



Dixie Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

"Amateur Radio...When All Else Fails!"

Dixie Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

March/April 2007 Edition

April Club Meeting

6:00 P.M. Saturday, April 21, 2007

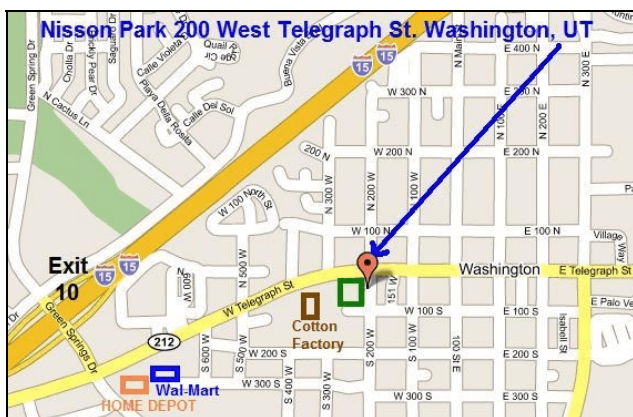
The April meeting of the Dixie Amateur Radio Club will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 21, 2007 under the pavilion at Washington City's Nissan Park. The park is located at approximately 50 South 200 West in Washington City. The park is along Telegraph Street.

This will be a BBQ and Clubfest. Bring your equipment to barter or trade. Come meet the other operators in the area.

Members of the amateur radio clubs from Cedar City, Mesquite and Kanab have been invited. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and members can bring surplus, used or unused ham equipment to trade.

A short meeting of the Washington County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (WCARES) will be held following the barbecue.

Below is a map to the park:



You may also use this interactive Google Map to chart a course from your present location:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=50+S+200+W,+Washington,+UT+84780&ll=37.131821,-113.516321&spn=0.013944,0.026337&t=h&hl=en>

Volunteer Exam Session

6:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 18, 2007



There will be an ARRL Volunteer Exam Session held at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday April 18, 2007 at the St. George Community Building which is located on the west side of the south parking lot of the Aldred (St. George)

Senior Citizens Center at 245 North 200 West, St. George.

If you are a person desiring to take your first Amateur Radio test or a currently licensed ham wanting to upgrade this month, please plan on attending.

If you are a Volunteer Examiner who would like to help out at a session, please contact please contact V.E. Coordinator Ron Sappington, W17Z, via e-mail: sappin_r@infowest.com or telephone (435) 673-4552; or Board Member Dan Farwell, W8EQA, via e-mail: w8eqa@infowest.com or telephone at (435) 668-1609.

President's Message



Club President Hal Whiting,
KI2U

The rescinding of the Morse Code requirement for Amateur Radio licensing has passed and the airwaves appear to be intact. I have heard radio operators over the air discussing the concern that the Amateur bands will become another

Citizens Band. I think it would be a terrible thing to see the bands become an unregulated mishmash of transmissions. I actually find it interesting that the fears of what will happen without code seem to be already happening. There was an article written in the World Radio publication that asked the question and identified the Top Ten Reasons for Not Following FCC Regulations in ham radio. I found it amusing that one of the answers was "that the FCC is just slow in getting around to doing my way"...implying that my way was the right way.

I do believe that the way of keeping the ham bands intact is to self police...self policing ourselves. Do we know the policies and good operating practice...or do we do it the way we hear the ole-timers doing it? I like the concept that once you become an ole-timer you don't have to identify your station except for about once an hour because really everyone knows who you are. Then there is the ole-timer philosophy that the repeaters are for personal use and the rest of you better not try to break-in. OK, enough tormenting the old-timers (as I am becoming one...or at least the "old" part).

The ARRL has a very interesting book:

The ARRL Operating Manual -- Everything for the active ham!

The name pretty much says it all. It is a wealth of information. It has the rules and regulations, operating procedures, emergency communications, traffic handling and a lot of other great stuff. I suggest that the more we know, the better we can be, and the more others will want to be like us. The best way to police ourselves is by

setting an example. If we operate our station in a polite and accurate manner, it will be noticed, by other operators, the FCC, and who knows, maybe you will get a notice from an Official Observer Station identifying your good practices. So, what are the Top Ten Reasons for Not Operating in a Professional Manner?

10. I didn't know that amateurs needed to act professional.

9. How do you spell professional?

8. The manual that came with my radio doesn't say anything about it.

7. I want people to think I am an ole-timer and not a newbie.

6.....and the list goes on- maybe you can add to it.

I invite you to come out to our April 21st Club Meeting/BBQ/Clubfest. Bring some equipment to trade. All of the local clubs are invited to join with us. It will be at 6:00pm at Nissan Park in Washington City. The park is located just east of the Walmart along Telegraph Road....there is a large wooden waterwheel on the corner of the park. Come have some burgers and get to know one another.

73,

Hal Whiting, KI2U
Dixie Amateur Radio Club President, 2007

Join the Club or Renew your Membership!

Club membership dues for 2007 are now being solicited. Dues are \$15.00 per member (\$20.00 per family for multiple ham families). As a matter of fact, you do not have to be a licensed Amateur Operator to join the club. You just need to have an interest in Amateur Radio.

Check the Club's membership roster to see that you are shown as current. We will even accept

your tardy dues for 2006 if you feel the slightest sense of guilt. If you know you were negligent in 2006, you are on the honor system.

To pay your membership dues, please make a check or money order payable to "DARC" and bring it to the meeting or mail it to the club address:

**Dixie Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 422
Santa Clara, UT 84765**

The membership roster is found at:
<http://www.dixieham.org/memnews.html>

Join the ARRL! What is the ARRL?



Founded in 1914, the 150,000-member ARRL - *The National Association for Amateur Radio* - is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA. Other countries also have their own national associations.

The ARRL not only reflects the commitment and many enthusiasms of American hams, but also provides leadership as the voice of Amateur Radio in the USA, whether in dealings with the Federal Communications Commission, the World Administrative Radio Conference, the International Amateur Radio Union, or with the general public.

The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in the ham radio world. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special operating events, all sorts of continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

Being a member of the ARRL is important for hams! Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to join the American Radio Relay League. Please see this link to join the ARRL:

<http://www.arrl.org/join.html>

February Club Meeting

(Note: A report on the March 21st Club meeting will be made in the May Newsletter).

During the February meeting Ken Head, KD7FGP, gave an interactive training presentation on message handling.



Following Ken's presentation the members in attendance were treated to a Radio Direction Finding presentation by Steve Kimber, W7VEW.



Wyoming State Hamfest

The Wyoming State Hamfest will be held on May 25-27, 2007 at the Best Western 800 N Poplar Casper, WY. They have provided our club with a copy of the registration packet which is available in PDF format by clicking [HERE](#)

According to the sponsors this will be an awesome Hamfest. Pre-register now to be in the drawing for the ICOM 2200H 2 Meter rig.



Location of Casper Wyoming

Field Day 2007 Planning

At our last DARC Board meeting the Club Board discussed the upcoming Field Day event (June 23-24) and came up with a list of members that we'd like to petition to help in the preparation for this event. Many of you can expect to be called upon to help. The Club has many outstanding members and when good help is needed on any given project or event you always step up.

We would like to plan an old fashioned Field Day complete with club BBQ, fund raiser and 2A (2 transmitter) station operation.

The first step is to see what we can summon for resources to help in this endeavor. If you would

like to be involved please contact me by e-mail and we can arrange some preliminary planning to get started. I can then lay out what categories need some leadership and how you can all help to make the 2007 DARC Field Day the best ever!

Vy 73
Dan Farwell, W8EQA
w8eqa@infowest.com

Annual WIMU Ham Radio Convention



The annual WIMU (Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Utah) ham radio convention will be held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming Aug 3-5, 2007. Please see attached flyer.

The Registration Form is available at the link provided. You may print and distribute copies of this registration form to whoever you think might like to attend.

Here is the link to the PDF formatted form:
<http://www.dixieham.org/forms/WIMU.pdf>

The Utah Hamfest Committee is sponsoring this year's convention. We are working hard to make this year's WIMU a great event.

This is an enormous task and we need everyone's help in getting the word out. The UHC hopes you can make plans to attend WIMU 2007.

What is Amateur Radio?

by Ron Hashiro, AH6RH

Have you ever thought about what is amateur radio and why is it so valuable? Ever tried to explain in 30 seconds to casual observers (like at Field Day) what is so unique?

Amateur radio is a self-learned hobby. And, it's a self-learning hobby. Welcome to Amateur Radio University.

It's a playground for the scientifically minded. Electronics, physics, chemistry, meteorology, propagation, quantum mechanics, orbital mechanics, fields and waves, computer hardware and software, lunar geography, solar forecasting just to name a few.

It's a playground for applied mathematics from ranging from arithmetic, geometry, algebra, trigonometry, calculus and up.

There's practical construction skills like soldering, wire work, metalshop work, wood, concrete, silk-screen artwork and landscaping.

You become very familiar with commercial communications, like HF/VHF/UHF radio, telephony, satellite transmissions, microwave, TV, LAN/WAN technologies, radio scanners.

There's a multi-national dimension to amateur radio. Foreign language, geography, world history and current events. Postal systems and world-wide stamps.

It's project design, project planning, project management, troubleshooting and maintenance skills.

It makes us more valuable as a self-learned student.

And sometimes we even get on the air. Whether it's DC to daylight, morse code to TV, ragchewing to developing a equipment for spread spectrum multi-channel forward error correcting simultaneous voice/data transmissions. You can apply that knowledge and skill right in your community and neighborhood by volunteering as an emergency communications specialist and communicator with civil defense, the American Red Cross, hospitals and many other organizations. Whether it's a parade, marathon or a full-blown hurricane, the combination of skills and equipment is invaluable.

Each day brings the chance of meeting new friends, whether it's next door, commuting to and from work, or talking with them thousands of miles away.

It's a lifetime sand-box of fun, learning, practicing, experimenting...and through mutual sharing and education, a chance to build a future generation of knowledge and skill. Knowledge, skills and understanding that is needed by an evolving technology-based society and a definite career-boosting talent.

So amateur radio is more than just a hobby. It's a lifetime of learning, earning and sharing the fun along the way. Welcome to Amateur Radio University.

Permission to reprint this article was given by the author and the EARC (Emergency Amateur Radio Club) Wireless Dispatch.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service



Each year hundreds of thousands of Americans volunteer their time and energies for the improvement and safety of their communities.

Mechanics turn into firemen when the alarm sounds.

Hairdressers become EMT's . Engineers turn into auxiliary policemen. America has a long and proud history of these "Minutemen" who answer the call to service in times of emergency. For emergency and public service communications that is capable of operating when "All Else Fails" are the Amateur Radio operators, also known as "Hams" or "HAM Radio operators".

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a national, voluntary organization of FCC licensed Radio Amateurs - special radio operators who provide communications in an emergency and are organized through the American Radio Relay League.

This group has provided emergency communications services for everything from shipwrecks to the disaster of 9/11/2001. It is a

specialized field requiring training and federal licensing. Your family probably has already benefited from them!

ARES' Skywarn program provides critical ground observations to the National Weather Service in storms.

The National Traffic Service has provided long distance emergency communication and free radiograms for families for decades.

ARES provides emergency communications in a disaster. Because each radio station operator is independent but still can talk to each other, it works...

- even when the phones are down
- The Internet is disrupted
- cell phone systems are overloaded

Any licensed Amateur Radio Operator may join ARES. Please come to a Dixie Amateur Radio Club meeting for more information on ARES.

About the Dixie Amateur Radio Club



The Dixie Amateur Radio Club (DARC) is a non-profit [IRS 501(c)(3)] association of Amateur Radio operators, also known as "ham radio" operators, in southwestern Utah. DARC is affiliated with

the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the National Association for Amateur Radio.

Amateur Radio operators are federally licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide a radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Members of the Dixie Amateur Radio Club provide voluntary public service radio communications throughout the area for activities such as the annual St. George Marathon and the Huntsman World Senior Games. Amateur Radio operators also maintain a readiness to provide emergency communications locally, regionally and world-wide in the event of a natural disaster or other calamity.



Why?

Because...

...we're ALL

Radio **Active**!