

RARC Meeting October 28, 2010

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 11 members in attendance. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, a review of old news ensued. The Morse code training with the Boy Scouts is moving along well. Jamie and Glenn N4MJ have been meeting with the scouts each Monday evening for code practice in pursuit of their Signaling merit badge. Next up, Rhelda N5BSE gave a report on the planned Christmas gathering. The gathering will be held on Friday, December 10th at 6:00 PM in the Community Room of the new First State Bank building. The meal will be catered by Rene Kimsey of Kimsey Katering in Martin, TN. All paid members will have their meal paid by the club. For all others the price is only \$12.

Attention then turned to planning for the Hamfest 2011. RARC has now acquired a new PA sound system. It is a 4-channel, two speaker, 140 watt system with a wireless microphone. This should relieve the poor sound experienced at the previous hamfest. Rhelda N5BSE is in the process of arranging and contacting different vendors. The grand prize of an HF radio will more than likely again be the Icom IC-718. All other considerations are either inferior or three times the cost. Charles N4PPD will be asked to again cover the public relations side of the event.

A VE testing session will tentatively be scheduled for Saturday, January 8, 2011. Thanks go to Art WA4EQO and Tracy for providing the meetings refreshments.

RARC Meeting September 23, 2010

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 15 regular members and two guests in attendance. We welcomed Don Daso K4ZA and Benny Peterson WB4SQC who were visiting from North Carolina and East Tennessee respectively. Don and Benny have been busy installing Jamie WB4YDL's new tower and raising two very large antennas. Stay tuned for a future presentation on how this went. Don K4ZA is the author of the new book *Antenna Towers for Radio Amateurs* which just went on sale through the ARRL. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and then it was announced that our chosen location for our Christmas Holiday gathering, Joe's Steakhouse, had recently closed. Attention then turned to possible alternatives. Old West Steakhouse is in Martin and this establishment as well as the University of TN - Martin cafeteria will be looked into and reported on this next meeting.

Discussion then turned to the upcoming Hamfest scheduled for March 19th, 2011. It is now time to look into vendors and Bob K9IL and Rhelda N5BSE will head up this effort. John K1XN made a donation of \$50 towards the purchase of an HF transceiver to be given as Grand Prize as last year. He challenged the membership to match or exceed this donation and Bob K9IL immediately pledged another \$50. The likely candidate for Grand Prize will be the Icom IC-718, however, the Yaesu FT-950 will also be considered. The one glaring issue from last year's event was the woeful PA system. The possible purchase or rental of a portable system from Lowrance Sound will be investigated.

A VE session will be tentatively scheduled for the last Saturday of October, the 30th. There will be an antenna raising party at the QTH of a disabled ham in Dresden on Saturday, October 9th at 9 AM. A Morse code training course will be given in concert with the Boy Scouts beginning October 4th at First Methodist Church in Union City on Monday evenings from 8-9 PM. All are invited if you are interested in learning the code or just want to help with the training.

Jamie WB4YDL and XYL June provided the barbeque and fixin's and this was greatly appreciated. To wrap things up, Don K4ZA gave a very nice presentation on how he became a tower climber and installer, with particular emphasis on the huge contest station NR5M outside of Houston, TX. This particular location has no less than 24 separate towers full of antennas ! The program was very well received and the meeting was adjourned at this point.

RARC Meeting August 26, 2010

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 14 regular members and one new member. We welcome Adam French KJ4WWA from Henry, TN who joined the fold. Adam is a recent Technician licensee. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, and since it has been a couple months, we all chatted about what we've been doing during the hot, hot summer. There was not much old business to attend to, however, we discussed our most recent Field Day activities. Since that time, there have been efforts to make use of the facility at Glenn N4MJ's QTH for contesting and contest training. So far, the CQ WW VHF contest has been played there with good results. The forthcoming ARRL VHF contest in September may see some more activity. The Family Readiness Group of the 913th TN National Guard did receive our donation from proceeds from this year's Hamfest.

Glenn N4MJ gave a presentation on coax cable and considerations on choosing the right one for different antenna and station projects. Different types of coax were presented as samples and this was very well received. Many thanks to Linda and Glenn for the great food and refreshments !

After the break, there was some consideration to where we might have our Christmas holiday gathering this year. It was quite unanimous that Joe's Steak House once again be our QTH for this event. Jeff W5VNH also gave an update on the status of the Martin repeater which has been down for some time. The new tower construction is now underway and it is anticipated that the repeater will be moved to that location. The meeting was adjourned at this point.

RARC Meeting June 24, 2010

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 12 members in attendance. Noel KJ4UNX made the big leap and became a member of RARC. Welcome, Noel ! After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, old business was reviewed. The newly updated RARC web site was discussed and everybody felt that it was a great improvement. A Facebook applet is now installed and is seeing some use. The remainder of the short meeting concerned Field Day setup and assignments. Things that were needed and needed to be accomplished prior to setup time was reviewed. Questions were answered regarding some of the Field Day rules. It is expected to be quite hot and safety measures were reviewed regarding this element. It should be fun and will be at Glenn N4MJ's farm. Maps are posted on the web site. The meeting was adjourned at this time.

RARC Meeting May 27, 2010

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 12 members and one guest in attendance. We welcomed once again Noel KJ4UNX, a newly minted licensee. Glenn N4MJ was unable to make the meeting as his granddaughter was playing in the state softball tournament. Bob K9IL commenced the meeting and after Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, old business was discussed. The date and time for presentation of the contribution to the 913th TN National Guard FRG has not yet been determined. Glenn N4MJ will have that information at next month's meeting. The newly reconstructed RARC web site was then discussed and everybody agreed that the look and feel of the new design is a marked improvement. Phil N4PWG suggested that Facebook be incorporated next into the mix. This is definitely on the do-list as is a bulletin board-like forum. Stay tuned to further enhancements of the RARC web site.

Next Jamie WB4YDL began discussion of this year's Field Day event. This year, the location of the event will be at the farm of Glenn N4MJ. Maps will be posted on the web site for those not familiar with his QTH. This is not a public location but the public is absolutely invited. The basic rules of Field Day were reviewed - we will again be 3A TN with phone, CW, and digital stations. Also we will have a VHF and GOTA station. Yes, there will be air conditioning ! The very important bonus points were reviewed and we anticipate a maximum showing with these points. Food and drink has not been established at this point. Radios and equipment was reviewed and will be firmed up between now and the next meeting. Antenna location will also be established prior to the next meeting. Propagation should be improved with the rising number of sunspots. This should be a fun event and everybody is encouraged to attend and participate.

Many thanks to Rose W9DHD and Bob K9IL for providing the meeting's refreshments. After the break, since Brandon KJ4FTN was not available to give the coax presentation, the DVD on the most recent Midway Island DXpedition K4M was presented. The meeting was adjourned at this point.

RARC Meeting April 22, 2010

The regular scheduled RARC meeting was called to order with 15 members and one guest in attendance. We again welcomed guest Noel Vickers who is planning to take the Technician license exam at the next VE session. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and there was no old business to attend to. Discussion proceeded to a recap of the most recent "Ides of March" Hamfest. All in attendance felt that the hamfest was an unqualified success. And nearly everyone in attendance also felt that the PA system, well, sucked ! This will be made a priority for the next year's hamfest. A nice profit was made by the hamfest and again plans are for a donation to be made to the Family Readiness Group (FRG) of the Tennessee National Guard.

The planned presentation on different types of coax and their uses was postponed until the May meeting. The next topic was early preparation for Field Day 2010. This year, for the first time, our QTH will be the farm of Glenn N4MJ, who has been working on a structure that will have air conditioning and plenty of space for the four HF stations. Plans are also to have Ray N4SLY park his camper on a nearby concrete pad for the VHF/UHF station. It is unknown at this time whether a satellite station will be pursued. Charles N4PPD was asked to handle the PR duties for Field Day and he graciously accepted. Further discussion revolved around equipment details and this will be firmed up at the next meeting.

Thanks go to Dolly KN4SLY who provided the great refreshments for the meeting. Also Bob K9IL announced that Harold N4HAR is now in a Martin nursing home recovering from a long illness. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Harold for a speedy recovery.

After the break, Jamie WB4YDL began a discussion about the status and future of the web site - this web site. Several good ideas were

offered and will be taken into consideration. The overall goal is to have a robust site where members and visitors will be able to call it 'home'. The Membership Page will be removed. It is felt that the Blog site is not useful and nobody has signed our guestbook in over 3 years. One idea that is popular is to begin a forum page where members can post messages, pictures and the like. This would have the effect of being an all encompassing stage where members can post questions, answers can be given and then made into a Frequently Asked Question. Members could have their own mini-blog on the forum to discuss what their interests are in ham radio. Also mentioned was expanding DX and contesting content, such as expanded propagation data, DX spots, and a contest calendar. Look for a "new and improved" web site soon. The meeting adjourned at this time.

RARC Meeting March 18, 2010

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 15 members and 3 guests in attendance. We welcomed guests Noel Vickers, and Glenn N4MJ's XYL Linda and Larry's friend Linda to the meeting. This meeting was purely a pre-staging meeting for the upcoming Hamfest. Set-up for the Hamfest will begin tomorrow at 1 PM. A review of what items each member was responsible for was reviewed. Somewhere in the middle of this, Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report just to make it legitimate. Additionally refreshments were provided by Ottis K5BSE and Rhelda N5BSE and they were greatly appreciated. No further business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned.

RARC Meeting February 25, 2010

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 16 members and 5 guests in attendance. We welcomed the following visitors - Andy KJ4CLS, Randy KI4OAS, Larry KJ4JLP, Bob KJ4RPI, and unlicensed visitor Noel Vickers. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report Andy KJ4CLS and Randy KI4OAS gave an ARES net report. As most of you know, the Wide Area ARES Training Net started by Ron W9RVR (SK), was moved to Monday nights at 7 PM and to the new Tri-County repeater located in Spring Hill, TN. This repeater has a frequency of 145.190 MHz (-) with PL 100.0 Hz and has a great range. There was some mention that the regular check-ins from AR and MO have not as yet made it over to the new net. Announcements will again be made on the West TN West KY Emergency Net on Sunday night. Additionally, a simplex net is being held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 9 PM on 146.55 MHz.

As it was the month of February, dues were collected by the Secretary-Treasurer Jamie WB4YDL. At this point attention also turned to the upcoming Hamfest. Charles N4PPD gave a report on PSA's and that radio stations and newspapers require (or advise) that a particular leeway be given for the PSA's. This is being addressed and radio announcements will begin soon. Much of the rest of conversation revolved on needs for food, food items, cash boxes, power strips, etc. Glenn N4MJ had several things to go over regarding setup, the PA sound system, tickets, hand stamps, etc.

Thanks go to Harold KJ4FTM who provided the refreshments for the meeting. After the break, officer elections were held and once again all officers were re-elected. A brief mention was made on early Field Day preparation for 2010. It is anticipated that RARC will once again enter in the 3A category. The location for this year's event will be at the farm of Glenn N4MJ.

RARC Meeting January 28, 2010

The first regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club for 2010 was called to order with 16 members and 3 guests in attendance. This year's first meeting was held at the C. E. Weldon Public Library in Martin, TN, a very nice facility which is used for our club Volunteer Examiner testing sessions. Our three guests were Glenn N4MJ's XYL Linda, Art WA4EQO's friend Tracy, and Andrew W4WMH. Glenn N4MJ began the meeting by showing an old black and white video on You Tube that highlighted ham radio's early days with youth involvement and support of emergency communications. It was quite entertaining as are most of the old MGM reels on ham radio. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and explained the cash outlays for prizes for the upcoming 'Ides of March' Hamfest. The only 'old business' item was to announce that the Obion County Public Library is now receiving the QST subscription as a gift from RARC.

Discussion proceeded directly to planning and coordination of the hamfest slated for March 20, 2010. An important vendor has committed to attending and will bring a large display that will span 5 tables ! That would be *The Ham Station*. Exciting news ! Charles N4PPD volunteered to handle the public service announcement side of the equation with radio broadcast stations and newspapers as time approaches. Art WA4EQO has requested that the Wide Area ARES Training Net be moved to the Tri-County Repeater (aka Spring Hill Repeater) on 145.190 MHz (-), PL 100.0 Hz, in order to afford more participation by the good folks in Gibson, Dyer, and Crockett Counties - and with the promise of new and more NCS's ! There was no objection to this request and Art will make an announcement to this effect during the next net this Sunday.

Art WA4EQO and Tracy provided the great sandwiches for refreshments and this was greatly appreciated ! After the break, Linda and Rhelda N5BSE began a discussion of how to approach our hamfest's concession food. It was learned today that Chris KI4TRM will again man the grill for hamburgers and hotdogs. Great news ! Also, Jim KI4KHT will be asked what he might provide in the way of pork

barbeque. It is anticipated that we will have 20 pounds of barbeque on hand. The meeting adjourned at this time with the announcement that there will be a VE session on Saturday the 30th at the First Baptist Church Mission Center in Martin if the weather allows.