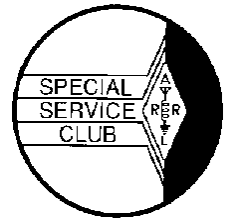


# The Repeater

Monthly Newsletter of the Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Foundation



April 2006

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Our leased site on Mt. Nebo is still in our hands, but things have changed a bit. The direction our foothold takes there will depend on what we decide in the next few weeks. Our new lease agreement will now be with the phone company installing the new tower, MagTel, and not the parks service. I have made direct contact with Dustin Garrett, who is MagTel's office supervisor, and he appears to be more than willing to have us there and work with us. On that note he and I set out to create a new agreement based on our old lease agreement but realized that we do not have the latest agreement, signed by us last year, because the parks service never signed or returned it to us. So we decided to create our own, putting down those points that are important to us and combine it to form one that both groups agree on. We are in the process of doing that now so if you want to have input into this, PLEASE contact me.

What the club needs to do is make a decision as to what we will put up there. We need to do that because we are in danger of losing our foothold at the site if we do not use it for the intended purpose. Therefore, I ask all club members to send me their thoughts and views, so the board can make an informed decision. Please realize that this decision needs to be made, if possible, before next club's meeting.

**Cheers & 73, Sergio KE5CUY**

## **ARES/RACES**

The March ARES/RACES meeting was again well attended. It's not too late to get in on the fun and worthwhile public service – everyone is welcome.

Our March training topic was message handling. Some messages are tactical, and few records are kept. These are simple, non-critical messages, usually delivered directly from author to recipient. Even with these tactical messages, an event log with times and notes is desirable. When two or more people will handle a message before it reaches its destination, or the message contains important details, a formal message is more appropriate. This means the message is written and a copy is kept, and it is in a certain format. The most used format is the standard ARRL message form, or radiogram. The radiogram format consists of a preamble (message number, precedence, place of origin, etc), the address, text, and a signature. All of these elements are important but can be modified to fit a local situation. For example, when sending a message out of state, a complete street address and phone number is needed. If sending across town to the EOC, for example, a simpler address can be used. A signature is always required, because if the message is important enough to be sent as a formal message, the recipient needs to know who it is actually from. (continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Fortunately for new operators, the ARRL has many operating aids to make things simpler and those of us who are more experienced will always help you. We will have the second part of traffic handling training at the May session, and I will review over the first session in case you missed it.

We will not have a RACES/ARES meeting in April. The annual Health Dept. evacuation exercise is on the night of the regular meeting (April 25<sup>th</sup>) and we will participate in it. We will set up at the Atkins Emergency Worker Center at Atkins High School. The start time is unannounced but is expected to start around 6:00-7:00 p.m. Stations wanting to participate should monitor the 146.82 repeater around that time for instructions. We will be setting up outside the school so as many as want to can participate. We will send an operator with a HT into the school to relay messages from the Red Cross registration desk. The station outside will establish VHF communications with the group at the reception center in Morrilton. We will also have an HF station and participate in the state HF traffic net. If you want to participate, you should bring your state Emergency Worker's card and your HT if you have them. If you don't have an ID card, that is no problem but you may not be able to go inside. Most of our action will be outside in and around the OEM communications van.

Please call me at 967-4372 or send e-mail to [dennisw5rz@gmail.com](mailto:dennisw5rz@gmail.com) if you have any questions about anything.

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

## MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING

There were 28 members present at the meeting at Western Sizzlin' on March 21, 2006.

**Sonia read the minutes of the February meeting.**

Charles (K5NRC) said that he has not yet had the electricity cut off at the leased site, as of this meeting. Glenn (N5KLE) and Charles will soon discuss about how to approach the people at the site.

Sergio (KE5CUY) talked about the status on the leased site. In the next few weeks, Magtel will be putting a 100-foot tower and will remove the two towers that are already up there. They did offer us an option of mounting our antennas on the tower. Charles openly disagreed with the possibility of our towers being removed. Aulton (N4OWB) suggested that Sergio speak to Tom Neumeier. Sergio will also be calling Loretta Morgan (KB5OHF). Dennis Schaefer (W5 RZ) suggested that if we did decide to mount our antenna on their tower, we might have to have a licensed person to climb the tower. Sergio announced to the club that we should use this site as a place for our antennas and other projects besides just using it for storage. There were several suggestions made throughout the meeting such as putting a personal repeater at the site and using packet nodes. Sergio emphasized that as a club we need to decide on what to do in the next coming weeks.

Glenn did not actually have a completed report of our profits from our Ham Fest but he told us that we did make a little profit.

Sergio congratulated everyone for making the Ham Fest a big success. Nick did such a great job this year that Steve Green (WB5KUT) and John Evans (WB5BHS) automatically nominated him for next year's Ham Fest. There were suggestions made to make next year's Ham Fest a bigger and better one such as notifying the newspaper, and radio and putting out flyers.

Sergio told the club of the sad news of George Murphy's (KC5BJN) wife passing away. Sergio proposed to everyone that we should help him to get a 2-meter radio or to donate money in order for him to purchase one. A hat (bowl) was passed around for collections and as of the end of the meeting there was 77 dollars.

Steve green announced that the next V.E. testing will be on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Pendergraft Library, room 300 South.

Wayne (N2WV) announced that his Technician class he has been teaching at the Pendergraft library has been going very well. Two students in the meeting have gone ahead and taken the Technician test and passed: Walter Morris (KE5HQV) and Wes Higginson (KE5HQW). Wayne also thanked Steve Felkner (KE5EBC) for helping out in his Technician class recently.

The new net controllers for the next few months have been decided leaving Rich (KE5AQH) being net control for April and Ben in May.

Sergio announced that the RACES meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Russellville Airport.

Aulton announced that the 30-year anniversary of Amateur Radio working with National Weather Service as Storm Spotters is coming soon. On March 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a special event station to commemorate this on 14.265 MHz and 7.240 MHz at 6 a.m. to 6-p.m. Central Time.

Charles made a motion to adjourn. Steve Green seconded motion. Meeting adjourned.

**Sonia Picado - KE5EIW, Secretary**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**ARVARF meeting at Western Sizzlin'**

Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</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:**

April- KE5AQH, Rich Bailey

May - W5HH, Ben Hillis

**ARVARF Board Meeting:**

**ARES/RACES Meeting:**

No meeting in April

**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)

**JON'S TIP OF THE MONTH**

What is meant by "Cold Cranking Amps"?

(A) The amount of discharge a battery can sustain at

0 degrees F without going below 7.2VDC.

**73, Jon KC5LVW**

**Little minds are tamed and subdued by  
misfortune, but great minds rise above it.**

**--Washington Irving**

**TECHNICIAN CLASS**

The Technician Class being held at ATU have completed the lecture portion. Review is Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> with Testing on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Ross Pendergraft Library, Room 300 South, at 7 p.m. We have 7 applicants, so far.

**73, Wayne N2WV**

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)

**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**

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