

SMARCalling



May 2002

Volume 2

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

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

June 22-23 is Field Day at Springfield Lake Park...

This month's meeting will be Monday, May 20th at 7 PM, at the American Red Cross building located just east of the intersection of Glenstone and Chestnut Expwy. Hope to see you there!

May's meeting will feature Dale Bagely of ARRL fame! Dale is our Section Mgr and will be in fresh from the Dayton Hamfest. It should be very interesting!

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Visitors Always

Welcome!

Hello everyone, Spring is here, and soon Field Day shall be upon us!

One of the topics for discussion the next two meetings will be our clubs Field Day event for 2002. Bill Besore, k0wb, has volunteered to supply everything we will need for the CW station. Bob Dubinick, w0zf, has volunteered the use of one of his phone stations as well as his participation in its operation. Bob will also serve as that station's Captain, as will Bill for his. Thanks Bill and Bob!

As of the writing of this newsletter we now have two stations. With regard to stations we need to know if there are any other members who have equipment they are willing to lend to the club for running additional stations. This includes computers in addition to radios. I'll also need to know if you are going to operate your equipment and will serve as it's Captain (each station needs a Captain).

There are of course many other areas for which we need assistance....

Food prep and the related logistics need to be covered. I can arrange a low price for our ice needs, provided we are able to pick up the ice ourselves. We are seeking someone to be in charge of this service. Does anyone have a H₂O buffalo?

There are many equipment needs to be addressed. We need to arrange for generators, and antennas. This requires both a set-up and tear-down crew. This is an important issue and we are fortunate to have a number of persons that have helped in the past. I would welcome their assistance again this year.

We also need to plan for adverse WX. Each Station Captain will need to have a plan how to best protect their equipment in the event of either rain or lightning. This could range from tarps to plastic garbage bags to tents or other shelters. During a lightning storm we will cease radio operations.

In all cases please contact me (Erik), and thank you all in advance for your time and efforts in making this a successful Field Day! I am open to all suggestions, and new members should feel free to jump in too, it should be lotsa fun!

-- 73's Erik Weaver, n0ew (n0ew@arrl.net, 869-4947)

SMARC Net Worth Report -- 4/1/02 through 4/30/02

ASSETS		TOTAL INCOME	
Cash and Bank Accounts		SMARC Dues	80.00
Checking	845.41	EXPENSES	
Savings	5,082.90	Newsletter Printing	25.07
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	5,928.31	TOTAL Newsletter	25.07
TOTAL ASSETS	5,928.31	Phone Line (146.640)	28.23
LIABILITIES	0.00	TOTAL Phone Line	28.23
OVERALL TOTAL	5,928.31	Refund	5.00
Funds for comm-trailer	2,375.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	58.30
Total Discretionary Funds	3,553.31	OVERALL TOTAL	21.70

SMARC Meeting Minutes for April 15th 2002...

Members Present:

WØKRB, BAREMORE, KEN;
W2RRX, HAVEL, JERRY;
KCØKBL, RIFFLE, LANCE;
KCØNAV, SHAFER, STEPHEN;
NØEW, WEAVER, ERIK.

AKØC, CRANE, SKIP;
WØODY, MOORE, WOODIE;
WØTLS, SHAFER, LEE;
KCØEPD, SMITH, LORA;

WBØNM, HARMON, WILLIAM;
KØJIF, PALMER, JAMES;
KCØNAU, SHAFER, YEVONNE;
WØJOE, SMITH, JOE;

Feb and Mar minutes were approved.**910 repeater controller**

Bill Chambers found a remote Digital Voice Recorder (DVR), a RC1000V, for \$340. At one time our present DVR/repeater was on the 64 machine. Skip Crane says we already have this type of controller. There is some discrepancy as to what we actually have, and if the suggested RC1000V by Bill is substantially different. The question arose as to whether we should possibly purchase a better DVR. Are announcements a good idea? The general acclimation was it is a good idea.

Show and Tell

Lance Riffle encourages everyone to bring in their new toys for "Show and Tell". Bring any of your new or interesting radio-related gizmos and show them off! Last month Lance brought in his MFJ 418 Coder. He has not had very good luck with his unit. It displays very poor manufacturing. This is his third one, and it has broken twice already. MFJ has been very good about replacing the bad units but he is losing S&H each time. Another member pointed out that one can often obtain a replacement in person at a hamfest. Most dealers will apparently do so. It has a number of settings that are useful to a person desiring to learn CW, including a Farnsworth adjustment, speed adjustment, etc, and comes with a 1-year warranty.

Woodie Moore brought in his THF6A. This is a very small, all mode, HT made by Kenwood. \$389.00 down to AES one-day sale \$339. USB, LSB, etc. 440 memories in 8 groups. Woodie has been very pleased with this radio and recommends it to the rest of us. Woodie is selling his Kenwood TH-G71A and Radio Shack 70cm FM HT. You may contact him at the next meeting to see if these radios are still available.

Ken Baremore brought in his Rolling-Toolbox Station. This has been an on-going project for the past several months. It is a modified metal toolbox with wheels. Step one was to obtain a toolbox that would fit into his vehicle. A good point to keep in mind should any of us care to follow Ken's lead. There are two drawers, and larger bottom area, and two table tops which fold out. These tops are honeycombed aluminum (clean room ceiling tile) which Ken was able to scavenge from the scrap pile at work. (I'm pretty sure he didn't bring the rest of us any of them!) Among the goodies Ken has squirreled away are: a DC to DC converter, 12v to 16vdc for laptop, purchased from Radio Shack, makes laptop 100% dc powered; a FM radio; 8 dc outlets; a transverter when ac is available; WX radio; desk lamp which takes 20w 12v lamp bulb, and has a heavy base with transformer inside; a hook-up box for two headsets and a speaker; a headphone splitter box to hold up to 4 headsets and two freqs, allowing more than one person to listen, and another person to take notes; a noise filter, 144-148, to cut out intermod; one extension cord, for power; ground via antenna coax; a portable dc TV; misc. office supplies; small whiteboard; flashlights; trashbags; duct tape; a 10-amp battery charger; 23-amp power supply; and an area for a primary battery (of course!). I'm sure I both left some things out and was not entirely accurate on other points in the above. Ken will be happy to show you this neat outfit and explain the finer details. But you get the idea, it has just about anything one would need during an emergency deployment to operate your station!

Communications Trailer.

There were a number of opinions expressed and there was no vote taken. The consensus seems to be that it is a good idea from the standpoint of advertising and PR opportunities, but we'll have to closely examine the costs and labor involved: purchase, title, insurance, making visually appealing, maintenance, who is going to give their time to help, etc. We have discovered that title and licensing is pretty inexpensive, and that liability insurance is covered under the towing vehicles policy (Missouri law). Our club carries insurance on the equipment separately, for which location is immaterial. Whether to have toilet facilities is a divisive point. Some feel this is very important while others believe such facilities are generally available, and the clean-up of the toilet is not a job anyone is likely to perform. We've had no solid commitments in any regard concerning this matter at this time.

The largest areas of concern seemed to be: (1) purchase price; (2) that the purchased trailer be visually appealing since a ratty trailer would hurt out PR efforts rather than help them; (3) annual costs; (4) maintenance costs; (5) whether or not to have a toilet; and lastly, but perhaps the most important issue, (6) who will provide the labor to perform both the initial renovations and the on-going time and labor to provide upkeep (ranging from winterization to emptying the toilet system).

Regarding the claim that the money in the club bank account was formally dedicated to this activity and must be returned if not used to purchase a communications trailer, there is no consensus to that effect. There is no documentation supporting that view and there are several members who specifically recall a chain of events, which does not support this opinion. Other members recall the point in a different light.

PRESENTATION – ARESpack Software by Ken Baremore, w0krb (w0krb@arrl.net)

I would like to echo Lance's thanks to Ken for preparing this presentation. There is a lot of stuff to gather to make it possible! Read through his "rolling toolbox" in the Show And Tell section and you'll get the drift. There are also a pair of computers and a second radio to add to that list in order to make this presentation possible. Thank you Ken, it was interesting.

ARESpack is an old DOS-based packet-radio freeware program. I believe Ken said it was developed by an ARES group in Colorado. It intended use is to allow the passing of semi-confidential messages when serving an agency such as the American Red Cross (ARC). There are many times passing such information is useful. We may be sending lists of needed supplies, or the names of persons located at a given shelter, or supplying the central ARC designated HQ a listing of persons admitted to area hospitals. As one can imagine there may be many uses in which being able to send a printable list would greatly simplify our efforts as communicators as well as save up time and battery energy. It's much easier to type up a list a 120 names and send this (saved) document once than do so via voice, or CW, communications. "I say again, Chezinski, Charlie Hotel Echo Zulu India November, Seria Kilo India. Do you copy?" You get the idea!

Regarding medical and other personal information we have a bit of a sticky wicket. On the one hand laws regarding privacy have been beefed up over the years. You just can't (legally) get on the radio and announce to the world that Bob has a certain prescription and is being treated for a given injury. Yet on the other hand in a truly life-threatening situation we are authorized to provide needed assistance. You can dream up many scenarios as easily as I. This is where the "semi" confidential aspect of this software comes into play, although it is more than just the software, it includes in what manner one chooses to implement its use.

We start by being in a digital mode. Only those that have the proper equipment are capable of receiving the message intelligently. To further reduce the chance out messages will be heard by inappropriate individuals we will NOT use the standard packet frequencies, but will instead select a distance freq for simplex communications. If available a directional antenna will be employed. These are the steps we have taken to reduce the possibility that an individual other than our targeted station will be privy to the sensitive information we are sending. Is it foolproof? No. Is it a reasonable level of caution? I would think so, but our courts being the circus they are these days, who really knows? This is a decision the amateur radio operator and their served agency must answer for themselves.

The software itself is pretty straight-forward. Especially for our use since Ken has taken the time to go through the package and simplify the manual and set up the software to be specific to our Greene County ARES. Ken continues to work on developing additional 'canned' messages which may be used quickly and easily. One of its positive features is it is pretty easy to bring another person up to speed in its proper use quickly.

The following steps must be followed in order to properly work these packet stations: (1) Select the frequency; (2) have the needed gear on-hand; (3) be listening on the correct frequency; (4) be willing to publish the selected information.

There are a number of nice features provided by ARESpack: there are alarms to send to other stations alerting them an incoming message is being received, or they need to turn on their printer; messages are saved, and will print if a printer standing by; there is a help screen; messages are dated, time stamped, a message number is assigned serially (199 limit), by using the tab key one cycles through a variety of fields into which data is typed: TO, FROM, Subject, Text, Signature block, and Operator; the arrow key to move cursor backwards, not Shift+Tab, up to 250 lines of text is kept in the buffer before being dropped; there are up to ten 'canned' text-MACROS that may be used; "F10" sends the message, and will report the condition of the receiving printer (was message received? printer on/off?).

If you would like additional information please send Ken an email (w0krb@arrl.net). He will gladly provide you with his revised Greene County ARESpack, along with the URL to the original web site, as well as the significant revisions he has made to the help file and the manual, reducing the verbiage to that which is required.

AREA HAMFESTS...

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 meets the 4th Wednesday of each month, 7 PM, at the Brentwood Library (just east of Glenstone & Seminole; 2214 South Brentwood, in the community room). Questions should be directed to Ken Baremore, Greene County ARES EC (w0krb@arrl.net). It's rewarding.

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.

**Field Day is
June 22-23
Public Welcome!
Look for Us
At Springfield
Lake – We
Will Have the
Antenna Farm!**

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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