



# 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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## Christmas RARC Gathering 2013

December 20, 2013

### Location:

**Sassafras Restaurant, Union City, TN**

The new site of Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club's annual Christmas holiday gathering this year is *Sassafras Restaurant* located in Union City, TN. The original date of December 6th had to be postponed due to terrible weather that included icing of the roads. This is a very nice restaurant located on Highway 51 near the Hampton Inn. The rear of the restaurant is reserved for parties and so it was where we would gather in our holiday trim. The food and drink were excellent and well prepared.

### Attendance:

We had an excellent turnout on a brisk night for the annual festivities with none of the poor weather that had occurred two weeks earlier - Glenn N4MJ, RARC President and XYL Linda; Bob K9IL, RARC Vice-President and XYL Rose W9DHD; Jamie WB4YDL, RARC Secretary-Treasurer and XYL June; Art WA4EQO and Tracy; Todd W4TZX and XYL Trina from Water Valley, KY; Ottis K5BSE and XYL Rhelda N5BSE; Noel KJ4UNX and XYL Laura; Phillip N4PWG; Hannah KK4SJF with 'harmonics' Samuel KK4SJE, Samantha KK4NNM, and Melodie KK4SJD, Jeff W5VNH and XYL Diana, Dean KK4PXJ and XYL Sandy, and Michael AK4VU.

### Door Prizes:



**Bob K9IL and Rose W9DHD**

Bob K9IL and Rose W9DHD provided their wonderful array of door prizes that they spent a great deal of time constructing. This has become a tradition at the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club Christmas gathering. There were Santa's and elves, trains, cars, sleds, a fire engine with extension ladder, baskets and even a Christmas chicken. Some sported light effects. All were well received and added to the festive occasion.

### The Meeting:

[Hamfest 2017](#)

[Christmas 2016](#)

[Field Day 2016](#)

[Hamfest 2016](#)

[Christmas 2015](#)

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**Glenn N4MJ reviewing the year's activities**

dessert. Guess everyone was too full to go for it !

The year 2013 brought several new members into the fold at Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club including the entire Clayton family. Steve KK4NNH is a helicopter pilot for the local med-evac group based in Martin, TN, and he and XYL Hannah KK4SJF have three "harmonics" - Samuel KK4SJE, Samantha KK4NNM, and Melodie KK4SJD. That's right, the entire family is licensed and all either took or upgraded their ham license at the 2013 Ides of March Hamfest or at the Field Day testing session. Steve could not attend this year's Christmas gathering as he was on standby with the med-evac group. Also new to the club is Dean KK4PXJ from Lake County who also upgraded to Extra Class during the Field Day testing session.

The 6th annual Ides of March Hamfest this year welcomed *Hub City Amateur Radio Sales* from Hattiesburg, MS, a major vendor addition. Jim AE5OG, the proprietor, has already committed to this coming year's hamfest and we look forward to seeing all his wares. We were also honored to have on hand Tennessee Section Manager Keith Miller N9GDK, ARRL Delta Division Director David Norris K5UZ, and Tennessee Section Emergency Coordinator Randy Smith K14OAS. Also Jamie WB4YDL was introduced as the West Tennessee Assistant Section Emergency

Coordinator. The Ides of March Hamfest was a great success and a lot of fun for everyone. Planning for the 2014 event is long underway and it looks to be bigger and better with many new changes.



**Rose & Bob's beautiful door prizes**

The annual ARRL Field Day event for Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club saw the return to class 3A, with the addition of the digital station put together by Jamie WB4YDL. There is considerable interest in digital modes in the club and good contribution was seen by Todd W4TZX. This station set a new club record for digital contacts on Field Day. Everybody contributed to the effort from a great public information display by Samantha KK4NNM to the tower safety educational session by Marv AB4MC. Even the sunspots decided to show up this year causing increased activity on the upper bands. More interest is developing in the club to learn CW (Morse code) or better develop their skills. Noel KJ4UNX is enrolled in the CW Academy and Jamie WB4YDL and Glenn N4MJ are increasing their speed and accuracy. Hopefully this will



**Hannah KK4SJF wins a prize**

translate to more CW points in next year's Field Day event ! Charles KDØROA also joined us again from Dixon, MO and added considerable phone station points.

[Hamfest 2014](#)

[Event Archive](#)

[Hamfest 2013](#)

[Event Archive](#)

Besides the upgrades to ham licenses mentioned above, a few RARC club members added to their 'wallpaper'. Jamie WB4YDL attained DXCC Honor Roll and Bob K9IL placed 1st in the 2012 ARRL VHF Contest in the 50 MHz SOHP TN section category.

Aside from the usual business of planning for major events such as the Ides of March Hamfest and the ARRL Field Day event, the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club's monthly meetings during the year 2013 included presentations on FIDigi software, a popular digital mode software, by frequent visitor Stan AA5XO and a presentation on Introduction to Contesting by Jamie WB4YDL. The latter presentation is still being given by Jamie at other area ham radio clubs.



**Rose W9DHD handing out chances for prizes**

**Epilogue :**

This next year will have some interesting twists in that, for the first time, the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club will be entered into the ARRL RTTY Roundup on the first weekend in January as a multi-op, single transmitter entry. Look for K4RFT during the contest !

The next regular scheduled RARC meeting will be on January 23, 2014 at the Obion County Public Library in Union City, TN. The Net Control Station and Refreshment assignments are now posted. Until next time ...



**Glenn N4MJ scores a prize**

**Have a Very Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Good DX!**

