

## RARC Meeting October 23, 2008

The last regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club for 2008 was called to order with 16 members in attendance. After the Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL, old news was reviewed and annotated. Plans presently are for the RARC to again have a display for the Obion County Public Library in the May-June timeframe in 2009. This will be an attempt to gain interest in amateur radio by the public just prior to Field Day. Rose W9DHD will again head this effort up. The Christmas Holiday Gathering will be held at Joe's Steakhouse on Kenn-Tenn Highway on December 12th beginning at 5:30 PM. This will be a new location for RARC and we're looking forward to a great turnout.

The Field Day 2008 results should be posted in the December issue of QST. There is some early discussion of possibly changing our class to 3A in next year's Field Day effort in order to add a dedicated digital station. Class 3A is the fastest growing classification exactly because of the interest in digital modes. At this time, it appears that RARC will need to relocate Field Day operations to the Obion County Fairgrounds building immediately east to the one we were in this year. This is due to a conflict in scheduling with the fairgrounds and another party. As time marches on, this site will be surveyed for antenna vertical support sighting, and PVC conduits will be applied as with the previous building for cabling. A new repeater is now online in Dyersburg ! This is affiliated with the Dyer County Amateur Radio Society with the call K4DYR and has a frequency of 444.475 MHz, positive offset, and PL tone of 100.0 Hz.

Glenn N4MJ is looking for ideas for next year's meeting programs. At about the same time, Jim KI4KHT asked questions about basic station power supplies and battery back-up, and it is anticipated that this will be a topic for early next year. As an addendum to last month's meeting program, Jamie WB4YDL showed the results of the MFJ Cub transceiver kit. This kit was shown last month in many parts in bags ! The tiny radio is now fully built and functioning well putting out 2 watts on the 40M CW band. Jamie WB4YDL is an experienced kit builder and completed the basic kit construction in about 2 hours; another 2 hours was spent with alignment. The proof was a few contacts made with this radio during the PA QSO Party !

Many thanks go to Rhelda N5BSE and Ottis K5BSE for the great refreshments including chili. This was much appreciated on a chilly rainy evening! To wind things up, Ottis K5BSE gave a great presentation on Near Vertical Incidence Skywave propagation and its practical deployment for short range HF communications. It was an excellent discussion and we hope to have the Powerpoint presentation on this web site available for download soon. The meeting was adjourned at this time.

## RARC Meeting September 25, 2008

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 16 members in attendance. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, old news was reviewed. Congratulations again to Rose W9DHD, Harold KJ4FTM, Brandon KJ4FTN, and Rhelda N5BSE for the new licenses ! The RARC meeting times have been reserved for the 2009 year. Rose W9DHD would like for us to do another library display and this is anticipated to be this next Spring. Ron W9RVR, Obion County ARES EC, mentioned that ballots will shortly be in the mail for election of a new Delta Division director to replace Henry R. Leggette, WD4Q. Ron advised everybody to take serious consideration of this and ask the candidates questions. The Delta Division director is our representative for the ARRL. The Christmas dinner choices have boiled down to Joe's Steakhouse and the UT-Martin University Center. Rhelda N5BSE brought up the latter as a possibility and, since this was not on the original list to be considered, she will investigate further and relay her findings to us via email. A final, final decision will be made at next month's meeting. The target date for the dinner will be Friday, December 12th.

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will be the morning of Saturday, October 4, 2008. In concert with the national SET, the Tennessee Section will have their SET, named "TN Perfect Storm". If you wish to participate, contact your EC (Ron W9RVR in Obion County & Ottis K5BSE in Weakley County). This is an excellent opportunity to be involved in emergency communications and public service. Many thanks to Ron W9RVR and his 'better half' Gladys KJ4EKN for the wonderful spread of food and drink ! After the tragic death of two hams in Kansas who were father and son by electrocution while raising an antenna, Glenn N4MJ took the opportunity to present a safety briefing. This briefing outlined basic safety principles of raising antenna structures and maintaining safety clearance away from power lines and their power poles. Considering that incidents like this tragedy occur each year, this topic was quite timely and well received. Finally, Jamie WB4YDL gave a presentation on QRP operation principles including kit and homebrewing. Presented was the new ARRL book *Low Power Communications* which comes with the MFJ Cub transceiver kit. Jamie compared this to the popular Elecraft KX1 QRP transceiver in terms of features and ease of assembly. Soldering technique and materials were discussed and Jamie will be building the Cub transceiver and bring it in completed and (hopefully) functioning next meeting.

## RARC Meeting August 28, 2008

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 16 members and 4 visitors in attendance. We welcomed new members Art Anderson WA4EQO from Newbern who formally joined the club, and new licensee Brandon Snow KJ4FTN, Glenn N4MJ's young son. Welcome to RARC ! We also welcomed visitors John Shelton K1XN and Don Kildebeck KI4TXA from Paris, TN, Don Wilson ADØNW from Camden, and new licensee Harold Meyers KJ4FTM from Martin. Also congratulations were made to Rose W9DHD who passed her General Class license exam ! Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and this was accepted by the membership. It was announced that RARC received a check for \$25 for displaying the Ham-Com convention banner on our web site which was responsible for multiple hits to the convention web site. The results of Field Day 2008 were reviewed for those not in attendance at the "Recalibration Party". Final results should be published in the forthcoming December issue of QST.

A Skywarn weather spotter's course will be held at the Obion County Public Library on Tuesday, September 16th at 6:30 PM. Many of us have taken this course multiple times and it is advised that, if you have any interest in public service, to give strong consideration to attending this course. It was announced that Harold N4HAR is recovering from back surgery and we wish Harold a speedy recovery. Also announced was the email received by several members regarding Justin Beard KDØAAQ from Hornersville, MO who is afflicted with brain cancer. The Dunklin County Sheriff's Department will be hosting a barbeque from 10AM - 6PM on Saturday, September 6th at the Kennett Wal-Mart in an effort to raise money to help Justin with medical expenses. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to send \$100 as a donation from RARC to help defray these costs.

Presently in its embryonic stage, is the idea of arranging and working with an area middle school for the ultimate goal of making an ARISS school contact with astronauts on the International Space Station. This will require a great working relationship with the school principal and teachers and must begin with communication with the appropriate school superintendent. There is presently an 18 month waiting list worldwide for making this contact. Christmas dinner sites were discussed with the choices being the newly relocated B Markum Restaurant in South Fulton, Joe's Steakhouse in Union City, and Brandi's Steakhouse in Martin. A decision will be made at next month's RARC meeting.

Many thanks to Rose W9DHD and Bob K9IL for providing the delicious refreshments to the night's meeting ! The longest portion of the meeting regarded the newly re-written Constitution and By-Laws and since there was present enough members to vote on its change and acceptance, discussion was made in earnest. After much deliberation and at least some modification, both the Constitution and the By-Laws were accepted by hand vote unanimously by the membership. Afterwards, Jamie WB4YDL brought and showed a video of the 2006 DXpedition to Peter I Island and this was enjoyed by all. The meeting was adjourned at this time.

## **RARC Recalibration Party July 18, 2008**

The annual post-Field Day "Recalibration Party" was held at the home of June and Jamie

WB4YDL on this somewhat steamy evening. Nearly 30 visitors were on hand to enjoy a relaxing summer evening complete with smoked turkey and many delectables provided by many of the RARC family. Pablo KJ4CWN and Faith KJ4ETU made the trip up from Jackson with their kids, Estevan KJ4ETW, April KJ4ETT, and Brittany KJ4FBW ! Together they contributed a great many points during Field Day 2008 and they, with many others, were presented certificates from RARC to merit their contribution. Ron W9RVR and Gladys KJ4EKN brought their granddaughter, Rachael, who had way too much fun in the pool ! Everybody enjoyed getting together and 'decompress' after a very busy first half of the year. To see a few pictures taken by Jamie WB4YDL, go to the [Photo Gallery](#) and click Choose Gallery and select 'Around the Club'. - - *July 20, 2008.*

## RARC Meeting June 26, 2008

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 14 members and two guests in attendance. We welcomed Art Anderson WA4EQO and Charles Turner WD9ART to the meeting and also welcomed back Glenn N4MJ who is recovering from recent coronary bypass surgery. Vice-president Bob K9IL presided over the meeting. After the Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL, a review of the previous meeting's minutes was performed. It was confirmed that the hamfest for 2009 will be on March 21st and located again at the Union City National Guard Armory. Since this date does not fall on the classic date of the Ides of March, a new name for the hamfest will be sought. It was also mentioned that Scott N3FJP, whose software we use for Field Day, will contribute his software as a donation for this next hamfest.

After old news was reviewed, a very nice slide show of Ron W9RVR's tower raising and antenna party was shown. His antenna stack consists of a TA-33 Classic, a 5-element 6M beam, two 2m beams configured orthogonally for vertical and horizontal polarization, and a vhf 'stick' at the top. All is placed on a mast atop 55 feet of Rohn 45 tower. Tracy N4IL operated the boom lift which gradually raised the tower and then each antenna. Ottis K5BSE assisted Tracy with antenna installation in the boom lift. Ground crew consisted of Ron W9RVR, Jamie WB4YDL, Bob K9IL, Phil N4PWG, and Glenn N4MJ.

Glenn N4MJ and XYL Linda provided the refreshments for the meeting. Thanks so much ! The

remainder of the meeting was devoted to Field Day operations which is scheduled for the coming weekend. Assembly and deployment of the antennas will begin Friday at 1PM. Stations will not be set up until the following day prior to commencement of operations. Safety was emphasized especially since this will be new surroundings at the fairgrounds. Ray N4SLY and Dolly KN4SLY will park their RV in the shade of the covered parking area near the fairgrounds courtyard. The AB-577 military mast will be set up in the courtyard near the fairgrounds entrance. The Force 12 C4S will be constructed in the shade of the parking area. The new Spiderbeam antenna will be positioned between the parking area and the Activities building. Robin WA4YGM's communications van with its hydraulic mast will be positioned on the North side of the Activities building. Wire antennas for the low bands will use available vertical supports. Radios and other equipment was reviewed and who was to bring what. Chris KI4TRM will be handling barbeque chores and other food items were reviewed. See you there at Field Day !

## RARC Meeting May 22, 2008

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 13 members and one guest in attendance. We welcomed Roger KJ4AJP who was visiting from Martin, TN. Bob K9IL officiated in Glenn N4MJ's absence. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and a review of 'old business' from the previous month's meeting was undertaken. In that end, the target date for the 2009 Hamfest will be March 21st. Also Robin WA4YGM will be inspecting the Baptist Memorial Hospital - Union City station antennas and effect repairs. Additionally, a 'thank you' card was passed around from the Family Readiness Group of the 913th Tennessee National Guard for their receipt of the \$200 check RARC presented to them last month for use of armory facilities for the "Ides of March" Hamfest held this past March.

Field Day discussion began with Jamie WB4YDL, FD Chairman, going through equipment and radio station plans for the 2A effort. This year the VHF station will be consolidated with satellite and Winlink operations at Ray N4SLY's RV. There will be three HF stations - GOTA, CW and Phone stations - that will be under roof with air conditioning at the Fairgrounds building. Antenna vertical supports were discussed as well as the need for further coax runs to the building and station site. This year, a Spiderbeam will be used for the phone station. This is a

lightweight wire beam system that is easy to raise on a 30 foot mast and is popular with the DXpedition crowd. Food is always a big interest during Field Day and this year is no exception. Chris KI4TRM and/or Jim KI4KHT will provide barbequed delicacies sure to please all. As usual, there will be the 'full court press' to obtain visitation by elected officials as well as representatives of served agencies, media publicity, and participation by our youthful visitors. It promises to be a great social and promotional event for Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club and Amateur Radio in general. Jamie WB4YDL will be making the next meeting of the Tennessee Valley Amateur Radio Association in McKenzie to make a pitch for our Field Day operation and invite all of them to attend and be a part of the party.

Many thanks to Ray N4SLY and Dolly KN4SLY for providing the great food and refreshments ! Ron W9RVR, with the help of many, will be installing his Rohn 45 tower and antennas very soon. Phil N4PWG mentions there are several in the Fire / Rescue Squad who desire to obtain their amateur radio license. They would be very interested in taking a training course by RARC particularly if it could be held during evenings. This was discussed and felt to be viable if it could be held in Troy at their facility. It will be further discussed whether a full-fledged concept course or a review course format is desired as there are different time requirements for each.

Jamie WB4YDL gave a "Show and Tell" on the Elecraft K3 transceiver which he had recently completed constructing. He interfaced the radio to a laptop computer showing the N3FJP software which will be used during Field Day. The K3 has exceptional receiver characteristics and several 'bells and whistles' to allow comfortable digital and CW operations. For example, the K3 has a built-in sound card interface and does not need a computer to operate PSK31 and RTTY. Instead, these digital modes can be sent via the CW paddles - sending CW will send the text in the chosen digital mode ! Also there is a CW Tuning key that allows proper tuning of, not only CW, but also PSK31 and RTTY. Interesting to most was also the ability of the K3 to decode the received signal on the VFO B screen - this includes CW. As usual, the N3FJP Field Day software performed well. It is anticipated that the Elecraft K3 will be the CW station during Field Day this year. The meeting adjourned at this point.

**RARC Meeting April 24, 2008**

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 11 members and one guest in attendance. We welcomed Ricky KI4WPD who was visiting from Rutherford, TN. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, a review of the last month's meeting minutes was given. Several things remain pending such as the procurement of liability insurance for the club, and the presentation of a donation to the Family in Need Fund of the National Guard Armory. The Memphis "Freefest" was held on April 12th and several club members made the trip and reported on their finds. The previous meeting also concentrated on the successful first "Ides of March" Hamfest and, at this time, the date of March 21st has been penciled in as the target for next year's hamfest.

After the old business wrapped up, Jamie WB4YDL gave a pitch for the West Tennessee DX Association which has a prominent spot on the [Links](#) page of this web site. Jamie briefly went over the purpose of the WTDXA as a group of DX enthusiasts who try to help the best they can to keep great DXpeditions going to far flung areas of the globe. This are very expensive endeavors. Normally, most DX'ers will drop a few 'green stamps' in their QSL card request for this purpose, but this is a chance to do so as a group. The WTDXA logo would likely be displayed on the DXpedition's web site and QSL card. After the pitch, well-known club DX'ers Bob K9IL and Glenn N4MJ donated \$20 each to the cause. Thanks guys ! The target DXpedition for these donations will be the upcoming Glorioso Island expedition scheduled for this fall.

Ron W9RVR presented a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Obion County ARES and Obion County Department of Emergency Management. As far as we know, this is the first MOU signed between these two groups. Congratulations Ron ! A meeting is planned for the District 2 EC's and DEC for the purpose of discussing frequency coordination. It is hoped that this will be one of several 'eyeball' contacts for this group. Ron and AEC Glenn N4MJ recently visited the Baptist Memorial Hospital - Union City station and found that there are problems with the antenna system. Robin WA4YGM plans to evaluate the situation and see about repairs.

Jamie WB4YDL and XYL June provided the refreshments for the evening and they were greatly appreciated - especially those cherry-filled chocolate cupcakes !

The remainder of the meeting centered around preparation for the upcoming Field Day 2008 event which will be held on June 28-29th at the Obion County Fairgrounds. The Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club will again enter in the highly competitive 2A division. Jamie WB4YDL suggested that the site be re-visited and scoped out thoroughly and know exactly where to place stations and antennas. This year we have an interesting and wide variety of available radios for use in this event. Planned for the CW station will be Jamie's newly constructed Elecraft K3/100. With it's built-in antenna tuner, 4 message banks, and very robust DSP and crystal filtering, this should be a very productive station - as usual. The GOTA station will be supplied by Bob K9IL and Rose W9DHD, either being the Icom IC-730 which was recently refurbished, or the yet-to-be-activated Icom IC-718. Both are simple radios which should be easy to put Q's in the log. The phone station is wide open and could be Ron W9RVR's Kenwood TS-2000, Tracy N4IL's Kenwood TS-480, or Jamie's Elecraft K2/100 - all excellent radios. The VHF station stands to be consolidated this year with the satellite and Winlink/APRS station. Available radios are Glenn N4MJ's Yaesu FT-736 and Jamie WB4YDL's Yaesu FT-847. There will be three sets of bandpass filters this year which should greatly alleviate inter-station interference. Antennas and the need for vertical supports will be further discussed after the area is scoped out more thoroughly. The meeting adjourned at this time.

## RARC Meeting March 27, 2008

The following minutes were submitted by Ron W9RVR who was acting as Secretary for Jamie WB4YDL in his absence:

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by President Glenn Snow N4MJ. 11 members were present and one guest, Gladys, Ron's XYL.

The members covered old business which included talk about the First Annual "Ides of March Hamfest". Glenn advised that we would discuss this in more detail after the break. Ron read the treasurers report and it was approved by Larry KI4UNT and seconded by Harold N4HAR. Field Day was lightly discussed as our Field Day chair was absent on personal leave. We did discuss club Liability Insurance for events including our hamfest, Field Day, and other Club outings.

Glenn is to look into ARRL insurance and other options and report back on the next meeting.

The club also decided to donate \$200 to the National Guard Armory Family in Need Fund in appreciation for the free use of their facility. Glenn will talk to the officer or enlisted man in charge and find out if the club officers can make a presentation. The date of this will be posted on the web site so anyone else interested in attending can come. Tracy N4IL and Larry KJI4UNT approved and seconded the motion.

Ron W9RVR talked about the Club Sunday night net and the role call made last Sunday for ARES members to report in. There has been little involvement in ARES training and reporting. We have a pretty good base group of ARES members and will start some basic training and reporting through the 3980 TN phone net. It was also suggested to check in on the 146.865 EMA/Weather net when possible. This runs Monday through Friday at 20:00 hours on their repeater. Larry KI4UNT brought up some good points and we are going to contact the LEPC and the local chapter of the Red Cross for possible MOU's.

Volunteering is part of the ham radio tradition and Jamie Hall WB4YDL has been asked to be the District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for District 2 Western TN ARES. This position reports to to the Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator Randy Wilder, WB4LHD who reports directly to the TN ARES top dog Section Emergency Coordinator Lowell Bennington, WD4DJW. There are 3 sub-sections in Tennessee, East, Middle and West, and each sub section has one ASEC and three DEC's. Each DEC has up to 8 County EC's reporting to him. Congratulations Jamie.

Glenn Snow N4MJ has been asked to fill the position of Public Information Officer. Glenn will report directly to the state position, TN Section Public Information Coordinator Ron Akers, W8BF. Good "grass roots" public relations activities involve regular and frequent publicizing of amateur activities through local news media plus community activities; school programs; presentations to service clubs and community organizations; exhibits and demonstrations; and other efforts which create a positive public image for Amateur Radio. This is an important position to hold and congratulations Glenn.

Several RARC members are going to the "Free Fest" in Memphis on April 12. Besides looking

for that odd bit to put in the “ham Radio Box” I’m sure they will be comparing this ham fest to our own. They will report back at the next meeting. Good hunting guys!

Glenn N4MJ brought up the possibility of some funding for our club in areas where we have the opportunity to make an impact on Community Safety. An application for this grant money will take from four months to a year or more before any monies are granted. Glenn N4MJ is looking for good points to make on his request for this grant on how we can directly impact public safety. Some suggestions were to offer to pay for material used in our ham training classes making this a “no cost” event other than the \$14 VE fees to test. Ron W9RVR suggested listing the Weather nets during tornado season and how we report to the NWS and that it would be nice if the club had some emergency equipment that was actually owned by the club. Public Service Events (PSE) and our club involvement would be another link to public safety. If anyone has ideas along these lines please speak up and talk to Glenn.

Thanks go to Harold N4HAR for snacks tonight. He handed Ron a piece of Cheese Cake that was some of the best he tasted! (I’m bad)

After the break, the club discussed our first annual hamfest. Ideas and comments were abundant. Among the suggestions were the following; Everyone jumped on Chris KI4TRM to volunteer as cook again next year! We need to advertise that we have a famous award winning Bar-B-Que chief at our ham fest. Bob is contacting other area hamfests to find out their dates for next year to eliminate conflicts if possible. Bob is following up so we can go for ARRL sanctioning earlier this year once we have a date and commitment from the National Guard Armory. Tracy N4IL suggested we charge a nominal entry fee of \$1-\$2 or more especially if we have more vendors or very good door prizes next year. We need to have greeters at both entrances to take entry fees and table fees next year. Rose W9DHD and Larry KI4UNT suggested we give one door prize ticket in return for the entry fee. This will help us keep a more accurate count of attendees. The club will be contacting vendors earlier (everyone wants vendors) including AES, HamStation, MFJ, Memphis Amateur, Radio Shack Etc. The need to get some of these to actually show up is great and we might offer the opportunity as an exclusive to the big ham stores as an extra incentive. Donations from these vendors will need to be advertised in our pre-fest literature and publishing’s to make a good donation worth while and justifiable for the vendor. As an added draw the club might offer to purchase a HT from one of

these vendors at cost to raffle off as a door prize if all else fails. We might increase the table fee to a nominal fee of \$7 or \$8 dollars. We discussed "salting" the 50/50 raffle with seed money and that if we did this we would leave the money in the jar as being the most honest method. We need to review the possibility of selling the door prize tickets at \$1 each, 7 for \$5 or 15 for \$10 which will increase this revenue. Better advertising including TV, radio and print would be nice. The members also suggested that there be more involvement in meetings and decision making process in the pre-fest planning stage. This would be a good way to help relieve the club officers of having to do all the duties and get more club members involved at an earlier stage. The ultimate decisions would remain the responsibility of the hamfest chair and policy decisions the responsibility of the club president.

Bob K9IL moved that the meeting come to a close and that was seconded by Stan W4RB and Tracy N4IL. Our next scheduled club meeting is April 24. This is an open meeting and you do not need to be a member to visit. Come on down!!

## RARC Meeting February 28, 2008

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 13 members and two non-member XYL's in attendance. Gladys and Rhelda once again joined us and we welcomed their contribution. After the Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL, it was mentioned in follow-up to the previous meeting's minutes that a Press Release was printed in the Union City Messenger with a photograph and caption regarding the recent presentation of the ARRL book set to the C. E. Weldon Public Library in Martin, TN. Much of the attention of this meeting again centered on the upcoming RARC Hamfest which has moved to the TN National Guard Armory in Union City. The items that were left to be discussed from the last meeting have been resolved. These include the availability of tables, additional VE testers, the use of a PA sound system, vendors, and concessions. Additionally, there was some discussion on door prizes and a "50-50" chance game put forth by Larry KI4UNT. This will require petty cash availability for three areas for the purpose of providing change - concessions, raffle tickets, and 50-50. Plans are for initial set-up to begin on Friday at 2 PM and planned Saturday clean-up after the 3 PM close. Plans are for the officers to be in communication at all times during the hamfest via HT on the 440 MHz band. Ron W9RVR will man the talk-in radio. There is also the possibility of

providing an APRS beacon and GPS coordinates for our real geeky visitors ! Also discussed was that since we are a non-profit organization, that a certain percent of the proceeds should go to the National Guard. This will be an exciting time for the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club and the first ever "Ides of March" Hamfest !

Thanks go out to Jeff W5VNH who provided the wonderful refreshments. There was a Skywarn/TEMA-West exercise on Wednesday, February 27th and several club members were able to participate - Ron W9RVR, Dolly KN4SLY, Ray N4SLY, Ottis K5BSE, Stan W4RB, and Glenn N4MJ. This opened up a discussion regarding the somewhat moribund state of the ARES group in this area. Jamie WB4YDL, the Obion County EC, took full responsibility and offered some interesting possibilities first put forth by Howard W4HLR. This would include an ARES Net that might be linked to the normal Sunday evening West TN West KY Emergency Net and with possible linkage with the TN HF Phone Net. Additionally, Ron W9RVR brought up some possibilities with communications support in area public events, such as parades, etc. These items have been mentioned before but have been on the 'back burner' for much too long. With the support of AEC's Ron W9RVR and Glenn N4MJ as well as Howard W4HLR, it is hoped that these items will come to pass.

The Ham-Com 2008 will be a big hamfest in Dallas this June and the RARC has a chance to make a little change with its promotion. This will be done as an advertising banner on the index page of our web site. Clicking on this banner will lead to the organizational web site of Ham-Com and the most 'hits' to their web site from ours will earn us \$100. An error exists on the table of VE sessions given by RARC in that the May session will be on May 10th not May 3rd. We apologize for any confusion. The General Class license course is now planned for the four Saturdays of April for (at least) 4 hours each session. The RARC will now take applications for this course. At the termination of the hamfest, the order for textbooks will be submitted to the ARRL. There is no charge for the course itself except for the purchase of textbooks. The course is designed to coordinate with the May VE session.

Initial discussion on this years Field Day event was brought up by Jamie WB4YDL. There were some rules changes from previous years, but the important one was the abolition of the demonstration mode credit. In the past, RARC would demonstrate packet technology, SSTV,

and last year, the use of Winlink to pass NCS messages. This has now all been replaced with the Educational Activity bonus. This is described in the new Field Day rules as a formal educational-related activity. This must be done as a group and be a pseudo-classroom event. This will be an opportunity to involve our younger members. More will be discussed on this in forthcoming meetings. The annual election of RARC officers was held as scheduled during this meeting. By acclimation, the officers - Glenn N4MJ President, Bob K9IL Vice President, and Jamie WB4YDL Secretary Treasurer - were re-elected. Congratulations to the officers ! The meeting was adjourned at this time.

## RARC Meeting January 24, 2008

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 13 members and 3 guests in attendance. It was a very chilly night with temperatures in the low teens. We welcomed XYL guests Gladys (with W9RVR) and Rhelda (with K5BSE), as well as Bob K9IL's father, Bob Sr., K9YHD. After the Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL, the only item of 'old news' was the delivery and presentation of a full set of ARRL books to the C. E. Weldon Public Library in Martin, TN. A news release with a picture of the presentation will be sent by Stan W4RB to area newspapers such as *The Weakley County Press* and the *Dresden Enterprise* for publication. Bob K9IL was given the designation of Legislative Action Assistant (LAA) by Henry R. Leggette, WD4Q, our Delta Division Director. Bob's duties will be to inform hams in the Northwest Tennessee area of any legislative news or concerns that would warrant attention or action. Congratulations Bob !

The remainder of the meeting was devoted entirely to discussing preparations for this club's first hamfest. Named the Ides of March Hamfest, it will be held at the Obion County Fairgrounds on March 15th starting at 9 AM. Bob K9IL is heading this up and has been quite busy with arrangements. First off, there apparently was some miscommunication with Obion County Parks & Recreation as to our requirements for an indoor facility. This will be clarified in the upcoming week by Glenn N4MJ with some facilitation by Phillip N4PWG. Plans are that an indoor facility will have the tables and displays and provide cover in case of bad weather. There also needs to be an isolated area to have a VE testing session. The outdoor area will also be covered but open for tailgaters and flea marketers. Club personnel will be needed for parking

assistance and talk-in via the WA4YGM repeater. Chris KI4TRM is putting together a very nice concessions package which, in the morning will include coffee and donuts, and for lunch, barbeque with all fixin's and hamburgers. All will be sold at more-than-reasonable pricing.

Refreshments were provided by Ottis K5BSE and XYL Rhelda whose bean soup sure hit the spot on a cold night! Thanks once again! After the break, discussions continued with hamfest preparation. Bob has acquired raffle tickets which will be used for prizes. Thoughts on prizes varied, but one thought was to ask vendors to match a particular amount that the club would put up as a gift certificate. There will surely be other items presented for raffle. The ARRL hamfest package has not yet been received. Vendors are lacking at the moment. Bob has contacted Memphis Amateur Electronics and they are considering sending folks up for the hamfest. Bob will be working to provide further vendors to sell their wares. A big item of need is tables. Obion County Parks & Recreation was approached about the use of their tables, but they wanted \$10 for each table used !! The club will be approaching schools and churches for use of their tables. Additionally, it was noted that each school has a fairgrounds supply building that houses such things during the off months. One is the Obion County Central High School and they will be approached about using their tables. Also noted was the need for VE testers as all available club personnel may likely be needed elsewhere. The good folks at WTARS in Jackson have often stated they would be glad to assist in our need if called upon. A small public address system will be required and Phil N4PWG and Ray N4SLY will work together to assemble this item. They will bring this to the next meeting for review. The meeting adjourned at this point.