

## 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 26, 2023

The last Reelfoot Amateur Club meeting for calendar year 2023 kicked off at 6:30 pm at the Obion County Public Library. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Phil Green, N4PWW, as President Noel, KJ4MUN, was running a bit late, but did manage to make the meeting. We had 10 members and 1 guest in attendance.

Patrick, KO4HEX, reviewed the financial report and old business. He will have a more detailed year over year look at the first meeting of calendar year 2024.

New business was brought up by Patrick, with the success of Parks on the Air support-your-parks weekend. Patrick and Phil were both able to activate Reelfoot Lake State Park, K-2971. Phil ended up with 19 contacts SSB and Patrick had 33 digital contacts and 1 CW contact.

Glen N4MJ had some fun at Bluff Mountain with an FT-817 and a Buddipole antenna. Great pics on Mewe and glad you got the antenna working!

We then took a break for refreshments provided by Patrick with some Little Caesars pizza. He says that he will have the new refreshment schedule and NCS schedule posted by the end of the year.

Phil led 2 very interesting presentations. The first presentation was how he made a very nifty antenna that he was able to hook up to his HT and make some really impressive contacts.

20AWG copper wire attached to a BNC binding post

19 1/2in both sides 2m

61/2inches both sides 70 cm

Raised 25 ft

Able to make a contact down to Jackson on 70cm calling frequency from Reelfoot Lake State Park

Able to hit the repeater in Jackson from Reelfoot Lake State Park

The next presentation was a discussion on ARES. Phil provided the ARES requirements for the different levels of ARES. With these requirements, he said that these were updated as of this summer, brought some interesting discussions.

It was great to see everyone at our last meeting of the year and hope to see you at the Christmas dinner!

### RARC Meeting September 28, 2023

The Sept 28th Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club meeting was kicked off by president Noel, KJ4UNX, at 6:30 at the Obion County Public Library. There were 12 members in attendance and one guest. Mike Sadler KQ4KQS was new to the group and is a new Technician studying for his General Class license. Great to meet you Mike and good luck on the General exam. Welcome to the hobby! Patrick, KO4HEX, reviewed the old business and financial report.

New business was started with Chuck, KO4JIG, letting us know the Gleason repeater is still down. We appreciate the update!

The club voted and Glenn, N4MJ will call to set up the Christmas dinner reservations at The Keg for Friday, December the 8th at 6:30pm. Thank you Glenn.

Ben, KO4LFZ, gave us an update on the Sky Warn storm spotter class that was held in Hickman KY. It sounded like there were mixed reviews on the class, but successful. It was also brought up that Paducah and Memphis also rotate classes.

Ben also let us know that he was able to make a contact on 440 MHz (70 cm) simplex to a pilot 41k feet in the air. This was a great example, as Mike was bringing up range of contact for 2m/70cm.

There was discussion on the success of the Trenton Swap meet. It was great to see the turn out and it sounds like it will be an annual event with the help of Harrell, WD4LAR. Phil, N4PWW, had a great story of making RTTY contacts on 1/10th of a watt with his X6100 radio. Very impressive on such low power! Jamie, WB4YDL, brought up that Shea Riley, the leader of the Trail Life group is looking for a Morse Code instructor to help teach his group. Phil, N4PWW, also informed the club that Emergency Management communications is currently

through law enforcement only. Patrick, KO4HEX, brought up the Support Your Parks weekend, on Oct 21-22 of next month. Phil, N4PWG, says he will also be in attendance. More information will be posted as a reminder on MeWe.

Many thanks to Glenn N4MJ and Jeff W5VNH for providing refreshments for the meeting. After the break, Patrick KO4HEX, with an assist from Ben KO4LFZ, gave a very informative presentation on the programming of handtalkies (HT's) by using a program called CHIRP. The Powerpoint presentation and handout are linked at the bottom of this page.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the last meeting for the calendar year 2023 next month!

## RARC Meeting August 24, 2023

The August 24th meeting was kicked off at 6:30 at the Obion County Library. There were 10 members in attendance with 5 guests. Great turn out! Patrick moved into the Financial report and will provide a year over year analysis at the beginning of next year.

Chuck KQ4JIG let us know that the Gleason repeater is down.

Christmas dinner was discussed. The discussion was led by President Noel, KJ4UNX. We have a couple of options. The Keg, Boyettes, and Trimble Diner were discussed, but no decision as of yet.

Jeff let us know that he was in the March 1963 issue of QST. Noel let us know that he collects QST magazines and was able to pick up the '63 issues.

Noel gave an update on the Huntsville hamfest. He was in attendance and gave a very funny clock story. We wonder if he is out of the dog house. He also mentioned that he picked up a 45lb receiver, aka a "boat anchor".

Harrell let us know that for printed copies of QST, there is now a \$23 a month charge after January. The lifetime membership of the ARRL is not offered at the moment which included the QST membership. There was then some additional discussion on the reduction of paper copy magazines as of late.

Patrick KO4HEX let everyone know of a learning experience he had at a recent POTA activation where he forgot to turn on the VOX on his radio to transmit CW.

After some great refreshments provided by Jamie WB4YDL, some fantastic BBQ, Gene K4MUN led a presentation on solar power. It was a great presentation covering solar panels, charge controllers, batteries, and even powering your house! Great presentation and great discussion!

We hope to see everyone at the September meeting!

## RARC Meeting July 27, 2023

The Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club kicked off at 6:30 on July 27th, 2023, at the Obion County Public Library by President Noel, KJ4UNX. There were 13 members in attendance. Patrick, KO4HEX, reviewed the financial report and old business from the May 25th meeting.

Phil, N4PWG, led a discussion about the Skywarn 2.- and that the Skywarn 1.- will go away Aug. 1st.

Patrick led a discussion about Parks on the Air from the Support Your Parks weekend in July with 2 activations and over 30 contacts from the weekend. The next Support Your Parks weekend will be Oct 21 - 22. Ben, KO4LFZ let the club know that James Mon, the YouTuber, is still activating 1 POTA a day and was near the area recently.

Ben, KO4LFZ, updated everyone that the Murray State Amateur Radio Club will be holding a POTA contest. Check <https://k4msu.com/kypota/> for more information. Ben says that he will be at the Columbus Belmont Shelter D (beside the museum) on Aug 12th from 9-5. There will also be activators at the KY Dam village.

There was some nice discussion on 2M and 70cm propagation from the local repeaters being able to receive signals from other repeaters on the same frequency. Ben also let the club know of a good deal on the DR2 Yaseu repeater.

We took a break for refreshments which was a "potluck" from Patrick, Jamie, WB4YDL, and Phil, N4PWG. There were plenty of choices from pizza, chips and dip, veggie tray, and cookies!

Jamie, WB4YDL, led the recap on Field Day 2023. There were 13 operators, 31 sign-ins, and pictures are up on the website! Be sure to check out the great video! It was great to see a good Field Day turn out. There was some discrepancy on the scoring process with the new GOTA station rules, but other than that, it was a great Field Day 2023!

There was some discussion on additional events that we could possibly do as a club. Winter Field Day is Jan.27th -28th. We discussed possibly doing a 1 station 1 day activation. More

details will be needed. There is also the Parks On the Air Support Your Parks weekend in October.

There was some additional discussion on a possible Hamfest. Ben, KO4LFZ, said that there is some interest in some of the clubs in west KY to try and put one together in the Paducah area. I know there has been some interest in this type of event for some time. Additionally the Trenton Club is holding a Hamfest this Sept. 16th.

Noel gave a nice presentation of a shadow box project. It was an 8x10 box that he purchased at Hobby Lobby with some cork backing. He showed the club what he was doing with his collection of ARRL Field Day pins over the years. Very cool display!

Phil, N4PWG, showed a neat little device used for running Windows OS. There was some additional discussion on Linux and Windows that seemed to spark some interest!

The meeting was motioned for a close by President Noel and second by Jamie. So, the meeting came to a close at 8:30PM. It was great to see everyone! 73!

## RARC Meeting May 25, 2023

The May 25th Reelfoot Amateur Radio Meeting was called to order by President Noel KJ4UNX at 6:30pm. There were 8 members in attendance and 4 guests. We moved to Old business and the financial report led by Patrick, KO4HEX.

Jamie, WB4YDL, brought a nice QSL card from Bouvet Island!! Well done! A very rare card indeed.

The club had some minor updates on some of the new releases at the Dayton Hamvention such as the QMX, and the new Kenwood HT. Glad to see Kenwood is back!

Harrel, WD4LAR, shared the numbers on the Rolling Cyber Attack off grid exercise. TN, AL, AR, GA, MS - 79 check-ins on Monday and 76 on Tuesday.

Noel, KJ4UNX brought up food for Field Day. Rotel seemed to be a hot item last year and will be brought back again this year as well as burgers. Last year the club finished in the top 20 nationwide for class 2A. We are all excited for Field Day weekend of June 24th.

Phil had some show and tell with his new Xiegu X6100 - a very cool radio! He shared a nice story of being able to make a contact on 1/10 of a watt!! Very impressive! We look forward to more interesting stories about this radio.

## RARC Meeting April 27, 2023

The Apr 27th Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club meeting kicked off at 6:30 PM CST at the Union City Library led by President Noel Vickers, KJ4NUX. We started by reviewing old business and the financial report led by Patrick Hall, KO4HEX.

We then moved on to a review of the Parks on the Air activation as a club held on April 15th at the Reelfoot Lake State Park. It was a fairly windy day and rain moved in that afternoon. We did end up with 21 digital FT8 contacts and 6 phone contacts for a total of 27 contacts. We did get a Support your Parks Activator and Hunter awards for the activation. We look forward to future club POTA events.

Patrick KO4HEX, updated the club on the club QSL card. He passed around several copies in case they need to be used in club events.

Refreshments were provided by Steve Harpole, KQ4UB. We had some Snappy's Pizza delivered to the library. Very tasty! We appreciate the pizza Steve!

Ben, KO4MAO, presented a copy of his award from the School Club Round Up a few weeks back. Very cool!

Harrel, WD4LAR, let the club know of a silent key, K4BSI. We are sad to hear of Jack's passing.

Jamie, WB4YDL, led the discussion on Field Day coming up on June 24th- 25th. He updated us on a couple of rule changes with the GOTA station and then we spoke about setting up possibly that Friday the 23rd over at 'the shop'. Hopefully the weather will play nice!

Jamie then updated the club on the solar CME from the previous week with great stories from how far south the northern lights were able to be seen; as far south as Kentucky!

Glenn, N4MJ let the club know that the Tennessee QSO Party will again be on Labor day weekend. Hopefully we can try and see if schedules will allow for a fun activation during that busy weekend.

Patrick, KO4HEX, updated the club that the Cayce repeater ,K4CAY, has the Fusion C4FM side of the repeater up and running and that the Technician class hosted by the Fulton County Amateur Radio Club will start on Monday the 8th at 6PM at the Fulton County Extension office.

## RARC Meeting March 23, 2023

The Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club's March 23rd Meeting was kicked off by Vice President Phil Green, N4PWG. President Noel KJ4UNX was unable to make the meeting. We hope he feels better soon. There were 12 members and 1 guest in attendance.

We started the meeting with the Financial Report and Old business led by Patrick KO4HEX. We then moved into new business to discuss.

Patrick, KO4HEX, gave an update on the club QSL card. He is working with a company to get the club logo and KY and TN state flags, as well as the USA flag and ARRL logo on the card.

Ben, KO4LFZ, was able to let us all know that the Cayce repeater in Fulton is up and running. C4FM is running but not hooked up to the internet as of yet. Robert, KG4ZDN, has the interface for it and says it should be running soon. They are also looking to start a net for the repeater as well.

Ben also let us know that he is wanting to do a tech class and test on May the 8th from 6-9 and try to test on the 19th as well as on Field Day.

Mike, AK4VU, was suggesting a 4:1 Balun education for the next meeting, which Patrick volunteered to put together.

Patrick brought up the POTA event for the club in which we agreed to set up the date the weekend after Easter.

Robert, KG4ZDN, was able to update us on some emergency training sessions in Hickman, KY. More details are posted on MeWe.

We then took a break for refreshments from Harrell WD4LAR. We had some fantastic sandwiches, lemon cake, and brownies. We appreciate your wife's cooking very much! It was all delicious!!

After the break Ben reminded us of the Fulton County Amateur Radio Club's meeting on April the 13th at the Fulton County Extension office at 6:30 PM.

Harrell then made a motion to adjourn the meeting in which Patrick 2nd. We hope to see everyone out at the POTA Event on April 15th!

## RARC Meeting February 23, 2023

The February 23rd meeting of the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club kicked off at 6:30 pm at the Obion County Library. There were 17 in attendance with 4 guests.

We started off with old business and moved on to the financial report before the elections were started.

Noel KJ4UNX - President

Phil N4PWG - Vice President

Patrick KO4HEX - Secretary Treasurer

Congratulations everyone for the re-elections!

Glenn N4MJ proposed the club needs to get club QSL cards. He said we could get about 200 for \$60. Patrick KO4HEX volunteered to look into a design for the club QSL cards.

The reason for the QSL cards is because Ben KO4MAO was able to get 33 states 4 CA provinces 1DX for a total of 135 QSOs and 15,255 points in the School Club Roundup. He broke a record for single op 15M low power and won the division. Congratulations Ben!

Glenn N4MJ started discussion on an event for the 35th anniversary of the RARC. A POTA club event was suggested by Patrick KO4HEX. Patrick will look into Kiwanis park and Round house to aim for an April event for the club.

Ben KO4LFZ reminded everyone of the Cave City Hamfest on March the 4th. Thanks for the reminder Ben! It sounds like a lot of fun.

Harrell WD4LAR updated the club on the passing of Billy Singleton K4ACT. The club members who knew Billy shared some kind words.

Ben KO4LFZ updated the RARC of the formation of the Fulton County ARC.

Pawnatac Park - Fulton 6:30 Community Center - Next meeting location

Club call sign applied for 3-4 weeks

2nd Thursday - March 9th - Club meets

We then broke for refreshments provided by President Noel. The Chili was amazing!

After the break Noel was able to give a demonstration on a EMC Electronic measurements corporation tube tester that he acquired at Hoxie Hamfest a few years ago. The demo was a couple of tubes from an old Collins Radio.

Great meeting everyone. We hope to see everyone back next month. 73!

### RARC Meeting January 26, 2023

The first meeting of calendar year 2023 was called to order by President Noel (KJ4UNX). We had 16 people in attendance, including Tom Bridgewater NA8X, the ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator for West Tennessee.

Patrick (KO4HEX), the Secretary Treasurer, reviewed old business and the financial report and reminded everyone that dues are due next month as well as officer elections.

A motion to reimburse Noel, for the \$50 fee incurred at the Keg for the reservation of our party for the Christmas dinner was called by Glenn, N4MJ, and 2nd by Jamie, WB4YDL, and was put to a vote, which passed.

Jamie, WB4YDL, reminded everyone that Winter Field Day and the 160 CW contests are this weekend.

Harrell, WD4LAR, brought up some good discussion on traffic and the Winlink nets on how we have coverage in AR, AL, TN. He also brought up the W1AW satellite event. The RARC has spots open Tuesday, Mar 28th for the event. No station requirements for the event.

Patrick, KO4HEX, brought up the discussions held by Ben, KO4LFZ, on a project to put up a 2M, Fusion capable, repeater on the Casey water tower in Fulton Co. on a Zoom meeting earlier the previous week. Discussions are still being held on what is required to get the project moving forward including repeater pairs, coax, and other equipment.

Ben, KO4MAO, brought up that the WRTC event is the "Olympics of ham radio".

Glenn, N4MJ, brought up possibly trying to do a club event in the spring, such as POTA.

We then had a break for refreshments brought by Ben KO4MAO and his family. The soup was very delicious and I don't believe there was much to take back home. Great recipe!

The meeting continued with a fantastic presentation by Tom Bridgewater on the ARRL, as well as the event for the rest of the calendar year "VOTA", Volunteers on the Air. The event gives points for contacting volunteers or members of the ARRL on the air throughout the year 2023. This sounds like a great event. Tom then presented the Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club with the ARRL Special Service Club certificate. We are very appreciative, and it was great to meet you Tom! The meeting was motioned for a close shortly after. It was great to see everyone for the new year!