



M.A.R.K. NEWS

Volume 4 Issue 9 September 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: Bob,
KA9LRZ

Sections
(click to jump to
section)

[September Meeting](#)
[Last Meeting](#)
[Financial Statement](#)
[HF Conditions](#)
[Tower Story](#)
[Contact MARK](#)

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

Regular Monthly Meeting

The next meeting of the Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub will be held September 19, 2005 at 7 p.m. at the clubhouse in Bruce, IL. All amateurs and guests are welcome. **PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND THIS MEETING. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!** This meeting will be the annual election of officers and trustees of the club. A secretary, vice-president, and one trustee position will be available for election.

Program

Since the election will be the focus of the next meeting, there will be no official program. Instead, members are encouraged to bring something for a show and tell session. Bill is planning on bringing in some figures depicting the current sunspot cycle.

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. Thank you.

August Meeting By Bob Olson, KA9LRZ

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Olson KA9LRZ at 7:10 p.m. There were 10 members present.

The financial statement was read and approved as read. Dave KD9AC moved, Ralph WC9V seconded. Then Sam K3BY gave a presentation of Antenna Design Software NEC. It's a very nice program. Thanks Sam.

Old Business

The 146.655 is still down for repairs. Butch is handling this and advises the repairs will cost less than \$100.

As soon as there is a break in the weather the repairs left on the building will be completed.

Ralph is to contact Hill Radio in Bloomington to purchase top section of tower to replace the old section now at the grain elevator at Cadwell.

Trustees will get together before next meeting to select persons to fill the vacancies by the outgoing officers advising the membership who they are and if they will serve if nominated.

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. 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.

Some discussion on having a raffle but no prizes were mentioned. Membership was suppose to think of what they wanted to offer as far as prizes. Nothing further at this time.

Location of hamfest may change for next year, 2006. Ralph is checking into the possibility of relocating the hamfest at the Fire station at Arthur. He will advise later.

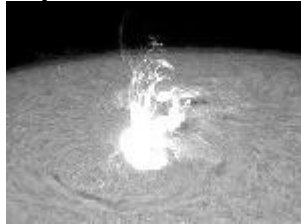
New Business

Ron asked if Echo Link could be considered on 444.925 repeater and later on 146.655 at no cost to the club. Dave-KD9AC made a motion to have Echo Link installed on the 444.925 machine & later on the 146.655 machine at no cost to the club. Bill -W9LYN seconded, motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Members present were : Bob-KA9LRZ, Clint-KC9S, Alan-KA9Z, Ken-KA9AHP Jerry-WX9D, Ron-N9GIF, Bill-W9LYN, Sam-K3BY, Ralph-WC9V .

H.F. Conditions
By Bill James, W9LYN



When last month's report was put together on August 8th, we had dropped to a Solar Flux Index of 86. That slide continued until August 10th when it reached 75 near which it stayed for more than a week. It then began to climb reaching 108 on August 23rd before it again slipped off to 75 for several days. In the last week it has climbed to above 100 (<http://www.dxl.com/solar/>), thus there will be two SFI peaks this month.

The recent sunspots that have rotated onto the Earth-facing surface of the sun have produced a great deal of Solar Flare activity since September 7th. Some of the ejections associated with these flares have produced substantial absorption in the Ionospheric "D" layer. "D" layer absorption at least as high as 10 dB was predicted with the strongest of these flares at 3.5 MHz but even some absorption was predicted as high as 10 MHz. (http://sec.noaa.gov/rt_plots/dregion.html)

During this past month, I have been active on the bands only marginally. All of my contacts were before the solar flares started. For a variety of reasons I have not been on since they started. On 17 meters there were contacts with Columbia, Puerto Rico, Malta and the Aland Islands. Had a very pleasant chat with a fellow in Denmark (OZ1ADL) on 20 meters who was getting ready for the fall contest season and enjoyed looking at his WEB page.

Since September 1st is the traditional beginning of the "SEASON" for the Low Bands (160, 80 and 40 meters), I listened on 160 meters that evening. No DX was heard here but I did hear K1KM - Jeff Briggs the author of "DXing on the Edge - The Thrill of 160 Meters" on the band chasing Russians that he could hear. The following evening, using the 160 meter inverted "L" with the SGC auto tuner,

I happened to hear HP1/WN6K's operation from Panama on 40 meters and was able to contact him. Then late the following afternoon 4U1UN at the United Nations in New York was worked on 40 meters as was EA6UN in the Baleric Islands off Spain on 30 meters, both on CW with the auto tuner to the inverted "L". It was fun but I surely need lots of practice on CW.

The first BIG Dxpediton of the fall will be Kure Island. They expect to travel eight days by boat from Hawaii and spend two weeks there. It is both a Dxpediton and a scientific expedition to the northwestern most of islands of the Hawaiian island chain. By all means look at their WEB page (<http://www.cordell.org/htdocs/KURE?>) They will be using a new system called "DXA" that will allow you to see almost instantaneously whether you are "in the log", on what band, and what other stations have been worked in the last minute or so. All that you need to do is to enter their WEB site and click on the "DXA" portion that comes up. They currently have a simulation running and expect to become operational from the island on September 24th. "DXA" or something similar looks like it might be the way BIG Dxpeditons may run things in the future. de W9LYN

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 let me know. I am running out of ideas... de W9LYN <cfwsj@eiu.edu>.

TOWER STORY As told by Rod Palmer of the National Weather Service From Alan Dickens, KA9Z

This is the story of a man in an accident, who was therefore required to fill out claim form.

-----<<----->>-----
I am writing in response to your request for additional information. In block three of your accident reporting form I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. In your letter you said I should explain more fully. I trust that the

following details are sufficient.

I am an Amateur Radio Operator, and on the day of my accident I was working on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work I discovered that over the course of many trips up and down the tower, I had brought up some 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the unneeded tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley that was fortunately attached to a "gin" pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. I then went back down and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow decent of the barrel. You will note in block 11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh only 155 pounds. Due to the surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind, and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. At the vicinity of the 40 foot level I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collar bone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were 2 knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind, and was able to hold on to the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time however, the barrel of tools hit the ground, and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to "my weight" in block number 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. At the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me down enough to lessen my injuries when I fell on the pile of tools, and only 3 vertebra were cracked. I'm sorry to report however that as I lay there on the pile of tools, in pain, and unable to stand, and watching the barrel 80 feet above, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope. !!!!!

Contact M.A.R.K.

MARK
P.O. Box 91
Lovington, IL 61937

Email: mark@qsl.net

Website: www.qsl.net/mark/