



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

August 2002

APRS: New wave packet

ARKAN MEETING

August 26, 2002

AGENDA

Club members sign in for drawings
Call meeting to order
Acknowledge and welcome visitors

Program

APRS by W5JSR

Business Meeting

Reading of the minutes
Treasurer's report

Old Business

Update on current projects
JOTA
Club call sign
ARRL club membership status

New Business

Public service events in October
AutumnFest Parade
Arkansas SET
Arkansas QSO Party

Door prize drawings
Meeting Adjournment

NEXT MEETING

Monday, Sept. 23

Field trip time as Kevin Thornton, K5KVN, takes the club out to one of the commercial FM transmitters located near the AAM. It's a chance to see how the other half lives and operates.

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

Scott Ratchford (W5JSR) has been a proponent of the Automatic Packet Reporting System for years. In other words, Scott was APRS before APRS was cool. From helping you track your stolen vehicle to incorporating weather monitoring data into wide-area nets, APRS has become the new wave of experimentation in the packet area. As simple as tones on a DTMF pad to real-time motion data with GPS or email-like messaging, APRS is flexible and fun.

Club callsign is in:

ARKAN received its club call sign mid-month, and as expected, it was a doozie of a 2x3 -- KD5THC. Club members are asked to put some thought into an easier to use callsign. The only stipulation is a "5" call. Here are a few of the early contenders:

K5UN	AA5AN	AA5UA	AA5DX	WX5AR
K5KAN	NA5RK	WA5RK	WK5AN	NK5AN

ARRL's newest club is ARKAN

It's official -- at least according to the ARRL website -- as the Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest is now an affiliated club of the national organization. Next on the list of tasks: special service club status for 2003.

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. 5
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 Oct. 11-13
Organizers of the event have contacted Washington County EC for communications support for parade. The parade is on Saturday morning at 12 noon on Dickson Street. Rally time is 10:45/11:00 a.m. depending on assignment.
CONTACT: Bill Smith, K1ARK
479-575-3618
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 Herral
nherral@sbcglobal.net

AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS CALENDAR

Keep in mind these events coming up.

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 be 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.

JOTA Oct. 19-20
Let's get together with the Scouts to make Jamboree of The Air an annual event in the northwest Arkansas area. ARKAN antenna site at AAM as well as other stations asked to participate.
CONTACT: Gerry White, KH7YS
479-575-3762
479-799-6178
kh7ys@arrl.net

NOVEMBER

Arkansas QSO Party Nov. 10-11
The Arkansas QSO Party shifts its date into November for 2002. Bonus station again is W5YM (University of Arkansas), with special memorial certificate honoring K5GOE, longtime sponsor of ARCUA.

August Meeting Notes

Worked All Arkansas

Can you believe that apparently no club in the state sponsors an award for having worked all 75 Arkansas counties? Confirmation emails are out to make sure, but an internet search comes up with nothing. If there isn't, this would be a great program to add to the club's quest for SSC status. It has very little impact -- the occasional checking of a packet of cards and the production of certificates on demand.

Vests for special events

As we head back into special event season again with AutumnFest's parade and other happenings, the question of getting together on a garment that allows the group to stand out is back. Earlier this year, ARRL made a stab at something for ECs, but it went nowhere due to the various needs of different regions -- parkas aren't very good in Florida -- and personal tastes.

Here is a suggestion. Wal-Mart currently stocks a "fishing vest", which is really a fly fishing vest but don't tell the bass boaters that, that is a knock off of the khaki safari vest that many photographers use. It has lots of pockets for stuff, is big and loose so it would be OK on a hot day and would still go over a coat in winter, and it is inexpensive. Going with the vest as a basic garment also allows for a great amount of latitude -- members could get the \$20 Wal-Mart one or \$120 for a Banana Republic version. They all tend to look the same.

What makes them stand out? We have all the members add velcro panels to the upper backs and we have loud, preferably reflective, panels made. This adds flexibility as a person could have a cloth panel with the ARKAN logo for events like AutumnFest, one with ARES for emergencies and even one with the old SKYWARN eyeball.

The Tube Prize

Thanks to Fort Smith's Arkansas assistant section manager, Jay Bromley, the club has its own mascot. Jay suggested that we use it as a rotating "door prize" that a member must bring back to the next meeting or face the penalty of buying everyone's dinner! Jay handed it to his Fort Smith friend and new treasurer, Mose Howard. Mose promptly forgot the tube and left it at the AAM.

We'll give Mose a break, but along with drawing for a door prize we'll draw the Tube Prize. It's the club member's responsibility to bring it back to the next meeting. Here's some ground rules:

- * -- No one gets the Tube more than once a year
- * -- If you forget the Tube, either buy everyone's dinner that night OR make a donation (\$5.00 suggested) to the door prize fund.
- * -- If you lose the Tube, you must replace the Tube.

Net controls on 2 meters; adding 6 meters

The various nets on 2 meters need more volunteers for NCS. Also, several folks discussed adding a six-meter net at the May meeting. All it takes is one person to step up and set the parameters -- time, day, frequency and format.

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 volunteers to assist Gerry White, KH7YS, who is the leader for this project.

**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: Randy DuCharme, AD5GB
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

From the President

Kevin Thornton, K5KVN

Well, if you missed the last meeting you missed the amusement of seeing Mikey get the “club mascot,” our tube donated by W5JAY. The July meeting saw the first time for this tradition that will hopefully continue indefinitely. This month, the fun continues as we wait with high anticipation to see if Mikey returns the tube to the August meeting, to be passed on to the next victim... errr, I mean proud recipient. In all seriousness, the door prizes to be had are incredible! Be sure to put your name on the sign-in sheet this month!

Our program for August is “Scott W5JSR and the APRS road show.” Following that, I will do my best to move the business meeting along as quickly as possible. The Executive Board is toying with the idea of having an informal lunch meeting to be held at the U of A student Union a couple of weeks before each regular monthly meeting. This, we hope, will take care of some of the small work that needs to be done. Particularly, this can keep us updated on projects, upcoming events, and other small things that need not be hashed over in great length at the regular meetings. What do you think? Let us know at this month’s meeting, and we’ll make a final decision on when and where we’ll meet. Bring a friend to the next meeting!

73,
Kevin
K5KVN

CONTACTING YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Kevin Thornton, K5KVN	President	kthornto@hotmail.com
Gerry White, KH7YS	Vice President	gw@zinfoserv.com
Mose Howard, KB5BV	Treasurer	kb5bv@hotmail.com
Bill Smith, K1ARK	Secretary	bismith@uark.edu
Randy DuCharme, AD5GB	At-Large Board Member	ad5gb@arrl.net
Norwin Harral, N5YOR	Past President	nharral@aeromet.com

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary/Newsletter
Kevin Thornton	Gerry White	Mose Howard	Bill Smith
K5KVN	KH7YS	KB5BV	K1ARK
2633 Springbrook Ave.	1731 W. Reap Drive, Apt. C	1775 N. Hunters Ridge	2164 Magnolia Drive
Springdale, AR 72764	Fayetteville, AR 72703	Fayetteville, AR 72701	Fayetteville, AR
H-479-751-6706	H-479-799-6178	H-479-571-8470	72703
W-479-442-0102	W-479-575-3762	W-n/a	H-479-443-9450
kthornto@hotmail.com	kh7ys@arrl.net	kb5bv@hotmail.com	W-479-575-3618
			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

Benton County Assistant ECs

Mike Engelke, KD5DGT,

Siloam Springs

Bob Kendal, K5KBK,

Digital coordinator

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 Fair weather, bad nets

The good news is, the weather has been great. The bad news is, that leads to fewer check ins on the the training net. Please try to make a habit of checking in each Monday if you are a weather spotter, and again on Tuesday night with the ARES net if you are interested in emergency communications and public service events.

Why are training nets so important?

Aside from the obvious, it helps to know who is in town and shows who can be called on in a real emergency. Many of you received this as an email earlier, but I think the story bears repeating. It comes from the ARRL EC Mentors listserv:

A couple of years ago, our local ARES group was undergoing (vehicular) traffic training by our Sheriff's department. We have 14 on/off ramps in our county, and during snowstorms and other similar emergencies, there are simply not enough deputies to keep them closed when the highway is impassible, so the Sheriff thought that our ARES folks could help by staffing barricades. He wanted to make sure we could do the job safely, and so offered the course in traffic control at one of our monthly meetings, including videos, a presentation and practice in the parking lot with vests, flares and the like. Interestingly, a one old timer balked at the training because he though it to be beyond the envelope of what hams should do it was not traditional ham activity. He did not participate, but all the others in the group did. This was a Thursday night.

Two days later (Saturday), we had a violent windstorm go through our county, and in one municipality, several high tension lines went down, sparking and popping at a main intersection. Our hams had been dispatched to spot damage and report it (our ARES group is permanently attached to Emergency Management by common consent), and a couple of our hams who had taken the training and also lived in that municipality were first to spot the downed high tension lines. They reported and quickly posted themselves at that intersection, directing traffic around the dangerous lines, until the police could get there to take over. Clearly, during that time they prevented injury or worse to members of the public. Training on Thursday night, practice on Saturday afternoon. You bet training is valuable.

Dr. Stanley Kaplan, WB9RQR (skaplan@mcw.edu)
Section Emergency Coordinator, Wisconsin Section (ARRL-ARES)

Testing, testing

The CE testing team has received the new one-section Level I tests. This means if you are in self-study, you can take the appropriate test that goes with your study manual. Older manuals had the three-section approach, but are being phased out.

All EC classes on hold until September

As the ARRL figures out how to administer its federal grant for the Level I EC course, all classes except for a state of Connecticut sponsored session are on hold. Same goes for our local attempt at a new classroom course.

This much we know about the federal grant

It is set to apply only to Level I, and some formula is coming out in the next few weeks. It is also unclear if the grants will only apply to the online class -- which, by the way, has gone up to \$45 -- or if one can apply this toward a classroom course.

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 Gerry White.

SEPTEMBER

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!

ARKAN Meeting Oct. 23

On the eve of the big national contests, new member Don Banta, N5DB, introduces the world of contesting and award chasing.

NOVEMBER

Arkansas QSO Party Nov. 10-11
Get on the air for the weekend and spend a little time getting to know your fellow amateurs across the state.

ARKAN Meeting Nov. 23

Fox hunting can be much more than just direction finding. Sergei Storkov will show us how the sport of fox hunting works, as well as give tips on better DF.

DECEMBER -- FEBRUARY

Meeting programs are open.

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.

Notes from last month's presentation:

Randy DuCharme (AD5GB) provided the club a great primer on packet operation. After reviewing the general history of packet radio's development in the amateur radio community, DuCharme demonstrated the use of packet via two-meters.

Unfortunately, there is not a lot of local packet activity and currently the links out of northwest Arkansas are broken to the rest of the state. The DX cluster is active, and DuCharme showed how this can be used to check for HF activity.

While packet is the public service communications standard in many areas, it is not for northwest Arkansas due to the linking issues. The value of packet is the accuracy, volume and relative confidentiality of emergency information. DuCharme noted the active frequencies in our area are 145.61 (K5HOG — when up), 145.65 (DX cluster) and some on 145.010.

The Arkansas Packet Network hopes to have its node fixed at Whitney Mountain later this summer to address the linking out of the area. Kevin Mansur, the state packet coordinator, would soon have the two meter unit at 145.010.

Arkansas QSO Party dates set; Nov. 10-11

Here's the short-form rules and details that Bill Smith submitted to ARRL, NCJ and CQ. Full event rules will be printed in the October ARKAN newsletter:

Arkansas QSO Party: CW/SSB/PSK31 sponsored by K1ARK; 0000z to 0600z Nov. 10, 2002; 1400z on Nov. 10, 2002; until 0100 on Nov. 11. Frequencies: CW—3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050; PHONE—3.980, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360, 145-147; PSK—3580, 7070; 14.070; 21.080; 28.120. Categories: SO, MS, Mobile, HP, LP, QRP, S/P/C, PSK. Exchange: RST, state or province, DX stations send "DX." (Ohio stations exchange county.) QSO Points: PSK—3 pts, CW—2 pts, SSB—1 pt. Score: QSO points x AR counties (AR station count states, provinces and AR counties). Bonus stations: W5YM (25 pts per band/mode), AR ARRL affiliated club station (10 pts). For more information—<http://www.arkan.us>. Logs due 30 days after the contest to k1ark@arrl.net or to Bill Smith, K1ARK, 2164 Magnolia Drive, Fayetteville, AR, 72703.

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.

ARKAN address

The club now has a post office box to serve as the official address of the organization:
ARKAN
P.O. Box 9701
Fayetteville, AR 72703

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.

Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest

Minutes of July 2002, meeting

Arkansas Air Museum; Fayetteville, Ark.

Follow the conclusion of Randy DuCharme's (AD5GB) presentation on packet basics, club president Kevin Thornton (K5KVN) called the business meeting to order.

The minutes from the June meeting were read, and Mose Howard (KB5BV) made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter which was seconded by Scott Ratchford (W5JSR). Motion carried unanimously.

Howard presented the treasurer's report. The club has \$240 in the bank with \$20 to deposit for a balance of \$260. Signature cards were collected to change the account from Karen Harral to Howard as the new treasurer. Ratchford made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; seconded by Bill Smith (K1ARK) and the motion carried unanimously.

Under old business, Gerry White (KH7YS) will contact the Springdale Boy Scout headquarters about Jamboree of the Air in October.

Ratchford suggested making contact with the Scouts at their monthly leadership meeting. White asked for volunteers to assist with the event. Smith reported that papers have been filed for a club call sign with the FCC, and that a post office box has been secured. This makes the permanent address of the club P.O. Box 9701, Fayetteville, Ark., 72702. The post office box is located at the Joyce Street USPS, and the first six months rent was paid for as a donation to the club by Smith.

White updated the club on ARRL affiliated club status. The application had been passed through the section and divisional level, and approved by both. The club was only awaiting formal vote at the next ARRL board meeting. White discussed the benefits to the club of seeking Special Service Club status. Consensus was that the club should select two or three programs within SSC as points of emphasis to achieve the recognition.

Hill reminded the group of the QRP rig contest sponsored by CQ as a possible club project. He will forward the information to Thornton to send out on the email list.

Smith announced the Arkansas Simulated Emergency Test date and basic scenario. All club members — ARES or not — were urged to participate. Last year Washington County had a respectable score, and with effort this year could move up in the standings.

Under new business, Ratchford announced the Benton County Radio Operators were sponsoring a one-day technician study course and VE testing session.

The pursuit of a VEC team within ARKAN was discussed, and it was determined that the club had five extra class VE's already in the membership — Don Banta (K5DB), Richard Oliver (N5UWX), DuCharme, Ratchford and Smith. Following the meeting, DuCharme, Banta and Smith discussed the prospect with one of the area's current VECs, and will report on those talks next meeting. The consensus was a VEC was a needed goal to go along with the ARRL EC Course "CE" testing already offered each month.

Smith announced that KH7YX, Rona White, passed her ARRL Level I CE certification test prior to the club meeting, bringing the number of certified EC personnel in the club to five. This also marks five of the seven who enrolled in the classroom setting, and five of five who completed the course have passed.

Smith asks for more people to become involved in the net control duties, particularly the ARES net.

Ratchford announced that Sergei is starting a direction finding club/team to train for the next U.S. fox hunting nationals. He will report back to Thornton when he gets final details for distribution to the club members.

As a board member of the Arkansas Repeater Council, Ratchford brings up the current situation regarding the 146.865 and 146.700 repeater pairs. He made a motion that the club issue a letter to the Arkansas Repeater Council urging that the ARC make sure the pairs stay in the area. Smith pointed out that he would prefer that the club not become involved in the debate since it had the potential of dragging the group into a political battle. Several others spoke to the need to show support for the WX5NWA appeal for transfer of the pairs. Smith said he appreciated the support, but was concerned that if ARKAN was the only club making a statement it would not carry much weight. Ratchford indicated that he thought the BCRO and BC ARES would lend their support. Rona White offered an amendment to Ratchford's motion that ARKAN would draft a letter of support for other clubs to sign off on but without the support of other clubs the letter would not be issued.

Richard Oliver seconded the amended motion, and the motion carried by a vote of 11-1. The executive board of ARKAN would draft the letter and forward it to other clubs, as well as approach other clubs in the region for support.

Gerry White moved for adjournment at 9:08 PM, seconded by Ratchford.

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 \$5.00 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
Post Office Box 9701
Fayetteville, Ark. 72703