

Dixie Ham Radio Newsletter January 2019



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

We are an ARRL Affiliated Club

Officers:

President Ric Wayman, K7DLX
Vice President Bob Vosper, KZ1B
Secretary Justin Grenier, KE7JJG
Treasurer Don Leonard, W7LRP
Board Member Harold Wells, KE7OZG

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Lynden.Kendrick@gmail.com or
Text 801-598-1618.

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.

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

Dixie Amateur Radio Club tries to support as many local bike, runner and race events as possible. We plan to put details on our web site for event coordinators so we can make sure we get **adequate information and lead time**. Stay tuned.

General Articles

Successful Christmas Dinner

By Lyn Kendrick, kg7sxq

On December 5th, The Club held its annual Christmas Dinner at the Golden Coral.

Everyone I talked to thought it was a great big winner. Especially the lucky ones who collected prizes and the two winners of the Board elections. Ric Wayman and Don Leonard were the victors of the two open Board positions.



(Lyn Kendrick and Deborah Porter moved out as Board Members since they finished their 2-year terms.)

The Club gave away some very nice prizes; including a Yaesu ft-60 handheld dual band radio, Tram and Baofeng antennas, and other needed ham shack items.



In past years, we had a few complaints about club members not being able to hear as the prize numbers were read. Gary Zabriskie, N7ARE, brought in his PA system and Lance Smith, KI7FIB, used his 50 years of audio experience to help adjust things so everyone could hear better this year.

We had the whole corner at Golden Coral so club members and their spouses could chat and become better acquainted. Food as usual was plentiful and good. I saw a few people go through the line 3 or 4 times.



Jim Ashby was honored with an award recognizing him for his years of service as Emergency Coordinator for Washington County ARES and for his contributions to training and leading the gang to install and repair many of the local repeater systems.



The new WC-ARES EC is James Moore and we expect good things to come from him and the leaders of ARES.

New Board Members and Officers

By Lyn Kendrick, KG7SXQ

The Club has 5 Board Members. This year two Board Members who had served their 2-year term moved aside so two new members could take over. We had four good people who ran for the 2 Board slots. The voting was close but Ric Wayman and Don Leonard triumphed.

The full Board met on January 3rd and it was decided who will be President, Secretary, etc. Ric is the new President for 2019, Bob Vosper, will hold down the VP job, Justin will be Secretary and Don will serve as Treasurer. Harold will be a Board Member at large.

The Board has many important responsibilities. They decide how to spend the grant money and funds collected via dues.

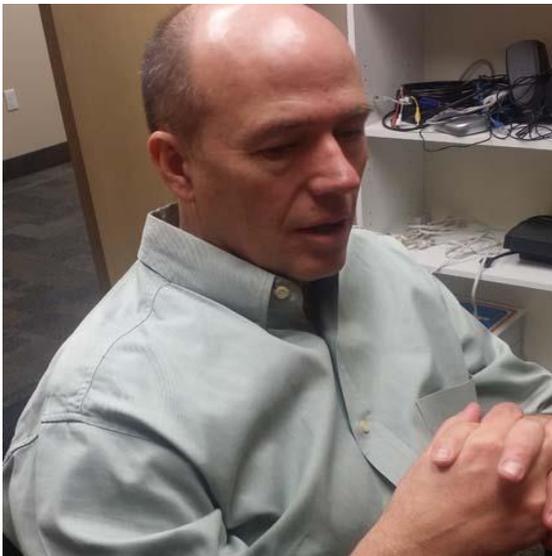
This year they had to repair or replace one or more of the UHF repeater coordinating radios. The change out a flakey power supply at the Webb Hill repeater and bought batteries and other chargers for battery backup and ultimately this will give us solar backup on all three repeaters.

The Board is responsible for selecting the topics for the Monthly Club training presentations. They have to decide who can take these subjects and make effective lectures.

Managing tasks also include mundane but important things like securing equipment and liability insurance. The Board is also tasked with finding and developing our service projects; such as, safety communications for bike races, motorcycle completions, the Marathon and various 1/2 marathons.



**Interview with Steven Rossberg,
KG7CLN
Southwest Utah Public Health
Department
By Lyn Kendrick**



1. How many hospitals does your office work with?

Ans: 6 hospitals in the Five County region. St George, Kanab, Panguitch, Cedar City, Beaver & Milford. There are 32 incorporated cities in these 5 counties. Actually, Page & Flagstaff, AZ and Mesquite, NV are also invited to participate in communication drills.

Are there other facilities with which you communicate?

Ans: Yes, nursing homes, surgical centers, the Veterans Home, other health organizations. Most are not active participants in the communications drills. They have handheld radios but many do not have licensed users.

2. What kind of equipment do have at the Department of Health?

Ans: Satellite phone, cell phone, land lines, Icom 7000 (80m, 40m, 20m fan dipole--80m nvis end-fed with remote tuner most commonly used), 800 mhz radios, Kenwood TK790 (into Diamond 512 antenna) plus some handhelds.



What do you have at the hospitals.

Icom 7000's or Icom 7100 (most facilities use an end-fed antenna.)

(Editor: Dixie Medical has an Icom 7000 for VFH communications and an Icom 7100 for either VFH or HF.)

3. What organizations help with communication drills?

Ans: In Cedar City--Rainbow Canyon Club, ARES. In St George--ARES and Various DARC members. Steve noted he often get's 40-50 participants during the drills and 10-15 volunteers to help conduct the drills.

4. Why do you use Fldigi for HF digital communications?

Ans: It's a State and FEMA Standard. (Editor: In the Five County Region they use 80m. The State Health people use 40M.)

5. What have been some of challenges on during drills?

Steve laughed

Ans: They "fried" a tuner in Kanab. Sometimes 40m and 80m propagation has been a problem. Some equipment isn't used often so there have been issues--that's one of the good reasons to have practice drills.

6. What do you have that can help communities with communications or emergency supplies?

Ans: We work a lot with County Emergency Managers.

We also work with Scott Alvord, Utah Division of Emergency Management, Region 4. Together, we help communities write and apply for various State and Federal grants.

7. In your opinion, how important are Red Cross, ARES and CERT organizations?

Ans: They are all important. The Red Cross tends to be Shelter oriented here in Southern Utah. ARES and CERT really help with training exercises.

8. I see you at DARC Club meetings. What would you like to see more of?

Ans: Basic stuff about the Incident Command System and FEMA processes. Ham operators tend to be preparedness minded. I'd like to see some emphasis on getting hams to review their Preparedness Kits. Do they have dead flashlights in their go boxes, expired items, etc. Are their First Aid Kits up to date and fresh.

9. What would you like to do in the future with your own personal ham radio?

Ans: I need to drill a hole in my truck's firewall so I can install my external radio antenna more permanently. I also want to get my General license.

Rain gutter Antenna By Ken Winthrop, K7KRW

(Taken from an email to the Editor)

I read an article by Craig LaBarage, WB3GK on a Downspout Antenna. So I decided to try something similar. I have a 2nd Antenna which I call a **Rain Gutter Loop**. The downspout which I use for a feed line is about 11 feet high and the loop is the entire rain gutter, all other downspouts are isolated from the ground. the downspout is connect by a long wire 12GA to the long wire connection of the MFJ 998 tuner. All parts of the gutter are bonded by either sheet-metal screws or wire connections. I have made contacts on 40M, 20M and 17M so far. The only problems that I have come across so far are any power **over 25 watts** causes havoc to TV's and computer monitors I have not figured out a way to curb RFI yet.

One interesting thing about the MFJ 998 is that it can most likely tune anything, even a door knob. 73

**From the American Radio Relay League
News on 01/15/2019: Court Rules
Excessive Antenna Application Fees
Violated Reasonable Accommodation**



Long-pending Amateur Radio antenna litigation that ARRL helped to fund has finally borne fruit. The

Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division: Second Judicial Department has ruled in the case of Myles Landstein, N2EHG, that the Town of LaGrange, New York, not only overstepped its state-granted authority by assessing excessive fees, but violated the limited federal preemption PRB-1 in the process. PRB-1 requires municipalities and states to “reasonably” accommodate Amateur Radio antennas and to apply the “minimum practicable regulation” in handling Amateur Radio antenna applications. The ruling is slated to be published as a case decision. Landstein had wanted to erect a 70-foot antenna support structure; the Town of LaGrange has a 35-foot height limit.

“This case, which goes back to 2013, was about applying PRB-1 to a situation in which a municipality attempted to thwart the installation and maintenance of ham radio antennas by imposing excessive permit application costs on the ham applicant,” said communications attorney Chris Imlay, W3KD, who is familiar with the case. Imlay said the FCC has refused to clarify the cost-prohibition issue as it relates to PRB-1’s “minimum practicable regulation” and reasonable accommodation provisions of PRB-1.

“The Town incurred more than \$17,000 in legal consulting fees in connection with [Landstein’s] applications, and informed the petitioner that he was required to reimburse the Town for these fees before any determination would be made with respect to the applications,” the court decision recounted. “The Town subsequently, as ‘an accommodation to the petitioner,’ reduced the amount...to...\$5,874,

but also required the petitioner to maintain a minimum advance continuing escrow balance of at least \$1,000 to cover the Town’s future consulting costs...”

“We hold that, because the Town did not limit the consulting fees charged to the petitioner to those necessary to the decision-making function of the town’s Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, the town exceeded its state-granted authority by requiring payment of the consulting fees and, moreover, violated a rule promulgated by the [FCC],” the court concluded.

Given the significant delay, Imlay said both he and Landstein had lost hope that the case would ever be resolved in Landstein’s favor — and in the favor of radio amateurs in New York, generally — much less be a case that would “create favorable precedent for Amateur Radio.”

“ARRL originally was drawn to this case, because New York is the only state that, due to a very old case decision, has held that Amateur Radio antennas are not necessarily a “normal accessory use” to residential real property,” Imlay explained. “Because the issue in the case dealt with both that issue and the issue of cost prohibitions in the permitting process relative to the cost of the antenna installation, we decided to fund the case.” Landstein lost at trial, and an appeal was filed in about 2015, for which ARRL provided memoranda of law about the cost-prohibition issue. “The antenna at issue and the support structure was to cost no more than \$1,000,” Imlay said.

The court concluded that the town “may not use its land-use regulatory authority to construct ‘hoop after hoop’ for the petitioner to jump through in order to erect his radio antenna tower [and] cannot impose unreasonable expenses so as to create an insurmountable financial barrier to the pursuit of the project. In this context, not only must the consultant fees be reasonable..., but the underlying services must be necessarily related to those municipal regulatory functions which are not preempted by federal law.”

Here are two spreadsheets showing the results of all of the Volunteer Exam Sessions held in 2018:

DIXIE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. ARRL - VEC TEST SESSIONS - 2018 REPORT													
Test Session Date	Test Session Location	Total Number of Individual Candidates at the Session	Total Number of Exam Elements Taken at Session	Passed Tech	Failed Tech	Passed General	Failed General	Passed Extra	Failed Extra	Total Funds Collected	Funds Retained for "necessary and eligible" V.E. Test Session Expenses	Funds Forwarded to ARRL-VEC at ARRL Hdqtrs.	Number of ARRL Certified V.E. Volunteers Serving at Each Test Session
Jan. 17	St. George, UT	5	10	5	0	3	1	0	1	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	7
Feb. 10	Hurricane, UT	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	3
Feb. 21	St. George, UT	6	13	4	0	3	3	0	3	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	7
Mar. 21	St. George, UT	8	10	4	1	3	1	1	0	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$120.00	7
April 14	Hurricane, UT	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	5
April 18	St. George, UT	5	8	4	0	1	2	1	0	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	7
May 16	St. George, UT	7	8	5	0	1	1	1	0	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$105.00	7
June 9	Hurricane, UT	6	10	5	0	1	2	1	1	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	4
June 20	St. George, UT	8	8	5	3	0	0	0	0	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$120.00	7
July 18	St. George, UT	4	5	2	0	1	1	1	0	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	6
Aug. 11	Hurricane, UT	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	5
Aug. 15	St. George, UT	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$45.00	7
Sept. 19	St. George, UT	5	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	7
Oct. 13	Hurricane, UT	1	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	5
Oct. 17	St. George, UT	3	4	3	0	0	1	0	0	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$45.00	6
Nov. 21	St. George, UT	10	10	5	2	2	0	0	1	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	6
Dec. 8	Hurricane, UT	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	7
TOTALS		77	102	52	7	18	14	5	6	\$1,155.00	\$0.00	\$1,155.00	

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER, CALLSIGNS	Seventeen (17) separate Volunteer Exam Sessions held in 2018 Services Provided by Twelve (12) ARRL-VEC Certified Volunteer Examiners at the Indicated Sessions																	
	Jan. 17 SG	Feb. 10 Hur	Feb. 21 SG	Mar. 21 SG	Apr. 14 Hur	Apr. 18 SG	May 16 SG	Jun. 9 Hur	Jun. 20 SG	Jul. 18 SG	Aug. 11 Hur	Aug. 15 SG	Sep. 19 SG	Oct. 13 Hur	Oct. 17 SG	Nov. 21 SG	Dec. 8 Hur	# of sessions served at by each volunteer:
Gary Zabriskie, N7ARE	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	17
Michael Blenderman, K7IC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16
Bob Vosper, AE7HY	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16
Robert Palambo, K9ZWH	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16
Mac Harmer, K8NG	1		1	1			1		1	1		1		1	1			9
Bindy Boylin, KB6UJR	1		1			1	1		1	1		1	1					8
Kenneth Winthrop, K7KRW											1	1	1	1	1		1	6
Jeffrey Porter, AI7D						1	1		1	1		1						5
Alma Jessop, KG7FOT	1			1			1									1		4
Daniel Fox, W7DWF			1		1	1											1	4
Michael Cartmill, ACOPR			1															1
Charles Wolcott, KF7F																	1	1
# OF VE'S AT EACH SESSION:	7	3	7	7	5	7	7	4	7	6	5	7	7	5	6	6	7	

Key to Session Locations: SG = St. George Community Building; St. George, UT Hur = Hurricane Branch Library; Hurricane, UT