

## **RARC Meeting October 22, 2015**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 18 members and 3 visitors in attendance. We welcomed Jerry KJ4NSG and his XYL Alice and Tracy Wiley as guests. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. The Ides of March Hamfest is confirmed with the TN Nation all Guard Armory on March 26, 2016. The National and Tennessee statewide simulated emergency test was on Saturday, October 3rd with participation by Glenn N4MJ, EC Obion/Lake Counties and Jamie WB4YDL, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for West TN. Messages were passed to area command via Winlink and a check-in to the TEMA net was accomplished. Congratulations go to Samuel KK4SJE who attained the high honor and recognition of Eagle Scout ! What an awesome accomplishment !

The annual RARC Christmas holiday gathering will again be held at Sassafras Restaurant at 6:30 PM on Saturday, December 12th. Jerry KJ4NSG gave a very nice presentation on a solar-powered heater he has constructed for his garage and home utilizing aluminum cans. The solar energy collected by the solar panel can directly heat the cans which heat the room by convection. Also solar energy is stored by batteries and can then pass to the cans for heat. Very interesting ! Another way to warm the shack besides your amplifier tubes !

Many thanks to Art WA3EQO and Tracy for providing refreshments for the last RARC meeting of the year ! After the break, Jerry KJ4NSG made a formal presentation to Ray N4SLY of a certificate signed by TN Governor Haslam in recognition for his service as the primary net controller for the weather net via the Trenton repeater. Congratulations Ray ! The last item of interest was presented by Glenn N4MJ and stands to become quite an event this next year. You've heard Glenn extol the virtues of SOTA, Summits on the Air - well, this is similar in that there are activations and chasers. This next year will be an ARRL event called National Parks on the Air. This will put portable operations in National Parks around the country at different times where hams can 'chase' them and log them for eventual awards. Look for more conversation on this beginning early this next year.

## **RARC Meeting September 24, 2015**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 14 members in attendance, one new member, and one guest. We welcomed Gene Hoffmeyer, KM4MUN from Bardwell, KY who joined the club, and guest, Bruce Clark, who is interested in becoming a licensed ham. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. There was very little to report on as most old business dealt with the most recent Field Day activity, which was previously reviewed. There has been no confirmation on the Christmas dinner as of yet and this will be reported on at the next meeting. The application for next year's hamfest was approved and places next year's Ides of March Hamfest on Saturday, March 26, 2016 - the last Saturday of the month.

Thanks to June and Jamie WB4YDL for providing the refreshments for the meeting. After the break, Glenn N4MJ gave a talk on how Microsoft Excel (or several free alternatives available on the net) can help with organizing a ham station. This may range from a general purpose log, to special logs for activities such as SOTA. You can also track awards progress and organize things visually to help coordinate ham radio activities. After the talk, Glenn mentioned that the annual Simulated Emergency Test is Saturday, October 3rd and that information will be passed on the reflector regarding this.

## **RARC Meeting August 27, 2015**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 13 members in attendance. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. Jamie WB4YDL gave a review of a record setting Field Day effort turned in this year. There were very few problems realized during Field Day and all hardware worked as advertised. One faulty balun was taken out of line and replaced and that was the extent of any hardware issues. Steve KK4NNH did a great job coordinating the GOTA station and the resultant score showed it. Bonus points were maximized except for missing the satellite contact. Congratulations to one and all for a fine effort and for exceeding 7000 total points !! The December QST will feature the Field Day results.

The Christmas dinner meeting is anticipated to be on Saturday, December 12th. At this time, Sassafras Restaurant appears to be our only option and will likely be our choice. This will be discussed further at next month's meeting. Many thanks to Glenn N4MJ and Linda for providing the refreshments for meeting. After the break, Todd W4TZX showed off his FT-817nd transceiver. This little radio is a favorite for portable and SOTA operations. It's quite tiny and runs 5 watts on all bands and modes from 160M to 70cm ! A whole industry has sprung up to support this little radio.

## **RARC Meeting May 28, 2015**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 13 members in attendance. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. As there was little old business to attend to, the meeting turned to new business and discussion of the ARRL Field Day event. Jamie WB4YDL gave an overview of the event. Bob K9IL (not in attendance)

will be responsible for the CW station (except for computer interfacing); Todd W4TZX (not in attendance) will have the phone station; Steve KK4NNH will be in charge of the GOTA station; Jamie WB4YDL will bring the digital and VHF stations. Public information will be handled by Noel KJ4UNX (not in attendance) and VIP's will be contacted by Glenn N4MJ.

As has been the case since it was ruled by the ARRL, June's meeting will be at the Field Day site on Thursday June 25th where station setup will commence. Friday will be antenna setup and will start at a TBD time. There will be a VE testing session Saturday morning at 9 AM and Field Day operations will begin at 1 PM local.

Many thanks to Harrell WD4LAR and XYL Carrie for providing the wonderful refreshments. After the break, Jamie WB4YDL demonstrated a [FUNcube Pro + SDR dongle](#) on a laptop running HSDR software. It was quite remarkable what this little USB device was capable of and plans are to use this experimentally in satellite communications.

## **RARC Meeting April 23, 2015**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 14 members and one visitor in attendance. We welcomed back Stan AA5XO who was visiting. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. Jamie WB4YDL gave a re-cap on the most recent Ides of March Hamfest. Even though attendance was down this year, thanks to many donations, the event came in the black this year. It was also the most smoothly run hamfest in 6 years of doing it. Everyone expressed gratitude to the XYL's that made concessions run so smoothly. Ideas will be presented at future meetings to attract more attendees for next year.

Glenn N4MJ announced that this Saturday will be the QRP To The Field event and rules for this can be found [here](#). This is a mini-Field Day type event using QRP gear and runs from 0900 - 1800 CDT. Many thanks to Ray N4SLY and Dolly KN4SLY who provided refreshments for the meeting.

Stan AA5XO announced the upcoming 2 meter FM Simplex Contest which will be held Sunday, May 3rd from 1 to 6PM. The objective will be to work as many people as possible on 2M FM with the multiplier being unique Zip Codes. There is also a power multiplier. The contest is sponsored by WTARS and complete rules can be found [here](#). Todd W4TZX gave a very nice presentation on his recent construction of an 8-element 2M Yagi he built and deployed for Gene KB4EMV, who was also in attendance. Finally, Jamie WB4YDL got everybody thinking about Field Day which is merely two months away. A brief review of planned stations and deployment ensued. The GOTA station will be PSK31 mode only. The software will be a mix of N3FJP Field Day and N1MM Logger for the digital capable stations. Further details will be presented at the next meeting. There are no rules changes for this year's event.

## **RARC Meeting March 26, 2015**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 24 members and one visitor in attendance. We welcomed Mike Daniel from Union City as a visitor. Mike is interested in ham radio and plans to take his licensing test this weekend at the hamfest. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. Most of the entire meeting was spent in preparation for the upcoming Ides of March Hamfest scheduled this Saturday at the National Guard Armory. Setup will begin at 1PM tomorrow, Friday. What to bring and who should bring it, was reviewed. An announcement was made by Art WA4EQO that a 2M fox hunt will be held by the Crockett County ARC at the high school grounds on April 18th at 12 noon.

Many thanks to Ottis K5BSE and Rhelda N5BSE for providing refreshments for the meeting. After the break, Steve KK4NNH checked in via Skype and, with assistance from Samuel KK4SJE, pictures were shown of their latest antenna project and experiment. Very interesting! Samuel also showed off his fan dipole for 2M and 440 MHz using material from the antenna experiment. This may easily be used for the upcoming Crockett County fox hunt.

## **RARC Meeting February 26, 2015**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 20 members and one visitor in attendance. We welcomed Mike Hopson who is interested in ham radio and becoming licensed. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. Emergency license plate requirements were again reviewed. There is a correction to the upcoming 2 meter simplex contest - it will be held on May 3rd instead of May 10th, from 1PM to 6PM. Further information may be found on the WTARS web site.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated exclusively to preparation for the upcoming Ides of March Hamfest. As it stands now, we should have plenty of tables and chairs. We are going to also have great food available for purchase with Southern Red's barbeque headlining the menu. There will be homemade muffins and cookies, and Williams Sausage biscuits. Most of the prizes have been secured. The same two-tier ticket system used last year to good effect will again be used this year. We will have one more meeting just prior to the event. Many thanks go to Noel KJ4UNX for the excellent refreshments for the meeting. Oh yea ... the officers were re-elected.

## **RARC Meeting January 22, 2015**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 19 members in attendance. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. The most recent Christmas dinner held at Sassafras Restaurant was successful, but expensive. In the future, no alcoholic beverages will be paid by the club. In addition, efforts will be made to arrange a non-ala carte menu for the club activity. Other venues will also be investigated. Beef prices were out of sight and significantly contributed to the cost.

The Ides of March Hamfest will be held on March 28th at the Tennessee National Guard Armory. The number of available tables may become a factor and this will be further investigated. The Hamfest Flyer needs to be sent out no later than February 1st. There was much discussion on food and how we can generate income. Prices will be obtained for 10 lbs. of barbeque from Bob's BBQ and Red's BBQ. Hannah KK4SJJ will be making 2-3 dozen muffins and we will have cookies and donuts. We may also have sausage biscuits donated from William's Sausage. Hamburgers will be obtained from Sam's and Noel KJ4UNX will be at the grill. A chart of anticipated prizes was handed out with assignments to contact the contributor and obtain them. We will have two more meetings before the event.

A letter has been received by Obion County hams from the Obion County Court Clerk regarding the cost of obtaining Emergency Amateur Radio car plates. This is a statewide notice not limited to Obion County and regards the need to show proof of emergency service affiliation either with ARES, fire & EMS, or Civil Defense. From our vantage point, in order to avoid paying an extra \$25 fee for vanity plates, the logical solution is to show proof of membership in ARES. Glenn N4MJ is the Obion County ARES Emergency Coordinator and maintains a membership list for that county. One should seek the Emergency Coordinator for that county that you reside to obtain information on ARES membership. You do NOT have to be a member of ARRL to be a member of ARES.

There will be a Skywarn Class held on February 21st at 9AM at the EOC in Alamo, TN (Crockett County). Also there will be a 2M Simplex Contest held on May 10th from 1PM to 6PM. Further information on this can be found on the [WTARS site](#). Glenn N4MJ finished the meeting by presenting copies of an award sent to K4RFT for its 1st Place (Southeast Division Winner) showing in the 2014 ARRL RTTY Roundup in the multioperator, low power, TN section. This was also good enough for 7th place nationwide including Canada. Those operators were Jamie WB4YDL, Todd W4TZX, Noel KJ4UNX, Phil N4PWG, and Dean KK4PXJ. Hopefully the most recent effort will produce another award for the club shack wall !