



April 2025

ARKANSAS DIAMOND RADIO CLUB NEWS LETTER

Volume 44

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 April 10th

North Fire Station

By the Hospital and Next to Colton's

5pm ish if you want to eat

6pm for the regular meeting

Patrick Bolan with GE CHRON is on the program so don't miss.

General Exam Review Questions just for fun

G3A04

Which of the following are the least reliable bands for long-distance communications during periods of low solar activity?

- A. 80 meters and 160 meters
- B. 60 meters and 40 meters
- C. 30 meters and 20 meters
- D. **15 meters, 12 meters, and 10 meters**

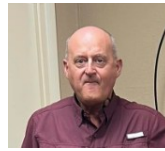
G3A14

How is long distance radio communication usually affected by the charged particles that reach Earth from solar coronal holes?

- A. HF communication is improved
- B. HF communication is disturbed
- C. VHF/UHF ducting is improved
- D. VHF/UHF ducting is disturbed

Answers found on Page 6

Greetings from the PREZ – David W5WUP



Greetings to all members and friends of Arkansas Diamond Amateur Radio Club! We made it into 2025 with some bumps along the way! Our January Meeting was delayed until February due to the crazy winter we had! We are in the 26th year of the 21st Century! Let that sink in again. We have started into year 26 of this century. Some of us are a bit the worse for wear but we are still kicking! I joked with JM Rowe tonight about a potential short story titled: "Skullduggery! Tales of David's Empty Skull, and other myths!" Maybe my hollow cranium would make a good duplexer form! But it would probably only be resonant on ULTRA LOW FREQUENCIES! But I digress. I'm still reeling from not having Jim Taylor in our ranks. Jim is missed every day.

The Tech Night in March was good, from all accounts. I was not able to make it due to a little residual medical issue that surfaced that day. We had to determine if I needed my "freeze plugs" in my skull repaired. Thankfully, the answer was no!

Roger, Daniel, and Steve stepped in to make sure we started the foundation for a series of Tech Night presentations on antenna selection, design, construction, and testing.

Our Second Meeting of 2025 is scheduled for Thursday night, April 10. As always, we will eat at 5:00 and meet at 6:00. Roger has lined up a good presentation for us.

Since it will be the LAST meeting before Summer Field Day, we will be planning our preparations and a weekend practice session so that everyone that wants to participate can see what we will be doing.

The Hoxie and Russellville (Dardanelle) HAM fests have passed. I'll let Roger remind us of those on the horizon.

I'll keep this one short and we will talk about future plans at our next meeting.

Until the 10th of April, and our scheduled meeting, I am QSY.... 73s, the PREZ – David W5WUP

Blast From the Past written by Stewart Nelson in 2012 for our Newsletter.

Etiquette

Ham radio has its own rules of etiquette and if you want to make friends with your license you need to follow the rules. When you took the Tech class you learned that you can't play music or have music in the back ground while you on voice communication, that is the first rule and it is in the FCC rules. Forget about the space shuttle stuff because you will probably never use it. The second coded rule is that you will give your call sign every 10 minutes and at the end of the transmission. Most HAMS also give their call sign at the first of their transmission. The real rule is that you are not "Bubba" you are your call sign and your name, "KD5LBE Stewart", and use it. The third rule that is not in the official is that there is only room for one person in a door way at a time. If someone is using a frequency don't step on them there are plenty of unused frequencies. On the non-repeater frequencies it is not uncommon to hear

someone say "is this frequency in use?" before they start talking because you may not hear both sides of a transmission. If another operator on the radio respond and says that " this frequency is in use" shut up and go someplace else. Next it is most important that you don't dominate a frequency or repeater if there are others that want to use it particularly repeaters unless you own the repeater. The repeater owner does have the right to ban anyone for whatever reason they want from using the repeater. If there is a net that uses a repeater or a frequency shut up when it is time for the net. The world maritime net is on 14.300. Never use this frequency unless you are checking into that net. Also it you can go to one of the simplex frequencies and get off the repeater do it so others can use the repeater. This is the plan<http://www.arrl.org/band-plan-1> If you are a Tech and like to work something more that repeaters you have two options, 6 meters 50.1-54.0 and 10 meters 28.30-28.50 SSB. There are also some code frequencies which probably most of you are not interested. There are some other restriction for things like satellite, so look over the band plan be-

Blast From the Past continued..

fore you get too adventurous. Also when you are looking for someone to talk to on a repeater the proper protocol in this area is to give your call sign then say "KD5LBE Listening". If you want to enter a conversation The following is for Generals for their bands and Techs that are using 10 and 6. When you were studying for the test and in normal conversation you were told to use the call sign of the person you were calling and then your call sign. That is except when you are in a "pile up" or a whole bunch of people were trying to contact one station in which case you only give your call sign and wait for an acknowledgement. During contesting there are different sets of rules and read the rules or listen to what other people are doing. There are 8 "Q" signals that you need to know. Your current location is your QTH. QRZ is often used when someone is seeking someone to call them in a "pile up". They are finished with the last contact and ready for the next person. QRP

means you are running low power or less than 10 watts. QSY means that the caller wants you to go up some specific amount, probably because of interference. You want to say thank you for the contact "73" or QSO. If there is interference in your communication you respond, QRM man made or QRN atmospheric noise. You are finishing a conversation usually in a contest when you are scored on what information you logged, you end the contact with QSL did you get my information and you respond the same QSL you received their information. The last thing that I would like to mention is that you need to learn to use a standard phonic library when you are ask to repeat your call sign phonically to someone who may not understand your personal humor. The idea is that it slows the speaker down and it gives words to go with the letter. If your call sign had an "AR" in it an "Alpha Romeo" makes more sense to a person in California than "Arkansas Razorback."

Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act Re-Introduced.

Legislation Will Increase Communication Options During Natural Disasters. From ARRL website.

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Representatives August Pfluger, R-Tex., and Joe Courtney, D-Conn. announced their joint re-introduction of legislation in the Senate and House to restore the right to Amateur Radio operators to install the antennas necessary to serve their communities.

Homeowner association rules often prevent Amateur Radio operators from installing antennas at their homes even though Amateur Radio has proven to be essential in emergencies and natural disasters such as hurricanes when other means of communication fail.

"Mississippians should have access to every possible means of warning for natural disasters, including amateur radio operators. In an emergency, those warnings can mean the difference between life and death," **Senator Wicker said.** "The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act would remove unnecessary roadblocks that could help keep communities safe during emergencies like tornadoes, hurricanes, and fires."

"When disaster strikes, amateur radio operators provide vital, often life-saving information, which shouldn't be hindered by prohibitive rules or confusing approval processes. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act eliminates obstacles for ham radio enthusi-

asts, allowing them to continue their communications and serve their communities in the face of emergencies," **said Senator Blumenthal.**

"Natural disasters and other emergency situations that hinder our regular lines of communication are unfortunately unavoidable, which is why we must bolster our emergency preparedness by removing the barriers amateur radio operators often run into when installing antennas. Amateur radio plays a vital role in public safety by delivering critical information to people at all times. My district is home to dozens of amateur radio operators ready to volunteer in the event of an emergency, and I am proud to lead this legislation," **said Congressman August Pfluger.**

"As we know from recent natural disasters, amateur radio operators in Connecticut can be a critical component of disaster response and emergency management. It is in our communities' best interest that we give them the capabilities to operate at the highest level, and with the re-introduction of this bill, we've taken a strong step in that direction," **said Congressman Courtney.**

Background:

The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 (H.R. 1094 and S. 459) would require homeowner associations to accommodate the needs of FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators by prohibiting the enforcement of private land use restrictions that ban,

Emergency Preparedness Act Continued.

prevent, or require the approval of the installation or use of Amateur Radio station antennas. Homeowner associations have often prevented installation and use of such antennas through private land use restrictions. This has hindered voluntary training for emergency situations and blocked access to necessary communications when disaster strikes.

Among other provisions, this legislation would:

- Prohibit homeowner association rules that would prevent or ban Amateur Radio antennas;
- Specify an approval process for installing Amateur Radio antennas;
- Provide a Federal private right of action to Amateur Radio operators in disputed cases.

On behalf of America's Amateur Radio licensees, Rick Roderick, the President of The American Radio Relay League, re-confirmed the ARRL's full support for the passage of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 and extended his thanks and appreciation to Senators Wicker and Blumenthal and Congressmen Pfluger and Courtney for their unflagging leadership of the bi-partisan effort to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

The text of the House version can be found at this link: [H.R. 1094](#)

Ham Radio 101 Signal Reports and the RST system.

Most of you already know and use the RST system to communicate signal reports between your station and the one you are working. However, for the inexperienced reader I offer the following explanation. For the more advanced user, I will share how I use this to enhance my operations. The R-S-T system is used to exchange information about the quality of a radio signal being received. The RST signal report is based on Readability, Signal strength and Tone of the signal you hear. Keep in mind that Tone is used only in CW. When working an HF station, you will hear something like; KF5SDE you are a 59 into Arizona. Your contact will expect you to return with a number. On the next page is a chart that will help you determine your contact's signal report as you hear it and the quality of your signal they receive.

This is of value to me when I install a new antenna or when working a part of the world, I can determine how well my station is performing. I simply look at the propagation predictions (last month's Tech Night) and compare it to my signal report. Also, I work POTA to get an idea of how my signal works at various times of the day by location. Take note, when receiving a 59 you may not be sending a 59 signal. Some operators throw out 59 to everyone especially in contests.

For more details please visit:

<https://hamradiofornontechies.com/the-rst-system-signal-reporting/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5WvZixKA0o&t=5s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Jtx1f9E1M>. This a good video.

Full page R-S-T chart. Print and hang in your shack for reference.

Readability	Strength	Tone (CW only)
1-Unreadable	1-Faint signals, barely perceptible.	1-Sixty cycle a.c or less, very rough and broad.
2-Barely readable, Occasional words distinguishable	2-Very weak signals.	2-Very rough a.c., very harsh and broad.
3-Readable with considerable difficulty	3-Weak signals.	3-Rough a.c. tone, rectified but not filtered.
4-Readable with practically no difficulty.	4-Fair signals.	4-Rough note, some trace of filtering.
5-Perfectly readable.	5-Fairly good signals.	5-Filtered rectified a.c. but strongly ripple-modulated.
	6-Good signals.	6-Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation.
	7-Moderately strong signals.	7-Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation.
	8-Strong signals.	8-Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation.
	9-Extremely strong signals.	9-Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of

Answers from page 1:

G3 A04: **D. 15 meters, 12 meters, and 10 meters**

G3 A14: **B. HF communication is disturbed**

Meeting April 10th: Don't miss our meeting. We will be taking dues for 2025. \$10.

Program: Patrick Bolan with GE CHRON. He will be demonstrating GE CHRON via Skype or some other platform.

Tech night: Our Tech night in March went very well. Daniel gave a presentation on radio propagation. This begins a series of antenna theory and will lead to some antenna projects.

Hamfests: Green Country Hamfest, Claremore, OK, April 11&12

Swapfest on the Ridge, Paragould, AR, April 19th

Louisiana Delta Hamfest, Monroe, LA, May 31st.

SMARC pre Field Day Hamfest, Springfield, MO, June 7th.



Daniel presenting on Tech Night



Stewart and Jim Field Day 2011

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

- 04/04/2025 | 167 Annual Tater Day 2025
- **Apr 4-Apr 7, 0000Z-2359Z, KI4HUS**, Benton, KY. Marshall County Amateur Radio Association. 3.820 7.250 14.325 28.350. QSL. Steve French KM4JZJ , 3640 Olive Hamlett Rd., Benton, Kentucky, Benton, KY 42025.
- 04/11/2025 | National Library Week 2025
- **Apr 11-Apr 13, 1600Z-1600Z, K8L**, Youngstown, OH. The Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County. 14.074 7.074 14.250 7.250. QSL. K8L (National Library Week), 239 Elvira Ct., Mc Donald, OH 44437. Celebrate National Library Week 2025. We will be operating from various libraries local to Youngstown, OH. We will be on mainly 20m and 40m, both SSB & FT8. Receive a themed QSL card. More information on QRZ. www.qrz.com/db/wf8u
- 04/12/2025 | Operation Frequent Wind
- **Apr 12, 1600Z-2300Z, NI6IW**, San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250 14.070 PSK31 DSTAR on Papa System Repeaters. QSL. USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw
- 04/12/2025 | Venice Florida Shark's Tooth Festival
- **Apr 12-Apr 13, 1020Z-1017Z, K4S**, Venice, FL. Tamiami Amateur Radio Club. 14.136 21.136 28.136. QSL. TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, PO BOX 976, Nokomis, FL 34274-0976. QSL includes a fossilized shark's tooth from the beach in Venice, FL when S.A.S.E. is sent to W4AC address on qrz.com tamiamiarc.org
- 04/16/2025 | 2025 NFL Draft
- **Apr 16-Apr 30, 0000Z-2359Z, W9D**, De Pere, WI. Green Bay Mike & Key Club. 10-80 meters CW and SSB; 7.030, 7.230 28.060, 28.450 14.030, 14.230 3.555, 3.900. Certificate & QSL. Green Bay Mike & Key Club, 3004 Quarry Park Dr. #10, De Pere, WI 54115. Commemorating 2025 NFL Draft in Green Bay, Wisconsin. 0000Z to 2400Z. k9eam@yahoo.com or www.k9eam.org

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 (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 Beavers (KF5DIF) is the Club Treasurer and Director of Conway County Office of Emergency Services/911

We are on the web

<https://arkansasdiamondarc.com/>