

January 2003

Volume 3

Issue 1

# SMARCalling



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

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

## *"Happy New Year!" . . .*

Regular Meeting  
7:00 PM at the  
American Red  
Cross Building  
1835 E.  
Chestnut, just  
East of  
Glenstone Ave.  
3rd Monday of  
Every Month...

Jan. 20th  
Chillie Supper  
*come if you dare*  
&  
Christmas Gift  
"Show & Tell"

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John Berry, w0nux  
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Public  
Always  
Welcome!

Hello everyone,

I trust the new year finds you all well, and well stocked with ham radio goodies from Christmas! I'd like to remind you to grab up your favorite toys and bring them to this month's meeting. We'll have a chillie dinner featuring brews by various members, so please bring your favorite concoction and see if the rest of us have stomachs of steel, or of weak tea! (*Call Erik 869-4947 and leave a message as to what you're bringing – thanks!*)

Take a look at the list of events coming up, below. Next on the calendar is the 49ers Winter Hamfest. Should be a good time. More info on the next page.

Speaking of good times, I want to remind you all that a number of us meet each Saturday morning about 8:15 am at the Golden Corral in Springfield, at S. Glenstone and Primrose, across from Lowe's. It is a good time too, but don't show up when there is a hamfest – you may be the only there! ☺ This is not related to any club and not everyone that shows up is a ham. We mostly sit around chewing on bacon and knocking back the hot tea and coffee. Stop by, and bring a friend or two. We meet in the north-west corner.

*-73 de Erik, n0ew*

### Here are some known events of interests – make plans accordingly...

January, 11th,	49ers Hamfest, in Willard 8 AM Doors Open 10 AM VE Testing
January, 20th,	6:30 PM SMARC "CHILLIE DINNER" Meeting 7:00 PM SMARC Meeting, Christmas "Show & Tell" Bring all you new ham radio goodies! We need to know what to exchange our stuff for! ;^D
February, 17, February, 25th	7:00 PM SMARC Meeting: PSK-31 Kit & Demo SKYWARN at City Utilities Auditorium 6:30 PM
April, 5th	Joplin Hamfest
May, 2nd-3rd	Lebanon Hamfest
May, 10th	Evangel Library, Spfd, KØS, Special Event Station, "Kurt N .Sterba Strange Antenna Challenge" VE Testing Session
June, 28-29	Field Day 2003
August, 10th	WØC, Wilson Creek Battlefield Special Event Station

*It's time for membership renewals! Please use the enclosed form to do so and bring it to this month's meeting or mail it to the club PO box. Thank you all for your support last year and in the coming year!*

## December 2002, SMARC MINUTES

There was no Dec. meeting, but Santa visited ([www.smarc.org](http://www.smarc.org))! We'll vote on acceptance of the November Minutes & Treasurers Report in Jan: CORRECTION - CHRIS Smith, kc0gox, is the Secretary.

SKYWARN 2003 – Skywarn will be Tuesday, Feb. 25th, 6:30 PM at the CU Auditorium...

Lora Smith has spoken to Ernie Decamp – we will combine the various agencies as we did in 2002. We will hold our regular club meeting on Monday, February, 17th, as normal – to grow, it is important for us to take advantage of our strengths, one of which is that we do in fact have a regular meeting hall. Skywarn will be our fist "extra" meeting in 2003.

### UPCOMING AREA HAMFESTS...

January 11th is the 49ers hamfest. It will be in Willard this year in the new Rec Ctr. There will be a large commercial vendor present, WBØW, with his full set up. Doors open at 8 AM with VE testing beginning at 10 AM. Talk in is 145.49 PL 136.5 (<http://www.qsl.net/49ers/>). From I-44, take Hwy 160 north 6 miles to Willard, turn right at the 2nd traffic light, 1.5 miles to the new Recreation Center, built just for this event! (hi-hi) For more info contact Michael Blake, n0nqw ([n0nqw@arrl.net](mailto:n0nqw@arrl.net), 417-742-3955) or Skip Crane, ak0c (417-788-2534). Entry is \$3... cheap at half that price! ;-)

April 5th is the Joplin hamfest. Last year this was a good event.

May 3-4 is the Lebanon hamfest, w/ Bob Heil, et al: <http://home.earthlink.net/~wb9m/>

### SPECIAL EVENT STATION, KØS...

Our club is hosting a special event station beginning May, 10, 2003: KØS, the Kurt N. Sterba Strange Antenna Challenge. Kurt is an author for World Radio magazine and writes about the many misconceptions hams hold with regard to antenna systems. One of the things for which he is known is using strange things for antennas such as ladders, shopping carts, umbrellas, and the like.

We will meet at the Evangel library Saturday 9 AM to set up. The event actually starts at 10 AM on 28.500 MHz +/- 20 kHz, and runs through Sunday evening at 7 PM, as per our listing in QST. I was not comfortable specifying any other frequencies as I am a little uncertain how many bands we'll be able to effectively operate, although I suspect we'll do quite well. We should also try to remain in the General Class areas of the HF bands, but this is not a requirement by any means.

We will set up right along Glenstone so as to maximize our visibility to the public. Imagine the expressions some of them will have seeing all the strange things hanging from the trees that we'll have out there! Should be fun! If we are fortunate there will be some press coverage too.

Concurrent with our start time will be the start of a VE testing session inside the library. Imagine the interest and excitement for someone who just passed their licensing exam and walks outside to talk to someone in Mexico using a ladder! (Yes, I'm aware they don't enjoy the benefits of their license until it is published by the FCC, however, remember one of us may act as their control operator.) Our thanks go to Woodie, w0ody, for arranging the use of the library and the grounds.

So far both Ken, w0krb, and Dick, k0gl, are bringing aluminum ladders. Lance is bringing a metal dog kennel. I'll bring some 1x1 inch screen which we can use as a counter poise, and some other junk. I encourage you all to think of what metal items you can bring along. If we can hook a wire to it, if we can tune it, and if we can pump enough juice into it to radiate, we have an antenna! :^D

10-Meters is pretty easy. I did a little experimenting during the Dec. ARRL 10-Meter Contest. If you'd like to look over those antennas and the results (5 continents) there is a link on the club web site which Lee, w0tIs, kindly added ([www.smarc.org](http://www.smarc.org)). There is also a link to these pages at the bottom of this URL <http://www.leafwerks.net/n0ew/StrangeAntennas/k0s.html> to get your creative juices flowing, and to outline the "rules" of the special event, exchange info, and that sort of thing.

Please also bring along hose clamps and other "support" items with which to connect the "antennas".

### ARRL CHANGES FOR 2003...

ARRL VE testing fees increase to \$12. Also for \$12 the ARRL will handle Address Changes, Renewals, and Modifications for Non-ARRL members – such services are free to ARRL members. Submit NCVFC Form 605 <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/forms.html>> to ARRL VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111 ([vec@arrl.org](mailto:vec@arrl.org)).

### SMARC – Special Service Club...

Our club's application for renewal of our Special Service Club status has been accepted by the ARRL, and remains in effect through December of 2005. We should increase our public activities to retain SSG status.

At our December meeting John, w0nxu, brought his amateur television and slow scan set ups. Pentium 100's and better computers are recommended for both slow and fast scan TV, and are plentiful in the used market. This was a very interesting lecture – thanks John!

In the mid-50s the first slow scan began to be experimented with, and by the mid-70's a "scan formatter" converted the SSTV signal into a television picture (B&W). It took about 30 seconds to send a picture. The new modes are in color and take about two 2 minutes to send / receive, but convey much more information.

The old method displayed the image with a phosphorescent substance inside a CRT monitor. By the time the image was concluding, the first part was fading. Today, of course, the images may be stored on one's hard drive.

Fast scan is live TV, also called ATV for amateur television. Cost for this equipment is rather high. Plan to spend \$500 or more. This mode requires a lot of bandwidth and only works line of sight (LOS). To be placed on a repeater very specialized equipment is required, nothing simple as with a voice repeater. One can expect to reach 30-40 miles reliably with a repeater, and up to 10 mile LOS. Tulsa has used ATV with their Skywarn and remote controls. 439.25 is a common frequency.

PC Electronics has ATV kits. One can get a RX converter kit for \$50-\$60 (or use a cable ready TV).

ATV uses a "P" scale for their RST reports. P5 = perfect, P3 good but "sparklies" in it. Some people also use this scale with SSTV. In both cases, fading in the band's propagation distorts the image.

Woodie, w0ody, has some 20-yr old television cameras one can borrow for a month or two.

Slow scan is basically an electronic fax sent via radio waves. There is little required bandwidth. As with phone, this is an audio mode, which means the images may be routed through "regular" repeaters. Anyone with voice privileges can play with this mode, however one does have to use the phone portion of the bands, not data portion. 14.230, 14.233 are some of the common frequencies.

You will often see the incoming image skewed to one side. With a SSB rig one can tune the frequency a little up or down to straighten out the image. With FM this is not possible.

Slow scans are analog still pictures, in either color or black & white, and can have very fine detail. Further, most hams already have 90% of the equipment needed to run this mode. Once one has the SSB transceiver and the computer, the only additional hardware needed is a few cables to route the data flow between rig and computer. The computer does need a sound card, however. There is enough good quality software available at no cost (such as MMSSTV), one doesn't need to purchase any software, unless so desired.

The needed cables take the RX from the transceiver into the input of the soundcard, and the output of the soundcard into the TX of the transceiver. The transceiver must be keyed of course. Most of the interface kits do this automatically, or you may key the PTT manually.

One of the very useful tasks slow scan could fulfill is providing a central HQ with images of a disaster event, ranging from damage to the survivors. All one needs is a now common and affordable digital camera, rig, laptop and an interface. Snap the pictures, and transmit them to the Red Cross!

John showed us two different SSTV programs. ChromaPix (siliconpixels.com), which is NOT free, and MMSSTV, which is free. A number of people locally have had good success using MMSSTV. John is the only one we know of with ChromaPix and he has not had it very long. In both cases, there is an "S-meter" type display. Generally one obtains a good signal at ¼ to ½ of the area showing activity. It will look like a fluttering of color against a solid, plain colored, background. In SSTV the "robot" modes are B&W, while the others are color.

This only touches on the subject. There are a number of sources of information on the Internet, a number of which have been provided. The April 2001 QST had a SSTV article you may wish to read, as does the January issue of CQ magazine.

### Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2002

Assests		Expenses	
Checking	\$515.01	Bank Charge	\$0.00
Savings	\$4,728.45	Newsletter	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,243.46</b>	printing	\$0.00
Income		sales tax	\$0.00
Hamfest Income	\$ 50.00	Total Newsletter	\$0.00
Christmas Gift for Needy	\$40.00	Christmas Gift to Needy	\$40.00
SMARC Dues	\$185.00	Web Domain Name Renewal	\$15.00
Donation to Repeater Fund	\$15.00	146.640 Phone Line	\$28.20
		<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$290.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$83.20</b>
		<b>(INCOME) – (EXPENSES) =</b>	<b>\$206.80</b>



Year 2003  
**SMARC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
 (Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio Club)  
 P.O. Box 11363  
 Springfield, MO 65808

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_)  
 License Class \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ Associate member (no license)  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Only for 1st-time membership  
 joining after July 1<sup>st</sup>:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$12.50 Single  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$17.50 Family

Check membership level below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Single membership is \$25.00 per year

\_\_\_\_\_ Family membership is \$35.00 per year  
 (family members in the same home)

Family members who are licensed amateurs

Name:	Call:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Would you prefer the club newsletters sent by:

\_\_\_\_\_ US Mail or/and \_\_\_\_\_ Email PDF \_\_\_\_\_ I have text only Email

I am \_\_\_\_\_ I am NOT \_\_\_\_\_ an ARRL Member currently.

I would like to have my name shared with the various Emergency Preparedness groups in this area. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Please bring (or mail) this application form to a monthly meeting and give to the club treasurer/secretary. Applications must be accompanied by payment of annual dues.

I would like to donate additional funds for: Repeater Maintenance \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 PR/Educational Efforts \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New memberships are granted after review by the board.

**Amateur Television and Slow Scan Web Sites:**

<http://www.siliconpixels.com/> (for "ChromaPIX" software)

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/winpix/pdmodes.htm>

<http://www.qsl.net/mmhamsoft/>

<http://mscan.com/>

<http://www.g4cpi.freemove.co.uk/links.html>

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/winpix/>

**For older/slower computers:**

<http://www.hampubs.com/sstvwith.htm>

**For Linux computers:**

[http://home.tiscalinet.be/on1mh\\_ham/](http://home.tiscalinet.be/on1mh_ham/)

**For Mac computers:**

<http://www.blackcatsystems.com/software/multimode.html>

**JOTA in Hollister**

*This last October Ray Brown, kb0stn, of Joplin, MO, went down to the JOTA in Hollister. I asked him to tell us a little bit about his experience there. (October 2003 the Webelos JOTA will be in Marshfield.) This is Ray's story....*

Well, I was the only ham radio station there. I did try to take some pictures, the camp was set on about 40 acres, but the boys had a long hike from the camping area up (and I mean UP) to the college to do anything there.

And, of course, it rained. It rained Friday night and Saturday morning. I had galoshes, which helped out a lot, and my Jeep Cherokee didn't get stuck like some other vehicles did. :-)

I waited as long as I could on Saturday morning, hoping that I'd have at least one Joplin ham to go with me, but I finally got a hold of him on our club's repeater at 8:30 am and he said he had to be back in Joplin by 4 pm, which basically made his assistance useless, since we were supposed to have been set up the night before and be on the air until at least 5 pm. So, my son and I set off for Hollister. (If he'd made it, we would have had Packet and APRS to play with as well. Sigh...)

We get there about 10:45, and we're instructed to set up our station where there's power (a mobile generator). The closest tent to the power is the event staff feeding tent. I get a Troop Master that recognizes that I'm wearing a call sign on my hat and he volunteers a few of his boys to set up my antenna, a Carolina Windom. We get the short end up in a line of trees, and the long line is supported by six 4' aluminum pipes (from an Army antenna kit), and we lash the long wire antenna down to a truck's front towing eye. We get everything ready by 12 noon.

The Camporall staff chows down from 12 to 1, and at 1 PM we get down to business. And, of course, it's pileup city on all of the suggested frequencies. I did manage to get through to one station, VP2MEB, Bob, down at Monserat Island, and he has a chat with about 12 boys from 2 troops, then he went QRT. I then made contact with N3AOI in NE PA and N9MA in Milwaukee, and they chatted with about 12 more boys.

With all of them, I tried explaining what all could be found on HF amateur radio, such as CW and SSTV, as well as phone. I also demonstrated how repeaters worked, by using my h/t to contact other hams up in Branson. I also mentioned the ISS and that there was going to be an amateur radio station "up there" all the time. I also demonstrated WWV and some SWL stations in the 15 MHz band.

The boys were all fairly impressed with the radio. No one mentioned the Internet during any of this, as we listened to a lot more stations than I logged above. We heard K5BSA, which is down in Dallas, and K2BSA, forgot where they were at, but they were just amazed that all these... voices... were coming out from the radio, and they were from so far away! That was the fun part, explaining how, at certain times of the day, one could easily talk around the world. I mentioned the phone portable QRP record, which was between a couple of FT817's, one here in the US, the other in Australia. They were seriously impressed. :-)

We're done by 4:30 PM. They invite us to stay for supper at 5, but my son and I decide to just pack up and head into Branson, so we took down the Windom, thanked everyone (we got a patch each and I got a Staff hat), and Arthur and I had dinner out, and saw "Space Station" at the Branson IMAX Theatre, then we drove home, getting back around 11 pm.

Ray Brown, KBØSTN

Committee Chairman, Pack 77, Webelos Ass't. DL, Den 3

Nih-Ka-Ga-Hah District, Ozarks Trail Council, Joplin, MO

raybrown@ipa.net

## 2002 Board Members ...

### Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio Club

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We're on the Web!  
[www.smarc.org](http://www.smarc.org)

Public Welcome!

**PRESIDENT:**  
Erik Weaver, NØEW .....869-4947

**VICE\_PRESIDENT:**  
Lance Riffle, KCØKBL.....890-5856

**SECRETARY:**  
Chris Smith, KCØGOX.....883-6169

All board members may be reached by email at:  
["theircall"@smarc.org](mailto:'theircall'@smarc.org)

**TREASURER:**  
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Dick Higinbotham, KØGL,725-5929

**DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE:**  
Woodie Moore, WØODY.....883-2248

**PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR:**  
Lora Smith, KCØEPD.....886-4152

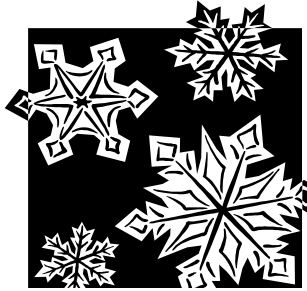
#### Some Useful Web Sites

FCC ULS Info: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.html>

Practice Tests: <http://www.qrz.com/p/testing.pl>

License Renewals: <http://www.qrz.com/i/renewals.html>

New Hams - Search for Your 1st Listing! [http://www.qrz.com/new\\_hams.html](http://www.qrz.com/new_hams.html)



*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 preceding 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](mailto:editor@smarc.org) or by direct mail.

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