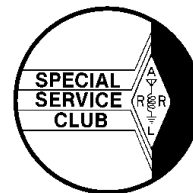


SMARCalling



April 2002

Volume 2

Issue 4

Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio Club <http://www.smarc.org>

P.O. Box 11363 Springfield, MO 65808 PH: 417-886-4152

Tornado Drill, February 18th...

This month's meeting will be Monday, April 15th at 7 PM, at the American Red Cross building located at near the intersection of Glenstone and Chestnut Expwy. Hope to see you there!

Hello to everyone,

For those of you who hadn't heard we held a tornado drill last month. There were a number of served agencies involved, including the American Red Cross, four of our local hospitals (Cox North & South, Doctors, and St. Johns), and the RACES and ARES groups of Greene county. I expect I'm forgetting to mention some parties. Fire Marshall Ron Smith was acting as the Public Information Officer.

This was my first participation in such an event. I found it to be interesting and a very good opportunity to gain a little experience operating in an emergency. One can be assured in the event of an actual emergency there will be greater confusion so we can all benefit from practice of our communication skills whenever possible.

One of our members, Lance Riffle kc0kbl, acted as net control and did a fine job. Especially considering he was placed in that role as a last minute substitution. Good going Lance! Better you than me buddy! ;-D

Our planned tornado hit the Battlefield Mall cutting a swath of destruction running roughly SE from the Cox South Hospital to a short distance beyond the mall. It was from the mall we moved our injured to the various medical facilities.

Injured were taken to the hospitals via bus. Each bus had a ham radio operator. I believe these persons were from the RACES group. Our Greene County ARES group had persons stationed at each hospital, in three damage assessment teams, and at the ARC's DOC (hq).

We learned a few things. The antenna recently placed at the Doctor's Hospital did not perform as well as desired, and the equipment deployed on the buses was very difficult to copy clearly.

March Meeting

Report

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Even with these hardships the overall communications was able to provide reasonable services. However, cell phones were also allowed, which would seem to be an oversight in the planning process. This meant the radio communications were largely redundant.

The drill was called short. There was an actual fire at a local manufacturing plant which pulled the Fire Department off the drill and several of the hospitals also had so many real emergency room patients they too had to cut their participation in the drill short.

April Meeting

& Area Hamfests

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Of the things learned were the need for our volunteer groups to develop a standardized message form. On this form we feel addressing our need for the served agency to provide a person to pick up and distribute in-coming messages on regular intervals important to explain. We would also like them to understand that radio nets operate somewhat differently than telephones. It is important they understand passing messages requires more time than they may be accustomed to waiting to pass, and receive, information.

Board Members

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It was quite interesting. I would recommend participating in similar events to all fellow hams. My congratulations to all those who participated. Please feel free to send me your insights for future publication. -- 73's Erik Weaver, n0ew

Mar. 2002

SMARC MINUTES ... There was no business at this meeting, no attendance taken, & no minutes.

SKYWARN

Our March 18 meeting was held at the beautiful CU auditorium in downtown Springfield. This cozy (150 seat?) auditorium had excellent projection equipment as well as super wide seating and tons of leg room. Attendance was about 75 people and all enjoyed the show. Steve Reynolds, the usual presenter, was called out of town but an excellent job was done by Mr. **David Gaede**.

The meeting started a 7:00 and everyone was seated and ready to go. Lora Smith, our fearless leader, introduced the club function and handed the podium over to Mr. **Gaede**.

After a brief organizational flowchart explaining the information cycle, Ken Baremore WOKRB was called to review the amateurs' role in Skywarn. Shortly thereafter, a representative of one of the firefighters reviewed their role in the Skywarn effort.

Next, the training aspect of the presentation got underway. The program was the best multimedia presentation that I have seen. This was the first Skywarn training for me but some of the repeat viewers say that they improve it every year so this years effort definitely must be the best. The training was filled with video that they could repeat with a simple mouse click. This allowed us to zero in on details that we may have missed the first time around.

We learned about the thunderstorm lifecycle and microbursts. We studied the supercell storm cycle. We learned the best location & position to view the supercell storm. We learned to identify a wall cloud, rain free base, anvil head and the RTD or rear-flank downdraft. If this all sound a little disjointed, then you probably didn't attend. I could stand to see it again real soon but will be sure to catch it next year.

After the presentation, we had a test. Actually it was a continuation of multimedia format with audience participation. It was an excellent review. And I don't want to forget the hilarious K-9 version of the Fujita Scale. The meeting concluded at 9:00. Lora wrapped it up by thanking everyone for attending and encouraging any interested parties to check out the club. The NWS had some list of Internet weather links, Skywarn Reference Guide and a full color Basic Spotters' Field Guide. We thank all of you who attended and encourage you to come again next year (and bring a friend)!

Lance Riffle, kc0kbl

Contributions to this SMARCalling...

As with nearly all small newsletters ours is in need of articles of interest to our fellow club members. I would like to ask any ham to send in an article, whether a few brief paragraphs or several pages in length to me (n0ew@arrl.net) so that I may include them in our newsletter.

A number of you have received a request for an interview via email. I think our first two were very interesting and we would all like to know what others in the club are, and have been, up to over the years. If you would like to let us know what you're up to please contact me and I'll send you the Q&A sheet. It only takes a few minutes and will make our newsletter of much greater interest to your fellow members.

Topics can be anything ham related. We have a wealth of experience to draw from. Both successful and failed experiments are welcomed. Most of us learn best from trial and error. If we do not share our mistakes with others they are doomed to repeat the same mistakes.

Home brew projects, your experiences at special events, visiting distant and interesting places, working hard to find stations, or such seemingly mundane things as reporting your good, or bad, experiences with insurance companies may be of interest to fellow hams.

Thanks you all in advance for your sharing!

ARESPACK Demonstration

Ken Baremore, w0krb, has agreed to present to the club a packet demonstration using a software program that allows text messages be sent to a printer or advise that the message was not received. This offer obvious benefits while operating in an emergency and one needs to pass lists.

If there is time, and the membership is interested, we may also watch a 30-minute video documentary about a Ham in Kuwait that supplied vital information to help in invasion efforts. If we do not watch this video at this meeting we will do so at a later date.

AREA HAMFESTS...

April 13, 2002

JOPLIN. John Q. Hammon's Trade Center, I-44 exit 8-B, 3615 Range Line. \$5 advance \$6 at door. Opens 8 am. <http://www.joplin-arc.org> email address jjohnannes@jpolin.com (yes, two leading "j"s) There will be many planned activities ranging from hourly drawing to VE testing. Tables are available too. Confirmed vendors: Battery-Tech Central; QSLs by NOTT; D&L Antenna; Associated Radio; WB0W; Clevenger Creations; RLS Electronics; and Zephyrus Electronics. TALK IN 147.21+

May 4, 2002

LEBANON. Cowan Civic Center, 500 E. Elm Street. \$5 entry. Tables available. Many, many planned activities: VE testing (by pre-registration only! – contact Bob 417-345-8299, bflobo@netscape.net); ARRL forum; DX; QRP; Skywarn; NWS; Antique Radios; DXCC and WAZ card checking; more to be added. Transportation To the local mall. More information: Bill Wheeler, k0dew 417-532-4642, keccc@llion.org. Opens 8 am. There will be many commercial vendors as well as fellow hams selling their wares. <http://members.socket.net/~wb9m/Publish> Talk-In 145.47/144.87 Cell 533-4397

June 8, 2002

MACON. Macon V0-Tech School, US Hwy 63, five blocks south of US Hwy 37. GPS N 39.44.8' W 92.27.9' Contact: n0pr@arrl.net; <http://www.qsl.net/n0pr/hamfest.html> TALK IN 146.805- Admission \$3 or two for \$5. Drawings every ½ hour. Tables available. Free tail-gate area with purchase of admission ticket. VE testing with a limited number of walk-ins. Planned forums: VHF Modes, Propagation, And more. Camping available nearby. Commercial vendors include: Associated Radio, D&L Antenna, Rich Sports, Names & Hats Badges.

Greene County ARES is meeting every 4th Wednesday of the month at the Brentwood Library, located just east of Glenstone at Seminole and 2214 South Brentwood, in the community room, starting at 7:00 PM. Questions should be directed to Ken Baremore (w0krb@arrl.net). .

There is no Treasurer's Report in this issue, as this was published prior to receiving the report from our Treasurer. The full report will available at the meeting.

2001 Board Members ...

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Note: All board members may be reached by email at: ["theircall"@smarc.org](mailto:theircall@smarc.org) , except for Louise Buck.

SMARCalling is a monthly newsletter published by and for the Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio Club, Inc. All submissions for publication must be received by the last day of the previous month. SMARCalling reserves the right to edit all submissions for spelling and, when necessary, length. All comments on SMARCalling may be made to editor@smarc.org or by direct mail.

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