

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 24, 2019

The last regularly scheduled meeting for the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club in 2019 was called to order by our President James Hall WB4YDL at 6:30 pm at the Obion County Public Library. He welcomed 14 club members and one visitor from Milan, TN, Phillip Watson KN4TSK. Phillip is a great guy and wants to learn more about the amateur radio hobby. We hope he comes back and visits us more often. We also had a regular visitor join the club this meeting, Dennis Shannon KN4LFL. Welcome to the club, Dennis.

Noel KJ4UNX gave the financial report and everyone was in agreement to accept the figures. Next, old business was reviewed and the date and place for our Christmas Dinner has been locked in. It will be Friday, December 13th, 2019 at the *Old West Steakhouse*. We hope to see everyone there.

New business was Glen Popiel KW5GP has confirmed that he will be at the Hamfest next spring to give another forum on Arduino projects. The date for the hamfest has been set for next year, March 28th, 2020.

Jamie WB4YDL, asked everyone in the room to give a brief discussion on what they have been doing and plan to do in the radio hobby. From the comments he received it sounds like every corner of the hobby was pretty much covered.

Gene Hoffmeyer K4MUN and his XYL Pam brought refreshments for the group. Pam made 2 crock pots of homemade chili with all the fixings, chips, salsa, guacamole, cheese and meat tray, vegetable tray and a chocolate cake that I'm told was awesome. It must of been good because by the time I got to it it was all gone. The chili was amazing too. Pam, you really out done yourself on the dinner. It was great ! It's just too bad Glenn Snow N4MJ wasn't there. He likes a good chili too.

After the tasty refreshments, Jamie WB4YDL gave a demonstration on operating FT8 remotely. He used a little Surface Go tablet computer, the WiFi at the library and Team Viewer to connect to his home station. He made a handful of contacts just playing around in a few minutes. It was a great presentation and everyone learned something from it too. Even the OT's. When the solar cycle is at it minimum there are still ways to make contacts with someone out there.

After the great presentation, Phil N4PWG made a motion to adjourn and Bob K9IL seconded the motion.

Hope everyone had a great Halloween and Thanksgiving. See you at the Christmas Dinner in December. 73's

RARC Meeting September 26, 2019

The September 26th, 2019 meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order by our President Jamie Hall WB4YDL. He welcomed 15 members to the meeting at the Obion County Library. Secretary/Treasurer KJ4UNX gave the financial report. All members in attendance unanimously agreed to accept the report.

Old business was last months contests - the Tennessee QSO Party and the Hiram P. Maxim birthday event. We discussed who participated, how everyone did and conditions during the contests.

New business was discussed next with several great ideas brought up.

1. No Sunday evening net on major holidays. There will be 6 holidays in 2020 on Sundays. We usually have very low attendance on holidays on the net, so to let everyone calling the net enjoy their family time, we will suspend the net on these days. Harrell WD4LAR made a motion to accept these changes. Phil N4PWG seconded the motion. The new net schedule will be posted soon with the changed dates.
2. Hamfest improvements: move club table to center of room, possibly use more monitors to display info and to make it easier for everyone to see.
3. Noel KJ4UNX asked if anyone wanted to be added to the call schedule for the Sunday evening nets. Phil N4PWG gladly accepted to be added. Randle KN4OPZ volunteered to be an alternate to fill in when an NCS has to miss a net.
4. Holiday dinner was discussed with a possible date of Friday December 13th at Western Steakhouse. Pending talking to the manager there.

Glenn N4MJ brought refreshments this month. They consisted grape salad, pimento cheese, bread/rolls, potato chips, drinks and deserts. It was a great meal as always, plus he brought ginger ale.

After refreshments, Harrell WD4LAR gave a great talk on ARES membership and ARRL Radiograms. How to CORRECTLY pass a radiogram. He brought handouts for everyone with the

ARL numbering short cuts for radiograms. The reasons for the numbering system was discussed and it was pointed out that all this information is in the ARES Field Manual, which is a good thing to keep in your go bag and in your shack.

After the discussion Bob K9IL made a motion to adjourn, Michael AK4VU seconded the motion.

Have a great month and see everyone next month.

RARC Meeting August 22, 2019

The August 22nd meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order by our President WB4YDL, Jamie Hall. We had 16 club members in attendance at he gathering.

KJ4UNX gave the financial report and everyone was in agreement to accept the figures. The old business was discussed next - Shakeout.org on October 17 and business cards were the topics. A meeting with Sgt. Orr at the TN Army National Guard is to be scheduled shortly to set the Hamfest 2020 date. Scheduling of the library for next year's RARC meetings is pending.

New business was next. The TN QSO Party will be held on Sunday, September 1st and is sponsored by the TN Contest Group. See their web site - [TN Contest Group](#) - for all the rules. The Hiram Percy Maxim operating event, celebrating his birthday, will be held during the 9 days between August 31st and September 8th. See all the rules on the ARRL web site for this event - [Hiram P. Maxim Birthday Celebration](#). Harrell WD4LAR will give next month's program on topics related to ARES.

Jamie and June brought refreshments this month. They prepared a delicious taco salad casserole with all the trimmings plus Mexican cornbread. A very moist and delicious coconut cake and a chocolate cake. A big 2 thumbs up to Ms. June for this awesome feast.

After the meal, Jamie gave part 2 of the presentation N4MJ Glenn started last month on [Receiver Architecture - Past, Present, and Future](#) covering the time from 1920 to present time. It simply mind blowing to think how far radio receivers have evolved in the last 150 years.

When the program and Q&A were over Harrell WD4LAR made a motion to adjourn with KN4LFL Dennis seconding the motion.

Hope to see everyone next month.

RARC Meeting July 25, 2019

The July 25th meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order by our President James Hall WB4YDL at 6:30pm. Jamie welcomed 12 club members and 3 guests KN4LKL Kal Ribianszky, KN4LFL Dennis Shannon and KN4RRM Bill Hathcoat to the monthly meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer KJ4UNX Noel Vickers gave the financial report on the clubs accounts and the numbers of hats, patches and pens.

KJ4UNX next discussed old business. The Club had a couple tables set up at the White Squirrel Festival. Jamie WB4YDL, Phil N4PWG and KJ4UNX Noel took radios, satellite antenna arrays and lots of ARRL brochures to hand out and answered questions. Next old business discussed was Field Day results which led right into Jamie's next discussion in new business.

Jamie started new business discussions right off with a recap of Field Day. He asked the group what they thought the pros and cons of Field Day 2019. Some of the items brought up were food, antennas, radios and linking of stations together. The group liked the simplicity of just grilling burgers, hotdogs and brats. Instead of individuals bringing several different main dishes. We also tried to cut back on desert and side dishes as well to help save on refrigerator space. June, Rose, Hannah and Linda headed up that task and did a very good job coordinating all side dishes and sweet treats. The radios worked flawlessly and the idea of changing bands and modes meant changing stations was a success from the discussion the group had. The wire antennas and spider beam worked great even under very rough wind conditions. There is a video on the club website that shows just how bad the wind was. Business cards were discussed for the club to hand out with club info on them to all interested parties on the club and becoming a ham. KJ4UNX is looking into purchasing the cards.

Other new business - Harrell WD4LAR brought up that there will be a national earthquake drill on October 17th - see [Great Earthquake Shakeout Drills](#) for details.

The club took a break for refreshments that Randle KN4OPZ brought. Roast beef and turkey with cheese on rolls. Potato salad, chips and cold drinks with a great banana pudding that Randle swore was sugar free. This guy thinks he might have stretching the truth just a bit. But your not a ham if you don't stretch the truth just a little bit now and then.

After refreshments, Glenn Snow N4MJ gave a awesome presentation on the history of radio receivers, the various types of receivers and the men who developed them from 1870-1920.

After the presentation Phil N4PWG made a motion to adjourn and Randle KN4OPZ seconded the motion.

Spoiler alert there will be a part 2 of this presentation at next month's meeting. You won't want to miss it.

See everyone next meeting

RARC Meeting May 23, 2019

Our president WB4YDL, Jamie Hall welcomed 14 members and 3 guests to the May 23, 2019 monthly meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club. The guests this month were KN4RRM Bill Hathcoat, KN4TSL Andy Zimmerman and Andy's father. Noel KJ4UNX gave the financial report and the inventory on hats and patches. Old business was discussed next. Field Day stations, antennas, networking and laptops were some of the main topics and they spilled over into some of the new business.

New business started with the possibility of setting up a table at the White Squirrel Festival in Kenton the weekend after Field Day. We will have to discuss this topic more as the event gets closer. The clubs new internet presence on MeWe was brought up by Glenn N4MJ. Invites to the group are being sent out now for everyone interested in connecting there. Jamie went over bonus points and rule changes for Field Day this year. There are no changes from last year except the addition of using FT8 for a digital mode.

Two new fusion digital repeaters were discussed that are going online in the near future. One in Union City and another in Dresden, TN. More on these repeaters will be passed along as we get more information on them.

AK4VU brought refreshments this month. Hot Dominos pizzas and cold drinks really hit the spot.

After the refreshments, Jamie gave a very interesting and informative presentation on a 2m/430 antenna system he built using a Raspberry Pi and Arduino hardware and Gpredict software. It will track LEO satellites and the space station and find magnetic north when its not tracking a satellite. This set up will likely be used at Field Day to make satellite contacts for bonus points. After the presentation there was a short Q&A session. There seemed to be a lot of interest in this antenna set up from the group.

When all the questions were answered, K9IL made a motion to adjourn with a second from N4MJ.

Hope to see everyone next month for radio set up, antenna set up and Field Day. 73's

RARC Meeting April 25, 2019

The April 25th, 2019 meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was brought to order at 6:30 pm by our President James Hall WB4YDL. We had 15 members at the meeting and one guest KN4RRM Bill Hathcoat.

We went straight to old business from last month - The Ides of March Hamfest and ideas on future presentations was the old business discussions. Next KJ4UNX Noel Vickers gave the financial report. Everyone was in agreement with the report and it was unanimously accepted.

Next new business was discussed. Field day prep - radio stations will be switching from mode-specific to band-specific. Jamie WB4YDL also brought some new toys for Field Day. They were a triplexer and band pass filters he purchased. Some general discussion of how this would work with the 3 HF radios ensued. After which, Jamie produced a Morse Tutor that he put together as a kit that can tutor you in CW learning either solo or with another ham with a Morse Tutor (connected together). Morse Code is sent by simply touching the areas for dit and dah on the PC board. This may open an avenue for a group build and/or CW teaching. Before the break, Jamie asked everyone in the room to briefly discuss what they are doing right now in Amateur Radio. An interesting item was brought - Steve KK4NNH has been working on the GOTA station antenna which will be a variant of the Barber-pole antenna he used previously. As part of this project, he showed a 49:1 balun (that's not a typo!).

The group took a short break for refreshments that club Vice President Hannah Clayton KK4SJF put together for us. She brought in a awesome barbecue brisket with hot and mild sauces, tossed salad, deviled eggs, potato salad and for desert chocolate mousse and fresh raspberries.

After refreshments, N4MJ Glenn Snow gave a excellent presentation on the Fascinating World of Amateur Radio for new operators. In his presentation, Glenn showed how new license holders can help themselves decide where they want to go in the hobby and how to achieve their goals. In our many-faceted hobby, each item can be a full presentation.

After Glenn's presentation, he made a motion to adjourn and K4MUN Gene Hoffmeyer seconded the motion.

Hope to see everyone again next month. 73's

RARC Meeting March 28, 2019

The March 28, 2019 meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order by our new president WB4YDL Jamie Hall. Jamie welcomed 14 club members and one guest Andy Zimmerman to the meeting. Mr. Zimmerman took his Technician Class and General Class tests at the Ides of March Hamfest and passed with flying colors. Seth Smith KN4LFM of Gleason, TN also took his General Class exam and passed. Congratulations to both of you.

Noel KJ4UNX gave the financial report and reviewed the totals from the Ides of March Hamfest. He also reviewed the old business from last month which was Hamfest activities.

Jamie talked about vendors at the Hamfest and how well they fared. The used flea market also was an improvement this year with lots of nice vintage gear.

WD4LAR Harrell Davidson and his XYL Carrie brought refreshments - ham and cheese, turkey and cheese subs with all the trimmings, Chocolate brownies with nuts and a lemon cream cheese pound cake.

After the refreshments, Jamie asked the group what they would like to see and hear about in future meetings. Some of the ideas bounced around were Q-codes, introduction to digital operations, how to get started in ham radio for newcomers and EchoLink.

Due to March madness the group decided to cut the meeting short. Phil N4PVG made a motion to adjourn and Mike AK4VU seconded the motion.

RARC Meeting February 28, 2019

The February 28th, 2019 meeting was called to order by club President WD4LAR Harrell Davidson at the Obion County Library. He welcomed 12 members and 3 guests - Slade Summer from Trenton, Andy Zimmerman who is planning on testing at our hamfest next month, and Jay Fuller AG4WO. After the meeting Jay joined our club so please everyone welcome him to the group. Jay is an Extra Class licensee.

Next KJ4UNX Noel Vickers reviewed the old business from last month and then reviewed the financial report. Steve Clayton KK4NNH made a motion to accept the report. James Hall WB4YDL seconded the motion to accept the report.

New business was discussed next - Jamie WB4YDL talked about the speaker and sound issues at the site for the hamfest. He is working with Nathan Spencer KM4ZYM on the issues and have some good ideas to help with the problem. Hamfest prizes were discussed and an anonymous club member is going to donate a \$100 cash prize for the hamfest.

Refreshments were brought by Noel KJ4UNX this month and consisted of several types of cookies, a chocolate cake and a red velvet cake. Drinks were also provided.

After the refreshments the next order of business was our annual elections of club officers. Jamie Hall nominated Bob Miles K9IL for President. Bob did not accept nomination due to some recurring health issues. Noel Vickers nominated Jamie Hall WB4YDL for President. Phil Green N4PVG seconded the nomination. The club voted unanimously for Jamie for President. Jamie Hall nominated Hannah Clayton KK4SJJ for Vice President. Mike Stanton AK4VU seconded the nomination. The club voted unanimously for Ms. Hannah to be our next Vice-President. Phil Green nominated Noel Vickers KJ4UNX for re-election as Secretary-Treasurer. Jamie Hall seconded the nomination. The club voted unanimously to re-elect Noel as Secretary-Treasurer. Please everyone welcome and congratulate our newest club officers !

After elections Bob K9IL made a motion to adjourn and our newest president, Jamie WB4YDL seconded the motion. Hope to see everyone at the hamfest and next month's meeting.

RARC Meeting January 24, 2019

The January meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order by club President Harrell Davidson WD4LAR at 6:30 pm at the Obion County Public Library. There were 15 members and 4 guests - Andy Zimmerman, Bill Hathcoat, Jim and Melissa Needham in attendance. Noel KJ4UNX reviewed the old business from the last meeting. The Christmas Dinner from December was discussed and the financial report was given to the group. Everyone was in agreement with the finances and voted to accept it.

The group decided to break for refreshments before discussing any new business. Rose W9DHD and Bob Miles K9IL brought an awesome crock pot of homemade chili, which Bob took credit for stirring every once and a while, cold cuts, cheeses and condiments rounded out the meal. Rose also prepared 2 delicious cakes - a chocolate and a upside down pineapple cake.

After refreshments, Harrell asked the group if they would be okay with a document with all members information, phone number, emergency contact phone number, and email address in case of an emergency or the need to get in touch with members. Everyone was in agreement with this idea and info was collected. Glenn N4MJ, discussed the ideas gathered from the hamfest committee. Rearranging the table layout and upgrades to the sound system are being looking into and will be discussed in up coming meetings.

The Crockett County Amateur Radio Society donated \$100.00 for a prize to be determined later for the Ides of March Hamfest.

Bob K9IL, gave a very interesting discussion on DX entities, when he started in Amateur Radio, the good and bad things that have happened while in the hobby and how long he has been in the hobby. He also talked about being married to a ham and the advantages of it.

After the discussion Jamie WB4YDL made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Dolly KN4SLY 2nd the motion. Hope to see everyone next month. 73's