



Dixie Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

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

Dixie Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

July 2007 Edition

July Club Meeting

7:00 P.M. Wednesday, July 18th



The July meeting of the Dixie Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, July 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. This is a very important meeting to attend. See the President's letter for info on the !

The meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. Besides Club members, anyone with an interest in learning more about Amateur Radio is invited to attend.

This month's Club meeting agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome and visitors
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Report on Budget & Membership Statistics- Lee Case, KE7DZJ
4. Report on club equipment- Dan Farwell, W8EQA
5. St. George City Council Meeting- Mayoral Proclamation Report- Hal Whiting, KI2U
6. Repeater status- Hal Whiting
7. ARES Report- Hal Whiting
8. Recent Activities Report- Dan Farwell
9. Field Day Report- Gary Zabriskie, N7ARE
10. **Constitution & Bylaws Vote by General Membership**- Presented by Club Leadership
11. DX Training/Presentation- Gary Z N7ARE
12. Refreshments.

Below is a map to the Community Building. You may also use an interactive Google Map available on the Club's Web Site to locate the meeting place: <http://www.dixieham.org/meetings.html>



Volunteer Exam Session

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



There will be an ARRL Volunteer Exam Session held at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at the same location as the Club Meeting described earlier.

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, WI7Z, 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.

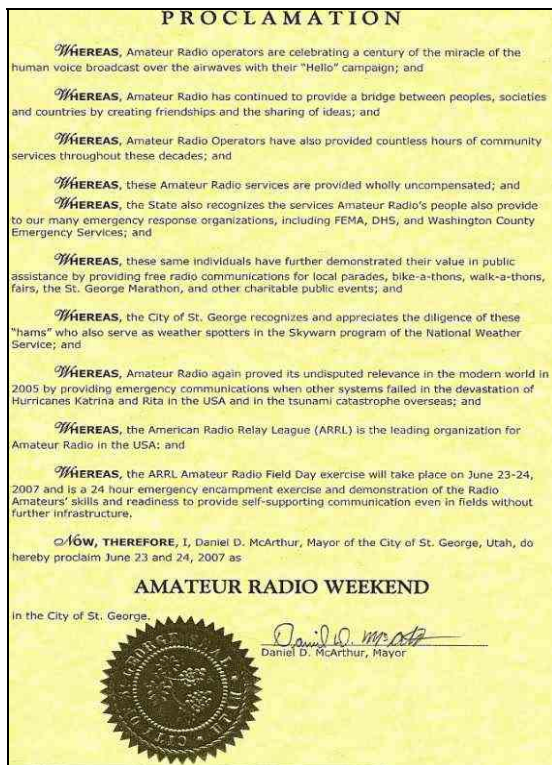
President's Message



Club President Hal Whiting,
KI2U

Thanks to all those operators, spouses, friends, children and neighbors who came out and participated in Field Day 2007. From what I heard, some were "bitten by the bug". Special thanks to Scott Nowling for his accomplishments with media and public relations.

Thanks to all the good cooks who took an enjoyable time and made it into a great time!! (If you didn't get to taste the dutch oven meals, you missed out on a tasty treat. The barbeque meals were excellent!) There were many persons who contributed a lot from the setup to the operation to the take-down. Field Day 2007 was a success!



Special thanks is also given to St. George Mayor Dan McArthur for his proclaiming Field Day weekend as Amateur Radio Weekend in St. George. Click on this link to view the full-sized Proclamation:

<http://www.dixieham.org/images/Proclamation.html>

Also thanks to those members who came out to the St. George City Council Meeting to be present at the proclamation signing and presentation.

Our club is increasing in membership and it is going to take everyone involved to support the future events. As we have more public exposure we will have even more opportunities to be invited to participate in events. Are you ready?

Washington County ARES was contacted on Saturday evening regarding the number of ARES operators who would be available to support in disaster operations with the fires if needed. Requests were made over the ARES net for volunteers. Thanks to those who were ready and willing to go. We have four operators who will be able to assist if needed. Our disasters can be closer to home than we normally think. Are you ready?

One of the primary purposes of what we do is message traffic handling. If you feel hesitant about taking, sending or relaying a message...just do it. Everyone has their first time and most operators who are doing message traffic are patient and understanding. We have been told by county leadership that our greatest need is the ability to pass message traffic. Are you ready?

In the July 2007 Dixie Amateur Radio Club Meeting, Club Members will be voting on a revised Club Constitution and By-Laws. Changes are needed as a number of years have passed and changes in the club exist. It is true that one of the changes proposed will be the increase of the membership dues from \$15 a year to \$20 a year (That is an increase from \$1.25 per month to \$1.67 per month). The primary reason for this increase is the need to provide the club with liability insurance. This affects some of our repeater sites and can affect our ability to have meeting locations and events. This liability insurance is recommended by the ARRL and we are able to get a group rate through them. Please come to the meeting to provide your vote. You can read the existing and proposed documents on the website under "Bylaws" and "Constitution".

Again, thanks to all of those who make Field Day 2007 such a success!

73,

Hal Whiting, KI2U

Dixie Amateur Radio Club President, 2007

Join the Club For the First Time or Renew your Membership!

Club membership dues for 2007 are being solicited. Dues (currently) are \$15.00 per member and \$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. The list of paid members is getting more and more complete but there are still some who have procrastinated (Currently 82% paid/18% not yet paid). Please show support for your club and join. 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 current "Membership Roster" is found on the Club Web Site.

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>

WIMU Ham Radio Convention is Just Around the Corner



The annual WIMU (Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Utah) ham radio convention will be held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming Aug 3-5, 2007. Please visit this link for more information:

<http://home.comcast.net/~wimuhamfest/>

The Registration Form is available at the link provided below. 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.

Member Profiles Still Needed!

In the May Newsletter we had a terrific member profile of Club Board Member C. R. "Nick" Nickle, W7CRN. Please read that and write a similar "who's who" for your "life story". We need similar profiles of other members of the Club. Please tell us something about yourselves. Please e-mail your story or at least acknowledge your willingness to be profiled in a future edition of the Newsletter to the Editor at: w7drc@arrl.net.

Field Day a Successful Test of Club's Capabilities



The Dixie Amateur Radio Club set up two stations operating under the Club callsign W7DRC at Santa Clara's City Park on Canyonview Drive.

Two operating trailers were graciously made available for use during the weekend activity by long-time Club member and supporter Russ Bateman, K7SG, and new and enthusiastic Club member Kory Talbot, KE7MMH. These two trailers made this operating activity in 100F+ temperatures quite enjoyable. The Club also extends its thanks also to Tom Smith, K7AHD, for allowing the Club to use his new compact diesel generator that kept the rigs on the air continuously throughout the event.

A total of 849 contacts on the 20, 40 and 75 meter bands were made this year. This is an impressive increase of 36% over last years total of 622 contacts, despite lack of ANY 10 or 15 meter openings during the weekend. A report on the success of the operating, i.e. number of states and ARRL sections worked, as well as number of

contacts by band, will be presented at the Club meeting on July 18th.

There were several news articles regarding Field Day. They are reproduced at the end of this newsletter in case you missed them.

A soap box entry will be placed on the ARRL web site now that the final tallies are done and the entry has been submitted to the ARRL. It will be exciting to see how we compared to other Clubs in Utah when the results are published in QST!

About Our 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. Please use the navigation links below to explore our website. 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.

SUNDAY
June 24, 2007

THE SPECTRUM

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MOSTLY SUNNY
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Southern Utah's No. 1 Information Source — www.thespectrum.com

Club making contact

By KEN PETERSON

kpeterson@thespectrum.com

SANTA CLARA — Members of the Dixie Amateur Radio Club set up their radio transceivers in Santa Clara City Park on Saturday at noon to see how many other ham radio operators around the country they could contact in a 24-hour period.

Scott Nowling, public information officer for DARC, said this annual event, called



Field Day, is sponsored by the American Radio League, which is the national association for Amateur Radio.

Nowling said Field Day start-

STORYCHAT

Tell us what you think. Go to www.thespectrum.com to voice your opinion.

ed at noon Saturday and will go until noon today as ham operators, throughout the United States and Canada, try to make as many contacts with other stations as they can.

"It's an opportunity for ama-

teur radio clubs in the United States and Canada to show the efficiency of their portable emergency powered stations, the skills and training of the operators and their ability to set up in remote and temporary locations," said Gary Zabriski, board member of DARC.

The amateur radio operators at the park said they're involved

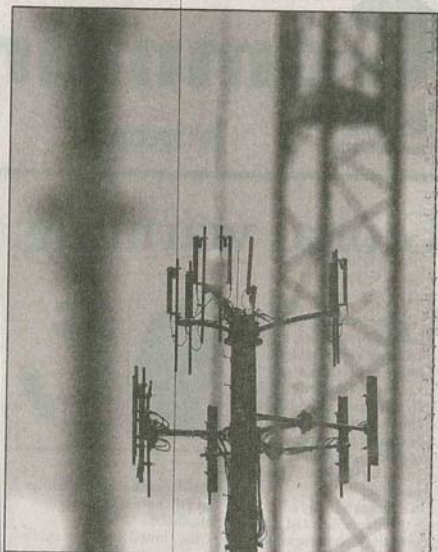
• See CLUB on A8



Photos by Christopher Onstott / The Spectrum

LEFT, ABOVE: Casey Lofthouse broadcasts the call sign "Whisky seven, delta, romeo charlie, two alpha" while making contact with another Ham Radio operator in British Columbia while Gary Hall records their call sign on Saturday at Santa Clara City Park.

www.thespectrum.com



Christopher Onstott / The Spectrum

A cellular phone tower stands off in the distance from two much smaller Ham Radio antennas in Santa Clara City Park where amateur radio operators take part in a Field Day exercise.

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with amateur radio for many reasons.

"Amateur radio gives us an opportunity to serve our community," said Hal Whiting, president of DARC. "Our mission is to provide communication when all else fails."

Dean Cox, emergency services director for Washington County, pointed out that in an emergency, communication always seems to be a perpetual problem and amateur radio addresses part of that problem.

"During Hurricane Katrina, amateur radio, also called ham radio, was often the only way people could communicate,"

Nowling said. "And hundreds of volunteer hams traveled south to help keep the lines of communication open. When trouble is brewing, ham radio people are often the first to provide critical information and communication."

For those who didn't make it out on Saturday, Whiting and other members of DARC invited people to come to the park, today and meet and talk with the hams.

Whiting said they are just regular people.

"We're your neighbors and coworkers and we shop at the same stores you do. We just happen to be very interested in communication over the air with radio waves," Whiting said.

A2 — Saturday, June 16, 2007 — The Spectrum & Daily News

LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Amateur radio Olympics show off operating skills

SANTA CLARA — Ham radio operators from Washington County will set up for 24 hours beginning at noon on June 23 at Santa Clara City Park attempting to contact as many other hams around the country as they can in the Olympics of amateur radio communication.

This annual event is called Field Day and is the climax of the week-long Amateur Radio Week sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio.

For 75 years, ham radios have been providing emergency communications when other systems failed or overloaded in a crisis.

The Dixie Amateur Radio Relay Club will demonstrate ham radio at the park.

DIXIE LIFE

LIFESTYLES · SPORTS · PEOPLE · ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 5, 2007

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When All Else Fails

BY JADE WEINHEIMER

through.

Saturday, June 23, through Sunday, June 24, members of the Southern Utah community participated in a 24-hour noon-to-noon event called Field Day at the Santa Clara City Park, sponsored by the American Radio Relay League. On Field Day, amateur radio operators (also known as "HAMS") across the country take part in a communications exercise designed to test the skills and training of HAM operators.

On Field Day, an annual event that takes place on the last full weekend in June, HAM operators across the country, all of whom are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, set up field radio stations independent of the local power grid in public places in order to showcase the current state of communications technology and the skills and training of local HAM operators.

The event provides amateur radio operators the opportunity to test their abilities to set up functioning, efficient communications stations in less-than-optimal locations – to make sure that Amateur Radio will always be there to get the message

Over 100,000 HAMS across the U.S. and Canada showed off their emergency communications capabilities on Field Day, the largest on-the-air event in the U.S. today.

"Setting up in public venues also gives added public relations value – their friends and neighbors can see and experience the fun and public service capability that their 'HAM radio' neighbors bring to their city or town. Field Day helps showcase Amateur Radio's value to the community," Gary Zabriskie, board member of the Dixie Amateur Radio Club, said.

"Amateur radio operators are never sure where they may be called upon to set up communications from," Zabriskie continued. "This was certainly proven immediately after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when Amateurs volunteered in the area to set up reliable communications in and out of the devastated area when routine methods of communications were destroyed."

According to Zabriskie, not only were HAM operators the first

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Ham Radio

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to relay information from the Gulf Coast during Hurricane Katrina, but a HAM operator on an island off the South Asian coast was the first to spread news of the Asian Tsunami in 2004.

For almost 100 years, amateur radio operators across the country have been providing emergency communications when usual means of communication were disrupted because systems failed or were severely overloaded in a crisis.

Ham operators handle messages for the Red Cross, local police, fire and other public service organizations during all kinds of emergencies including natural disasters, traffic accidents, structural and wild fires, and search and rescue events. Their motto says it all: "Amateur Radio... When all else fails!"

Field Day also provided an opportunity for Club members' family, friends, and members of the community to be exposed to the fun of making contacts to distant states and locations on the HAM radio bands. This year the Club had two separate stations operating during the entire event.

Eleven-year-old Breanna Talbot, daughter of Club member Kory Talbot and his wife Sherridan, all of Washington City, under direct supervision of a licensed Amateur Radio operator, was able to make

contact with over 80 other ham radio operators, including a contact with Alaska.

There is no minimum age requirement to take the FCC Amateur Radio license examination; Breanna is already studying to take the exam in the near future. This budding HAM operator has already decided what she wants for Christmas: a shiny new amateur radio handheld transceiver.

For added interest, local HAMS compete on Field Day with similar Amateur Radio clubs across the country. Each contact is logged and counted.

This year, the Dixie Amateur Radio Club made a total of 849 completed contacts with HAM operators in almost every state in the nation. This was a 36 percent increase over the 622 contacts made by the Club at last year's field operation, according to Zabriskie.

Later this fall, the contact scores of all the clubs in the nation will be posted in the American Radio Relay League monthly national magazine journal publication "QST."

The local club members always anxiously wait to see how their Field Day contact totals fared in comparison to neighboring radio clubs in Cedar City, Kanab, and Salt Lake as well as to other clubs across the nation.

For more information, find the Dixie Amateur Radio Club on the Web at www.dixieham.org



Photos by GARY ZABRISKIE

Budding amateur radio operator 11-year-old Breanna Talbot made over 80 contacts with other HAM radio stations across the country from the temporary station set up by the Dixie Amateur Radio Club for Field Day, June 23-24