

WEEKLY 2-METER NETS

All nets listed are 8:00 PM local time

Monday: W5YM University WeatherNet (147.135+, no pl)

Tuesday: Washington County ARES Net (146.955+, 110.9)

Wednesday: ARCUA Traffic Net (147.135+, no pl)

Thursday: ARKAN Traffic and Talk Net (146.955+, 110.9)

*Check in and
participate in
local nets --
keep amateur
radio active on
the repeaters*

SERVING
THE
AMATEUR
SERVICE

Newsletter of the Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest

June 2002

QRP from W5JAY

ARKAN MEETING

June 24, 2002

AGENDA

Call meeting to order
Acknowledge and welcome visitors
Move to host program
Program
QRP operations
by W5JAY

Business Meeting

Reading of the minutes
Treasurer's report

Old Business

Election of board members
Update on current projects
Scheduling

New Business

Upcoming events

Meeting Adjournment

NEXT MEETING

Friday, July 22

Randy DuCharme, AD5GB, is an assistant EC for Washington County and the digital coordinator for the county ARES. He will give a presentation on traditional packet radio.

ARKAN meets at the Arkansas Air Museum at Fayetteville Municipal Field each fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m.

ArkieCom organizer Jay Bromley, W5JAY, is an assistant section manager for ARRL in the state of Arkansas. Rapidly becoming one of the top QRP meetings in the nation – if not the event – ArkieCon has brought some of the world's – not just US – top QRP operators to Fort Smith.

Noted in several publications for his QRP efforts, Bromley will delve into the finer points of low power operations. Even if the world under five watts isn't of interest, the techniques required for DX'ing with units like the Tuna Tin 2 can help you improve your 100 watt (or kilowatt!) station. He is also head of the Ft. Smith QRP Group which produces kits to get you on the air with QRP.

Landmark bill before Congress

Speaking of antenna projects, just as the ARKAN newsletter goes to the copier, ARRL reports on the introduction of HR 4720, the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act." This bill, initiated by Rep. Steve Isreal (NY-D) would require private land use regulators to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas consistent with the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. While it is not the policy of ARKAN to become involved in politics, this is one area that affects every amateur operator. FYI -- Arkansas is not one of the states which has adopted PRB-1 protection for amateur antennas. It was thrashed in committee during the last session by the municipal lobby.

ARKAN on the web at: www.arkan.us

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS CALENDAR

The following organizations have asked for amateur radio operators to support their events. Please contact the persons listed. There are more events anticipated for this coming year.

OCTOBER

Arkansas SET Oct.
The annual statewide simulated emergency test is the first Saturday morning of October. The commitment is only for half the day, so please make time to join us.

AutumnFest Parade TBA
Organizers of the event have contacted Washington County EC for communications support for parade.

CONTACT: Bill Smith, K1ARK
501-575-3618
bismith@uark.edu

DECEMBER

First Night Dec. 31
Volunteer for two hours and receive admission to events for evening. Event may not continue due to local funding problems with the First Night organization.

CONTACT: Norwin Harral
nharral@sbcglobal.net

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER

Do you have a great hint on how to operate? Do you have a new wrinkle on how to build an antenna? Did you discover something exciting in amateur radio that you want to share with others?

Your input and additions are welcome. Please email your articles and other information to the newsletter editor, Bill Smith, one week prior to the club meeting. If you are sending images, make sure they are attached as JPEGs with 300 dpi.

June Meeting Notes

Hope you had a good Field Day

Several clubs in the area sponsored Field Day events, and we hope each of you took time to visit one of them. Now is the time to start thinking about Field Day for ARKAN.

Recruiting booth

One great advantage of the special event station is the chance to recruit new members to the club and new persons into the hobby. We can use some of the empty display cases at the AAM to set up a display on amateur radio.

Your ideas welcome

Suggestions for programs for the fall meeting dates -- September, October and November -- need to be forwarded to our club vice-president, Kevin Thornton (K5KVN). On the short list of ideas are a visit from our section manager, Bob Ideker; programs on PSK31; fox hunting hints and kinks; and whatever you can think of that would be interesting. Since the club meets after Christmas in December, a potential "What Santa Brought Me" social to show off holiday goodies is one idea.

ARRL Emergency Communications course; testing

A new ARRL Level I classroom course will start in July. Bill Smith, K1ARK, plans a six session course -- two hours each class -- to start just after the Fourth. He's flexible on whether the class meets once a week or twice a week, and will wait until the potential students sign up to see what dates and times work best. The class will be taught at Barnhill Arena.

Dayton Hamvention 2003?

Bill Smith made the trip to Dayton for America's largest ham event this past May. It was the second year for him to drop in on the event. Here's a quick report:

As usual, the prices at Dayton were the best of the year. KH7YS got his new Maha charger for only \$55 compared to \$79 for most mail order. Garmin GPS units were as much as \$70 off.

The new item was the Yaesu VX-7, displayed under water in the company booth. By the end of the first day, no dealers had this hot handheld left in stock.

Many of the smaller dealers with "soft" gear -- signs, bags -- and tools were not in abundance this year, and many of the vendors complained about the lack of business. The inside exhibits did not appear to be off from the 50th Hamvention in 2001, but the gigantic flea market outside did not have the depth of surplus gear we saw last year.

What was greatly improved were the forums, in particular the digital mode oriented speakers. There were also two forums on weather spotting.

One of the great things about Dayton is the chance to visit with the manufacturers technical people. Unlike any other hamfest, the owners -- not the dealers -- are onsite. Also, smaller major companies that would not attend a hamfest like Small Mountain Wonders or West Mountain have booths.

Among the great deals were Peet Brothers weather stations for 30% off and "hamstick" antennas for only \$9.95 each.

Next year's event dates should be posted soon -- usually the third full weekend of May. Hamvention is an event that you have to see to believe. I'm planning to attend again, and would like to start now on a club road trip. It is only a 10-hour drive, and quite easy with almost all interstate.

If you are considering any major purchase after the first of the year, I highly recommend waiting for Dayton. It is not difficult to pay for the trip off the price savings alone, and there isn't a radio shop in the world with the selection.

**AREA 2 METER NETS
MONDAY**

W5YM Unviersity WeatherNet
Net Control: Bill Smith, K1ARK
Weather spotter group for Washington
County, Arkansas; Information for
emergency communications.
FREQ: 147.135 + (no tone)
TIME: 8:00 PM local

TUESDAY

Washington County ARES
Net Control: Rotational
Weekly instruction and meeting for
members of Washington County ARES
FREQ: 146.955 + (pl 110.9)
TIME: 8:00 PM local

WEDNESDAY

W5YM Traffic Net
Net Control: Kevin Thornton, K5KVN
Weekly meeting for members of Amateur
Radio Club of the University of Arkansas.
Open to all licensed amateur operators
FREQ: 147.135 + (no tone)
TIME: 8:00 PM local

THURSDAY

ARKAN On the Air
Net Control: Norwin Harrel, N5YOR
Weekly meeting for ARKAN and traffic
handling.
FREQ: 146.955 + (pl 110.9)
TIME: 8:00 PM local

OTHER AREA NETS

Benton County Radio Operators
FREQ: 145.290 - (pl 110.9)
TIME: 7:00 p.m. Thursdays

TARC Triple T Net -- TARC System
FREQ: Your nearby TARC linked repeater
TIME: 9:00 p.m. Thursdays

Arkansas ARES Net
Net Control: Dale Temple, W5RXU
Weekly training net for ARES/RACES
personnel. Anyone interested in emergency
communications with HF privileges is
encouraged to check in. Persons without
HF are encouraged to monitor. Presentation
from Sunday morning is repeated Monday
evening.
FREQ: 3.9875
TIMES: Sunday morning, 7:00 local
Monday evening, 7:00 local
(following close of Razorback Net)

7 DAYS A WEEK

Razorback Phone Net
FREQ: 3.9875
TIME: 6:30 p.m. local

Ozark CW Net
FREQ: 3.592
TIME: 7:00 p.m. local

AIRFEST volunteers a great help

AIRFEST 2002 was a record-setting success, with new marks for attendance on Saturday, Sunday and two-days combined. The Arkansas Air Museum has a great debt of thanks to its various volunteer groups, and in particular, the ARKAN.

Without the help of the ARKAN volunteers on Saturday, there would have been considerably more confusion with the crowd communications. The Sunday crew did a great job in starting off the parking lots properly.

Discussions are underway for next year's event, and a greater role for the ARKAN members. A couple of items to note: running tech classes for other AIRFEST volunteers between now and next spring to get them on the air and focusing the majority of the operators on the announcer stand operations.

The bad news was the untimely death of K1ARK's TS-680 HF unit, which probably lost a final after three contacts on Saturday morning as the special event station. K1ARK was able to pick up a few more contacts Saturday evening by using the special call, W5F, on the Century Club Late Net.

JOTA is on the way

Club members are asked to start making plans now for the fall Jamboree of the Air with the Boy Scouts. The club would like to activate its antenna and operating position at the Arkansas Air Museum in support of the event, which is Oct. 19-20.

The frequencies for operation are in each band of major operation, and can be found specifically at arrl.org.

The concept for Jamboree of the Air is pretty simple. It gives non-amateur radio operator Scouts a chance to talk with their counterparts across the country, and around the world.

There are merit badges to be had for the Scouts, and several large stations -- BSA (ie, K2BSA) special event calls and world-wide spots like the World Scout Bureau in Switzerland -- to contact.

Demonstrations of two-meter and other modes will be important, and we need to find a leader who will chair this project to completion.

CONTACTING YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Norwin Harral, N5YOR	President	nharral@sbcglobal.net
Kevin Thornton, K5KVN	Vice President	kthornto@hotmail.com
Karen Harral, KB5ZRG	Treasurer	kharral@sbcglobal.com
Bill Smith, K1ARK	Secretary	bismith@uark.edu

President	Vice-President	Treasurer	Secretary/Newsletter
Norwin Harral	Kevin Thornton	Karen Harral	Bill Smith
N5YOR	K5KVN	KB5ZRG	K1ARK
945 N. Applebury Drive	2633 Springbrook Ave.	945 N. Applebury Drive	2164 Magnolia Drive
Fayetteville, AR 72701	Springdale, AR 72764	Fayetteville, AR 72701	Fayetteville, AR 72703
H-479-527-9458	H-479-751-6706	H-479-527-9458	H-479-443-9450
W-479-205-2073	W-479-442-0102	W-n/a	W-479-575-3618
nharral@sbcglobal.com	kthornto@hotmail.com	kharral@sbcglobal.com	K1ARK@arrl.net

YOUR ARRL EC REGION OFFICIALS

District L DEC

Bill Smith, K1ARK

K1ARK@arrl.net

Washington County EC

Bill Smith, K1ARK

K1ARK@arrl.net

Washington County Assistant ECs

Kevin Thornton, K5KVN

kthornto@hotmail.com

Overall operations

Randy DuCharme, AD5GB

AD5GB@arrl.net

Digital coordinator

Bryan Spain, WB5YIW

WB5YIW@arrl.net

Liason to Wash. County SAR

Benton County EC

Scott Ratchford, W5JSR

W5JSR@arrl.net

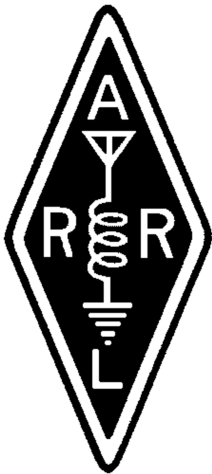
Carroll County EC

Marshall Turner, K0ADM

mtturner@mynewroads.com

Madison County EC

Currently vacant and seeking nominations



UPDATE YOUR INFO

A quick note to all Washington County ARES members: Please update your database info as soon as possible. Folks move, change jobs, change phone numbers (in particular cell phone numbers), upgrade licenses or equipment and we need to know. If you have had a change since you filled out your ARES form, please contact one of the members of our county ARES leadership team.

The Weather Report

W5YM University WeatherNet info from Bill Smith, K1ARK

Fortunately, we have not had a lot of active operations in the past month. In fact, the only activity we have had centers around the servicing of our primary repeater. The W5YM unit was not having the antenna issues that everyone hoped. Instead it was a problem with the receiver, and it is currently on the service bench.

Operations shift to backup

The reason why we have a back-up repeater (and a back-up back-up) is you never know when circumstances might take out the repeater. For the next couple of weeks, all University WeatherNet operations -- both weekly training and any active nets -- will take place on the Springdale Open Repeater at 146.955, pl 110.9.

Peet Brothers station at net control

The main benefit of Dayton was the purchase of a refurbished Peet Brothers station. This gives us measured wind speed here in Fayetteville. In the next month or so, I'll be working on getting my Byttronics APRS unit assembled to make the data from the Peet unit over the air.

There's wind and there's measured wind

Part of our training is knowing how to use the Beaufort Scale to estimate wind speeds. In the month since installation, the highest recorded wind speed -- a great memory function on the Peet station -- has been "only" 26 miles per hour. I say only because I might have said that the wind was over 30, perhaps even 35. The significance, of course, is 35 is our local net threshold for reporting. Having the anemometer has been a great learning tool.

Compare and contrast

Next time we can bring together the spotters in person, I have captures of the radar images from the April evening triple track evening. They are a very good indication of why eyes on the ground are so important.

Anderson PowerPole connections

Another Dayton purchase was a crimping tool for Anderson PowerPole connectors. I discovered these fantastic connectors while trying to find something that would allow me to swap radios between my vehicles. What sets the PowerPole apart from Molex or other "universal" plugs is the fact there is no male or female. There is also no way to reverse the connections.

This is a key factor that has made the PowerPole the required connection in the state of California for all ARES/RACES units. It is not a casual decision - in fact it is statutory law. In this way, any ARES gear that walks into an EOC can immediately be plugged in for use.

While we lack that kind of state guidance here, I would like to see our ARES members begin to voluntarily adopt the use of the PowerPole as our standard power connection. West Mountain has created a new product called RigPower -- it is a rack of PowerPole sockets that resembles the old-style banana-plug power distribution boards.

EC class makes QST

The first three graduates of our initial ARRL Emergency Communications Course Level I received a special salute from Bob Ideker, the Arkansas section manager, in his section news. If you didn't notice, pull out your July QST and check out N5YOR, KD5MEH and KH7YS in the news.

Also, our efforts in Washington County were noted in the 2001 SET results. While most of us thought our 117 points were pretty modest, and a not so bad first effort in some years, consider the fact that entire states had only one or two counties participating. The combined efforts of our state ranked Arkansas in the top 10 -- something we should all take pride in. Remember, this year's SET is Oct. 5.

ARKAN CALENDAR

Make a note of the upcoming programs and events of ARKAN. If you have an idea for a program, contact ARKAN vice-president Kevin Thornton.

JULY

ARKAN Meeting July 22
The program is packet basics presented by club member Randy DuCharme, AB5GB.

AUGUST

ARKAN Meeting August 26
The tentative program is APRS presented by Scott Ratchford, W5JSR.

AUGUST

ARKAN Meeting Sept. 23
Keven Thornton hosts a field trip to see how the other half lives -- a visit to the KIX-104 transmitter site located near the AAM.

OCTOBER

JOTA Oct.19-20
See the note above -- let's try another special event, but this time with better results!

OCTOBER -- NOVEMBER

Meeting programs are open.

AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS CALENDAR

Keep in mind these events coming up this year.

OCTOBER

Arkansas SET Oct. 5
The SET is the Simulated Emergency Test, a nationwide ARES exercise that also has a state level component. The scenario is not established, but it will one that "effects" all counties. The 6-8 hour drill will be on this Saturday morning. Please mark it on your calendar to work the event.

NOVEMBER

Arkansas QSO Party TBA
The Arkansas QSO Party shifts its date into November for 2002. New rules for participation are being established, and your input is welcome. Bonus station again is W5YM (University of Arkansas), with special memorial certificate honoring K5GOE, longtime sponsor of ARCUA.

Quick Notes

JOIN THE ARRL

Consider this one fact: membership in ARRL is about the same as the subscription price for any other magazine on amateur radio, and certainly less than buying QST off the rack. And when was the last time a magazine company lobbied on your behalf before the U.S. Congress or IAAU.

Invite a friend

There are almost 800 licensed amateur radio operators in northwest Arkansas. Do you know someone who has not been to a meeting recently? Do you know someone who would like to become involved? Do you know someone who once was active in the amateur community?

Now is the time to ask them to come back.

Repeating some old news for new folks:

Why another club?

We hear a lot about family values in the media. Have you thought about what that means in our hobby? There may be many new modes of operation, and many new toys to use. The radios keep getting smaller and the antennas bigger. The constant through it all are the amateur radio operators.

Unfortunately, there has been a rapid decline in traditional amateur radio values. Mentoring our new amateurs -- elmering -- in many places is a lost art. Common courtesy on the bands is harder and harder to find.

A major point of emphasis for this year in the club is a return to those traditional amateur radio values. Think back, and help us move forward.

A new club?

A few months ago, several amateur radio operators with a common goal of returning fun and service to the hobby met to decide if a new club was warranted. Some folks have asked why we need yet another club in our area. The group, obviously, decided yes. The reasons why are varied, but they shared that common thread -- a fellowship based on our shared love for the amateur radio service and a sincere desire to serve the community.

Growth

A key component in the success of Northwest Arkansas is growth. That growth has brought new people to the Arkansas Northwest, and they bring with them a great diversity that we need to take advantage of in amateur radio. Many of them were club members before coming to the area and are looking for a new home. Some of them are new amateurs, or recently upgraded amateurs. And some have been waiting for a place that would return to the traditional amateur radio values of elmering new hams, and recruiting them to join the ranks.

Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest

Minutes of May 25, 2002, meeting Arkansas Air Museum; Fayetteville, Ark.

Meeting was called to order by Norwin Harral at 7:00PM.

Randy DuCharme AD5GB made a motion to approve the May meetings minutes.

Gerry White KH7YS seconded the motion. Previous month's minutes were approved as published in the newsletter by the membership.

Treasurer's report: Karen reported that the club had a \$190.00 with expenditures of \$50.00 for club incorporation and \$20.00 in deposits. Leaving an ending balance of \$160.00. Mose Howard KB5BV made a motion to accept the treasurer's report.

White seconded the motion.

White read Bob Ideker's email letter of 5/23/02 concerning Arkansas Section Supplemental Educational Training (ASSET). White also brought up the Victor C. Clark – youth incentive program. The program makes mini grants available for the education of youth below 18 years of age by clubs. He brought up discussion of volunteering his time and any others to come to his apartment complex to help train the youth to gain an amateur license.

The club's website was discussed and how White had donated the \$40 for registering the website. He is still working on the links and would like inputs for the design of the site. The club thanked White for his effort on the website.

White has also filled out the paperwork for ARRL affiliation and Harral provided the required signature to file the paperwork.

Discussion of the opting out of the bike race due to lack of response for volunteers from other area clubs.

Workday at the AAM June 8&9 to install antenna. Sign up sheet was passed around.

AIRFEST volunteers was discussed and sign up sheet was passed around.

Field Day was discussed. ARKAN will be operating with the UofA radio club in front of Old Main.

Scott Ratchford W5JSR will provide the program for August on APRS.

September meeting will include a field trip to the KIX 104 transmitter site. Kevin K5KVN will arrange trip. The members will meet at AAM to hold meeting and then proceed to the site.

It was discussed to see if Bill Smith K1ARK could do some sort of public service announcement for KUAF.

White would like to pursue selling advertising in the newsletter. Discussed by members and a motion was made by White that if we could find someone wanting to place an ad we sell them space in the newsletter. No price has yet to be placed for ad size. Thornton seconded the motion. Price for ads still needs to be discussed.

Elections for board positions was discussed and position responsibilities for each position.

Nominations were made:

Elected Board member: Gerry White and Mose Howard

At Large Board member: Randy DuCharme & Rona White

Motion was made to close nominations by Gerry and seconded by Kevin.

Scott W5JSR announced that every Thursday in June training class for Tech license will be held at the Rogers Airport and last Saturday of every month is VE testing.

Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest Membership Application

Personal Information: _____ New Application _____ Yearly Membership Renewal Application

Applicants Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Class: _____

Age: _____ ARRL Member: YES NO ARES Member: YES NO

Spouse's Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Class: _____

Other household members holding licenses:

Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Class: _____

Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Class: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Personal Web Site: _____

Membership in other organizations: _____

Interests: VHF/UHF Y/N APRS Y/N Packet Y/N Satellite Y/N ATV Y/N Spe. Events Y/N ARES Y/N SKYWARN Y/N HF Y/N Phone Y/N CW Y/N Digital Modes: RTTY Y/N PSK31 Y/N Contesting Y/N

Other Non-Amateur Interests: _____

Please attach a copy of amateur radio license(s) for all those applying for membership. Dues are \$20.00 for first club member and \$3.00 for each additional family member.

I acknowledge that I will follow all FCC rules and regulations as well as the by-laws of the Northwest Arkansas Amateur Radio Club. Any infraction will result in immediate termination of membership in the club.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Sponsored by (Print) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Board of Directors Approval

License attached: Y/N Dues Payment Attached: Y/N Amount of Payment: \$ _____

RECEIPT FOR ARKAN DUES

Date: _____

Received from: _____ Callsign: _____

Amount: _____ \$ _____

For: _____

Received By: _____

ARKAN

Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest
Fayetteville, Ark. 72703