

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

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Next Meeting October 10th

North Fire Station

By the Hospital and Next to Colton's

5pm ish if you want to eat (Pizza)

6pm for the regular meeting

Greetings from the PREZ – David W5WUP



I have a lot to cover with this edition of Message from the PREZ! Buckle up!

Besides pursuing the hobby of Amateur Radio and communicating around the world on just a few watts of power, we often take up the hobby for more service oriented reasons. Sadly, we are seeing this play out this week in West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The devastation is unprecedented and we only know a small part of it at this point. This brings me to my various topics.

Over the years the Civil Defense Network, MARS, ARES, and now

AUXCOMM, COML, and COMC have filled, and are further filling critical communication roles in our country and around the world. As we watch from a distance we see that the commercial infrastructure, that is cell phones, all power service, land-line phones, internet, and our very way of commerce and prosperity has been wiped away in a matter of hours in MOUNTAINOUS AREAS where epic flooding has never been postulated as a probability! The ability to even transact for goods, if there are any to buy, is totally absent because WE have allowed our society to be pushed to “paperless currency” through a series of pressures. But I digress, that is

President's article from page 1.

not the topic of my message. Let's get to that.

Emergency Communication and the Amateur Radio Community

One of our primary abilities within our community of radio operators, and one that we practice EVERY FIELD DAY, EVERY EXERCISE, EVERY CONTEST, and every time we conduct a DIRECTED NET is that of our ability to communicate over short and long distances when others cannot. The driving purpose of our Weekly, Monthly, and sometimes DAILY Directed Nets, Traffic Nets, and organized passage of "information" through whatever means be that FM, SSB, AM, RTTY, FT8, Winlink, and all other modes of operation. The bottom line is, WE in the Amateur Radio Community have skills and experience that is still relevant and unique to Emergency Communication. We should NEVER think that we have been replaced, become obsolete, or cannot be a vital part of the communication network for our NATION and our fellow man.

As I write this there are TWO more tropical storms developing in the Atlantic or the Gulf that could deliver additional blows to our nation. This illustrates why WE need to continue to hone and polish our communication skills. The NEXT round could rip right through ARKANSAS and we could be scrambling to implement what we have PRACTICED with all of our DIRECTED NETS, Field Days, and POTA activations. YES, POTA Activation is an extension of minimal equipment, low power, emergency communication. I hope none of you thought that POTA Activation was

simply for "fun", which it is, but it also demonstrates minimal equipment COMMUNICATION that can pass extreme amounts of WELFARE data from afflicted areas to those that are trying to organize assistance.

Everything WE do in the Amateur Radio community that is STRUCTURED, Directed, Organized, and documented is for the GOOD of our fellow man. We may have FUN doing it, but we are preparing for our time to provide what could be LIFESAVING communication to those that NEED to know.

I hope my message is fully understood. We MUST be disciplined, practiced, documented, and REHEARSED in our Directed Nets so that in a disaster we do NOT have to think, only react and function as we know that we can.

Amateur Radio is, and always has been, one of the backbones of the Emergency Communication Network.

Make no mistake, WE ARE VALUABLE and NEEDED in our communities and we should NEVER lose sight of that fact.

Like West Virginia, and North Carolina, we could easily be there within a week, a month, or a year.

We are not invincible.

73s,

The PREZ – W5WUP

Blast From the Past From the October 2023 ADARC Newsletter.

This is a "poem" Evelyn wrote for C Q Magazine back in 1984 just after I, Al, KG5J, worked all counties the first time. I do not remember the issue date but think it was in 1984 about October. If you think it is appropriate for the news letter then go but if not I will try to come up with something else.

Here 'tis;

When Al first started county hunting on the 20 meter band, I felt for sure I had lost my man. We sat on the side of the road "God only knows where." All I had to do was sit there and stare. Then some voice with static, noise and a clang; So very far away would come back with a 2 by 2 bang. I thought it foolish, didn't want my friends to hear. Not knowing that to Al it was so very dear. Soon I had paper and pen in my hand, Logging everything that came over the band. Sometimes I'd go to bed alone without a peep. Then I'd hear Paul running the net in my sleep. Before the band would go haywire at last, Paul would scold Al for talking too fast.

On the way to Manchester Don gave the last county "I hope." You couldn't have hog tied Al with a rope. He stirred through his papers then turned with a jerk. "Gosh"! he said, "I've got a rework."

We traveled through sunshine, snow and ice. But he got his award and it's really nice. I love the conventions, so away we go. Try to say something to all if it's just a "Hello." We've made lots of friends every where we've been. Looking forward to seeing you all again.

On November 30, 1984 he was floating on a cloud. He had his USACA number and was so proud. Thank goodness it's over, I said with a grin.

Whatta you know he started again!!

By- Evelyn

Mic Fright and Your First Contact taken from the newhams.info website.

Mic fright is a general term for anxiety leading to freezing, choking or hesitating when speaking into a microphone (mic). The physiological response of worrying about saying the right thing to an audience large or small is very natural and expected.



Mic fright or shyness is a reality in public speaking, stage performance and similar situations. Of course, it's an important topic to new amateur radio operators so let's provide some perspective and encouragement here.

Making that first voice contact over the radio can be an anxious moment for many new hams. This can also carry over into the first several radio contacts where you worry about saying the right thing and following the rules.

First off, don't let the "rules" make you nervous. It mainly comes down to proper identification which means giving your call sign every 10 minutes during an exchange and at the end of your last transmission (USA rules, other countries vary). That's pretty easy to remember.

Second, every ham was a newbie once and remembers what it was like not knowing exactly what they were doing. Most will be patient and helpful, giving coaching and gentle reminders along the way as needed.

For general phone (voice) contacts, there are no real procedures and formalities to worry about; it's more conversational, much like a phone call. While radio amateurs often use jargon, abbreviation and technical terms (see our [Ham-Speak](#) topic), this is not mandatory. Hopefully that takes some of the pressure off to make you more relaxed for your first few contacts.

A starting point for getting on the air the first time is to listen in on the local (VHF/UHF) repeaters and HF SSB bands for a few hours to learn what people say and how they say it. If you follow these examples you are almost certain to be successful when transmitting on your radio.

An excellent way to get past mic fright and performance anxiety is to ease into it with someone in pre-planned fashion on an obscure radio frequency. Get a few casual "practice" contacts in with someone you trust before jumping onto a popular repeater.

Who would this be? Well, it could be your Elmer. You have an [Elmer](#), right? Someone who gives you encouragement, instruction and advice; basically a mentor. They would be the best person to get you on the air the first time and can suggest an appropriate mode, frequency and time to make your first contact or two. A radio exchange or QSO with an Elmer is a low-stress way to get started in ham radio as they can coach and encourage you in real time.

You may also consider doing a pretend contact face-to-face or over the phone, without actually transmitting via radio. This would provide good practice with zero stress.

If you don't have an Elmer or they are not nearby or otherwise available, find a friendly local ham in a club or EmComm group.

Speaking of clubs and EmComm groups, both are likely to have regular formal or informal nets on a local repeater. These nets are a great way for new hams to practice talking on the air and gaining experience without having to say more than a few words. Again, listen in to get a feel for the flow of things before you jump in, although that shouldn't be an issue if you are mic shy.

Now if you're involved in a formal net in an Emergency communications (EmComm) situation, it is advised that you familiarize yourself with the [protocol](#) (terms and procedures). Hopefully a real-life EmComm event is not your first taste of speaking on the radio! Don't let it be; get some practice and experience first.

Bottom line, if you are struggling with mic fright, the only way to get past it is get some success under your belt. Start easy with a friend or trusted ham and work into more involved contacts as you gain experience.

Now if mic fright is so real for you that no amount of friendly practice can get you comfortable on air, don't despair. You can still enjoy several modes of communication that are non-spoken. Many hams, particularly on the HF bands, communicate non-verbally over great distances using CW (Morse code), keyboard-to-keyboard using RTTY or digital modes.

Club minutes from the regular meeting on July 11, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Steve Beavers was elected to the treasurer's position. There was a discussion on Roger's first newsletter. He will take over the newsletter responsibility reliving Stewart. Next was a discussion on the questionnaire that was sent. We need sinput on what to covered on tech night. The dates for the next 2 tech nights were set for August 8th and September 12th at 6pm. The location will be at Morrilton's North Fire Station.

The question came up as to whether everyone is getting the club's emails.

A pavilion has been reserved for the first Saturday in November for a fun and fellowship day. We will be in Petit Jean State Park rather than the city park.

Next club meeting will be October 10th at the usual North Fire Station location.

Steve discussed Jim's corner. David announced that he replaced Jim Taylor as the Conway County Emergency Coordinator. A further discussion was held on what Auxcom is doing. We are still looking for people who are interested in emergency management communications.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Tech Night Report

Once again we are grateful to the city of Morrilton for the use of the North Fire Station. We had 2 sessions since our last meeting. In August we had I brought my radio and laptop computer. Daniel demonstrated how to set it all up for digital communications. More specifically FT8. Dave, our club president, was programming HTs. In September, I intended on hanging a couple of antennas purchased at various hamfests and demonstrating the use of an antenna analyzer. It rained so hanging the antennas was out. However, we were able to see what an antenna analyzer can do in addition to measuring SWR. Anita brought a watt meter and we tested it.

If you have something that needs attention of a technical nature please don't hesitate to contact Dave or Roger and we will put it on the program.

73 Roger KF5SDDE

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.

Here are a couple of Special Event Stations that might be of interest.

Celebrating the Dawn of Mass Global Communication, a centenary event, will be re-enacted in October 2024, by amateur radio operators in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The first trans-global two-way radio communication was achieved on October 18, 1924, by amateur radio operators Frank Bell, 4AA, a sheep farmer in Shag Valley, South Island New Zealand, and Cecil Goyder, 2SZ, a student operating from Mill Hill School, North London. Two special callsigns will be in operation for this year's event. At Mill Hill and Shag Valley stations on October 18, radio amateurs will recreate and re-enact the first contact, hopefully on a frequency close to that used in 1924. In addition, two other amateur radio stations with callsigns reflecting the centenary will be active. GB2NZ will be operated from September 29 - October 26 from a number of United Kingdom locations. ZM1ØØDX will be operated from early September 2024 - December 26 from a number of New Zealand locations on CW, SSB, and a number of other modes. Awards and QSL cards will be available for those who make contact with these special stations. For additional information visit <http://www.gb2nz.com> or <https://www.zl4aa.org.nz>.

The Macon County (Missouri) Amateur Radio Club, NØPR, will activate special event station WØD to honor Lester Dent, WØCBL (SK), prolific writer of pulp fiction. Dent was the creator of the first "superhero," Doc Savage. WØD will be active from 1430 UTC on October 19 to 0500 UTC on October 21, 2024, on all bands and all modes including 28.400, 14.280, 7.250, and 3.950 MHz. For additional information and stories on Dent and for QSL information, visit the [Macon County Amateur Radio Club](#) website.

For a more complete list of upcoming special event stations go to: <https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>



Get on the air!

Arkansas Diamond Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 1262
Morrilton, AR 72110.

The Arkansas Diamond Radio Club (K5FSY) 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 K5SDE 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 (K5SDE) 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 Beavers (K5DIF) is the Club Treasurer and Director of Conway County Office of Emergency Services/911

We are on the web

<https://arkansasdiamondarc.com/>