



## WEEKLY 2-METER NETS

*All nets listed are 8:00 PM local time*

Monday: W5YM University WeatherNet (147.135+, 110.9)

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

Wednesday: ARCUA Traffic Net (147.135+, 110.9)

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

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

# ARKAN

SERVING  
THE  
AMATEUR  
SERVICE

Newsletter of the Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest

March 2005

## Packet Radio

### ARKAN MEETING

**March 28, 2005**

#### AGENDA

Club members sign in for drawings

Call meeting to order

Acknowledge and welcome visitors

#### Program

##### Business Meeting

Reading of the minutes from February

Minutes from February and

March Executive Committee

Treasurer's report

##### Old Business

SSC appointments for PIO

JOTA chair

##### New Business

Door prize drawings

Newsletter

Meeting adjournment

##### VE Testing

To follow meeting

### NEXT MEETING

**Monday, April 25**

Don Banta, K5DB, shows how to get into the exciting world of DX.

Join the club for our next meeting. ARKAN meets at the Arkansas Air Museum at Fayetteville Municipal Field each fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m.

The ARKAN club's masters of packet disaster, John Robinson, KD5NFX, and Steve Barrington, N9NSO, will make a presentation on the state of packet radio in our area. They will also cover some of the basics of getting started in packet radio.

## Pres Note

Hello Everyone,

Spring is finally here and ham radio activities will be ramping up in short order. ARKAN is holding a foxhunt for our April 9th Second Saturday Workshop. We will meet at the AR Air Museum at 10:00am to go over a few things about the foxhunt then move out to the foxhunt area. If you do not have foxhunting experience or equipment we will pair you up with someone that does so you can get the feel for how things work. If you have equipment for foxhunting, bring it along. Most of us simply use a portable 2m yagi and a HT for our foxhunting gear, with a few of the more experienced having a bit more sophisticated equipment. Now is the time to get started foxhunting with us. Our members now have two fox transmitters and the hunts will get larger and more sophisticated as time moves on. Come out and join us for the April hunt and have some fun.

Packet radio has been buzzing pretty well on 145.090 with several folks in NW AR playing around with vhf packet on a regular basis. If you have packet equipment tune to 145.090 and get in on the fun.

I hope everyone is getting out and making it to some of the area hamfests this year. Hamfests are as much of a social event as a time to shop for those needed items and bargains. I always manage to run into people I know at any hamfest I have ever been to, including when I went to the Dayton, OH hamfest a couple years ago. Hamfests give us the opportunity to meet up with old friends and make new ones. This is also the best place to stock up on small parts that we always seem to need such as various connectors and cables. Hamfests are also a great place to look into the past at ham radio, with there usually being many old radios and pieces of equipment rich with history that people enjoy sharing with others.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the ARKAN meeting Monday March 28th!

73,

John Robinson kd5nfx

**ARKAN on the web at: [www.arkan.us](http://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.

**APRIL**

**Heart Walk** April 2  
Very compact time and space commitment to this fourth annual event. The walk takes place around the perimeter of the University main campus, and hams from the University club work this as a memorial to former advisor, Woody Charlton, who had serious heart problems and his very last ham event was working the first Heart Walk  
CONTACT: Bill Smith, K1ARK

**Ozark Challenge** April 9-10  
This is a 36-hour event featuring wilderness skill relays -- kayaking, mountain climbing, etc. -- through the Ozark National Forest. Persons who can volunteer for the entire event and stay overnight in the ONF are requested along with folks who can work shifts.  
CONTACT: Buster Morrow, AD5AM  
479-631-9231  
ad5am@mc2k.com

**JUNE**

**AIRFEST 2005** June 18-19  
ARKAN club members should make their best effort to assist both with the communications at the annual Arkansas Air Museum event and the special event station at AA5AR.  
CONTACT: Chair to be announced

**OCTOBER**

**Tour deCure** Oct 8, 2005  
The date is now set for the American Diabetis Association event. This is a 25-, 50- and 100-mile bicycle ride that starts and finishes on the Bentoville square, and runs on the long leg through three states. It was very successful and anticipated to need assistance again.  
CONTACT: Buster Morrow, AD5AM  
479-631-9231  
ad5am@mc2k.com

# March Meeting Notes

## Happy Birthday ARKAN

Next month marks the fourth year for the ARKAN club. It was four years ago this month that former club presidents Norwin Harrel and Bill Smith called the organizational meeting for a new club that focused on putting fun back into amateur radio and interest for all parts of the hobby.

## Farewell newsletter editor

This month's issue marks the final edition for club founder and long-time newsletter editor, Bill Smith. The floor is open for a new editor to be appointed by the board per the club bylaws.

## K1ARK published in QST

Club newsletter editor and board member Bill Smith, K1ARK, received notice this month that his submission to QST will be published in the Hints and Kinks section of the April 2005 edition.

## Public service season is upon us

April starts the run of public service events with the Heart Walk on April 2 and the Ozark Challenge April 9-10. Please take time if you can to assist in these events. They help bring positive visibility to amateur radio.

## Still seeking Public Information Officer, JOTA Chair

For the club's continued ARRL membership at the SSC level, several appointed positions must be filled -- public information officer remains. It is best if we are not doubling (or tripling) assignments in our SSC structure. These appointments are a great way to involve all the members of the club.

## Your radio memories

Do you remember how excited you were about that first DX contact? Or your 50th state? Or your first night on an active storm net? Share them with us for the monthly newsletter. Email your radio memories to newsletter editor Bill Smith for inclusion in upcoming issues. We have lots of newcomers to the hobby in the club, and they would benefit from your experiences.

# Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest

## Treasurer's Report

Here's the February Treasure's Report

	<u>DEBT</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Forward 2/19/2005			\$918.37
Check 2/22/2005 USPS-box rent	\$38.00		
Deposit 3/1/2005		\$65.00	
Balance			\$945.37

# ARKAN address

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

## AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS CALENDAR

Keep in mind these events coming up.

**APRIL**  
Fort Smith April 2

## ARKAN CALENDAR

Take a look ahead at upcoming meeting dates and program topics

**APRIL**  
Getting into HF April 25  
Don Banta, K5DB

**MAY**  
Field Day preparations May 23  
Steve Barrington, N9NSO

**JUNE**  
Grounding systems June 27  
Local power company

# Ambassadors of Amateur Radio

by Steve Barrington, N9NSO

*“... Holding an amateur license and being a radio amateur are not necessarily the same thing!” – Roger Barker, G4IDE (sk)*

Anyone who's been around for awhile has seen our world evolve into an instant gratification, plug-n-play society. Many of the products we purchase these days don't require any skills to operate and rarely is any assembly required. Has this influence crept into Amateur Radio?

Roger Barker, G4IDE (sk) – quoted above - was a developer of software for amateur radio. His philosophy has been that of the Amateur Radio community since its inception... self-training and experimentation. However, this philosophy is slowly and unwittingly being eradicated.

When I first became interested in Amateur Radio, I was drawn by the skills and knowledge required to become a licensed Ham. I was drawn by the challenges to experiment and learn about new technology. Back then, amateurs who held an “Extra Class” ticket were revered and looked upon as the few who have mastered the radio arts! If the General or Advanced Class Hams didn't have the answer, the Extra Class surely would. It also used to mean something to put “License Amateur Radio Operator” on an application or resume under the heading of “skills”. It meant you had the discipline to learn basic electronic skills. Unfortunately, this is no longer true.

Agree or disagree, getting an amateur license has never been easier. The only skill necessary in obtaining a license is a half-way decent, short-term memory and a wad of cash. All the questions with all the correct answers are readily available in books and on the Internet. No longer are skills or basic electronic knowledge needed to be demonstrated. How many new (and not so new) Hams can apply Ohm's Law to calculate voltage, current, resistance, or power? Now there are discussions about the 5-words-per-minute code requirement being eliminated from the already vanishing list of skills. Some have even suggested that, just like the rest of our society, Amateur Radio has been “dumbed down”.

For example, the radios we purchase today are essentially “plug-n-play”, and come with “Quick Start Guides” which mean you'll know enough to operate it until you hit the wrong button. Then you're condemned to reading the manual! Where's the skill? Where's the learning? Instant gratification! Yeah, baby!

I know that this is not true of all newly licensed Hams. In fact, it's been very refreshing to recently meet some new Hams who have the same enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge and skill development that many of us had when we first became Hams. It is important that the rest of us nurture and encourage these and all new Hams to become good Ambassadors of Amateur Radio.

Amateur Radio is in the fight of its life. While big commercial communication conglomerates are greasing the political palms to buy up any available frequency in the radio spectrum, public opinion of Amateur Radio is extremely critical for our survival. The public monitors our transmissions, especially on the repeater frequencies. What we say and how we say it (how we operate) provides an image of Amateur Radio to the general public. Breaking into the middle of a QSO on a repeater (which is extremely rude) and saying something unkind about one of the operators (even though it is done in jest), does not provide a good image of Amateur Radio. There are other radio services where this type of behavior is common, but it is not for Amateur Radio. When I mentioned that the general public monitors our repeater frequencies, I include public officials. These are the people who will decide if they want to utilize the services of Amateur Radio in times of emergency. We need to become better Ambassadors of Amateur Radio. Even though our hobby is called Amateur Radio, it has been noted in the past that the way we operate is more professional than amateur. Let's keep up the traditions of the radio arts and hone our operating skills and bring a little pride back into this great hobby. Let's be good Ambassadors of Amateur Radio!

## AREA 2 METER NETS MONDAY

**W5YM University WeatherNet**  
Net Control: Bill Smith, K1ARK  
Weather spotter group for Washington  
County, Arkansas; Information for  
emergency communications.  
FREQ: 147.135 + (pl 110.9)  
TIME: 8:00 PM local

## TUESDAY

**Washington County ARES**  
Net Control: tba  
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 + (pl 110.9)  
TIME: 8:00 PM local

### Bella Vista Radio Club

FREQ: 145.255  
TIME: 8:00 p.m.

### Berry County, Mo., ARES Net

FREQ: 145.210- (pl 162.2)  
TIME: 9:00 PM local

## THURSDAY

### ARKAN On the Air

Net Control: John Robinson, KD5NFX.  
Weekly meeting for ARKAN and traffic  
handling. Followed each week by a trader  
net for local hams.

FREQ: 146.955 - (pl 110.9)  
TIME: 8:00 PM local

### Benton County Radio Operators

FREQ: 145.290 -  
TIME: 7:00 p.m. Thursdays

### Benton County ARES/RACES

FREQ: 145.290 -  
TIME: 7:30 p.m. Thursdays

### TARC Triple T Net -- TARC System

FREQ: Your nearby TARC linked repeater  
TIME: 8:00 p.m. Thursdays

### Mayes County, Okla., Radio Club Net

FREQ: 147.060+ (pl 88.5)  
TIME: 8:00 p.m. local

### Fort Smith ARC Net

FREQ: 146.640- (no pl)  
TIME: 8:00 p.m.

## SUNDAY

### Kimberling City, Mo., Club Net

FREQ: 147.345+ (no pl)  
TIME: 9:00 p.m. local

# Getting Wire Antennas Up Into the Trees

by John Robinson, KD5NFX

I have read many articles over the years about methods to get wire antennas strung high up into the trees for mounting points. I have not tried until recently to install a wire antenna using a couple of really tall trees. Most portable wires I have hung in the past were tied off to small trees, towers, light poles, etc. and always worked pretty well. My new shack location is abundant with tall oak trees, some being more than 100' tall so the light bulb went off and I thought back to the various articles I had read about using tall trees to hang wire antennas and thought, why not? I had bought a nice wrist rocket slingshot a while back and thought that would work nicely. I had various weights of fishing line on hand also and only had to run to the store to buy some heavy fishing sinkers to use as my projectile.

Once I had everything on hand I decided it was time to hang my 80 meter wire high in the trees. I started with 20 lb. test fishing line thinking heavier is better, I also tied a 2 oz. round lead fishing weight on the end of the line to shoot thinking once again, heavier is better. I had made a makeshift stand for the spool of fishing line figuring it would un-spool nicely as the fishing weight soared through the air towards by intended destination...wrong! The line does not un-spool nicely and my makeshift stand fell apart with my first shot of the wrist rocket and the weight only went about 15 feet from where I was standing due the line holding it back. Ok, I then decided to un-spool about 100' feet of line and lay it nicely on the ground so it wouldn't tangle up and launched the fishing weight projectile again. Much better results this time, but the weight was so heavy it didn't go nearly as high, or as far as I had hoped. Plan B, I put a 1 oz. lead weight on the line and tried again. It still seemed too heavy and was still not going as high as I wanted. I ended up using a 1 oz. weight and 10 lb. test fishing line and had great success. I was able to shoot the weight up into the trees at the height I wanted. Once the fishing line was where I wanted it, I tied a light rope onto the line and hoisted it into the trees. I then tied my wire antenna insulators to the light ropes and pulled the antenna up and tied the ropes off to the bottom of the trees. It works great.

There are several devices that are marketed to shoot strings up into trees and they probably take a bit less time and effort than the way I did it. I did not want to spend the money for one of these devices so I took the cheap way out and had some fun with my project. Don't ever count on something you have only read about or seen done, to work for your situation when you need it to. Get out and try it for yourself so you know it really works or doesn't. If you are ever in an emergency communications situation it will be much less stressful if you are sure of your equipment and methods. Get out and practice!

## YOUR ARRL EC REGION OFFICIALS

### District L DEC

Bill Smith, K1ARK  
K1ARK@arrl.net

### Washington County EC

Larry Rankin, KI5OY  
lwrarkin39@msn.com

### Washington County Assistant ECs

Dan Puckett, K5FXB  
danp@uark.edu  
University of Arkansas liaison

### Benton County EC

Brad Clement, KJ5YD  
kj5yd@arrl.net

### Benton County Assistant ECs

Mike Engelke, KD5DGT,  
Siloam Springs  
Bob Kendal, K5KBK,  
Digital coordinator

### Carroll County EC

Marshall Turner, KOADM  
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

### Notes from last month's presentation

#### Why we need spotters

One of the most important reasons we need spotters in the field are the limitations of radar. While there have been dramatic improvements in radar with the NEXRAD system, there will always be physical restrictions related to beam height and resolution. Since we do not live on a flat earth, the planet's curvature will cause beam height to increase with distance from the antenna. The rise in beam is consistent regardless of the location. At 25 miles, the bottom of the beam is 1,200 feet above the antenna's elevation. At 50 miles, the beam is 3,900 feet; by 75 miles, 5,000 feet; by 100 miles, 9,500 feet. As a result, the radar is not able to "see" below these heights. Another important need relates to weak tornadoes that lack well defined radar signatures.

#### Spotter networks versus mobile spotting

The topography of Washington County doesn't lend itself to traditional open sky spotting. The road system works against mobile spotting as the connections between valleys in the rural areas make handoffs from one side of a hill line to another. This is the main reason why we have encouraged spotters at locations spread across the county.

Using the example of a late-night thunderstorm warning in early February that tracked across the mid to south parts of the county, spotter activation in front of the storm would have allowed for ground truth confirmation of the radar-indicated warning.

#### Call outs

The W5YM University WeatherNet activates on all warnings for Washington County, and some watches or special weather statements when needed. The best alert mechanism for our group is a NOAA weather radio equipped with Specific Area Message Encoding to limit the soundings to Washington and the nearby counties.

Over the past four years, the majority of active weather nets fall into three time frames: 8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. in the evening; after 2 a.m. at night; 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the afternoon.

#### Something new from the internet:

##### Wind estimation and SET effect

This concept comes from the Milwaukee area SKYWARN training. Stress Excitement and Tension – SET – add to problems of spotters in the field. These pressures on the spotter make it very easy to overestimate wind speed. A strong gust of wind on a clear and sunny day will not cause concern, but the same wind during a thunderstorm is magnified by SET into a severe wind. When in doubt, rethink the wind speed estimate, if the wind is persistent, look again for the visible physical cues that will guide you on the Beaufort Scale.

##### Are you NIMS certified?

Have you taken the time to become certified by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Incident Management System, or NIMS. Washington County is asking all volunteers and staff involved in emergency services to complete the on-line certification for IS 700. In the near future, DHS and FEMA **will require** all communications volunteers to have completed the course and taken the certification assessment.

##### New net controls welcome

We've had some interest in becoming the net controller for Tuesday's net, but don't be shy about other days of the week. In particular, relief net controllers are needed for the Monday weather training net during basketball season and John Robinson is seeking more controllers for the Thursday ARKAN net.

The best time to try your hand at net control is during these weekly training nets -- hence the title **TRAINING** net. Don't be shy.

Even if you don't foresee yourself becoming NCS in the future, you never know what an emergency might force upon you. Perfection is not required, only the willingness to read the script!

**AREA HF NETS**

**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 is repeated Monday.  
 FREQ: 3.9875 (alt freq. 7.260)  
 TIMES: Sunday morning, 7:00 local  
 Monday evening, 7:00 local  
 (following close of Razorback Net)

**Worked All-Arkansas Net**

Net Control: Don Banta, K5DB  
 Weekly net for persons wishing to confirm and work counties for the club's Worked All-Arkansas Award. Follows the conclusion of the Razorback Net or 7 p.m. each Saturday until spring.  
 FREQ: 3.9875  
 TIMES: Saturday evening; 7:00 p.m.  
 (following close of Razorback Net)

**Arkansas Section Net**

Net Control: Dennis Schaefer, W5RZ  
 On the first day of each month, the section manager, Dennis Schaefer, conducts a discussion of the issues of the day for the state. Follows the conclusion of the Razorback Net or 7 p.m. each Saturday until spring.  
 FREQ: 3.9875  
 TIMES: First day of the month; 7:00 p.m.  
 (following close of Razorback Net)

**Arkansas Technical Net**

Net Control: Jack McSpadden, WA5ROP  
 On the first day of each month, the section manager, Dennis Schaefer, conducts a discussion of the issues of the day for the state. Follows the conclusion of the Razorback Net or 7 p.m. each Saturday until spring.  
 FREQ: 3.9875  
 TIMES: Thursdays; 7:00 p.m.  
 (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

**Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest (ARKAN) Board Meeting Minutes March 21, 2005**

The March session of the ARKAN Board of Directors meeting was called to order with the following in attendance: John, KD5NFX; Mose, KB5BV; Charley, KE5AEA; and Steve, N9NSO.

John suggested we use the "Club's Purpose" from the club's constitution as the mission statement. No objections were made.

There will be one more request made for someone to chair the J.O.T.A. event for this year at the April meeting. If no one volunteers, this event will be dropped from our schedule for this year.

John requested that ideas be presented on how to make more use of the club station at the museum. It was suggested that the April meeting be held in the club station (instead of the pilot's briefing room) as the program will be on HF operation. All in attendance agreed. Also,

installation of the tower and beam has been indefinitely postponed until more use of the station is made.

John said he wants to meet with facility managers of sites offered for a new meeting location to determine if the site meets all the criteria established by the Board at the January Board meeting.

John enlisted more ideas for programs for club meetings. A partial list was presented.

Charley delivered the two new club banners to be displayed in the club station and at public events such as Field Day. They look great! Thanks, Charley. Cost to the club was \$108.20.

No other business was conducted and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Bennie Jamerson, KD5OHP - Secretary,  
 Steve Barrington, N9NSO

**CONTACTING YOUR BOARD MEMBERS**

John Robinson, KD5NFX	President	johnr@calvary.com
Steve Barrington, N9NSO	Vice President	n9nso@mail.com
Mose Howard, KB5BV	Treasurer	kb5bv@yahoo.com
Bennie Jamerson, KD5OHP	Secretary	bjamerson@tiger.nwsc.kr.ar.us
Bill Smith, K1ARK	At-Large Board Member	k1ark@arll.net
Charlie Winn, KE5AEA	Elected Board Member	ke5aea@arll.net
Charles Tillotson, W5NX	Technical Liason	w5nx@cox.net
Position Available	Public Information Officer	
Bill Smith, K1ARK	Public Service Liason	k1ark@arll.net

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary
John Robinson	Steve Barrington	Mose Howard	Bennie Jamerson
KD5NFX	N9NSO	KB5BV	KD5OHP
11201 Doyle Road	P.O. Box 1604	1775 N. Hunters Ridge	1441 Oak Manor
Winslow, AR 72959	Rogers, AR 72757	Fayetteville, AR 72701	Fayetteville, AR
H-479-839-8112	H-479-636-0221	H-479-571-8470	Hm. (479)442-9430
C-479-790-6564	W-n/a	W-n/a	W. N/A
johnr83@alltel.net	n9nso@mail.com	kb5bv@yahoo.com	bjamerson@tiger.nwsc.kr.ar.us

## SECOND SATURDAYS

ARKAN hosts hands-on events for amateur radio operators on the second Saturday of each month. Start time for Second Saturday meetings is 10 a.m. at the Air Museum (includes foxhunts, which will depart from AAM to the hunt area).

### MARCH

Soldering / De-soldering instruction

### APRIL

Foxhunt (meet at Air Museum)

### MAY

Morse Code Oscillator homebrew assembly

### JUNE

How to set up a 2m packet station

### JULY

Foxhunt (Meet at Air Museum)

### AUGUST

Parkfest 2005 (McClure Park in Lowell, AR)

### SEPTEMBER

How to install coax connectors, use a SWR meter, and use a tuner

### OCTOBER

Go Kits – Everyone bring theirs and do a show and tell so we can all get ideas

### NOVEMBER

Bench Test Equipment

### DECEMBER

No Second Saturday due to the holidays

# Packet Pointers

From Steve Barrington, N9NSO

Once again there has been a renewed interest in packet radio. A little over a year ago there was an attempt to resurrect interest in packet radio. However, due to the terrain in this area, digipeaters with good elevation were needed for stations in low-lying areas, or stations using low power, to connect to other stations in the area. A station in northern Benton County cannot connect to a station in southern Washington County due to a lack of stations in-between to digipeat through. I'm happy to say that hurdle has been overcome thanks to Jerry, KD5PXX bringing his station (and an antenna with height) back on-line.

A "Special Interest Group" (SIG) is being started for packet radio. This is an informal group open to anyone interested in packet radio. The primary frequency we will use for our packet network will be 145.090. There are some in this group who are new to packet radio and there are some of us who have been in packet radio years ago, but forgot so much of it that we might as well be "new". The bottom line is we're all here to share information and techniques to make this aspect of Ham Radio fun and useful. Also, if any of you have an idea on what to call our little SIG, please pass those suggestions around.

Packet Pointers will be a monthly feature in the ARKAN newsletter for discussions concerning packet radio. So, I hope anyone interested in packet radio will join us on 145.090 and help us develop a strong community of "packeteers". This month, we'll start out with the basics of packet radio.

## Equipment

As you may have already surmised, packet radio is a form of digital communications. There are three basic components needed for packet radio; a 2-meter radio, a TNC (Terminal Node Controller), and a computer (any vintage will do). The computer is for creating and reading text messages. The TNC acts as an "interface" (or translator) between the computer and the radio. And, of course, the radio sends and receives the "packetized" signal. Text messages can be sent in "converse" mode or sent in the form of "messages". Converse mode is basically live, keyboard-to-keyboard communications. Messages are very similar to e-mail. You connect to another station's "mail-box" and leave a message.

## Connecting

Typically, to connect to another station, you go to "command mode" and enter the command for connect (usually the letter "C"), leave a space then enter the call sign of the station you are trying to connect with. For example, N9NSO wants to connect to N5JPC the command text would look something like this: "c N5GPC". If you can't connect directly with a station because of distance, terrain, or some other impediment, you can connect through a closer station (or stations). This is called digipeating. You are using closer stations that you can hit, and repeating through them. For example, because of several factors such as antenna height, station power, and terrain, N9NSO cannot connect directly with KD5NFX. So, N9NSO connects to KD5NFX by digipeating through KD5PXX's station. That command text would look something like this: "c KD5NFX via KD5PXX". Now, if I wanted to connect to a packet station way over in Miami, Oklahoma, I may need to digipeat through 3, 4, or more stations (or nodes).

## Disconnecting

When you are finish "conversing" with the other packet station (or stations), you need to disconnect your station from everyone else. This is simply done by going to the command mode and typing in "d", "dis", or "disconnect" (depending on your TNC and software).

In future articles we'll discuss in more detail equipment and software. We'll also try and post a SIG page for Packet Radio on the club's web site. If you have information to contribute about packet radio, please submit them to me at the e-mail address below or send it in a file to my packet mailbox: N9NSO-1 (don't forget the "-1"). I look forward to meeting more of you on packet.

## HINTS & TIPS:

1. When carrying on a keyboard-to-keyboard QSO, enter a right arrow (>) or forward slash (/) after your last word. This lets the other station know you are finished with your thought. You might view as a type of "courtesy beep".
2. Most packet stations identify their mailbox node with a -1 (i.e. N9NSO-1) after their call sign. You will usually get a greeting and instructions on how to leave messages or read bulletins.

## ARKAN CALENDAR

Take a look ahead at upcoming meeting dates and program topics

### APRIL

Getting into HF April 25  
Don Banta, K5DB

### MAY

Field Day preparations May 23  
Steve Barrington, N9NSO

### JUNE

Grounding systems June 27  
Local power company

## 2005 ARKANSAS QSO PARTY

Arkansas QSO Party: CW/SSB/PSK31 sponsored by K1ARK; from 1400z Sept. 10 to 0600z Sept. 11; 1800z Sept. 11 to 0200z Sept. 12. 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.” (Arkansas 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). Mobile stations may be counted more than once per band if station has relocated into another county. Bonus stations: K5NE (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, 3032 Strawberry Drive, Fayetteville, AR, 72703.

# 2005 Arkansas QSO Party set for second weekend in Sept.

## Shift away from Texas QSO weekend; K5NE takes bonus slot

by Bill Smith, K1ARK

The 2005 edition of the Arkansas QSO Party will take place on the second weekend of September, the weekend of Sept. 10-11. The same rules, time frames and reporting requirements as last year are in effect this year.

The major changes are a shift away from the Texas QSO Party weekend, a new bonus station and clarification of DX contacts. For the past two years, the Arkansas QSO has been on the same weekend to increase the activity of beams pointed in the general direction of Arkansas seeking the Texas event.

After requests from several regular contestants, the party will move off to a different weekend in September, although with a crowded contest calendar, will still be running at the same time as a neighboring state event, this time the Tennessee QSO.

The top scoring club of the state, Benton Amateur Radio Society, takes the role of 25-point bonus station thanks to their record 23,459 points.

Complete contest rules will be in next month's newsletter.

## The Other Scouts

### W5YM has great turnout for GOTA – Girl Guides on the Air

Bill Smith, K1ARK

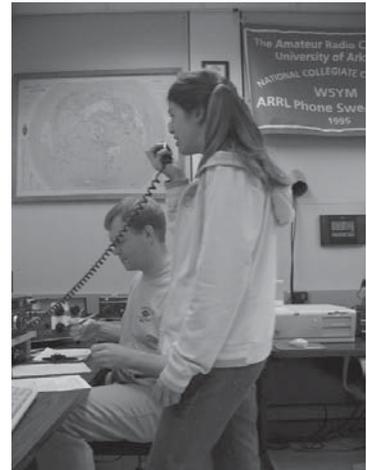
Every October, amateur radio operators and clubs from around the country take time out to help the Boy Scouts' Jamboree of the Air. Less well known is the girls' equivalent, Thinking Day on the Air that is sponsored by the Girl Guides - the British counterpart of the American Girl Scouts. Taking place on or near Feb. 22, the birthday of the founder of the Scout and Guide movement, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the Guides on the Air event brings young girls to the radio in the same way as JOTA. The Amateur Radio Club of the University of Arkansas hosted Girl Scouts from Troop 45 in Rogers in the Benton County area on the third weekend of February to take part in the GOTA event. The club advisor, Dan Puckett (K5FXB), coordinated the use of a classroom for

explanations of amateur radio to compliment on-air activities with the ARCUA club station, W5YM.

Along with covering the basics of amateur radio, the ARCUA members also showed the scouts QSO cards. The Girl Scouts were interested in the unusual photos used by some, but were most intrigued by cards from places in the news in the Middle East or countries in the tsunami affected countries of the Indian Ocean.

Three current student members, president Matthew Barlow (KD5RTQ), treasurer Walt Carter (N5YGR), and Don Faulkner (KB5WPM); one alumni, Jim Haynes (W6JVE) and one staff member, Bill Smith (K1ARK) hosted about 14 Girl Scouts, helping them make contacts with amateur radio operators in Pennsylvania, Washington DC and a special event station for George Washington's birthday (K4US) at Mount Vernon, Virginia. Several of the Girl Scouts had personal connections to the various places contacted, ranging from previous visits or family in the areas.

Then the ARCUA operators hit the jackpot with two Girl Guide special event stations in Canada, the first in Winnipeg, VE4GGC, then a second in Ontario, VE3RSK. VE4GGC provided the direct Girl Scout to Girl Guide QSO that thrilled both sides of the border. Chatting about hobbies and the amount of snow - lots in Winnipeg and little in Bentonville - led to a great exchange. Almost all of the Girl Scouts took a turn on the microphone, and were excited about amateur radio.



Don Faulkner (KB5WPM) control ops for Megan from Girl Scout Troop 45 of Rogers, Ark.

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 Amateur Radio Klub of the Arkansas Northwest. 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.

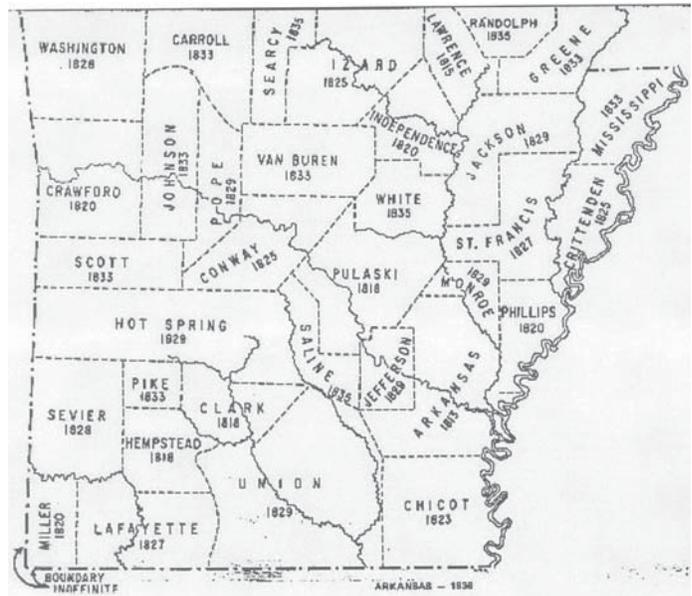
#1 PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

#2 PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# ARKAN 1836 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 stations that are located in the original 1836 counties of state of Arkansas. Counties which exist today are assigned to a 1836 county which composed a significant part of the modern day county. 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
ARKANSAS	_____	_____	_____
CARROLL	_____	_____	_____
CHICOT	_____	_____	_____
CLARK	_____	_____	_____
CONWAY	_____	_____	_____
CRAWFORD	_____	_____	_____
CRITTENDEN	_____	_____	_____
GREENE	_____	_____	_____
HEMPSTEAD	_____	_____	_____
HOT SPRING	_____	_____	_____
INDEPENDENCE	_____	_____	_____
IZARD	_____	_____	_____
JACKSON	_____	_____	_____
JEFFERSON	_____	_____	_____
JOHNSON	_____	_____	_____
LAFAYETTE	_____	_____	_____
LAWRENCE	_____	_____	_____
MILLER	_____	_____	_____
MISSISSIPPI	_____	_____	_____
MONROE	_____	_____	_____
PIKE	_____	_____	_____
PHILLIPS	_____	_____	_____
POPE	_____	_____	_____
PULASKI	_____	_____	_____
RANDOLPH	_____	_____	_____
SALINE	_____	_____	_____
ST. FRANCIS	_____	_____	_____
SCOTT	_____	_____	_____
SEARCY	_____	_____	_____
SEVIER	_____	_____	_____
VAN BUREN	_____	_____	_____
WASHINGTON	_____	_____	_____
WHITE	_____	_____	_____



## County Conversion List

### 1836 County (Modern day component counties)

- Arkansas (Lincoln, Prairie, Deshea)
- Carroll (Newton)
- Chicot (Drew, Ashley)
- Conway (Perry)
- Crawford (Sebastian)
- Greene (Clay)
- Hot Springs (Polk, Montgomery, Garland, Dallas)
- Independence (Sharp)
- Izard (Baxter, Fulton, Stone)
- Jackson (Craighead, Woodruff)
- Johnson (Franklin, Madison, Logan)
- Lafayette (Columbia)
- Phillips (Lee)
- Pope (Yell)
- Pulaski (Faulkner, Loanoke)
- St. Francis (Cross, Poinsett)
- Searcy (Boone)
- Sevier (Little River, Howard)
- Van Buren (Cleburne)
- Union (Nevada, Ouachita, Calhoun, Bradley)
- Washington (Benton)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_



Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE REGISTRATION FORM

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC: \_\_\_\_\_

Bus. phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary radio interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Check (✓) bands/modes you can operate:

	160	80	40	20	15	10	6	2	220	OTHER
CW										
FM										
RTTY										
SSB										
MOBILE										
PACKET										
IF OPERATING PACKET, THE CALLSIGN OF YOUR PBBS IS: _____										

Can your home station operate without commercial power?     Yes     No

If yes what bands? \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and send to your EC (if known) or the ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111.

To All Radio Amateurs:

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is a voluntary organization of licensed radio amateurs who have registered their capabilities and equipment for providing emergency communications as a public service to the community. The purpose of the ARES is to furnish communications in the event of natural disaster, when regular communications fail or are inadequate. Sponsored by ARRL, the ARES functions at the local level to meet local communications needs.

The ARES has a long history of public service going back to its formal inception in 1935. Since that time the ARES has responded countless times to communications emergencies.

Experience has proven that radio amateurs respond more capably in time of emergency when practice has been conducted in an organized group. There is no substitute for experience gained *before* the need arises.

The ARES in each locality operates under the direction of the Emergency Coordinator (EC), whose function is to direct the activities of the ARES to maintain a state of readiness.

To register in the ARES, send the detachable Registration Form above directly to your EC, or to ARRL Headquarters for forwarding to your EC. *League membership is not required for registration.* Registration does not require possession of any specially designed equipment. All amateurs can be of assistance to the ARES. There is provision in the ARES for *every* amateur regardless of class of license, equipment owned, or personal circumstances.

Won't you join us in providing this essential Amateur Radio service?

Richard Palm, K1CE  
Field Services Manager