

SM Article for November 2003

This is going to be a very controversial article so I will begin. First of all if you have not heard by now, The Arizona State Hamfest normally located at Fort Tuthill in Flagstaff will be moving to a new location, the Williams Arizona Rodeo Grounds, and the new date will be the first weekend in July the 2nd through the 4th. The city of Williams is located 33 miles west of Flagstaff on Highway 40. After you get over the little fits and the four letter words on why we are moving the best Hamfest in the Southwest to a new location, please read on. As you have seen over the past years, the grounds have not changed (they are getting worst) but the cost of putting on the Hamfest has risen very fast. The fair grounds charged ARCA (Amateur Radio Council of Arizona) almost \$9000 for the weekend Hamfest in 2003. They stated that the fees will increase next year but we will not get any improvements and a few of the buildings that we use for presentations will not be available. The ARCA web site, "www.arca-az.org/arca", has a financial chart showing increased cost of the last 10 years. Many people have complained about the high cost of a selling space and if we stayed at Flagstaff this cost would increase. The city of Williams has offered ARCA the use of their Rodeo Grounds at a lower cost and is willing to give other incentives to the people who attend the Hamfest. This means that ARCA will be able to maintain the present cost of selling spaces (maybe lower the cost) and each selling space will be larger in size because there is more room available. ARCA is presently talking with the city officials about discount cost for motel rooms, RV parking spots, and Grand Canyon Railroad tickets. The RV part is located next door to the ground and has full hook-ups and there are several motels close by (Fairfield, Holiday Inn, etc). This move is for financial reasons only. Look up the financial reports on the ARCA web site so you can see for yourself what has been happening.

The next order of business is the 2004 ARRL Southwestern Convention that will take place at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort located near Chandler on 27-29 August 2004. The Central Arizona DX Club is putting on this event and they do everything first class. There will be many presentations on almost every subject of amateur radio plus many top companies showing you their new products. This event will have everything in-doors (except Saturday morning swap meet) so you need not go outside for anything except the boat ride to the casino for other entertainment or go swimming in the large pool. All presentations and vendor areas will be in air-conditioned comfort. The hotel has many rooms available for \$91.00 a

night and this rate is good for the week prior to the event and the week after the event. Where else can you get resort treatment for standard motel prices. Make your plans ahead of time to be at this event. The convention web site is www.hamradio2004.com/swdc2004.

The last piece of business has to do with me. I was gone for 2 ½ weeks of business travel and then a week's vacation all during the month of October. When I returned I had 265 e-mails and 22 telephone calls to try and catch up on. If I missed returning your telephone call or did not respond to your e-mail, please call or re-send. I try and respond to all telephone calls and e-mails as required but I do miss a few so if that has happened please have patience and call/resent again. The next Hamfest will be the Superstition Hamfest, in Mesa, on December 6th and I hope to see you there. Since this article no longer appears in the QST magazine, you can find it on the state website, www.qsl.net/arrlaz, www.hamsrus.com, and www.arrl.org/sections/index/html. If you want a copy e-mail you, then just drop me a note and I can add you to my e-mail list.

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