

ARKANSAS DIAMOND



PRESIDENT Roger Alabach _____ KF5SDE

www.arkansasdiamondarc.com...web site

ARKANSAS DIAMOND RADIO CLUB NEWS LETTER VOLUME NO. 39 DATE 1/11/2024

We would like to thank again the

Downtown Church of Christ

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

January 11, 2024 meeting
Pizza could be the meal of the evening

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
7:30**

**146.51 No tone
no offset Thursday
8:00 PM**

**State Net
146.330 pl 114.5
Tuesday 7:30 pm**

**Conway
146.970 pl 114.5
Thursday 7:30 pm**

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

.....
The new Arkansas Diamond Radio Club
address is

P.O. Box 1262, Morrilton, AR 72110.
.....

Dues time ----\$10 one \$15 family--

And the Program is featuring

Steve Beavers, KF5DIF

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



from the desk of
Roger Alabach
KF5SDE

Happy New Year everyone. 2024 will start out to be quite busy. First, we will have our quarterly meeting on Thursday January 11th. Two weeks and 2 days later is Winter Field Day. Jim Taylor ,AF5EI, has reserved the North Fire Station in Morrilton so we will have a place to meet and participate as a club. This is a great opportunity for us to get together, share techniques and test out equipment. We will have a couple of stations set up, but it will be great if you want to bring your own equipment. The event starts at 1pm. We will begin set-up at 10am. Please mark your calendar and if you can not be there the whole time at least show up for a couple of hours. I can predict that

a good time will be had by all.

Winterfest in Hoxie will be held on February 17th. This is a small Hamfest but a good one. Well worth the drive. Also, the big River Valley Hamfest will be held on March 2nd at the Dardanelle community center. This is probably the best Hamfest in the state. There are other Hamfests out of state that I have not mentioned. However, the one in Claremore Oklahoma is a two-day event which is well worth the trip especially if you have never been. The dates for it are April 12th and 13th. The weekend after the eclipse.

Speaking of the eclipse, we are less than 100 days away. This event will provide us with a great opportunity to prepare for emergency communications. Even though we are a back up to the systems that are in place we still have a role to play in this event. Fortunately, this is a planned event. So we have time to plan and prepare for what we think might occur. This event will make us more prepared for future unplanned emergencies. I hope I never see one. I am asking everyone to think about this and decide at what level your commitment will be. 73



**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.**



It's coming



With sadness I announce the loss of my brother and fellow Ham

Joe Taylor (SK) KF5DIH

SILENT KEY

On November 28, 2023 we lost club member Joe Taylor (KF5DIH SK)) of the Tucker Mountain Community Conway County (AR) after a long illness. He is survived by brothers Jim (AF5EI), Cecil and John, all of the Tucker Mountain Community. He is also survived by sisters Cathy and Judy of Maryland along with sister Jane of Florida. He had two daughters Janet and Brenda, both of Maryland. He was a widower.

Other News

As most of you know, I am stepping aside of most of my club duties, health and age are getting in the way. Many thanks to Roger (KF5SDE) and David (W5WUP) for picking up a large share of my club responsibilities. I will continue as treasurer and keeper of membership records, at least for awhile. I am actively looking for someone to take over the Thursday night simplex net(146.51 Simplex). It is not an easy net to do. Simplex is different. I started the net in 2014 and have really enjoyed it.

Our next club meeting is January 11th at the Downtown Church of Christ,

Don't forget that Winter Field Day starts at 1:00pm, January 27th, local time, and continues until 1:00 pm, local time Sunday, January 28th. We have reserved the North Fire Station, 1700 Harding Street, Morrilton for the event. Bring your own equipment if you want, or give other HAMs a break from the mic. It is also a good time buy, sell or trade equipment.

A couple of HAMfests of interest coming up. February 17th, LCARC Winterfest, Hoxie, AR. Several of us make the trip every year. Small family atmosphere. Great prizes. With the interstate, it's less than 3 hour drive from Conway. We stop in Bebee for breakfast. It is a very good HAMfest to attend. March 2nd, Arkansas River Valley HAMfest, Dardanelle, AR. Probably the best in our area. Also great prizes, large enclosed area with plenty of parking.

More info on both HAMfests can be found at the ARRL website.

Speaking of the ARRL, if you are not a member, please join. It is well worth the membership fee.

Well, I'm gonna close for now.

Have a great day. 73

Jim AF5EI

News Letter Editor KD5LBE



by Neil Spector

Ham Radio and The 11 Meter Band

What is the 11 meter band? It's called CB. The 11 meter band is part of the radio spectrum that Hams feel was stolen from them. It is one step under 10 meters. Without going into history it started in 1945 and today its regulations are a constantly moving target. I promise you if you read the current history will think you are taking a course on a radio talking frequency that has no clear definition and what there is isn't regulated. CB and Ham radio both use 50 ohm antennas and gas stations that sold CB equipment was a source for a few antenna parts in my early days.

I got the bright idea to modify a CB antenna for 10 meters. If you don't know, CB radio has only 40 channels with one calling frequency 9 and one trucking frequency 19. Channels 36 to 40 are for SSB. At the gas station, the first antenna I picked up was for 6,000 watts. 6,000 watts is way above 1,500 for Hams, and it was for AM. I wondered how big a linear it was going to take for that CB radio and what kind of power supply it was going to take. The FCC regulations say the max output is 4 watts AM and 12 SSB. This is a current antenna advertisement: "TRAN 500 Watt CB Base Antenna: Your Reliable Communication Partner Key Features and Benefits Experience the power of seamless communication with the Tram 500 Watt CB Base Antenna. This high-performance antenna is designed to provide you with superior signal reception and transmission, ensuring you stay connected at all times. 500 Watt Power.

The Federal Communications Com-

mission or FCC authorizes just a maximum of 4 watts AM of output power for CB radios or up to 12 watts SSB for use on channels 36-40. I read in one writing that the FCC has authorized FM as well. How much power it didn't say.

With linears increasing the range of the radios then there would be actually fewer bands available potentially. In today's world, couple this with laws regarding hands free driving meaning no radios and no cell phones with the phone in your hands. (There are hands free cellphones in newer cars voice activated, why not 2 meter radios as well. If you insist on using your radio in regulated states and get caught have a good story ready, in Arkansas you're safe.)

In the 1980s and I was on the road, the CB radio was hot particularly on the trucker channel at night. Today it is hard to find any activity on the CB or on 2 meters. Two meters is a little active on simplex somewhat.

CB was a good idea before cell phones for workers on the road to base, but with so few channels and so many businesses and the number of cell phones, they have lost their advantages. If you were thinking about a CB radio for over the road keep it cheap and forget all the fancy stuff.



2 Meters and Emergency Communications

You have an HT and you got it when you got your Tech license. Let's see, it is pretty old and you haven't used in a few years. Will it charge and hold that charge? Maybe not. April is or could be a real challenge for us and you may need that HT if things get tangled that first week. Your Plan A should be to see if it will charge fully, B will it hold that charge, and C what is the communication net going to look like.

I just started checking out my two Yeasus with original batteries to charge and check out and neither of them worked. One was my first radio a VX5, 24 years old, it took a small charge. The other one was a VX8 and it wouldn't take any. The chargers should also work as well.

I checked the regular sources and there weren't any original Yeasu batteries. Then I went to Amazon and they had some "after market" batter-

ies at a reasonable price. It kind of hurts my pride to buy that cheap Chinese radio brand because they aren't just quite right, but if you have nothing that works now, it is better than nothing. Those radios are cheap and disposable. A replacement battery for a good HT radio may cost more than a cheap radio and battery for a cheap radio. The bottom line is we need to know how we are going to use our equipment and be sure that it works. Our hospital had a good base station radio for an emergency hospital net, but nobody really tried to use it or knew how. To the best of my knowledge there is no control operator when it is in operation. When I tested it, neither the radio or antenna worked. They got a new radio and a new antenna. I am not sure they have a licensed control operator and that they have done any real drills other than checking into a net. You can buy a person a radio, but if it doesn't do much good for the people that could need help.

From the ARRL..... In other words, the idea that licensing is not necessary if a business's plan is to have employees use Amateur Radio when (in the business's opinion) there is an emergency is very much mistaken. As the National Emergency Response Planning Committee report said, "Imagine the chaos on the Amateur bands if all sorts of unlicensed, incompetent users were to go on the air during a disaster." Planning for unlicensed Amateur operation during anticipated future emergencies is a clearly illegal end-run around the FCC's Rules and the Communications Act of 1934. Perhaps, if an unlicensed person operates an Amateur station

without a licensed control operator present during an actual emergency, he or she may not be sanctioned by the FCC after the emergency ends. However, whether or not the sanction is applied, unlicensed operation with no licensed control operator is never permitted by anyone at any time.

AM or SSB, are there "windows?"

By Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID January 3, 2024

Amplitude Modulation has been the method used between Amateur Radio voice transmissions since the late 1920's. In 1947 Wes Schum, W9DYV created the first Amateur Radio SSB transmitter with his Central Electronics 10A. In the mid to late 50's things began to 'heat up' between the 'died in the wool' AM operators and the new voice mode of Single Sideband. Things evolved into a sit-down face to face meeting between major SSB operators and the long time AM operators. They each agreed to a 'Gentlemen's Agreement'. On 75 meters, the AM operators observe 3.870MHz to 3.890MHz. On 40 meters 7.290MHz. to 7.295MHz. 14.268MHz. These 'windows' were promoted by the ARRL and strongly observed by the AM operators for several decades, but as new SSB transceivers and newly licensed operators came upon the scene in the late 80's through the turn of the century, the 'Gentlemen's Agreement' was not promoted well and has slowly faded.

During the 1980's and 1990's

AM operations had declined but in 2015 with the introduction of new technology from the Icom-7300, Yaesu FT101DX, Kenwood TS890, Flex Radio systems, the K7DYY, Apache Labs, Anon and other new transmitters each producing great sounding AM signals, the voice mode of Amplitude Modulation has grown exponentially. Many have discovered how much fun the AM mode can be.

Many of the present-day operators are not aware of the 'Gentlemen's Agreement' and operate anywhere within the F.C.C. band plan of their respective license, which have once again caused some minor rages between the AM and SSB operators. No one 'owns' a frequency. It is good practice to check your frequency, making sure it is clear and not in use by others regardless of mode keeping in mind that many AM Operators are crystal controlled and not able to move frequencies. Thus, AM operators stay within the 'windows' to not cause interference to SSB operators. SSB transmitters all have built in VFOs and have the ability to freely move to frequencies outside of the 'windows'. The solution to any disagreements would be to observe the **AMATEUR'S CODE.**

1. AMATEUR IS CONSIDERATE

The Amateur is considerate, never knowingly operates in such a way to lessen the pleasure of others.

2. AMATEUR IS LOYAL

He offers his loyalty and encouragement to fellow amateurs.

3 AMATEUR IS PROGRESSIVE

Keeps his station efficient and well maintained. His operating practice is above reproach.

4. AMATEUR IS FRIENDLY

Offers kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interest of others.

5. AMATEUR IS BALANCED

Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with duties to his home or family.

6. AMATEUR IS PATRIOTIC

His station is always ready for service of his country.

Adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal in 1928.

The increased popularity of AM has, at times, required its use outside of traditional AM Windows. As always, with any mode, asking if the frequency is in use, first, will help to alleviate many misunderstandings. I encourage everyone to join AMI. www.aminternational.club. Learn, appreciate, and enjoy AM operation. Hopefully we can all be courteous to each other and share our frequencies.

73, Bob Heil, K9EID

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	KF5IYY
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 (SK)
Tudor, C W	N5EH
Weatherly, D D	N5DDW
Wiedower Sr., J E	AC5RT
Wiedower, Jr., J E	KD5YZD
Wilken, J D	W5JDW