

August 2011 – Presidents/VP Corner:

Presidents Note:

Comments and concerns have been made about the New Amateur Operators in our area. They have spent the time taking a class, studying and finally taking a test to obtain their license. Many of these New Operators are unknown even to myself, I'm ashamed to say. During our last Club Meeting it was suggested that we have a get-together where the New Operators can not only meet many in our group but also have an opportunity to use a radio, make a contact through the repeater and also simplex. Many of our New Operators don't own a radio, HT or Mobile, and may have questions as to which kind of equipment they should get first.

As Amateurs we have a responsibility to help New Operators and give them the chance to ask questions and actually handle a radio. Many New Operators don't know where to start. We should all think back to when we first got our own license. Many of us, me included, listened for a long time before we ever dared to press the PTT button and talk for the first time.

During the Club Meeting we talked about getting together with New Operators and have a play day, most likely on some Saturday. This is in the planning stages so if you know any New Operators let them know we are thinking about them.

73's
Bob Haynie KC7JOK

What's Happening?

Thursday July 28th was our Club Meeting. It was held in the Bear River Civic Center thanks to the Jerry and Shirley Iverson. Several items of Club business was discussed and comments made by several Members present. Items discussed had to do with the Club, members and proposed/desired activities over the next several months.



One other item that was talked about was the Red Cross training several of our Club Members received last year. An investigation is under way to find out who did not receive a card or certificate as documentation showing completion of the course taken.

Brigham City Repeater Update:

Jeff Stork, KD7BCJ, was presented and announced as the new 145.290 Repeater Trustee. Jeff is very familiar with communications and repeater systems. Jeff used to work for the State of Utah setting up and maintaining repeater systems all over Northern Utah. Jeff will be meeting with Boyd, N7WFM, within the next few weeks and getting the information, books and instructions on the current repeater and it's configuration. Be listening in the near future for the new repeater call sign. The new repeater call and trustee will be sent to the State Frequency Coordinator so he can update the VHF Society Web page information.

We are also in process of looking for and obtaining funds to get a new repeater radio for the '29.

“THANKS AGAIN BOYD FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR OUR CLUB “

Fielding-Riverside Repeater Update:

The Repeater is DOWN!

Bob Anderson, AA7TR, and Paul Hales, W7PAH, removed the 2-Meter Repeater Radio and took it to Lynn Walker, N7TOP, in Ogden for repair or replacement. The original radio the Club bought several years ago could not be repaired and Lynn has allowed us to use some of the extra communications equipment he has.

Because of layoffs and changes at ATK we are no longer able to mail, Snail Mail, the newsletter. Due to the cost of printing and postage it has been determined and will be necessary to publish the newsletter on the Club web site only. We hope that this will not be a problem for our members.

Also the [ATK Recreational Council has notified our Club and others that they, ATK, will no longer be funding Clubs.](#) We are now looking at other options including applying for and becoming a non-profit organization through the State and IRS.

GSARC Activities:

August 2011

County Fair Parade Communication Assistance

Date: [24-Aug-2011](#), Wednesday

Start Time: 5:00 PM

Contact: Paul Hales, W7PAH, to Volunteer

Club Meeting – [25-Aug-2011](#)

Location: Bunderson Center, Brigham City

Topic: Weather Spotter

Time: 6:00-to-8:00 PM

September 2011

Club Meeting – TBA

Location: TBA

Peach Days Parade Communications Assistance

Date: [10-Sept-2011](#)

Start Time: 10:00 AM

Emergency Preparedness Fair, Brigham City

Location: Brigham City

Date: [24-Sept-2011](#)

October 2011

Club Meeting – TBA

Location: TBA

Time: TBA

BSA JOTA Communication Assistance

Location: TBA

Date: TBA

Time: TBA

November 2011

Club Meeting – TBA

December 2011

No Club Meeting – “Happy Holidays”

If you have an article, comment, picture or information you would like to post in this newsletter please send it to:

Bob Haynie KC7JOK

119 South 600 West

Brigham City, Utah 84302

- or -

bhaynie72@hotmail.com

Club info

Golden Spike ARC

Club Info Net

Wednesday night: 2000 hrs. (8:00 PM)
Carried over the 145.430, 145.290, 147.220 and
448.300 MHz repeaters

Net Coordinator: Wayne Jenson, AB7TS
Net Assistant Sandra Farnsworth, KE7EHJ

Box Elder County Emergency Training Net

Sunday night: 1930 hrs. (7:30 PM)
Carried over the 145.430, 145.290, 147.220 and
448.300 MHz repeaters

Net Coordinator: Boyd Giles, KC0VLO
Net Assistant: Deloss Everton, W7TEU

Linked Repeater:

145.430 - (pl .123) MHz (Blue Springs Hills)
448.300 - (pl .123) MHz (Blue Springs Hills)
145.290 - (pl .123) MHz (Brigham City)
147.220 - (pl .123) MHz (Fielding-Riverside)

Officers:

President: Bob Haynie, KC7JOK
Vice President: Doug Harford, K7DKH
Treasurer: Byron Okada, KE7IRH
Secretary: Peggy Harford, K7PGE

Newsletter Editor: Bob Haynie, KC7JOK

Repeater Trustees:

'43 Rob Daines, KK7DO
'29 Jeff Stork, KD7BCJ
Boyd Young, N7WFM (going to be replaced)
'22 Wayne Jenson, AB7TS

Club Web Site:

<http://www.ubetarc.org/> (as of: 06-Nov-06)
Web Maintained by: Dave Cook, KD7OUP
The Web site will be updated as Dave gets time though the Site Name
(URL) may remain the same for quite some time.

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Box Elder County ARES *Amateur Radio Emergency Service*

August 2011:

Over the past several weeks I have been working on my personal emergency kit for my truck. I have had several items in my truck but I haven't had them organized. The fact is, I really didn't know what I had in my truck. I have been collecting items and haven't kept track of what I had placed in my storage area. I pulled all the items out of my truck and not only organized but documented what I have. Personally I have found that if I make a list of what I have I can better manage my kits, both personal and communications. I was really surprised just how "many duplications" I had in my truck. How did I come about duplications? When Marsha, KF7JAL, and I go shopping I always have it in the back of my mind to look for items I could use in an emergency kit of in my communications kits. I try to look for used items at the D.I. but also look for deals and clearance items to save money. I guess that is why I now suggest that each of you check your kits, organize and see what you need and don't need. Duplication of items just adds weight to your kits unless the items are like AA Batteries in which case you may need several extras. I would rather have a few extra items I could share with others. We all need to look at our kits and try and figure out what we want to be able to do. If everything was cut and dry and we could anticipate all scenarios possible things would be much easier for us as Emergency Communicators. This is why it is so important for us to practice and participate in activities where we can use and test our equipment. It's when you use your radio and kit that you find out what you need and what you don't have and may need. Let's all be the solution to the possible problems.

Modes, Methods and Applications:

Objective:

This lesson will help you choose the correct operating mode for each situation in an emcomm environment. You should be generally familiar with phone (voice), CW, packet, and other digital modes.

Information:

Your purpose as emergency communicators is to provide accurate and rapid transfer of information from one place to another. To do that job well, you must understand the strengths and weaknesses of each mode of communication. In addition, you must be thoroughly familiar with the needs and priorities of the agencies you are serving. Some messages must be delivered quickly, and others are less urgent. Some are detailed, and some are simple. Sometimes you should not even use radio.

Some Concepts to Consider – Communication modes fall into several categories:

- Point to point -- Telephone, fax, some digital radio modes
- Multi-point -- Voice and CW radio, some digital modes
- High precision -- Fax, e-mail, digital modes
- Low precision -- Voice, CW, telephone
- High priority -- Voice, telephone
- Low priority -- Fax, e-mail, digital modes, CW

Messages fall into similar categories:

- Point to point -- Messages intended for one party
- Point to multi-point -- Messages intended for a group
- Multi-point to point -- Messages from members of a group directed to one station
- High precision -- Lists of items, medical or technical terminology, specialized or detailed information
- Low precision -- Traffic reports, damage estimates, simple situation reports
- High priority -- Fast delivery is critical
- Low priority -- Messages can be delivered in a more relaxed time frame

Each type of message should be sent using the most appropriate mode, taking into consideration the message's contents, and its destination(s).

An example might serve to illustrate these concepts. A localized flash flood hit a north Florida county a few years ago, prompting the evacuation of a low-lying neighborhood. The Red Cross opened a shelter in a church several miles away from the affected area. ARES was mobilized to provide communication support. In spite of the weather, the shelter still had electricity and phone service. When the county Emergency Coordinator (EC) stopped by the site, the ARES operator on duty was using his battery-operated 2-meter hand-held radio and the wide-area repeater to talk to Red Cross HQ across town. The ham was reading a three-page list of names and addresses of evacuees who had checked into the shelter. To ensure proper transcription, he was spelling each name *phonetically*, pausing after each name to see if the headquarters station needed fills. Needless to say, this was a time-consuming process. The operator had been reading for almost 15 minutes and was still on the second page of the list. Less than 10 feet away from his operating position sat a fax machine. The EC turned on the machine, dialed the Red Cross fax number, and fed in the remaining page of the list. The ham on duty had used over 15 minutes of air time and precious battery capacity to read two pages. The third page was faxed in less than 20 seconds.

Neither the operator at the shelter nor the one at headquarters had considered using the telephone or fax machine, even though these communication options were available and functioning. In all fairness to the hams in this situation, their training and practice had led them to concentrate on 2-meter voice to the exclusion of other modes of communication. So, instead of an efficient, point-to-point communication channel (telephone line), they had used a busy multi-point channel (the wide-area repeater). Instead of using a mode that generated automatic hard copy, they used one that required handwritten transcription. Instead of a high-precision transfer (fax), they had used a low-precision one (voice) requiring spelling and *phonetics*. The situation was especially poignant because the repeater had been needed at the time for a different type of communication -- the transfer of mobile operator's reports, which could not be done over the telephone. Further, it was later discovered that the "broadcast" of evacuee's names and addresses over non-secure communication channels was a violation of Red Cross policy.

Of course, telephones and fax machines will not be available in every emergency. Sometimes only one mode will be available, especially when the emergency is totally unanticipated, utility service is interrupted over a wide area and the communicators are caught unprepared. But, with proper planning you can increase the likelihood that more than one option will be available. After all, we go to great lengths to make sure that 2 meter radios are readily available, so why not other communication options as well?

Tactical Messages:

Tactical messages are usually low-precision and time-critical, and can be passed most efficiently using voice. Depending on the nature of the message, it may take the form of formal written traffic, or at the other extreme, it may mean that the microphone is handed to a person from the served agency. This is frequently the quickest way to get the job done.

Lists and Detailed Messages:

Some messages contain long lists of supplies, or details where accuracy is important. Voice transmission can introduce errors, and long messages can waste valuable net resources. The various digital modes (including

land-line fax and email) offer the best means of handling these messages, since they are both fast and accurate. Digital messages also have the benefit of repeatable accuracy. When a message is passed through several stations, it remains unchanged since no operator intervention occurs.

Sensitive Information:

Some messages contain information that should be kept private. Reporters and the general public commonly use scanning receivers to monitor public safety and Amateur Radio communications. Names and addresses of evacuees should never be transmitted over voice channels, since thieves with scanners can use this information to loot unattended homes. Learn in advance your served agency's privacy policy regarding certain types of information.

Some groups have switched to digital modes, such as packet, in an attempt to offer more privacy. Although digital transmissions require more than a simple scanner to intercept, they cannot be relied upon for absolute privacy. The equipment needed to receive most digital modes is available, and is even built into some newer receivers. Anyone wishing to monitor digital transmissions can certainly do so. Discuss this issue with your served agency before using any Amateur Radio mode to handle sensitive messages.

Remember - any means of assuring meaningful message security on Amateur Radio would be in violation of the Part 97 prohibition against the use of codes and ciphers. If absolute privacy is required, the message should not be transmitted by Amateur Radio. In some cases, the most appropriate method might be hand delivery by a radio-dispatched courier.

73's
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