



Dixie Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

"Amateur Radio...

...When All Else Fails!"

Dixie Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

November 2007 Edition

November Meeting

7:00 P.M. Wednesday, November 14th



The next scheduled meeting of the Dixie Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14, 2007.

Due to the proximity this year of Thanksgiving Day to the regularly scheduled meeting date (normally the 3rd Wednesday), the meeting is being moved up one week. It was felt by the Board that the turnout to a Club meeting the night before Thanksgiving might be sparse, due to many folks traveling and/or preparing their homes for family visits. The "normal" location for the meeting was unavailable on the 14th, so we have relocated the meeting, for this month ONLY.

The November 14th meeting will be held at the St. George Leisure Services Building which is located at 86 South Main in St. George. This is the building directly south of the St. George LDS Tabernacle and across the street west of the drive-up facility at the downtown Wells Fargo Bank. There is now parking available on the west side of the building.

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

This month's Club meeting agenda includes opening nominations for next year's Club Presidency and Board.

Please step up and volunteer to serve on the Board or in the Presidency. You are an important part of the Club and can serve in this role. The past board members and presidency will be there to support and assist you in any way.

If you are a relatively new ham radio operator, all the better! Bring your excitement and enthusiasm and accept a nomination to serve!

Below is a downtown St. George map to the Leisure Services Building:



There is now ample parking located adjacent to the building now that the City has completed work on the adjacent property.

Volunteer Exam Session

6:00 P.M. Wednesday, November 14, 2007



There will be an ARRL Volunteer Exam Session held at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at

the same location as the regular 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: sapping_r@infowest

President's Message



Club President Hal Whiting, KI2U

The calendar shows the days moving faster towards the end of the year, marking another chapter in the history of the Dixie Amateur Radio Club. It has been a year of change and growth and that momentum forward continues.

As most you know by now, the long awaited 145.45 repeater is in place on the Toquerville site and is working very well. CaseyLofthouse, KD7HUS, Gary Zabriskie, N7ARE, and myself were able to get it in place on Saturday, October 27, 2007. (See page 6 for some photographs.) With the magical touch of Casey, who is our Technical Specialist, it came to life. Gary performed Safety Officer duties while on site and there were no injuries requiring air-evac or last rites. Safety gear including harnesses and hard hats were worn during the tower operations. Thanks to our site manager, Ray Carpenter-N7RNW, for donating resources for our repeater operation.

November is the date for elections and in the club meeting there will be open nominations for positions. I think there are many very well qualified individuals to lead the Dixie ARC. If you have ever thought about how you would like to be doing something more, or participating in more club activities, this is the perfect way. Your opinion, decisions, and ideas can make the direction that the club will move next year. Please get involved and have some fun.

As some or all of you know, I have been appointed to serve on the Utah Section of the ARRL as the Affiliated Club Coordinator. How I was appointed is still somewhat of a mystery and rumors of responsibility for it exist. Either way, it gives Southern Utah a part in the leadership of the Utah Section. My responsibilities primarily relate to those clubs who are affiliated with the ARRL and desire to maintain that status. The Dixie Amateur Radio Club is one of those clubs. As such, I will be working during the coming year with various clubs in Utah to encourage their new or continued affiliation with the ARRL. In addition to the Dixie Amateur Radio Club being affiliated, we also have met most of the requirements to be considered a Special Service Club (SSC) through the ARRL. At this time, none of the clubs in Utah are on the Affiliated Club Listing as an SSC. The emphasis of an SSC is on the word Service. This is where we make a lot of our contribution to the community and is our hallmark. We are involved in many community and agency support functions and our success will depend upon our continued involvement in this way. Thanks to all of you who help out!!

As mentioned in the October meeting of the DARC, we have been offered a \$500 endowment from the Utah VHF Society (UVHFS) to help in maintaining our repeater. We have been asked by the UVHFS to allow the 145.49 repeater to be aligned with their repeater system. This will put the repeater in use as part of the Snowbird Intertie System www.utahvhfs.org/snowlink.html

The southern Utah link has been by history through the 146.82 repeater. Dean Cox, NR7K has granted permission for the link equipment to be put onto the 145.49 repeater. This changeover will put more traffic onto the 145.49 repeater, but will allow for traffic throughout the inter-mountain west. In the event that training, events, emergency or other requirements necessitate the local use of the 145.49 repeater, control will be provided to disconnect the link from the intertie and limit the repeater to local operations.

When Mel Parkes-NM7P, Utah Section Manager was with us in September he gave us a 2007 ARRL Radio Amateur Handbook which will be one of the prizes given out at the Christmas Dinner.

LaVerkin is seeing the formation of a new ham radio club. Under the leadership of Jim Cowley-WI7J and others, a Tech license class is being conducted to increase the number of operators in the La Verkin area. This new club and radio operators are invited to join with us on our nets and participate in our training and events as possible. It is great to see the amateur community expanding in Washington County and gives us greater strength in times of emergency which is what we train for. Get to know these new hams and include this new club in our joint club activities. You can never have too much ham!

I attended the CSEPP RACES/ARES Conference on November 3rd in Salt Lake and hopefully will have some good information to bring back to give to the club/ARES. I will try to include an overview of the materials in next month's newsletter.

Special thanks to Kevin Barjenbruch from the National Weather Service in Salt Lake for coming to our meeting in October and doing our Skywarn/Stormspotter training. It is always interesting to see the weather examples and we do sometimes get weather that is different from "hot and sunny today, followed by tomorrow". There have been enough events in the last two years to make about 5 reports to them from my station including rain, hail and wind conditions. If your name is on file, they will contact you also if seeking additional spotter reports. If you are reporting hazardous weather conditions to the National Weather Service, please also send a hazardous message notification using the link on the Washington County ARES website. This link will generate an email to the Washington County Emergency Services Department and also to the ARES members. It is expected the link will be operational by November 15 th.

In January, Ron Sappington-WI7Z will be taking a well deserved rest from the labors of VE Liaison for the Dixie Amateur Radio Club. Ron was instrumental in my relicensure after many years of inactivity. He has been dedicated to make sure our VE sessions have run smoothly and testing and licenses have been processed in a timely manner. Many thanks to Ron for his efforts towards the growth of our members. Dan Farwell-W8EQA and Gary Zabriskie-N7ARE will be taking over his duties jointly during the next year and will be the

"experts" following Ron's intensive training program for them.

Norm Smith-KE7FPG has agreed to perform duties as an Official Relay Station to support the community during times of disaster when message traffic will increase. He may ask for volunteer operators to assist in getting traffic onto the HF traffic nets as needed. Please give him a hand when needed and get the messages out. Thanks for being willing to help us!!

C.R. Nickle-W7CRN and Dan Farwell-W8EQA have been assigned to function as Official Emergency Stations. Their responsibilities will be to provide a hardened communications system that will support emergency and disaster operations.

Gary Zabriskie-N7ARE has agreed to serve as the Local Government Liaison to coordinate amateur radio efforts with local agencies.

Casey Lofthouse-KD7HUS is the Technical Specialist for the club with an emphasis on repeater operations.

Scott Nowling-K7LSN has been appointed as the Public Information Officer for the club. Newsworthy events, activities, photos and accomplishments should be forwarded to him to be fed into the local media.

Official Bulletin Station: Dan-W8EQA Other operators are invited to join also.

Local Interference Committee, Hal Whiting -KI2U (Effective January 1, 2008)

There are many other opportunities to be involved in. If you are interested, let us know. Please, take the time to consider serving in the club in a leadership or supporting role. There is much more to the club than donuts and friends. There are a lot of adventures waiting you!! See you at the meeting!

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 2008 are being solicited. Dues 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 2007 if you feel the slightest sense of guilt.

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, or renew your ARRL membership through the Club, our Club benefits directly.

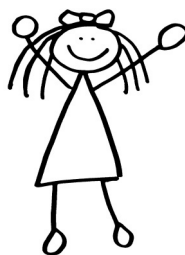
See the "Join the Club" link below for info on joining the ARRL:

<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. Everyone is invited to stay and observe.

Member Profiles 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.

Motorola Buys Yaesu!



An ARRL bulletin this week announced that Motorola USA has announced its intention to launch a tender offer to acquire a controlling interest in Vertex Standard Co, Ltd. Vertex Standard is the parent company of Yaesu. Motorola will own 80 percent of Vertex Standard; Tokogiken, a privately held Japanese company, controlled by current president and CEO of Vertex Standard Jun Hasegawa, will retain 20 percent, forming a joint venture. The total purchase price for 80 percent of the outstanding shares on a fully diluted basis will be approximately US \$108 million.

New 145.45 Club Repeater On the Air

On Saturday October 27th, Casey Lofthouse (KD7HUS), Hal Whiting (KI2U) and Gary Zabriskie (N7ARE) traveled to the mountaintop to install the Club's newest repeater at its site north of Toquerville, overlooking Anderson Junction along I-15. (Click [HERE](#) to see the map).

This 2 meter band repeater receives a signal on 144.850 MHz. (100Hz subaudible CTCSS tone is required). The repeater transmits on 145.450 MHz. Thus, you will need to set your radio for 145.450 receive with minus 600KHz transmit offset and a 100Hz tone.

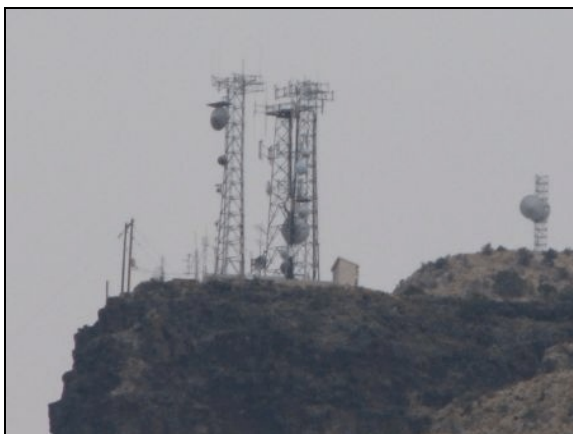
The repeater should have coverage of the Hurricane Valley including Toquerville, LaVerkin, Hurricane, Leeds, Silver Reef, Pintura, as well as the rest of the lower Black Ridge and parts of Washington City. Please start using this repeater and helping the Club to determine the actual coverage area of the new machine.



Approaching the Repeater site from the south



Getting closer, but you can't get there from here. This is about the same view as what you see from the freeway. The actual site is about 200 yards east of these on another knoll.



There is a lot of RF on them-thar hills!



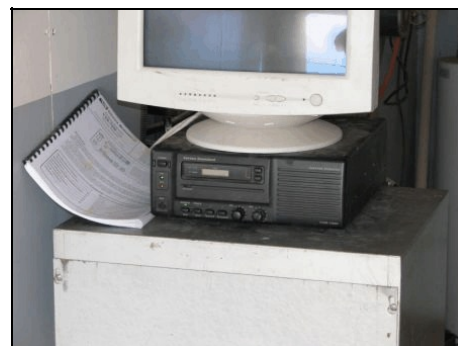
N7ARE's Baja Bronco and Hal's blue truck at the repeater site. This view is towards the southwest towards Leeds and Washington City.



Casey, KD7HUS, on top the tower.



Inside the repeater building. That's the repeater under the monitor.



Close-up of the repeater. The cabinet below contains the duplexer cavities.



Yes. It IS a LONG way up there!

Yes, Gary Zabriskie, N7ARE and Hal Whiting, KI2U were there, too. It is just that what they were doing didn't look as exciting or as death defying as the activities Casey was accomplishing. For that reason, photos were not taken of those really boring guys working on much more trivial things down below. (You all know what we look like, anyway!)

BRAIN TEASER: WHAT DOES THIS REPRESENT?: (answer below)



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

Answer: bridge rectifier