



M.A.R.K. NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 2 February 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 February 20th 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

Don't Zap Your Equipment by Art Varga WA9LXT

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

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 or ka9lrz@consolidated.net Thank you.

Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub Meeting

January 16, 2006

Airport Steakhouse

Coles County Airport

Mattoon, IL

Meeting began at 6:10 pm Those Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Call sign</u>
Bob Olson	KA9LRZ
Gerri Olson	KA9LRZ (XYL)
Sam Guccione	K3BY
Joe Tuley	KC9GIK

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

Bill James	W9LYN
Lloyd White	WA9FBI
Marvin C Reeves	K9MCR
Ken Winings	KA9AHP
Vern Jack	K9SWY
Ralph Zancha	WC9V
Ron Amyx	N9GIF
Jerry VanMatre	WX9D
Gale Vanmatre	WX9D (XYL)
Art Varga	WA9LXT
Linda Varga	KG4ZKL (XYL)
Alan Dickens	KA9Z
Celia Dickens	(XYL)
Byron Abrams	KB9BWS (Birthday)
Susan Abrams	(XYL)

BUSINESS

Hamfest will be at the Fairgrounds this year but will move to the Arthur Firehouse next year. Fest will be on the last Sunday in April, which is the 30th this year. More information to follow.

2006 Dues are payable now!

Ralph asked about interest in helping set up a 220 repeater to be located at the Lovington repeater. Contact Ralph WC9V.

EchoLink on the 655 machine is still planned.

The Christmas Dinner for 2006 was tentatively agreed to be on the first Saturday in December which is December 2, 2006. It was also tentatively agreed to still be at Yoder's but no vote was taken. There were some comments about changing the location to some place other than Yoder's next year.

Bob described the raffle. 250 tickets at \$10 each will be available. If all tickets are not sold the remainder will be sold at the hamfest. If all tickets have been sold before hamfest, then more tickets may be printed and sold at the fest. Ticket details were described. Registration of the raffle was also discussed. Club trustee Dave KD9AC sent a letter providing more details. Each member received a copy of the letter.

Treasurer's report. \$1864.12 in the account at this time. Rent on Mattoon repeater is due now - \$250.

There will still be a volunteer list for mowing the grass at the club house. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Comments were made about killing weeds at the clubhouse.

Bob identified that there will be things to eat at Field Day as has happened in the past. Field Day will be June 17th weekend.

A program is needed for the next meeting.

Next meeting will be on February 26th at the Club House in Bruce weather permitting. License exams will be given after the meeting and will be held after every meeting for now on.

Meeting closed at 7:41 pm. Everyone had a great dinner and a good time.

Respectively submitted, Sam Guccione K3BY.

Letter From The President

Now that the old repeater is back up on the elevator and on the air we will begin again to reach out and touch other amateurs in around the area The Sunday night net will continue at 8 pm each Sunday evening with various Net Control Operators Thanks to those of you that have volunteered for that position I appreciate this ... 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 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

Since last writing about conditions on January 9th, the Solar Flux has ranged between 74 and 94. For the last two weeks it has been below 80 but there was a period of nine days in mid January when it was above 85. It even reached 94 on the 21st.

There was more activity at W9LYN this month than there had been recently. Some 60+ contacts where made in the CQ WW 160 meter CW contest the last weekend in January. While they were mostly US and Canadian contacts from coast to coast, the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guantanamo Bay, and Curacao together with the Azores and the Canary Islands made it into the log. All of that was with about 100 watts through a tuner to a 160 meter inverted "L".

On the other hand K9DX running high power, assumedly using his nine element phased array, reported 1447 QSO's with the US and Canada and 68 countries. The Jerry, WB9Z, also running

high power but probably to his full size vertical with 120 radials, reported 1206 QSO's with the US and Canada and 58 countries. Several comments were seen to the effect that this was the best running of this contest that some remembered.

Although much of this month's activity at W9LYN was on 17 meters, Svalbard and Guantonamo Bay were caught on 30 meters together with Puerto Rico and Antigua on 12 meters. The 17 meter contacts also included Svalbard, a scattering of other Europeans like Norway, Malta, England, Italy and Slovenia together with Africans such as the Canary Islands and Senegal.

Japan had eluded me on 17. I had not even heard them on that band. Then on February 1st I happened to catch JE1DNL and heard one other weaker Japanese station about 5 P.M. CST. On Thursday, February 2nd, I sent Osa my QSL card plus a "SAE" and what I hoped was sufficient Japanese postage. In our mail on Saturday, February 11th, nine days later, was Osa's QSL card.

An "all time new country" is always fun for a DXer and one, in the form of 3Y0X (Peter I Island) as a phone contact on 17 meters, was added to the log here Saturday afternoon. The Peter I Island Dxpediton is THE DXpediton of the year and surely will be among the top ones of the decade.

There are 21 operators, running eight stations on the island in the extreme southeast Pacific Ocean south of the Antarctic Circle and near the Palmer Peninsula of Antarctica. They arrived near the island on a ship and have had their equipment and themselves moved onto the island by helicopter.

Their plans are to be there until February 19th but that may depend on the weather. They are running Phone, CW, RTTY and EME (Moon Bounce)

For more info see: <http://www.peterone.com>

Contact M.A.R.K.

MARK
P.O. Box 91
Lovington, IL 61937

Email: mark@qsl.net

Website: www.qsl.net/mark/

