

ARKAN MEETING NOTES – JAN. 4, 2016

New ARKAN President Billy-AE5CP called the meeting to order at 7pm at Springdale Fire Station #1. Attendance once again was excellent, and we came fairly close to running out of seats. Thanks to all who attended and showing their interest in ham radio!

The program for this month was “HF Propagation” from Don-K5DB. The topics of time of day for band openings, sunspots, aurora, sunspot cycles, beacons, and solar flux data were covered. We had some excellent questions and discussion, and appreciative post-meeting comments from many of those in attendance on how they benefitted from the information.

During the business meeting that followed the program, aside from the other annual activities that ARKAN participates in, it was announced that the club will be participating in the National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) event. NPOTA began on Jan. 1 and will continue throughout calendar year 2016 commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Park System. ARKAN will be setting-up portable stations in all five of the NPS units that are located within the boundaries of Arkansas, most of them occurring this coming spring. We already have Special Use Permit applications submitted to each unit, and awaiting approval on them. The specific dates will be released at near future club meetings, as we hear back from each Arkansas NPS unit.

It was also announced that ARKAN will be placing Special Event Station K5A on the air during the 2nd weekend in June. K5A will be commemorating the 180th anniversary of Arkansas statehood. We already have the info scheduled to be published in QST and on QRZ.com. We are in expectation of making a ton of contacts and making many Special Event Station and Worked-All-States chasers happy with a QSO from Arkansas, and having a load of fun doing it. SSB and CW will be the main modes for the operation, and an operating shift schedule will be constructed.

A VE test session was also conducted in which James Blount – KG5KER and James Remmel – KG5KMP passed their General class exams. Congratulations gentlemen!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The next ARKAN meeting will convene at 7pm on Monday, February 1, at Springdale Fire Station #1. You definitely won't want to miss this one:

Our speaker for the February program will be San Hutson – K5YY. San is internationally known in the amateur radio DX community for his decades of work in the DX field. San's program will be on the art of successful DXing and some of his topics will be rigs, antennas, sunspot cycles, how to work that "rare one" quicker than for calling for hours on end, etc. If you want to know ANYTHING about how to make your DX pursuing more efficient and pleasurable, you'll find your answers during this program.

Since 1970, San has been involved in 23 solo or team DXpeditions, covering 50+ DXCC countries. He was the FIRST to activate the Comoros Islands (D6) and Mayotte Island (FH) in 1976. Just a few of his accolades include CQ DX Hall of Fame, former DXAC Chairman, DXCC Honor Roll, Honorary Member: Arkansas DX Association, Northern California DX Club, Southeastern DX Club, and many others. In just the past 10 years, he has participated in DXpeditions from Scarborough Reef, Lord Howe Island, Kanton, Malpelo Island (top DXpedition of the Year, 2011-2012), and Norfolk Island.

Mark your calendar for Feb. 1 for San's presentation. You also might want to come early to ensure getting a seat, as we will probably encounter SRO for this meeting.

See you then and 73!
Don-K5DB, ARKAN Sec'y.