

July 2024

ARKANSAS DIAMOND RADIO CLUB NEWS LETTER

Volume 41

## Local Nets:

**Petit Jean Mountain**  
Monday Night  
7:30pm 146.685  
141.3 Tone

**ADARC Simplex**  
Thursday Night 8pm  
146.51 No tone no  
offset

**CAREN Statewide Net**  
Tuesday Night 7pm  
146.330 pl 114.5

**FARC Conway**  
Thursday Night  
7:30 pm 146.970 pl  
114.5

## Inside this issue:

Prez Greeting	1
James Taylor	2
Pile ups	3
Field Day	4
Organization	5

## Next Meeting July 11th

New Location! North Fire Station

By the Hospital and Next to Colton's

5pm ish if you want to eat (Pizza)

6pm for the regular meeting

David Norris the ARRL Division Manager is tentatively scheduled

For our program

## Greetings from the PREZ – David W5WUP



Well, there have been many events since our last club meeting in January.

First up was the Winter Field Day, January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> with members from surrounding area clubs and other interested HAMS. We had a total of 165 contacts including Canada and all four corners of the continental us.

Next up was the Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Foundation Ham Fest on March 2. They had great attendance.

Then we had The Great Eclipse of April 8! Arguably the most publicized NON-EVENT for our area, for various reasons. However, disappointing the turnout was the event was spectacular to witness. ARDAC was prepared and ready, if needed, to assist with communications. One thing that the preparation for the Eclipse did accom-

plish was the intense focus on training AUXCOMM qualified Amateur Radio Operators across the state with Arkansas essentially setting the bar for participation in Emergency Management efforts to support our friends, neighbors, and our State.

The next thing on our radar was our very first Tech Night on May 9. We had a great turnout and participation. Unfortunately, I had to cancel the next one in June due to having too many of us on vacation or with other compelling commitments. We WILL have our NEXT Tech Night on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Put this in your calendar! We are still developing ideas for future topics and projects for Tech Night. At our meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>, we will have a one-page questionnaire to gather interests from members present. For those not in attendance we will email the questionnaire.

Continued on page 2

## President's article from page 1.

Sadly, on June 10, our mentor, encourager, Secretary/Treasurer, and driving force for Amateur Radio in Conway County and surrounding counties, Jim Taylor AF5EI, passed away. Roger will have more on Jim in other articles so I will not elaborate here.

Summer Field Day was also a success. We had a great time on the 23-24<sup>th</sup> of June. Roger will have a report on Field Day results later in this newsletter.

Our next meeting night is July 11, a week from this Thursday. We will meet at Morrilton Fire Station North. Eat at 5:00pm, meet at 6:00pm. At this meeting we will be looking for anyone interested in becoming our Club Secretary/Treasurer. More discussion around this at our meeting.

I'll close with my thoughts on the future of ARDAC. We are looking for ways to encourage and facilitate more involvement, more educational opportunities.

On March 27 I was appointed the Emergency Coordinator for Conway County. In this role I have hopes of working closely with JM Rowe and others around the State to create more opportunities for interested HAMS to get involved in community and state emergency management preparation and support. There are things on the near horizon that I will share with you as they develop.

That's all for now! More at our club meeting!

73s,

The PREZ – W5WUP

## A tribute to James Taylor AF5EI SK.

Written by Steve Beavers on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

I have held off on making this post until I spoke with his family this morning. Yesterday, a little after noon, Conway County lost an icon. James (Mr. Jim) Taylor passed away at Conway Regional Hospital. He proudly served his country during the Vietnam War. He brought the skills he learned back to his home in Conway County and used them to benefit everyone he met. He



served proudly with the Conway County Fire De-

partment for many years, and would do anything to help them until the day he passed. He was an integral part of Conway County Office of Emergency Management for more years than I can count. He served as our communications officer up until a few months ago when he finally admitted that he needed to slow down a little bit (He didn't really slow down much). He was always ready to help any time anyone needed it. He made sure to monitor storms, and make sure everyone was ok. He was the driving force behind the Arkansas Diamonds Radio Group,

where he served as a board member. He always tried to keep the group moving in the right direction and grow. He was the catalyst behind many of the big projects that the Arkansas Diamonds is rolling out.

Mr. Jim, serve his country and his community well. He also served his friends. Mr. Jim never met a stranger. After a few minutes, he was your friend. And, there was a good chance that he would hand you a study guide and try to recruit you into amateur radio.

I was fortunate enough to not only work with Jim, but also be friends. He helped me through a few tough places lately. He was always there to give good advice. It may not have been advice I wanted, but it was the advice I needed. He would come to my office and say "Boss, I'm headed to lunch and bingo", "Boss, it's commissary day, do you need anything" or "Boss, I'm headed to Tucker Mountain, call if you need anything". I know he always meant it. As he was headed to the hospital, he made sure that I knew he would not be at work the next day. I know, he didn't want us to worry about him if he wasn't at the office. I know I am one of many who has been touched by Jim's love. The last text that I got from Jim, simply read "Love too all". He truly meant it.

Mr. Jim was a one-of-a-kind person; a person we should all strive to be. He will be missed by many.

AF5EI, we'll take it from here.

## Working Pileups

Written by Roger Alabach KF5SDE

If you are on the air at all, you are going to encounter pileups. The following article is based on a combination of my personal experience and advice I have learned from a Youtube video by Jim W6LG.

By definition, a pileup is a bunch of folks answering a station calling CQ. It may be five people, it may be 500 people. Often-times you don't know how many. You can just hear a lot of voices calling. It may be a DX station in Europe or it could be a special event station in the USA. It might be a POTA in the next state.

So how do you get through a pileup and what is the process? The answer is first you must listen and then you must listen some more. There are a lot of reasons to listen. Number one is, where is he listening? More than likely he is listening on his transmit frequency, but he may not be. He may be operating split frequency. So, for example on 20 meters, the DX station may be transmitting at 14.190. And he announces that he's listening at 14 200 to 14 210. Therefore, in theory you need to call between 14.200 and 14.210 because that's where he says he's listening.

If he's listening on his transmit frequency, then by listening very closely to what is going on can pay big dividends. You want to know what his pattern is. By that I mean the station calling CQ oftentimes gets a lot of people answering and all he hears is noise. It's just that all those voices are jumbled together. So, you need to listen. What's his pattern of operation? Is he listening and grabbing the first guy he can hear or waiting for the pile up to kind of thin out and then picking a call sign? Sometimes the station calling CQ will pick up the last station calling in a pileup. Timing is important when you are attempting to get through the pileup.

Also, occasionally you'll hear a DX station who says that he's listening 14200 to 14210 but in fact as you go up to 14200 you find he may in fact be listening on 14215. He may be saying he's 200 to 210. but he's working guys on 14215 so that's where you need to call. I also mean that if he says he's listening 14 200 to 14 210 you want to see if you can find the guys that he's working. So, spend the time to see if you can hear them so he calls W6 XYZ and then you find w6xyz is on 14 200. And the next guy he works is also on 14.200 and the next guy he works is also on 14 200. You know where to call in. Probably 14.200. Or he may work four or five guys on one frequency and move up or move down depending on where he is in the

band. So, it helps to hear four or five contacts and see which way he is going. Another pattern of operation by some guys is they'll just work one guy and move up because they know there is going to be a mess. So he might work one guy in 14200, the next guy worked at 14203, and the next guy at 14205. If you hear that sort of pattern, then you need to get ahead of it. If you find every time he's jumping about two or three kilohertz you need to go two or three kilohertz above the last guy that he's working.

When attempting to bust through a pileup especially when it's all on the same frequency and your call sign is particularly long, you may want to abbreviate your call sign. For example, my call sign is KF5SDE. In a tough pileup I might simply call Sierra Delta Echo. Keep in mind that I have been listening and learning the pattern the DX station follows. I may throw my call sign in immediately or try to fit it in during the first lull in the pileup or I may wait until what I think is the end of the pileup of calls. If I am recognized the DX operator will say something like "the Sierra Delta Echo station come back." Then I can give him my full call sign.

Another thing about using phonetics, when you are giving your call sign use the standard phonetic alphabet. If you have a call sign like K5UZ don't get cute and call out Kilo 5 Ugly Zebra. The DX station may speak very limited English or almost no English. He may know enough words to carry on a contact, but he really doesn't understand ugly zebra. So, he may hear you but not understand what you're saying. It's better to stick with the standard phonetic alphabet.

There are some pileups you don't necessarily want to be involved in. One of the things that I do is listen a lot. I would recommend that you do that also. So, let's say there's a pile up on 14200. The guy is from Portugal, CT2EIP and he is working a lot of guys on 14 200. Well, that's your opportunity then to ignore that pileup because a lot of guys are there. You may want to continue moving through the band listening for somebody else calling CQ. The other guy might be in the same region, and you can hear in Spain or maybe Europe. So, you start turning the dial up and down up and down slowly listening for accents or listening for what sounds like DX. You might find someone where the pileup is not as severe. Also, timing is important in terms of propagation. For example, let's say I'm here in Arkansas and I hear guys on the East Coast giving the DX station 5x9 and he's only S3 on my radio. Well, there's no point me calling. He's not going to hear me if he's S3 with me and he's 5x9 with the guys on the East Coast.

**Continued on next page....**

## Pileups continued

That means I'll likely have to wait till propagation shifts West and hopefully he's going to be on long enough for that to happen. In time he may peek up to S9 so I'll generally listen for a while and see if his signal strength is building.

A DX station may say as he finishes his contact okay thank you Jim nice to talk to you 73 and then he stops transmitting. That may be an opportunity for you to stick in sierra delta echo before everybody else keys up. This is why you need to listen

and if at the end of his contacts he's not saying QRZed but he's just stopping transmission then as soon as you think he's let go of the microphone stick your call sign in.

I hope these tips help you in your pileup busting adventures. The best thing to do is get on the air and find what works best for you. If you have anything to add to this or any comments, please email me at [kf5sde@gmail.com](mailto:kf5sde@gmail.com).

## 2024 Summer Field Day Report

Once again we are grateful to the city of Morrilton for the use of the North Fire Station. We began setting up around 10 am on Saturday. By 1:30 pm we had 4 stations and 4 antennas operational. 2 of the stations belonged to Chris Gimbert. We appreciate his set up and expertise. The other 2 stations were from the Conway County go box. We were able to add a long cat 4 cable to the head of the IC7100 radio so that station was well separated from the 7300 station. We had a total of 18 people participate in our endeavor. It was good to see J. M. Rowe, the state ARRL emergency coordinator.

We had a total of 136 QSOs. Our contacts were from a total of 32 states, 3 countries, 75 grids, 106 counties, and 43 ARRL sections.



The early crew



Will and Keith putting the fire in the wire



The two go-box stations.



Chris's Stations



Special Guest

## Arkansas Diamond Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 1262  
Morrilton, AR 72110.

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 KF5SDE Roger Alabach kf5sde@gmail.com All HAM related stories are welcome.

  
**Organization**

## Club Officers

David (W5WUP) is the Club President, Conway County ES Training & Resource Officer, County Emergency Coordinator for ARES/RACES/AUXCOM.

Roger (KF5SDE) is the Club Vice-President and the Deputy Communications Officer for Conway County ES/911. He is also in charge of the quarterly newsletter.

Steve (KF5DIF) is the Director of Conway County Office of Emergency Services/911

The Club Treasurer position is now open and will be voted on at our July meeting.

We are on the web

<https://arkansasdiamondarc.com/>

## Tech night 2nd Thursday of Each Month at North Fire Station

Don't forget we will have a tech night the 2nd Thursday of each non-meeting month. It begins at 6pm at the North Fire Station in Morrilton. If you have anything you want to work on or discuss please let David W5WUP know. We are here to help.

