

DIXIE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2006

The regular meeting of the Dixie Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:00 P.M. MST on February 15, 2006 in the Conference Room of the Five County Association of Governments office building in St. George, Utah by Club President Hal Whiting, KI2U.

The following DARC Board Members were present: Hal Whiting, Dan Farwell, Casey Lofthouse, Gary Zabriskie. Ken Head. A list of meeting attendees will be attached to these minutes.

Hal opened the March Club meeting, welcoming everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Hal asked Ken Head to lead attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hal then turned the floor over to Dan Farwell, W8EQA, to discuss upcoming events. The club has the following events needing operators:

Sat. Feb 28	Zion Country Spring Century	8 operators needed
Sat. April 1	Cholla Challenge	10 operators needed
Sat. April 1	Cactus Hugger Century	8 operators needed
Friday April 7	Dixie State College Great Race	6 operators needed
Sat. April 22	Boy Scout Expo Special Events Station	Many operators req'd.

Floor turned back to Hal. Hal mentioned he had an electronics reference book available to club members. Contact Hal directly to inquire.

Hal asked everyone to please introduce themselves as there were several new faces in the room. Everyone introduced themselves. We had several new attendees as well as some members returning after absences.

Hal turned the meeting over to Eric Cashin of Washington County Emergency Services. Eric Works with Dean Cox. He discussed the repeater problems that occurred during the January 2005 flood event. Several area repeaters went down. Cell phone coverage was iffy and very spotty at best. The County will be looking at establishing a corps of Amateur Radio operators who will be trained and will interface with the County Emergency Management. Hams participating will not be called upon to do other duties besides communicating. We will not be the "road block" people, or the crowd control.

We will be there to reliably pass communications. The County is looking at both RACES and ARES to fulfill certain roles. Most of the time the use will be with ARES.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in the ARES. The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve. Because ARES is an amateur service, only amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a public service provided by a reserve (volunteer) communications group within government agencies in times of extraordinary need. During periods of RACES activation, certified unpaid personnel are called upon to perform many tasks for the government agencies they serve. Although the exact nature of each activation will be different, the common thread is communications. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is responsible for the regulation of RACES operations. RACES is administrated by a local, county, or state civil defense agency responsible for disaster services.

During the January 2005 flooding there was poor and non-existent communications between the various cities in the area. The County is encouraging community CERT teams to be more involved in cross-training and working with adjacent communities.

Floor was turned back to Hal. It was asked about the status of the DRMC radio communications. The board will get with Ron Sappington, WI7Z, to give an update on the status so that can be reported back to Club members.

Gary Zabriskie indicated that the club will be using the "About Town" section of the paper to announce Club events. Gary also said that he is looking for Club members to write, or locate and submit articles for the newsletter. If submitting them from other sources, they must be in the public domain.

Hal mentioned that in Mesquite, Nevada the Fire Department is going to provide space for a repeater for hams in the area.

It was brought up that the club has items that make up the inventory of the clubs possessions. The Board will discuss this at the next Board meeting and develop a complete list of assets for presentation to the Club as well as placing it on the Club website.

Gary mentioned that he has an interest to start a Sidewinders on Two (SWOT) net weekly on 144.250 USB.

There being no further business, Hal adjourned the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Minutes submitted by:

Gary Zabriskie, N7ARE, Secretary