

RARC Meeting October 25, 2007

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 11 members and one guest in attendance. We welcomed back our visitor, Andrew Hollomon W4WMH who is back from professional training at Clarksville, TN. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and the previous minutes were reviewed, mention was made of Bob K9IL's father who fell and broke a hip the previous day and will require surgery. Understandably, Bob and Rose W9DHD could not attend the meeting. However, they did supply the evening's refreshments as Glenn N4MJ swung around and picked them up prior to the meeting. Thank you Bob and Rose and we all hope your Dad recovers quickly ! Things that were reiterated prior to new business was the targeted month for the Spring Hamfest - March 2008 - and the planned General Class license course - April to May, 2008. It was also noted that the Field Day site for 2008 will be at the fairgrounds in Union City.

On new business, the Weldon Public Library in Martin, TN will enthusiastically accept our donation of a full ARRL book set. This is now approved and the order will be sent out ASAP. The Christmas holiday gathering and dinner will be held at the Catfish Restaurant & Steakhouse in Martin, TN on December 8th at 6 PM. All are cordially invited to attend and bring in the holidays with spirit. Bring your camera ! The inquiry regarding the status of IRLP in this area was quickly answered by Alan KA4BNI and his plans are to incorporate IRLP via the 440 link system as an attached system to his Dresden / Gleason repeater.

The RARC Constitution and By-Laws was again reviewed and, as there was no quorum of active members present at the meeting, a vote on acceptance was postponed to a future meeting. More discussions ensued which resulted in further ideas on revision and these ideas will be incorporated. After a prolonged break in which everybody enjoyed the refreshments provided by Bob and Rose, Ottis K5BSE inquired when we might have another workshop. Subjects were briefly mentioned and locations entertained. This will be further discussed via email reflector and it is anticipated that there will be a winter workshop. The meeting was adjourned at this point.

RARC Meeting September 27, 2007

During this month's meeting, we were especially honored to have as our guest Henry Leggette, WD4Q, ARRL Delta Division Director. Henry has a long and distinguished professional as well as amateur radio career and we were excited that he took time to make the trip up from Memphis. Henry outlined for us the basic organization of ARRL and what a Division Director does. He also gave an update on the legal action against the FCC in regards to BPL. Oral arguments are expected to continue later in October. He also explained some of the business aspects of the ARRL and some of the coming structure in regards to emergency communications. Special Services Clubs and the attendant benefits were explained as well as how the ARRL could help with our planned Spring hamfest. He answered several questions such as how digital voice communications will prosper in the future and how school clubs are getting more involved in ham radio. It was a real pleasure to meet Henry and we hope that he will again make the trip to Union City to visit real soon.

After a break, the business part of the meeting was begun. 15 members were in attendance. After the Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL, the previous minutes were reviewed. A subscription to QST for the Obion County Public Library will cost \$39 per year, as discovered by Glenn N4MJ. The Field Day site at the Union City Fairgrounds was visited last month by the officers and was found to be quite satisfactory. It will afford a large open indoor area with air conditioning and multiple options for supporting antennas. There is also a nice open arena that is now also being considered for the Spring hamfest. Bob K9IL, who is heading up the hamfest

effort, received several positive responses to his 'feeler' email and it is at this time being 'penciled-in' for March 2008. Jamie WB4YDL made an inquiry to the ARRL as to the availability of teaching materials for a proposed General Class license course. There will be new materials available similar to those for the Technician Class license course in the very near future. When they become available, an order will be made for a quantity of these manuals. At present, it is anticipated that the course will run approximately 6 weeks (on six weekends), and begin shortly after the Memphis hamfest in April 2008. Also anticipated will be a special VE session at the conclusion of this course in late May 2008.

The Christmas dinner was discussed and after some discussion, it was decided to have this at the Catfish Restaurant and Steakhouse in Martin with a second option of the Italian Vineyard in Union City. This will take place either on December 7th or 8th as reservations are available. Glenn N4MJ will inquire about this and announce the result when known. Howard W4HLR announced that special event station W4R will be active on October 12-14th for the Wildlife Refuge Week and invites any and all to visit and participate. Ray N4SLY inquired as to the status of IRLP on the Union City repeater. Nothing was known by the available membership and Jamie WB4YDL volunteered to email Alan KA4BNI to find out more on this very popular mode. Lastly, an announcement was made to congratulate Rose W9DHD for her very fine work on the recent Obion County Public Library display and for making the most recent issue of QST ! Yes, the library display item can be seen on page 20 of the October issue of QST. Congratulations and well done, Rose ! Other items for the meeting were tabled at this time due to the length of the meeting and will be revisited on next month's meeting.

RARC Meeting August 23, 2007

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 18 members and two visiting XYL's in attendance. It was great to see Ron W9RVR and Gladys make the meeting. Also Tracy, KD4YUX brought XYL Frene to visit. We also welcome new member Jim Erickson, KI4KHT who was active during our Field Day event this year. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, it was mentioned that several RARC members were active in the recent TNCAT'07 Earthquake drill and received favorable mention in the national publications. John Shelton K1XN has resurrected the West Tennessee DX Association and for an email to John, you can

receive a trove of free information on DX activity, both on HF and VHF. It was announced that RARC will approach the Weldon Library in Martin about an ARRL book set donation as was done with the Obion County Public Library. Bob, K9IL mentioned that the week after Labor Day will be the Soybean Festival in Martin and that on the Friday after Labor Day, there will be a free barbeque called "Pig in the Park". The Christmas dinner meeting was discussed and three restaurants were mentioned as possibilities: Italian Vineyard, China Pan, and B Markham. A decision will be made at next month's meeting. ARRL Division Director Henry Leggette will be the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club's honored guest during next month's meeting. Everybody should plan on attending this important meeting.

Next on the agenda was mention of a possible General Class course to be given in a similar format as the previously successful Technician Class course. Jamie WB4YDL will inquire of the ARRL as to the availability of teaching guide material and syllabus. This most likely will be offered this next Spring. A visit will be made to the Union City fairgrounds for the expressed purpose of scouting a possible new Field Day location, complete with air conditioning. This will be reported on during next month's meeting. Glenn N4MJ will be inquiring as to possible subscriptions to QST and CQ for the Obion County Public Library. Bob K9IL will inquire as to the possibility and feasibility of a minifest / swapfest to potentially be held this Fall. This will certainly give new public exposure for the RARC.

Jamie WB4YDL and XYL June provided the food and refreshments for this month's meeting and was much appreciated. After the break, it was mentioned that the time to break down the library display, after a two month stint, will come this next Friday, August 31st, at 2PM. Also mentioned by Jamie was the email 'chatter' between QST Managing Editor, Joel Kleinman N1BKE and himself which would indicate the eminent publication of Rose W9DHD's picture next to this wonderful display with a short description. Finally, the RARC Constitution and By-Laws had first reading of proposed changes and this was discussed at some length. A second reading will be at next month's meeting followed by discussion and vote on adoption by the membership. Tacked on at the last was mention by Phil, N4PWG that emergency communications workers are now mandated to complete the FEMA on-line courses numbered 100, 200, 700 and 800. Information can be found on the FEMA web site. The meeting adjourned at this point.

RARC Meeting July 20, 2007

The annual celebration social was again held at the QTH of June and Jamie WB4YDL. The weather certainly cooperated and was absolutely delightful. Approximately 20 members and guests were on hand to join in the festivities. From the grill / pit came excellent pork loin and grilled chicken breasts. All manner of vegetables and side dishes were on hand thanks to several of the XYL's. Additionally, homemade ice cream, courtesy of Relda, XYL of Ottis K5BSE, certainly went well with the fresh pecan pies. Photographs of our recently completed Field Day operation were passed around and plans for next year were already being discussed. It was great to see Gladys and Ron W9RVR, who is recovering from illness, come join us on this occasion. Lee, N4ABU made the drive from Palmersville to come join us. A great time was had by one and all ! - - *July 24, 2007.*

RARC Meeting June 21, 2007

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 12 members and three guests in attendance. Visitors were Larry KI4UNT, Donald K4DZK and James Erickson KI4KHT from Gleason, TN. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, the previous meeting's minutes were reviewed. As there was not a quorum of members in attendance at the last month's meeting, much of that agenda became this meeting's agenda. Discussion continued on the Martin Volunteer Hospital status and Ottis K5BSE reports that Lee N4ABU was able to determine that the VHF antenna was not functioning correctly; however, the UHF component of this antenna was working well. Lee made a jumper cable and interfaced the HF radio to the LDG tuner with success.

The wide area earthquake drill completed its activities today. During the first several hours of this drill, which began two days before, all communications relied heavily on amateur radio. Many of our club's members were active in manning area emergency centers and checking in and passing message traffic to the command station in Jackson, TN. Those participating in this drill were Chris KI4TRM at the Fulton Executive Building in Hickman, KY, Glenn N4MJ at the Obion County Sheriff's Department, Lee N4ABU at the Martin Volunteer Hospital, Britt

KB4IBW at the Dresden Sheriff's Department, and Jason Becton KI4UGY at Baptist Memorial Hospital - Union City. Well done !

Rose W9DHD gave an update on the progress of the library display scheduled for next month. Many articles have been written and display ideas are firming up. Jeff W5VNH brought his ARC-5 receiver, which formerly resided in a World War II B-17 Flying Fortress bomber, for this display. Plans are for available members to gather at the library to assemble this display on Monday, July 2nd. Those members that are contributing to the material of the display will bring those items then. Rose is again requesting pictures of members at their stations or of the stations themselves for a planned collage.

A proposal was made by Jamie WB4YDL that all those who pass the Technician Class license exam at one of our VE sessions, should receive a free one year membership to Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club. The following year's dues would be prorated as if it was their first year of membership, and then regular dues from thereafter. This motion was seconded by Bob K9IL and the vote carried the proposal unanimously. Jamie will email each of the new licensees from the successfully completed Technician Class license course to notify them of this decision. Their membership will be effective immediately. After this vote, Bob K9IL reminded the membership that Ron W9RVR's tower and antennae need to be raised and should be planned for after Field Day.

Harold N4HAR provided the refreshments for this month's meeting. Thank you, Harold ! After the break, Jamie WB4YDL reviewed the Field Day preparations and assignments. New rules changes for this year were also reviewed. Gathering and construction will begin at approximately 2:30PM tomorrow at Graham Park. Safety at the site was also emphasized. Afterwards, Jamie, Bob and Ray N4SLY showed the N3FJP software to be used for this operation. The GOTA station will for the first time use computer logging on Chris' KI4TRM laptop computer. Everybody come out and bring your camera and have fun !!

RARC Meeting May 24, 2007

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 7 members and two guests in

attendance. Visitors were Larry KI4UNT and new Technician Class licensee Phillip KI4VXO. For the first time in recent memory, two officers were unable to attend this meeting - Glenn N4MJ and Jamie WB4YDL, both attending graduation functions. Jamie did send Bob a written report of the Treasurer's report and the meeting agenda. After the previous meeting's minutes were reviewed, there was some discussion of the Martin Volunteer Hospital survey undertaken by Jamie WB4YDL, Glenn N4MJ and Bob K9IL earlier in the month. At this point, the formal recommendations for this station written up by Glenn N4MJ were forwarded to Britt KB4IBW, Weakley County EC and to the head of maintenance, who oversees this station's operation. Congratulations were given to the recent Technician Class license course students, all of whom passed their license exam on our recent VE session. Those folks are Phillip KI4VXO, Sherri KI4VXP, Brian KI4VXN, and Ricky KI4VXQ. One other student who had to drop out of the course is now receiving tutoring and hopes to take the Technician Class exam and a VE session soon. A proposal sent by Jamie WB4YDL stating that those who pass the Technician Class license exam at one of our VE sessions, should receive a free one year membership to RARC was tabled at this time since a quorum was not present to vote on this. This will be considered at next month's meeting. The RARC ARRL club affiliation has been renewed for another 2 years.

Refreshments were provided by Dolly KN4SLY and Ray N4SLY and were much appreciated ! Next, attention turned to the library display scheduled for July. Rose W9DHD, who is heading this up, is planning a red, white, and blue patriotic color scheme to go with the theme of "Ham Radio - Then, Now and the Future". Famous hams will be illustrated as well as radios, keys, and QSL cards. She would still like to have pictures of stations and their operators, antenna systems, and the like for display as well as Field Day pictures.

Speaking of Field Day, Jamie WB4YDL sent in a basic outline of the stations that will be present this year. In addition to the CW, Phone and 'Get on the Air' stations, there will be a dedicated satellite station in an attempt to make multiple satellite contacts and possible contact with astronauts on the ISS. The GOTA station radio will change this year to Chris KI4TRM's Yaesu FT-990 and the phone station radio will be Howard W4HLR's Icom IC-706 Mk2G. Howard is also putting together a 5 or 6 element 'home-brew' 6 meter beam for our use. New rules this year include the lowering of the GOTA bonus requirement from 50 QSO's to 20 QSO's, which should please many who were waiting their turn on the radio last year. Additionally, only one

QSO can be made on any single channel FM satellite - AO-51, SO-50 and AO-27. Special modes demonstrations will include APRS, packet and SSTV, with the possibility of sending radio email formal traffic via Winlink. Also of particular interest is the possibility of acquiring another camper trailer from Tracy KD4YUX. This means air conditioning ! 'Nuf said ! The meeting concluded at this point.

RARC Meeting April 26, 2007

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 11 members and one visitor in attendance. We welcome Chris KI4TRM into the fold as our newest member ! Larry KI4UNT was our visitor. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and reviewed the previous meeting's minutes. The status of the Martin Volunteer Hospital radio station was again raised. Due to schedule conflicts, the proposed visit to this station to verify its function will be postponed to Friday, May 4th at 1 PM. Glenn N4MJ, Bob K9IL, and Jamie WB4YDL will make this trip. The status of the proposed library display slated for July this year was reviewed. Rose W9DHD is requesting lists of available items from those willing to contribute to this display. Britt KB4IBW, who is going to attend the Dayton Hamvention this year, will bring back some brochures to be used for this display. The Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club's first Technician Class license course will be concluding this coming weekend. The four students are doing fine and expect to be present at the next VE testing session slated for May 5th at the Obion County Public Library. There have already been some inquiries as to when we might offer a General Class license course. At this time, there are no specific plans for this offering; however, after the present Technician Class license course is reviewed, a General Class license course will likely be proposed.

Glenn N4MJ announced that Delta Division Director Henry R. Leggette, WD4Q will be RARC's honored guest at the September club meeting slated for September 27th. Recently, Mr. Leggette visited the new Dyersburg Amateur Radio Club and was well received. We look forward to his visit. Many thanks to Jeff W5VNH for providing the refreshments for the club meeting ! The Field Day committee report was given by Jamie WB4YDL who reports that the "5th wheel" thought to have been available for use for the GOTA station will, unfortunately, not be available. A search will continue to try and put the GOTA station in a more favorable comfort zone. Also it

was brought up that Howard W4HLR and Dave WT8R will likely be joining us for this event. A 6 meter antenna will be needed as Glenn's 6M beam is now deployed on his home tower. Jamie WB4YDL is offering a two phased Moxon array for this use. This array was used to good effect as a portable arrangement on a fiberglass mast for last year's CQ WW VHF contest in July. Also suggested was the use of Rose's W9DHD new (still in the box!) Icom IC-718 radio as a possible GOTA station.

Mike George will be the Emergency Management Services Director for Obion County. If that doesn't sound like new information, what is apparently happening is that the City of Union City is dissolving its EMS capacity in deference to Obion County. So it really will be Obion County EMS now ! The meeting concluded at this point.

RARC Meeting March 22, 2007

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 11 members and 2 visitors in attendance. Our two visitors were Chris KI4TRM and new licensee Larry Newton KI4UNT. Congratulations Larry and welcome to the ham fraternity ! After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, the previous meeting's minutes were reviewed. Then Chris KI4TRM asked the question, "What does RARC do?" That led to Glenn N4MJ's review of all the things we have done, are doing, and plan to do as a club, both as a community resource but as a fun hobby and avocation. That took awhile ! After that inspiring review, the Martin Hospital was brought up as to their ham station setup. Nobody present knew the status of, or operation of, this station. It was agreed that on April 27th, Bob K9IL, Jamie WB4YDL, and Glenn N4MJ would make the trip over to Martin Hospital and verify the status and function of this station. As far as is known, there are no known operators of this station.

The planned Technician Class license course will begin as scheduled on March 31st at the Obion County Public Library with 4 registered students. All instructor assignments have been made and agreed upon. Instructor Manuals have been obtained and distributed and textbooks have been obtained. An extra textbook was ordered for any potential late add-on student. In response to a proposed 10 meter SSB net, it was discovered that there already was an established net in this area - the Catfish 10M Net meets on Monday evenings at 8PM on the frequency of 28.465

MHz. This is run by John K1XN of Go-List fame and is accompanied by a mailing list and weekly Catfish Chatter newsletter. This is an opportunity for new Technicians to exercise those HF Phone privileges. The Field Day committee reported no significant changes except for the possibility of adding a Digital station and going under 3A classification. At this time, this all depends on overall interest and participation in such a station. On this front, the first RARC Workshop will be held this Saturday (March 24th) at the QTH of Jamie WB4YDL. The topic will be digital modes and sound card interfacing. This will be a great opportunity for newcomers to learn about the fastest growing aspect of our hobby and how to get on board this train. Everybody is welcome and besides "playing radio", there will be good food and fishing.

As this was the "get serious month" for the library display scheduled for this July, Rose W9DHD presented her ideas. This included displays of telegraph keys and QSL cards, as well as displays on famous hams, different modes of operation, and ham radio's response to 9-11 and Hurricane Katrina. Rose will be working with Kurt of the library staff and develop the overall display. The Memphis Hamfest was announced and will be held on April 14th. See their web site available on the Links page for further details. It was noted that, due to a quirk in the calendar month of June, the 4th Thursday will fall AFTER Field Day. As this is a traditionally busy meeting in preparation for Field Day, it was decided to move this meeting to the 3rd Thursday, which will be June 21st.

Many thanks to Jamie WB4YDL and his XYL June for providing the refreshments for the meeting ! After this break, Jamie showed a portable Paclink setup using a laptop loaded with the Paclink and AGW software, a Kantronics KPC3+ TNC, and a 2M HT with attached J-pole antenna. The software loaded great. However, the metal blinds inside the library windows provided a wonderful diffraction grating at these frequencies and effectively scattered the received signal from the Telpac Gateway WB4YDL-10 ! Oh well ! Jamie did say he would demonstrate this VHF Winlink email program at this coming weekend's workshop. Winlink will become more important as a medium for emergency communications to connect to the internet via radio communications. The meeting adjourned at this point.

RARC Meeting February 22, 2007

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 15 members and 4 visitors in attendance. We welcome new member Tracy Melton, KD4YUX who hails from Barlow, KY. Tracy is a recent new licensee as are two of our four visitors - Christopher Edmaiston KI4TRM and William Mealer KI4TQW. Congratulations to them and we hope they make RARC their ham club home ! After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and reviewed the last meeting's minutes, Glenn N4MJ jumped right into a very busy meeting agenda. Alan KA4BNI gave a brief overview of the proposed repeater receiving "voting system" which was mentioned during last month's meeting. This will be enacted later this year. Also IRLP should be up and running again real soon. Also Alan is *very* interested in getting someone to make a WAV file to replace his melodic voice on the Union City repeater. The Field Day committee will remain intact from last year. Jamie WB4YDL provided some information on possible improvements to the setup. On the high priority list will be providing an indoor environment for the GOTA station and greatly improving that station and antenna system. Further ideas will be discussed including improving inter-station interference reduction. An emphasis will be on improving GOTA points production with more youth involvement and the new 'Techs'. Alan KA4BNI mentioned that there is the possibility of a 100 foot tower trailer which belongs to state emergency officials which could be 'liberated' for Field Day use. - -> developing. One week before the Field Day event, which tests our emergency preparedness, will be an emergency drill by TEMA involving all of Tennessee. This will be a multi-day event where it is anticipated that ham radio will play an important role during the first day. The lead up to this event will give our ARES group an opportunity to grow and become more organized. This will be discussed much more in future meetings.

One week after the Field Day event, our club will be displaying our wares in the library display case at its entrance with the theme, "Amateur Radio: Then and Now." There were some ideas briefly mentioned and these were passed on to our 'display director', Rose W9DHD. Next month is our designated "get serious month" to get this off the concept stage. Next, the discussion moved to the upcoming Technician class license course. Stan W4RB has already started the pre-registration process with an advertisement blitz. Pre-registration will end officially on March 10th in order to get the purchase order out to the ARRL for the text books in time for the start of the course. Jamie WB4YDL is coordinating the actual course. There are 4 instructors at present which will be assigned 2 sessions each to teach.

Many thanks to Rose W9DHD and Bob K9IL for providing wonderful refreshments for our club meeting ! After the break, elections for club officers were held. Each officer was re-elected by acclimation !! Congratulations to our officers and their great leadership ! Next on the agenda was the discussion of workshops. This was first brought up last month as a possible method of introducing organized 'Elmer' sessions to teach in a 'hands on' way how to actually do some topic of interest. One workshop idea was to hold these sessions in concert with the VE sessions in the adjacent room in the library. These would be Saturday morning sessions. There have been some great ideas already passed for potential topics such as Gary W4GT's idea on building simple wire antennas and learning how they work. Jamie WB4YDL mentioned that, as of midnight this Friday, there will be about 200,000 new Technician class licensees with new HF privileges. Taking a cue from the most recent ARRL editorial, it was suggested that the first workshop should be on digital / data interfacing to a computer sound card (or hardware TNC) to allow new Technicians (and anyone else) to learn digital mode techniques. The lower 300 kHz of 10 meters will be open to these licensees for this purpose. Also suggested was to formation of a club 10 meter SSB net to help get our new 'HF Techs' active with their new privileges. Stan W4RB will also explore the possible demand or need for a special VE testing session. Because we have been doing VE testing for less than a year, we do not have a stock of testing materials, and need about 2 weeks lead time. This may be academic as there are already several testing sessions planned at several sites within 50-60 miles over the next 6-8 weeks. After the upcoming Technician class license course, it will be discussed whether to 'fast track' a General class license course.

Ron W9RVR brought up the fact that ARRL membership can be renewed through the club and would cause \$2 per year subscription to be left in the club coffers. To finish off a very busy evening, Jamie WB4YDL announced that he has set up at his QTH a Winlink TelPac Gateway with the call WB4YDL-10. This will allow those interested in Winlink to experiment with passing email via VHF packet. The frequency is the same as the Hornbeak (HBK) packet digipeater - 145.010 MHz.

RARC Meeting January 25, 2007

The first regular scheduled RARC meeting of 2007 was called to order with 15 members and one visitor in attendance. All members appeared well rested after the busy holiday season and Jim Grady of Wood Communications was our visitor. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, the previous meeting's minutes were reviewed (October 2006). Glenn N4MJ next reviewed all the accomplishments, both personal and as a club, that Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club attained. Many of these are listed on this web site's News page in the "Horn Tootin'" column. Additionally, the Field Day effort of RARC continues to improve and this is documented on the Recent Events page of this web site. There is much to be proud of as RARC enters a new year ! For the first time, Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club will be offering a Technician Class license course. This will be given at the Obion County Public Library during the hours of 9AM to 1PM on the following Saturdays - March 31st, April 14th, April 21st, and April 28th. Only the first weekend of April will be omitted in observance of Easter. The course will be designed to follow the outline given in the ARRL instructor's manual. Each session will be divided into 2 hour sections requiring one instructor. Upon completion of the course, it is expected that the graduates will take the Technician Class exam at the VE session in May.

In July the Reelfoot Amateur Club will have an opportunity to show off its wares to the public in a different fashion. We will be occupying the front foyer library display. Our resident artist, Rose W9DHD, was 'volunteered' to be "display director" and will be working closely with the membership and the library personnel to put together a display with the motif of "Amateur Radio - Then and Now". Glenn asked that the members be thinking of display ideas with radios and devices and pictures thereof. March will be the 'get serious' month to get everything pulled together. Another idea brought up by Jamie WB4YDL has actually intermittently come up before with ideas from Ron W9RVR's previous club in Illinois - the idea of giving 'workshops'. These would be instructional, "hands on", brass tacks tutorials on various topics of interest. These can be as formal or informal as the tutor requires and does not have to be at a formal site; in fact, they would likely be at a member's QTH or other location. It would be a way of giving group lessons in an "Elmer" style. Many members have years of experience in various methods and modes of operation and much knowledge to share. Examples of potential topics would be PSK31, satellite operations, basic soldering applications - J-pole construction, Fox hunting antennas, computer applications - logging, QSL's, station automation, mobile radio setup, and even learning CW. The last topic may be more interesting now that CW will no longer be

formally tested for licensure. The list of topics can be anything in amateur radio and would supplement topics that would be discussed formally at club meeting presentations. This will be discussed further in the next meetings.

During the break, refreshments were provided by Glenn N4MJ and XYL Linda. Thank you ! The next VE testing session will be given on Saturday, February 3rd beginning at 9AM at the Obion County Public Library. All elements will be tested. This will be the last opportunity to take the Element 1 CW exam, for this will pass into history on February 23th. Sniff !! Andrew KI4SCM became our newest Obion County ARES member. Alan KA4BNI gave the repeater report and also supplied those in attendance back issues of SERA's Repeater Journal. Alan reviewed the DTMF sequence to turn on and off the PL tone of the Union City repeater. It is advised that during the Sunday evening net, the NCS turn off the PL tone, so that those distant stations unaware or not equipped could then access the repeater. The PL tone should then be turned back on after the completion of the net. IRLP will be activated soon. Due to problems with port opening at a Charter node in Jackson, the IRLP computer will have to be linked to the repeater via off-site UHF connection. The weather receiver will also be activated soon and will have DTMF on/off codes as well. Also in the works for later this year will be a receive "voting system" to allow low level audio to be augmented by various surrounding receivers on tall towers. This will have the effect of making a weaker signal sound "full quieting" on the local repeater. Finally, there was some discussion of the continued problem of some member's, notably in the Weakley County area, inability to receive the club web page when connected via broadband. There is a persistent 'denial of request' centered at a node in Jackson, TN probably as a result of an overzealous (read:cheap) malicious software blocker. There is on the table an idea to move the club web site to a different server whose services are already being paid for by Stan W4RB and his web site. Apparently, he is allowed three domains of which he is using only one. If the problem does not appear resolvable and members are dissatisfied, this option will be given serious consideration. This would be a last resort since we have had excellent FREE service and maintenance while at the Wood Communication's server. The meeting was adjourned at this time.