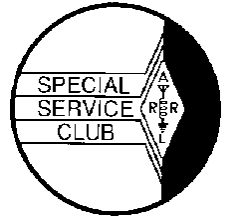
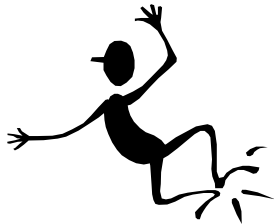


# The Repeater

Monthly Newsletter of the Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Foundation



September 2005



## LAST FLING OF SUMMER FOX-HUNT & COVERED DISH SUPPER AT OLD POST ROAD PARK, PAVILLION #3



What better way to end the summer than with a Fox-Hunt followed by an outdoor covered dish dinner at the park near the playground, for our regular meeting on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. The first day of Fall is September 22<sup>nd</sup>, so our regular meeting night is almost the end of Summer.

We want to encourage anyone who would like to participate in a fox-hunt to join us at the park at 5 p.m. We will eat around 6 p.m. Everyone needs to bring at least one dish. We would also like folks to bring items to sell, trade or just show off. This may encourage an interest in other aspects of HAM radio. I've also been told that a local Boy-Scout troop may be present to "check" us out, and see what sort of stuff we do.

Anyone is invited, and the only cost is a dish of some sort. We want everyone to bring a smile, good appetite, plenty of food, a lot of conversation, and the willingness to have a good time!

### **73, Andy Ward, KD5QJQ, Vice-President**

Did you hear about the two antennas that got married?

The wedding wasn't all that spectacular, but the reception was great.

## HURRICANE KATRINA & HAMS

On Monday, August 29, hurricane Katrina blew in from the Gulf of Mexico, and it and the ensuing surge wave created a great deal of destruction along the coast of Louisiana and Mississippi. The Amateur Radio Gulf West Coast Emergency Net had been activated on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup>, and were available for Emergency & Priority traffic on 7.285 MHz. The Health & Welfare net was activated on 7.290 MHz on Monday. I listened in on Sunday and Monday, and they were really busy. One of the net control operators said, "I always wanted to be the subject of a pileup, but not like this." Five to ten hams were trying to get net control's attention. Net control had to call on standby operators to take calls off frequency to copy messages, and then come back to net control for prioritizing messages or forward them to the EOCs if they could. It was a continual pileup on 7.285 most of the day. Hams who were not involved in the emergency operations were complaining that everywhere they tuned on 40 meters, there was emergency traffic going on. It doesn't matter how long you have been a ham, or how many years your group has been meeting on this frequency at this time every day, EMERGENCY TRAFFIC ALWAYS HAS PRIORITY!! There was just too much traffic for one person to handle in a timely fashion, so he had to allocate traffic to standby operators. And the hams in Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida were there to help. The Texas hams especially deserve a lot of credit for having control operators and shifts assigned for 24-hour a day operation. Some of the ECs in Texas went several days with just catnaps. Several Arkansas hams helped out for the whole 8 days. The EOCs in Houston and Ft. Worth were flooded with messages.

I'm not a qualified EC, so I stayed away from Emergency & Priority traffic. On Tuesday, Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, I checked in to 7.290 MHz, the H&W net. At about 1 p.m. cdt, I heard WB5SLQ, Claude in the Ft. Worth EOC calling W5SLA in Slidell, LA. Then I heard W5SLA in Slidell calling W5SLQ in Ft. Worth. They couldn't hear each other, so I broke in with "Relay", and Ft. Worth thanked me. I relayed between them for about 1/2 hour while Slidell got their Satellite phone working and contacted the EOC in Ft. Worth. During one of the lulls when Claude was going to get some more info, Sean, W5SLA, told me a fellow ham, Dan, AD5DP, and his children had just been rescued from the attic of their home, and would I contact his family and pass the message, "All OK, Lost everything".

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I said sure, and when I was finished relaying for them, I called the two phone numbers he had given me. When I called the lady in Texas, she screamed and broke out crying, and thanked me so much. I then called the other number and they thanked me, it was a relief to know that Dan and the kids were ok. I knew then, I was doing something worthwhile. I relayed many other messages, but this one really impressed me. I stayed on the net and worked other stations and relayed for net control until about 6:30, when they moved to 3.935 MHz.

I checked in to the 7.290 net about 10 a.m. Friday and worked relaying for weak stations and making phone calls. I quit at 6:30 and found high static on 3.935, so I quit for the day. I checked in to the 1721 round table on 7.270MHz at about 9 p.m. N1CWL, Charlie, in Tallahassee, FL asked net control for a contact with me. He said he had heard me relaying and he heard me talking with Sean in Slidell. He thought I might be interested to know that his group rescued everyone from the Slidell EOC Friday morning. The Tallahassee Radio Club had access to 14 helicopters, and when Sean called, he said they were under gunfire from hoodlums and the hoods had set the building next to them on fire. Tallahassee sent a helicopter with a ham operator aboard to get them, and when they got them all aboard, the helicopter was overloaded and couldn't take off, so the Tallahassee ham jumped off, and told them to come get him later. He laid in a corner of the building for 12 hours until a helicopter came back to get him. The pilot said it was reminiscent of Viet Nam, hovering over the building in a cloud of smoke from the burning building next door, with gunfire all around.

FEMA was not ready, the Red-Cross was not ready. If we had to wait on them, there's no telling what would have happened to our hams in Slidell. The Salvation Army had hams on 14.265 MHz, the SATERN net, but I only listened for a short while, and they were pretty busy, too. I worked the Health & Welfare net on 7.290 MHz all day Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, Sept 4, 5 & 6. I got calls from hams in Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas and Illinois, asking if they could help, and they would be glad to relay any traffic to anyone in their areas. The ham community really pulled together for this emergency. It made me proud to be a part of that Ham community.

**N4OWB, Aulton**

### OUR ILL & AILING

Melissa Schaefer, N5HX, the XYL of our former SM Dennis, W5RZ underwent a double bypass surgery Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, somewhat unexpectedly. Let's keep her in our thoughts and prayers. We wish her a quick recovery. Also, you may want to send her a card at 181 Schaefer Drive, Dover, AR 72837

Dick Koski, W5VUB, e-mailed me on Aug.25, that his doctor called a halt to his physical therapy. The screw holding the rod in his leg was starting to work out from the PT. The orthopedic surgeon ordered him sent home until the bone starts healing. He has to gradually increase the weight on the leg and come back in 8 weeks. He says he and Ms Molly are tired of just sitting.

### NOVEMBER IS ELECTION MONTH

Election of Officers for the year 2006, and two Board of Directors members will be held in November. Club officers are elected to serve for one year. Board of Directors members serve for two years. A nominating committee of 3 or more is needed to bring a list of nominees before the club at the November Meeting. Please step forward and serve **YOUR** club by volunteering to be on this committee.

### JON'S TIP OF THE MONTH

Is an Astatic D-104 microphone capable of wide, full-range sound? Nope, not stock, BUT a simple mod done & it can be. I've amazed people and been called a liar when asked what mic I'm using, and I say a "D-104 Lolly-Pop". Here's the scoop. 1st, you have to have an "amplified" D-104 type, 2nd, if you look at where the mic element is wired into the circuit board, look at the 1st component the "hot" wire goes through....it's a .01 uF ceramic disc cap. That's why your bottom roll-off won't go any lower than 300Hz. If you'll change this cap out with a 1 to 2 uF Tantalum cap. You won't believe your ears! Be sure to observe the proper polarity on the Tantalum, since even the 9VDC battery voltage will be sufficient to melt one (yes, I did it).. The mics I have done have gotten the bottom down to the 100-150Hz range for some nice big bottom audio. Now, of course your radio will have to be of type to support this frequency range before you'll see the benefits, so consult your owner's manual before embarking on a "Hi-Fi D-104".

**73, Jon Caery, KC5LVW**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**ARVARF meeting at Old Post Rd Park**

Tuesday, September 20  
 Fox-Hunt at 5:00, Covered dish  
 supper at Pavillion #3 at 6:00.

**ARVARF Net:**

Every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. on  
 146.82 (except club meeting night)

**Net Control Stations:**

September: KD5QJQ, Andy Ward  
 October: WB5BHS, John Evans

**ARVARF Board Meeting:**

Tuesday, October 4  
 6:30 p.m. Loretta Morgan's Home  
 13337 W Highway 155, Dardanelle

**ARES/RACES Meeting:**

**ARVARF web page:**  
[www.cswnet.com/~arvarf/](http://www.cswnet.com/~arvarf/)

**Arkansas Section Web Domain:**  
[www.arkansashams.org](http://www.arkansashams.org)

**MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETING**

Andy Ward, KD5QJQ called the meeting to order. A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter was made by Butch Tatum, KC5AHO. Rich, KE5AQH, seconded the motion and the motion passed.  
 Wayne, N2WV, gave a rundown of our field day efforts. Trailer tires are in the works. Aulton, N4OWB, asked about class books. Wayne has the money and has arranged for the books. Wayne was asked to save receipts.  
 George Murphy, KC5BJN, asked about bumper stickers: (undetermined) how many should we purchase.  
 Voter System: JJ, K5RPD, missing in action.  
 Repeater workday is scheduled for this Saturday at 09:00. Butch, KC5AHO, will have pickup.  
 Mike McAllister, KE5E1Y, passed out slips for 220 drawing. Discussed the FCC no-code proposal.  
 Dennis, W5RZ, discussed the Boy Scout jamboree on the air. October 14-15-16.  
 Dennis also showed Harry Costner's QSL collection.  
 Charles, K5NRC, wants to give up his Emergency Coordinator job. Looking for volunteers. Dennis is willing and the club voted unanimously to accept Dennis's offer.  
 Club voted to have picnic for September only.  
 Aulton made motion to close and Butch seconded.

**Submitted by Phillip Morgan, N5RQD**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Gary Moles, KE5FTY Technician

Dennis Ward, KE5FTX Technician

Both passed their tests at the Aug 13 test session.  
 Daniel Ward, KD5DWY, passed the General class written exam.

**ARVARF Officers**

<b>President</b>	Loretta Morgan	KB5OHF
<b>Vice President</b>	Andy Ward	KD5QJQ
<b>Treasurer</b>	Glenn Holmes	N5KLE
<b>Secretary</b>	Phil Morgan	N5RQD
<b>Board Members</b>	Aulton White	N4OWB
	Ben Hillis	W5HH
	Sergio Picado	KE5CUY
	Charles Shingleur	K5NRC
	Rich Bailey	KE5AQH
<b>Newsletter</b>	Loretta Morgan	KB5OHF
	Andy Ward	KD5QJQ
	Phil Morgan	N5RQD
	Aulton White	N4OWB

The first session of the General Class Course being taught by Wayne Van de Pol, N2WV, met at ATU, Ross Pendergraft Library, Room325, on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> with 13 students in attendance.

**THE REPEATER**

P.O. Box 582  
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**Editor**

Aulton White, N4OWB

**Columnists**

Loretta Morgan, KB5OHF  
 Andy Ward, KD5QJQ  
 Phil Morgan, N5RQD