

Meetings and Discussion

This section of the web site will recap previous meetings and any discussion that was raised at these meetings or since that time. This will give the membership time to digest what was brought up and then pose any questions, comments, or suggestions. It will also have downloadable files of any pertinent program material presented at these meetings.

RARC Meeting October 27, 2016

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 17 members and 3 visitors in attendance. We welcomed Kathi and Duane KM4VEL Rauch and Dr. Bill Smith. All are active in the Fulton VOAD and express interest in amateur radio. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. The savings account will be discontinued and the money will be rolled into the checking account. This action is due to the bank now charging fees on dormant (or near dormant) accounts.

Harrell WD4LAR, EC Obion County, reports that the "ARES Minute" on the Sunday evening net is going well. ARES check-in numbers are being reported on the Monday evening TN Phone Net. Also, Harrell brought a flyer of the recent flu shot drive through clinic held at Discovery Park. By invitation, Obion County ARES was asked to assist in communications. This mobilization lasted about 3 hours.

Many thanks to Art WA4EQO and Ms. Tracy for providing the refreshments for the meeting. Don't forget that the RARC Christmas dinner will be held at *Sassafras Restaurant* in Union City on December 10th. Arrive a little after 6PM for seating. See you then !

RARC Meeting September 22, 2016

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. Jeff W5VNH brought up the possibility that a ham radio display could be presented at Discovery Park. He will look into it further and report back at a future meeting. Harrell WD4LAR is the new Emergency Coordinator for ARES in Obion County and he would like to see more participation. An idea that was passed around is to incorporate a few minutes of time discussing an ARES topic during the Sunday evening net. This will be called the ARES Minute or Moment and will present tips on emergency preparedness and on ARES itself. Jamie WB4YDL is ASEC for West TN and happens to be the NCS for the next Sunday net and will give the first ARES Minute.

Many thanks to Jamie WB4YDL and XYL June and daughter Caitlin for providing the refreshments for the meeting. After the break, a Show and Tell session began with Jamie describing his modified Rigblaster Nomic that is specific for the Elecraft KX3. This involved adding an optoisolator and a few soldered wires and components in order to isolate the serial lines for computer generated CW and sound card modes. It also allows firmware upgrades directly. Very nice ! Glenn N4MJ also showed and described his off-center fed dipole (OCD) that he has had success with his QRP operations. After discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

RARC Meeting August 25, 2016

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 14 members in attendance. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. The club Christmas dinner will again be held at *Sassafras Restaurant* on Saturday, December 10th at 6:00 PM.

Glenn N4MJ gave a fascinating talk on Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) and its potential consequences if such an event happened in this country. Certainly it gives a reason to keep those old tube rigs functioning ! Thanks also to Glenn and Linda for providing the refreshments for the meeting.

RARC Meeting July 28, 2016

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. Old business and new business were combined with a discussion of Field Day results. We were short on operators this year and it showed in the score. The final score of 5440 points was way down from last year but still ranked 3rd all time for the club. We had only 13 operators with 3 kids participating this year. Solar conditions were to blame for some of the low QSO counts, but the phone station was particularly down this year. Efforts will be made to improve this situation (which has been chronic) for next year's event. This year we were able to make a satellite QSO with the Field Day group in Spring Hill. Speaking of this group, they had a great Field Day effort with lots of participation that produced a fine score. Congratulations to them !

Many thanks to Glenn, Linda, and Michael KJ4KHX for providing refreshments for the meeting. After the break, Michael KJ4KHX gave a very nice talk on digital methods as related to getting on PSK31. This is a very popular mode of operation that allows good DX'ing with a modest station and low power. The meeting was adjourned at this point.

RARC Meeting May 26, 2016

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 14 members in attendance. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. The 990-N ePostcard was filed with the IRS and insurance for the club has been paid. Old business involved review of the recent hamfest. No further discussion was made.

After the break, Jamie WB4YDL gave a breakdown on the club's planned effort for the annual ARRL Field Day event. The June meeting will be a work meeting that will begin station building for the event. All radios will be setup and checked out during this time. Mike AK4VU will be responsible for the phone station with his very nice Kenwood TS-480HX. Bob K9IL will be in charge of the CW station and Steve KK4NNH will handle the GOTA station with its experimental antenna. This year this antenna will be a helium balloon lifted vertical wire antenna ! Jamie WB4YDL will cover the digital and VHF stations. Antenna construction will commence the following morning. Glenn N4MJ mapped this out on the white board. Noel KJ4UNX has acquired a very nice pop-up trailer camper that will replace Ray & Dolly's now sold camper. This will be a very nice addition and will house the VHF station. The Field Day rules now incorporate bonus points for social media announcements and for adding a Safety Officer.

Many thanks the Harrell WD4LAR and Carrie for providing refreshments for the club membership ! A DVD video of the recent KIN Navassa Island DXpedition was viewed for entertainment and the meeting was adjourned afterwards.

RARC Meeting April 28, 2016

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 16 members in attendance. We welcome new member Jay Melton KW4LC from Carlisle County, KY to the club. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. The most recent Ides of March Hamfest data was reviewed and discussed. Everyone agreed that this hamfest was quite a success particularly given that it was on Easter weekend. All vendors were pleased with their results. The VE test session was also a resounding success and the Crockett County gang did a wonderful job. All agree that closing the front entrance was a good idea for control of entry - the resultant lines were short. A reserve coffee brewer will be obtained as the resident one malfunctioned causing some angst. Overall, it was a smooth operation that we hope to repeat next year.

Field Day 2016 will be on June 25-26th this year. Jamie WB4YDL briefly reviewed the Field Day rules including new bonus point opportunities with the Social Media bonus and the Safety Officer bonus. Steve KK4NNH who did a great job with the GOTA station last year, will again cover this position. A new antenna is being worked out and there's even thought to helium balloon elevated vertical antenna ! Jamie WB4YDL has acquired a [HexLock](#) by NN4ZZ that should make constructing, raising, and lowering the Spiderbeam a bit easier. Further details of the event will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Many thanks to Ray N4SLY and Dolly KN4SLY for providing refreshments for the evening's meeting. After the break, a video on the most recent DXpedition to Navassa Island was to have been shown. However, due to technical difficulties with the library's equipment, this will be postponed to a later meeting.

RARC Meeting March 24, 2016

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 12 members in attendance. We welcome new member Wilbur McWherter to the club. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. The entirety of the club meeting involved finalizing hamfest preparation. Setup begins at 1PM Friday at the armory. Some vendors will be arriving in Union City that afternoon. Hopefully we will have a good turn out on this Easter weekend. Many thanks to Ottis and Rhelda for providing refreshments for the meeting.

RARC Meeting February 25, 2016

The regular scheduled meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order with 15 members and 2 visitors in attendance. We welcomed Larry Peal KJ4JLP from Crockett County and Wilbur McWherter to the meeting. The Treasurer's report was given by Jamie WB4YDL and old business was reviewed. Old business included a review of the National Parks on the Air program begun this year by the ARRL that will last all year. In addition to information given regarding changes in LOTW to make uploading of NPOTA contacts possible, Glenn N4MJ mentioned that he recently visited one of the possible sites, the Trail of Tears. Information on this is presented on the Facebook page.

The Ides of March Hamfest is quickly approaching. We will have one more club meeting just prior to the event. Setup will commence at the armory at 1 PM Friday, March 25th. The door and grand prize list is now set. Noel KJ4UNX will be our Super Grillmaster and will be preparing both burgers and barbecue. Awesome ! Ms. Linda is arranging kitchen help for concessions. Signage will essentially be the same as last year. Hand stamps for both entrances with cash boxes will be established. We'll see if putting the event on Easter Saturday has any effect ! With any luck, we may actually see a greater turnout.

Many thanks to Noel KJ4UNX and Laura for providing the refreshments for the club meeting. After the break, Gene KM4MUN showed a very nice Icom IC-211 All-Mode 2M transceiver that he acquired for only \$150 on E-bay ! The annual officer "elections" occurred as they always had - by acclamation, all officers were re-elected. Glenn N4MJ did announce that it is coming up on 30 years for him being RARC President ! This was brought up to begin a possible transition of leadership. This means also taking the reins of the hamfest. No doubt this "seed" was planted for thought as this year progresses. The meeting concluded at this point.

RARC Meeting January 28, 2016

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 and enjoyed by all. Other old business was reviewed including the addition of our Eagle Scout, Samuel KK4SJE.

The Ides of March Hamfest will be held on March 26th at the Tennessee National Guard Armory. An initial hamfest flyer was presented and needs to be firmed up prior to being sent. JMR Sales and Mid-South Amateur Radio Sales will be our two main vendors. Stan AA5XO, our newest member, has recently started an enterprise in ham radio and will also have a table at the vending area. As in previous years, setup will be on that Friday before the event at 1PM. Noel KJ4UNX will again be at the grill. The food and drink list is being finalized. Also the prize list is being finalized.

Glenn N4MJ gave a presentation on this year's ARRL event called National Parks on the Air. This is an all year event that involves activating national parks and other monument areas throughout the United States and chasing them and logging as many as possible to earn awards. To participate, Logbook of the World is required and an updated TQSL file is necessary. Instructions for this and all other details of this event are located at this [LINK](#).

Another ARRL event is called Winter Field Day and just as in the big summer event, this is set up very much like it. ARRL sections are exchanged as well as whether you are operating indoors or outdoors. For more information on this seasonal contest, see this [LINK](#).

Many thanks to Hannah KK4SJF for providing the refreshments for the meeting. After the break, Glenn N4MJ presented awards from the ARRL for the multi-op effort in last year's ARRL RTTY Roundup. K4RFT finished 1st in Tennessee section in the multi-operator, low power category. Operators for this event were Todd W4TZX, Jamie WB4YDL, Glenn N4MJ, Phil N4PWG, and Mike AK4VU. Congratulations !

Finishing off the meeting was discussion about the ongoing DXpeditions to South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia Islands. The hardships these hearty expeditioners are going through boggles the mind ! Their signals were not strong making it difficult to put them in the log but several in the club have been lucky to do so. A short video was shown on the 1993 expedition to these forbidding islands and that's were the meeting ended.