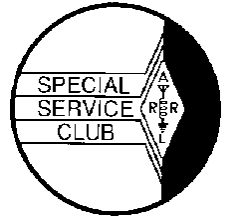


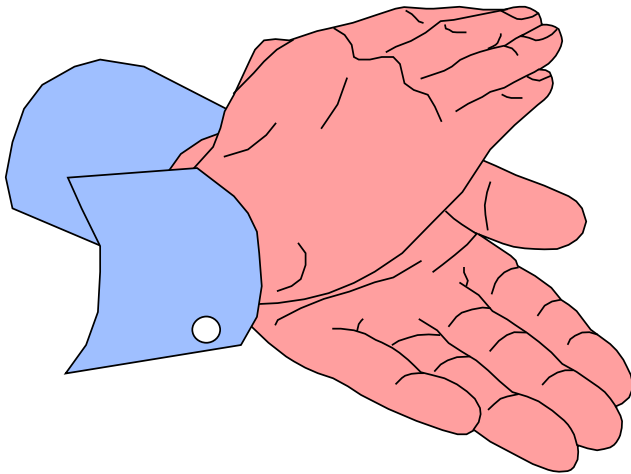
# The Repeater

Monthly Newsletter of the Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Foundation



April 2007

## ARVARF MEMBERS RECENTLY UP-GRADED TO GENERAL



K5RLB	Rich Bailey
KD5KNL	Don Dacus
KE5EBC	Steve Felkner
KE5AQI	Gloria Gillies
KD5HVC	Michael Gillies
KD5UIS	James Linscome
KE5EII	Michael McAllister
KE5FTY	Gary Moles
KE5HQP	Walter Morris
KE5KBW	Bobby Price
KC5AHO	Butch Tatum
KD5DWY	Dan Ward
W5DEN	Dennis Ward
KE5IEL	Joe Young



New HF operators are welcome at an “Elmer” session at the home of Dennis, W5RZ and Melissa, N5HX. This will be very informal but you will have an opportunity to operate an HF rig on any band you want to and ask any questions on HF operating, station setup, equipment, and antennas. Dennis, W5RZ, and Aulton, N4OWB, will be the primary “Elmers”. If you have a General license and have never been on HF, this is a chance to get your feet wet. You can check into the Razorback Net or work some DX on 20 meters, or just make a contact.

The session will be on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and we will start about 6:30. You can drop in anytime during the evening. Who is a new HF operator? Anyone with limited experience on HF is included. If you don’t have it all figured out and would like some advice from folks who have been on the bands for decades, this session is for you!

We’ll have homemade cookies and coffee and soft drinks, and lots of fun. If there is enough interest, we will have a few more meetings, and possibly more in the future.

We’ll have maps to the house at the ARVARF meeting in April. If you have any questions, please call me at 967-4372 or send e-mail to [dennisw5rz@gmail.com](mailto:dennisw5rz@gmail.com)

**73,**  
**Dennis W5RZ**

## **ARES / RACES**

We will have a change of scene for our April ARES/RACES meeting. We have several hams and ARES/RACES members who are Civil Air Patrol members. Lt. Col. Charles Hill, KA5TTG, is the CAP commander. The CAP has graciously agreed to let us hold meetings at their hangar from time to time. The meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup> will be at 7:00 p.m. at the CAP hangar/Emergency Services facility at the Russellville airport. This is the blue hangar, the first one you come to. Park in the parking lot and walk behind the buildings and you can't miss it. I'll make sure someone is available to help you get to the right place when you arrive at the parking lot.

We didn't have an ARES/RACES meeting in March, but attended the Weather Spotter class at ATU instead. John Robinson of the National Weather Service did his usual fine job of presenting the course. Everyone should take the course every few years, even if you consider yourself an expert.

I don't have a program arranged yet, but I don't intend to break our streak of having a program or training session of some kind at every meeting. If you have something you'd like to present, or an idea for a program, please let me know. My phone number is 967-4372 or you can send e-mail to [dennisw5rz@gmail.com](mailto:dennisw5rz@gmail.com)

**73,**  
**Dennis W5RZ**

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### **DXing on 60 Meters Has Downside, ARRL Notes (Apr 3, 2007) --**

The ARRL is expressing concern that negative consequences could result from chasing DX on 60 meters. Some DXpeditions have announced plans to operate on Amateur Radio's only channelized band, where amateur operations hold secondary status to fixed service operations, including some US government stations. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says that while it's legal for DXpeditions to operate on the 5-MHz band provided the licensing administration extends privileges there, DX pileups on 60 meters pose the potential for real and unique problems.

"US amateurs are limited to five channels on 60 meters, USB only, maximum effective radiated power (ERP) 50 W, audio bandwidth not exceeding 2.8 kHz, and not all of the channels are useable because of ongoing fixed service operation," Sumner points out. "It is absolutely imperative that any amateur transmitting on a 60 meter channel be prepared to relinquish the channel immediately upon being requested to do so."

Read the whole article at: [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) or link to it from [www.arvarf.com](http://www.arvarf.com).

**Submitted by Jonathan Setcer, N5QJ**

## THE ARVARF 10-METER NET

The 10-meter net has not met with much success due to poor propagation. Trying to hold the net in conjunction with the Diamond Club of Morrillton on 28.380, is just adding difficulty to an already difficult situation. Until propagation improves, we will hold our 10-meter net on 28.415 MHz at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings.

**Aulton N4OWB**

**"Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win,  
by fearing to attempt."**

**---William Shakespeare**

## NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

May 13-19 is National Police Week. There will be ceremonies all over the country to honor our Law Enforcement Officers, living, as well as those who laid down their lives in the line of duty. Last year, 2006, there were 146 Officers killed in Line-of-Duty Deaths. As of the first week of April this year 43 Officers have died in LoDD. Cross & Shield Ministries will be helping to conduct Ceremonies all over the River Valley. If you need more info call us at 479-264-6146. Plan now to show your support for Law Enforcement by attending a Ceremony.

You may also want to join our 'Blue Ribbon & Blue Light bulb' campaign. For the week of May 13-19, consider tying a blue ribbon on your car antenna or maybe on a tree in your yard or the post of your front porch. Also, we are asking that you place a blue bulb in an outside light or in your front window and let it burn every night that week. These are some small things you can do, and our officers can see, so that they will know they are appreciated.

**Submitted by Paul Northcut, Police Chaplain, Cross & Shield Ministries.**

## STROKE SYMPTOMS

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- S \*Ask the individual to SMILE.
- T \*Ask the person to TALK . to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE  
(Coherently) (i.e. . . It is sunny out today)
- R \*Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

{NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out their tongue... if the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other that is also an indication of a stroke}

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

N4OWB

**BENTON COUNTY HAMFEST**

We will be holding our Hamfest on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM - 1:30 PM @ R.E. Baker School in Bentonville. We will have several vendors, as well as a Weather Forum given by Steve Gibbs, K5OY, and an ARRL Forum given by the ARRL Section Manager for Arkansas, David Norris, K5UZ. We will also have VE Testing, as well as several door prizes and a terrific grand prize. Admission is only \$3 and flea market tables are \$5 each—a Great Bargain!!! I am sending an attachment of our flyer, and I am asking you to please announce this at your next meeting. I am also offering another special. I will knock off 20% for anyone who rents a table or tables from now until April 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be a great opportunity for anyone who has a lot of Radio, Computer, or other equipment or things to sell. The form for the tables and admission is located on the website on the attachment. See: [http://members.cox.net/rwcollins/BCRO\\_Hamfests.htm](http://members.cox.net/rwcollins/BCRO_Hamfests.htm)

Thanks, and look forward to seeing you there

Sincerely, Jay Harrison, KC0CN  
 Vice-President and Hamfest Chairman Benton County Radio Operators Club

**Submitted by Jonathan, N5QJ**



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The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual military/amateur radio communications tests in celebration of the 57th anniversary of Armed Forces Day. Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 19, 2007, the AFD military/amateur crossband communications test will be conducted 12 May 2007, to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention (18-20 May 2007), which is the same weekend as the actual Armed Forces Day. A Special Bulletin with details will be e-mailed April 15<sup>th</sup>. **Submitted by Dick, W5VUB / NNN0WKH**

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Field Day is on  
 June 23 - 24  
 in 2007.



Plan to be there  
 and join in  
 the Fun!

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**LIGHTNING SAFETY**



If time permits at the April Meeting, we have a 15-minute slide presentation prepared by the 45<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron, the Air Force unit that provides weather support to the space program at Cape Canaveral & the Kennedy Space Center.

Also, a 15-minute slide presentation prepared by the NWS on the science of lightning.

With Springtime in full swing, it's the ideal time to consider the danger of lightning that occurs in Spring thunderstorms. These slide presentations explain how lightning forms, dispels a lot of myths about lightning and offers several lightning safety tips.

N4OWB

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Foundation  
Monthly Club Meeting  
Western Sizzlin' Restaurant  
March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Sonia read the minutes of the February meeting. Clarence made a motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting. Seconded by Steve, motion passed.

Andy announced that there will be a foxhunt that will meet at the Hughes Center at 9:00am on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March. On April 10<sup>th</sup>, the ATU club will have its own foxhunt at 3:00 p.m. at Tech. On March 31<sup>st</sup> there will be a Ham Fest in Fort Smith.

Sergio was nominated to be Field day chairman this year. Aulton seconded the motion.

There was also a new member, Denny Foulk KE5NDZ who has joined our group.

Nick said that the Ham Fest went great. Plus he was very glad to be our chairman for the Ham Fest next year. Glenn said that we had a good profit from the Ham Fest.

John talked about the club needing a QSL manager to handle the cards. Also he talked about having an Elmer evening so that new people become familiar with radios and get help from the more experienced hams.

Wayne introduced Homer Endmen KE5NDY and thanked the other club members who helped him teach the ham licensing class this year.

Aulton said that the Storm Spotter class had a pretty good turn out, at least 20 people showed up.

Steve Green introduced Bob Lambert W5TMA and his wife who was visiting us from Arkadelphia.

Andy told the club that during the summer the ATU club will come and join our meetings. Also Andy talked about a fair hosted by the River Valley Drug Prevention group called Bridge the Gap. There will be information about health, education and information about being a drug free community. Andy asked if we could help them out on parking but no one volunteered.

Andy announced that his children's picture from last year's Field Day could be in a future QST magazine.

Andy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Steve Green, the meeting was adjourned.

**Sonia Picado - KE5EIW Secretary**

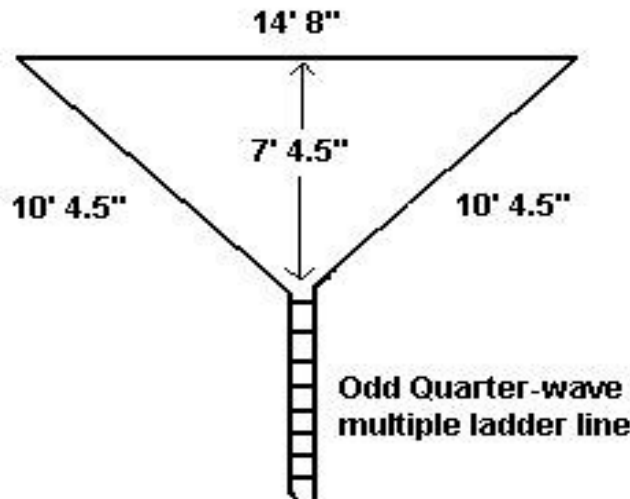
THE DAYTON HAMVENTION IS MAY 16 ~ 19

For more info, see [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) or link through [arvarf.com](http://arvarf.com)



**Have you paid your Dues??**

## THE DELTA LOOP



A full-wave Delta Loop antenna has approximately 2 dbd gain, and has a very good signal-to-noise ratio. According to L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, the configuration that has the optimum gain is when the apex of the triangle is a 90-degree angle.

To determine the length of wire, in feet, needed in the loop, divide 1005 by the frequency in MHz. For example,  $1005 / 28.4 = 35.39$  ft., for a 10 meter full-wave loop.

To keep the loop uniform, we want both sides to be equal. It will be an isosceles triangle. Multiply 35.39 by 0.293 to find the length of each side:  $35.39 \times 0.293 = 10.37$  ft.

Now, to find the length of the long side (hypotenuse), square both sides and add them together, and take the square root of the sum. This formula is called the Pythagorean theorem.  $10.37 \times 10.37 + 10.37 \times 10.37 = 215$ . The square root of 215 = 14.66. Check your answer by adding all three sides together:  $10.37 + 10.37 + 14.66 = 35.4$ .

For the 160m, 80m, and 40 meter bands, you can ignore the decimals with no problem, since these antennas are quite large. But, for the 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, and 10m bands, I recommend the use of 1 decimal place in your calculations. For 6m and shorter, use at least 2 decimal places.

At all frequencies, you may need to do some trimming/adding, due to height above ground, ground conductivity or other antennas or structures in the vicinity. At the higher frequencies, accuracy becomes more critical.

L.B. also recommends that, if you have the room, the Delta Loop works better when the long side is suspended from two points, and feed the apex hanging down. If you only have room for a single support, you can feed the antenna at the middle of the long side. Feeding at the apex or at the center of the long side produces Horizontal polarization. Vertical polarization is produced when it is fed approximately 1/4 wave from one corner. The bottom of the antenna should be at least 1/2 wave ( in this case, 18' ), above the ground.

The delta loop is very effective when used in an array, but that is another article.

**Aulton, N4OWB**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**ARVARF meeting at Western Sizzlin'**

Tuesday, April 17<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:**

Apr -- Roger Sayer, AC5YG

**ARVARF Board Meeting:**

**ARES/RACES Meeting:**

April 24<sup>th</sup> at CAP Hangar at the  
 Russellville Airport

**ARVARF web page:**

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

**Arkansas Section Web Domain:**

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

**ARRL web page:**

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

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME -- -- -- by Hatlo



HEARTY LAUGHTER IS A GOOD WAY TO JOG INTERNALLY WITHOUT HAVING TO GO OUTDOORS.

-- NORMAN COUSINS

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>	Andy Ward	KD5QJQ
<b>Vice President</b>	Sergio Picado	KE5CUY
<b>Treasurer</b>	Glenn Holmes	N5KLE
<b>Secretary</b>	Sonia Picado	KE5EIW
<b>Board Members</b>	Michael McAllister	KE5EIIY
	John Evans	WB5BHS
	Steve Green	WB5KUT
	Clarence Hesselrode	KE5EJA
	Butch Tatum	KC5AHO
<b>Newsletter</b>	Andy Ward	KD5QJQ
	Sergio Picado	KE5CUY
	Sonia Picado	KE5EIW
	Aulton White	N4OWB

**THE REPEATER**

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