

# ARKANSAS DIAMOND



PRESIDENT Roger Alabach \_\_\_\_\_ KF5SDE

www.arkansasdiamondarc.com...web site

ARKANSAS DIAMOND RADIO CLUB NEWS LETTER VOLUME NO. 38 DATE 12 , 2023

We would like to thank again the

## **Downtown Church of Christ**

For allowing us to use their  
Fellowship Hall for our  
Thursday Night

## **OCTOBER 12, 2023 MEETING**

**Subway Sandwiches, maybe**

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And the Program is featuring

**Steve Beavers, KF5DIF**

who is the director of the Conway County  
Office of Emergency Management

## **Testing**

There is a change on the  
General

We are set for testing  
this Thursday Night if  
you're ready, we are,. You  
will have to have a  
1. FRN from the FCC  
2. An email Address  
3. \$15 For the ARRL

## *Local Nets*

**Morrilton Monday Night**  
**146.685 141.3 Tone**

**Morrilton Repeaters  
Club**  
**146.685 pl 141.3**

**State Net**  
**146.330 pl 114.5**  
**Tuesday**

**Conway**  
**146.970 pl 114.5**  
**Thursday Night**

**Not up now**  
**443.875 pl 79.5**  
**444.10 114.8**



## Roger KF5SDE

Well, it seems like we just met yesterday. Time goes by rather quickly. I

thought we were having a good summer weatherwise until August hit. Wow, it's been hot. However, as we get closer to Autumn weather conditions will improve. All those antenna projects we have postponed hopefully will get done soon. We need to be in good shape for winter.

Our October program will be featuring Steve Beavers who is the director of the Conway County Office of Emergency Management. I am sure he will have a lot to say as the solar eclipse will be happening on April 8th next year. For those of you who are unaware there will be an annular solar eclipse occurring on October 14th. This will not result in total darkness, but you will notice a strange dimming of the lights. I am sure there will be a special event station activated on that date.

Don't forget the Hamfest on Petit Jean Mountain on October 14th. Is that a coincidence? This is a short drive and a very pleasant event. Also a good location to observe the Total Solar Eclipse.

That is all. I hope to see everyone at our next meeting. 73



## Jim AF5EI

The Conway County (AR) Office of Emergency Services/911 is proud to announce that it now has it's own Amateur Radio Call Sign, WB5ES. We will soon have a fully operational station at my office in the basement of the old Morrilton Post Office. This is in part preparing for the eclipse in April 2024 and the fact that many County OEM/ES/911 Offices are learning and understanding the importance of Amateur Radio as a reliable means of communications during a disaster or catastrophic event when all else fails. We will also have mobile/base capability in our Mobile Command Center, lovingly referred to as "the monster"

We currently have five licensed HAMs on staff here at OEM. They are Steve Beavers (KF5DIF), Director, Conway County OEM; Samantha Leach (KI5ZLU) 911 Dispatcher; Roger Alabach (KF5SDE). Deputy Communications Officer, Jim Taylor (AF5EI) Communications Officer, and David Eichenberger, W5WUP, Communications Resource/



**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  
All HAM related stories are welcome.**

Training Officer; Steve and I are still working on details for the station and who, and under what conditions, others will be allowed access to our communications center as it is a restricted access building. We are looking into the possibility of a Rapid Response Communications Team, but there are several requirements to be met to make that happen. I will keep you posted as things develop.

Ya'all have a great day. 73

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## **Lesson learned again FT8 That applies to all radio equipment.**

As of late I have had tons of problems connecting my radio Icom-7300 to my old Panasonic computer. The two of them connect with a USB A to B cord. "A" being what you connect to your computer which is a little rectangle and "B" which going into the radio which is what you would plug into a printer or a support item. It is kind of standard except it is not. Look the USB cable on the internet and get a serious read and they are not all the same.

I bought a good new cable that wasn't too long and plugged it in to do FT8 but it worked most but not all of the time. I would get error messages that the radio and cable were not a perfect connection from time to time and I couldn't figure out why. The error message made

me think that the there was something wrong with the connection but everything seemed to be working perfectly.

Behind my 7300 there are two old HF radios a 2 meter Icom 706MK2 and a whole lot of wires. As I was quietly contemplating how I to solve my problem, I, thought a single wire running through this mess could be getting some stray induction from all these wires. I still had one old induction ring that I hadn't used in my spare parts. I looped the USB cable as may times as I could and pulled it up tight. I moved the path of the USB cable as far as I could from the other stuff. At least for now no more problems.

I would like to be deeper into electronics so that could explain all of this. First, two different USB cables that have matching ends are not the same. Two, you might buy a \$13 cable of the same brand at a mail order store that can be bought at a regular ham radio outlet or at a cable store for \$5. Before you panic on a connection, try a choke. There are more than one of these so keep a couple of different ones in stock. Fourth they serve a real purpose. That's what those black knot things on cables are for.

## **Antennas for FT8**

I took down my old FT8/regular end fed antenna for a routine inspection, and it was in pretty bad shape at the antenna 239/259 junction. I had purchased a new Alpha end fed antenna for a replacement, but when I opened up the package, it looked like a Cadillac, everything was first class except when I read the instruc-

## Antennas for FT8 (continued)

tions, it was only good for 25 watts digital! Given the move to digital, the

Cadillac seemed more like a very neat looking model T. My instructions say 250W SSB, 125 CW, and 25W digital. Be sure you check everything you buy to be sure that is suitable for digital for at least 100 watts. With the longer transmission times in digital, the internal wiring may not work after a period of time. Check and read everything you use in ham radio, it may not be able over time to run the power you want while there may be a safety plus factor, but don't chance it.

The second lesson learned was to check everything that is up in the air to be sure you are not getting corroded, you



need to fix it before you are too old to move that stuff or get up on the roof and move that stuff around like I am now.

2 meter antennas mounted to non metallic truck cover with cookie sheet and double sticken tape and grounded to truck with strap.

## What are QSO Parties

I would like to get on the radio, but I can't find anyone to talk to? There is a solution and they are called QSO parties. A QSO party are operators in a group like a state who try to make as many contacts as they can. This is a contest just like Field Day in June. Hawaii was in August and I missed that one. QSO Parties is not a chit chat contact, they are fast with an exchange. Many HAM operators feel uncomfortable talking over the radio because they don't know what to say and this your answer. It might not be easy to find a place to get in, but that might take some time but it is fun because there are a lot of people to talk too. Get in, get the exchange, and ask if they copied your transmission, QSL and your done. Log that contact.

There are Websites that list all of the QSOs parties for the whole year and there are a bunch. Off subject, as a HAM you are not suppose to use 10 codes because they hide the meaning, but it is ok to use Q codes because all good HAMs know the meaning, maybe. QSO means making a contact. They are actually a different language, fast and simple and sweet, that doesn't don't have to be translate between different countries. They started from Morses Code/ International Code transmissions because they were short and had an exact meaning. QRZ, whose calling. QSL, QSL did you copy me I copied you.

Below is an example of what a QSO party in an upcoming California QSO party:

## An Example

### United States/Canada state/province QSO party

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m

Classes: Single Op (QRP/Low/High)  
Single Op Assisted (QRP/Low/High)

Multi-Single (QRP/Low/High)

Multi-Two (QRP/Low/High)

Multi-Multi (QRP/Low/High)

Overlays: (CountyExped/County-Line  
Exped/County One-Day Exped/Mobile/  
YL/Youth/New-Contester)

Max operating hours: 24 hours for single ops with 15 minute off times 30 hours for multi-ops

Max power:HP: >100 watts

LP:<100 watts

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: CA: Serial No. + County

non-CA: Serial No. + (state/VE  
province or territory/DX)

Work stations: Once per mode per band per county

QSO Points: 2 points per phone QSO

3 points per CW QSO

Multipliers: CA Stations:

States, VE provinces/territories once

non-CA Stations: CA counties once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

E-mail logs to:

(see rules, web upload preferred)

Upload log at: <http://robot.cqp.org/cqp/logsubmit-form.html>

[cqp.org/cqp/logsubmit-form.html](http://robot.cqp.org/cqp/logsubmit-form.html)

Mail logs to:(none)

Find rules at: <https://www.cqp.org/Rules.html>

Cabrillo name: CA-QSO-PARTY

Cabrillo name aliases:

Cabrillo is a data format that is used on the Internet to send in results from contests. More on that in the next news letter. Serial Number is the number of contacts you have made.

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

That is all there is to it. You can look up the contests and go for it. There



2 meter antenna mounted on pizza pan on steel post.



L-R: Roger Alabach, KF5SDE, Deputy Communications Officer; David Eichenberger, W5WUP, Communications Resource/Training Officer; Steve Beavers, KF5DIF, Director, ES/911; Samantha Leach, KI5ZLU, 911 Dispatcher; Jim Taylor, AF5EI, Communications Officer.

The **Faulkner County Amateur Radio Club** will have its October meeting this coming Tuesday, October 10. This will be our annual Show & Tell meeting, so if you have something interesting to show off, bring it in!

The meeting will be held at Vincent's BBQ on Prince St in Conway. As usual, club business will begin at 6:30 PM. Those wishing to partake in food and fellowship before the meeting are encouraged to arrive around 5 PM.

Our next quarterly meeting will be October 12th, next Thursday, at the Downtown Church of Christ, 100 West Church Street, Morrilton. Steve Beavers, KF5DIF, OEM Director, will be our speaker. He will discuss our participation in the 2024 eclipse. As of my last conversation with Roger, KF5SDE, our club President, it looks like **Subway Sandwiches** are on the menu, that might change, but not likely. Roger has taken over responsibility for the menu to help me clean my plate, which is much appreciated. Roger can be reached at kf5sde@gmail.com. We do need a headcount, not just for food, but if you plan to attend. If you are someone with a special needs diet, please let him, or me, know. We will do our best to accommodate you. This is your Club Notes, if you have something to post, let me know. Club dues for 2024 can be paid at the meeting. Your support is greatly appreciated. Hope to see you there.

The **K5BOC Memorial HAMFEST** is October 14th at the Petit Jean Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean Mountain. The grand prize is Yaesu 991A. More information is available at <http://www.arrl.net> or at <http://www.k5boc.net>. This is a family friendly event and is mostly indoors, Breakfast and lunch will be available.

Our **Annual Fun and Fellowship Day** will be Saturday, November 4th at the Morrilton City Park. Both pavilions have been reserved. At least one HF rig will be set up for making QSOs if anyone is so inclined. Made a couple last year. If you have something to sell or trade, bring it. Tables will be available at no cost or you can tail gate. I will be there about 8ishAM to start setting up. I will have the magic box in case someone wants to test. I will also have some things to sell or trade, Looking forward to seeing you all there.

## Arkansas Diamond Membership KE5FSY

Alexander, C A,	KF5DIE
Alabach, R A	KF5SDE
Armstrong Sr., C O	KE5YPZ
Beavers, R D	KF5MAD
Beavers, S L	KF5DIF
Boswell, M K	KA5MGL
Bougher, T	NONE
Carroll, G H	N5GC
Cate, R D	KI5GUJ
Cate, W N	K5EEF
Clarkson, S L	KG5DAD
Coran, E W	N5EWC
Cossey Jr., G O	K5GOC
Cullipher, J L	N5JLC
Curtis, B A	W5ATC
Donnell, H L	KF5EST
Drinkwater, E C	KG5AUV
Dube, J T	KF5ESP
Eichenberger, F E	KF5IJA
Eichenberger, D.	W5WUP
Engbrecht, R S	KF5ODT
Fosse, W T	KG5ZTI
Hradesky, A P	K5PMO
Hardesky, M A	W5PMO

Huett, D R	WB5RUH
Hunwick, F W	KA5WWW
Isbell, D K	KI5KBH
Johnson, N D	KC5BBC
Karolczak, M J	KF5UDD
Lawrence, J R	KI5DBS
Leach, S M	KI5ZLU
Martin, R D	KI5ZKC
Martin, T G	K5TGZ
Maupin, T J	W5APA
Mc Caig, W L	N5RWW
Mc Dearmon, E B	KC5EIK
Milligan, L B	KG5UFT
Mooney Jr., W M	W5WMM
Moorman, K A	KI5QJS
Moorman, M H	KC5MM
Neal, R	KF5IIY
Nelson, S P	KD5LBE
Parish, D K	KD5WDJ
Peters, G E	KI5HOV
Scott, J B	K5NWS
Scott, M B	N5MBS
Stovall, M J	AF5BA
Stricklin, E R	AG5EI
Taylor, J J	AF5EI
Taylor, J M	KF5DIH
Tudor, C W	N5EH
Weatherly, D D	N5DDW
Wiedower Sr., J E	AC5RT
Wiedower, Jr., J E	KD5YZD
Wilken, J D	W5JDW

You can join for \$10 for a single person and \$15 for family. Our mail Box is Jim Taylor P.O.Box 94 Solgohachia, AR 72156