

Dixie Ham Radio Newsletter October 2016



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

We are an ARRL Affiliated Club

Club Officers:

President..... Scott Smith, KF7SSB
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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:

The Dixie Amateur Radio Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 7 PM at the St. George Community Building. It is found at the southwest corner of Washington County's Gayle M. & Mary Aldred Senior Citizens Center property, which is located at 245 North 200 West, St. George, Utah.

The WCARES (Washington County ARES) monthly training meeting is held on the 2nd

Saturday each month at 9:30 AM. The next meeting is November 12th at the Washington County EOC training room located in the basement area of 197 E. Tabernacle in St George at 9:30am.

Member Articles:

ARES & Hurricane City Emergency Prep Expo

By Mike Cartmill, ACØPR



With September being National Preparedness Month, Hurricane city held an Emergency Preparedness Expo Sept. 10, 2016. The Washington County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (WCARES) group participated with a booth featuring a few go-boxes, plenty of literature, and a variety of HT radios.

Stephen, KI7L, had an antenna setup outside by the large ARES banner inviting the curious to enter. Plenty of people stopped by to see what it was all about and ask questions as ARES members, most in those distinctive yellow shirts, explained, demonstrated, and answered questions. Hopefully we'll see some of them soon at testing sessions!

Learn more or how to join Washington County ARES at <http://ares-wc.org/blog>

55 and 35 Years Ago, A Short History

By Steve Peterson, KI7L



Steve Peterson aiming the VHF antenna towards the International Space Station during a scheduled 2-way back in September 2010 at a Boy Scout Centennial Celebration in Hurricane, Utah. See here for more info on that: <http://www.dixieham.org/storyarchive.html>

Lynden has been bugging me to write something for the DARC newsletter - so here goes! –

I was first licensed as a Novice and Tech in 1960 while an undergraduate at UC Berkeley. Ham radio probably had something to do with my less than sterling GPA. I kept the tech for 10 years as the novice was only good for one year. My Elmer (my then girlfriend's brother) and I did CW most nights and I got up to 20 wpm on a straight key. My receiver was a NC-57 and a single tube, single crystal home brew transmitter. I kept the Tech for the ten years and built a Heath Shawnee 6 meter transceiver, then work took me to Canada and I did not get licensed while there. I returned to the USA in 1976 but didn't do ham radio.

It is now 1980 and my interest in ham radio was rekindled. Since I knew I knew the code, getting back up to 13 wpm wasn't a big deal. My General call was N7BWQ which I kept as an Advanced licensee. I then took the Extra test (20 wpm copy only at that time) and was given my present call, KI7L.

My first HF radio was a Kenwood TS-830. I also got several VHF/UHF Kenwoods. I did a lot of satellite work, mostly Oscars in the early

80's with the Kenwood TS-700a. I then bought a Kenwood FM 2m and eventually traded it for a 2 m FM/SSB/CW radio (TR-9000) which I still have and use occasionally, I also got a TR 9500 UHF version as well. Now I could do some serious satellite comm.

In December of 1983, Owen Garriot (W5LFL) became the first ham in space. He was a CW fan but the radio he had was FM only. As I recall he was active for about a week and everybody in the world was trying to work him. He had 1 downlink frequency but could receive on several uplink frequencies, which were known but no one knew which one he was listening on. I had my 10+10 2 m satellite Yagi antenna and borrowed a 160 W 2 m amp from Mike, WA7ARK (thanks Mike!!) I tried day after day and though in school (U of U), I didn't miss a pass. It was getting towards the end of his scheduled ham activity when it dawned on me to try MCW since I figured out that he might be more sensitive to his favorite mode. MCW is sending CW audio into the FM mike, Nothing for several passes then I heard "KI7L on MCW"!!!

I was floating bit 6 inches above the floor! I just had a 2-way with the first ham in space. Only about 350 W5LFL to earth 2-way contacts worldwide were made at that time. Utah had 3 of them. Dave Pederson, N7BHC, now PJ4VHF in Bonaire, and our very own Gary Zabriskie, N7ARE, were the other two.

More adventures to come!

Interview of Jeff Jennings, Owner of PCS Communications

By Lyn Kendrick



Q: How did you get started in communications?

Jeff got interested in electronics as a teenager. When he was a Junior in high school in 1969, he obtained an oscilloscope. Although his dad was a Dentist, he said he wasn't attracted to that profession.

He started a mobile radio phone company in 1981 and later a TV cable company. His company installed miles of cable in Ivins, Santa Clara and other local neighborhoods.

Q: How do you feel you serve the community with radio/other communications?

Jennings noted he has donated equipment several times to the Marathon, for the Huntsman's games and even for the Suntrans Buses. He's helped with a number of the Youth at Risk organizations, as well. He works now with "preppers" to assist in forming an informal emergency preparation prepper network. The author knows Jennings is also involved in Scouting and communications projects with them.

PCS Communications rents dozens of hand held or mobile radios. He has a stock of connectors, mics and other accessories for government and private ham clients.



Q: You have some of your own repeaters, are they mostly used by businesses?

Most of the 40 repeaters he owns are used by businesses. About 35 repeaters are 800 Mhz repeaters and the rest are either UHF or VHF. Interestingly, he noted he was responsible for building the Seegmiller Mountain repeaters, including the 360 foot commercial one (see picture).





Q: What's the most interesting thing you've done with radios ?

He thought that was a tough question but after some consideration, he said learning about solar and wind back-up systems. His Graff Point repeater used to use a timed diesel generator to recharge his back-up batteries but that was a pain to keep the generator fueled and maintained especially since it is on the top of a mountain. He now has both a 50 amp wind generator but also panels of solar cells, about 1000 watts. Life is much better.

He also noted that in his lifetime, he's seen voice communications change pretty dramatically. Now you make a cell call on a watch



Q: How do you think you can work best with or provide service to local ham operators?

Jennings has a good stock of used VHF, UHF, 800 Mhz radios and other equipment. He represents Vertex, Icom, Galaxy, Stryker, Kenwood, Motorola, Cobra and other brands. He also repairs equipment and tunes antennae. (I bought a used 5 element VHF yagi from him about a year ago. He tuned it to 145.030 Mhz for Fldigi use and it showed a 9.5 to 10 db gain.) He still sells and tunes CB radios although that is only 5% of his business.

Q: Anything else you would like to tell me or show me regarding communications?

A number of "preppers" have expressed an interest in his digital private trunked network. Many preppers have a great deal invested in their food, defense and shelters and don't want a lot of people eavesdropping on their plans or operations. Jennings's network is much more private than using a VHF or UHF ham repeater or system.

Want more information: Contact, Jeff Jennings, President, PCS Communications, 435-674-1111, e-mail: pcsshop@infowest.com

Overview of Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA)

By Mike Cartmill, ACØPR



While it started in the UK, it has spread all over the world. Summits on the Air is a radiosport program designed to include all radio amateurs and to combine portable radio operations with hiking. "Activators" hike or climb to the top of qualifying summits to transmit. "Chasers" attempt to contact them, and both earn points towards different awards. Summit to summit contacts are in a special category all of their own.

Because Activators must carry their equipment (and not drive it to the summit) most are QRP, since smaller power sources are lighter. Although repeaters cannot be used to complete a qso, many use 2-meter FM to make the minimum of four contacts required to count the activation—allowing all license classes to participate.

Utah happens to be rich in qualifying summits! Visit <http://sota.org.uk> for more information and to start to participate today! A video of my first experiences can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/yQ8pO87-6Po>

Tri-State Off-Road Rally Report

By Calvin Fox, KG7RIE



In early September, my daughters, wife, and I had the opportunity to volunteer for the Tri-State Rally. It made for a couple of rewarding, and fun days. The Eureka

Hotel in Mesquite was the base for this so it was an easy day trip for us.

Day one was registration, volunteers and competitors both needed to register, and get our gift bags. We arrived a little early; it gave me a little time to get to know some of the people that were running both the race itself, and those who were running the net. My girls and wife jumped right in and helped organize the gift bags. We felt involved right from the start.

We had a brief radio assignment meeting, and then headed out to the first race of the event. The first length was in Warner Valley. It was an evening race, and the HAMS were set at

strategic points to block traffic, and a couple of people were watching some Boy Scouts that were camping out there. The race was well organized with clear procedures and policies. It made the race safe, and fun. The excitement of the race was quite intense, and it was a pleasure to see. Even had I not been directly involved, it would have been fun. We went home that night quite excited for the next morning races.

Saturday morning was the Joshua Tree leg. This was on the dirt road that goes South from the Shivwits Reservation, and extends down through a gap in the hills into Nevada, and reconnects with Highway 91. It is a bumpy ride in some places, and it was breath taking to see these race cars take this road at high speeds.

I even got the opportunity to be the first radio on the scene when the sweep vehicle rolled into a wash, and coordinated the communications for that. Fortunately nobody was hurt, and the EMT truck, which was built specifically for these races, was also on site. It was a good chance for me to gain experience with this. The delay with the sweep vehicle did cause us to miss some of the shorter paved legs of the race back in Mesquite, but we were able to participate in the afternoon event, and were actually positioned at the starting line for that race leg.

There was an awards dinner that evening, and both volunteers, and racers were there and received recognition and awards. This year's race was both a fun race, and an opportunity to work out the kinks for the future races. The BLM awarded the Tri-State Rally a ten year event license, which is unheard of for the BLM, and a huge list of available areas to work with. The rally will be in February next year, and thereafter, less heat and exhaustion. We are looking forward to it, and truly feel that this is some of the most fun you can have with service.