



Dixie Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

"Amateur Radio...

...When All Else Fails!"

Dixie Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

October 2007 Edition

October Meeting

7:00 P.M. Wednesday, October 17th



The October meeting of the Dixie Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 17, 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.

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, while appearing long, should go quite smoothly. The highlight of the evening will focus on "National Weather Service Skywarn/Storm Spotter Training".

Here is the Complete Agenda for the General Club Meeting:

October DARC Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Report on VE Session
4. New member & visitor introduction

5. Bookstore donation status
6. Current repeater status
7. Marathon Report
8. Huntsman Sr. Games Report
9. Upcoming Events and needed operators
10. Plans for December meeting announced Time, date, location
11. ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Elections
12. ARES Report
13. PHS Pandemic Exercise
14. Nick's Layout & Plans
15. ARES/DARC Van Project status
16. ARES meeting in November is non-reimbursed
17. Election Committee
18. National Weather Service Skywarn/Storm Spotter Training
19. Adjourn
20. Refreshments

On the following page is a map to the Community Building.

You may also use the interactive Google Map link available on the Club's Web Site to locate the meeting place:

<http://www.dixieham.org/meetings.html>



Downtown St. George City (North is up)



Club President Hal Whiting, KI2U

manual??!!
Apparently someone who really hasn't used it a lot. Why can't I just plug it in and have it work? Oh yeah!-What about all those menus you have to know now just to get the

repeater to recognize you want to talk? OK, so you are better at it than I am. Last week on net, I tried to check in on the 146.91 repeater...somewhere along the way in the menu settings I had inadvertently changed the repeater offset to 5 MHz with a PL tone of 88.5. No wonder net control couldn't hear me. What did I do with that old 2 meter rig that only had 3 offset options-> minus, plus, and simplex? It also only had one PL tone 100 Hz.

Now comes my computer. The hard drive goes bad. I get a used hard drive to install. I forgot how to do these things. I used to do it all the time. Remember DOS? Somewhere in my radio programming software I still have an original copy of MS-DOS 6.1. DOS was a lot easier to use. Now I have to employ two full time IT personnel to keep our work computers happy, even though they are supposedly plug and play!! The drive is sitting on the work bench and I guess I will wait and buy a new computer at Christmas.

So, here we are as ham radio operators. Wanting the plug & play equipment. How many of us actually build antennas from scratch...or power supplies? Have we forgotten how? Are we living in the plug & play world and if it doesn't work, sell it on ebay and call AES to price a new something (or try to pass it off to a new ham-shameful). I guess partly we are short on time. It takes time to build something. It takes time to learn how and why something works or doesn't work. Maybe we are just out of time. But, maybe our skills are still there....remember

Volunteer Exam Session

6:00 P.M. Wednesday, October 17, 2007



There will be an ARRL Volunteer Exam Session held at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 17, 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

IF IT AIN'T PLUG AND PLAY, I DONT WANT IT!

Have you ever tried to read the manual that comes with your radio? If you did read it, did you understand it? Who wrote this

what we learned to get our licenses? If it doesn't work, maybe we can figure it out. How many public service agencies can recognize what is wrong with their equipment and effect repairs on it in an emergency? Maybe our skills will still keep us a few steps ahead of those who only know how to push the button and talk.

So, how do we move away from the "plug and play" world? In our club we have a lot of really smart persons. We have experience from a wide range of careers and life adventures. We have long time amateur operators. These are the amateurs who hold the key. With their help, the club members can learn and be mentored. I think the word is Elmer. We need Elmers in the club. We need persons who will get involved. If we are going to keep growing, it is going to take all of us. Who got you into ham radio? Well, maybe you can do the same for someone else. If we are going to keep persons active in ham radio we need to involve them and make ourselves available to help them when they have questions...otherwise, they will fade and we lose the opportunity to have a stronger club. Please take the time to help out. One of the opportunities is being a part of the Technical Committee. If you are interested, say something to the board. We can't guess what you are thinking, so please let us know and get involved. Help us move beyond "plug and play".

Club elections are coming and very soon upon us. There is a lot to do in the coming year to continue to build on where the club is today. There will be the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two to three board members. If you have thought of a better way of doing things...or other ideas of what you would like to see in the club, these are great positions to get in to bring your ideas into reality. Take the club and make it bigger and better!

Please, remember to vote in the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division elections coming up.

The Club's participation in the St. George Marathon was a great success! Look elsewhere in this newsletter for pictures from the event.

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 \$20.00 per member and \$25.00 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 a member. If you are not listed, you may have simply procrastinated. 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.

New (i.e., never been a member of the club before) prospective members may pay just \$10 for membership covering the current date through December 31 of this year. All others need to pay the regular \$20 dues for 2007. This is to encourage NEW licensees to join the Club now and participate, rather than waiting until January to join.

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!



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. If you join the ARRL for the first time through the Club, our Club benefits directly. See the "Join the Club" link below for info on joining the ARRL:

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

Board Meeting following Regular Club Meeting

There will be a Club Board Meeting immediately following the "Refreshments" at the conclusion of the General Club Meeting.

The following is the agenda for the Board Meeting:

1. Formal appointment of Scott Nowling as PIO
 2. Official Emergency Stations
 3. Local Interference Committee
 4. Official Bulletin Station
 5. Official Relay Station
 6. Technical Specialist
 7. Local Government Liaison
 8. Consideration of someone to write the club history.
 9. Special Service Club
 10. Report from Ken Head on numbers of persons trained and licensed in past year
 11. Report from Ken Head on numbers of ARES persons trained.
 12. ARRL Affiliation annual report
 13. Location for November Meeting (week early)
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Club Member Profiles Still Needed!



We still are in need of profiles of Club members to showcase in future Newsletters. Please see the last profile presented in the August 2007 Newsletter available in the Newsletter Archive on the Club Web Site. 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.

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.

Preparing for Disasters

Board Member Dan Farwell, W8EQA, sent along the following e-mail about a great link to forward on to the Club:

Hello All:

Here is an interesting link to Ace Hardware website that has information on preparedness for various disasters:

<http://www.acehardware.com/info/disaster.jsp>

Vy 73,
Dan, W8EQA

The printable PDF files on the site are great lists to make sure your family disaster kits are complete. Thanks for this info, Dan!

St. George Marathon

The 2007 St. George Marathon has come and gone. Below are some pictures that were sent in. If you have additional pictures, please e-mail them to the webmaster at w7drc@arrrl.net



Keith Bateman, KD7FGN & Lynn Bateman, KE7MXZ stationed at Mile 19.



Hams manning communications position at nurses aid station at Mile 19 during the Marathon.

of concern”, the poop-out vans, race officials vehicles, the net control operators, and those who participated in any other tasks needed to make our participation a success. Job well done!!



The end... ..well, 26.2 miles later!



Russ Bateman, K7SG's ham radio operating trailer in use at the finish line for message traffic passed from "poop out" vans and net control.



Casey Lofthouse, KD7HUS, at Net control



Bob Peterson, W7UT, and his wife Linda, took up duties at the finish line operating trailer.



Casey Lofthouse, KD7HUS, Travis Lofthouse, KD7FRN, and a small someone who, on a Saturday morning, should be watching real cartoon characters on the TV instead of watching these two "characters" at Net Control!

It will be impossible to make sure no one is missed if trying to acknowledge every one who participated as a ham operator or assistant at the nurses stations, critical in-between "areas



SPHERE Exercise Held

The Utah Statewide Public Health Emergency Response Exercise, or “SPHERE” was held Tuesday, September 18 through Thursday September 20, 2007. The Washington County Public Health Service participated and invited the Washington County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) to provide the emergency communications backbone for them.

During the exercise, normal telephone communications to the operations center failed on Tuesday and ARES provided communications support relaying message traffic through Beaver County and Iron County. Six operators were called out to provide the communications support to the operations center. The ARES operators were able to meet the objectives and assignments given during this exercise.

The Washington County Public Health Service had prepared in advance for this possibility by having HF and UHF/VHF antennas and coax lines installed on the roof of their facility which now makes them ready for any future exercise or actual disaster events.



It might look like a janitor closet...but is really was a radio room...how many janitor closets have a private elevator door?

There were additional ARES members standing by if the exercise were to move beyond the projected scope of operation. Thanks to those operators who assisted with this exercise and also to the Public Health Service for the opportunity to provide service to their agency.

Hal Whiting, KI2U

Dixie Amateur Radio Club President

Washington County ARES Asst. Emerg. Coord.



Ham Gear For Sale by Club Members

The Club web site provides an opportunity for members to list ham radio related items for sale (no refrigerators or cars, etc.). E-mail them to the webmaster at w7drc@arrl.net

Here is what is currently available for sale from your fellow hams here in Dixie:

For Sale:

Hallicrafters S38 Ham/Shortwave Receiver. This is in excellent condition. I also have the original operators manual for it (dated 1946) and also a couple of service bulletins. If you are looking for a nice antique radio to start or add to your collection, take a look. \$150 Hal Whiting, KI2U. Phone 435-628-0761 evenings only.



For Sale:

MFJ 259B Antenna Analyzer. Like new condition. This will tune antennas from 1.8 to 170 Mhz. Price \$225 firm. Hal Whiting, KI2U. Phone 435-628-0761 evenings only.



For Sale:

This is a Coleman 5000 watt surge/4000 watt continuous power generator. It is both 110 and 220 volt (33 amps at 110 and 17 amps at 220). It has an added wheel kit to make it more portable. There is less than 10 hours run time on it, though it did power my swamp cooler during the power outage earlier this year (2 hours). It is powered by an 8 horsepower Tecumseh gas engine. The price for the generator is \$400. Hal Whiting, KI2U Phone 435-628-0761 evenings only.



For Sale:

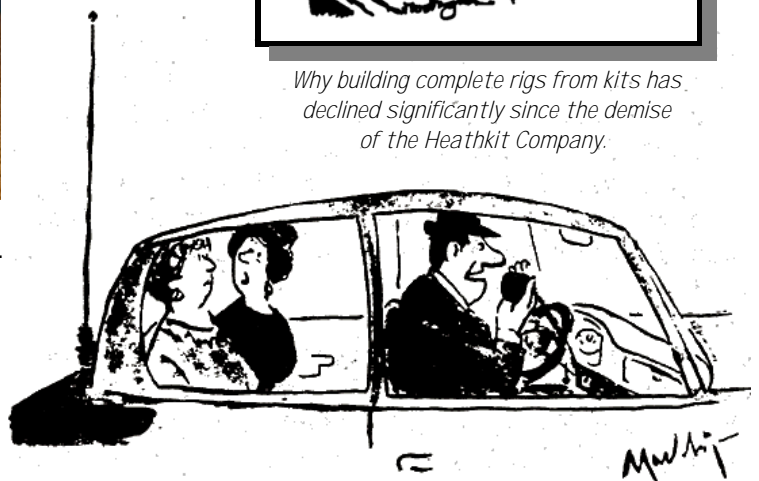
Mirage MP-1 SWR/Power Meter. \$40. Measures to 2000 watts in 3 ranges. One of the finer SWR Meters on the market. Takes a 9 volt battery or power it from a 12v source from your rig supply. This is the classic brown case model. Hal Whiting, KI2U Phone 435-628-0761 evenings only.



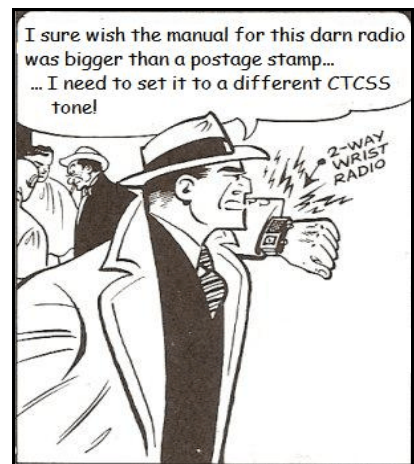
Ham Radio Humor



Why building complete rigs from kits has declined significantly since the demise of the Heathkit Company.



"Edgar is in contact with everyone but me."



The Dixie Amateur Radio Club Newsletter is published monthly and is available online only on the Dixie Amateur Radio Club website which is located at <http://www.dixieham.org>

Submittals for future articles are always accepted and can be sent to the webmaster via e-mail to: w7drc@arrl.org

