



Dixie Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

"Amateur Radio.....

...When all else Fails!"

Dixie Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

April 2009 Edition

Hams "Save the Day"!



Hal Whiting with sons Jarod and Danny

On March 14, 2008 just minutes prior to noon, while travelling in the back country in Arizona, north of the Grand Canyon (Poverty Mountain area), Hal Whiting (amateur radio operator-KI2U) and his sons Jarod and Danny from St. George and Todd Kluxdal and his father Donald of Mesquite were stopped by another driver coming in the opposite direction. The driver asked if they had a satellite cell phone as there was no cell service in this region.

Hal told him no but that he had a ham radio and asked if he had an emergency. The driver said there had been an ATV accident a couple of miles ahead in a remote area and that they needed a helicopter to airlift the woman out. Hal put out an emergency call over the radio using the 146.91 (Seegmiller Mtn) repeater and after three calls, another ham operator (Ralph Magee "Mac"-N6LRG) over 50 miles away in the Cane Beds responded and took the call.

Basic information was provided to Mac who was doing a phone call with the 911 dispatcher. More specific information was needed as to the location of the patient so communication was temporarily paused while Hal and Todd drove down to the accident site to get GPS coordinates.

Returning to the top of the ridge, communication was reestablished with Mac and the GPS coordinates and conditions of the road into the accident given.

Emergency services were responding including a Mohave County sheriff deputy from Beaver Dam and a Kingman Ranger's helicopter from Kingman. Hal remained at the top of the ridge and Todd and his father Donald went back down to the accident site with a handheld GMRS radio and were able to provide additional patient injury status information which Hal relayed by ham radio to Mac.

The patient was airlifted by helicopter to Las Vegas and initial reports indicate was doing well. As an amusing end to it...I met with the deputy after all was over and he told me that the helicopter crew reported my GPS coordinates were off. They said I missed the patient location by twenty feet. So, I feel pretty good about the equipment. The deputy found it quite interesting that our relays went to the Cane Beds and then into the 911 dispatcher.

Lessons learned:

1. I am glad I had my radio equipment with me.
2. I am glad there was someone listening on the repeater to take the emergency call (I had to call three times before anyone answered).
3. Having the spare FRS/GMRS radios created an efficient means for relay with a non-ham person.
4. Having the GPS provided a very effective means for the helicopter rescue team to locate the accident. (They did not want the road designation information-they wanted the exact patient coordinates).
5. It would have been useless to have my equipment if there had not been someone listening.

Hal Whiting – KI2U

See more about this on the next page!



Ralph "Mac" Magee – N6LRG

and effective, in our handling of the event. That's a great compliment since Don is an ex-Missouri Highway Patrolman! Thanks Don.

In these days of extensive cell phone service and coverage, isn't it satisfying to know that ham radio can still be of use for public service?

(Special thanks to the owners/operators of the 146.910 repeater group for providing and maintaining the machine.)

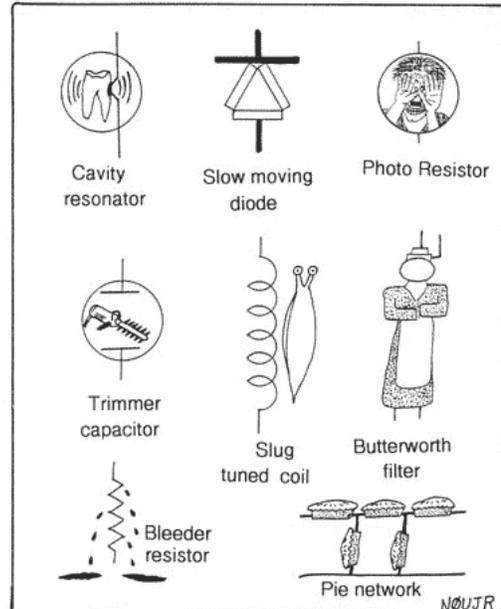
Kudos to Hal.

73 Mac N6LRG

We need to make sure we express to all those who serve our appreciation and thanks for a job well done!



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Little known standard electronic symbols.

Saturday morning, March 14th, I came into my shack and for some reason, turned on the two meter rig and it happened to be on the 146.910 repeater. (I usually have a problem with the repeater "hearing" me, so I rarely use it.) Anyway, about 11:20 (AZ time), I heard someone call and say they had emergency traffic and needed help. I fully expected a bevy of hams to answer the call, since so many are in range of that machine, but after his second call, and no answer, I took it.

The calling station, KI2U, Hal, had been flagged down by another motorist. He told me there had been an accident, in the vicinity of Poverty Mountain. I really had no idea where that was, but began to write down details. Soon as I had basic info, I called 911. The Mohave County Sheriff Office answered, I explained who I was, and what the call was about.

They asked for more detailed information and while Hal was replying, I held the phone up to my radio speaker. When he finished, with the details, I asked them if they copied that. The dispatcher said he did, and they held me on the line. Hal and I talked a while as he gave more data. When the dispatcher returned, they said a chopper was being dispatched from Phoenix! Well, we finished that call, after they had the actual accident site GPS coords, which Hal had passed on.

The event went on for the next hour and a half. I received two more calls from the 911 services, and finally one from the Kingman Rangers, who ultimately sent the chopper.

Pretty much, that's it! But, I feel that the strange series of events, the timing and the availability of both of us, myself and Hal, was unusual, to say the least! Indeed, it was fortunate.

While I haven't been involved in an actual emergency, I have established emergency communications networks, in particular for the LDS Church in Newbury Park, California, where I was the "Stake Emergency Communications Coordinator." Our communications group won the 1st world-wide test of the system, back in the late 80's. This is a "Field Day", but involved mostly LDS members/facilities, then under the name of MARA (Mercury Amateur Radio Association).

I feel very pleased in knowing that I had the opportunity to serve in this rescue incident and that every penny I spent on my system, radio, antenna, etc.....was certainly worth it!

Hal should receive a great "Well-Done", in that he also had radios with him, that non-hams could use to communicate with him. I also carry 4 of the GMRS/FRS radios with us whenever, where ever we go.

Later, a friend and fellow ham, Don Wilson, KOMLF, of La Verkin, told me he had been listening and that Hal and I were professional



Bart Anderson, K7EDU, has passed away.

Bart had been through a knee replacement in the last year that did go well and very recently had it redone. Dan Farwell, W8EQA, told us that in the last few years he had the privilege of being the one Bart called for ham radio pleasures and problems. Dan said helping him set up a new 2 meter rig or replacing the coax to his ancient ten meter beam was an opportunity he cherished and said it was an honor to get to know him.

Many of us in the Club knew Bart from many different avenues, including Amateur Radio. He was one of our Club's founders and quickly became a friend to anyone who had the opportunity to meet him. He will definitely be missed.



==== Field Day: Map your site for other Hams and Visitors ====

Whether it's to be enjoyed with a bunch of friends, a local club, or an ARES group, in the mountains or in the city, Field Day is only two months away! We hope you and your club are gearing up to be a part of the fun.

ARRL once again offers a useful feature on its website: A tool that displays Field Day sites and information across the United States and Canada, thanks to Google Maps. While you or your club members may know where your particular Field Day site will be located, the real beauty of this feature is that it informs other Hams, prospective Hams, or visitors where Field Day efforts will take place in their areas. Is your site shown on the map?

Head over to <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php> to see what Field Day sites are nearby, or to add yours. This tool is only as good as the number of people who make use of it, so please post your site and spread the word to all the Hams you know, especially those new to the hobby.

Information packets and rules for the 2009 event are available for download at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd> See you on the bands this June 27-28!

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

About ONE month remains til the 2009 Rocky Mountain Division Convention (May 29-31). Have you made plans to join close to 250 hams (and growing) in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado...gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park? Registration online and by mail is happening right now, and special hotel rates have been negotiated for convention attendees.

Among the guest speakers: 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), Cheryl Muhr, NOWBV, YL columnist for WorldRadio Online (formerly WorldRadio Magazine), Editor for YL-Harmonics the Young Ladies' Radio League's (YLRL) Bi-monthly magazine, and Brian Milesosky N5ZGT (Director, ARRL Rocky Mountain Division).

Nearly 30 technical and non-technical forums, great meals, transmitter hunts, special event station W1AW/0, and much more await you. Not to mention one heck of a time meeting and greeting hams from all over the Division and country. It'll be 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!



March DARC Meeting included Ric Wayman training on how to use IRLP and EchoLink. If you missed this, you missed on a great presentation showing the websites to look up information and how to access the repeaters at different locations.

Ric attempted accessing many different repeaters including one in Antarctica, and we finally were able to talk with a Ham in Anchorage, Alaska! It was great fun and very educational.



Ric Wayman – K7DLX

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Dixie Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2009

The main presentation at the April 15th meeting will be "Solar Panel's for Hams". Club Members and other interested attendees should bring with them notebooks, the manual's for the radio you will be using on solar power or knowledge of your radio's battery drain in standby and operating load. Our guest speaker will be Drew Blad, the owner of NRG Solar in Hurricane.



President's Message:

Ken Forshee
KE7DZI

I once heard a story that has stayed in my mind ever since hearing it. The story goes as follows:

An Anglo family while on vacation were traveling through Arizona. They had just stopped at one of the many scenic view areas along the way.

As they marveled at the beauty of the sandstone mesas and buttes, they noticed in the far off distance a very faint cloud of dust moving toward them in the valley below. As they stood and watched the cloud of dust come nearer and nearer, they noticed other clouds of dust appearing one after another, following the same path as the one in front. They realized that the dust was being made by horse-drawn wagons and automobiles as they followed one another down the road. This steady line of travelers went on for miles, each following the same road and heading in the same direction. This made the family very curious about what they were witnessing and what it all meant. They decided they would find out for themselves where everyone was heading. They found a road that took them right to the caravan of wagons and cars. They stopped one of the wagons and inquired. They were told everyone was heading to a traditional ceremony taking place later that evening. They were invited to come if they were interested and they decided they would see for themselves.

When they arrived at the ceremony, they moved to the front of the crowd for a better view. Once they were up front they noticed everyone was looking at them and so they began to filter to the back of the crowd, quietly got back into the car and drove away.

I suppose if you were to ask the Native Americans what they thought of the visitors that day, you would get some of the following answers. They were very quiet, not very outspoken, shy, not very friendly, stayed to the back, stayed together and left quickly.

From this story I have realized that we need to get to know people before we label or come to the conclusion that this way a certain group of people are. Lets take the time to become acquainted with others and think of each other as fellow Hams and members of D. A. R. C.

Congratulations to those who took Amateur Radio examinations for their Amateur Radio operator licenses at the most recent **March 18, 2009** ARRL-VEC sessions conducted by ARRL-VEC Certified Dixie Amateur Radio Club volunteer examiners. The following individuals passed their license examination:

<u>NAME:</u>	<u>CALLSIGN:</u>	<u>HOME TOWN:</u>	<u>LICENSE:</u>
Jeremy Cox	KF7BGB	St. George, Utah	New Technician licensee
Jeffrey Keyes	KE7ZOQ	St. George, Utah	Upgraded from Tech to General
Susan Bergeron	KE7ZON	Cedar City, Utah	Upgraded from Tech to General
Kyler Frei	KF7BGA	St. George, Utah	New Technician licensee
Scott Taylor	KE7YIQ	St. George, Utah	Upgraded to General
Gregory Bart	KE7WQA	St. George, Utah	Upgraded from Tech to General
Veva Sue Bart	KF7BFZ	St. George, Utah	New Technician licensee

Note: In addition to the above, one additional person took both the Technician Exam as well as the General and passed both but is not listed at his request.

Kudos Nomination Form

Note: The KUDOS is a Dixie Amateur Radio recognition given to those members who go behind 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 Return to HAM-E