

News and Announcements

This page of the web site is designed to bring your awareness to the most recent happenings with the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club, its members, and regional amateur radio news. The effectiveness and timeliness of this information is directly related to the members relaying this intel to the webmaster. The first item of news on this web site is, well ... this web site. It's brand spankin' new ! I hope everybody enjoys the content and contributes any pertinent items to be shared by all. This is **your** web site and we are all very proud of it. - - August 29, 2004.

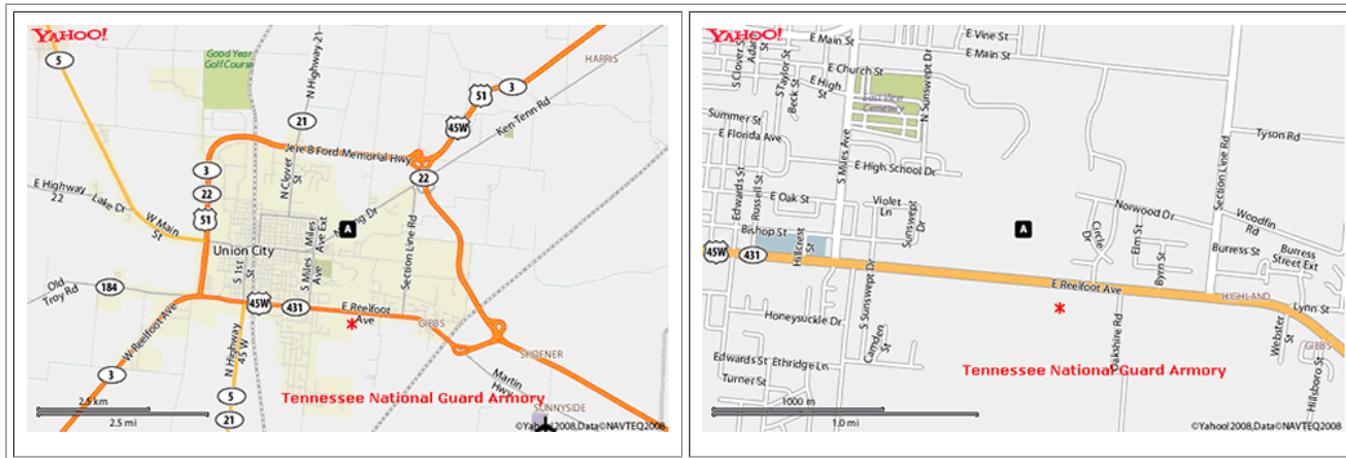
Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club Officers 2018

- **President : Harrell D. Davidson WD4LAR**
- **Vice President : Bob Miles K9IL**
- **Secretary-Treasurer : Noel W. Vickers KJ4UNX**

- - March 18, 2018.

Ides of March Hamfest 2018 Will Feature Additional Vendors

In addition to *JMR Sales* from Altoona, Alabama and *TNØ7 Engineering* from Eagleville, Tennessee, *CT Morgan and Associates*, a distributor of multiple ham radio related items, will be arriving from Chattanooga, Tennessee for this year's Ides of March Hamfest on March 24, 2018.



- - March 18, 2018.

West TN West KY Emergency and Regional ARES Net Control Station Call Schedule 2018

NCS Call Schedule

Call	Name	Dates
KJ4UNX	Noel	Jan. 7, 14, Mar. 18, 25, May 27, June 3, Aug. 5, 12, Oct. 14, 21, Dec. 23, 30
WD4LAR	Harrell	Jan. 21, 28, Apr. 1, 8, June 10, 17, Aug. 19, 26, Oct. 28, Nov. 4
WB4YDL	Jamie	Feb. 4, 11, Apr. 15, 22, June 24, July 1, Sept. 2, 9, Nov. 11, 18

N4MJ	Glenn	Feb. 18, 25, Apr. 29, May 6, July 8, 15, Sept. 16, 23, Nov. 25, Dec. 2
K9IL	Bob	Mar. 4, 11, May 13, 20, July 22, 29, Sept. 30, Oct. 7, Dec. 9, 16

A downloadable version of this schedule is available [here](#). The NCS Preamble in its present version is [here](#). This will be updated as it becomes available. -- December 29, 2017.

RARC Meeting Refreshment Committee 2018

Refreshment Committee Schedule

Call	Name	Dates
K9IL	Bob	January 25th
KJ4UNX	Noel	February 22nd
WD4LAR	Harrell	March 22nd
OPEN		April 26th
WD4LAR	Harrell	May 24th
KK4SJF	Hannah	June 21st
OPEN		July 26th
WB4YDL	Jamie	August 23rd
N4MJ	Glenn	September 27th
WA4EQO	Art	October 25th

-- December 29, 2017.

VE Testing Schedule 2018

- **March 24, 2018 - Ides of March Hamfest- 9AM and 11AM.**
- **June 23, 2018 - Field Day operations site - 9AM.**
- **Further VE test sessions TBA**

What to Bring to an Exam Session --December 29, 2017.

Changing of the Guard - Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club Leadership Changes Hands

Recently, club President Glenn Snow N4MJ intimated that he would not accept nomination for re-election as club President after nearly 30 years acting in that capacity. Following suit, Secretary-Treasurer Jamie WB4YDL also said that he would step down after 13 years of keeping the books. There was no word from VP Bob K9IL whether he would accept nomination for re-election. So it was that at the February meeting, officer elections were held.

After over a decade of steady leadership by this trio, a new RARC President was elected - Harrell Davidson WD4LAR, and a new Secretary-Treasurer was elected - Noel Vickers KJ4UNX. Bob Miles K9IL was re-elected as Vice President once again. Congratulations to our new officers !!

Also, as we can never replace but only succeed our longest serving club President, by voice vote, Glenn Snow N4MJ was made President Emeritus for as long as he shall remain in Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club. Hip hip ... Hooray !!



-- February 24, 2017.

West TN West KY Emergency Net to Add ARES Minute

In an effort to increase participation in ARES, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, new Obion County Emergency Coordinator Harrell Davidson WD4LAR has suggested adding a few minutes during the regular Sunday evening net to present topics on emergency preparedness and ARES in general. This was greeted with enthusiasm during the recent monthly meeting and will start Sunday, September 25th with Jamie WB4YDL giving the ARES Minute. This is not designed to be a teaching session but just a minute or two on topics of interest in emergency communications. ARES members will be asked to state their affiliation when they check into the net.

If you are interested in becoming affiliated with ARES, in Tennessee, see [TNARES website](#), and in Kentucky, see the [ARES page of KYHAM website](#). Officers in the club are Harrell WD4LAR, EC Obion County, Roger KJ4AJP, EC Weakley County, and Jamie WB4YDL, ASEC West TN. -- September 24, 2016.

RARC Member Ray N4SLY Receives Governor's Appreciation



Jerry Ray Morris N4SLY received a special certificate from Tennessee Governor Haslam in appreciation for his work on the weather net run through the Trenton repeater. During this past October meeting, Jerry KJ4NSG made the formal presentation to Ray for his fine work as the primary net controller. Congratulations Ray! -- October 2015.

RARC Member Samuel KK4SJE Attains Eagle Scout

It is a great pleasure to announce that Samuel Clayton KK4SJE had the honor of receiving Eagle Scout at a recent ceremony at the Martin Methodist Church. Glenn N4MJ, President of Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club, had the following comments:

Congratulations to Samuel L. Clayton, KK4SJE. Sam, a RARC member & General Class licensee, received the honor of being recognized as an Eagle Scout this evening.

The ceremony took place at the Methodist church on Main Street in Martin, Tennessee. Sam's Mother (Hannah, KK4SJF), Father (Steve, KK4NNH) and sister Melodi (KK4SJD), his paternal Grand Mother, and Maternal Grand Parents (of Washington State) were in attendance. Steve and Hannah participated in the ceremony and presentation of the award. Each of them received an award honoring them as the parents of an Eagle Scout.

To become an Eagle Scout is a long road of continuous effort and accomplishments. Here are the basic requirements to become an Eagle Scout:

1. Be active in your troop, team, crew, or ship for a period of at least six months after you have achieved the rank of Life Scout.
2. Demonstrate that you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law in your daily life. Be recommended by people who know you and your accomplishments personally.
3. Earn a total of 21 merit badges (10 more than you already have), including the following:

(a) First Aid, (b) Citizenship in the Community, (c) Citizenship in the Nation, (d) Citizenship in the World, (e) Communication, (f) Cooking, (g) Personal Fitness, (h) Emergency



Preparedness or Lifesaving, (i) Environmental Science or Sustainability, (j) Personal Management, (k) Swimming or Hiking OR Cycling, (l) Camping, and (m) Family Life.

Becoming an Eagle Scout is an accomplishment that is never forgotten by one's parents, family or friends. It is a high honor bestowed upon but a small percentage of Boy Scouts. It is also the mark of a real life leader who meets challenges without reserve.

Congratulations also to Steve & Hannah for their efforts of providing guidance to a fine young man.

Other comments came from proud mother Hannah KK4SJF:

Samuel LaMar Clayton, son of Stephen and Hannah Clayton, was born at home in Whitehorse Washington, in the North Cascade mountains, on Feb 24, 1997. He has 5 sisters and 1 brother. After traveling all over the world he moved with his family to Martin, TN in 2008.

Sam started in Scouts as a Webelos in Freeland, Washington as a member of Cub Scout Pack 57 where he earned his Arrow of Light award. He crossed over to troop 4053, the Whidbey Island troop on the south end in 2007. In 2008 he joined Troop 11 here in Martin where he has been consistently active. He served in several positions over the years but served longest as Scribe/Historian taking pictures and making videos for the troop. He also served as patrol leader of the cobra patrol and assistant senior patrol leader of troop 11.

Sam was inducted into the Order of the Arrow in 2012 after achieving his Star rank. There he served also as scribe and vice chief of the Ittawamba lodge Oktibbeha chapter.

For his Eagle project Sam designed and constructed, with the help of troop 11 and input from Parks and Recreation, a movable bicycle rack for the Virginia Weldon park in Martin, TN. Funds were raised by a series of car washes with help from both scouts and sisters of scouts.

Samuel is home schooled and most interested in History, though he is doing well in Calculus, Computer 3d Modeling and Photoshop. He plays piano and loves camping and hiking. Some of his most memorable events during His time at troop 11 were the hikes along the Appalachian trail.

-- October 30, 2015.

RARC Receives Award for Showing in 2014 ARRL RTTY Roundup

Last January, members of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club decided to set up the Field Day GOTA station and configure it to run RTTY and enter the ARRL RTTY Roundup in the low power, multi-operator, single transmitter class. The conditions were not the greatest and our antennas were low "cloud warmers". On top of that, weather conditions were deteriorating throughout the weekend with cold icy conditions. Despite these limitations and despite the final score being penalized nearly 5000 points, the score put up by club call K4RFT was good enough for 7th place nationwide including Canada. The group also won the Southeast Division and placed 1st in the multi-op, low power, Tennessee section. During the January 2015 meeting, Glenn N4MJ presented to those operators copies of the very nice award for this achievement. Those operators were Jamie WB4YDL, Todd W4TZX, Noel KJ4UNX, Phil N4PWG, and Dean KK4PXJ. Congratulations !! -- January 24, 2015.



Jamie WB4YDL



Todd W4TZX



Noel KJ4UNX



Phil N4PWG



Dean KK4PXJ

RARC Again Enters 2015 ARRL RTTY Roundup - Finishes Well

Several members of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club gathered at the Field Day 'Shop' and again entered the ARRL RTTY Roundup (January 3rd and 4th) in the multi-op, single transmitter, low power category. As last year, the operation centered on a Field Day style operation using available gear at the shop normally used for the Field Day event. This included the Yaesu FT-920 radio normally used for the GOTA station that most recently had the AUX POWER connector repaired by Glenn N4MJ. The same Microham Microkeyer interface was used in FSK mode for RTTY keying. Antennas included the Mosely Mini-32 tri-band beam up 25 feet, a low fan dipole for 40M/80M, and a 40M extended double Zepp antenna. The latter antenna developed a feed line problem in the wind and rain and had to be taken off line. A WinXP computer running NIMM Classic with MMTTY and 2Tone engines logged the contest. This year the operators were Todd W4TZX, Jamie WB4YDL, Glenn N4MJ, Phil N4PWG, and Michael AK4VU. This was Glenn and Michael's first experience in the RTTY contest. Also visiting was Noel KJ4UNX and Michael KJ4KHX.

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Todd W4TZX at the helm logging QSO's



Phil N4PWG having fun at the rig.



Phil and Glenn at the snack table while Todd is at the station.



Todd W4TZX shows Michael AK4VU how to log RTTY contacts



See how easy this is ?!



Todd and Glenn searching the schematic for a pesky diode

Jamie WB4YDL and Todd W4TZX were the most experienced RTTY operators; however, Glenn N4MJ and Michael AK4VU quickly learned the ropes and made significant contributions. Phil N4PWG also is quite experienced and made several contacts at his home station when he had to leave the Shop. The bands were in pretty good shape and the goal was to better our last year's number of QSO's made. That goal was achieved. We had a final score that was slightly lower due to the lack of foreign station multipliers. We didn't have the snow and ice we had last year, but this was replaced with cold rain ! We all stayed warm with the kerosene heater and the hot coffee. Another successful ARRL RTTY Roundup was in the books. The results are tabulated in the following table. - - January 5, 2015.

ARRL RTTY Roundup Results

ARRL RTTY Roundup

Call: K4RFT

Operator(s): WB4YDL, W4TZX, N4MJ, N4PWG, AK4VU

Station: K4RFT

Class: M/S LP

QTH: TN

Operating Time (hrs): 24

Summary:

Band QSOs

80: 116

40: 147

20: 208

15 : 105

10: 33

Total: 609 State/Prov = 57 Countries = 13 Total Score = 42,630

Club: Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club

RARC Scores Well in 2014 ARRL RTTY Roundup

This past January, in very icy weather, the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club entered in the ARRL RTTY Roundup as a multi-operator, single radio entry. We had a lot of fun doing a Field Day style operation at Glenn N4MJ's shop. We used his Yaesu FT-920 transceiver along with a Microham Microkeyer with his Windows XP computer running N1MM Logger to rack up over 500 QSO's. The results of the contest were recently released and K4RFT placed first in the Southeastern Division and 7th nationwide in the multi-op, single radio, low power category. Not bad for a first time !

As written in the extended results : First time MSLP station K4RFT was very pleased with their "Field Day" style operation: "set up a FT-920 with a Microham Microkeyer interface and N1MM Logger software on the computer using MMTTY and 2Tone for decoding. It was simply a blast !!" - and good enough for seventh overall !

This 13 page write-up also featured a section titled *A Reelfoot Rendezvous* that highlighted much of the write-up on this page. See the full write-up - [2014 ARRL RTTY Roundup Results](#) . - *July 6, 2014.*

ARRL Centennial Club Activity

The ARRL, as part of their 100 year centennial celebration, is holding a year long event named the [ARRL Centennial QSO Party](#). During this time, stations from different states will operate as W1AW portable. During the year, each state will be active twice and on different modes. Usually a state contest or DX club is asked to coordinate operators for state representation.

There are awards given for contacting all states and other awards for Centennial Points Challenge.

Jamie WB4YDL has been asked to be W1AW/4 during the time frame of March 18 - 25th. Jamie will be operating his favorite mode RTTY. Look for him on the HF bands during this time. - *March 2, 2014.*

Two Tier Prize Ticket System for Hamfest Announced

At the February meeting, there was considerable discussion regarding the potential for unfair giveaway of the prizes. The cause for this was the fact that the Grand Prize this year is a very fine HF radio, the Icom IC-7200, whose worth is greater than most of the remaining prizes combined. A decision was made to provide a two tier ticket system - one for the Grand Prize and one for the general prizes. Prize tickets will be awarded based on purchases made with our commercial vendors. For every \$5 spent, a general prize ticket is earned. For every \$25 spent, a Grand Prize ticket is earned. Tickets for each tier are earned simultaneously. For example, a \$100 purchase, not including tax or any discount, will earn 20 general prize tickets **AND** 4 Grand Prize tickets. In addition, every paid attendee will be given **FREE** one ticket for each tier. Fractional number of tickets will be rounded. All receipts will be stamped. Receipts not used for tickets are not eligible for prizes. - *March 2, 2014.*

Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club Officers Re-elected

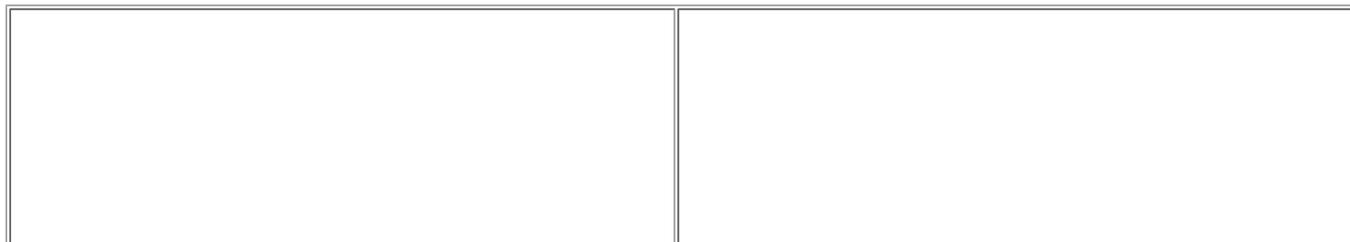
At the February meeting, officer elections reaffirmed the club leadership with re-election of its officers. Once again, President will be Glenn N4MJ, Vice-President is Bob K9IL, and Jamie WB4YDL returns as Secretary-Treasurer.



From left to right: Vice President Bob Miles K9IL, Secretary-Treasurer Jamie Hall WB4YDL, and President Glenn Snow N4MJ. Photo taken by Charles Allen N4PPD. - - *March 2, 2014.*

RTTY Contesting Lots of Fun for Club First Effort

For the first time in Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club history, members got together and entered in the ARRL RTTY Roundup which is held the first weekend of the calendar year. So it was on January 4th-5th, 2014 that 6 members - Glenn N4MJ, Jamie WB4YDL, Todd W4TZX, Phil N4PWG, Noel KJ4UNX, and Dean KK4PXJ - gathered at the Field Day shop before noon that Saturday. The contest is an everybody-contact-everybody contest with a duration of 30 hours. Of that time, you are allowed 24 hours to operate. We chose to be off from 12 midnight to 6 AM and work the the contest in 12 hour blocks. The contest was entered in the M/S LP (multiple operator, single transmitter, low power) category. The radio used was the Yaesu FT-920 transceiver that we normally use for the GOTA station during Field Day. To make the most of this radio, an added 400 Hz INRAD filter was installed and a Microham Microkeyer interface was used. The contest software was NIMM Logger with the MMTTY engine and 2Tone as decoders. The old Dell Windows XP computer handled everything just fine once the software was configured and we used a two monitor setup for easy viewing by bystanders and visitors. The antennas were the Mosely mini-32 2-element tribander up 25 feet and an 80M/40M fan dipole constructed by Todd W4TZX configured as an inverted-V. Power output was a nominal 80 watts.





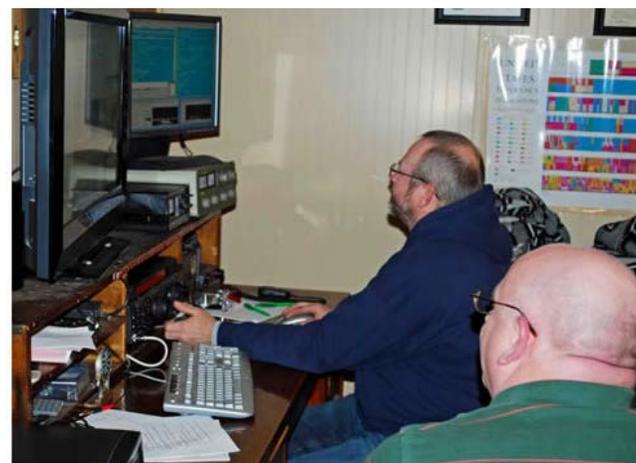
Jamie WB4YDL assists Dean KK4PXJ with Todd W4TZX



Noel KJ4UNX gets a run going



Phil N4PWG operating 20 meters



Todd W4TZX shows Dean KK4PXJ S&P technique

Jamie WB4YDL and Todd W4TZX had the most experience with this mode and with the N1MM software. Phil N4PWG also had experience in RTTY but utilizing FLdigi software and its very different display. Both Noel KJ4UNX and Dean KK4PXJ had very limited experience with the mode. Glenn N4MJ decided to 'supervise' and did not participate in actual transmission. As the contest kicked off, we noticed right away that conditions on the bands were not ideal and our limited station was going to struggle a bit making contacts. However, each operator made the best of what was common to all and found a rhythm and made good runs. The first day wrapped up at midnight. At 6 AM, weather conditions were deteriorating and it was getting cold and windy fast. Todd and Jamie were in the shack operating for the rest of the way. When 500 QSO's was finally attained, a great sigh of relief was heard as we achieved our overall goal. As we departed, the temperature was in single digits and there was ice on the ground. We all made it home fine and basked in the glory of a successful first RARC RTTY Roundup contest !

ARRL RTTY Roundup Results

ARRL RTTY Roundup

Call: K4RFT

Operator(s): WB4YDL, W4TZX, KJ4UNX, N4PWG, KK4PXJ

Station: K4RFT

Class: M/S LP

QTH: TN

Operating Time (hrs): 24

Summary:

Band QSOs

80: 131

40: 110

20: 222

15: 58

10: 3

Total: 524 State/Prov = 54 Countries = 28 Total Score = 42,968

Club: Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club

Hopefully, next year will provide a more robust effort with more participation from club members. As with any contest group, we will always endeavor to improve the station and antennas.

That job is *never* done ! - - January 8, 2014.