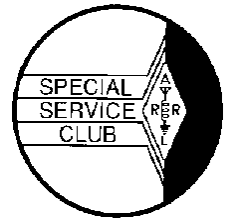


# The Repeater

Monthly Newsletter of the Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Foundation



March 2006

## HAMFEST 2006



SET UP



FILL UP

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a great HamFest! I want to thank everyone who helped out, as well as those members who attended. Thank you also for all those who rented a table to get rid of their junk..... I mean antiques (I should talk). I rented one and if it wasn't for the wife I would've made a little profit. But she helped out quite a bit and, anyway, making a profit was not my purpose. I was tickled pink to see all the wonderful and sometimes strange equipment. Probably the best part is that I got to meet many new Hams, from nearby as well as others from outside the state.

As this is only my 2<sup>nd</sup> HamFest, I don't have much to compare it with. But I do have one observation. I noticed that most, if not all, the attendees were (not surprisingly), hams. I feel that we need to open this get-together to others outside our hobby. I know that there are many technocrats out there who would love to just see the high tech equipment and it would be a great way to introduce them to the hobby. A good way to pull in people. They would be impressed by the attendance alone. So next year let's not keep the HamFest a secret but advertise it to the general public.

**Cheers & 73, Sergio KE5CUY**

Two of the students of the present Technician Class earned their license early by passing the test at the Hamfest!

*"Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it, we go nowhere."  
Astronomer Carl Sagan*

I am trying to maintain an accurate current membership roster. Please inform me of any changes in your address, phone number and/or e-mail address at [n4owb@arrl.net](mailto:n4owb@arrl.net) or call me at 479-890-4504.  
73, Aulton N4OWB (editor)

## ARES/RACES

We had a good attendance (15) at the February ARES/RACES meeting. I appreciate your participation and invite those who didn't attend to give it a try and see if it is something you'd like to do.

The March meeting will be March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at the CAP building at the Russellville airport. We will have some training on traffic handling and discuss the upcoming Health Department evacuation drill. We will participate in the exercise on April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

For those who missed the February meeting, I'll summarize what we discussed about net operations. The material is out of the course book for ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course.

The definition of a net is "a group of stations who gather on one frequency, with a purpose". Nets can be formal or informal. A formal, or directed, net has a net control station (NCS) who controls all activity and keeps things orderly. Stations check in with the NCS and get permission to make calls or pass traffic. In an informal, or open, net, the NCS exerts minimal control over the net, and there may not be an NCS. Stations may call each other directly without checking with the NCS.

The purpose of a net can be social, technical, or anything else. An emergency net is a group of stations that provide communication to served agencies or the general public, in an emergency. There are two main types of emergency nets.

A Traffic Net handles formal written messages in a specified format. The ARRL has a system of nationwide nets called the National Traffic System. An example of a traffic net is the Razorback Net, which meets on 3987.5 KHz at 6:30 p.m. each evening. Messages for anywhere in the world can be started on their way on this net.

A Tactical Net provides real-time coordination of activities related to the emergency. It is a faster moving, less formal operation. Messages are usually brief, and frequently unwritten. Tactical nets may be directed or open. An example of a tactical net is a group of local stations on a VHF repeater passing operational messages between Red Cross Shelters, the EOC, damage assessment crews, etc.

Nets operate in many different ways, but there are some basics. These procedures generally apply to directed nets. To "check in" to a net, wait for the NCS to ask for check-ins. Be sure and listen to and observe any specific instructions, such as "emergency traffic only". Listen to the net for a few minutes before joining it. When you check in, be brief, and give only your callsign, unless the NCS asks for traffic to be listed at the same time. If you have traffic, the NCS will ask you to send it as soon as possible. Emergency traffic relates to safety of lives or property and is always handled immediately. If there is a lot of emergency traffic, then routine matters may not be handled until hours or days later.

Let the NCS know if you have to leave the net, especially if you are in the disaster area. People might worry about you if you just disappear. The only exception is if you are ordered by law enforcement or other authority to shut down, and then you should let the NCS know as soon as possible after you have relocated.

The NCS should ideally be in a quiet place, not at the EOC or forward command post. The NCS must keep up with who is on the net, what traffic needs to be handled, etc. This is difficult to do in a noisy, chaotic environment. The NCS should not be the person who is in charge of the entire emergency communications operation. Being NCS is enough of a job!

During emergencies, NCS shift changes must be made. It is possible the net will run out of experienced NCS's and you will be called on. If you have been listening to the net, and understand basic net procedure, you will do fine. Being NCS on a local net or section traffic net during non-emergency conditions helps, but common sense and being able to keep cool under pressure is all you really need.

Liaison stations are important. They pass messages between two different nets. For example, a station on our local VHF tactical net might have a formal message to be passed to a distant location. A station on the net who is also on HF can take the message and pass it on the Razorback Net. Liaison stations are used extensively on weather nets, where a station with two rigs will participate in the local net and also check into the Little Rock Skywarn net.

**73,**

**Dennis, W5RZ Pope County ARES/RACES EC**

### JON'S TIP OF THE MONTH

Q. What is meant by the amp-hr rating on a standard lead acid battery?

A.. The amount of current the battery should deliver over 1 hour continuously without dropping below 10.5VDC.

**73, Jon Caery, KC5LVW**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**ARVARF meeting at Western Sizzlin'**

Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

Regular meeting at 7:00.

Come at 6:00, if you want to eat.

**ARVARF Net:**

Every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. on 146.82

(except club meeting night)

**Net Control Stations:**

March- KE5AQH, Rich Bailey

**ARVARF Board Meeting:**

**ARES/RACES Meeting:**

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

CAP Bldg. at the Russellville Airport

**ARVARF web page:**

[www.cswnet.com/~arvarf/](http://www.cswnet.com/~arvarf/)

[www.arvarf.com](http://www.arvarf.com)

**Arkansas Section Web Domain:**

[www.arkansashams.org](http://www.arkansashams.org)

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING**

There were 32 members present at the meeting at the Western Sizzlin' Restaurant on February 21, 2006. Sonia read the minutes of the January meeting.

Glenn (N5KLE) read the treasurer's report. Glenn also mentioned that since the storage site is gone, we will be using the club's repeater and leased site. He proposed that a group at the leased site is using electricity and should be billed for half. Charles (K5NRC) mentioned that it could be cut off instead. A motion was passed to shut down the electricity. Clarence (KE5EJA) seconded it. Charles said that he would give everyone at the site a warning that the power will be shut off.

Sergio (KE5CUY) mentioned that the parts from the storage site that are not used should be taken to the Ham Fest in March to be sold. Various tents, shelves and miscellaneous parts are at the club repeater site. Sergio still has some parts at his house that will be brought up later.

Sergio mentioned that there were some old manuals, QSL cards, notebooks and logbooks. He suggested that if anyone has anything to add to this, we could start a club history department. If anyone would like to donate historical club items like pictures or equipment please inform Sergio.

Andy (KD5QJQ) and Sergio will talk to J.J. Smith concerning the voting system for the repeater.

Sergio mentioned that the club should have a key for the leased site. Gary (KE5FTY) said that it is a State key and would be harder to obtain than any other key. Gary will be talking to the forester about getting a key.

Sergio talked about the Leadership conference that he, Sonia, Wayne and Clarence attended. There is a youth group just starting out and would like to be present at the Ham Fest this year. Sergio made a motion to give them a table for free because of their effort and determination. John seconded it.

John (WB5BHS) mentioned that the 13 new potential members from Wayne's class should be allowed to come in for free at the Ham Fest. Motion passed.

Wayne (N2WV) mentioned that certificates were given to all the kids, parents and scout leaders that participated at the Kid's Day. The next Kid's Day will be on June 17<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned that if anyone wanted old manuals for old radios, he has a box that contains several of them and if anyone would like to borrow one, please see him.

Nick (WA5BDU) talked about the updates for the Ham Fest. V.E. testing will be held in the morning. Setup for the Ham Fest is on Friday at 4:00 p. m. The Ham Fest will begin at 7:00 a. m. on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Glenn did mention that the cleaning bill for using the Hughes building has gone up from \$150 to \$250. Glenn suggested that we might consider cleaning it next year.

Andy talked about the upcoming Field Day that will be on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. A notebook was passed around for opinions for the location.

Sonia announced that she has done the net for 2 months in a row and has asked for a volunteer for next month. Rich (KE5AQH) will be doing the March net.

Sergio mentioned that in the future there will be presentation of various projects and activities that the members are involved in. At the next club meeting Nick will be showing and talking about some of the projects he has been working on.

Wayne mentioned that 13 students are now in the Technician class. He also introduced one of his friends, Greg Wood (WD5CYN) who has come to visit.

Andy mentioned that the trailer has taillights now and is currently at Butch's. John and Charles have been working hard on the new website for the club.

They talked about their progress so far and did a presentation of the website on a screen. They are asking for input and suggestions. The new site is at [www.arvarf.com](http://www.arvarf.com). The Amateur Radio News shown on the website is constantly updated and there will be a calendar of events, pictures, and discussions. Please visit the site and write opinions. We greatly appreciate their efforts.

Sergio made a motion to adjourn. Clarence seconded motion. Meeting adjourned. **Sonia Picado KE5EIW, Secretary**

**ARVARF Officers**

<b>President</b>	Sergio Picado	KE5CUY
<b>Vice President</b>	Roger Sayer	AC5YG
<b>Treasurer</b>	Glenn Holmes	N5KLE
<b>Secretary</b>	Sonia Picado	KE5EIW
<b>Board Members</b>	Michael McAllister	KE5EIY
	Ben Hillis	W5HH
	Andy Ward	KD5QJQ
	John Evans	WB5BHS
	Rich Bailey	KE5AQH
<b>Newsletter</b>	Sergio Picado	KE5CUY
	Roger Sayer	AC5YG
	Sonia Picado	KE5EIW
	Aulton White	N4OWB

**THE REPEATER**

P.O. Box 582

Russellville, AR 72811

**Editor**

Aulton White, N4OWB

n4owb@arrl.net

**Columnists**

Sergio Picado, KE5CUY

Roger Sayer, AC5YG

Sonia Picado, KE5EIW