



M.A.R.K. NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 6 June 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.

Regular Monthly Meeting

The regular monthly meeting will be on June 19th at 6 pm at the Coles Co Airport Mattoon IL All amateur & their guests are welcome

Program

NO Program This Month

MARK Meeting May 15, 2006
Club House Bruce, IL

Members present:

Bob Olson KA9LRZ, Jerry VanMatre WX9D, Alan Dickens KA9Z, Del Nack KA9TDT, Bill James W9LYN, Art Varga WA9LXT, Sam Guccione K3BY, Ron Amyx, N9GIF, Byron Abrahms, Ralph Zancha, WC9V, Ron Jack WB9ZCN, Gary Hampdon, KC9JEM.

Meeting began at 7:53 pm.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bob discussed Register Financial report. The individual reports on each line was discussed. Final Hamfest Financial report was discussed line by line. Financially we did as well as last year.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob read email from Butch about repeater. Repeater needs to be sent back to tune it up for max power.

Bob discussed the raffle ticket sales. They are beginning to sell. The issue is that they must be sold in 200 days.

The repeater cost came up again. It should be about \$1000.

Field day weekend will be June 24 and 25. Pot luck at noon on Saturday. Discussed whether we need to have a porta potty. Seems that we do not need one.

Don't forget to check into the **Clark County ARES** Net Wed nights at 9:00 pm on 146.520. N9YRX NCS

Questioned about having the next meeting somewhere else. Ralph said they will move the testing to the Saturday before the club meeting.

Meeting next month June 19 at 6 pm. Jerry motion and Ralph second - meeting at Coles County Airport at 6 pm. Passed. Make sure everyone knows that spouses are especially invited to come to the meeting.

Kenny is doing better and may get to come home soon.

Bob asked for a volunteer to take over for Kenny on the Saturday night 10 meter net 28400. Anyone that can get take over net control.

220 repeater antenna will be put up shortly. Discussed issues with this repeater such as echolink. Ralph discussed that we need to be conscious of shutting down the echolink as soon as finished with it.

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

NEW BUINESS

Nobody for testing at the meeting tonight.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. (Art moved/ Byron second).

Respectively submitted Sam Guccione K3BY

H F CONDITIONS

The graph of the Solar Flux Index for the last month, mid-May to mid-June, has varied less than 15 points from a low of 72 to several highs at or near 85. Currently, June 13th, the SFI is at 74.

Despite the low Solar Flux, conditions have been reasonable on 30 and 17 meters. I completed working the Bahamas on 160-10 meters when I caught C6AOC on 30 meters. Also worked were several Europeans and CT3/DL7YS, a vacationing German on the Madeira Islands, on that band. While several Europeans were also added to the log on 17 meters, the longer range contacts where with KH6RZ on the Big Island of Hawaii (from whom I already have his QSL card) and 5B4AGC on Cyprus whom I just worked on Sunday. That contact was especially interesting to me because it was more than four hours after his sunset and here I usually find that 17 goes more or less dead shortly after sunset. Perhaps it has something to do with the A-Index. On both occasions (KH6 and 5B) the A-Index was at 5 which is quite low.

ADDITION TO LAST MONTHS PROGRAM

When talking about "DXing 50 Years Ago" at the last M.A.R.K. meeting, I mentioned that I had written a fellow now living on School House Lane in Willow Grove, PA where Phillip Brookes – WN3ENB with whom I had my very first ham radio contact 50 years ago had lived. Well that fellow, Dave Forlini – WB3EDT, asked around the neighborhood, took some pictures and wrote me a wonderful letter.

One picture shows a cell tower on the top of what is now called Frazier Hill just up the way from his home. He reports that on that hill a survey station was established in the 1830's for making sightings into New Jersey and is where a US Geodetic Survey Marker was placed in 1840. A second picture shows a portion of School House Lane as it is seen today looking toward the home where Phillip Brooks – WN3ENB lived in 1956 and the final picture shows the house as it appears now.

Dave talked to the current "man-of-the-house" where Phillip had lived – a Mr. Bean, the "lady-of-the-house" next door to Phillip's old house, his next-door neighbor who talked to a former neighbor, and an old time ham who had lived on the lane. Putting all of their reports together it appears that Phillip and his wife had four daughters but that he passed away in his late thirties or early forties from a massive stroke or heart attack in the late 1950's and that his wife remarried.

Mr. Bean reported that a neighbor had told him that a few metal anchors coming out of the ground were used to support an antenna tower. Evidently Phillip had a great HF location on that hill during his last years.....

(I will bring the pictures and the letter along to our next meeting. Bill-W9LYN)

ILLINOIS QSO PARTY

2005 RESULTS & 2006 ANNOUNCEMENT

There were two M.A.R.K. members who submitted logs for the 2005 IL QSO Party contest back in October 2005. Dave – KD9AC made 230 QSO's for a total of 20,328 points and Bill – W9LYN had 132 contacts for a total of 9,636 points.

With our nearly 30K points though, M.A.R.K. was eleventh among the nineteen Illinois Club/Team Entries. GRVARS – Green River Valley ARS with 24 logs and 1,294,183 points was first and WIARS – Western Illinois ARS was second with 10 logs and 683,861 points in the Club/Team competition. In the individual competition Ralph Bellas – K9ZO in Bloomington, IL was top with 710 QSO's for

a total of 156,455 points in those eight hours. Ralph's contesting experience includes World Radio Team Championships in Slovenia (2000) as a participant and in Finland (2002) as a judge so seeing him on top was not surprising.

Let's all plan on getting our antennas in order this summer for the 2006 running of this contest Sunday, October 22, 2006. (12:00 noon to 8:00 PM CDT--- that is 1700 UTC 22 October to 0100 UTC 23 October) Perhaps we can move M.A.R.K. up in the standings in 2006.

The Radio Amateur Megacycle Society sponsored this contest for 35 years.

This year the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club will be taking over that sponsorship. The results of the 2005 ILQP and the rules for the 2006 running of the contest may be seen at<<http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP.HTML>> The Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club appears to be a very active club with something over 80 members. For an interesting WEB page see <<http://www.w9awe.org>>

IARU AND WRTC 2006

The IARU contest July 8-9, 2006 is a 24 hour summer (in our hemisphere) HF contest that is the "contest" used to challenge the "Teams" in the WRTC-2006 competition. This summer it is centered in Florianopolis, in southern Brazil.

For the rules for the IARU contest see
<http://www.arrl.org/contest/rules/2006/iaru.html>

For information on WRTC-2006 see
<http://www.w9smc.com/smcwrtc2006.html> (if you go to the 2002 WRTC link you will see a picture of K9ZO) or for more sites Google WRTC-2006. There will be three SMC (Society of Midwest Contesters)members (Mark-AG9A, Paul-K9PG, and Pat-N9RV) participating in the IARU contest with special Brazilian calls in a couple of weeks.

Your help is still needed in selling those raffle tickets Remember we will not make out quota unless we get out there and sell Also need three more volunteers for mowing for rest of year Please contact me
Thank You Bob ka9lrz@consolidated.net

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

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