

Meetings and Discussion

This section of the web site will recap previous meetings and any discussion that was raised at these meetings or since that time. This will give the membership time to digest what was brought up and then pose any questions, comments, or suggestions. It will also have downloadable files of any pertinent program material presented at these meetings.

RARC Meeting October 27, 2022

The Oct 27th Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club meeting was kicked off by president Noel KJ4UNX at 6:30 at the Obion County Public Library. This was the last meeting of the calendar year 2022. There were 17 people in attendance, 9 ARRL members.

Patrick KO4HEX reviewed the financial report and old business.

Gene K4MUN had an interesting update on the tornadoes that struck the area the day of the Christmas Party last year. He has seen a picture that there were actually 5 tornadoes.

We had additional discussion on the Christmas Dinner and settled on *The Keg* in Fulton, KY. **Addendum : Event date / time is Friday, December 9th at 6:00 PM.**

Noel KJ4UNX mentioned that KD4UAR had some antenna problems, that one of the guy wires had broken off of the mast.

We then had a break for refreshments where Patrick KO4HEX provided some Little Caesars pizzas. There was plenty left over !

WB4YDL Jamie, KO4HEX Patrick, and Phil N4PWG lead a presentation on Ham Radio Go Kits / Bags. Jamie went into detail on his 2M/70CM 24 hour Go Bag, Patrick went into his long term off-grid HF go bag, and Phil showed his emergency communications go bag. Very good information and very customizable to anyone's needs.

Phil N4PWG gave some information that there is a YouTube page by N5EIA Dave on Winlink and provides google slides.

President Noel then adjourned the meeting. We hope to see everyone at the Christmas dinner!

RARC Meeting September 22, 2022

The September 22nd Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club meeting was kicked off by President Noel KJ4UNX at 6:30 PM Thursday evening. We had 13 members and 4 guests in attendance.

We started off with old business and the financial report by Patrick KO4HEX.

New business was led by Glenn N4MJ with discussions on locations for the Christmas dinner party. We discussed options at the Southern State, Lenny's, The Keg and Cottonwood. No decision has been made yet.

A great discussion on the swap meet was led by Glenn N4MJ with possible locations being proposed by Ben KO4LFZ being Reelfoot Lake. Being able to do POTA (Parks on the Air) activations, have the swap meet, plus have the additional food options down by the lake sounds very promising. The National Guard location was also discussed, as well as Graham Park, but there wouldn't be a Parks on the Air element of the swap meet if we were at those locations.

Glenn N4MJ also shared a fun story of his adventures looking for a new Honda ATV. It sounds like the supply chain issues are affecting everyone.

Patrick KO4HEX shared that he has his ARRL Volunteer Examiner certificate, received in the mail this week, as well as his ARES membership card, that was given to him by the Obion CountyARES Emergency Coordinator Harrell, WD4LAR.

Phil N4PWG let us know that his Winlink Gateway in Troy is up and running. Patrick, KO4HEX confirmed contact with the node earlier that day on VARA FM. We are all grateful for the additional gateway. There was some additional discussion on the TN Winlink Net held by WC4EOC in Williamson Co. TN.

Ben KO4MAO informed us that the Martin repeater is not operational at the moment. Phil, N4PWG confirmed that he hasn't been able to use the repeater for a couple of weeks.

Refreshments were provided by Glenn, N4MJ. We had some fantastic vegetable soup and pecan pie for dessert. Thank you Glenn! The refreshments were delicious.

President Noel, KJ4UNX gave a great presentation on restoring some pioneer speakers. Restoring old equipment is a great way to extend the life of items that are either hard to find and/or no longer in production. Great presentation Noel!

Patrick, KO4HEX provided some show and tell with some items he has been 3D printing. There was some good discussion on 3D printing and its uses in amateur radio.

Ben, KO4LFZ provided information on the KY DMR net on talk group 3121 that is held Thursday nights at 7 PM CST. They had 40 check-ins that night! Great turn out!

Jamie, WB4YDL reminded everyone of the CQ WW RTTY contest going on this weekend. This sounds like it will be a ton of fun. Good luck to all the contestants this weekend!

RARC Meeting August 25, 2022

The August 25th Reelfoot Amateur Radio Meeting was called to order by President Noel KJ4UNX at 6:30pm. There were 13 members in attendance and 4 guests. Noel was also able to provide some extra 2021 Field Day T-Shirts. Much appreciated Noel!

Patrick KO4HEX, kicked things off by reviewing the financial report and moved on to a review of old business.

New business was started by Glenn, N4MJ with a review of potential restaurants for the Christmas Party. We discussed the Keg in Martin, Autry's in Troy, Cottonwood in Troy, and The Willow Tree in Obion.

Ben KO4LFZ, informed us that QRZ, right now is providing a free HT to newly licensed operators if they sign up within 30 days after receiving their licenses. This is great news for new Hams!

We also discussed the TN QSO Party is coming up Labor Day weekend. We then moved on to refreshments provided by Jamie, WB4YDL with a taco bar! Very delicious! There weren't a lot of leftovers after we were done.

Harrell WD4LAR presented a very fun and interactive presentation on traffic, handling instructions, and a nice exercise on filling out a radiogram. We also reviewed the Department of Defense's 8 essential things in case of emergencies, which are:

Is internet available?

Is water available?

Is Power available?

Are hotels available?

What are road conditions?

What is the local news?

What is airport weather?

Is fuel available?

After the review, Glenn N4MJ was able to let us know he was receiving messages from the Clayton's on their boat, via winlink and Pactor. We wish them all the best.

President Noel then concluded the August 25th RARC meeting. We hope to see everyone next month!

RARC Meeting July 28, 2022

The July 28th Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club meet was kicked off by president Noel KJ4UNX at the Obion County Library at 6:30pm. We had 13 Members in attendance including new member KO4ZMW Thomas Hester from Martin, TN.

Patrick KO4HEX gave a brief overview of the old business and financial report. New business started with discussion from Harrel WD4LAR on the Winlink net that has now over 50 members.

We moved on to discussions on possible Christmas Dinner locations. *Cottonwood Grill* and the *Willow Tree* are the top 2 picks so far. There was additional discussion on a possible Hamfest that could include Gibson/Trenton, Crockett, and Obion County. Ben KO4MAO showed off a pair of two 10M Antennas that were available for give away. Ben Rudy, KO4LFZ picked one up. Very cool antennas and we all look forward to hearing how it performs.

KN4OPZ Randle provided refreshments including some homemade banana pudding that his XYL made. We had no trouble eating the whole thing. Very delicious!

WB4YDL Jamie lead the Field Day discussion and all of our scores with different breakdowns on each station and operator. Overall we posted over 6k Points!! Afterwards, Phil N4PWG lead discussion on the 1D rule for Field Day with potential impacts and opportunities. Great discussion!

Jamie WB4YDL showed off a 3D printed winder he had printed out of PLA material, to create an EFHW antenna. Very cool and sturdy! Perfect timing coming off of last meetings EFHW discussion. A potential group build was proposed by Jamie WB4YDL on an upcoming transceiver kit called the T41 from 4 Square QRP Group. The kit is an 8 circuit board, all band, all

mode kit currently in the beta stage. Very interesting kit and we all look forward to seeing the live version and potential get together for the club build!

Harrel WD4LAR reminded everyone of the 3980 reflector communications and the upcoming Earthquake awareness net on 3980, Sept 12th. Great information!

After a great meeting and great discussions President KJ4UNX adjourned the meeting.

See everyone next month!

[RARC Meeting May 26, 2022](#)

The May 26th meeting was called to order by president Noel KJ4UNX at the Obion County Library. There were 9 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Noel KJ4UNX assisted the newly elected secretary treasurer Patrick KO4HEX with the review of the old business and the financial report.

New business started with Ben Rudy KO4LFZ with his POTA activation of Fort Massac with 16 contacts. He said the bands weren't the best, but with the minimum of 10 contacts, an activation is an activation!

We moved on to Field Day discussion lead by Jamie WB4YDL. Field Day will be at the same place as last year. It will be at Glenn N4MJ's shop on June 25-26th. We will be operating as 2A TN to try and beat our record last year as 20th in the nation and 1st in TN for that class with mostly FT8 contacts. We also discussed the rule change of the 100 watt limit, and that the class D-to-class D rule is still in effect. Ben KO4MAO will provide a undated poster and Glenn N4MJ will operate CW.

There was some additional discussion on traffic by Harrel WD4LAR and that no analog traffic was passed through TN last year during Field Day - that it was passed via digital modes such as Winlink.

Michael AK4VU provided refreshments with a wide variety of Little Caesar's pizzas. Very tasty! Thank you Mike!

Patrick KO4HEX held a discussion on End Fed Half Wave antennas and showed off a couple of kits he built from QRPguys.

With Memorial Day coming up, there will be no Sunday evening net on May 29th.

Wishing everyone a great Memorial Day and see everyone during Field Day 2022!

[RARC Meeting April 28, 2022](#)

The April 28th meeting was called to order by the newly elected president Noel KJ4UNX at the Obion County Library. There were 13 members in attendance for the gathering.

Noel KJ4UNX reviewed the financial report and old business from last month.

New business started with the election of the Secretary/Treasurer position. Phil N4PWG nominated Patrick Hall KO4HEX, Jamie Hall WB4YDL seconded the nomination. The group voted unanimously for the candidate. Congratulations, and you'll do an excellent job. Ben Rudy KO4LFZ discussed his POTA activation at Hillman Ferry campground. He made 132 contacts, and Will KO4VLV made 2 contacts. Great job, guys!

This month's refreshments were provided by KQ4UB Steve Harpole and his XYL Barbara. They brought an assortment of Subway sandwiches with all the trimming, chips, cookies, and drinks. It was a great meal enjoyed by all. Thank you, Steve.

KJ4UNX brought a 1942 Vibroplex bug purchased at the Free Fest along with several other keys to she the group.

Patrick KO4HEX brought his battery go box he recently built for portable operation. He put a lot of work into wiring, installing LEDs, battery meters, batteries, and electronics. Great job on the box !

There was some initial discussion on Field Day which will be held at Glenn N4MJ's shop on June 25-26th weekend. It is expected we will be in the 2A classification as last year. Patrick KO4HEX will head up the GOTA station with his newly acquired Kenwood TS-590S.

See everyone next month

[RARC Meeting March 24, 2022](#)

The March 24th, 2022 meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order by the sec/treasurer Noel KJ4UNX. Our President Jamie WB4YDL was unable to attend due to foot

& ankle surgery. We all wish him a speedy recovery. We had 13 members in attendance. Two of those were new members KD4VKR Jeff Howard and his XYL Nancy.

Noel KJ4UNX reviewed the financial report and old business from January. Our February meeting had been canceled due to bad weather conditions.

New business for March was officer elections. Jamie WB4YDL President and Hannah KK4SJF Vice President decided not to seek another term. The club voted Noel Vickers KJ4UNX as our new President and Phillip Green N4PWG as our new Vice President. Congratulations on your appointments ! I know you will do well. Glenn N4MJ motioned the club to wait until the April meeting to nominate a new sec/treas, and those in attendance agreed.

Ben KK4MAO placed 10th in the North American QSO party youth division. Congratulations, Ben, way to go ! Phil N4PWG brought up having a regular simplex net due to the lack of communication during the December 10th tornado that struck our area. Glenn N4MJ discussed his QRP fox hunting, how propagation is changing due to better band conditions, and finding hams on the reverse beacon network. Glenn N4MJ talked about the Field Day changes for this year - no more than 100 watts, and they are keeping the class D to class D home station rule.

The Barlett Free Fest will be heard on April 9th in Bartlett. Info and the flyer can be found on the ARRL.org site.

Refreshments this month were provided by Harrell WD4LAR and his XYL Carrie. They brought some delicious hot ham and cheese on dinner rolls with lots of melted butter on top and potato chips. For dessert, Carrie made an awesome Oreo cookie cake. Dinner sure was great and we thank them for providing it !

Noel KJ4UNX gave a short demonstration on a Anesty ZD-915 desoldering station. He showed how much easier to was to use than solder wick or a solder pump. He then asked if anyone wanted to try it. Ben KO4MAO came up and gave it a try and removed a couple of components off of an old PC board.

Due to fox hunts and basketball games our new President KJ4UNX adjourned the meeting.

[RARC Meeting January 27, 2022](#)

The first meeting of 2022 for the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club was called to order in the Tennessee Room at 6:30 pm at the Obion County Library by our President James Hall, WB4YDL.

Secretary Noel KJ4UNX reviewed the financial report and old business.

Jamie WB4YDL started new business for the month by going around the room asking everyone what they have been doing in the radio world since the last meeting. Harrell WD4LAR brought attention to the fact that there needs to be more training for net control stations handling written traffic on nets.

The December tornados, their destruction, and how they affected club members were discussed. Several club members were affected by this storm.

The club took a break for refreshments that Ben KO4MAO and his dad brought. They served the club cookies, a lemon cake, chips, crackers, hummus, dips, salsa, a vegetable tray, and bottled water. The refreshments were excellent. Thank you, Ben and your parents, for bringing them.

Jamie WB4YDL gave an excellent presentation on linear power supplies versus switching power supplies. He discussed the pros and cons, the weight differences between them, internal components, noise differences, price, and which one might be best for the user at home.

Officer elections are next month, and our President has announced that he is stepping down due to medical/surgery issues. Our vice president has moved, and that office needs to be filled.

Hope to see everyone next month.