed by Jamie. This will be quite well developed in future iterations as time goes by. The meeting was adjourned after Alan's presentation.

## **RARC Meeting March 23, 2006**

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 9 members and one guest in attendance. Andy Lucy, KG4ZMF was welcomed from Hickman, KY. Andy is a General Class operator who later joined the club as a new member. Welcome ! After the Treasurer's report,

there was some discussion about the state charter for the club and filing as a 501C3 not-for-profit organization. Jamie, WB4YDL will look into both of these items and report back at the next club meeting. There was a presentation made to a representative of the Obion County Public Library of a very nice set of ARRL books. Please see the News page of this web site for the picture that was made of this presentation. It is hoped that this will foster more interest in Amateur Radio in the community and, hopefully, new operators. The new patches with our new club logo were available and many were sold. Also see the News page for a representation of this patch. They are available for \$5 each through the club officers. There was also some conversation about a future minifest to be arranged at a future date to attract interest locally in amateur radio and just to have fun. Also there is the possibility of having a special event station (perhaps the Baptist Hospital EOC station) concurrent with the minifest. This is a new thought that will be developed at future meetings. Alan, KA4BNI was on tap to give us a presentation on IRLP, but his duties prevented this and he took a 'rain check'. He will try and make this presentation next month. We also welcomed Ray, N4SLY freshly back from triple-bypass surgery this past week. He looked great and was in good spirits. Jamie, WB4YDL and XYL June provided refreshments for the club and this was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all. Finally, discussion of preparations for Field Day 2006 continued. This mostly revolved around estimates for fuel for the generators and antenna ideas. The low bands (40M and 80M) will be important bands for this and the next several years while the sunspots are in the tank. The 80M center-fed 'doublet' antennas will likely be changed. Suggestions for improvement are the use of full wavelength loop antennas with its requirement for extra vertical supports and the ever-popular EDZ (extended double Zepp) antenna. The latter antenna would not require any new vertical supports but would require more coax back to the 'shacks'. Instead of 1/4 wavelength on each side of the center feed, there would be 5/8 wavelength on each side. This would give about 3 dB gain but, for 80M, would be about 300 feet long. Yep, there's no free lunch ! Also mentioned as the meeting adjourned was the change in GOTA rules that allow for double-double points depending on 1) mode of operation, 2) the availability of operators, and 3) the existence of a GOTA 'coach'. This is the station to concentrate on for extra points. The meeting was adjourned at this time.

**RARC Meeting February 16, 2006**

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 11 members in attendance. Bob, K9IL, Vice-President was again asked to fill in for Glenn, N4MJ as he would be late to attend. Ottis Barron, K5BSE was welcomed to the club as a full member. After dues were collected, club officer elections were held. Glenn, N4MJ was again elected as President and Bob, K9IL was re-elected as Vice-President. Jamie, WB4YDL was nominated and elected as Secretary-Treasurer. Congratulations to the 2006 RARC officers !

Alan, KA4BNI gave a report on the Union city repeater. A weather receiver has been acquired and will be connected to the repeater controller when it is deployed. We are awaiting the new channel elements for the new repeater which should arrive any day now. IRLP has been implemented and is functioning well. Ron, W9RVR made contact with the resident ham operator at Palmer Station Antarctica via IRLP link on the Union City WA4YGM repeater. This was witnessed by Jamie, WB4YDL, so this wasn't a 'fish tale' !! There have been a few reported DX Cluster outages that may be due to recent maintenance work performed at the site. There has been no progress on the tower take-down in Dresden. Last week, several members made their way to Jackson for the VE testing session and contributed to a very successful testing session. The WTARS folks were very gracious and our VE's learned quite a bit. This will figure prominently when we begin testing sessions here later this year. There will be a VE testing session in Trenton this next weekend on March 4th at 9AM. This is a W5YI testing session and VE's Jamie WB4YDL and Glenn N4MJ will be attending and monitoring. Also that same weekend, will be the Memphis Minifest held on the grounds of [Memphis Amateur Supply](#) in Memphis, TN.

Ron, W9RVR presented a prototype of a club membership card which he designed with our club logo with his name and callsign. This was laminated and attached to a lanyard - very nice. These can be combined with a copy of the member's amateur license in one laminated card. The Field Day 2006 committee was formed consisting of Jamie WB4YDL, Bob K9IL, and Glenn N4MJ. This was a successful group last year, but it is pointed out that any club member may certainly contribute ideas and material towards another successful Field Day. Jamie, WB4YDL pointed out briefly the rule changes for this year as relates to the GOTA (Get on the Air) station and the possibility of substantial "double-bonus" points with the addition of a GOTA Coach. More information and detail will be discussed at future meetings. Larry Vernon of Ad-Pro came to the meeting to present ideas for club caps. Several samples were passed around and a consensus approved of a Flex-band khaki cap and a 5-panel khaki cap, both to be embroidered with our club

logo. Some adjustment will have to be made to the logo in order to fit and show properly on the caps and Ron, W9RVR will head this up.

## RARC Meeting January 19, 2006

The first regular meeting of the year 2006 was attended by 15 members. Bob, K9IL, Vice-President called the meeting to order. Alan, KA4BNI was asked to give an update on the Union City WA4YGM 146.700 repeater. There were recent reports, primarily by those hams in Jackson, that the repeater was not receiving as well as it had in the past. Upon inspection it was discovered that several units were sharing the received signal through a signal splitter causing signal degradation. Additional preamps will be inserted in an effort to rectify this problem. As recently reported on the RARC reflector, the GE repeater will be replaced by a new Motorola MSR 2000 unit. This will make it much easier to interface and link to things such as the weather service. An exciting upcoming addition will be [IRLP](#) which is a VoIP technology that will allow linking of radio repeaters via the internet. Vacationing RARC members could successfully check into the Sunday evening net by simply accessing an IRLP repeater in that area and link to the Union City repeater. Neat ! The KN4F DX cluster radio recently sustained a failure and will be quickly replaced. The failed radio will be repaired and held in reserve. The new Paris DX cluster has agreed to accept a change in frequencies for its operation. The previous frequency was the same as KN4F's and was feared that it would cause mutual interference. The Martin W4UTM repeater is presently not functioning - no audio is output. Ala, KA4BNI has agreed to give a presentation on IRLP at the March meeting. Don't miss it !!

The next meeting in February will be the election of club officers and the collection of membership dues. Be thinking of the former and don't forget the latter ! Presently, the savings account is classified as dormant. This will be corrected by a shift in funds. Jamie, WB4YDL gave a report on the Baptist Hospital EOC station. It was found that the station was left in the 'power on' position. Personnel at the facility were reminded that only authorized and licensed hams could operate the station. Jamie did take the opportunity to mention that training will soon be offered. It is hoped that a better operating position with counter and storage shelves will be constructed soon at this facility. Rose is now sporting a new call sign - W9DHD. Congratulations, Rose !

As previously announced on the RARC reflector, Glenn, N4MJ announced that Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club has been designated a Special Services Club (SSC) by the ARRL ! These are clubs that go the extra mile in providing on-going training and support for benefit of their community. Glenn also brought up the ARRL book set that is offered for \$200. Over time, plans are to donate this set of books to the area libraries and schools. A motion was made and seconded to purchase this set of books for donation to the Obion County Public Library using available checking account funds. This motion was approved by acclamation. Also mentioned was Randy McCloy, KC8VKZ who was the sole survivor of the January 2 Sago mine disaster in West Virginia. Well-wishers and fellow hams are encouraged to send cards and QSL's to PO Box 223, Philippi, WV 26435.

Larry Vernon of Ad Pro presented samples of items and discussed pricing for setup of the club logo. Through extended discussion it was decided to proceed with initial proofing of the patch image on paper pending final artwork approval by the available membership. Ron, W9RVR will be distributing this image. It is anticipated that the club will begin with patches and the digitalization of a logo for embroidery on such things as caps and shirts. Prices and numbers of colors were discussed and it is anticipated that the final final decision will be made at next month's meeting. This concluded the January 2006 meeting.