

ARIZONA SECTION NEWS

August 2006

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

It's been 2 months now since we rolled out the Arizona ARES web based registration system. A very interesting 2 months. When I asked Jim Hoff to develop this tool, I had no idea how slick it would be. We now collect information that can be used by EMCOMM planners when asked to respond to an emergency. The information we collect tells planners what your personal capabilities are, what gear you can bring, what training you have had, and more importantly, how we can contact you. At Williams earlier this month, I had a chance to meet with many folks who had questions about the site, why we ask for so much information, how are we going to use it all. Here is a real life example of how this information could be used. We have an evacuation, and you are dispatched to a point behind a road block. You pull up, the officer explains this is a restricted area; you WILL turn around and go back. He's got the badge, the gun, and at that moment, he's heard it all. You try to explain, but in the end, you can't get past. BUT, it could go like this..... You are dispatched, and in the EOC, a description of your vehicle is given to the Sheriff' officer present. He relays through dispatch to allow the gray 4x4 License Number 123XYZ to pass. You roll up on the check point, tell the officer your assignment, he checks the plate, and you are on your way. As you can see, the tool gives us options to make your response easier. The tool also allows us to develop new and stronger relationships. We can show statistics to emergency planners that may make it easier to get grants. For example, 57 people have completed IS100, 48 have completed IS-700, and 24 have completed both. This is information that when shared give us much needed credibility. These statistics came from the new (in alpha testing) search tool. Up until now, in order to find out how many people had taken IS-100, we would have had to count them manually. Jim has developed a new search tool that will allow planners the ability to search on all those check boxes. Even better, a planner can save common searches so they won't have to re-invent the wheel each time. I am hoping that we will have this tool out to the DEC's within a week or two. The next major effort is a scheduling tool, and it would allow distributed planning using the Internet to link and coordinate the efforts. Schedules could be built online by any number of planners without duplication of efforts. This is a huge step forward. I can't wait!! Arizona is leading the Nation in this effort. We ARE the cutting edge. Thanks to each and everyone of you for your commitment and support. Rick - W7STS ps.....if you see Jim Hoff, N7XXX.....shake his hand, he's put a lot of hours into this project.

AMATEUR RADIO PLATES

Ted Downing W7KEY (AZ State Representative for Tucson) made the big announcement at the State Convention at Williams, that the Arizona Ham radio license plates have been approved. John Lanza KC7IM has been working on this for 12 years. John would like to thank the following individuals for there help and assistance: Ted Downing, W7KEY, Ingo Radicke, WA7UM, Past Chairman for ADOT for his contacts in the DMV and Office of Attorney General's office and Doug Pelley, WB7TUJ, for his artistic capabilities in designing out new plate. With out these individuals it would not have come about. John says "There will be a proto type run of the license plates in September just three will be made and if everything is ok. The director of DMV will sign off on them for production. Materials will be ordered and the plates will go into mass production in the December time frame. Those who have the vanity plates it will be a direct trade off for the new plate with a cost of about \$8. Individuals that have

regular plates will have to pay the \$25 for the new plates. Those who have Handicap plates and have a 6 space call i.e. XX7XXX will have to drop a letter or use the Handicap plaque. This is because the Wheel chair die can't be moved and takes the place of one letter and with the other graphics on the plate we are limited to 6 spaces. Now for the part that everybody has been waiting. The cost of the plate for the time being will be \$25 per year because it will take a legislative action to reduce the cost. This will be taken up in the next session of the new legislators after the November elections. What the new cost will be, I have to be fair and tell you I don't know. Nobody knows this because it has not been addressed to the State legislators. It may be no cost or it may be like the College License plates, except \$8 goes to the State and \$17 goes to ARCA we just don't know at this time. But, rest a sure Mr. Ted Downing (will hopefully be the new State Senator for District 28), Ingo Radicke and myself have been and are working on it." A picture of the new license plate is up on the following web sites.

<http://www.arca.az.org/arca/> and <http://www.az-arrrl.org/>

BPL

The city of Surprise just announced a pilot project with Tempe-based MTI and APS. Once a deal is finalized, the plan will go to the City Council for consideration. If the council approves, MTI and APS will provide BPL service to Surprise's Original Townsite, the square mile bounded by Bell, Dysart, Greenway and El Mirage roads. I have been in touch with the city leaders. They know about the difficulties BPL experienced in Cottonwood AZ and other places. They have had hundreds of calls from concerned hams. We are working on this and will keep you apprised of the situation. The article can be seen at:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/surprise/articles/0719gl-nwvbpl19Z1.html>

NEW HAMS

The following hams also just received their FCC license, Congratulations!

Leroy Anderson KE7IHR, Rebecca Anderson KE7IHQ, Christina Bartholomew KE7IIZ, Michaela Boles KE7IFT, Nicholas Bolt KE7IBK, Emily Carpenter KE7IID, Antoinette Deshaies KE7IBH, Jill Devine KE7IFS, Liz Durst KE7IFQ, James Fagan KE7IDC, William Fleckner KE7IDR, Stephen Gormley KE7IDQ, George Hatch KE7IDB, Lewis Henderson KE7IFW, Charles Inmon KE7IJD, Ashlee Jorgensen KE7IJC, Heather Jorgensen KE7IJB, Brian Lansford KE7IYY, Leo Martensen KE7IFR, Ryan Mccarthy KE7IDO, Karl Mckinney KE7IBJ, Carl Ostermann KE7IJJ, Michael Pastore KE7IIS, Kenneth Rogers KE7IDP, David Seitz KE7IEP, Michele Starker KE7IFU, Richard Starker Sr KE7IFV, Andrew Wickhorst KE7IHX, Ross Williams KE7IFP, and Darren Wunderle KE7IBI.

SILENT KEYS

Sue Hansen WB7WAS Williams Arizona passed away on July 26, 2006. Sue was very active with ARCA and the Williams Hamfest.

HAMFESTS

Arizona State Convention July 7-9, 2006 Williams Arizona. The rain came early this year. We needed the rain, so no complaints. Turnout was great 75% of the spaces were sold and several tailgaters sold all their wares on Friday and left. Several vendors reported their best day ever at the hamfest which included when they were at Ft. Tuthill. AES has expressed an interest in attending next year. That would be a first for AES at an Arizona Hamfest.

The 2006 ARCA Ham of the Year was awarded (posthumously) to Lee Crisman, AB7HW for his contributions to Amateur Radio, particularly to handicapped amateur radio operators.

The 2006 ARCA Young Ham of the Year was awarded to David Clark, KD7NZK. David is an active member of the Explorer Post 599 and is currently serving his second year as president of the group.

The 2006 ARRL EMCOMM Ham of the Year was awarded to Jim Hoff for the Arizona ARES web based registration system.

HAMFESTS

Hualapai ARC Hamfest September 9, 2006 in Kingman Arizona at Mohave Community College. Talk-In: 146.160/146.76 (PL 131.8) Contact: Bill Beaman, KA0IYS (928) 758-6780

ARRL and Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) Digital Communications Conference September 15-17 (TAPR's 25th anniversary) Clarion hotel (at the airport) Tucson Arizona <http://www.tapr.org>

Southwestern Division Convention 22-24 Sep 2006 sponsored by San Diego County Amateur Radio Council (SANDARC) <http://www.sandarc-conv2006.org/> Talk-In: 146.265 PL 107.2) Contact: Paul Rios, KC6QLS kc6qls@cox.net. The convention will be at the Marriott Mission Valley Hotel in San Diego.

Tucson Hamfest October 21, 2006 sponsored by the Old Pueblo Radio Club, Tucson Repeater Association, & Radio Society of Tucson. Kino Sports Park 2500 East Ajo Road Talk-In: 147.30 (PL 110.9) Contact: John Clor, N7SQQ Email: w7gv@aol.com

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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