

Field Day 2012 Lots of Fun, Successful

The Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club setup again at the QTH of Glenn N4MJ for the annual ARRL Field Day event on June 23-24th. The event began with a VE session that saw one ham upgrade from Novice to General and another pass his Extra Class exam. Antenna systems were set up in record time in order to beat the heat. There was lots of training for our younger and less experienced hams and over 600 QSO's were made under class 2A. Our XYL's provided excellent food and refreshment. Tear down after the event went very smoothly - also in record time. See a detailed report on this event by clicking the Recent Events tab above. - - June 29, 2012.



James Bowers KJ4KIM Silent Key



James Bowers KJ4KIM at the RTTY station during Field Day 2009

It is with heavy heart that I report that James Bowers KJ4KIM is a silent key. He passed away yesterday, May 10, 2012, at his home after a lengthy illness. He was very active at his church, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. As a ham radio operator, he was a very enthusiastic Technician Class operator, and attended many of the monthly meetings. He enjoyed immensely the Field Day operations in June and was eager to learn new things. James will be sorely missed. - - May 11, 2012.

Jim Lane KN4F Visits RARC Station



Jim Lane, KN4F, of Memphis visited the K4RFT club contest site during the CQ WW VHF Contest 17 July 2011. Jim is a ham with lots of knowledge to share. He provides the KN4F 2 meter DX cluster node in Union City. The visit was much appreciated. - - July 20, 2011.

RARC Team Wins Certificate in 2010 CQ WW VHF Contest

Recently a nice package appeared in the mail - a certificate from CQ Amateur Radio. Last year after Field Day, a group of RARC hams met at "The Shop" at the QTH of Glenn N4MJ on the weekend of the CQ Worldwide VHF Contest. As it turns out, this group - Glenn N4MJ, Brandon KJ4FTN, Harold KJ4FTM, Michael KJ4KHX, Noel KJ4UNX - came away with the winning score in multi-operator, single transmitter in the state of Tennessee. Congratulations guys ! - - July 2, 2011.

"Ides of March" Hamfest 2010 Deemed a Success

The 3rd annual "Ides of March" Hamfest was held at the Tennessee National Guard Armory in Union City on March 20, 2010. Approximately 250 attendees made the scene and enjoyed all that was offered. The weather was perfect and the predicted rain held off. All the vendors reported brisk sales, the Delta / ARES forum was well attended, and several students took advantage of the VE testing. Congratulations to Everett Agee KJ4NSI, the winner of the grand prize, an Icom IC-718 HF transceiver ! Next year's "Ides of March" Hamfest has already been scheduled for March 19, 2011 !! - - March 28, 2010.

Jamboree on the Air Event at Reelfoot Lake Airpark a Success

A Regional effort by Tennesseans showed how important they think the Boy Scouts of America are to our country. On October 17th and 18th, the Boy Scouts of America held its annual Davy Crockett Fall Camporee with the Jamboree On the Air or JOTA event at Reelfoot Lake's Air Park Inn campground. Leading participants in the Boy Scout's Jamboree On the Air included amateur radio operators from Dyer, Crockett, Obion, Madison, and Weakley counties. The theme of this year's event was Emergency Preparedness, and that is also the primary focus of Amateur Radio. Boy Scouts from the Davy Crockett District of West Tennessee, including Dyer, Gibson, Lake, and Obion Counties, along with Scouts from Troop 272 - Kennett, Missouri were in attendance. There were more than 150 Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts in attendance, with approximately 60 completing the requirements for the Radio Merit Badge. Despite looming rain and cool temperatures, all that attended had a wonderful day. The Scouts and Amateurs enjoyed sharing their hobbies with each other. Jamboree On The Air is a worldwide event, and there were more than a few surprised faces when the Scouts realized that the person they were talking to was in another part of the world. Contacts were made with other JOTA event stations, including one contact with a group of Scouts in Sweden, thus enabling the Scouts to talk to other Scouts, and Leaders to speak to other Leaders. Dwayne Fair, Scout Master of Troop 386 - Newbern, Tennessee, was the District Camporee Chairman. Harry Lane III, Davy Crockett Senior District Executive was present to view various events. Howard Runions W4HLR, Danny Pittman KJ4HRM, and Art Anderson WA4EQO of Dyer County coordinated the Amateur activities with the Boy Scouts. Amateur radio participants included Area Wide Amateur Radio Association from the Trenton, TN EMA Randy Smith KI4OAS, Cody Smith KJ4AXX, and Andy Russell KJ4CLS. Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club: Glenn Snow N4MJ, Jamie Hall WB4YDL, Ray Morris N4SLY, Dolly Morris KN4SLY, Ben Rice, and Campbell Rice KD4JHI. Dyer County Amateur Radio Association : Howard Runions W4HLR, Danny Pittman KJ4HRM, Art Anderson WA4EQO, Brian Qualls KI4KIE, Tom Beilmann KØKTB. Participating from remote sites were Carl Pepple KI4PCW Jackson, TN, John Holbert KB4FZK, Knoxville, TN, Phil Green N4PWG Troy, TN, Roger Elmore KJ4AJP Martin, TN, David Ellis KE4NTL Ripley, TN, Ottis Barron K5BSE Martin, TN, and Randy Bryan KF4CMJ Ripley, TN. - - October 23, 2009.





Randy Smith, KI4OAS, acts as control operator for a young Boy Scout while he talks on the radio

Ron Steinberg W9RVR - Silent Key

On June 20th, the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club and the ham community in general lost a dear friend and colleague. Ron was an advocate of strong emergency communications preparedness and was a leader in ARES. During the historic and devastating ice storm in January of this year, Ron's antenna system sustained some damage. But with his remaining capability, he was able to effectively assist in emergency communications linking of the officials in Frankfurt, KY with those in distress in Hickman, KY. For this, he was recognized by the officials in Hickman for his efforts. Ron was also active in VE testing and was the listed ARRL VEC for this area. Ron and XYL Gladys KJ4EKN were only in this area less than 6 years and he touched so many lives. 73 and R.I.P. OM, SK. - - June 30, 2009.

Spring Digital Workshop a Learning Experience for All

The Spring digital workshop was held at the Obion County Public Library on Saturday, May 2nd and a dozen folks came out despite rainy weather. Many of the past Technician license course attended as well as previous attendees Glenn KD5EZM and Don AD0NW both from Camden. Jamie WB4YDL gave the initial talk on sound card interfacing and HF software and included a video download from YouTube. Glenn N4MJ then talked about the VHF side of the spectrum. After the talks, radios were then turned on and attempts to make contacts were made. Jamie WB4YDL brought his Elecraft K2 and KK7UQ kit sound card interface and used a Buddipole setup outside the meeting room on the patio. A successful PSK31 contact was made with a ham in New Jersey. Glenn N4MJ attempted to make direct contact on 2M with Roger KJ4AJ in Martin to demonstrate MT63 on FM. However, Mr. Murphy was also attending ! Despite 50 watts and an outdoor antenna, contact could not be established. It appears that the library is in a bit of a 'dead zone' for 2M radio. Additionally, Glenn KD5EZM brought his Kenwood TS-870, Rigblaster Plus, and laptop computer for an attempt to get working with Ham Radio Deluxe. After successfully getting the radio to 'talk' to the computer, the laptop would repeatedly lock up. Darn Murphy ! At any rate, everybody took away many learned items. We hope to repeat this workshop at a later date - -and Mr. Murphy will not be invited. - - May 3, 2009.

Check Presented to 913th TN National Guard FRG

Officers of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club presented a check for \$200 to officials of the 913th TN National Guard Family Readiness Group. This was presented in appreciation for the use of TN National Guard facilities during the most recent "Ides of March" Hamfest. Pictured are (L - R) Jamie WB4YDL, Carolyn Robinson, Bob K9IL, Jana Ray, and Glenn N4MJ. - - May 3, 2009.



RARC Concludes Second Technician Class Course with Seven New Licensees



The Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club wrapped up another successful Technician Class license course for the Spring. After four long Saturdays of instruction, a class of seven took the Technician Class license exam ... and all passed. *Indeed, they blew it away!* Pictured above are (L>R), instructor/VE Ottis Barron K5BSE, Michael Snow, instructor Glenn Snow N4MJ, Tom Gammon, Dean Jowers, Jack Long, instructor/VE Ron Steinberg W9RVR, Kevin Bennett, James Bowers, Chris Hill, and instructor/VE Jamie Hall WB4YDL. Not pictured above is instructor Bob Miles K9IL. - - March 7, 2009.

President Snow Welcomes Son into Ham Fraternity



Glenn Snow N4MJ, President of RARC, welcomed son Michael into the ham fraternity after he completed the recent Technician Class license course and passed the Technician Class license exam. A VE session was given at the conclusion of the course and Micheal aced the exam ! Congratulations Mike ! - March 7, 2009.

Fulton County EMA Officials Present Awards in Aftermath of Historic Ice Storm





Fulton County, KY EMA officials Hugh Caldwell (L) and J.T. Atwell (R) presented Chris Edmaiston KI4TRM and Ron Steinberg W9RVR Certificates of Appreciation for their fine work in assisting communications needs of Hickman, KY during the historic and devastating ice storm of late January, 2009. During that time, officials in Frankfurt, KY were able to be contacted via a cross-band connection from 2M to 75M. All other forms of communications were knocked out. Shortly thereafter, much needed aid began to arrive in Hickman, KY. Congratulations ! - - February 27, 2009.