

October 2011 – Presidents/VP Corner:

Presidents Note:

The end of the Club year is just around the corner. What does this mean to everyone? Well it will soon be time for each of us to renew our Club Membership. The Club Party Chair and Committee will make decisions as to where the party will be held. A nice Grand Prize will be selected along with several door prizes. A new Club Presidency will be selected, voted on and approved. I hope each of you will continue to support the Club and the activities we have and will have in the future.

73's
Bob Haynie KC7JOK

What's Been Happening?

Friday September 9th the Red Cross had a drill and setup Emergency Shelters at several locations. One location was at the Adele C Young Intermediate School in Brigham City. Several of our Club/ARES Members were there to help with communications. The Red Cross praised us for our success and great efforts in being able to provide reliable radio communication with the other two shelters we were asked to contact.



Saturday September 10th was Peach Days in Brigham City. Our Club provided communications

for the parade lineup. New for this year we were also asked to check off the parade entries as they arrived and got in position. This went very smoothly and we got many comments on how well we did.



Club Meeting was Thursday September 22nd in Tremonton at the North Park Elementary School and we had a very meager turnout. We did have a good conversation and many comments made by those that were there.

Agenda items discussed: November Club breakfast location and time; New '22 Repeater Trustee and Assistant; '22 Repeater possible solar power backup; Winter/Cold Weather Meeting possibilities; Club Party & Dinner location for February 2012 and Grand Prize possibilities.



The Great Utah Shake Out

At 10:15 a.m. Tuesday April 17th 2012, thousands of Utah volunteers will “Drop, Cover and Hold On” in the Great Utah Shake Out, the largest earthquake drill in Utah history!

To volunteer and be part of the drill go to the following web site and sign up:

<http://shakeout.org/utah/>

You can also view lists of those who have volunteered and are going to participate in the drill.

ATK (Blue Springs Hills) Repeater Update:

An assistant for the 145.430 & 448.300 Repeater Trustee is being sot. The current Trustee, Rob Daines KK7DO, has suggested it would be best to have the assistant also be an employee of ATK. This would solve the problem of having to go through Security for authorization every time a visit to the repeater site was necessary. If there is any Club Member that works at ATK and would like to help take care of the repeaters at Blue Springs Hills please contact the Club President and make your desires known.

Brigham City Repeater Update:

Working with Jim Buchanan, the Brigham City Emergency Manager, the Club hopes to acquire a new repeater radio to replace the current GE Master II which has been the at the site for many many years. The current repeater radio has been having problems for quite some time as we all know. We are hopeful that with the new radio the interference problem we have been having with the 800MHz radio’s will go away.

Fielding-Riverside Repeater Update:

The Repeater is UP & RUNNING!

Bob Anderson, AA7TR, was presented to the Club Membership at the September meeting as the new ’22 Trustee. Paul Hales, W7PAH, has volunteered and will be his assistant and backup.

Wayne Jenson, AB7TS, has been one of our main Control Operators for the Wednesday Night Net for about 15 years or more. If he should move we will loose his expert Net Call. Now is your chance to

start thinking about stepping in and taking part. Volunteer to read the script and call the roll one evening. Each of us should be able to take care of the weekly Net Call script and roll. Think about it.

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:

October 2011

Club Meeting – 27-Oct-2011

Location: Bunderson Center, Brigham City

Time: 1900 to 2100 (7:00 to 9:00 PM)

BSA JOTA Communication Assistance

Location: TBD

Date: October 15th & 16th

November 2011

Club Meeting – Breakfast

Location: Jeremiah’s Restaurant
(behind Best Western)

Address: 1307 West 12th Street, Ogden, Utah

Time: 0900 Hours (9:00 AM)

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 Information:

Golden Spike Amateur Radio 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 Site: Rob Daines, KK7DO
'29 Site: Jeff Stork, KD7BCJ
Boyd Young, N7WFM (assistant)
'22 Site: Bob Anderson, AA7TR
Paul Hales, W7PAH (assistant)

Club Web Site:

<http://www.ubetarc.org/> (as of: 06-Nov-2006)

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*

October 2011:

Friday September 9th the Red Cross had a Shelter Exercise. Several of our Box Elder ARES Group assisted with communications. Prior to the exercise we asked the Red Cross which radio frequencies we would be using to communicate with each shelter. We received no information prior to the exercise. This left it up to us to figure out how to contact the other shelters. It was painfully evident during this exercise that we have more training needed. When I say “WE” I mean all of the Amateur Radio Operators along the Wasatch Front. I am quite sure if something happened in our area our Box Elder ARES Group would have no problem with communications or which frequencies to use.

Several years ago we were asked by the Utah ARES/RACES Leadership to put together a set of written instructions to state what our, Box Elder County ARES Group, would do in the event of an emergency or disaster. This was completed and sent in for review by the State. Since the Red Cross Exercise I have sent in a request to the State ARES/RACES Leadership that asks the emergency frequencies be documented so that in the event of an actual emergency or disaster we don't have to hunt the airways as we did during this exercise for a signal from another shelter.

The 2011 ARES/RACES Conference will be held Saturday November 5th at the Davis Conference Center in Layton. If you have joined the State RACES Group as a volunteer I suggest that you attend the conference if you can. It is well worth the time if you can attend. You can register for the conference at the following web site: <http://www.utah.train.org/desktopshell.aspx> Course Number: 1011069

If you haven't registered with Utrain you will have to create an account before you can register for the course.

Alternate Communication Systems and Methods

Objective:

The emcomm volunteer should know the pros and cons of using alternate communication systems. This unit discusses a variety of communication options that do not depend on Amateur Radio, and some circumstances where they might be used.

Information:

There are times when a means of communication other than Amateur Radio might be appropriate. It is important to remember that your job is to communicate -- regardless of the medium. Here are some possible situations:

- Communication with non-ham volunteers or emergency management personnel.
- Transmission of sensitive or lengthy information.
- Communication with the public.
- Amateur Radio equipment has failed or is not available.
- Interference is blocking use of Amateur Radio frequencies.

Legal Considerations

Licenses:

Some radio services require licenses, and others do not. However, in a true emergency as defined by the FCC, this may not be a problem. FCC rules gives anyone special permission to use "any means necessary" to communicate in order to protect life and property -- *but only when no other normal means of communication is possible*. Please do not assume that this means you can just modify your radio and call for help on the local police frequency the next time you see a car crash on the highway. Law enforcement agencies are not bound by the FCC's rules. Hams who have called for "help" on police frequencies have been convicted of "interfering with a police agency" under state and local laws, even though the FCC had taken no enforcement action. In one case, the judge ruled that by modifying his radio in advance, the Amateur had committed "pre-meditated" interference, a serious charge. If you are in a position to save someone's life or property, be sure you are ready to defend your actions - and possibly lose - before pressing the mic button.

Other services, such as GMRS, require a license that is relatively easy to obtain. If your group is planning to use licensed radios, obtain your license well before any emergency and keep it current. If you own a radio, but no license, a judge could claim pre-meditation if you use it and disturb licensed users.

Using Modified Ham Radios:

While it is easy to modify many VHF and UHF Amateur radios for operation in nearby public service and business bands, it is not legal to do so. Radios used in those bands must be "Type Accepted" by the FCC for the purpose, and Amateur radios are not. If you plan to use other radio frequencies discussed in this unit, it is better to purchase the proper radio. However, if the need arises and your ham radio is all you have, the FCC will probably not prosecute you for using it - if the use falls within their strict rules for emergencies.

The Other Radio Services:

In most of the radio services listed below only voice communication is permitted. Packet and other forms of data or image transmission are illegal.

General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS):

Once known as "Class A CB," GMRS is a high power (50 watt), personal-use UHF FM radio service in which users can also license repeater stations. Each station license covers only the licensee and their immediate family, but stations of different licensees are permitted to talk to one another. 462.675 MHz is designated by the FCC as an emergency and traveler's information channel, and is monitored by REACT in many cities. Seven GMRS channels are shared with the Family Radio Service, but communication between GMRS licensees and FRS users is not permitted except in an emergency. Previously, businesses could license GMRS systems to communicate with employees. This use of GMRS is grandfathered for pre-existing licensees only.

Family Radio Service (FRS):

The Family Radio Service uses inexpensive, half-watt, UHF FM radios on 14 channels. Range can be up to two miles, but mountaintop transmissions have been heard at much greater distances. These radios are becoming quite popular with the public, and could be a good means of communication with stranded or isolated persons a short distance away. REACT recommends the use of FRS channel 1 for emergency and calling use, but the FCC has declined to make this official. Voice-scrambling is permitted on FRS, and is available in a few models. This might make it useful for short-range transmission of sensitive information.

Citizen's Band (CB):

27 MHz AM CB radio is familiar to almost everyone. SSB operation is also allowed, but is less common due to the higher cost of equipment. Many of the general public still have CB radios in their vehicles, especially truckers. Since disaster relief supplies often arrive by truck, being able to communicate with and direct an incoming truck on channel 19 could be quite useful. In addition, the longer range (3-5 miles) of CB makes it useful for receiving calls for assistance on emergency channel 9 from more distant stranded or isolated persons.

Multiple Use Radio Service (MURS):

This is a relatively new radio service, intended primarily for business users, but it can be used for any legal purpose under current rules. There are five MURS channels in the VHF business band. No license is required, and transmitters are limited to two watts output. This service is perfect for establishing short-range communication with non-licensed personnel at an incident scene, command post, or within an EOC.

Public Safety Radio:

Despite the stern warning at the beginning of this lesson, there are instances where the use of police and fire radio frequencies is possible. The agency itself might allow and train you for such use, or an individual officer may ask you to use his radio to call for help when he cannot. Keep your transmissions short and to the point. Do not tie up the channel with long explanations, and cease transmitting if they tell you to.

Cellular and PCS Phones:

In a widespread disaster situation, these phone systems can quickly become overloaded. In smaller emergencies, they may still be usable. If a message is too sensitive to send via any two-way radio, try your cell phone. Cellular and PCS phone transmissions, especially digital, are considerably more secure. In addition, it is possible to send data or fax transmissions over the cellular network at slow speeds.

Non-Radio Communication

Landlines:

Do not forget the most obvious means of communication. If they are still functioning, use the telephone and fax whenever the message might be too sensitive for radio. Fax is also useful for sending long lists, and where accuracy is critical. Do not tie up a radio frequency sending a long list of supplies if a fax is available.

Couriers:

Since before the time of early Greek civilization, runners have carried messages from place to place. When we are asked to deliver a message with contents that are sensitive or very lengthy, and fax and phone lines are out of service, hand delivery might be the best choice. Acting as a courier does not eliminate the use of radio, since couriers need to be dispatched from place to place. Courier service is actually an excellent marriage of old and new technologies.

Reference links:

For more information on any of the elements presented, please consult the following links:

- FCC Part 97 - Subpart E – “Providing Emergency Communications”
- Multiple Use Radio Service (MURS) rules <http://www.provide.net/~prsg/murshome.htm>
- Family Radio Service rules <http://www.provide.net/~prsg/frs-home.htm>
- General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) rules <http://www.provide.net/~prsg/part95ae.htm>
- Citizen's Band (CB) rules www.reactintl.org/rules-cb.htm

For a detailed discussion of the FCC Rules on Amateur Radio emergency communication, please see the ARRL *FCC Rule Book*, Chapter 5.

Review:

Amateur Radio may not always be the best or only means of communicating. It is important to remember that our job is to get the message through, regardless of the means. Plan to have other systems licensed and in place beforehand when possible, but improvise when necessary.

73's
Bob Haynie KC7JOK
Box Elder County ARES EC
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