

From the President of SMARC

January 12, 2010

To all members:

Well here we are in the new year and it has been a time of great joy and bad news. I am still in disbelief from the news of Brant N0BFR, he will be missed by his friends, ham radio, and the Skywarn community. I am also praying for a good friend Rich KB9YZE who is in the hospital, we hope for a speedy recovery, I am looking forward to the Titanic event that Rich is in charge of this year, get well soon Rich.

My great joy is in the excitement of the club members for what we are planning. I will say I am a true believer in the methods of the ARRL and the design they have for Amateur Radio clubs. This has worked for 60+ years and it is still a good plan. I have had several of you approach me for club activities and all of your ideas are so noted. I have a few myself to implement but mostly it is you the membership who will steer us on the right course. There are no bad ideas for activities so do not be afraid to speak up if you know of something you would like to do.

I have moved forward with several of the suggested ideas and the first meeting Saturday January the 16th will be a Q&A session and antenna party for those who need antenna help and/or upgrade questions answered. We will have our computers with Internet connections and can answer most any question you have. I saw several of you who have purchased radios and antennas at the OMAR hamfest, I will have my go kit to help with getting your antennas tuned or if your install needs checked out we will be doing that too. If you are a seasoned operator we need you for Elmering help, I had good Elmers who worked me through the first steps of radio and now it is my duty to pass it along.

As some of you already know we will be doing portable setups this year again. The really big one will be field day. I have a notion about it and that is to make it simpler and not worry about the points as much as the radio and enjoyment of the meeting. I do however want to make it what everyone wants as much as is possible, so your thoughts are needed & welcome. SMARC has made a glorious showing at field day in the past and there are some out there looking for that again. That sort of an event takes planning and work to be a success but it is entirely possible, I have made contact with the EARS club, they would like to join us for field day and I feel the collaboration of our two groups would be very beneficial for both. More news to come on that as I get it.

The build project news is, we need to get numbers for those of you wanting to build a softrock receiver/transceiver. In just a few days the new version 3 transceiver will be released so ordering will begin at that time. The new transceiver is a 40 meter software defined radio capable of psk or cw possibly voice, it is a fairly advanced project so we will need to do some basic classes in soldering and component identification first. I will be taking names for ordering and will also see about a group discount if available.

Lastly our equipment roundup has been a bit slow going however I received from Lance KQ0Q two TNC's and an Alinco data radio that are club property. I am setting to work to get manuals and test these units as we can use them to enhance our packet network and add to the repeater with additional modes of operation.

Our Club dues, are due, so if you have not paid this meeting is the time to do so or make a payment arrangement. I will work with anyone who needs a little time to make the dues. I know how it is to deal with a poor economy.

Hope to see you all at the meeting!

Steve KA0SPM
President, SMARC.