

RARC Meeting October 27, 2011

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 14 members and two guests in attendance. Michael Stayton again visited as well as new guest Andy Moubray KJTQZ who hails from Dresden, TN. Andy is a recent Technician licensee and we welcome him. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and proceeded to old business. The repeater link system was again reviewed. Also the Mosely MINI-32 antennas have just recently arrived and will be put through their paces. Jamie will report back on this at a later meeting. We had a successful VE test session on October 1st with Marv KK4MAC and Noel KJ4UNX successfully upgrading to General Class. Congratulations, guys !

The Christmas Gathering will again be held at the First State Bank Community Room in Martin, TN on Friday, December 9th beginning at 6 PM. Rene Kimsey will again be catering and a menu was brought to the meeting and reviewed. The deposit of \$100 will be sent to Rene and a final head count is due on December 6th. As last year, the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club will pick up the tab for all full members. Bring your camera ! The next Ides of March Hamfest is merely 5 months away and happens to land on St. Patrick's Day ! Bob K9IL and Rhelda N5BSE et al will be gearing up to make this next hamfest the best ever. It was suggested that announcements for the hamfest be posted in CQ magazine as well as World Radio Online.

We thank Noel KJ4UNX for providing the great barbeque and fixings for refreshments. After the break, Art WA4EQO gave a very interesting presentation on the Ham Info Bar, which can be added to any of the popular web browsers. This little gem will allow you to keep up-to-date with articles, news, DX spots, propagation forecasts all in one spot on your browser. Check it out at <http://www.haminfobar.co.uk/>. As this was the night of Game 6 of the World Series, the meeting adjourned at this time.

RARC Meeting September 22, 2011

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 10 members and one guest in attendance. Michael Stayton was once again a guest at the meeting. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and old business was reviewed. There was very little in the way of old business other than to report that the K4DYR 444.475 MHz repeater is in the process of being integrated into the West Link repeater system. The Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club has acquired a Mosely MINI-32 lightweight 2-element yagi antenna for use in portable HF operation. Jamie WB4YDL also decided to purchase one as well for Field Day use as well as other HF portable events. There will be a VE test session on October 1st at the Field Day shop at 9 AM. Following this will be the annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) sponsored by the ARRL.

Jamie WB4YDL and XYL June provided refreshments for this meeting. After the break, Jamie WB4YDL presented a 'show 'n' tell' on the TX BPF bandpass filters he has been constructing. This will allow better isolation between radios in a multi-transmitter environment such as with SO2R, Field Day, or DXpedition. These will be 3 stage filters built for each of the 6 main HF bands. After that little 'show 'n' tell', Glenn N4MJ presented a How-To on the N3FJP general computer log called ACLog. It is a simple Windows-based log useful for everyday contact logging and tracking of awards and QSL's. There are many computer contact logs available and ACLog is a very popular one. The meeting adjourned at this time.

RARC Meeting August 25, 2011

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 14 members and one guest in attendance. We welcomed Michael Stayton as an invited guest by Glenn N4MJ. Mike and Glenn go way back and Mike was a former ham back in the 1980's but allowed his license to expire. He is now interested in getting back into the hobby once again. Welcome, Mike ! Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and then old business was reviewed. All of the old business related to the recent Field Day exercise this past June. We reviewed our effort and agreed that the increase in youth participation was a big plus. Down-sizing our antennas came at a price and we have learned our lesson ! Efforts will be made to explore new ways of erecting light weight gain antennas for the next Field Day.

Art WA4EQO announced that the Dyersburg K4DYR repeater on 444.475 MHz PL 100.0 Hz will soon be linked with the West TN "West Link" system. Also noted the new satellite called ARISSAT-1 which has been observed on 145.950 MHz is deployed and functioning well. Check the [AMSAT web site](#) for up-to-date news on this new satellite.

Thanks go to Glen N4MJ and Ms. Linda for providing the great refreshments for the night's meeting. After the break, Jamie WB4YDL gave a presentation on Amateur Radio Operational Awards. This ranged from a certificate obtained for a first radio contact all the way to the very difficult and challenging awards of the ARRL, CQ, IARU, and RSGB, among others. The link for the handout is listed at the end of this web page. Lots of comments and questions were entertained and the presentation was well received. The meeting adjourned at this point.

RARC Meeting June 23, 2011

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 10 members in attendance. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report. A very nice thank you note was received by Sarah Kay, President of the 913th FRG of the TN National Guard and this was read aloud. The rest of the meeting encompassed preparation for the forthcoming Field Day event. Jamie WB4YDL went over the expected setup scenario. This will begin at 1 PM local on Friday, June 24th. Temperatures are expected to be unseasonably cool which should be a great relief. Propagation on the airwaves is expected to favor the upper HF bands this year.

Many thanks to Jeff W5VNH for providing the great refreshments for the meeting. Field Day is this weekend ! See you there.

RARC Meeting May 26, 2011

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 which included disbursements for subscriptions of QST and CQ to the Obion County Public Library, and for club liability insurance. At this time, Technician and/or General Class license courses have been tabled for the time being until sufficient interest is manifest. Discussion turned to Field Day preparation. This will again be held at "The Shop" at Glenn N4MJ's QTH. Jamie WB4YDL discussed the planned setup with stations, antennas, bonus points, and, of course, food. Details of all the latter will be posted on the reflector and likely the web forum.

Thanks to Bob K9IL and Rose W9DHD for providing the great refreshments. A video on introduction to DX'ing, produced by CQ Magazine, was shown and was well received. The follow-up video on contesting will be shown at a future meeting. The meeting was adjourned at this time.

RARC Meeting April 28, 2011

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 14 members in attendance. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report which included sending of the donation to the 913th Family Readiness Group (FRG) and notification of filing Form 990-N successfully with the IRS for non-profit status. This was effectively also the 'old business' for discussion. Discussion turned to potentially offering a course for either or both Technician and General class licenses. We have been approached by the folks at the Health Department who are interested in licensure. It is doubtful however, that they are also interested in the hobby. This course(s) would probably be held early this Fall. Subscriptions to QST have lapsed for the Obion County Public Library. A motion was made to include a subscription to CQ Magazine for the maximum allowable subscription time - which is 3 years. This motion passed without further discussion. Discussion turned to the possible purchase by the club of a projector which could be used during Hamfest to project winners of prizes onto a screen, as well as use during course classes or other presentations. As this idea involves a substantial cost for the club, and the prices of these devices are declining rapidly, potential models will be discussed at a later meeting. It was decided to plan for the year's Christmas gathering on the second Friday of December.

James McLaughlin, WA2EWE/T6AF, was one of several Americans killed in Kabul, Afghanistan on Wednesday, April 27. A card will be sent relaying our condolences to the family with notations from club members. Many thanks go to Ray N4SLY and Dolly KN4SLY for providing refreshments for the club meeting. After (during) this break, Glenn N4MJ and Art WA4EQO demonstrated how to use a computer to program a Yaesu FT-7800 2M transceiver. There was a brief mention of the recent poll on the Yahoo Group to elicit information on future club presentations. Nothing of significance came from this poll. The meeting adjourned at this time.

RARC Meeting March 24, 2011

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 10 members and 1 guest in attendance. Ms. Linda again tagged along with OM Glenn N4MJ to help go over the most recent hamfest items. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and, after the hamfest, reported a healthy profit this year. This was in part due to great prizes and a lot of prize tickets sold. The first item of business was the election of officers for the club which was not done last month due to severe weather conditions. By acclamation, all officers were again reelected for another term. A general discussion then ensued regarding the very successful Ides of March Hamfest. Everybody agreed that this was by far the best effort and result. With a wonderful array of prizes, an ARES forum, VE test session, and QSL card checking and a QSL card forum, interest was certainly high. The new PA sound system performed well once some minor tweaking of the settings was performed. The food was great as usual ! Plans are to establish next year's hamfest on the 3rd Saturday of March. Again a donation will be presented to the National Guard Family Readiness Group (FRG) in appreciation for everything they do and for the use of the National Guard facility.

Many thanks to Ottis K5BSE and Rhelda N5BSE for the wonderful refreshments. Roger Elmore KJ4AJP is now the Emergency Coordinator for Weakley County. The next items of interest in coming meetings will be the forth coming Field Day in June. Discussion and preparation will begin in earnest next month.

RARC Meeting February 24, 2011

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 12 members and 2 guests in attendance. One guest, Wayne Wright of Union City, will be taking Amateur exams during the upcoming "Ides of March" Hamfest. He became a full member of RARC and we welcome Wayne ! Ms. Linda again tagged along with OM Glenn N4MJ to make hamfest preparatory notes. The meeting was delayed twice due to severe weather and sirens requiring us all to evacuate to the hallway. After things calmed down a bit, the meeting got underway. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, he announced that the new PA system works well and will be ready for the forthcoming hamfest. Most of the meeting was consumed with preparations for the hamfest. Chris KI4TRM will again have the grilling honors and Larry KI4UNT will again emcee the event and keep the prize drawings running smooth. Vendors have been contacted and there have been some modifications to the web flyer, as well as the paper flyer to account for this. Further communication regarding assignments for the hamfest will be done by reflector email as well as the web site forum.

Thanks go to Harold KJ4FTM who provided fantastic refreshments for those who braved the elements to attend. Other items - a "First Responder Bill" H.R. 607 has been introduced in the House of Representatives and this bill directly threatens amateur radio allocations in the 70 cm. band. Glenn N4MJ will be providing information via reflector on contacting our representatives in Washington to voice our opposition to this bill. Additionally, a webinar will be held on Saturday, February 26th at 9 - 11 AM on the Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS). This will be an important event for those interested in emergency communications. The meeting adjourned at this time as weather was deteriorating. Officer elections will be held at the next meeting

RARC Meeting January 27, 2011

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 13 members and one guest in attendance. Ms. Linda tagged along with OM Glenn N4MJ to assist in Hamfest planning. As this was the first meeting of the year for RARC, after Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, the meeting turned to present day business. Most of the meeting was consumed by discussing the upcoming Hamfest. There will be a Volunteer Examiner session given during the Hamfest and there is consideration of holding a VE session during Field Day this year. Ottis K5BSE will now be coordinating VE sessions. At the present time, a final list of vendors is not available. As soon as this is finalized, the new Hamfest flyers will go to press and the web site flyer will be posted. Jamie WB4YDL will be contacting other potential vendors that he is familiar with to see if they would be interested in providing a 'presence' at the Hamfest.

Thanks go to Noel KJ4UNX for providing the great refreshments for the meeting. Bob K9IL gave a great presentation on his 30M Moxon antenna project, a project he started better than a year ago and final result has been producing fantastic results. Congratulations, Bob ! The meeting adjourned at this time.