



M.A.R.K. NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 5 May 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 May 15th 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

Program by Bill James W9LYN

Bill - W9LYN will give a short talk on Dxing 50 years ago, bring his transmitter with its cover off, pictures of some of his antennas and QSL's from back then.

MARK Meeting Apr 20, 2006

Club House Bruce, IL

Members present:

Bob Olson KA9LRZ, Dave Riddle KD9AC, Vernon Jack K9SWY, Ron Jack WB9ZCN, Clint Parrish KC9S, Jerry VanMatre WX9D, Alan Dickens KA9Z, Giles Henderson W9JW, David Welsh KC9BXQ, Del Nack KA9TDT, Bill James W9LYN, Art Vargo WA9LXT, David Pike KC9IHW (passed 5 wpm code), Sam Guccione K3BY.

Meeting opened at 7:10 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob KA9LRZ discussed the financial report. (Dave motion/Bill second). Approved.

The hamfest was discussed. Tickets are printed but not ready.

Bob discussed the hamfest eats menu.

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

Mowing schedule: April - Ron WB9ZCN, May - Butch WA9NOB, June - Ralph, WC9V, July - Jerry, WX9D. People are still needed for Aug, Sept and Oct.

A workday for the hamfest is set for Saturday Apr 29. Meet at Yoder's for breakfast at 7:30 am if you can, but all workers should be at the fairgrounds to begin setup at 8:30 am.

Bob discussed the work schedule. Seem to be doing ok with getting people. May still need a person or two.

Ralph said we are doing ok on vendors. Hamstation, Amateur Accessories, and others plus two new vendors. Memphis Amateur indicated he might come but probably next year.

The directors and officers meet on Apr 10 to discuss the raffle. Decided the final prize is a 12 guage over and under shotgun. Raffle tickets will be here shortly. Will have 200 days to sell tickets. All regulations will be followed especially the firearm laws.

Bob talked about the responsibility assumed by the officers who signed to get the raffle going. Also, he discussed a form that members who take tickets to sell MUST sign.

Discussed when to start selling as this sets the ending date because of 200 days. Dave suggested that we try to sell at the hamfest. Ralph will get info to put on several info tables at the hamfest. He said he will get help from Decatur people since they are no other members available. Tom Glover suggested that we put up signs identifying the info table and raffle.

Discussion on how the raffle tickets will be sold at the hamfest.

Discussion of the stuff in the club house that is probably not used and that needs to be removed. Discussed whether to sell them at hamfest. Will get rid of stuff at the next meeting so come to meeting if you want anything.

If weather is good, Ralph wants help replacing the tower section. Also siding on the club house will be replaced soon.

NEW BUINESS

Next month's meeting will be at club house at 7:00 pm All amateurs & guests are welcome Question about the ham testing. It is advertised to be here at the club house. Jerry suggested we change meeting date to not conflict with testing. Also we have advertised our club meetings. Have the business meeting here on Tue and have meeting other night, elsewhere. Dave suggested that we keep things as is and not change meeting location. Not sure what the final decision was on this.

Will have a program for next month. Bill will talk about DXing 50 years ago.

Pay your dues NOW!

Bob asked someone to bring refreshments for next months meeting. Bill will bring drinks and Bob will bring cookies.

Bob identified that we have 3 people taking a test tonight.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm. (Byron moved/Ron second).

No program for this meeting.

Respectively submitted Sam Guccione K3BY

PROGRAM

DXing 50 Years Ago

--- During PEAK of Solar Cycle 19 ---

(Will show LOGS, QSL cards, Pictures of the

Antennas, and the TRANSMITTER)

Bill James – W9LYN

H F CONDITIONS

The graph of the Solar Flux Index peak of early April fell off to a valley that lasted about a week during the middle of the month and reached a low of 75. The index then climbed fairly quickly to another peak of 100 + for about five days. It has started down again, seemingly following much the same slope as the decline of the April peak. This can be accounted for by the fact that the somewhat moderate spots that have rotated off the Earth-facing side of the Sun have been followed by groups of small spots similar to last month. Tad Cook – K9RA, who writes the weekly ARRL Propagation bulletin notes unusually good propagation reports on 20 meters that he had received in ARLP018. Those reports were associated with a period of “no notable geomagnetic activity”. When “...the high latitude college K index was 0 for 51 continuous hours.” centered around April 30th. It is a Polar Path from British Columbia to Europe and Paul -VE7BZ reported that on that date he “called CQ once at 0300Z and four hours later ... I was still working down an endless pileup.

Normally for us—living this far north—20m phone is usually dead in our evenings, but such was not the case....” Also, Richard – HS0ZF0 reports from Thailand “hearing stateside signals all over the place on 20 meter SSB starting about 1300Z....” He further reports Charlie – VR2XMT ... “in Hong Kong was running USA stations and so were a couple of the Russian big guns. I had not heard conditions like that since I got on the air here last October.” It pays to LISTEN. Wish I had been!

For five days at W9LYN there was emphasis on trying to work the rare operation on Aves Island – YV0. Between April 23rd and 28th they were worked on 80, 30, 17, 15, and 12 meters which were bands on which I do not have that entity confirmed. Interestingly, they were worked on 12 and heard on 10 meters where the W6ELProp program that I talked about and demonstrated at a M.A.R.K. meeting several years ago predicted that there would be NO openings. This is a partial answer to Sam – K3BY’s question at the time of: “How accurate is the program.” The transportation for the operation was provided by the Venezuelan Navy. They had barely gotten on the air with the pileups going fast and furious when they disappeared. It turned out that their absence from the bands was because Jose – YV5LIX had suffered a fatal heart attack. Even though there were two MD’s among the operators they were unable to revive him. The operation started as YX0A but they were given permission to use the call YX0LIX in memory of Jose.

Other activity during the month at W9LYN included 30 meter contacts with stations in Estonia, Mauritius Island and Cuba; and 17 meter QSO’s with Honduras, Sweden, England, Peru, Nicaragua, Norfolk Island and St. Helena Island.

LICENSE EXAMS

The Gary Hampton that I mentioned passing his Technician and General licenses in March is KC9JEM in Mt. Zion, IL. After the M.A.R.K. meeting in April, Donald Gary Hampton passed his Extra. Congratulations, Gary. Enjoy the bands!

SAGO MINE EXPLOSION SURVIVOR

This week’s ARRL LETTER (Vol. 25 No. 18 of May 5, 2006) reports that Randall McCloy, Jr. – KC8VKZ “—has expressed his sorrow to the victims’ families and shared his personal recollections of the tragedy.” In a letter of April 26 the Associated Press reports him writing: “I cannot explain why I was spared while the others perished.” Following weeks of hospital treatment and rehabilitation, McCloy, 26, is still recovering from the ordeal.

Cleanup Day April 29 2006



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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