

RARC Meeting October 25, 2012

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 13 members and 4 guests in attendance. We welcomed Linda, Tracy, and Ruth, XYL's to Glenn, Art, and Marv respectively, as well as Stuart KK4KNY as guests. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and old news was reviewed. Again the Christmas Holiday Gathering was discussed and everything is confirmed for the Community Room at First State Bank in Martin, TN on December 7th at 6 PM. The club will cover the cost for members and it's \$12 for guests. The final day to reserve a spot for this dinner will be November 30th.

There was no specific program for the evening and so we had a show and tell session. Glenn N4MJ began by showing his newest acquisition from Ten-Tec, the YouKits HB-1B. This is a 4-band QRP CW transceiver that is very close to pocket size. It operates on either external 12 volt DC or internal batteries. It also allows SSB reception on the SW and amateur bands it covers. It does not include an internal antenna tuner. Glenn is contemplating using this little gem in future SOTA (Summits on the Air) operations or just picnic table portable. Glenn also showed a simple wire antenna that he purchased to go with it that includes a BNC connector, the connector of choice for QRP operations.

Refreshments were provided by Art WA4EQO and Tracy and they were much appreciated. After the break, Phil N4PWG showed off a homebrew HDTV antenna he built from 1x2 pieces of wood, coat hangers, and duct tape ! Yes, it works amazingly well. Phil has built several of these antennas and the reports have been fabulous in receiving digital television over the air. Phil states that this is particularly useful if you have cable or satellite television but don't have a package that includes local channels. This is also useful for campers that have the desire to watch TV. Jamie WB4YDL was next and demonstrated several smart phone applications ("apps") related to ham radio. These included *iCluster*, a DX cluster application and *i3DSun*, an app that monitors heliospheric data from NASA. *Solar Monitor* is an app that does similar things but monitors slightly different parameters, such as solar wind and X-ray flux. *Sunspot* is a simple app that shows a table of the trend of sunspot data from WWV. *Repeaters* from W4SMT is a really neat app that shows your current GPS position as well as all the repeaters in your area. A simple tap of a repeater will show the frequency and tones. *Maidenhead* is an app that shows your position with the maidenhead grid with an accuracy of 50 meters. This is useful for rover and portable operations that use grid locators as part of the exchange. The meeting adjourned at this time.

RARC Meeting September 27, 2012

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 15 members and one guest in attendance. We again welcomed Stuart KK4KNY who is now a newly minted General Class ham from South Fulton, TN ! Congratulations, Stuart ! Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and old news was reviewed. The Christmas holiday gathering has been confirmed for Friday, December 7th, at the First State Bank conference room in Martin, TN. This will begin at 6 PM and the cost for non-members is \$12 each. There is no charge for RARC members.

Next up was an announcement from Noel KJ4UNX that there will be a Skywarn presentation at the Crockett County EMA in Alamo, TN beginning at 10 AM. This led to a discussion concerning the feasibility of having a similar presentation during the Hamfest. This will be considered as preparation time grows near. Glenn N4MJ is the ARES Emergency Coordinator for Obion County and he briefly reviewed the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, its history and present day requirements. Also noted was the fine emergency communications training course offered online via the ARRL. Special event stations were discussed briefly as there was some interest in having some field activity either at a public event or solo in the field. Mention was made about the interior islands on the Mississippi River and Land Between the Lakes as an IOTA activation (Islands on the Air). This will be further discussed at a future meeting. Art WA4EQO mentioned that it would be nice to present a "Challenge Coin" to the Crockett County VE team when hamfest time rolls around next year.

Refreshments were provided by June (Jamie WB4YDL's XYL). This was greatly enjoyed and appreciated. The meeting concluded with the showing of the most recent Malpelo Island DXpedition video from earlier this year.

RARC Meeting August 23, 2012

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 9 members and one guest in attendance. We welcomed Stuart Clements KK4KNY who is a newly minted ham from South Fulton, TN. Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report and old news was reviewed. There was very little to review except that Jamie WB4YDL expressed gratitude that the "Recalibration Party" was a great success and that everybody that attended had a great time. Glenn N4MJ then brought up that he has been quite active with QRP contacts recently as relates to the Summits on the Air program. Check this link out to find out more - [Summits on the Air](#). This program started in Great Britain and has rapidly spread to North America and is much like the Islands on the Air awards program. The idea is to activate peaks, or summits, so that "chasers" can work them for points to apply towards awards.

Next year's "Ides of March" Hamfest has been confirmed by the ARRL and will be held on March 23, 2013. Reservations have already

been contracted with the TN National Guard armory. Discussion shifted to this year's Christmas Holiday gathering. This is normally held the first or second week of December. Plans are to again have the dinner in the First State Bank conference room in Martin, TN. The date will be firmed up and be reported at the next meeting.

After we all enjoyed the great refreshments brought by Glenn N4MJ and Ms. Linda, Jamie WB4YDL discussed briefly DXpeditions in general before showing the great DVD video on the 2009 expedition to Desecheo Island. This was also one of the first DXpeditions sponsored by the new West TN DX Association. The meeting was adjourned after this video played.

RARC Meeting June 19, 2012

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 11 members and one guest in attendance. Brandon KJ4FTN brought his friend Ryan Crittendon to the meeting and we welcomed him. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, the main topic of discussion, the upcoming Field Day event, began. Assignments were reviewed as to who was responsible for what equipment. The computer program for Field Day was reviewed and noted that it had been updated. All computers will be required to install this update. Phil N4PWG brought his balanced, terminated folded dipole (BTFD) which will become our GOTA station antenna.

Many questions were raised and answered. Thanks to Jeff and Dianna Luther for providing the great refreshments.

RARC Meeting May 24, 2012

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 10 members in attendance. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, and as there was no 'old business' to address, the discussion of the ARRL Field Day event ensued. This extremely popular event is held every year in IARU region 2 on the last full weekend of June. This year that will be June 23-24th. This year the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club will likely come up short on operators, and so it was decided to drop back to 2A classification. The digital station will be sacrificed this year. Also discussed was station complement and location. Jamie brought a chart of proposed stations and this was discussed. There will be three HF stations: CW, phone, and GOTA, as well as the VHF station. These will consist of a Kenwood TS-590S, TenTec OMNI VI, Yaesu FT-920, and Yaesu FT-847, respectively. All stations will be located in 'the shop' at Glenn N4MJ's QTH. HF antennas will consist of lightweight 2-element yagis and wire doublet antennas.

Jamie WB4YDL then discussed the array of possible bonus points and how they can be obtained. Setup will begin at 1 PM on Friday, June 22nd. The regular RARC meeting for June has been backed up one week to accommodate final Field Day preparation. Further discussion will be on the RARC email reflector and forum. Thanks go to Bob K9IL and Rose W9DHD who provided refreshments for the meeting.

RARC Meeting April 26, 2012

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 11 members including new member Todd Carr from Water Valley, KY. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, old business was reviewed. This included going over the most recent Hamfest again. Also initial discussion about this year's Field Day, which will occur on June 23-24 (the last *full* weekend of the month), ensued. There is presently a lot of uncertainty as to who will be present for the event this year. Pablo and the kids will have relocated to Chattanooga by then. We will have a few new 'players' and new members and it is hoped that we will have a VE session as last year. The GOTA station is uncertain with the absence of Jim KI4KHT. There will be new antennas this year with the addition of two light weight Moseley MINI-32 2-element beams. This will leave the TA32Jr and the Spiderbeam as well as wire dipoles and the VHF station.

Thanks go to Ray N4SLY and Dolly KN4SLY who provided the refreshments for this meeting. After the break, Jamie WB4YDL gave the presentation entitled, *HF Receiver Principles: Noise and Dynamic Range*. This was a large topic that ventured into the Extra Class side of things and was well received. The [Powerpoint](#) and [handout](#) for this topic are posted and can be downloaded. The meeting adjourned after follow-up questions were answered.

RARC Meeting March 22, 2012

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 10 members and one guest in attendance. We welcomed new member and new amateur licensee Michael Stayton KK3HZS to the fold. Also on hand was Todd Carr who was a Novice licensee back in the tube days and actually built the Heathkit HW-101 transceiver, which was one of the most popular radios back in the 1970's. Todd has been inactive for several years but is now interested in getting back into the hobby. Welcome Todd !

Much of the meeting was spent reviewing the most recent Ides of March Hamfest which occurred the previous Saturday. It was felt that

this year's event went most smoothly with the addition of projectors and great forums and meetings. Mid-South Amateur Radio Supply and Shane Barnes with Communications Equipment of Jackson did very well as did all the hams who set up tables. The PA sound system performed as well as it could. The food was excellent. The forum with Don K4ZA drew a large crowd and was nearly standing room only. Jamie WB4YDL went over the accounting of the hamfest and this revealed a nice profit over last year. All in all, the hamfest was an unqualified success.

We thank Ottis K5BSE for the great refreshments during this meeting. After the break, Glenn N4MJ began what will be a multi-part presentation on receiver characteristics. The presentation this time was on basic superheterodyne design and its desired characteristics. After this talk, there was a discussion and several questions were answered. The meeting adjourned at this time.

RARC Meeting February 23, 2012

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 8 members and 4 guests in attendance. Ms. Linda accompanied OM Glenn N4MJ to collect notes on needed items for the forthcoming hamfest and Ms. Ruth provided the refreshments as OM Marv KK4MAC was unable to attend the meeting. Also we welcomed Ms. Faithe Thomas with young daughter Elizabeth to the meeting. Faithe is interested in becoming a ham radio operator as relates to her vocation of missionary. She was most recently in the country of Ghana in this capacity. Welcome Faithe and Liz !

It was dues collection month as well as officer election time. Both items actually occurred and the expected results also occurred ! Congratulations to the re-elected officers !

The rest of the meeting was devoted to hammering down final preparations for the forthcoming Ides of March Hamfest which will occur on March 17th this year. We're all looking forward to another fine showing. The only business item discussed was the annual filing of Form 990-N to the IRS for non-profit status and the annual report to the State of Tennessee. The meeting adjourned at this time.

RARC Meeting January 26, 2012

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 11 member in attendance. Also Linda Snow was in attendance after her thyroid surgery, which went extremely well. This represented a good attendance since it was the first meeting of the year and the weather was terrible with rain storms. There were a few folks who have not been seen in some time in attendance like Larry KI4UNT. Good to see you again, Larry. After Jamie WB4YDL gave the Treasurer's report, and since there was no old business to attend to, we jumped right in to the Hamfest preparation. Rhelda N5BSE has been in contact with several vendors, although she was not in attendance for the meeting. Some prizes have been obtained and some have yet to arrive. Force 12 will again be donating a 6M LFA yagi beam antenna that will be our 2nd prize. We also now have purchased a projector which may be put to use at the hamfest. A VE testing session as well as DXCC card checking will again occur at the Hamfest.

Noel KJ4UNX and his XYL provided great barbeque and fixings and it was greatly appreciated ! During the break, there was lots of discussion about the great band conditions and all the DXpeditions that have been on the air. Marv KK4MAC has been working to get operational on the digital side of things and Glenn N4MJ has been helping him with this interface. After the break, we all enjoyed the great DVD video of the most recent South Sudan DXpedition which occurred this past summer in that brand new country. The West Tennessee DX Association was listed among the contributors to this great operation. The next meeting will be mostly pertaining to the forthcoming Hamfest which will be on March 17, 2012. Also there will be dues collection and officer elections. The meeting adjourned at this point.