

RARC Meeting October 22, 2009

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 13 members and one guest in attendance. We welcomed our guest Tim Clark KB4RPV who visited from Jackson. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, old business was reviewed. Appropriate forms have now been filed with the IRS for classifying RARC as a subchapter 501c4 not-for-profit organization. We will hear back from the IRS in their good time. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Jamie WB4YDL to purchase a one year subscription of QST for the Obion County Public Library. This was seconded by Jeff KD4VKR and the motion carried unanimously. This will be for a one year subscription beginning calendar year 2010. At the end of the year, it will be re-evaluated for further fulfillment of the subscription. The Jamboree On the Air event, in concert with the Davy Crockett Camporee, with the Boy Scouts was held October 17th at the Reelfoot Lake Airpark campground. Scouts came from several counties as far away as Kennett, MO. Several hams from RARC participated both on site and at their home stations. There were also operators from clubs in Crockett County, Dyer County, and others. Several photographs were taken and these will be displayed on the Photo Gallery of this web site. It is hoped that this will be an annual event. A

great time was had by all !

Refreshments were provided by June and Jamie WB4YDL and were much appreciated. After the break, we were all treated to an excellent presentation on astronomy and astrophotography by Harold KJ4FTM. Harold has been doing this 'other' hobby for less than a decade and really enjoys it. The photographs presented were spectacular ! The meeting was adjourned at this point. The next gathering will be our annual Holiday Gathering at Joe's Steakhouse on December 4th at 6:30 PM. See you there !

RARC Meeting September 24, 2009

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 17 members and 6 visitors in attendance. We welcomed back Gene AB4IR back to the club after a long absence and visitors John K1XN, Howard W4HLR, Danny KJ4HRM, Roger KJ4AJP, Tom KØKTB, and John Taylor KC9EMQ. John Taylor recently relocated to this area from the Chicago area. Welcome one and all ! After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's Report, old business was reviewed. It was decided that our Christmas holiday dinner will be celebrated on Friday, December 4th at Joe's Steakhouse beginning at 6:30 PM. This will be the same location as last year. Jeff W5VNH came back with information on the cost of subscriptions to various amateur radio publications for the purpose of possibly giving one or more to the Obion County Public Library. There was some discussion but no consensus on this and there was a motion to table this matter until the next meeting. The motion carried.

The new business began with Danny KJ4HRM presenting the Jamboree on the Air event. This will be the 52nd annual JOTA event and will coincide with the Davy Crockett Fall Camporee. This will be held on Saturday, October 17th and be located at the Reelfoot Lake Airpark.

A special call sign has been granted - W4B. Amateur radio operators from several counties of West Tennessee will come together and set up demonstration stations demonstrating all manner of communications. From our club Glenn N4MJ and Jamie WB4YDL will set up a station demonstrating digital techniques. All are invited to attend or make contact from home stations. The event will run from 8AM - 4PM. Howard W4HLR will also be offering a Radio Merit Badge Course for the scouts in attendance.

Bob K9IL is trying to initiate contact with potential vendors for this next year's Ides of March Hamfest, but he acknowledges that has little experience in this matter and would like some help. Rhelda N5BSE graciously volunteered to assist. On the subject of the Hamfest, the Paris, TN area hams generously donated \$100 to be used towards the grand prize. These hams include John K1XN, Jeff KD4VKR, Donald KI4TXA, and Charles N4PPD.

Thank you so very much !!

Jeff W5VNH provided the refreshments for the meeting - thank you Jeff ! After the break, Jamie WB4YDL gave a presentation on the Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS) . There was lots of audience participation on this subject as this form of messaging may well become a standard, or at least a very good tool in the toolbox, for digital EmComm communications. Modes such as Olivia and MT63 were discussed in some detail and ended in a demonstration of MT63-2000 done between two HT's on FM simplex and two laptops using simple audio coupling. The Powerpoint presentation that was used is now downloadable [HERE](#) and comes from the Western PA NBEMS group which has done so much to make this a viable method of efficient digital communication. The meeting adjourned at this time

RARC Meeting August 27, 2009

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 10 members and 4 guests in attendance. Two guests joined the club as new members - Jeff Howard KD4VKR and Charles Allen N4PPD, both of Paris, TN. Welcome to the club Jeff and Charles ! We also welcome guests John Shelton K1XN and Tom Beilmann KØKTB. John is also from Paris, TN and runs The GoList. Tom is from Dyer, TN and is retired from law enforcement. He is interested in digital communications and is active in Army MARS. After Secretary-Treasurer Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, old business was reviewed. There is some interest in providing the Obion County Public Library subscriptions to QST and CQ journals. Jeff W5VNH is going to inquire as to cost and potential discounts and report back on next meeting.

A new Skywarn Net has started on the great Paris repeater on 147.360 (+), no tone on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM. This repeater has great coverage as its antenna is nearly 600 feet up ! The discussion then turned to where our club's annual Christmas dinner will be held. Most felt that Joe's Steakhouse, where last year's event was held, was a dandy choice. There were other possibilities mentioned and this will be decided at next month's meeting.

The last VE session of the year will be held at C.E. Weldon Library in Martin, TN on October 31st at 9:30 AM. Also, to reiterate, the Annual 'Ides of March' Hamfest will be held on March 20, 2010, where there will also be a VE session. Ottis K5BSE and XYL Rhelda N5BSE will be departing for the Ukraine on a mission trip to continue construction on a church there. The meeting adjourned at this point.

RARC Meeting June 25, 2009

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur

Radio Club was called to order with 14 members and one guest in attendance. We welcomed again Andrew W4WMH who is planning on being more active in ham radio now that he's settled in this area. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and a review of old business. The library display is scheduled to come down on June 29th. Look for an events page on this display soon. The Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club is now listed as an active not-for-profit corporation in the state of Tennessee. Soon RARC will be listed as a 501c3 not-for-profit organization with the IRS.

There was much discussion and reflection on the recent passing of our colleague and friend Ron Steinberg W9RVR. There will be a memorial set up in his honor during the Field Day event and our "Old Glory" flag will be at half mast. Certainly he was very active in emergency communications and was a VEC for the ARRL. Glenn N4MJ is now listed as the VEC. The Obion County and Lake County EC positions will need to be filled. Ron touched many lives here during his short time in this vicinity and we were honored to have been called friends.

Field Day will kick off this weekend with setup beginning Friday at 1 PM at the fairgrounds site. Jim KI4KHT graciously is donating all the meat (Boston butt) for the Field Day Saturday evening meal. Wow ! Thanks so very much, Jim. Also, to end this meeting, there was discussion about donating subscriptions of QST and CQ magazines to the Obion County Public Library.

RARC Meeting May 28, 2009

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 12 members in attendance. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report with the additional items of accounts payable to Ad Pro Designs for purchase of new caps and accounts receivable for purchase of one patch and one summer cap. Also we

welcomed back Wayne Rowe KD4MSE back into the membership after his return from deployment in Iraq. Thank you so much, Wayne, for your service ! 'Old business' was reviewed and consisted of discussion of the recent Digital Workshop which everyone agreed was quite successful despite Ol' Murphy's appearance. We will certainly plan on doing it again soon. The RARC email reflector has now been dissolved in favor of a much more feature-rich Yahoo Group. Enjoy ! Also, the recent VE session produced one new Extra Class licensee and two new Technician Class licensees. Congratulations !

Glenn N4MJ made the trip to the Dayton Hamvention and enjoyed it thoroughly. He came away with a brand new Ten-Tec Orion II transceiver with all the trimmings. Wow ! Jamie WB4YDL was in cell phone contact with Glenn during that morning and also made purchases of a couple of toys !

The setup for the Library Display will begin at 11 AM at the Obion County Library on Monday, June 1st. The theme will be "Amateur Radio Operators: A Lifeline in Time of Disaster." Rose W9DHD and Bob K9IL have put a LOT of work into this display, so make plans to come see and enjoy this work. It's not often that a library display of such size is put on by a club. Thank you Rose and Bob ! Thanks also go to Dolly KN4SLY and Ray N4SLY for providing the delicious refreshments for our meeting. Next, Phillip N4PWG discussed the organization ongoing with Obion County Emergency Management, the new commissioner being Mr. Danny Jowers (brother to Dean, a recent new licensee). Amateur radio will definitely be emphasized during any emergency communications deployment. First, will be the localization of available Obion County EmComm hams on a grid chart. There will be further measures brought up at the LEPC meetings and it is hoped that Mr. Jowers will come visit one of our meetings to

discuss this. Also, it is hoped he might visit our Field Day site ... for a 100 point bonus !

Those present who made orders for Field Day T-shirts and pins, received their order at the meeting. Those that were not present who made an order are Tracy N4IL, Steve KQ4UB, and Chris KI4TRM. Get with me, guys, and I'll get your order to you. Field Day is always the last full weekend of the month of June and this year that lands on June 27 - 28th. Jamie WB4YDL brought charts describing the planned Field Day stations and briefly went over the plan to obtain as many bonus points as possible. We will be entering the 3A class this year, with the addition of an RTTY station. This will be an exciting addition for all to see and hopefully, will be very productive. Setup will be at 1 PM on Friday, June 26th. We will need all able-bodied folks to come help with this venture. Yes, of course it WILL be hot !! We will have cold water, but don't forget your sunscreen ! We will be located this year in the smaller building just east of last year's QTH. This presents some potential problems due to the proximity of power lines in the area. We will be emphasizing 'Safety First' during this setup and will take our time to do it right. See you there !

RARC Meeting April 23, 2009

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 11 members in attendance. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report with the addition of items of expenditure. Those were renewal of the reelfootarc.com domain for another 5 years extending to August of 2015 and the forthcoming expenditures of the National Guard donation to the Family Readiness Group and the RARC cap order. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. As there were no old business not relevant to new business, the latter items were then discussed. First up was the upcoming library

display. This will be displayed during the month of June at the Obion County Public Library. Rose W9DHD who is heading this up says that she has received lots of pictures from damage that occurred during the recent ice storm going back to the devastating tornado that effected Union University last year. The delay to June will actually be fortuitous as Rose was not *quite* ready to display next week. Next, an announcement was made to remind our VE's that a VE session will be this coming Saturday, the 25th, at C.E. Weldon Library at 9:30 AM.

Discussion then shifted to the forthcoming Spring workshop which will be held on Saturday, May 2nd at the Obion County Public Library beginning at 9AM. Jamie WB4YDL is heading this up and will be assisted by Glenn N4MJ. The workshop will cover digital communications methods and will involve both HF and VHF techniques. The depth of discussion will be tailored to the audience and their needs and desires and will include hardware interface, software installation, application configuration, and hopefully, actually making contacts. Emphasis will be on sound card interface modes of communication such as PSK31 and RTTY. Attendees should bring their computer, radio, and interface, if they have one. Antennas will be set up locally for both HF and VHF. VHF modes emphasized will be packet, and MT63.

Many thanks to Gladys KJ4EKN who provided the refreshments for tonight's meeting ! Jamie WB4YDL suggested shifting the RARC email reflector to Yahoo Groups to gain new features and flexibility. Particularly noted will be the use of HTML format from anybody's email program and the ability to upload such things as files and photos. There was no objection to this and Jamie will begin the transition tomorrow. The next item was the vote on the change in By-Laws to allow for filing the club under subchapter 501c3. With the addition of 3 votes made

by email and phone, enough members were on hand for a roll call vote. Glenn N4MJ read the change one more time and Jamie WB4YDL ran the roll call vote. As all voted 'yes', the measure passed and the By-Laws were hereby amended. This will be posted on that web site page.

The last item for discussion was the preparation for the forthcoming Field Day. Jamie WB4YDL took orders for the ARRL Field Day T-shirts and pins. Jamie also mentioned that he will be organizing a flow sheet with all listed equipment and anything needed. At this time, there will be an Elecraft K3 at both the CW and the new RTTY stations. It is *rumored* that there might be another K3 around. The GOTA station will have an Icom IC-746 and, at this time, we will be using a Kenwood TS-480 at the phone station. A Yaesu FT-847 will be used again at the VHF and satellite station. All stations will have computer logging and control with the N3FJP Field Day software. The RTTY add-on to this program works extremely well. A time will be made to recon the Field Day site at the fairgrounds as we were unable to do so this month. I hope everyone will be able to attend ! The meeting adjourned at this time.

RARC Meeting March 26, 2009

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 14 members and one visitor in attendance. We welcomed new member and new licensee James Bowers KJ4KIM from here in Union City. James was a student in our most recent Technician Class license course. Another student and new licensee, Kevin Bennett KJ4KHZ of Hornbeak, was visiting. After the Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL, Glenn N4MJ gave the second reading of two for a change in the RARC By-Laws that will allow incorporation under subchapter 501c3 which governs non-profit organizations. The second reading was accepted as read. The 2nd annual

'Ides of March' Hamfest was reviewed by hamfest director Bob K9IL. Bob states the poor economy drove attendance figures down and some vendors pulled out at the last minute. Steve KR4S of Amateur Accessories did a huge business and promises to return next year. The overall profit of the hamfest was less than \$200. However, all agreed that we should donate \$200 (as we did last year) to the 913th FRG (Family Readiness Group) of the TN National Guard. Presently, our target date for the 3rd annual 'Ides of March' Hamfest is March 20th, 2010.

The Obion County Public Library display will be for May and June this year. Rose W9DHD is heading this up with an EmComm theme. Kenny Johns AB4EG of WTARS will assist with donated items from the Union University tornado disaster. May 1st is a Friday, which is a good day to plan for setup. The Spring Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd from 9AM-1PM at the Obion County Public Library. The topic will be digital methods - interfacing radios to computers and computer sound cards, software, and digital modes. Glenn N4MJ will be offering a Technician familiarization session tentatively in mid-May. Details to follow.

Field Day is quickly coming upon us - it is always the last weekend in June. On Friday, April 10th, a group of us will recon the newest site at the fairgrounds. This will be for the purpose of sighting vertical antenna supports and station locations inside the new building. Jamie WB4YDL mentions that we will be able to use the same N3FJP software for the new RTTY station as it has a plug-in interface with the K7RE RTTY program. This program uses the MMTTY engine and will be tested soon. The main antenna for this station will be Glenn's Cushcraft A3S along with an 80M folded dipole.

Many thanks to Rhelda N5BSE for providing the

refreshments for the meeting! The next VE session will be scheduled on April 25th at the C. E. Weldon Public Library in Martin, TN. Also there will be a Skywarn course given on Thursday, April 2nd at 6:30PM located at the Sheriff's Department in Dresden, TN. The meeting adjourned at this time.

RARC Meeting February 26, 2009

The regular scheduled meeting of Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 15 members and 4 visitors in attendance. We all welcomed Fulton County, KY Emergency Management officials Hugh Caldwell and J.T. Atwell as well as Andrew Hollomon W4WMH and his friend, Nathan Doss. Mr's Caldwell and Atwell gave a short talk on the effects of the most recent devastating ice storm in the Hickman, Ky area. During the early hours of the aftermath of this storm, Hickman, and indeed most of Western KY, were without power and water - and absolutely no way to communicate with the outside world. It was Chris KI4TRM who was able to contact several operators in Obion, Weakley, and Dyer Counties to begin emergency communications. During that time, there was no way to get a message to Frankfurt, KY for urgent requests of aid until Ron W9RVR was able to cross-band repeat Chris' 2M signal to the 75M KY emergency frequency. This finally got the ball rolling and soon Hickman was receiving the urgent supplies that they needed. For these actions, Chris KI4TRM and Ron W9RVR were presented Certificates of Appreciation from Mr's Caldwell and Atwill. Congratulations, Ron and Chris !

After the Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL, old news from the previous meeting was reviewed. The field trip to Obion County 911 was enjoyed greatly by all that attended. The Technician Class license course is well attended with 13 students. A VE testing session will be

offered immediately at the conclusion of this course. Officer elections were held and by acclamation, all present officers were re-elected. Congratulations, officers ! The first of two readings of a change to the RARC By-Laws to account for assets of the club in the event of dissolution was read. After this change is incorporated in the By-Laws, it will allow RARC to become incorporated under subchapter 501c3 which governs non-profit organizations. The first reading was accepted as read.

The Obion County Library display scheduled for the months of May and June of this year will have an emergency communications theme, according to director Rose W9DHD. There were lots of ideas offered and certainly our Field Day efforts will be part of this display. Another possible display and demonstration was suggested by Rhelda N5BSE possibly for the Obion County Fair. This will be further discussed at next month's meeting. This year's Field Day will again be located at the fairgrounds but in a different building. This will need to be surveyed for positioning of antenna structures, etc. It was also suggested by Jamie WB4YDL that RARC should now consider moving to the 3A category so as to include a 'digital' station. This would involve a 4th HF station counting the CW, phone, and GOTA stations and a 4th antenna structure. This is the fastest growing category in Field Day because of the popularity of digital communications. For contest purposes, it was suggested that RTTY be the mode of choice.

Jamie WB4YDL and XYL June provided the refreshments for the meeting. After the break, discussion shifted to the upcoming 2nd Annual "Ides of March" Hamfest scheduled for Saturday, March 21st at the TN National Guard Armory. Vendors will be allowed admission at 7AM with general admission to begin at 8AM. This will be a controlled admission with hand stamps. Details were

further discussed and it was felt that we were prepared for this event. There will be a Spring Workshop again offered with digital communications emphasized. This will occur after the Hamfest and will be discussed in some detail at next month's meeting. The meeting adjourned at this point.

RARC Meeting January 22, 2009

The first regular scheduled meeting for 2009 was called to order with 14 members and 3 visitors in attendance. We all apparently survived another holiday season relatively unscathed. We all welcomed our visitors Linda, Glenn's XYL, and Robyn (WA9YHX) and Gregg (KB9DBC) Sperling who were visiting from Carbondale, IL. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, "Old News" was reviewed. A sign-up sheet was passed around for those interested in a proposed 'field trip' to Obion County 911. This will be presented to Sherri Hanna there and arrangements will be made, most likely not on a club meeting night.

A Technician Class license course is now set for the four consecutive Saturdays from February 14th to March 7th. It will be taught in the same format as the previous course in that it will be 4 hours each Saturday beginning at 9AM. The class will be located in the Study Room adjacent to the Tennessee Room at the Obion County Public Library. The instructors (Jamie WB4YDL, Glenn N4MJ, Bob K9IL, Ottis K5BSE, and Dave WT8R) have all been notified and all have student and instructor's manuals. A call will now be announced and reservations made for this course. It is hoped that student manuals can be ordered no later than February 2nd. Students will not be charged for the course but will be asked to reserve a student manual (if they don't already have one) for the cost of \$25. The club will absorb the S&H charge. In addition, Ham University has sent

Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club a club copy of their Ham University software for use during this course. The course is designed to finish two weeks before the Hamfest when a VE session will take place.

A Spring Workshop will be tentatively scheduled for a date in the month of April. There have been requests to present interfacing methods for sound card digital modes of operation and to perhaps present software setup for modes such as PSK31 and RTTY. This may also help us during Field Day this year as it has been suggested that we might register as a 3A station with the incorporation of a dedicated digital (read- RTTY) station. The 2nd Annual "Ides of March" Hamfest will be held on March 21st at the Tennessee National Guard Armory. Setup will begin on that prior Friday at 1PM. All hands are requested to be 'on deck' to help out with this important event. There was much discussion about vendor contacts, prizes, food, and pricing - the usual pre-hamfest business.

Many thanks go out to Ron W9RVR and Gladys KJ4EKN for providing the refreshments for the meeting. After the break, Jamie WB4YDL setup a great video on the most recent BS7H Scarborough Reef DXpedition. This was greatly enjoyed by all and the meeting was adjourned at this point.