

ARKANSAS DIAMOND



President Roger Alabach ... KF5SDE

ARKANSAS DIAMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER VOLUME NO.34 DATE: Jan 14, 2020

Our meeting site is the
911 OEM office
at the old downtown
Morrilton Post Office

Meeting time is 6:00 PM
Tuesday Jan 14, 2020
with a gathering time of
5:30 PM for Dinner

FOOD

Chili

Program

Election of Officers

2020 Dues are due or do?

There will be a
Winter Field Day
on the weekend
of Jan 25 and 26
at the North Fire Station
by the Hospital

*There will be
Testing Tuesday
night after the
meeting.*

*Special arrange-
ments can
be made for other
times and other
places.*

*No scheduled test-
ing for next
Saturday*

Local Nets

Morrilton Monday Night
444.10 14.8 tone 7:00

146.625 114.8 8:00

Tues Perry County
447.150 100 8:00

Faulkner County Thur
146.97 114.8 7:30

Thursday 8pm 146.510
THE A D A R C 2m
SIMPLEX NET.
RELAYS ARE WELCOME

From the desk of Roger Alabach KF5SDE

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

I hope everyone had a great Christmas holiday. I found the wonderful thing about having a grandson is you get to play with his cool toys. I don't think I will let him play with mine until he gets older. Hopefully he will be interested in playing radios when the time comes.

Amateur radio as a hobby provides many different opportunities. Some folks do nothing more than operate on the 2 meter and 70cm bands and get a lot of enjoyment out of simply checking into the regular weekly nets. Then there are the achievers working on HF who have worked all states or 100 countries. Or maybe your specialty is tinkering. There are a lot of diagrams and user groups on the internet to support that part of our hobby. 2019 was the year of Hamfests for Jim Taylor and I. We traveled to a few sometimes together and sometimes with other people. Some were big and some small in comparison but even if we traveled 4 hours one way it was always worth the time. Jim walked away with the grand prize from the Minden, LA gathering. Me personally,

The Arkansas Diamond Radio Club (KE5FSY) of Morrilton News Letter

This bulletin is published 4 times a year for the promotion of HAM radio. Ham radio is for enjoyment and is the emergency back bone of communication for the communities. When all else fails we will be there, we have in the past and will be in the future.

**Editors are KD5LBE Stewart Nelson
AC5RM Facebook Bobby Moses
AG5IE Webpage Eric Stricklin
All HAM related stories are welcome.**

I like talking with people. I usually walk away with an antenna diagram which gets filed away until I have some tinker time. Whatever part of our hobby you enjoy the most, I am encouraging you to do more in 2020.

Our regular meeting is on January 14th. I don't have a formal program planned but we will need to elect officers, pay dues, and discuss plans for winter field day. We also need to plan some activities for the year. I would like to know what you would like to see in a program. Also if you have a project please bring it if you can and show the club what you have done and learned.



(Editor: Jim Taylor had just won the grand prize at the Faulkner County Christmas Club meeting the week before. This one is from Minden La.)

ARKANSAS NETS OF INTEREST for Generals

Arkansas Razorback Net, 3987.5, 6:30 PM daily, Net Manager, Ed Alspaugh, N3QL

Arkansas Phone Net, 3987.5, 6:00 AM, Monday thru Saturday, Net Manager, Doug Robbins, W5DUG

Arkansas Mockingbird Net, 3927, 4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday, Net Manager, Jerry Palmer, W5JEP

Arkansas Razorback Emergency Training Net, 3987.5, Sunday, 7:00 AM, Net Manager, Dale Temple, W5RXU

Arkansas ARRL Section Net, 3987.5, First Monday, monthly, 7:00 PM, Net Manager, Dale Temple, W5RXU

Our +favorite HAM radio Internet Web Sites

Three good ones are
www.ARRL.org
www.ARR.org/QST
www.eHam.com
www.QRZ.com
www.YouTube.com

Storm Spotters Class

Jim Taylor AF5EI had the bright idea of having a storm spotter class for the January meeting. They wanted to have the meeting the week before. The meeting place selection started at the 911 center.

When it looked like that wasn't going to be big enough he thought many be the Chamber meeting room. He thought that might not big enough so he got UACCM to agree to let us use the big room at the new Training Center. I didn't



get a good count of how many were there, but it was well over 130. There were enough there if 10 more had come, some would had to have stood in the back. The class was excellent and I wish everyone in the club would have been there. The Weather Bureau people were not expecting that many people and I'm sure we left a good impression. It was close to a two hour presentation. One of the things they did say that they were ready to come back and do an advance class in the future. We had people from Faulkner County, Conway County, and Pope County. The turnout was because of the effort of Jim Taylor AF5EI and Mr. Trafford Conway County Emergency Coordinator and Steve Beavers with the 911 Office of Emergency Management.

For you younger folks, Conway County has been an active weather place. This County has been hit by several tornados over a number of years and us old folks take tornadoes seriously. Two tornadoes were so close to each other in two different years, you could throw a baseball in one and hit the other and we lost some lives. The north part of the county had some baseball size hail and we have had ice storms and the king of all ice storms on New Year's day 2000 that left

much of the county dark and we had a 1 in a 500 year flood a couple of times in a 20 year span. We have had 12 inches of snow and a bunch of little ice storms in the County and County and City leadership takes weather issues very seriously and you should also. In the 2000 ice storm, when I was Mayor, I had to drive through peoples front yards to get to the police station.

Have You ever wanted to call a 2 meter or 440 Net?

The Faulkner County Club is holding training classes from time to time at their "Club House" at Smitty's Barbecue in Conway on 64 near Dave Wards Drive. This was their post, "We will be calling the Thursday night net from Smitty's again on Thursday. Come and learn how to run the net, filling out the same forms as I do. Once you feel you are ready, we will give you the opportunity to call the net yourself, with an experienced operator at your side to get you through. The net starts at 7:30. Come early to ask questions and get the forms, then follow along as people check in." I don't know how many more they are going to do but you can get on their Email list if you let FCARC <fcarcerevents@gmail.com> know most of the nets have pretty much the same format. If you can't hear don't come to the training with the idea of volunteering in the future.

Where some of the HAM Radio action isNets and Contests

For what ever the reason Nets and Contests are becoming one of the best chances to use your radios. Before the Sun Spots vanished you would get on the radio and make code or voice contacts with almost no effort on any night, day or morning. I could drive my truck to the top of Petit Jean Mountain and make a DX contact to Europe every morning. Now I go to WWV, the time station, to see if my radio is still working be-

cause the bands are so quiet. If you are an ARRL member you get notices of when the contests are and they are usually on the week ends like the winter Field Day event at the end of this month. You can also scan the 2 meter band and find nets almost every night somewhere. Just because there is no activity were you use to find it, look some place new. During bad weather be sure to tune your radio to 146.94 (no tone) to the CAR-EN net for current weather information. Here are some additional suggestions:

Following the Faulkner county net at 146.97 (114.8) at 7:30 on Thursday night there is another net at 8:00pm will be the Arkansas Diamond Amateur Radio Club 2 meter Simplex Net on 146.510. (without a repeater you may or may not be able to hear Jim)

Your net control should be Jim Taylor (AF5EI). (Or his duly designated guest Net Controller...) (Again, this is simplex. No tone... No offset, etc.) Try it! You might like it!

Another Net this time from Perry County. The Perry County Amateur Radio Operators net will be held Tuesday at 2000 hours local (8:00PM), 447.150, -, tone 100. Tune in. Bill, W5WMM, will be Net Control.

The Perry County Amateur Radio Operators Simplex net will be held Tuesday at 2030 hours (8:30PM) local on our emergency backup frequency of 147.585. Thomas, W5APA will be Net Control. Relays welcome.

Please make note of this important item. In an emergency situation and the repeater is not operating, we will use the simplex frequency 147.585 as our emergency backup frequency.

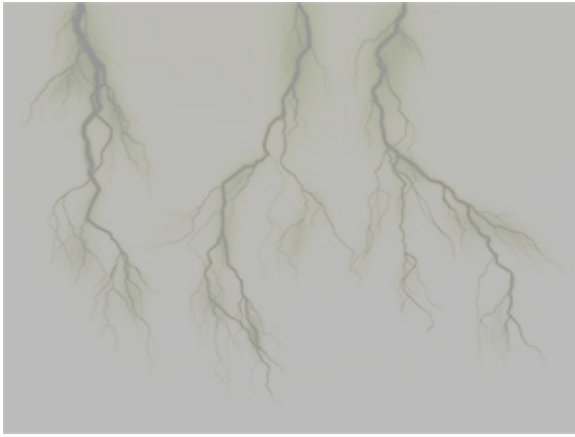
If you are not on this Email list and would like to be added, please send me an Email (William Mooney <mooney6@me.com>) and I will take care of it. Also, let me know if you would like to get in the Net Control rotation.

Don't forget the Winter Field Day Contest at the North Fire Station by the Hospital on Jan 25 and 26. '73



Our President fast at work on December 7 in the last decade, last year, at a special event station at the North Fire Station. If you don't have a HF radio and antenna or a General license you can use our equipment at the Winter Field Day and the Clubs call sign to operate and give it a try. WARNING, once you try it you can fall in love with HAM radio on the air and you will want to get your General and your own equipment. HAM Radio has no age limit young or old to get your license. The Arkansas Diamond Club licensed one 9 year old at a test session.





Lightning is a fear

of every HAM Radio operator, because it can one, kill us and two, destroy our equipment. We have wires stuck up in the air that are grounded some where which is an invitation for a strike. If it hits your house or Ham shack there is probably nothing you can do, except not be in the house. There are stray charges that you can get if it hits nearby. For our antennas and radios to work properly they need to be grounded. Code says all of the grounding needs to be connected outside. The reason is that unless both of the grounds are equal, which chances are they aren't, the lightning will look for the best ground and it will use your house wiring to find the other ground. Don't use your water or gas pipes because they may be isolated with plastic some where or with gas pipes they may explode.

All of my ground rods are connected and there are 5 rods eight-foot long copper clad steel. In my HAM shack there is a 4 foot copper pipe (old water pipe not connected to house water) it is suspended from a steel bar by a connecting copper clad metal strip where all of my switches are and the pipe is connected to the ground system with wire from an old set of jumper cables. All of the radios are connected to the copper rod which is connected to the house ground.

The switches which allow me to eas-

ily connect two radios to the same antenna are three way switches radio 1, radio 2, and ground in the middle. All of the switches are grounded individually. To be even more careful on each of the incoming antenna cables which connect to the bottom of the switches; radios out the top, I have added a piece of string that is connected to the switch. This allows the incoming coax to be disconnected from the switch easily and reconnected easily in case of a lightening storm. If it is going to be bad weather or if I am not going to use the radio for a while, I just unscrew the incoming coax and let it hang down on the string. When I am ready to use it, I know which one to the coax connectors to use because it is connected with the string to the switch.

In the past I had a lot of problems when the coax dropped behind my desk but with the string arrangement, I have not had a problem with connecting the coax back up to the switch. I have no problem reconnecting as my first step at prevention of damage. If the lightning is going to hit your house the best thing is to not be home and have your radios insured. With the grounding, switches, and keeping the coax disconnected might be the next best way to lessen the chance of damage or injury.

I also hang labels on all my switches and antenna wires because I can't remember which wire goes where.

There is an old graphic of Ben Franklin flying a kite in a storm discovering lighting as electricity. Unless you are ready to meet Ben Franklin in person right then and your maker, don't try it.

Arkansas Diamond Club Members

The Extra Class Question will expire June 30 of this year. If you have been studying and want to test you need to come forward and test or be ready to work with a new Question pool.

Do you know the answer?

Which of the following constitutes a spurious emission?

A. An amateur station transmission made at random without the proper call sign identification

B. A signal transmitted to prevent its detection by any station other than the intended recipient

C. Any transmitted signal that unintentionally interferes with another licensed radio station

D. An emission outside its necessary bandwidth that can be reduced or eliminated without affecting the information transmitted

Another HAM Fest

Russellville Saturday
March 5 at the
Boys & Girls Club parking
can be a
challenge.

AA3AT ANITA TIENKEN
AA9BT LOUIS TIENKEN
AC5RM BOBBY MOSES
AC5RT JIM WIEDOWER
AF5EI JIM TAYLOR
AG5IE ERIC STRICKLIN
K5PMO ANDREW HRADESKY
K5PRM RICH MOODY
K5SEC DON DACUS
K5ZZB ROBERT LANNING
K8BCC WILLIAM COLLINS II
KB5DQM JIM CARTER
KB5TJW DALE BETTIS
KD5LBE STEWART NELSON
KD5YZD JIMMY WIEDOWER
KE5UAN JEFFREY RIDLING
KE5YP5 CLYDE ARMSTRONG
KF5DIF STEVE BEAVERS
KF5EST HUGH DONNELL
KF5IHY RICHARD NEAL
KF5IIZ BRUCE CURTIS
KF5ITM KIRK ROSE
KF5MAD RACHEL BEAVERS
KF5SBG SHELLY TIENKEN
KF5SDD ANN OFFIELD
KF5SDE ROGER ALABACH
KF5UDD MIKE KAROLCZAK
KG5AUV CHARLES DRINKWATER
KG5DAD SHARON CLARKSON
KG5EWI JEREMY LANDON
KG5J AL GARRETT
KG5ZRH THOMAS MAUPIN
KG5ZZW BEN EDWARDS
N5EH CHARLES TUDOR
N5JKL JEREMY LANDON
W2SUL ADAM SULLIVAN
W5PMO MELANIE HRADESKY
W5WRB WALT BARFIELD
WB5RUH DAVID HUETT
WB5RZR JAMES RIDLING