



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

September 2002

How the Other Half Lives

ARKAN MEETING

Sept. 23, 2002

AGENDA

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

Program

Kevin Thornton (K5KVN) tours group through FM transmitter

Business Meeting

Reading of the minutes
Treasurer's report

Old Business

Update on current projects
JOTA
Arkansas QSO Party
ARRL club membership status

New Business

Public service events in October
AutumnFest Parade
Arkansas SET
Worked All Arkansas Program

Door prize drawings
Meeting Adjournment

NEXT MEETING

Monday, Oct. 23

Just in time to get you fired up for the Arkansas QSO Party and all the other major November and winter contests, Don Banta (K5DB) will entertain the group with the ins and outs of contesting and awards.

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

Kevin Thornton (K5KVN) takes the club on a tour of the 100,000-watt transmitter site for one of our local FM broadcasters. It is a chance to see how a major station looks on the inside. The plan is for the club members to rally at the Arkansas Air Museum at the regular meeting time of 7 p.m., then drive up the hill to reach the transmitter site.

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.

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.

September Meeting Notes

Worked All Arkansas

It is about as official as it gets -- ARKAN will sponsor the Worked All Arkansas award for the state. While we don't anticipate a lot of entries, a form will be ready by next month to coincide with the Arkansas QSO Party. Bill Smith has volunteered to administer the program as well as create -- and most important for the club coffers *fund* -- the certificates. Any and all suggestions are welcome.

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.

Message from Tulsa

Hey Everyone,

No I haven't fallen off the face of the earth or at least not yet. This is your past president over here in T Town, well actually Bixby, well not really in Bixby, but in Jenks. You confused yet? We have purchased a house in Jenks, OK, but we have a Bixby mailing address. The address for us is 2546 E. 139th St., Bixby, OK 74008 and incase any of you would like to call the phone number is 918-366-6163. Also please note that my new email address (not the one I'm sending this to you from) is nherral@olp.net.

Been busy the last couple of months, no time for the radio and barely had enough time to get the computer put back together. Trey entered the Army and Courtney went off to college and together with all of that Karen and I both started our new jobs and moved into a new house, so we have been busy. I'm glad to see the club is doing good and everyone is having fun. Wish I could have stayed in the area.

Well I have got to go unpack some more boxes.

73's
N5YOR

**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: Rotational among students
 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

Greetings, everyone. Thank you for your participation in ARKAN so far. We have a great group of dedicated members! And word is getting out on the streets! People are speaking highly of the Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest.

Fall contest season is kicking off, so that will keep a lot of busy and having fun. And please mark your calendars for the upcoming ARKAN events. Even if you can only help out for an hour or two with one event, that will go a long way. As always, any help at all is appreciated.

The September meeting program involves a field trip! We'll pile into the vehicles and head to Kessler Mountain to see the KKIX-FM (KIX 104) transmitter site. If you have a truck, you might think about driving it to the meeting, because the road to the site can sometimes be rough. Also, bring your lead vests for radiation protection, because you can practically reach up and touch the FM bays on the short tower - hi hi. Seriously, I know you can't wait to see the lights that glow even when they are turned OFF! We'll move the business meeting along as fast as we can to assure plenty of daylight for the trip. See you Monday the 23rd! Introduce someone to ham radio by bringing 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	kh7ys@arrl.net
Mose Howard, KB5BV	Treasurer	kb5bv@hotmail.com
Bill Smith, K1ARK	Secretary	k1ark@arrl.net
Randy DuCharme, AD5GB	At-Large Board Member	ad5gb@arrl.net
Norwin Harral, N5YOR	Past President	nharral@olp.net

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
mturner@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 Regional SKYWARN meeting set for October

After a wave-off at the end of September, be listening on the repeaters for a new date for a meeting of the Eastern Oklahoma-Northwest Arkansas SKYWARN group here in Fayetteville.

If you are not a member of the group yet, I highly encourage you to sign up. Go to the website at: www.okarkskywarn.com

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.

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.

Here's the answer as of today on the EC course

Straight from the EC mentor's list, this came in on Thursday:

ARRL Emergency Communications Course Registration

Registration opens Monday, September 23, 4 PM Eastern Daylight Time (2000 UTC) for the ARRL Level I Emergency Communications course (EC-001) supported by the recent federal homeland security grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

This class is reserved for up to 200 students who now hold an official ARRL field appointment (ie, ACC, ASM, BM, DEC, EC, LGL, NM, OBS, OES, OO, OOC, ORS, PIC, PIO, SEC, SGL, SM, STM, TC or TS). Registration will remain open until Monday, October 14, or until all 200 seats have been filled--whichever comes first.

Mentor/instructor assignments will be made and course welcome letters go out October 15, followed shortly by access codes. Students taking advantage of Level I emergency communications training under the CNCS grant program will be asked to pay for the course via credit card during registration. Upon successfully completing the training and certification, students will be reimbursed the \$45 fee.

General registration for ARRL members in the CNCS-reimbursable Level I course will open in a few weeks. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, dmiller@arrl.org; 860-594-0340.

It appears that the days of classroom Level I in the traditional sense are over, and that self-study will not be eligible for reimbursement. More to come later.

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.

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:

Scott Ratchford (W5JSR) made a presentation on APRS at the September meeting. After a brief history of APRS – which included the interesting note that it was originally used to track horses in cross country races in the early 1980s – Ratchford broke down the basics of APRS operations. Position comes from a GPS unit into a TNS to create unidentified packets of information, with the key for those accustomed to traditional packet being “unconnected” packets. These are sent out over a specified number of hops into the digipeater system. Among the hardware items Ratchford showed were the Kenwood units which are prebuilt with TNCs for APRS functions as well as the small TigerTrak APRS-specific TNC units for other two-meter radios. The GPS units can be as simple as no-display gear as cheap as \$120.

In addition to traditional digipeaters, Ratchford pointed out that there were APRS satellites and the ISS allows digipeating of APRS. Short email messages – 128 character limit – are possible via APRS, and this allows for true wireless email. There are internet gateways via APRS to stretch the range as well.

APRS is very useful in search and rescue, and Benton County Sheriffs Office planned to outfit its unit with ETreks and TigerTrak units for personal tracking.

Another interesting internet application is FindU that allows a ham to track via IGates and mapping the progress of other mobile hams.

The national frequency for APRS is 144.390, with the satellites using 145.80 for the uplink and a 440-frequency for downlink.

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 August 2002, meeting Arkansas Air Museum; Fayetteville, Ark.

Business meeting was called to order at 7:54 by Kevin Thornton, K5KVN.

A motion to accept the July minutes as printed in the August newsletter was made by Randy DuCharme, AD5GB, and seconded by Scott Ratchford, W5JSR. The motion carried unanimously.

Mose Howard, KB5BV, presented the treasurer's report. The account balance was \$260 and all names and signature cards were now transferred. Howard reported that the club needed to purchase checks, and he planned to make this \$9.95 purchase through ARVEST. Bill Smith, K1ARK, made the motion to accept the report, seconded by Gerry White, KH7YS. The motion carried unanimously.

Under old business

White updated the club on his talks with the Boy Scout council regarding the upcoming Jamboree of the Air in October. He will attend the Boy Scout manager's meeting on Oct. 3 in Springdale to present the plan. Smith said he would also attend to assist.

Smith updated the group on the plans to help the AutumnFest Parade with crowd support. Nine volunteers are needed. He also told the group about the plans for Arkansas SET as the stood. Ratchford said he hoped that the packet node in Benton County would be up by the outset of the drill.

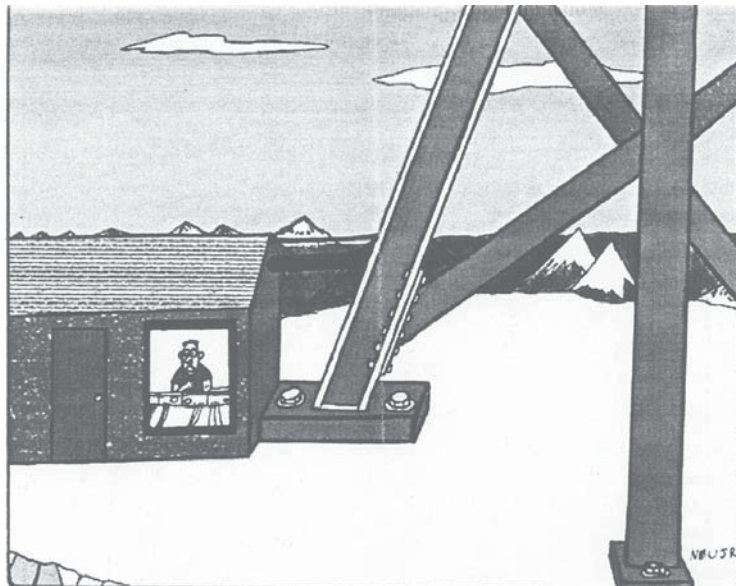
The club discussed vanity call signs to replace the FCC assigned KD5THC. In order, AA5AR, K5KAN, W5RKN, K5RKN and WX5AR were chosen to be placed on the vanity form.

DuCharme made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Smith, at 8:26 p.m.

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 × 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.



"Yes I really am running just 5 watts QRP...although I suppose I do have an above average antenna system..."

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