

# Dixie Ham Radio Newsletter August 2016



**Amateur Radio works...  
...when all else fails!**

**We are an ARRL Affiliated Club**

## **Club Officers:**

**President..... Scott Smith, KF7SSB**  
**Vice President.....Harold Wells, KE7OZG**  
**Treasurer..... James Moore, KG7VEI**  
**Secretary.....Brady MacPherson, KD7AWJ**  
**Board Member..... Jim Ashby, K5JCA**  
**Board Member..... Keisha Lovett, KG7ECW**

*For information or comments send to:*  
*Lynden Kendrick, KG7SXQ, Editor*  
***Lynden.Kendrick@gmail.com*** or  
*text 801-598-1618.*

*We need to gather funds for solar/battery backup systems for our repeaters and funds for other club activities. For donations, please also contact me or send them to James our Treasurer.*

**Notice:** *Articles, statements and opinions are those of the authors. The Club is not responsible for accuracy of the information contained herein.*

## **Ham Radio Special events:**

-- September WCARES activity. will be at Hurricane City Emergency Preparedness fair, September 10th, 10 AM to 1 PM at the Community & Fine Arts center. Club members can help set up at 8 AM. Contact Jim Ashby, K5JCA.

--September 9th and 10th there is a Red Cross Shelter Training--Sleeves Up, Hearts Open.

All in. It will be held at the Washington City Community Center. Contact 435-879-9033 or [George.colson@redcross.org](mailto:George.colson@redcross.org)

--The regular DARC club meeting will be held at 7 PM on Wednesday September 21st. Amateur radio exams will be held at 5:30 PM. See [www.dixieham.org](http://www.dixieham.org) for more information.

--Tri-state Rally: September 9th and 10th. "We are still in need of few more people needed for this brand new event. It has stages at the 3 corners of the states that juxtaposition. Arizona, Nevada and Utah. Contact: Dennis McMahon, [562-547-4892](tel:562-547-4892) or Sign up on [www.tristaterally.com](http://www.tristaterally.com) or [www.rallydata.com](http://www.rallydata.com)"

--WCARES members, please mark your calendar for September 17th at the Morningside Stake Center ( 9 AM to 1 PM). We have an Emergency Preparedness Fair to attend. contact Jim Ashby, K5JCA

--Volunteer for the St George Marathon, October 1st. Contact Lynn Bateman at [ke7mxz@gmail.com](mailto:ke7mxz@gmail.com)

--Volunteers needed for the senior games cycling, triathlon and other events. Contact [ron.chaffin@gmail.com](mailto:ron.chaffin@gmail.com)

## **Member Articles:**

### **Paperchasing/Wallpaper-Awards!**

By Mike Cartmill, ACØPR

Some think it's a waste of time, others live for it. As the tides have swelled and ebbed for me in this regard, I look back and I can say two things for sure:

- 1 When I was chasing an award I got on the air a LOT more than when I wasn't, and
- 2 They helped me become a better operator.

For any license class, there are awards for just about anything you can do on radio. There are

common ones through ARRL like Worked All States (WAS) or DXCC (DX Century Club, worked 100 DX entities) and the Triple Play (all 50 states on phone, digital, and CW); then there are clubs that make up events to get awards (many are free, others are not) whether it's OMISS, or 3905Century Club, or CW clubs, QRP clubs or the Digital Mode Club, some hunt counties or grids or do DFing (Direction Finding), while others participate in contests; National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) is going on all year; there was just the annual 13 Colonies Special Event 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend; Special Event Stations (SES) are listed in QST.

Find something, and chase it. Get on the air.

It may be just a piece of paper, but it represents some hard work, time on the radio, and contacts made. When your wall is "papered" you may look up and really be proud of the operator you've become and for sure you will have met some good people and operators along the way.

## Learn CW? Are you kidding me?



Article by Mike Cartmill, ACØPR

Nope. Wait! Wait! Wait! Don't go, let me share a few reasons why learning CW is a good idea (and cool, and fun, and awesome, etc.).

Like DX at all? I guarantee you that you will get LOTS more DX using CW than you would on phone. Ever use batteries/solar and need

or want to use less power? CW punches through even with a few watts. Emergency preparedness minded? CW is a useful, additional way to communicate and is a code, giving a bit more added security.

Ever get frustrated with digital programs, their settings, soundcard and computer issues? CW requires only your mind, ears, and fingers. Did you hate having CW as a requirement back in the day? It's no longer required, now you can do it for fun because you want to at your pace. Like contests? There are lots of CW contests, and often CW counts for additional points (like Field Day).

Are you a Technician? Look closely at the band plan, you DO NOT have to wait to be a General to work on HF. A Tech has CW privileges on 15, 40, and 80 meters—in fact in the same frequencies as a General or Advanced ham.

Thousands upon thousands have learned the code—you passed the same exams to become a ham that they did. YOU CAN DO IT!!

There are tons of helps and programs to use.

You can visit the following website: <http://www.drcartmill.com/html/CW.html> for an overview and a list of helps and even audio files to start learning today! Fair warning, once you get into CW, you may not want to bother with any other mode again. ☺

## Going to a Digital Mode Repeater

*email from Brady MacPherson, KD7AWJ  
(some changes made by the Editor)*

Do you guys know of any Motorola turbo TMR repeaters in the area of St. George?

My proposal is to take down the 449.3253 Repeater on Seegmiller and replace it with a Motorola turbo repeater keeping everything else there except for the repeater/controller itself.

The digital radio protocol is an open source protocol so now many Chinese digital radios

are now able to access the Motorola turbo digital repeaters. Of course, this includes the more expensive Motorola radios.

This is a far better choice than the Yaesu Fusion System which is proprietary and is the latest digital mode. TMR turbo is better than the Dstar, which is now outdated.

If there is an option to have Internet at that site, then it is possible to also link up to the DMR DMARC network which is a network of repeaters around the world which are digital. They hold a net daily.

Since the signal repeater is already UHF, I can purchase a \$2000 Motorola repeater at the request and acceptance of the group.

It is incredible technology where 1 W digital power equals 5W analog power. The voice clarity is remarkable. It is time slotted using 6.25 kHz bandwidth--half of the 12.5 kHz slot allowing for both voice and voice or voice and data simultaneously (*on two channels of the 12.5 kHz band slot*).

Everything up there is already there including duplexers, antenna, etc. All that needs to be taken out, I believe, is the repeater itself and the controller. Hopefully there is an Internet connection there.

I can give a presentation at the next board meeting but I would like the approval of the amateur radio club to do a possible upgrade to one of the repeaters in the area. I don't know who owns that repeater system and I would hope that we could upgrade Seegmiller or another repeater to this new technology.

It's easy to text, take pictures, etc. It is similar to a cell phone using a data plan on a cell tower except this is using the latest and greatest in ham radio. Not much would change with what we are used to working with on our cell phones in a catastrophe. As amateur radio operators, we have always pioneered the way, we always have.

Next is a picture of a few Motorola DMR digital radio I have. Since it's tier 2 technology open

source most of the TYT, Hitera (*a brand name*) radios will work.



Please let me know what your thoughts are as I would like to have our group to be one of the first clubs to put up one of these repeaters in the state. There are several that exists in Las Vegas and several that exists in the Salt Lake Valley area.

For more information, please Google DMR dmark

**-- Editor: Here's an update to the story in June about Brady Communications.**

*"I continue to operate my communications company and soon will be online. Available are all the products with connectors, cables, radios, HF gear, everything. I will have an online store but more importantly I will have items in stock locally for people that are looking for something. I am still in business and still selling radios and programming radios, and everything else as before. For an appointment, use this phone number 435-862-1119."*

## Powerful Products



Interview of Chad Steglich by Lyn Kendrick

Powerful Products is a solar, Goal Zero, emergency preparedness store located at 29 West 200 North in St. George. About 60% of their sales are from their on-line Purgatory Warehouse in Hurricane--which is where they started 4 years ago.

You can see their products in person at the Ancestor Square store (on the Northeast corner) or find the company on-line at [www.powerfulproducts.com](http://www.powerfulproducts.com) or phone then at 435-634-6800.

They have a convenient location with plenty of parking but no one seems to notice them. They are situated just before the Main Street "Roundabout."

Chad showed me around and I was surprised by the variety of products. Just some of the items are weBoost cell phone boosters, survival tents and bunks, water purification systems (such as Aquamira brand), huge water storage tanks (I estimate 120 gallon tanks), preparedness food and cooking utensils, freeze dried food, Kayaks, stand up paddle boards in addition to the solar panels and battery "generators."



They carry Goal Zero as well as Sierra Wave battery powerpacs and solar panels. Three of the battery back-ups I saw had lithium batteries. These are lighter and last longer than the lead acid batteries. Powerful Products has an assortment of the lead acid backups, too. The Company would like to have more ham radio operators drop in.

They specialize in portable folding solar panels but also have bigger panels used by RV's and mobile homes. Some of panels are the fold-up or briefcase models.

(Editor disclaimer, I have one of their briefcase fold out panels that I purchased a couple of months ago for myself for Fathers-Day...Betty paid for it)



Powerful Products is a local store ham operators should check out. Tell them you saw their information in the Club Newsletter.

## A Failed DX Experiment

By Lyn Kendrick, KG7SXQ

I have been interested in contacting the Jacob's Lake repeater from St George. I have a VHF 5 element Yagi so I thought I should be able to hit that repeater. I was only "sort-of successful."

On August 15th, Lance Smith, KI7FIB, and I traveled up to a spot on the Joshua Tree scenic bypass road where we were high enough to see over the mountains between St. George and Jacob's Lake. (Jacob's Lake is located South and a little East of Kanab at the access to the long road to Grand Canyon's North Rim. It's about 90 to 100 miles as the crow flies.)

After setting up the Yagi, we keyed the mic. We heard the "Morse code" bit dah dit from the repeater and it showed 4 bars (out of 10) on my Yaesu 3200DR. We asked for a radio check 5 or 6 times with no answer. In my book, that's only almost a contact so we drove home dejected.



They feature Mountain House (a 30 year old company) freeze dried food packages. Chad was careful to note the Mountain House food is not dehydrated, it is freeze dried. He stated that often freeze dried food prepares faster than dehydrated foods. Freeze dried foods are ready in 5 to 10 minutes versus 20 minutes for dehydrated food. Hikers really like Mountain House goods according to Chad.

Here's a picture of my Yagi:



In the mean time, I discovered I had the Yagi mounted in the wrong place and on Monday I was using an aluminum mast (not shown) as opposed to the non-conducting one in the above photo. I moved the mounting plate to the rear of the Yagi and dug out my schedule 80 mast. I was excited, I knew it was going to work better.

However, I still wanted to make sure I could talk to someone in Kanab. I contacted the President, James Holland, K7OCR, of the Kanab radio club and via email asked if he or someone in the club could help. Vince Oppedisano, WB7UWW, in Page, AZ and I set up Wednesday at Noon so we could connect via Jacob's Lake repeater. He was nice enough to give me his phone number --just in case.

Wednesday, I drove up to the road, set up everything and called Vince at noon. I received the Morse code 4 bars from the repeater and could almost hear Vince. We tried several things. Pointing the Yagi at 90° then 100° then back to 120°. I unhooked the 3200 and tried my Yaesu 8800. He could see

a 4 bar carrier and I could see one about the same strength, no audio however on either side.

I failed. I might try again by going higher up in elevation or finding a place in a more Northern direction.

## Volunteer Exam Session Results:



Congratulations to the following candidates who either passed their initial

Amateur Radio exam or upgraded their license classification at the August 13<sup>th</sup> or August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 exam sessions conducted by ARRL-VEC certified volunteer examiners:

**Destry Balch (K9BDL)** of Hurricane, Utah  
Passed General Class License Exam

**Joseph McPhie** of St. George, Utah  
Passed Technician License Exam  
(Awaiting FCC callsign issuance)

**Roger Strom (KG7ASA)** of Hurricane, Utah  
Passed General Class License Exam

**Michael Simpson** of Rockaway Beach, Oregon  
Passed Technician License Exam  
(Awaiting FCC callsign issuance)

**Zach Short (KI7DJZ)** of St. George, Utah  
Passed General Class License Exam

**Cynthia Kilpatrick (KI7ARM)** of Ivins, Utah  
Passed General Class License Exam

**Dylan Fox** of St. George, Utah  
Passed Technician License Exam  
(Awaiting FCC callsign issuance)

**Karl Bienvenu** of Las Vegas, Nevada  
Passed Technician License Exam  
(Awaiting FCC callsign issuance)

**Guy Van Horn (KI7GKR)** of Springville, Utah  
Passed General Class License Exam

**Gary Van Horn** of Sterling, Utah  
Passed Technician and General Class License Exams  
Awaiting FCC callsign issuance)

**Thomas Bingham** of St. George, Utah  
Passed Technician License Exam  
(Awaiting FCC callsign issuance)