

ARIZONA SECTION NEWS October 2005

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

This last month has been a chance for Hams to show off their abilities around the country. We have all seen the pictures, heard how totally the commercial/public service infrastructure collapsed in the gulf area. Ham communications took some serious hits in the area as well. What makes us so much more versatile than the other methods is we aren't just operators, we have some basic engineering skills which can be brought in to areas where communications has been lost, and used to cobble ad-hock communications channels together for short term communications. Being frequency agile is another benefit that is lost on most communications managers. We don't just have a "few" channels, we can change bands, utilize multiple "modes" of operation, and set it up in hours not days.

Even in Arizona we had an opportunity to participate in communications for the Red Cross Shelter in Phoenix. Many local hams were generous with their time and equipment and helped give the Red Cross coverage between agencies, and even with the shelter manager. There were significant problems with this deployment that I will be discussing in the future, but in the meantime, Brian Daly WB7OML is compiling the good and bad comments from around the ham community. This summary will then be used to guide us to better deployments in the future. For those of you who are frustrated by the amount of "Red Tape", please understand since 9/11, access to disaster sites (or in this case the shelter) will be difficult, and those difficulties are likely to become worse rather than better. You have to keep a positive attitude in these situations. I can only ask that you bring your patience to the door, and realize that the State of Arizona was running this shelter, and the Red Cross was only one of several VOAD organizations tasked with ensuring the success of the mission.

I can only offer, that all the comments will be reviewed, where changes can be made we will, and that you continue to participate when the opportunity arises.

Rick Aldom -W7STS Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) natecf@gmail.com

ARRL SECTION MANAGERS WORKSHOP

Last week I was able to participate in the ARRL section manager workshop. It was attended by 13 section managers from all over the country. Most of us were newly elected and still trying to figure out our new position. Steve Ewald WV1X and Chuck Skolaut K0BOG were our official hosts and what fantastic hosts they were. We were given a tour of headquarters and got to meet almost everyone. I learned a lot at the workshop. They even made sure we had some time to operate W1AW. What an experience that was. Within a few minutes I had the largest pile up I have ever caused in my life. While we were there

the staff was busy helping out with Hurricane Rita that had just come ashore. These folks are surely dedicated and hard working. If you ever get a chance, drop by headquarters for a tour and a chance to operate a fantastic and historic station.

CLUBS

This morning I had the chance to visit the Green Valley ARC who was operating a special event station at the Titan Missile Museum. They were using the big Discone antenna and it was working much better than their beam. Not bad for a 40 year old antenna. Many members of the club were there. If you have not had the chance drop by and visit the museum.

Mary Ahls W4NZJ, Arizona section Club Coordinator w4nzi@arrl.net had the first ham radio get together in Tucson. It was well attended by about 40 hams, spouses and their harmonics. I think every club in town was represented. Thank you Mary!

NEW HAMS

Let's welcome these new Arizona hams to our wonderful hobby.

Eric Posey KE7ESX, Derald Mullenaux KE7ESW, Gary Jones KE7EPJ, Keith Higbee KE7ESY, Jim Jackson KE7ETH, Stephen Hardy KE7ESV, Jack Brashier KE7ETM, Jeff Borowiecki KE7ETI, Heidi Borowiecki KE7ETJ, Stephen Abel KE7ETK, Jeffrey Van Wagoner KE7ETA, Michael Wiederhold KE7ETL, Thomas Clarke KE7ESZ, David Knauer

Jr KE7ESO, Kenneth Luchini AD7GP, Lee Mothershed KE7EQD, Bryan Jarman KE7ESN,

Bill Ness KE7ETN, Howard Jones KE7ETY, Elizabeth Mc Carty KE7ETX, Jonathan Wong KE7ETB, Robert Passot KE7EOH

Special congratulations to John Brewer KE7EVA. John is 9 years old and passed his test with his dad Getulio KE7EUZ in Sierra Vista AZ. I had encouraged John to take his test several months ago and let me know when he passed. John is now studying for his general license. I am looking forward to that letter as well.

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 15-16, 2005 Jamboree on the Air. JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio. I am sure there will be more locations operating JOTA stations but the two that I know of are:

- In Tucson it will be at the Tucson Hamfest Oct 15th from 8-11am.
- In Anthem it will be hosted by Daryl Duncan, KD7SCD at Anthem's athletic field complex. Daryl is also teaching the Radio Merit Badge class for Anthem's Boy Scout Troop 432 on 9-October. Good Job Daryl.

HAMFESTS

The 2005 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention was on September 9-11 at the Riverside Convention Center in Riverside CA. It was great. Ward Silver author of Ham Radio for Dummies was the banquet speaker and he did a great job. If you have not bought his book, check it out it is quite well written.

If you did not go, you missed a great convention and many very good speakers. It was also good to see so many vendors there.

The Kingman hamfest was on September 17th. The Hualapai Amateur Radio Club did a great job. Many hams dropped by to buy and sell as well as to socialize.

The Tucson Hamfest will be on October 15th. Talk-In: 147.30 (PL 110.9) Kino Sports Park 2500 East Ajo Road Tucson AZ. For more info contact: John Clor, N7SQQ 520-400-6446. JOTA Station will be up and operating from 8-11am. ARCA meeting will be at 11am. I'll be there with all my ARRL material. See you there.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about ARRL. If your club or group has an activity or event that would be of interest to other hams throughout our section please email me with the specifics.

73, Tom Fagan WB7NXH
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