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Arizona

It is summer time and it is getting hotter (first part of July and it is over 100). Our community service activities are almost dead and we should be using this free time to practice our radio operation skills. There are various NETS (HF, VHF, and UHF) that we can use for this type of training activity. These special NETS help us improve our skills in message traffic flow, directed net operations, and NCS operations. With the fires presently going these skills could become very useful at any given moment. If you are not participating in one of the state training NETS, give me a call and I will direct you to one in your local area. Here in Pima County we have a Saturday VHF Net (147.30 +) and a Sunday morning HF NET (3995 kHz at 0845 hrs). There is also a state Emergency Operations HF NET every Sunday morning at 0730 hrs around 3992 kHz. Remember that fall will bring about more community support activities and we should be prepared.

The Arizona State Hamfest at Williams is over with for this year. As far as I am concerned ARCA did a great job and it was very successful. Except for the dust (not ARCA's problem), everything went OK. NO RAIN. We had a STAR party Friday night. Many telescopes were pointed on the moon as it rose over the hills. This was a great sight. Monday many people went to the Grand Canyon on the train. The selling spots were larger and all the RV portions were sold out. Next year will be 8-10 July, the second weekend. Start making plans. Thanks to the city of Williams for hosting this event.

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. Every year I have been asked when the convention will come to Arizona so they don't have to travel far. **Well, IT IS HERE.** No more excuses. All the traveling you need to do is drive/fly/walk to Chandler (Phoenix area). Bob Davies, K7BHM, and his committee are doing a great job on the preparation. Ned Stearns, AA7A, has put together over 30 confirmed talk sessions on almost every subject of amateur radio. Dan Miller, K3UFG, from ARRL HQ will hold a Level 1 Emergency Communication Course on Friday afternoon (27 August) for 35 people. If you want to attend, you need to sign up now. Many top companies, to include Ten-TEC, will be showing you the latest in equipment and accessories. This event is completely in-doors (except for the Saturday morning swap meet) so you not need to go outside in the summer heat 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 (78 degrees F). The hotel still 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 immediately because time is getting short. Talk-in will be handled by the Arizona Repeater Association (Friday 1500-1800 hrs, and Saturday 0900-1700 hrs) and Explorer Post 599 is handling room security. Check the web site (www.hamradio2004.com/swdc2004) for VHF and UHF frequencies. Many clubs from the Southwest Division will have small booths to provide information on their activities and membership. If you need additional information or help in signing up for this fabulous event, please call me or go to the convention web site, "www.hamradio2004.com".

The Kingman Hamfest will be on September 18th at the Mohave Community College. This is an annual event that is continuing to get larger each year. I look forward to this event because I can take a weekend off away from home (a small vacation). More about this event as it gets closer.

The Yuma ARC is planning to sponsor their first Hamfest on the 19th of February at the Yuma Arizona fair grounds. Scheduled time is 0600-1500. I will provide more details as the time gets closer.

I have been going around to the various clubs and providing information on the new proposed license structure that the ARRL board of directors sent to the FCC. I plan to be at the Lake Havasu ARC on the 16th of September. Another quick note, I will not be running for another term as your Section Manager (SM). My present term ends on 01 April 2005. After 12 years as SM I plan to move on to other activities within amateur radio.

My home telephone number is 520-744-9095, and I do have an answering machine to let me know who called when I am away. If I happen to miss your call, please leave me a name and telephone number and I will return the call as soon as possible. I do 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/re-send again. If you want a copy e-mail you, then just drop me a note and I can add you to my e-mail list. Several people who requested an e-mail copy of this article have had their e-mail address changed and I do not have the new address. Please provide new address so the article will arrive at the correct location. The cruise to Alaska was great. I am ready for another one. I did make two (2) contacts on Field Day from the ship (2-meters). 73's from Clifford Hauser, KD6XH; E-mail is kd6xh@arrl.org or kd6xh@comcast.net.