



# M.A.R.K. NEWS

Volume 4 Issue 10 October 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

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**

## Regular Monthly Meeting

The next meeting of the Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub will be held October 17, 2005 at 7 p.m. at the clubhouse in Bruce, 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)>.**

## 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). Thank you.

## September Meeting By Sam Guccione, K3BY

### Minutes for September 19, 2005

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Bob Olson-KA9LRZ There were 9 members present. Bob-KA9LRZ, Alan-KA9Z, Ron WB9ZCN, Vernon-K9SWY, Bill -W9LYN, Sam K3BY, Clint-KC9S, Ken-KA9AHP, Jerry WX9D..

1. First order of business was the election of new officers for the coming year 2006.
  - The trustee position held by Ralph WC9V was filled by Dave KD9AC He will serve a three year term..
  - The office of Secretary held by Bob W9UFR was filled by Sam K3BY
  - The office of Treasurer held by Alan KA9Z was refilled by Alan KA9Z
  - The office of Vice-President held by Bill W9LYN was filled by Clint KC9S
  - The office of President held by Bob KA9LRZ was refilled by Bob KA9LRZ
2. President Bob read the financial report. The club account has a balance of \$1886.31. We still do not know the cost of repeater. Repairs to the repeater after a recent storm will cost less than \$100.. The report was moved by Bill W9LYN and seconded by Vern K9SWY. Passed.

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.

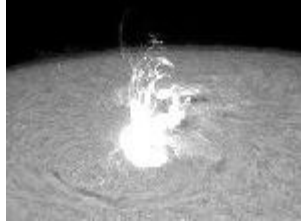
3. Comments from Bob about the club facilities. A tower piece will be donated to the club to fix the existing tower. A storm door will be installed on the front door. Soffitts and fascias will be replaced.. Mowing is going ok. Some help is needed with mowing especially when only one mower is present. Contact President Bob to volunteer to help.
4. Old Business: The raffle was mentioned. No decision was reached at the last meeting so this has not been finalized. The hamfest may move to the Arthur Fire House. Echo link not been setup for the repeaters as yet.. The 146.655 repeater is still under repair.. The noise on 444.925 repeater was discussed. No resolution was reached. Also, problems exist in getting into the 925 repeater with handhelds was mentioned. No resolution was reached.
5. Discussed attracting new members. Comments about the club house lack of bathroom, temperature in the winter, and remoteness during the evening winter houses are some reasons for dwindling membership. Discussion centered on other places to meet. It was suggested that a location in Mattoon would be best. Suggestions about possible places were Demar (?) Center in Windsor, Charleston airport restaurant, room in Mattoon library, Lake Land College, other restaurants, and Eastern Illinois University.
6. It was suggested that the business aspect of the club be at a minimum during meetings. An executive meeting separate from the main club meeting could be held. Bill, W9LYN mentioned a recent QST had ideas for club meetings, etc.
7. Program ideas for club meetings were discussed. It was suggested that the next club meeting focus on Emergency Communications in light of Katrina, etc.

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm. (Moved: Vern/Second: Bill)

A Show & Tell time took place with eats and drinks provide by Bill and Dave, KD9AC. Bob showed a 1947 code machine using punched paper tape, Bill described the W9DXCC conference this past weekend, Clint showed his homemade lightning detector and Sam showed some old telegraph keys.

Respectively submitted Sam K3BY, Secretary

The MARK DX Competition Information and H.F. Conditions  
By Bill James, W9LYN



The MOULTRIE AMATEUR RADIO KLUB SEVENTH DX COMPETITION will run from 7:00 PM CDT, Friday, October 28, 2005 (0000 UTC 29 October 2005) until 6:00 PM CST, Saturday, December 3, 2005 (2400 UTC 3 December 2005).

[Remember the MARK annual Christmas dinner at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur is at 6:00 PM Saturday, December 3, 2005]

The RULES for the DX Competition are the same as for 2004. The object is to work as many DIFFERENT DXCC "entities/countries" as possible on any band or mode 160 through 10 meters that you are licensed to operate. Remember that the U.S.A. counts as one DX country, as do each of the other "entities/countries", but that each one only counts ONCE regardless of the number of bands on which you work them.

Also remember that all of those who hold an ARRL DXCC form one group, regardless of their license class. Those who hold an Extra Class license, an Advance Class license, a General Class license, a Technician Plus or a Novice Class license but not an ARRL DXCC would each compete in a separate group. Thus it would be possible to have members competing in six groups with prizes going to the person with the highest number of countries in each group.

During the 2004 event there was competition in three of the above groups. Bob Olson was the only one to compete in the General Class group. In the Extra Class group Jerry Van Matre-WX9D, Ron Amyx-N9GIF, and Clint Parrish-KC9S competed and Clint was the overall competition winner with 62 countries ahead of anyone in the ARRL DXCC group. In that group Dave Riddle-KD9AC and Bill James-W9LYN were left behind Clint's fine score.

Good luck in the 2005 competition! (The CQ WW SSB contests starts at the beginning of our competition. Click on "Contest" in the upper "bar" at <http://www.ng3k.com> to see the RULES for that contest and the dozens of DX stations already planning to operate in it.) de W9LYN

### H F CONDITIONS

Last month's report was written during a Solar Flux peak that reached an Index of 120 and had a SFI above 100 for eleven days. With the decline of that peak the SFI dropped to 72 by October 1<sup>st</sup>, climbed to 83 on October 4<sup>th</sup>, has not been above that level since and is predicted to reach only 85 by October 12<sup>th</sup>. Hence, although the regions of the Sun's surface that produced the previous sunspot activity have rotated to be Earth-facing they are no longer very active. Despite the low SFI levels, conditions have not been too bad. This is due in part to the fact that the northern hemisphere is moving into fall when conditions are often better.

Looking at DX Summit <http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/menu.html?> this morning (October 11<sup>th</sup>), I notice a few reports yesterday afternoon of contacts with stations between the States and Central and South America and even as far west as Guam on 10 and 12 meters. Most likely these contacts were between stations with reasonable gain antennas running high power. Sunday afternoon, however, I did hear with the vertical dipole on 17 meters an Argentine

station but there was deep QSB on his signal and I did not work him.

This past month there was more activity from W9LYN than in recent months. Glancing through the log, I see contacts on 17 meters with two different vacationers in Sint Maarten (PJ7), then Malta, Guantanamo Bay, England, Belgium, Azores, Slovak Republic, Ireland, Bermuda, France, Poland, Columbia, and Cape Verde Islands. (Most of those contacts were made running about 90 watts through the SGC auto tuner placed at the base of the 160 meter inverted "L".) Sunday afternoon (October 9<sup>th</sup>) when I listened on 17 meters, the only DX that I was hearing were two stations in Switzerland, one of whom I had contacted several times already. So I went to the homebrew two element 20 meter Delta loop wire beam and in a little over twenty minutes contacted two stations in Morocco, one in Serbia & Montenegro and one in the Netherlands on that band. Interestingly, the last station was a special event station celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dutch Amateur Radio Society VERON. (See PI60ZI on QRZ.COM for a picture of the club members) They plan to be active on many bands until December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The disappointment for the past month was not catching the K7C operation from Kure Island on any of the bands on which I needed that "country". One morning they were literally 5 by 9 on 160 meters. When I listened on their QRZ/"listening" frequency, it was a ZOO. Perhaps it was a mistake that I did not call them with my 100 watts..... Heard them on other bands and had thought that my best chance was on 17 or 30 meters but no luck.....

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