

# About the Dickson County ARC

By: Charles Seay Sr. KN4HL

The Dickson County Amateur Radio Club was started by a group of local amateur radio operators in the early months of 1990 with the first organizational meeting being held on March 5, 1990 at the Bank Of Dickson downtown. At that meeting a unanimous vote was taken to start a new club. Charles Seay was elected temporary president.

Several amateur radio clubs had previously been started but had ceased operation due to lack of participation of local amateurs.

The next meeting occurred on May 5th, 1990. It was decided that the club would meet every two months and that most club business could be handled between the regular meetings by the establishment of a local net on 28.325 mhz which met at 8 p. m. each Sunday evening. Everyone was excited about our first Field Day under the club banner. It was at this May meeting that The Dickson County Amateur Radio Club was selected as the club's official name.

It wasn't long before our meeting room began filling to capacity at each meeting and it was decided to meet on the second Monday on a monthly basis. This has continued to the present time.

It wasn't long before there were several amateurs who wished to upgrade and a local Volunteer Examiner team was formed consisting of Jeff Clark NY4N, Bryan Vaughn AB4KX and Wayne Marsh N4QYO. This team, consisting of different members with the exception of Jeff Clark NY4N has continued to give examinations as the need arises.

The Dickson County Amateur Radio Club has participated in the ARRL Field Day each year and has performed well. In 1998 the club finish in first place in the 4A battery category.

Most members of the club are certified NOAA weather spotters and have assisted the Weather Service during several bad weather warnings. Most members are communicators with the Dickson County Emergency Management Agency and are subject to call by the agency at any time.

The Dickson County Amateur Radio Club in cooperation with and under the direction of the Dickson Police Department conducts "OPERATION GOBLIN" on Halloween each year. Members are used as civilian patrol units which are trained by the Chief Of Police to observe and report acts of vandalism during the Halloween celebration.

Besides participating in Field Day, Weather Spotter Activities and Operation Goblin, the club also has two add-a-dish picnics each year for club members. Each member brings one or more dishes of food. No one has ever gone away hungry from a club picnic. During these picnics a White Elephant Sale is conducted. Member place items in a brown paper sack and each sack is auctioned off to the highest bidder. It is a unique way of raising money for club projects. Since members of the Dickson County Amateur Radio Club don't have dues to pay, voluntary donations are collected at each club meeting.

The Dickson County Amateur Radio Club currently meets at the Dickson County Public Library on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p. m. Everyone is invited to attend. Exceptions to the meeting dates includes picnic meetings and our annual club Christmas Party .