

**Dixie Amateur Radio Club
Wednesday, March 15, 2006
7:00 P.M.**

MEETING MINUTES

Club President Hal Whiting, KI2U, welcomed the members out to the meeting.

Roger Leavitt (now KE7HEQ) was asked to, and led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was announced that 2 persons had passed license exams before the meeting.

Hal told those in attendance that we had a board meeting and reported on the following items:

Repeater status – Work is proceeding on a new repeater for LaVerkin overlook.

An inventory of items owned by the Club is underway. We need help from the club members especially older members who have knowledge of what was done in the past.

On the same night as the April 19th Club meeting at 6:00 P.M. the EMCOMM Committee will meet for the first time.

There is also a Technical Committee. Board Member Casey Lofthouse, KD7HUS, is the head of that Committee. They will meet at a time to be determined.

The Special Events Committee is headed by Dan Farwell, W8EQA. Dan indicated the upcoming events in April.

April 1	Cholla challenge
April 1	Cactus Hugger Century
April 7	Dixie State College Great Race
April 22	Boy Scout Expo special events station.

Club Secretary Gary Zabriskie, N7ARE, is the head of the public relations committee. He said he needs info about members for newsletter profiles. He also needs station pictures for the newsletter.

Hal said that there are 13 persons in the Mesquite area and about ten up this way.

It was discussed at the Board Meeting about doing a code practice session at the conclusion of the Sunday night net.

It was stated that we need a volunteer for net control for the Sunday night net once

a month on the 1st Sunday each month.

On April 27, 28, 29 there will be a Mesquite Days special events station. It will be using the 146.82 repeater.

We need a volunteer as lead for Field Day.

We will be pursuing use of a campground rather than a local Park to make the event more of a family get together where folks will stay a while. ARRL Field Day is June 24th and 25th .

Thom Oliphant was introduced as the night's presenter.

Thom introduced himself and explained a crisis day that the ambulance crew had. To lighten the mood Thom played a humorous video.

Thom discussed the question of whether IRLP and EchoLink is "real" ham radio.

Thom explained to the group "Just what is EchoLink?"

(We will be getting a copy of Thom's PowerPoint presentation to link to on the DARC web site)

Thom then did a short demo of the software, albeit not live, since we did not have internet access.

Hal did a quick connection to EchoLink on the 146.64 repeater through the KA7STK link with no success.

The next demo connected to a repeater in Hawaii. Still no response to a call.

Finally a connection was made to a Hollywood, California repeater and there was a successful contact with a nice ham operating there with a handie talkie.

Thom then gave a short primer on IRLP mode.

It was mentioned that Kanab has a repeater, the 147.36, on EchoLink.

A Q & A period followed with many questions from members.

Also discussed briefly were other similar modes like I-Link, Wires II, etc.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Refreshments were then served up and many members mingled for a while.