

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, 2024

The October 24, 2024 Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club meeting started at 6:30 PM at the Obion County Public Library. There were 10 members in attendance with 1 guest. The meeting kicked off with the financial report and then moved on to old business. Old business included a discussion on dues led by Harrell WD4LAR. There was a good discussion, but we ended up tabling any decisions until next year. There was also some discussion about changing the Christmas dinner to a different format until we get an increase in revenue. We will continue this year but discuss the changes at the first meeting next year.

The Christmas dinner will be at *The Keg* on Friday, December 6th at 6:30 PM. Thank you, Noel for making the reservation!

Ben, KO4MAO, is participating in the School Club Roundup (Phone) and so far has 93 contacts with 1 DX contact to Jamaica! Way to go Ben! We then took a break for refreshments provided by Harrell WD4LAR, and Ms. Carrie. Thank you for the very tasty sandwiches and treats!

After the break, Glenn N4MJ gave an excellent presentation on Summits On The Air (SOTA). His presentation PowerPoint is linked [HERE](#).

Jim, KO4TDD, let the club know that he has upgraded to a General Class license. Congratulations! Noel reminded the club that the Fulton County Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a POTA day at Columbus Belmont State Park from 10 to 2 on Saturday. I look forward to hearing the results! There were also some rumors that the WA4YGM repeater may move under new management and might charge the club rent for the repeater. We will cross that bridge when we get there. Harrell WD4LAR let the club know that he handled some traffic from the hurricane that made the Knoxville news. This was also communicated through the 3980 reflector. This traffic helped to communicate the transfer of many batteries to the repeater at Greenville. Great Job!

This meeting concluded the last meeting of the 2024 calendar year. We hope to see everyone at the first meeting of 2025!

RARC Meeting September 26, 2024

The Sept 26th Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM at the Obion County Public Library by President Noel, KJ4UNX. There were 15 members in attendance. The Secretary/Treasurer Patrick, went over the Financial Report and brought up old business from the previous meeting. The old business included the Christmas Party dates and locations. We decided on *The Keg* on Friday, Dec 13th at 6:30 PM.

During the discussion, Harrell, WD4LAR, brought up a great discussion on the Christmas dinner. He brought up that we need to change the way we do things or the club will run out of money. Due to the rising expense of the dinner and the lack of funds that previously was received during the Hamfest. It was decided to continue this year as is with the Christmas Dinner and to come up with alternatives for next year. The matter was tabled for the first meeting of the year.

There was also some discussion brought up by Glenn, N4MJ, on possibly dropping the insurance as it was primarily used for the Hamfest. Other discussion brought up the fact that it did include Field Day as well. Patrick, KO4HEX, will bring a copy of the policy at the next meeting. Harrell brought up the situation at the ARRL and possible alternatives including the WDTXA, which is listed on our website. The ransomware attack showed how vulnerable they are.

Ben, KO4MAO, let the club know that he has 92 entities for his DXCC so far! Congratulations!

Glenn provided the refreshments - a wonderful assortment of snacks including sandwiches, cupcakes, chips and dip! Thank you Glenn!

Patrick, KO4HEX, brought up the situation involving the library in regards to our previous meeting. The library was not happy with the condition that the library was left in, so as a reminder, Patrick says that the library needs to be left in the manner in which it was found.

Noel led a presentation on his newly acquired Yaesu FT-897. It looked like some traces were blown, and confirmed by Jim KO4TDD. Hopefully Noel can get the radio back up and running as it would be a great portable machine! The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. We hope to see everyone at the last meeting of the year on October the 24th, where Glenn, N4MJ, will be giving a presentation on SOTA!

RARC Meeting August 22, 2024

The Aug 22nd 2024 Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club kicked off at 6:30 at the Obion County Public Library, by President Noel, KJ4UNX. There were 9 members in attendance.

Patrick, KO4HEX, went over the financial report and there were no changes since May. Old business consisted of Christmas dinner options - this has not been settled as of this date. A projected date is December 13, 2024.

Jamie WB4YDL reminded everyone that the TN QSO Party will be on Sunday, September 1st. Chuck, KQ4JIG, led a discussion on the 440 MHz propagation where he was able to make a QSO over to NC. There was also some good discussion from Ryan, KJ4ZDF, on his experience on 20m and 10m over to Italy. Glenn, N4MJ, let the club know that he placed first in the NAQCC contest. He also participated in the Mosquito Sprint for 4 hrs and the Bumble Bee Sprint. Congratulations Mr. Glenn!

Noel, KJ4UNX, let the club know about the adventures down at the Huntsville Hamfest last weekend, where he picked up a Yaesu FT-897.

We then took a break for refreshments provided by Jamie, WB4YDL. There was a good selection of snacks including hot dogs, cake, and chips!

After refreshments, Noel led a presentation on his new Knight tube tester. We also got a good history lesson of the origin of the kit from Allied Radio out of Chicago all the way to the now RS Americas. The club adjourned at 7:50p.m. We hope to see everyone at the next meeting in September!

RARC Meeting July 25, 2024

The July 25th Reelfoot Amateur Club meeting was kicked off at 6:30 at the Obion County Public Library. Patrick, KO4HEX, reviewed the old business and financial report. The old business included the transfer of the club trustee to Jamie, WB4YDL, which was a very unnecessarily complicated process, but was completed.

New business included Ben, KO4MAO, and Ryan, KG4ZDF upgrading to extra and Will, KO4VLV, and Alex, KO4YFI, upgrading to general. Congratulations!!

We took a break for refreshments provided by Phil, N4PWG, who provided some very good burgers. Thank you Phil!

We moved on to discussions about the Christmas dinner, which includes The Keg, Mustos, Blakes, and The Boat House. No decisions as of yet. Noel, KJ4UNX, let us know about all of the 2M repeaters he has been able to hit lately with a TS711A. He was able to hit the Murray repeater on 25W! Patrick, KO4HEX, reminded everyone of the Aug 10th KY POTA event that the Murray Radio Club is hosting where they will activate several parks in KY.

We moved on to the Field Day stats provided by Jamie, WB4YDL, with a record setting year! There was good youth participation and 10 people who made QSO's on the GOTA station with a total of 350 QSO's made. Top QSO operators were Patrick KO4HEX with 250 Q's, Jamie WB4YDL with 200 Q's, and Jacob with 109 Q's. The total score of 8118 points set a new club record. The web site is now up-to-date including the Lightroom slideshow.

Glenn, N4MJ, also let us know that the FD site A/C was also fixed as it was definitely a hot FD! The GOTA station power also had a thermal shut down and had to have the power lowered due to the heat. Glenn also let us know that he will be participating in a QRP contest back at the FD site in a couple of weeks called the Flight of the Bumblebee QRP Sprint.

There was also some great show and tell from Phil, with the Nano VNA, and Patrick, with the (TR)uSDX qrp radio.

RARC Meeting May 23, 2024

The May 23rd Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club meeting was kicked off at 6:30 PM at the Obion County Library. There were 11 members and 4 guests in attendance. Patrick, KO4HEX, went over the Financial and old business. Old business included the club trustee. President Noel, KJ4UNX, appointed Jamie, WB4YDL as the new trustee for the club. Congratulations! New business started off with discussions of Field Day on the 4th full weekend of June. Jamie, WB4YDL, led the discussion letting everyone know that there were no new rule changes. The club will operate per the usual in class 2A. Setup will be on Thursday evening at 6:30 PM at Glenn N4MJ's shop. Field Day operations commence at 1 PM Saturday and runs for 24 hours. Maps to the Field Day site will be posted.

Phil, N4PWG, will have the education material and is interested in operating CW on FLDigi. Patrick, KO4HEX, will do a talk with Ben, KO4LFZ on the Charles Choate's radio show. This will count for the Public Relations bonus points for Field Day. The recording session is on June 11th and the show should air the following Sunday. Glenn will do the solar-powered bonus point contacts as QRP CW.

Phil, N4PWG, let the club know that he spoke with Robin, WA4YGM, and that the Union City repeater's amplifier is back up and running. He also said that if there is enough interest, then Robin would consider adding DMR to the repeater.

We took a break with refreshments provided by Mike, AK4VU. Thank you Mike!

Jamie, WB4YDL, gave an updated presentation that he had previously done about 10 years ago on An Introduction to Contesting. The presentation covered several of the basics such as where to find the contests, types of contests and reasons to contest, to preparing your equipment and safety. He also covered some more in-depth topics such as software, macros, and strategies to increase the number of contacts. A great presentation and very timely with Field Day right around the corner.

We hope to see everyone out at Field ay!

RARC Meeting April 25, 2024

The Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club met on April 25th at the Obion County Public Library. There were 14 members in attendance and 2 guests. The meeting was called to order by President Noel, KJ4UNX at 6:30pm. The meeting was done in a different order than usual. Steve Harpole, KQ4UB, provided refreshments. We decided to start with refreshments so that the pizza did not get cold. The pizza was delicious. Thank you Steve!

After refreshments, Patrick, KO4HEX, went over old business and the financial report. Old business included the donations to the Glorioso and Jarvis Island expeditions from the WTDXA. Bouvet is on hold due to two different groups looking at going.

New business included information from Ben, KO4LFZ, updating the club that the 145.270 MHz repeater is now analog only. The HRI200 has been removed and there is currently no Fusion/C4FM. DMR is up and running, but a new antenna is needed. C4FM is going to be added back as a separate repeater, but it has not been coordinated yet. Echolink is also a future endeavor. There was also a test session held the previous Saturday, where Eric, KY4BMF upgraded to General Class. Congratulations Eric!

There was also discussion on the shutdown of MFJ on the 17th of May. They will stay in business until inventory is sold.

Glenn, N4MJ, brought up discussion on a new Trustee for the club. The Trustee is an appointed position by the President. No new Trustee was appointed at the meeting and it was tabled for future discussion.

Patrick, KO4HEX, will look into the 18th of May for a potential date for a club POTA event. Phil, N4PWG, updated us on his recent POTA adventures. He has been making quite a few QRP contacts. Congrats Mr. Phil!

The presentation for the night was from President Noel, KJ4UNX, going over a Model HP238 Heathkit Power Supply. He went over the different voltages using a digital multimeter and tricking the Power Supply with a home brew wire, into turning on, very cool!

Harrell, WD4LAR, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM with a 2nd from Jamie, WB4YDL. Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting. We will meet at the Obion County Public Library on May the 23rd at 6:30 PM with a program by Jamie, WB4YDL, going over contesting with discussions on the upcoming Field Day!

RARC Meeting March 28, 2024

The Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club met at the Fulton County Extension Office on Mar 28th at 6:30 pm. There were 15 in attendance and 3 guests. We decided to do things a bit differently this meeting. We moved the refreshments to eat first before the pizza got cold. Refreshments were provided by Patrick KO4HEX.

After refreshments, Patrick went over old business and the financial report. Noel KJ4UNX, let everyone know the insurance is going to be canceled and we need a new policy. Ben KO4LFZ, made a good suggestion with the ARRL insurance program.

The main focus of business for this meeting was the election of club officers. Jamie WB4YDL made a motion to accept current leadership as is for another term. This was seconded and voted in unanimously. Congratulations to the past/current officers !

We had a good conversation with Jamie WB4YDL, and Glenn N4MJ, leading, on the new DXpeditions coming up. There will be one in August this year at Jarvis Island, and Bouvet Island will have another expedition next spring.

There was some discussion on POTA day as a club. Reelfoot lake was already booked for the "Support your Parks" weekend. There was a poll on MeWe prior to the meeting and it was decided to try and look for another date in the spring. Patrick will look for another date and update the club.

Jamie did a 'show and tell' on a 20m band pass filter. He has posted a build guide and materials list on MeWe with video instructions ! Materials include things like 22AWG magnet wire, silver dipped mica capacitors and other things that can be easily found on Amazon.

Patrick and Jamie then led a presentation on MT63 and the uses of the data mode on FM. Benefits included being useful in noise conditions and that this is available to technicians !

We had a great March meeting with special thanks to Ben Rudy KO4LFZ, for the last-minute facilities for the meeting. We hope to see everyone at the usual location in April, at the Union City Public Library.

RARC Meeting February 22, 2024

The Feb 22nd, 2024 meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was kicked off by Vice President Phil Green, N4PWG as Noel, KJ4UNX, was out sick for the meeting. There were 11 members and 4 guests in attendance.

Patrick, KO4HEX, went over the Treasurer's report as well as the meeting minutes that were posted on the website as he was not able to make the previous meeting. Elections were going to be held, but we did not have a quorum, so elections were postponed until the next meeting.

Phil informed us that the Library did not have us down for the schedule for next month and would be on holiday as well. Patrick said that he would get with the Library and find a place for the club to meet next month. The Trenton Hamfest was also brought up in the meeting. As a reminder, the dates are March 16th at the Trenton Armory. We look forward to attending.

Patrick reminded everyone of Support Your Parks weekend on Apr 22nd. He will reserve the Blue Bank Round for the club, the same as last year, so that we can have a nice fun day of POTA as a club.

We took a break for refreshments, provided by Ben, KO4MAO, with Tea bread and soup. Homemade! By Ben! Great job Ben!

There was also discussion about the troubles the Union City repeater has been having as of late. Ben, KO4MAO, said that he participated in the school club round up and scored 10,700 points. He operated mostly SSB on 20M, and some on 40M and 15M. Jeff, W5VNH, let the club know that his wife recently passed away. We are so sorry for your loss and you will be in our thoughts and prayers. Harrell, WD4LAR, reminded everyone of the CW net on 3.562 MHz at about 18 wpm. Patrick also reminded the club of the testing session on March the 2nd at the Fulton County Extension Office at 10:00 am.

Phil made a motion to conclude the meeting, seconded by Jamie, WB4YDL, and the meeting concluded at 8:00 pm.

RARC Meeting January 25, 2024

Meeting was opened by President Noel Vickers KJ4UNX with comments and the welcoming of two guests.

Patrick Hall KO4HEX was sick and only a limited report of current financial status was given to the membership along with limited old business that was discussed since in had been several months since the last meeting.

Glenn Snow N4MJ showed and told the group of his NAQCC CW QRP prize along with a nice straight key that he had been give as the 1st place finisher in 4 states Second Sunday Sprints.

James Hall WB4YDL talked about his ongoing projects and a new electronics lesson slated for MeWe.

Phil Green N4PWG showed off several new toys from Santa including a go bag, usb hubs, a pocket battery powered router, ans assorted adapters.

Noel Vickers showed us a project that he was rebuilding.

Noel provided the group with chili and various other tasty treats.

Announcement of new business included the Hoxie Hamfest, club dues needed at next meeting, and officer elections also in the February meeting.

Next meeting is on February 22, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Phil Grrren made motion to adjourn meeing and Harrell Davidson, seconded!