



Dixie Amateur Radio Club

December 2010

Volume 34, Issue 12

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Christmas Party December 3rd



By the time you read this, the DARC Annual Christmas Party will either be days away, or in the books. If it's the first case, get it on your calendar and don't miss it! If it's the second, the Webmaster will have an update on the website regarding the election within a day or so of the party.

I can tell you the following: Scott Taylor KE7YIQ is your new President for the year 2011, and Kevin Merrill KE7TLW will continue as your Secretary. Contested offices are Vice-President, which will either be Kyler Frei KF7BGA or Gary Zabriskie N7ARE, Treasurer, which will either be Lee Case N7UEC or Harold Wells KE7OZG, and two board members which will be chosen from Mike Blenderman, K7IC, Ken Forshee, K4SHE, Gary Hall K7ODM, or Darius Jensen KD7BCK. The 2010 President, Nick Nickle, W7CRN, will fill the third board seat as the immediate Past President as our bylaws state.

DARC wishes you and yours a wonderful Holiday season and the best wishes for a great new year!

Who Are We?

The Dixie Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is a non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) association of federally licensed Amateur Radio operators (also known as "ham radio" operators) who primarily reside in southwestern Utah, mostly in the greater St. George City metropolitan area. We also have members who live in rural areas of Washington County and in areas outside of the county. The Dixie Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is a formally "Affiliated Club" with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) "The National Association for Amateur Radio".

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2010 Board Members

- President...C. R. "Nick" Nickle W7CRN
- Vice-President....Kory Talbot KE7MMH
- Secretary..... Kevin Merrill KE7TLW
- Treasurer.....Harold Wells KE7OZG
- Board Member.....Scott Taylor KE7YIQ
- Board Member..Bruce Bissell KE7LGD
- Board Member....Ken Forshee KE7DZI

Past Presidents of DARC

- 2009.....Ken Forshee K4SHE
- 2008.....Ric Wayman K7DLX
- 2007.....Hal Whiting K12U
- 2006.....Hal Whiting K12U
- 2005.....Gary Zabriskie N7ARE
- 2004.....Dan Farwell W8EQA
- 2003.....Dan Farwell W8EQA
- 2002.....Ron Sappington W17Z
- 2001.....Travis Lofthouse KD7FRN
- 2000.....Stephen Jeppson N7WWV
- 1999.....
- 1998.....
- 1997.....Gerald Newton N7MWY
- 1996.....Dick Groves KB7THB
- 1995.....
- 1994.....
- 1993.....Steve Kimber W7VEW
- 1992.....
- 1991.....
- 1990.....
- 1989.....
- 1988.....
- 1987.....
- 1986.....
- 1985.....
- 1984.....Walder C. May KA7STK

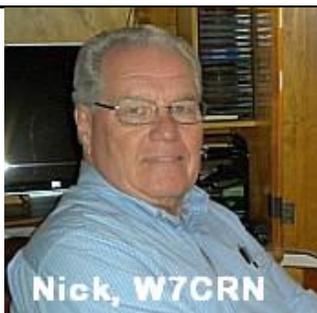
Can anyone help me complete this list?
 Please contact Ric Wayman at
 k7dlxham@gmail.com

SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

Send your ideas, bios, articles, cartoons, etc.
 to Ric Wayman at k7dlxham@gmail.com.
 ALL HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED!

Nick Nickle, W7CRN

President's Corner



Nick, W7CRN

Here we are at the end of another year and my term as your president is coming to an end. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help and support during the past year, especially the Board: **Kory Talbot KE7MMH** Vice President; **Kevin Merrill KE7TLW** Secretary; **Harold Wells KE7OZG** Treasurer; and Board Members **Ken Forshee K4SHE**; **Scott Taylor KE7YIQ**; **Bruce Bissell KE7LGD**; for a job well done – THANK YOU.

I would also like to extend thanks to our Technical Committee, led by **Bill Wells W7WFW**, for their effort in keeping the linked repeater system operating, and to our Events Committee: **Lynn Bateman KE7MXZ** Marathon Coordinator; **Gary Hall K7ODM** Senior Games Coordinator; **Kory Talbot KE7MMH** Field Day Coordinator; **Dan Farwell W8EQA** Ironman Coordinator and Events Coordinator; and to everyone that helped represent the Dixie Amateur Radio Club at these events – THANK YOU.

Thanks also go out to **Gary Zabriskie N7ARE** Web Master; and **Ric Wayman K7DLX** Newsletter Editor and Sunday Night Net Manager; and our Sunday Night Net Control Operators, **Dan Sadler K3RKW**, **Gary Hall K7ODM**, **Lynn Bateman KE7MXZ**, **Charlie Tasker K6MAZ** – THANK YOU for a job well done.

And THANK YOU to all our club members for your help and participation throughout the past year – remember the Dixie Amateur Radio Club is only as good as you, our members, make it.

Going forward I urge each of you to fully support our new leadership led by President **Scott Taylor KE7YIQ**, and be ready to help when invited.

One last item, please pay your membership dues on time – for most of us that would be January, for those that joined the club this year, it would be on your anniversary month.

Thank you and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, 73!

Nick

10 New Year's Resolutions For The Ham Operator

With this new year, let's all make a few of the traditional resolutions for our hobby:

1. Try a new mode - maybe RTTY, PSK-31 or contacting through a satellite. That could be a lot of fun and might just start you in a new direction in our hobby.

2. Join in a contest - Heck, you may not win, but the fun is trying to see how many contacts you can make in a set period of time. Then when the contest comes around the following year - try to better your old score. You may get addicted to this part of the hobby.



3. Set a goal and upgrade your license - that's one way of brushing up on regulations and technical information.

4. Put up a new antenna. It doesn't have to be a fancy beam - try a new wire antenna - you may find they work pretty good when they are well constructed and some simple standards are followed.

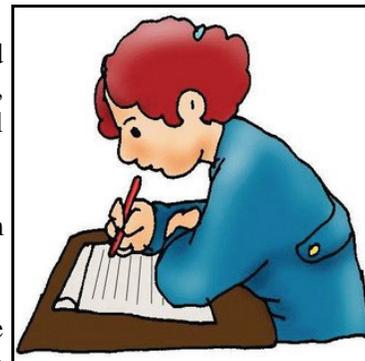


5. Help someone else get into this hobby, be an Elmer to a new ham - let them learn from your experiences.

6. Help run the Sunday Night net - contact Ric K7DLX to get on the schedule. Running the net really gives you some on-air experience talking with a number of different people and keeping track of who's where. It's terrific experience for when an emergency happens and you just may be the person called upon to run an emergency net. Besides, it's fun!!

7. Go after one of the many awards available for operating. Worked All States, Worked All Continents, Worked All Zones, DXCC, VUCC, Worked all US Counties. Heck, just try and work all Utah Counties! Getting that piece of paper to hang on the wall sure looks nifty! There are too many types of awards out there to list them here.

8. Write up an article for this newsletter - something about ham radio and you. I'm always looking for new stuff to put in this newsletter, go ahead and send it in!



9. Volunteer at the club to help out on one of the club's community service activities, or volunteer to give a presentation at a club meeting. The club can always use some help, any you'll have fun and maybe learn a thing or two.

10. Get on the air more often - use the bands we have. If more hams use the bands, we have less of a chance to lose them. Many outsiders are trying to get our spectrum rights away from us. The best way we can keep them is to be active on the air.

So, there you go - I bet if you think for a while, you can come up with even more. Above all - have fun in this hobby and remember, there are people out there - all over the world (even outside of the world if you count the ISS space station!) - just waiting to talk to you. Complete strangers with one major common interest - the fun hobby of Amateur Radio. Happy New Year everyone!

Farwell and Good

RTTY

By Dan Farwell, W8EQA

RTTY, radio teletype, “ritty”, whatever you call it. It’s fun and a great mode to have a really nice chat on or chase that elusive rare DX country.

RTTY used to be the done with really big and noisy printers. There was nothing portable or convenient about these early units. Not only were they big and loud mechanically but, often oily and near perfect dust collectors.

Later just a Terminal Node Connector (TNC) replaced all the big furniture and by the 1990’s the computer sound card won out as the most popular way to go.

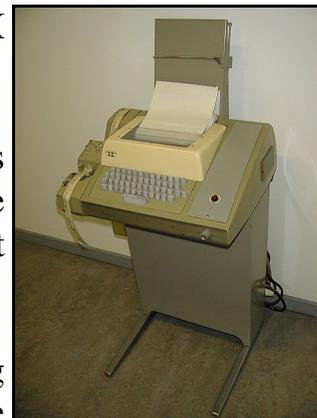
RTTY is a keyboard-to-keyboard mode. You type, your computer sound card changes the text into an audio signal. Your transceiver and antenna send out this audio signal through the air to another anxious amateur with a similar setup and he reads your decoded message on his computer.

RTTY is yet another viable mode to work the DX. Many of the well-funded DXpeditions around the world today will have multiple stations that can work all the amateur bands from 6-160 meters. They’ll operate all the most popular modes including CW, SSB, PSK-31 and yes, RTTY!

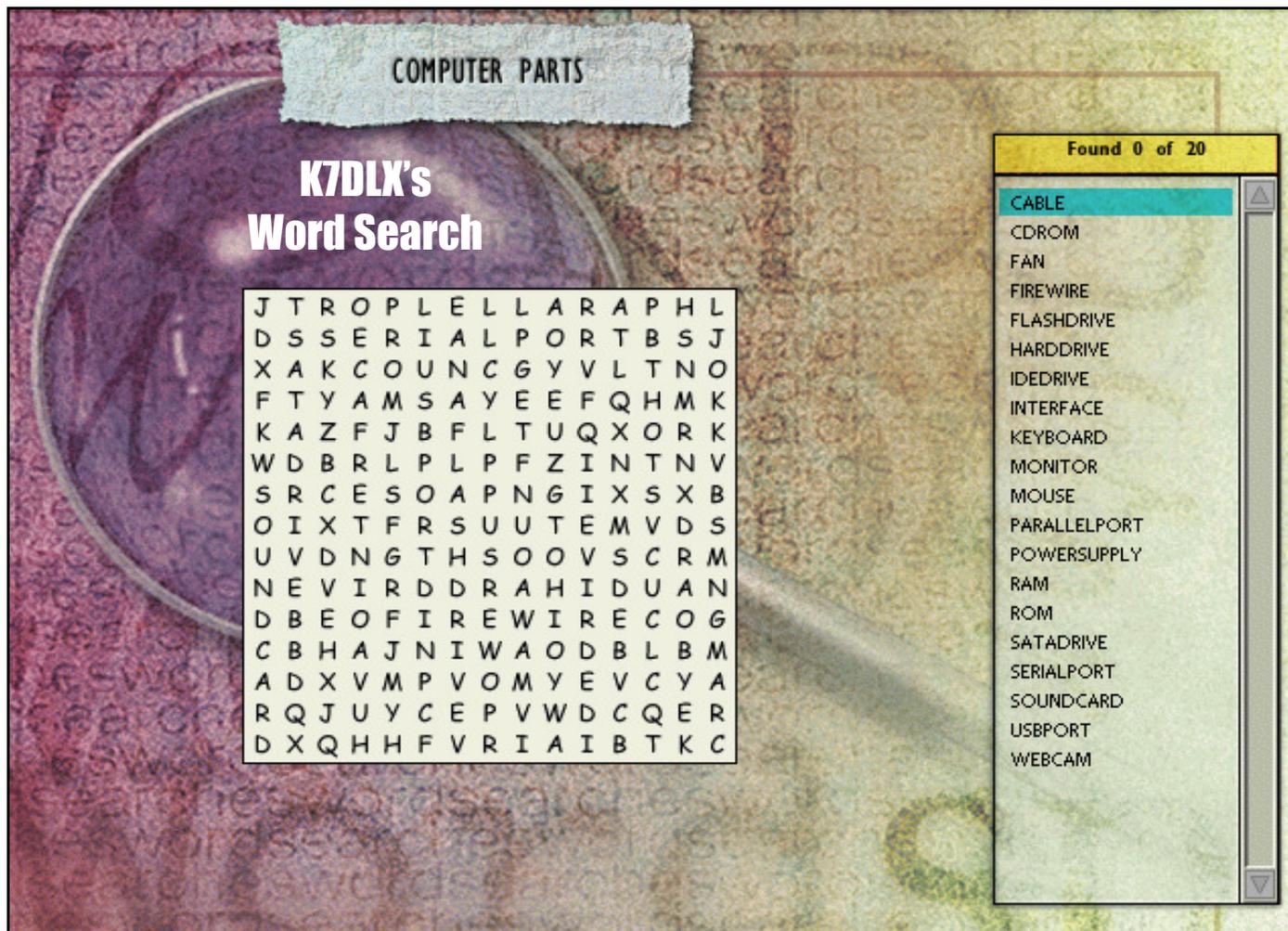
So if you have a computer with a SoundBlaster compatible sound card and a spare \$100 for a ready made interface you can radio teletype too!

Good luck and good hunting!

Dan W8EQA



Dan Farwell, W8EQA, is a past president of the DARC, and an honorary life member. His contributions to the club are numerous. Dan recently moved to Paragonah with his wife Melody, W7RRR, and can be found on the HF bands running the rare DX stations. This is the last in a series Dan has written about his life as a ham operator and knowledge he has gained through the years he would like to share. Many thanks to Dan for permission to reprint his articles over this past year.



"Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack, I hope that St. Nick
isn't forced to turn back.

The wife making cookies, the kids making noise, While away in the
shack, by my rig I was poised.

The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set, I was chasing DX to see what I could get.

The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear, Except one lone station that sounded quite near.

He was calling CQ and my interest did pique, When he ended transmission with the words "Old St. Nick".

I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch, If this were St. Nicholas, good gosh, what a catch!

We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic, Then he came back and said, "I've emergency traffic!"

His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump, If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.

I thought very carefully, I thought very hard, Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.

As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane, He reined in his chargers and called them by name:

"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode! Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!

You're flying too low! you're flying too fast! Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"

So into the backyard the reindeer did drop, St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!

Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking, "Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"

As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack, Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--

His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap, His callsign was stitched on the front of his cap.

The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow, And he handed me a card that read "QSL Via Bureau".

His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest; I felt like a novice taking his test.

His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell, This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.

I offered him coffee, I gave him a poke, I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.

Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb, He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.

He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree, And placed in it a large present for me.

When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow, Then out the back door to his team he did plow.

But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land, "Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"

The Night Before Christmas (Ham Radio version)