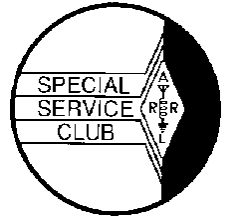




The Repeater

Monthly Newsletter of the Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Foundation



April 2004

President's Column

Spring is here with all its benefits: warm weather, flowers, longer days, grass to mow, and baseball. I hope everyone had a nice Easter.

In recent weeks there has been an increase of activity on the AC5RU repeater on 145.45. It's good to hear more local FM contacts. I am sometimes guilty of spending time on HF and neglecting the area repeaters. The hobby is diverse enough to allow a very broad range of operations. It's very good to try some different modes occasionally.

The next meeting will be April 20 at Western Sizzlin. We will be making final plans for the Poke Sallet Festival at London on May 1st. Also, Mike Bruck W5MRB is scheduled to have a program that evening. Remember the nets on Tuesday evenings. I look forward to seeing you on the 20th.

73

Roger AC5YG

Hamfest Gems

Almost all Hamfest's have little hidden gems of information hidden in their meetings and forums. And this year's ARVARF Hamfest was no exception. The forums started out with a presentation by Charles Shingleur, K5NRC, on HSSM. Charles explained how "off the shelf" wireless networking equipment could be used for amateur radio purposes. He gave several examples of how wireless-networking capabilities could be used for RACES, ARES, Disaster Communications, and Care Center Management.

Charles gave an overview on the history of wireless networking all the way through an example of how to set up and configure your own wireless networking installation. This also included examples of how to calculate path loss and the advantages of one type of installation over another. He even gave detailed information about the different rules and regulations one must consider before jumping into the wireless networking world.

The forum wrapped up by providing a question and answer session where several folks got answers and solutions to problems they had been fighting. Good Job Charles.

ARRL Forum.

Dennis Schaefer, W5RZ, started the ARRL meeting with a standing room only crowd. Everyone came with questions about the new FCC regulations and how they might influence our hobby. Dennis introduced the different ARRL officials that were in attendance.

The biggest question on everyone's mind was the BPL and how is it going to impact future communications. Rick Roderick, K5UR, was able to answer all the questions plus give some insight to the efforts that are under way to address the

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Hamfest Gems (continued)

problems. He told everyone that during the last ARRL Board meeting it was decided a package would be developed to fight BPL. This will be a unified and coordinated approach.

Next Rick gave everyone an outline of what the league is doing for the future of amateur radio. He said that there were 14 petitions in front of the FCC right now that concern amateur radio licensing restructuring. The league is developing a plan that will be acceptable to all amateur radio operators. Their idea is to present a plan that work for everyone instead of just waiting for someone out side of our hobby to shove something down our throats that no one will like. The "no code" issue seemed to be the biggest area of concern. Rick said that France had already adopted a no code amateur radio license structure. Once again Rick stressed that the league is going to present a plan that might not be popular with everyone, but it will work and be realistic.

After the forum there was a lively question and answer session. All of the ARRL officials in attendance got their chance to talk and address specific issues they were working with.

Thanks to Dennis for pulling it all together.

What does all this mean????!!!!??

During some of the previous hamfests there have been new folks that just wanted to see what this "Amateur Radio Thing" was all about. They came to the hamfest but unfortunately they were overwhelmed by all the strange equipment and buying frenzies at some of the tables. This year the ARVARF's Hamfest tried to help these folks out by having a "general question and answer session" aimed at the non-amateur radio operator. The panel consisted of some of the most knowledgeable amateurs in a several state area. The format was quite simple and very informal. There were little groups or clusters of folks that just stood around. Everyone in attendance was able to get their questions answered and received a jump-start in getting their license.

John Evans, WB5BHS

Hamfest Calendar

April 23-24 – Little Rock, AR

<http://www.aristotle.net/~hamfest/>

ARVARF Officers

President	Roger Sayer	AC5YG
Vice President	Wayne VandePol	N2WV
Treasurer	Glenn Holmes	N5KLE
Secretary	Melissa Schaefer	N5HX
Board Members	Aulton White	N4OWB
	Ben Hillis	W5HH
	Nick Kennedy	WA5BDU
	Keith Mitchell	KJ5YU
	Dick Koski	W5VUB
Newsletter	Melissa Schaefer	N5HX
	John Evans	WB5BHS
	Jimmy Poole	WU5X
	Roger Sayer	AC5YG

THE REPEATER

Editor / Designer

Jimmy Poole, WU5X

Columnists

Melissa Schaefer, N5HX

John Evans, WB5BHS

Roger Sayer, AC5YG

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARVARF meeting at Western Sizzlin:

Tuesday, April 20

7:00 p.m. Those who want to eat,
come at 6:00.

ARVARF Net:

Every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. on
146.82 (except club meeting night)

Net Control Stations:

April	WA5BDU
May	N4OWB

ARVARF web page:

www.cswnet.com/~arvarf/

Arkansas Section Web Domain:

www.arkansashams.org

the London Poke Sallet Festival on May 1 was discussed.

Jimmy Poole reported on the efforts to restore the Russellville railroad depot. He has been trying to locate vintage telegraphy equipment. A motion was made by John Evans and seconded by Steve Green to spend up to \$200.00 to buy equipment for this project. Motion passed.

Steve Green reported that the last test session yielded 7 new Techs and 2 new Extras, including ARVARF member Aulton White, N4OWB. The next test session will be April 17 at Morrilton.

Dennis Schaefer told the club about the death of a local ham, John Brown, N5ZY.

A new ham, Richard Bailey, KE5AQH, was introduced.

A motion to adjourn was made by Don Rickard and seconded by Dick Koski. Motion passed.

Submitted by Melissa Schaefer, N5HX

ARVARF Secretary

MINUTES FROM THE

March MEETING

The March 16, 2004, meeting of ARVARF was opened at 7 p.m. by President Roger Sayer. A motion to accept the February minutes was made by Charles Shingleur and seconded by John Evans. Motion passed.

Charles Shingleur announced a RACES meeting on March 18 at the 911 building. The program will be a severe weather refresher course.

President Sayer recognized the hard work of all who participated in the 2004 hamfest.

The possibility of having a special event station at

For Sale

Ten-Tec Model 544 Good condition. It is 10 Through 80 mtrs. \$125.00. For more information contact James Judd, N5UNM at 479-858-6234 or E-Mail jamkat@arkansas.net

Thanks, James