



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

March 2003

Antenna Construction Hints

ARKAN MEETING
March 24, 2003

AGENDA

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

Program

Antenna Construction

Business Meeting

Reading of the minutes
Treasurer's report

Old Business

Membership drive
Club callsign update
ARKAN

New Business

Adopt-A-Highway program

ARKAN station construction
Door prize drawings
Meeting adjournment

NEXT MEETING
Monday, April 28

Bill Smith covers some of the basics of net control and traffic handling for emergency communications.

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

Randal DuChame (AD5GB) provides our program this month with hints on effective antenna construction. Come with a healthy curiosity, and be prepared to learn the ins-and-outs of balun construction!

From the President

Kevin Thornton, K5KVN

Happy Birthday to ARKAN!

It's been one full year now for the club. A brief look back shows a lot of great accomplishments for the group:

We secured a meeting place at the Arkansas Air Museum, we operated special event station W5F while providing VHF communications for Airfest in June, we became Arkansas' newest ARRL-affiliated club, some members of the club became certified with the ARRL emergency communications courses, we had great press coverage in local newspapers, we are beginning work on a permanent operating position inside the museum.

We have a lot coming up this summer, including construction of the club station inside the museum! Please attend the next meeting to provide your input. Here's to another great year for Amateur Radio and ARKAN!

73, Kevin
K5KVN

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.

MARCH

Heart Walk Mar. 29
The American Heart Association's Heart Walk takes place around the University of Arkansas campus. Several members of ARCUA joined with other amateurs on this event. Time commitment is about one hour on Saturday morning.

CONTACT: Bill Smith
k1ark@arrl.net

APRIL

Lewis & Clark Challenge Apr. 11-13
Outdoor challenge includes mountain bike, canoe and climbing among other events. The 36-hour event requires some volunteers to camp in the Ozark National Forest to help man the checkpoints. Volunteers for shifts are also needed.

CONTACT: Buster
ad5am@arrl.net
479-631-9231

JUNE

AIRFEST 2003 June 14-15
More workers are needed for this event. In addition to flight line access, volunteers receive admission when not on duty. Support for communications and event operations.

CONTACT: Bill Smith
k1ark@arrl.net

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 Herral, N5YOR	Past President	nherral@olp.net

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

March Meeting Notes

Special events are here

Starting this weekend, the special events aren't just coming up any more -- they are on our doorstep starting with Saturday's American Heart Walk. The University of Arkansas Amateur Radio Club needs everyone's help for this event. On the heels of the Heart Walk is the Lewis & Clark Challenge. There are updates on the key info for both of these events in the newsletter.

Arkansas QSO Party revision coming

Two of our winners have gone back and reviewed their submissions and asked for a rescore - very amiable, by the way. Once Bill Smith gets back into town and can recheck their score sheets, some minor changes are expected. He also reports that once this is done, the certificates for participants should be going out in mid-April.

Worked All Arkansas

The certificates are in the works and the official submission form will be attached to this month's newsletter. Check your old QSO cards or get a start on this award in next month's Arkansas QSO party. **Application form is on page seven.**

Your dues are due

Although 2002 was a "short" year with the club forming in March, dues for the 2003 year are due at the January meeting. Please help out and renew, and encourage your friends to join.

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! 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.

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
Benton County Radio Operators
FREQ: 145.290 - (pl 110.9)
TIME: 7:00 p.m. Thursdays
Benton County ARES/RACES
FREQ: 145.290 - (pl 110.9)
TIME: 7:30 p.m. Thursdays

OTHER AREA NETS

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

The Weather Report

W5YM University WeatherNet info from Bill Smith, K1ARK
Spring weather is here

It looks like we can put those winter weather alert scripts back into the files. Spring spotting season is upon us, and we've already had a couple of near active events.

The latest in alerts are special weather statements. They are not warnings or watches, but we should consider them for what they are -- special alerts and monitor both the weather and the repeater.

One of the important items from the March spotter training session was the reemphasis for all in attendance that the Tulsa radar is not seeing the weather below 3,000 feet. That means any time there is a watch or a special statement, the potential for severe weather that we see first and Tulsa sees second -- or not at all -- is very real.

Let's all be on our toes.

April Fools -- your antenna's broken

With April 1 right around the corner, use that day to check out your 2-meter equipment. Recheck the integrity of coax and connections. Perhaps get out the SWR meter and verify that you still have good SWR. Kevin Thornton has a great tip this month on making a 440 antenna that can also be adapted for 2 meters. These homemade ground plane antennas make excellent "hidey-hole" emergency antennas for inside the house.

Storm spotter training excellent -- don't miss it again

Thanks for those that took the time to attend the March 10 Tulsa NWS spotter training session at the University.

The presentation was completely new -- lots of real-time video followed by 3x versions to reveal the answers (was that rotating? was that showing upward motion?).

Without a doubt, this was the most informative spotter training session that we've seen, and I highly recommend that if anyone has the chance to get to one of the remaining sessions in a neighboring county.

Slow times on the nets

This is my bad time of the year for NCS, so please, any Monday or Tuesday that anyone does not hear me at 8 p.m., jump in and run the net. We need to keep the consistency of the nets up. My job keeps me busy during the winter nights with hoops games, and sometimes travel -- as it did in February -- has me out of town.

That said, don't forget to check in on the nets. Spring weather is upon us.

Calling Tech class, again

In conjunction with the AAM, some of the weather staff at KFAA and the rocketeers from the local club, I'm prepping for a technician class at the museum. Those that showed interest were looking for a four-session (Tuesday-Thursday evening) class that would finish in time for the April OWS testing session.

Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest

Treasurer's Report

Here's the report for March 2003.

Balance 2/1/2003	\$382.08
Deposit 2/15/3003	40.00
Total Bank Balance	\$422.08

Reminder that dues are now due - \$20.00. Also, if anyone wants to contribute to the radio fund please do so. Thanks, Mose

ARKAN CALENDAR

Take a look ahead at upcoming meeting dates and program topics

MARCH

Antenna Construction Mar. 24
Randy DuCharme shaves his construction tips and hints for antennas. Also, expect some new insight into baluns, and how to wind your own.

APRIL

ARES & EC Apr. 28
Emergency Communications -- Basics and Resources by the District L EC, Bill Smith. An overview of local operations and the ARRL's role through organization and education.

MAY

Open program May 26
Once again, the club meeting lands on Memorial Day. Members may want to consider if the meeting is moved to another Monday.

Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest

Minutes of February 2003, meeting
Arkansas Air Museum; Fayetteville, Ark.

Minutes taken by Mose KB5BV

Minutes of March 3, 2003 meeting of ARKAN

Meeting called to order by Kevin

Program by TARC group, Norwin Harral, Tim Diehl, KB5ZVC and Gregg Wonderly, W5GGW on Amateur Television.

Business Meeting

Minutes for January meeting were approved - motion by Don Banta and seconded by John Cobb.

Treasure's report was approved - motion by Don Banta and seconded by John Cobb.

Technician Class License class was discussed. There is some interest from Civil Air Patrol.

Membership drive - Gordon Speak will be getting ARRL info on area ARRL members soon. There was discussion on making an email to everyone we have email address.

Club call sign - Don Banta will take over as trustee and take charge of securing the call sign AA5AR. Motion by Gordon Speaks and seconded.

Adopt A Highway - Kevin received a map from Arkansas Highway Department with one mile sections we could sponsor.

The Air Museum has given ARKAN permission for a station to be in the southwest corner of the hanger. Also, the airport director has approved the tower, however, a city permit will be needed. Kevin will check on it.

Kevin will check on it.

Don Banta asked how many members are VEs and there was discussion of how ARKAN can assist the OWS club with VE testing.

Motion to adjourn by Don Banta and seconded by John Cobb.

AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS CALENDAR

Keep in mind these events coming up.

APRIL

ARKIECON April 5
Hosted by the Fort Smith Amateur Radio Club. QRP Forums and other events, including free tailgating. Start time is 8 a.m. at the Columbus Hall on Columbus Acres Road. Talk-in on 146.940. For more info: www.fsaarc.org or www.arkiecon.com

Joplin Hamfest April 4-5
Joplin, Missouri. John Q. Hammons Convention Center on I-44 (exit 8B). For more info: www.joplin-arc.org

ARES Arkansas April 25-26
One of the two major Little Rock Hamfests. Will host a state ARRL session along with other events. Little Rock Exposition Center on I-30. Friday times are 4-8 p.m., Saturday starts at 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more info: www.aristotle.net/~hamfest/

MAY

Dayton Hamvention May 16-18
Bill Smith is looking for a group of amateurs who want to join in on the experience of a lifetime. The drive is only 11 hours (actually very easy), and there is nothing like the world's largest hamfest.

Ham Hints

Kevin Thornton, K5KVN

With the possibility of a 440MHz repeater coming to the club, let's see how easy it is to make a 440MHz vertical ground plane antenna. Using an SO239 connector (the chassis-mount type with a solder connection on one end), and some metal clothes hangers you can build and install this antenna in less than 30 minutes.

Remember the formula for finding the length of a 1/4 wave driven element:
Length (feet) = 234/freq (MHz)

Pick a frequency you would use most often and plug it into the formula. For example, let's assume you would operate on a few repeaters that have inputs near 443MHz. That means the length of your driven element would be 0.528 feet, or 6.339 inches. Use the same measurement for the four radials. Now, get a couple of wire clothes hangers, straighten them out and cut five pieces to a little over 6 and 1/3 inches. It's better to cut long, then clip by about 1/8 of an inch as you adjust for tuning.

Solder your driven element to the open end of the SO239. Attach the other four elements to the chassis mounts, and remember to bend them away from the driven element at about a 45-degree angle.

Send your ham hint to k1ark@arrl.net for submission to the ARKAN newsletter!

Ozark Challenge

Update: Still needs volunteers

Got some details on the Ozark Challenge today. Looks like we will have help from Boone and Newton Co's. What I am needing are 4-5 people (teams) to do checks Saturday evening into Sunday morning. Two of the checks will be hwy crossings while the rest will be remote. (no cell coverage) This area will be close to the same area where Haley Zega was lost a couple of years ago. Be a good time to hone those SAR skills. Also could use 2-3 people for Sunday morning, most likely be done by 1 pm. If you can find me any help it would be appreciated.

What we need from the NWA area are volunteers that can work overnight Saturday April 12 helping track the teams and volunteers for the basic finals on Sunday April 13 at Byrd's campground near Cass. I need to know by March 23 whether any of your group can help, what time they can help, so that I can plan out where to put people and also how many shirts we will need. Also, if your groups do not want to even consider doing this event, please let me know that also, as that will let me know not to look for any of your group as a last minute possibility.

Garey
n5zmw

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 Worked All-Arkansas Award Work Sheet

To qualify for the Worked All-Arkansas Award, a station must have written verification of QSOs -- any band or mode -- with all 75 counties of the state of Arkansas. Please fill in the application sheet below, and return the completed application plus a \$5.00 award certificate fee to: ARKAN, P.O. Box 9701, Fayetteville, AR, 72703. All applications must be verified and signed off by two current officers of a registered ARRL club, or by presentation of cards with form. If sending cards, please include return postage.

COUNTY	CALL	TOWN	BAND	COUNTY	CALL	TOWN	BAND
ARKANSAS	_____	_____	_____	LAWRENCE	_____	_____	_____
ASHLEY	_____	_____	_____	LEE	_____	_____	_____
BAXTER	_____	_____	_____	LINCOLN	_____	_____	_____
BENTON	_____	_____	_____	LITTLE RIVER	_____	_____	_____
BOONE	_____	_____	_____	LOGAN	_____	_____	_____
BRADLEY	_____	_____	_____	LONOKE	_____	_____	_____
CALHOUN	_____	_____	_____	MADISON	_____	_____	_____
CARROLL	_____	_____	_____	MARION	_____	_____	_____
CHICOT	_____	_____	_____	MILLER	_____	_____	_____
CLARK	_____	_____	_____	MISSISSIPPI	_____	_____	_____
CLAY	_____	_____	_____	MONROE	_____	_____	_____
CLEBURNE	_____	_____	_____	MONTGOMERY	_____	_____	_____
CLEVELAND	_____	_____	_____	NEVADA	_____	_____	_____
COLUMBIA	_____	_____	_____	NEWTON	_____	_____	_____
CONWAY	_____	_____	_____	OUACHITA	_____	_____	_____
CRAIGHEAD	_____	_____	_____	PERRY	_____	_____	_____
CRAWFORD	_____	_____	_____	PHILLIPS	_____	_____	_____
CRITTENDEN	_____	_____	_____	PIKE	_____	_____	_____
CROSS	_____	_____	_____	POINSETT	_____	_____	_____
DALLAS	_____	_____	_____	POLK	_____	_____	_____
DESHA	_____	_____	_____	POPE	_____	_____	_____
DREW	_____	_____	_____	PRAIRIE	_____	_____	_____
FAULKNER	_____	_____	_____	PULASKI	_____	_____	_____
FRANKLIN	_____	_____	_____	RANDOLPH	_____	_____	_____
FULTON	_____	_____	_____	ST. FRANCIS	_____	_____	_____
GARLAND	_____	_____	_____	SALINE	_____	_____	_____
GRANT	_____	_____	_____	SCOTT	_____	_____	_____
GREENE	_____	_____	_____	SEARCY	_____	_____	_____
HEMPSTEAD	_____	_____	_____	SEBASTIAN	_____	_____	_____
HOT SPRING	_____	_____	_____	SEVIER	_____	_____	_____
HOWARD	_____	_____	_____	SHARP	_____	_____	_____
INDEPENDENCE	_____	_____	_____	STONE	_____	_____	_____
IZARD	_____	_____	_____	UNION	_____	_____	_____
JACKSON	_____	_____	_____	VAN BUREN	_____	_____	_____
JEFFERSON	_____	_____	_____	WASHINGTON	_____	_____	_____
JOHNSON	_____	_____	_____	WHITE	_____	_____	_____
LAFAYETTE	_____	_____	_____	WOODRUFF	_____	_____	_____
				YELL	_____	_____	_____

I certify the contacts listed above as correct by visual inspection of the confirmed written QSOs, and I am a duly elected Ark. ARRL club officer.

#1 PRINT NAME: _____ CLUB: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

#2 PRINT NAME: _____ CLUB: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

ARKAN

Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest
Post Office Box 9701
Fayetteville, Ark. 72703