



Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club

Western Tennessee • Western Kentucky • Southeastern Missouri

EmComm • Amateur Training • Public Service • License Testing • Special Events

501c4 Non-Profit Organization



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"Ides of March" Hamfest 2010

March 20 , 2010

Location:

Tennessee National Guard Armory, Union City, TN

The Tennessee National Guard Armory was once again the site of the 3rd Annual "Ides of March" Hamfest sponsored by the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club in Union City, Tennessee. With the weatherman calling for rain during the day, we were all blessed to side step this prediction. It turned out to be a very pleasant early Spring day.

The Event:

As has been the tradition, setup began the previous day with the table layout and poster and sign displays. Nearly 40 tables were spoken for this year so we had to make room. This was not a problem with the spacious armory dining area. On the day of the event, Hamfest director Bob K9IL arrived early and allowed the vendors to begin setting up. *The Hamstation* pulled in from Indiana and set up an impressive display spanning six tables. Also returning to the Hamfest this year was Phil Brazzel KU4AB with his squalo antennas. Many new



The Hamfest scene at the TN National Guard Armory

and familiar faces filled the vendor tables with their wares. Included in this was Gladys KJ4EKN selling many items from Ron W9RVR (SK)'s station.

As thing's kicked off, Rhelda N5BSE and Jeff KD4VCR manned the gates. Our Master Chef Chris KI4TRM fired up the grill and the melodious dulcet tones of Larry KI4UNT's voice filled the air over the PA system. Folks from near and far started driving in with their 'porcupine' vehicles. Brandon KJ4FTN handled the talk-in duties on the local repeater. The 'chicken coup' rolling bin was starting to receive many raffle tickets and there were LOTS of prizes to give away. In fact, a prize was given away nearly every 10 minutes. We were fortunate enough to have many contributing members and vendors for all the wonderful prizes. Prizes ranged from hats, coupons, software, handbooks, antennas, and weather radios, to power supplies and the Grand Prize of a new Icom IC-718 HF transceiver. The Grand Prize was made

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Ed AB4IQ and Glenn N4MJ discussing DX'ing

possible by a generous

gift from the Henry County ham operators.

The food again was superb !! Hamburgers and hotdogs were handled by Chris KI4TRM and Jim KI4KHT brought in 20 pounds of barbecue. The ladies serving up the great chow included Glenn N4MJ's XYL Linda, Jamie WB4YDL's XYL June, Rhelda N5BSE, and Dolly KN4SLY. After all was said and done, there was very little food left. Lots of complements were heard about the food all throughout the event.

VIP's:

We were again honored to have Tennessee Section Manager Glen Clayton W4BDB and ARRL Vice Director of Delta Division David Norris K5UZ. This year we also welcomed Tennessee Section Emergency



Larry KI4UNT & Rose W9DHD running the raffle

Coordinator Lowell Bennington WD4DJW.

Together they gave a fine forum and updated a great crowd on happenings with the Delta Division and the Tennessee Section. *Thanks so much for attending !*



The Hamstation making deals

VE Session & DX Card Checking:

This year VE sessions were offered at two separate time slots to allow all that wanted to take the amateur licensing tests to do so. The VE testers this year were Randy KI4OAS, Andy KJ4CLS, Ottis K5BSE, and this year Harold KJ4FTM. We had many testers this year and several managed to pass for a new license or to upgrade to a higher class of license. *Congratulations !*

Ed Pflueger AB4IQ again came down from Paducah, KY as an official ARRL QSL card field checker for DXCC. Several DX'ers were able to present their DX QSL cards for DXCC credit.

Grand Prize Winner:

- **Everett Agee KJ4NSI**

Epilogue :

The attendance this year was quite good and on par from last year. The great lineup of prizes and the great vendor offerings certainly contributed to a very successful Hamfest. Again, in appreciation to the men and women of the Tennessee National Guard, a donation of \$200 will be made to the 913th FRG (Family Readiness Group). Plans are already being made for the Ides of March Hamfest 2011.

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Don't miss it !

Soapbox:

Dicky KU4AC :

I had a ball.....I took some things and had a table next to Charlie and sold everything except an

Emergency CB radio that was bought new by Alex Ellis many years ago and given to me by his daughter Nancy. Should not even have put it up for sale. Anyway I had about 4



Rose W9DHD presents Grand Prize to Everett KJ4NSI

be inside or at a table with MAPS of the area not just Union City but for the roads coming into Obion County from all directions. One ham called in from Hickman, Ky, as he was getting off the ferry, and asked for directions. The talk in operator was walking around in the parking lot and had a hard time telling the guy which road to take without a map handy.

Secondly, every time a ticket is drawn the number should be put on a board in big letters so everyone can see it.

All in all it was a very good hamfest, well advertised, easily accessible, good parking. It was bigger and better than the 2009 and I suspect it will be even bigger and better next year. I know I will have a big table next year. I will encourage all the hams in the Paris area to attend next year and support it even for just the admission and fellowship. I bet most hams around here have said I wish we had a hamfest close

serious inquiries on my Andrew Heliac. So with that said you can see I really enjoyed myself. I would recommend anyone to attend next year. At one time it was shoulder-to-shoulder. There needs to be more vendors both new and used. The guy that usually sits up on the east side of the building was not there...maybe a conflict or something. Rest rooms were easily accessible so that is also a plus.

The concession stand was great and the eating tables were great for eaters and rag chewers...

***Now with the nay's...** They need to do something about the PA system, it is of no use. There needs to be more speakers. Now the building does not lend to good acoustics but I think it can be improved on. I am sure someone in the club could put together a better PA system. In fact I had one many years ago while playing Bluegrass music around the country that may still be in dad's basement. It is a Peavey system with a pretty good amp that drove 4 speakers and 2 monitors. I'll check on it and if I still have it I will try to get it working and loan it for next year. We could do some sound checks in the future.*

The Talk-In operator needs to

by I hate to drive to Nashville, Memphis or Huntsville....so, if it

goes away it will be their fault...the club is doing all it can but it needs SUPPORT from all hams in the area.

I think using this means to get positive/negative feed-back is great....



Gladys KJ4EKN selling her wares



Delta Division Vice Director David K5UZ with SM Glen W4BDB and SEC Lowell WD4DJW



The Hamstation from Indiana doing business

Ed AB4IQ:

The Union City Hamfest was bigger and better this year with several vendors and a larger selection of used equipment. The usual stories of how the DX was snagged on the first try on 160 meters running ten watts while inadvertently switched in to a two meter antenna was accomplished. I was able to check DX cards for two Hams, but I can also do WAS and VUCC, so try to wear me out next year. The food smelled great and the coffee was tasty. I was even asked by a Cardiologist if I had tried the Barbecue yet! Hi Hi

CU Next Year

Bill KJ4W:

It is a nice hamfest, and having a good-sized vendor there (Ham Station) this year was a good improvement.

The only complaint I heard about the U.C. hamfest was the acoustics/P.A. system. I don't know that you can improve the room acoustics unless you carpet the place. You could get a better P.A. but it would still be hard to understand because of the reverberation in the room. It would cause less headaches if less announcements were made.

The room size is good, parking and access good, the staff friendly and helpful, the concession stand nice (thanks for the free coffee!), door prizes good for a hamfest of this size. I sold enough junk to pay for my trip, and hope to come back next time.

Art WA4EQO:

This was my second Hamfest, and I had a great time. I always look forward to a chance to pick up the little odds and ends that you usually have a hard time finding. As a relatively new Ham I also look forward to meeting folks that I may have talked to on the radio, but never met before. I particularly enjoyed the ARES meeting with Lloyd and the other ARRL officials.

Noel (unlicensed):

This was my first Hamfest and hopefully not the last. I had a great time. Seen a lot of stuff that I did not know what it was and still don't know what it is. But after Glenn have me a walk through and explained what a lot of it was. I ended up buying a Kenwood 2 meter radio from the Hamstation and a great D/C power supply from Gladys. Chris did a great job on the burgers. Had to have a couple of them myself. Micheal and I had a good talk about the Tech exam while at Hamfest. Later on he sent me a link for a good site to help me study. Micheal I have been using it too.



Dolly and June serving up barbecue

So to sum it up. I bought some good equipment, ate some great food, got a lot of good advise and hopefully will retain some of it and made some new friends too.

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Howard W4HLR:

The Hamfest was as always excellent. Excellent prizes, a good vendor, good food, Its turning into something with wheels. Thanks for all you guys do.



Glenn N4MJ filling out raffle tickets

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