



Dixie Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

"Amateur Radio.....

...When all else Fails!"

Dixie Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

March 2009 Edition

President's message

Hey All,

I think that we can all agree that the last two club meetings have been worth attending, I know that I have learned many different ways to do go boxes and that not all go boxes are carry size. I would like to thank again Nick(W7CRN) and Dan(W8EQA) for the time and effort in they put into their presentations, there is one great thing about amateur radio there is always something new and exciting to build on what we have already learned, but I'm really looking forward to what is coming up next like I.R.L.P. and PSK31 that will be talked about at the next club meeting, If I could just say that there are people who are preparing these presentations that may have tricks or new ways of doing things that we could all learn from so if we all could attend it would make our meetings even better because we all have something to share.

Thanks all for your help and support
Kory Talbot
KE7MMH
Vice president



POSITION VACANCY!

We have a need for six to eight Mentors (Elmer's)

These are to assist new individuals to obtain their licenses or assist them in upgrading to the General Class.

We would prefer:

- 2 from Hurricane, LaVerkin area
- 2 from Washington, St. George Area
- 2 from Santa Clara, Ivins area

This will be a great experience! To volunteer, put your name in the Ham E box at the monthly Club Meeting, or call Ken Forshee at 673-4675.

Be RADIO ACTIVE!

==== Rocky Mountain Division Awards ==== ***April 1 is Deadline***

There are many hams within our great Division who deserve to be recognized for their achievements -- and we'd like to honor them.

However, can you believe that only TWO (2) total nominations out of a Division of 6,250 members have been submitted as of this writing? Time is running out to place your nominations (the deadline is about 3 weeks from now: April 1).

The following annual awards are being offered by the Division:

Rocky Mountain Division Ham of the Year Award
Rocky Mountain Division Young Ham of the Year Award
Rocky Mountain Division Technical Achievement Award

Complete details, rules and a nomination form can be found on the Division website (www.RockyMountainDivision.org). Awards will be announced and presented at the Rocky Mountain Division Convention immediately following the close of nominations.

===== 2009 Rocky Mountain Division Convention =====

About TWO months remain until the 2009 Rocky Mountain Division Convention (May 29-31). Have you made plans to join up to many hundreds of hams in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado...gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park? Registration is happening as we speak, and special hotel rates have been negotiated for convention attendees.

Among the guest speakers: Laura Smith (FCC Special Counsel who took over now-retired Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, Harold Kraemer WJ1B (ARRL Chief Operating Officer), Gordon Hardman W0RUN (2009 Desecheo Island DXpedition participant and chief engineer of Alpha Radio Products), Mike Gruber W1MG (ARRL EMC Engineer and contributor to "The Doctor Is IN" QST column), and Brian Milesosky N5ZGT (Director, ARRL Rocky Mountain Division).

There will be plenty of technical and non-technical forums, great meals, and one heck of a time meeting and greeting hams from all over the Division. A great event with a very fitting theme: "Amateur Radio: Resilient, Relevant, Ready"

The hotel, where the Convention is being held, is almost at full-capacity, so reserve your room soon!

Please mark your calendars and visit the Division convention's website at <http://www.hamconcolorado.org> for more details, including registration information. Join us for a great time at an awesome venue!



THE 2000 WATT PANELS ON THE ROOF COULD NOT MAKE ENOUGH ENERGY. SO THE BATTERY VOLTAGE SLUMPED. UPON ARRIVAL THE GENERATOR WAS STARTED AND THE CHARGERS PUT ON LINE BRINGING THE BATTERY BACK UP TO 13.8 VOLTS. ALL BACK ON LINE AGAIN.....



THIS WAS A TRIP UP TO SCRUB PEAK BACK ON DECEMBER 19, 2008, WHEN WE GOT THE RAIN AND STORMY WEATHER. THE BATTERIES THAT POWER SCRUB PEAK RADIO SITE GOT LOW. IT WAS DECIDED THAT A TRIP HAD TO BE TAKEN TO THE SITE AND CHECKS MADE TO SEE WHY. THE 448.725 RPTR IS THERE, DIXIE ESCALANTE POWER PROVIDED THESE PICTURES. WE HAD SUFFERED AN ICE STORM FOLLOWED BY EXTREME COLD WEATHER.



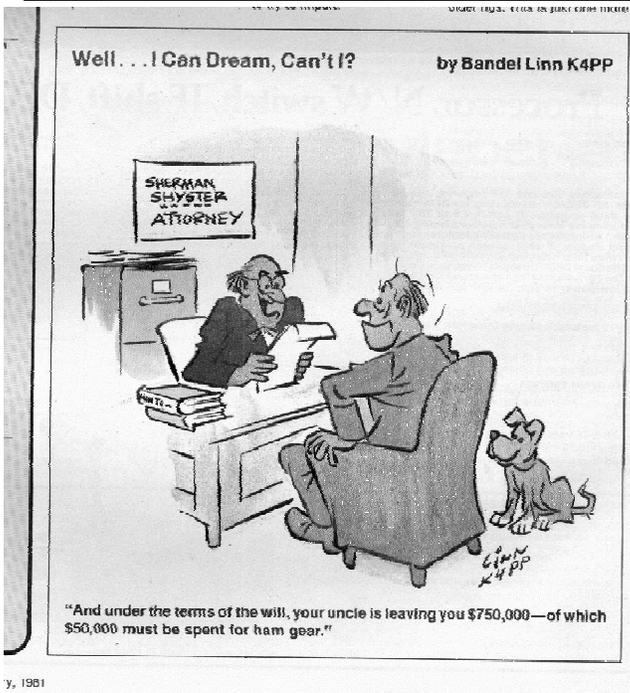
THERE WERE SNOW DRIFTS 3 FT DEEP SO A SNOW CAT WAS NEEDED TO GET IN TO THE MOUNTAIN. THIS WAS AN ALL DAY JOB GETTING THERE AND GETTING THINGS GOING. *NOTE* SCRUB PEAK IS THE SOUTHERN MOST MOUNTAIN IN THE BEAVER DAM MOUNTAINS. SITS ABOVE THE VIRGIN GORGE ON THE WEST SIDE NEAR HIGHWAY 91.....Bill Wells, W7WFW.

==== **Upcoming hamfests, tailgates & conventions** ====

- April 4 Longmont Amateur Radio Club LARCFest (Longmont, CO)
- April 25 Utah ARRL State Convention (South Ogden, UT)
- April 26 Mesilla Valley ARC Beanfeed (Las Cruces, NM)
- May 22-24 Wyoming ARRL State Convention (Casper, WY)
- May 29-31 2009 Rocky Mountain Division Convention (Estes Park, CO)
- July 18 Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Megafest (Monument, CO)
- August 16 Denver Radio Club Hamfest (Golden, CO)

Links to websites belonging to the above events are found on the Rocky Mountain Division site:
www.RockyMountainDivision.org

If you're organizing a Hamfest, convention or tailgate, please consider having your event ARRL-sanctioned. Sanctioning details can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/hamfests/>



==== **Upcoming on-air activities** ====

In addition to chewing the rag with fellow hams, here are some additional on-air activities which await you on the airwaves.

- Upcoming special event stations:**
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>
- Upcoming contests:**
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>
- Operating awards:**
<http://www.arrl.org/awards/>

BSA Updates Radio Merit Badge Requirements

The new BSA Radio Merit Badge Pamphlet includes color pictures and updated charts and text. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has updated the requirements needed to earn the Radio merit badge. The new requirements became effective with the publication of Boy Scout Requirements 2009. While no new content has been added to the program, the new merit badge pamphlet features lots of new information -- including color pictures and updated charts and text that reflects the changes in the Amateur Radio Service since the last pamphlet update in 2002. Approximately 4000 Radio merit badges are earned each year.

According to ARRL ad hoc Scouting Committee member Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, the new Radio Merit Badge pamphlet had been in the works for some time. "BSA has been replacing all merit badge pamphlets with new booklets using color graphics and more modern presentations," he said. "With attractive color photos and clear text explanations of the requirements, the new merit badge pamphlet is a pleasure for the Scouts to read. The new text is due in large part to the efforts of longtime Radio Merit Badge Counselor and K2BSA National Jamboree Staff member Mike Brown, WB2JWD. I am looking forward to using the new pamphlet to teach Radio merit badge at our Council's Merit-Badge-O-Ree this spring, and to having a supply of the new books available for Scouts during the 2009 summer camp season."

Wolfgang said that the requirements for the badge have been shifted around: "The old Part 4 of Requirement 7(b) Broadcast Radio was pulled out and placed in the main body of the requirements as Requirement 8. In addition, the old Requirement 8 (to visit a radio installation and discuss what types of equipment, how it was used, what types of licenses are required to operate and maintain the equipment, and the purpose of the station) was moved up to Requirement 7, so that now the three options appear as Requirement 9. The main result is one additional full requirement."

ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director and Chairman of the League's ad hoc Scouting Committee Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, called the Radio Merit Badge "a perfect avenue to introduce Scouts and Scouters to the wonderful world of ham radio. Ham clubs across the nation should locate a local Boy Scout Troop, secure permission from their Scoutmaster and/or committee to teach the merit badge and deliver an exceptional Radio merit badge class. What the boys -- and their leaders and parents -- will learn in the process is a fair amount of what is part of the Technician license exam, so the next logical step after a merit badge class is an all-out recruiting effort to get that Troop involved in Amateur Radio. They'll meet new friends and have a great way of communicating while in transit to and from the field, as well as additional peace of mind through an effective means of emergency communications while in the backcountry."

Additional information -- which includes the new 2009 requirements can be found on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/24/10667/?nc=1>

You Might be Addicted to Ham Radio if...

1. When you look at a full moon and wonder how much antenna gain you would need.
2. When a friend gets a ride from you and remarks that you have a lot of CBs in your vehicle, it turns in to an hour long rant on how ham radio is not CB radio.
3. When someone asks for directions, you pause, wondering if long or short path would be best.
4. When you can look at a globe and be able to point to your antipode (and you know what an antipode is).
5. Your cell phone ring tone is a Morse code message of some kind.
6. You have accidentally said your Amateur Radio call sign at the end of a telephone conversation.
7. Your favorite vacation spots are always on mountain tops.
8. You notice more antennas than road signs while driving your car.
9. You have driven onto the shoulder of the road while looking at an antenna.
10. Porcupines appear to be fascinated with your car.
11. If you ever tried to figure out the operating frequency of your microwave oven.
12. When you look around your bedroom of wall to wall ham gear and ask: Why am I still single?
13. The local city council doesn't like you.
14. You think towers look pretty.
15. Your family doesn't have a clue what to get you for Christmas, even after you tell them.
16. Your HF amplifier puts out more power than the local AM radio station.
17. The wife and kids are away and the first thing that goes through your head is that no one will bother you while you call "CQ DX" a few hundred times.
18. When you pull into a donut shop and the cops there on their coffee break ask if they can see your radio setup.
19. You refer to your children as your "Harmonics".
20. Your girlfriend or wife asks: "You're going to spend \$XXXX on what???"
21. You actually believe you got a good deal on eBay.
22. When you see a house with a metal roof, and your only thought is what a great ground plane that would be.
23. You have pictures of your radio equipment as wallpaper on your computer's desktop.
24. Every family vacation includes a stop at a Ham radio store.
25. The first question you ask the new car dealer is: "What is the alternator's current output"?
26. You buy a brand new car based on the radio mounting locations and antenna mounting possibilities.
27. You have tapped out Morse code on your car's horn.
28. A lightning storm takes out a new Laptop, Plasma TV, and DVD Recorder, but all you care about is if your radios are okay.
29. Your wife has had to ride in the back seat because you had radio equipment in the front seat.
30. Your wife threatens you with divorce when you tell her that you are going on a "fox" hunt.
31. You dream of big, comfortable, knobs, but not on women.
32. You always park on the top floor of the deck, just in case you might have to wait in the car later.
33. When house hunting, you look for the best room for a radio shack and scan the property for possible tower placement.
34. When house hunting, you give your realtor topographical maps showing local elevations.
35. The real estate agent scratches his head when you ask if the soil conductivity is high, medium, or low.
36. You have Ham radio magazines in the bathroom.
37. When your doorbell rings, you immediately shut down the amplifier.
38. Fermentation never enters your mind when "homebrew" is mentioned.
39. Instead of just saying no, you have said "negative".
40. You have used a person's name to indicate acknowledgement.
41. You become impatient waiting for the latest AES catalog to arrive.
42. You have found yourself whistling "CQ" using Morse code.
43. You always schedule the third weekend in May for vacation.
44. You walk carefully in your back yard to avoid being close-lined.
45. You have deep anxiety or panic attacks during high winds or heavy ice.
46. You and the FedEx/UPS men are on a first name basis.
47. You really start to miss people that you've never seen.
48. Your exercise machine is a Morse code keyer.
49. You walk through the plumbing section at the hardware store and see antenna parts.
50. Your neighbors thought you were nuts when you ripped up your lawn to bury chicken wire.
51. Your next door neighbor thinks that your wife is a widow.
52. Your wife has delivered meals to your Ham shack.
53. If you sold all your Ham radio equipment, you could pay off your mortgage.

Kudos Nomination Form

Note: The KUDOS is a Dixie Amateur Radio recognition given to those members who go beyond what is normally expected of them. Please do your part by catching your fellow members doing so and then nominate them on this form.

Nominee Name: _____

Tell us what happened: _____

Referred by: _____

Phone #: _____

Please Bring to the Club Meeting