



# M.A.R.K. NEWS

Volume 4 Issue 12 December 2005

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

## Regular Monthly Meeting

There will not be a regular meeting for the month of December. Our annual Christmas was held instead.

The next meeting of the Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub will be held January 15th, 2006 at 6 p.m. at Coles County Airport in Mattoon IL. All amateurs and guests are welcome.

## Program

No ideas for a program have been received. Feel free to bring in something for a brief show and tell session.

## 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](mailto:kc9s@mail2usa.com) or Bob, KA9LRZ [ka9lrz@consolidated.com](mailto:ka9lrz@consolidated.com)

## Newsletter Editing

Clint, KC9S, will be giving Bob a hand in issuing the newsletters over the next few months. If you have problems with the newsletter, please contact [kc9s@mail2usa.com](mailto:kc9s@mail2usa.com) or [ka9lrz@consolidated.net](mailto:ka9lrz@consolidated.net). Thank you.

## Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub

**There were no minutes taken for the month of December since the Christmas dinner was held and no business was conducted...**

## Photos taken during the dinner furnished by Alan KA9Z



N9YRX NCS

**APRS Net** following  
the ARES net 9:30 pm  
APRS will be on  
144.390. Will use  
146.520 Simplex to  
coordinate things  
until established. Use  
N9YRX-3 to check in.



## Local Amateur gets selected Panther Club member of the month

### PANTHER CLUB MEMBERS OF MONTH



Submitted Photo

Dave and Linda Riddle were selected as the Eastern Illinois University Panther Club "Members of the Month" for October. Making the presentation is the Panther Club Board of Directors' president, Larry Ankenbrand. This award was initiated as part of the Panther Club's expanding outreach membership program in area communities.

## H F CONDITIONS

For a period of more than a month, from early October until early November, the Solar Flux Index fluctuated around 77. Then for a period of about a week after the middle of November it went above 90 and reached more than 100 on several days. That was followed by a brief dip to about 80 for less than a week. A sharp spike to over 115 then occurred but that has tapered off to about 90 at this writing on Sunday morning, December 11th.

With the SFI in the middle seventies for the CQ WW Phone contest, the last weekend in October, I decided to run the 100 watts at W9LYN only on 160 and 40 meters through a "manual" tuner at the base of the 160 meter inverted "L" and to a two element Delta loop wire beam on 20 meters. With poorer conditions on 10 meters this year than in recent years there were more people on the lower bands for this contest than in recent years. I got rather hoarse having to call lots of times to get through the pileups, especially on 20 meters. Dave-KD9AC had a good go on 15 meters but I did not even listen on that band nor on 10 meters.

Jerry-WB9Z near Crescent City, IL has a huge antenna farm/ranch. Less than 4% of his 2,352 contacts in 40 hours during the contest were on 10 meters. More than 2/3 of his QSOs were about equally divided between 15 and 20 meters. In an e-mail to a contest group he reported: "My new 6 over 6 over 6 on 20 usually busted through every pile-up with one or two calls... I had some extremely rare DX call me while CQing... but 20 was just a madhouse and my runs didn't last long before the intense QRM drove me to another band." (He reported working 117 countries in 37 of the 40 CQ Zones on 20 meters... Can you imagine what those three stacked beams must sound like both at his end and at the DX end!?)

With low power and modest antennas here at W9LYN, success is often measured by how many of the six originally human inhabited "continental areas" are contacted. Only one continental area was contacted on 160 meters but four were [contacted](#) on 20 meters. By the time I went QRT on 40 meters about 0700 UTC the second evening of the contest I had worked stations in Europe, Africa, North and South America and Oceania. Knowing that sometimes Japanese stations can be heard a few hours later in the early morning, I rolled out of bed in time to get back on 40 meters by 0900 UTC. Luck was with me; my second contact was JA1ELY.

I heard other Japanese stations but worked no other Asians. Later that morning, however, another Oceanian was added, an Australian, to make a total of twenty-eight 40 meter countries in the contest.

For the CQ WW CW contest the last weekend of November conditions were similar to those for the Phone contest. In a few hours of casual operating five of the "continental areas" were again contacted on 40 meters but I did not spend any time on in the early morning when the Japanese were likely to have been coming through.

Know it was a busy/awkward/impossible fall for some of you but wish more of you had been able to join in the 7<sup>th</sup> MARK DX Competition. The only competition was in the DXCC holder group between Dave-KD9AC with 51 entities/countries and Bill-W9LYN with 78 entities/countries.

Letter From The President

As we near the end of 2005 I want to thank you all for

your help & support

***Happy Holidays***  
***From The Olson's***

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**Contact M.A.R.K.**

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