

ARKAN MEETING NOTES – MARCH 2016

In the absence of President AE5CP and Vice-President KF5TQU as they were unable to attend this month's meeting, Secretary Don-K5DB called the meeting to order at 7pm at Springdale Fire Station #1. We had another excellent turnout, and hope the trend continues with the top-notch programs and speakers we have on tap for our 2016 meetings.

The club business meeting covered several items one of which all those who regularly or semi-regularly attend ARKAN meetings, or those who plan to in the future.

A vote was taken, and passed, on amending the start time for all future regular monthly ARKAN meetings: **THE START TIME WILL NOW BE AT 6:30pm, INSTEAD OF 7pm.**

Also covered was the offering for anyone wishing to sign-up for communication assistance for the Styx 'N Stones 30K race that will take place in Devil's Den State Park on Saturday, March 19. There are still a couple of slots needing to be filled, so if you're interested in having a rewarding time in helping out the S-N-S race committee, contact Scott-K5SAA at: scottwcfm@gmail.com

A very brief rundown on upcoming ARKAN activities was covered, much of which will be concerned with the major ham event for 2016, National Parks On The Air. This will be the program topic for the April meeting, presented by ARKAN President Billy Hyatt-AE5CP. Billy will be giving a PowerPoint presentation on this event, and a splendid program it will be --- don't miss it!

In case you haven't heard as yet, the ARKAN website now has an event calendar where you can find all the upcoming events that the club will be conducting in the coming months. Be sure and check-out the calendar and sign-up for any of them. We welcome club members and non-members alike. We are here to share amateur radio fun with everyone. Just go to: www.arkanhams.org and in the left-hand column, click the "ARKANhams info" tab, and you'll see the calendar.

The highlight for the March meeting was the program presented by John Langham-KF5FGF from the Northwest Arkansas Weather Watch (NWAWXWATCH) group. John gave a PowerPoint presentation that was superb. He outlined the mission of NWAWXWATCH, whose club call is WA5TCH. The group formed in Pea Ridge. John presented an excellent produced video on the group, what they do, and made the point that weather spotting is present at ALL times. Even when inclement weather is not presently occurring. Post-winter storm ice and snow accumulations, road conditions, and other factors are important in the storm spotter role in providing this type of information to the National Weather Service.

NWAWXWATCH exists to promote weather information and weather safety. Storm spotters are needed due to:

- 1) The NWS being limited to ground view and radar cannot "see" actual events.
- 2) Spotter reports are often responsible for the issuance of life-saving warnings.
- 3) Spotters report road conditions/hazards and storm damage, which is very important to the NWS.

Unlike law enforcement and emergency agencies that generally have a very limited communications system, ham operators possess a very broad system that gives us operating options.

NWAWXWATCH specializes in:

- Educational programs
- Storm spotter training classes
- Amateur radio license classes (working in conjunction with the Hogville Hams club)

The NWAWXWATCH net meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings at 8pm on the K5SRS linked repeater system. For more information about this fast growing organization, you can view their website at: www.nwawxwatch.com . (Great website)

John provided an excellent presentation, and he has a standing invitation to return in the future for another program to introduce NWAWXWATCH to any new members to ARKAN or newcomers to amateur radio as a whole.

Following the program, a VE test session was conducted in which we had 3 candidates for the Technician license, and all of them passed!

CONGRATS, new Techs!:
Dave Woods - Pineville, MO
Phil Harris - Bentonville, AR
Will Patrick - Prairie Grove, AR

Again, mark your calendar for our next ARKAN meeting on Monday, April 4, Springdale Fire Station #1, at 6:30pm, for an excellent presentation on NPOTA (National Parks On The Air). If you haven't participated in this event, or have no idea what it's about or what it entails, don't miss this meeting. This event takes place during calendar year 2016, and will only happen once.

73!
Don-K5DB, ARKAN Secretary