

# ARKANSAS DIAMOND



PRESIDENT Roger Alaback \_\_\_\_\_ KF5SDE

www.arkansasdiamondarc.com...web site

ARKANSAS DIAMOND RADIO CLUB NEWS LETTER VOLUME NO. 38 DATE July13, 2023

THE CLUB MEETING WILL BE AT

## **DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST**

100 WEST CHURCH ST.

MORRILTON

***From the old man:*** Jim AF5EI AF5EI@Yahoo.com

Ok folks, Subway Sandwiches are on the menu for the quarterly ADRC meeting at the Downtown Church of Christ, 100 West Church Street, Morrilton. If you want to eat, show up about 5:00pm. Crumbs at 5:45. The meeting will start about 6:00pm. I need a headcount for food ASAP. Andrew Hradesky (K5PMO),

Carl Freyaldehoven and Darcy Howard will provide information at the Meeting Thursday on what to expect during the up-coming 2024 eclipse. The information will be of interest and benefit to us as amateur radio operators as we plan to provide emergency communications, thru the office of emergency management, during the event. If at all possible, please attend this meeting.

Also please plan to attend our 12 October meeting as Steve Beavers (KF5DIF) director, Conway County Office of Emergency Management will discuss preliminary plans for emergency communications during the event. There is some discussion of a communications exercise sometime prior to the event.

*Editor There are FEMA classes (3) that would be good to complete over the Internet before next year. It is not getting your HAM license again. It is designed to show you what your job is and where you fit in.*

Remember, AF5EI needs a headcount for food. Please RSVP if you are going to eat.

## Testing

There is a change on the General

We are set for testing this Thursday Night if your ready,we are,. You will have to have a

1. FRN from the FCC
2. An email Address
3. \$15 For the ARRL

## *Local Nets*

**Morrilton Monday Night**  
**146.685 141.3 Tone**

**Morrilton Repeaters  
Club**  
**146.685 pl 141.3**

**State Net**  
**146.330 pl 114.5**  
**Tuesday**

**Conway**  
**146.970 pl 114.5**  
**Thursday Night**

**Not up now**  
**443.875 pl 79.5**  
**444.10 114.8**

President

**Roger Alabach** KF5SDE  
<kf5sde@gmail.com>

I want to make another plug for Parks on The Air (POTA). This can be a great tool when you have a new radio or antenna. Every day there are HAM's setting up stations in parks across the country. These activations are listed in the POTA website. This is a great way to see if and where you can receive and make contacts.

Do it on a regular basis and you will learn the best time of day for radio propagations and how to work the Gray Line (Just before dawn or dusk). In other words, this is a great training tool one can take advantage of for freeeee. (*Editor: Contacts are fast and simple and the HAM is hungry and ready to make one more contact. There can be pileups but don't give up*)

I hope to see you all at the next meeting on July 13th. Jim Taylor has set up a great program for us.



**The Arkansas Diamond Radio Club  
(KE5FSY) of Morrilton News Letter**

**This bulletin is published 4 times a year for the promotion of HAM radio. Ham radio is for enjoyment and is the emergency back bone of communication for the communities. When all else fails we will be there, we have in the past and will be in the future.**

**Editors are KD5LBE Stewart Nelson**

**All HAM related stories are welcome.**

**Upcoming Hamfests:**

**Joplin, MO August 25th.**

<http://www.joplinhamfest.org/> Looks like they have a new location. Hopefully parking will be better.

**Mena, AR. Sept 8th and 9th.**

<http://www.menahamfest.net/> This is located at the Queen Willamina State Park. K5BOC Memorial Ham Fest.

**October 14th. Luthern Camp**

<http://k5boc.net/> Located at the Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean Mountain across from WinRock.

*(Editor: Get a hand stamp with your Name, Call Sign, and Cell Phone number that you can use to stamp raffle tickets. Bend all your tickets before you drop them in the barrel. You may not win but it helps, but don't tell anyone this secret)*

*From oldmayor KD5LBE*

**2023-2027  
General Class Question Pool  
Errata  
Issued February 1, 2023  
becomes effective July 1, 2023**

If you are a Tech and want to go for your General there are a new set of questions from the first of the year, or rather a set of questions altered some from the last set. The new revised set of questions became the new pool as of July 1, 2023. There is probably a good chance if you knew and understood the previous set you could take the test and pass this one.

I would like to be able to give you a list of the changes but for the best of me, I couldn't find a good list of all the changes.

**Opinion: Why should you get your General?** This is the door to most everything in HAM radio now. You get a lot more band width privileges where you can work. HAM radio has moods and areas that are hot to work. Once it was CW. By the 1950s SSB became the area to work. Then came some digital modes PSK31, Packet, RTTY and more. Now its FT4 and FT8 that is hot. The bottom line is a General license gives you tons of new privileges to work your HAM radio.

**Should I go on and get an Extra?**

You get a little more band width privileges, but the General is the most important second step.

This is what the ARRL had to say about the new question set:

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the 2023 - 2027 General Class FCC Element 3 Syllabus and Question Pool to the public. The new General Question Pool is effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

The new pool incorporates some significant changes compared to the 2019 - 2023 version. Its 432 questions were modified slightly to improve wording and to replace distractors; 51 new questions were generated, and 73 questions were eliminated. This resulted in a reduction of 22 questions, bringing the total number of questions in the pool down from 454. The level of difficulty of questions is more balanced, and the techniques and practices addressed have been updated.

The pool questions are available from the ARRL at no cost as a Microsoft Word document and PDF document. The single graphic required for the new General Question Pool is available from the ARRL within the documents, or separately as PDF and JPG file formats.

*Study only the right answers, don't waste your time with the wrong ones.*

**Sample Questions from the  
New General Question Pool:**

G1A02 (B) [97.305]

On which of the following bands is phone operation prohibited?

- A. 160 meters
- B. 30 meters
- C. 17 meters
- D. 12 meters

G1D06 (A) [97.119(f)(2)]

Until an upgrade to General class is shown in the FCC database, when must a Technician licensee identify with “AG” after their call sign?

- A. Whenever they operate using General class frequency privileges
- B. Whenever they operate on any amateur frequency
- C. Whenever they operate using Technician frequency privileges
- D. A special identifier is not required if their General class license application has been filed with the FCC

G1E09 (A) [97.115]

Under what circumstances are messages that are sent via digital modes exempt from Part 97

third-party rules that apply to other modes of communication?

- A. Under no circumstances
- B. When messages are encrypted
- C. When messages are not encrypted
- D. When under automatic control

## **Field Day Report 2023 From KD5LBE Editor and Field Day Reporter.**

We used the Clubs Call sign  
WE5FSY

Thanks first to long time Morrilton Fire Chief Earl Eichenberger who made the North Fire Station available to us which is Conway County’s backup OEM location. Second, our forever there Jim Taylor AF5EI, Dave Huett WB5RUH, and our President Roger Alaback KF5SDE. I believe this may be our first return to the fire station since the pandemic and the antennas that we had left up were not functioning. Dave had to go to his fishing pole to send a new line up for new into the trees for the G5RV. He did on purpose throwing a line into the trees what some of us do by accident.

We had 48 contacts which I believe may have been one of our best, probably for their working Sunday. That included 34 ARRL districts which is about half of the ARRL districts.

Our sign-in log shows twelve people, there were 13. It included the Mayor and the Fire Chief the OEM Director, and a Firemen. There were two GOTA Hams without experience on HF and we did a little training. There is emergency power at the station. There was a big sign in for welcoming the public.

There was a box of donuts. That is not one of the point getters in the contest rules.

Thanks to the organizers, you did everything right.

# KD5LBE

## Up Date on the promotion of FT8 and FT4 from the April News Letter

Band conditions are really bad this summer but this is what FT4 & FT8 modes are made. In the past using SSB I had made some international and US contacts but not a lot. Using these new digital modes are a lot like making contest QSOs, short and sweet but this time using a computer when the other person acknowledges you.

Since around February this year, I have made 620 contacts and 40 different countries. It is blowing my hat off. For a good operator working one of these two digital modes, it would be around 1000 or more contacts.

Most acknowledgements and logging is done in the program, but this information on your computer needs to be sent to a third party logging software. In some contacts they don't use a recognized acknowledgement logging program over the internet to a recognized logging software site and as an alternative they may even ask for cards. The custom is that you will pay both ways including the return postage for their card. With paying for a card to hang on your wall for maybe at least 100 cards or more a year at around \$3 or \$4 dollars per card for a HAM this is starting to get expensive. My experience is that I get around two thirds logging acknowledgements on an offsite software program, the rest won't acknowledge.

Trying to figure out the logging software can be as much fun as trying to figuring how to set up your computer and your radio where they can talk to each other.

I set up two logging programs, QRZ and ARRL – LoTW. The file that you log with is the ADI file generated by the program software under Logbook. When I am ready to log my contacts, I copy the ADI file and put it in a special folder I set up under Documents named ADI. In QRZ I just load the ADI file into my log book on QRZ. In LoTW I authenticate it then load it into the program.

You have to sign up for LoTW and they send you a password to activate the program. When you open the program there are four boxes. The top box authenticates it and the bottom box loads it into the program.

There are all kinds of ways to load your contacts into the log books and load it back and forth but they were smarter than me. Getting my Extra Ticket was easier.

On FT8 and FT4, if you have speaking challenges, you can't hear well, have challenges using your hands, stuck in bed, baby have I got the part of HAM radio made for you to communicate around the country and around the world and have a load of fun.

If you would like to test for your license at home, the crack testing team of the Arkansas Diamond Club may be able to help. KD5LE 73

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME - GREETINGS:

**WHEREAS:** More than 8,000 Arkansans and more than 765,000 individuals nationwide enjoy the hobby of being amateur radio operators (HAMS) from preteen to senior citizens;

**WHEREAS:** Many of these HAMS diligently in times of emergency monitor their ham radios in local and statewide communication links constantly aware of severe weather conditions, and many are trained observers who assist SKYWARN® Nets, local news outlets, and local authorities to communicate what is happening; and when traditional communications fail, they can backup government and private organizations with communication links using their personal radios and state wide links when requested;

**WHEREAS:** Almost every month in a normal year, HAMS supply communication links somewhere in the State of Arkansas for Public Service Activities where there is no cell service or where communication needs to be shared between multiple locations and it is not appropriate for government service communications; and

**WHEREAS:** These Volunteer Amateur Operators give their time, the use of their equipment and their continuous training equaling tens of thousands of dollars and expect nothing in exchange and seek no compensation from those they serve nor compensation from government, and often find themselves in precarious situations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim the week of June 18th through 25th, 2023 as**

**"AMATEUR RADIO WEEK IN ARKANSAS"**

And urge the citizens of the state to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 12th day of June, in the year of our Lord 2023.**



  
Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Governor

Attest:

  
John Thurston, Secretary of State

**Arkansas Diamond Club Members  
maybe**

**WE ARE WORKING ON THE  
MEMBERSHIP LIST**

**Roger Alabach KF5SDE  
Walter Barfield W5WRB  
Kelly Boswell KA5MGL  
Will Cody KG5MMH  
Billy Collins III K8BBC (6/22)  
George Cossey K5GOC  
Charles Drinkwater KG5AUV (6/22)  
Dave Huett WB5RUH  
Jeffery Johnson WB5QWN  
Timothy King K5BXM  
Matthew King KG5QNY  
Jeremy Landon N5JKL  
Robert Lanning K5ZZB  
John Lawrence KI5DBS (2023)  
D'Ann Lindstrom KI5APK  
Greg Lindstrom K5GSL  
Lynda Milligan KG5UFT  
Bill Mooney Jr, W5WMM  
Kathleen Moorman KI5QJS  
Michael Moorman KC5MM  
Richard Neal KF5IHY  
Stewart Nelson KD5LBE  
James Scott K5NWS (6/21)  
Adam Sullivan W2SUL  
Jim Taylor AF5EI  
Joe Taylor KF5DIH  
Jim Wiedower AC5RT  
Daniel Weatherly N5DD**

**George Carrol N5GC  
Clyde Armstrong SR KE5YPZ  
Rachel Beavers KF5MAD  
Steve Beavers KF5DIF  
Richard Cate KI5GUJ  
Sharon Clarkson KG5DAD  
Bruce Curtis W5ATC  
Don Dacus K5SEC  
Hugh Donnell KF5EST  
Joe Dube KF5ESP  
Eichenberger KF5IJA  
Clifford Evans KI5ITD  
Karolczak KF5UDD  
Carlos Lott KI5GWB  
Mike Martin KC5YWN  
Terry Martin K5TGZ  
Mc Dearmon KC5EIK  
Bobby Moses AC5RM  
George Peters KI5HOV  
James Ridling WB5RZR  
Jeffery Ridling KE5UAN  
Sean Rikard W5RKD  
Kirk Rose KF5ITM  
Eric Stricklin AG5EI  
Lenny Stroud KF5DIB  
Anita Tienken AA3AT  
ShellyTienken KF5SBG  
Charles Tudor N5EH  
Wayne Van De Pol N2WV  
Jimmy Wiedower KD5YZD  
Mike Karolczak KF5UDD**

If you are missing OR CAN'T READ  
contact <AF5EI@AF5EI.COM>