



M.A.R.K. NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 4 April 2006

For the latest news check out the MARK website at <http://www.qsl.net/mark/>

Weekly Nets:

Saturday Night
10 meter Net
28.400 MHz USB
8 p.m. CDT (1:00 UTC)
Net control: Ken, KA9AHP

Sunday Night
2 meter Net
Temporarily 444.925
103.5 Hz tone
Normally 146.655, - offset
8 p.m. CDT (1:00 UTC)
Net control: Various

A Ham Radio breakfast is held every Friday morning at the D and W Restaurant in Mattoon at 8 a.m.

Coles County ARES will meet Fridays at the Forum from 6:30 AM to 7:10 AM until further notice. This is located about four doors East of Gowins restaurant in Mattoon.

Don't forget to check into the [Clark County](#)

Regular Monthly Meeting

The regular monthly meeting will be on April 17th 7 pm at the club house in Bruce IL All amateur & their guests are welcome Note: There will be testing after the meeting...If you are wanting to upgrade or know someone who does bring them to the meeting so they can take the test Please give some thought about volunteering to mow the yard at the club house this year

Program

No Program

Program Suggestions

We would greatly appreciate your suggestions for programs for the club meetings. If you have something you would like to present, or know a person who could give us a good program please email Clint, KC9S. kc9s@mail2usa.com or Bob, KA9LRZ ka9lrz@consolidated.com

MARK Meeting Mar 20, 2006
Club House Bruce, IL

Members present:

Bob Olson KA9LRZ, Dave Riddle KD9AC, Vernon Jack K9SWY, Ron Jack WB9ZCN, Clint Parrish KC9S, Jerry VanMatre WX9D, Alan Dickens KA9Z, Giles Henderson W9JWV, David Welsh KC9BXQ, Del Nack KA9TDT, Bill James W9LYN, Art Vargo WA9LXT, David Pike KC9IHW (passed 5 wpm code), Sam Guccione K3BY, Gary Hampton (passed code, Tech, & General), David W. Welsh, KC9BXQ

Meeting began at 7:02 pm. Bob KA9LRZ discussed the financial report.

OLD BUSINESS

The hamfest was discussed. Tickets are being printed. The tickets give no tone frequency for the repeater used for talk in. Bill W9LYN went over the work schedule for the hamfest. Each work area was discussed and thoughts about what were needed at each location. Some coverage of some areas is still needed. Bill will contact people to make sure that those that identified are still able to work.

**ARES Net Wed nights
at 9:00 pm on 146.520.
N9YRX NCS**

The breakfast menu at the hamfest will be coffee, sausage and gravy with biscuit, sausage and eggs sandwiches . It will be served beginning at 7:30 am. Lunch will include barbeque, hot dogs Brats. Chips & drinks...

Mowing schedule: April - Ron WB9ZCN, May - Butch WA9NOB, June - Ralph, WC9V, July - Jerry, WX9D. People are still needed for Aug and Sept and Oct.

A workday for the hamfest is set for Saturday Apr 29. Meet at Yoder's for breakfast at 7:30 am if you can, but all workers should be at the fairgrounds to begin setup at 8:30 am.

Several vendors such as Ham Station will be once again at the hamfest. A question about tables can up. Once again, the tables will be gotten from the high school and from the MARK clubhouse. Jerry WX9D said some of the tables we are using are getting pretty beat up and should not thrown away.

NEW BUSINESS

We began by having everyone introduce himself or herself.

There appear to be some problem with the 925 machine. A noise that sounds like a tone or hum on the repeater signal. Several suggested it could be the repeater amplifier interfering. Someone will look into the problem. The 2-meter repeater appears to be working fine.

There was some question if the new repeater would be put into place for the old one. The old repeater needs to have tone encoding to prevent interference to adjacent repeaters.

Ralph WC9V said he would be putting 103.5 Hz tone on the new 220 repeater.

Giles W9JVV said he is the contact person for HQ180 receiver listed in the newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm. (Dave moved/Bill second)

Clint KC9S gave a fine talk about SuitSat, which was a unique program by NASA to get rid of old items on ISS such as an unusable space suit. So the astronauts on the ISS launched a cosmonaut space suit with some other junk to get rid of and they also put a ham radio broadcasting telemetry data. Students from secondary schools provided voice recordings for the broadcasts made by the SuitSat. Reception reports were recorded from over 1400 stations. This impromptu satellite lasted a few weeks and received wide newspaper coverage.

Respectively submitted Sam Guccione K3BY

Newsletter Editing

If you have problems with the newsletter, please contact kc9s@mail2usa.com or ka9lrz@consolidated.net Thank you.

Letter From The President

Those of you that have not paid your dues **please pay them now**
The address to mail you dues to is on last page of this newsletter We must get things ready for the hamfest and we need you're your help
The work schedule will be generated soon so please let us know if you will be able to help Thank you for your support
Bob KA9LRZ

H F CONDITIONS

The graph of the Solar Flux continued flat (around 85) from March 21 for about a week. It then started up and was above 90 for a week, reaching just above 100 on April 3rd. That activity was associated with a couple of moderate sunspot groups that have now rotated off the Earth-facing side of the Sun. As consequence of their disappearance, the Solar Flux is now heading down but there are several small sunspots that have recently rotated onto our side of the Sun and that will keep the SFI from going as low as it otherwise would.

There was elation at W9LYN today when a QSL arrived confirming a contact last month (March 15th) on 17 meter CW with VQ9LA on Diego Garcia Island in the middle of the Indian Ocean. The station operator works for the U. S. Navy there. He was running 400 watts into a 14 element log periodic array.

During the month, there also were contacts on 30 meters with Dominica and on 17 meters with St. Kitts in the Caribbean. Other contacts on 17 meters going into the log were with Honduras, Brazil, and Bulgaria.

The CQ WPX Phone Contest was the last weekend of March. This year's operation at W9LYN was restricted to 40 meters. Over 80% of the contacts were with North America and 10% were with South America including Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil and others. The remaining 10% were scattered between Oceania (Hawaii), a few Africans and some Europeans as far east as the Slovak Republic.

The "multiplier" in this contest is the number of PREFIXES (for example N9__, K9__, and W9__ would be three prefixes) and it took 112 contacts to generate 101 prefixes here. Operation was with the usual 100 watts through a "manual" tuner to the 160 meter inverted "L".

LICENSE EXAMS

After the March meeting two people took license exams coordinated by Ralph – WC9V. David Pike – KC9IHW a Technician class license holder from Champaign passed the 5 WPM to gain some HF privileges. Also, a person, whom I understood to be Gary Hampton, passed the Technician and General licenses but I evidently got his name wrong as I have not seen that name listed on QRZ.COM with an Illinois address.

SAGO MINE EXPLOSION SURVIVOR

It was remarkable to see how well Randall McCloy, Jr. – KC8VKZ was talking in an NBC interview with Matt Lauer several weeks ago. Randall was reported to have lost 30 pounds of muscle from the carbon monoxide poisoning and he was walking but still very weak. In the interview, just a day or so before he went home, he had the good sense, it seemed to me, not to be pressured into discussing what happened to his fellow miners after the explosion because he said he wanted to talk to their relatives first.

MAY PROGRAM

Bill - W9LYN will give a short talk on Dxing 50 years ago, bring his transmitter with its cover off, pictures of some of his antennas and QSL's from back then.

FOR SALE: Hammarland HQ-180A classic 1960's triple conversion General Coverage (540 KHz-30MHz) 17 tube receiver, believed to be in good working order. The receiver IF/detector system was optimized for Single Sideband reception, and performs very well given its era and design parameters. Its a great receiver to use for CW, AM or SSB, and is highly prized by Short Wave Listeners for its overall performance, frequency coverage, and quality audio. It is a great receiver for Amateur

Band use, and is used by many vintage gear enthusiasts. It was the last receiver used by a dedicated listener who over several scores of years accumulated verifications of his receptions of their broadcasts from over 3,000 AM Broadcast stations. A description from an old QST add indicates that the "Hammarland has a built-in 100 KC/S

crystal calibrator and a separate filament transformer connected to the HF oscillator and 1st mixer that drastically reduces warm-up time." The AMATEUR NET price listed in 1963 was \$439 . That was when FIRST CLASS POSTAGE was 5 CENTS so the receiver cost very roughly \$3,500 in today's money! Suggested offer \$250. Call Giles Henderson (217) 345-7635.



Officers

President Bob Olson **KA9LRZ**
Vice President Clint Parrish **KC9S**
Treasurer Alan Dickens **KA9Z**
Secretary Sam Guccione **K3BY**

Trustees

Ron Amex **N9GIF** **Term Ends September 2006**
Byron Abrams **KB9BWS** **Term Ends September 2007**
Dave Riddle **KD9AC** **Term Ends September 2008**

Correspondence & dues

Send to:

Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub
P O Box 91
Lovington, IL 61937

Email: mark@qsl.net

Website: www.qsl.net/mark/

