



RAINBOW CANYONS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
CEDAR CITY, UTAH 84720

Issue 7-8

Club Web Site www.rcarc.info

November 2009

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

Because of a minor “technical difficulty” there was no meeting held in October. The club presidency humbly apologizes for the loss of meeting continuity and hopefully it will not happen again.

Business scheduled for October's meeting was carried forward into November's meeting in addition to the scheduled November itinerary.

Several items were talked about which consumed about 45 minutes of meeting time. Future club officer nominations were also conducted. Those nominated **and** accepted were: (See the end of this newsletter).

Jon Rice, NR7T, presented an informative presentation on climbing belts and tower safety. He showed us his OSHA approved harness that he uses at work and on his climbing exploits. The whole idea is that, at no time, are you ever “detached” from the tower without some kind of physical attachment device. The thinking behind this is so you can “let go” or fall and remain secured to the tower, survive the ordeal and tell about it!

A good “harness” will cost you \$75 to \$150. That is much cheaper than a lengthy hospital stay or worse!

“Free climbing” is OK for the young and stupid but not for hams on their antenna support devices.

Dick Parker, K7ZI, gave a very short presentation on transmitter locating or “Fox Hunting” He demonstrated how to use a hand held radio to locate a transmitter. By using the controls on the radio and “body shielding” techniques, its very easy and inexpensively to seek out a hidden transmitter. Other items can easily be added to enhance the operation (short antennas, attenuator boxes and tin foil) of the HT cheaply and easily.

A “Fox Hunt” was planned and carried out following the monthly club breakfast at Denney's restaurant. 6 different club members and family joined in the chase. 2 club members found the fox before the fox “died” and the hunt had to be called off. (The radio transmitter doesn't work too well when the battery pack fails).

Congratulation to Jon Rice, NR7T, and his son in finding it 3 minutes before being found by Dick Parker, K7ZI. Other hunters were; Russ Chaffee, N7BO, Steve Judd, KB7BGS, and wife, Merlin Mackay, N7TCE and Jim Beal, KG6LFU.

All hunters had an enjoyable conference comparing notes following the hunt. Each employed slightly different methods of tracking down the “fox”. Each hunt everyone learns a little more about his equipment and how to speed up the chase. Good times were had by all.

The monthly club breakfast was held at Denney's Restaurant. A sizable group enjoyed fine food and association with each other. If you have never attended a gathering, you are missing out on a real treat!

IN THE NEWS

You may not know it but you may be breaking FCC rules! FCC rule 97.113, to be exact.

Basically, 97.113 is the rule about being compensated by an employer for you using the ham bands in behalf of him, his company or yourself and being compensated, in any way, for delivering messages over the “ham bands”. The ARRL and the FCC have been bantering back and forth for almost a year now on clarification of this rule. There are movements afoot that have clarification on this and as yet, the FCC has not responded.

To get the whole story, you can log on to the ARRL website and search for: “ARRL Letter vol. 28, Num. 21, May 29, 2009” and read it for yourself. I will not try to summarize it because I don't think I can do it justice, because of the narrow band of “exceptions” to the rule. Best if you study it out for yourself and get the “gist” of it.

Like any government entity, they try to set themselves aloof and beyond the “normal” person with their superior mind and mentality. In so doing they muddy the waters and make it difficult. They really do need to apply the KISS principal, “keep it simple, stupid”.

So, if this is above and beyond your understanding, do as the ARRL suggests, “If in doubt, don't”.

ALSO IN THE NEWS-

If you have any "Beijing Model 2" International Reply Coupons (IRCs) you need to use them or exchange them before the end of December. You can exchange them for the "Nairobi Model" or sell them back to the "retail associates", if purchased in a United States post office.

You may need to "educate" local post office as to what an IRC is and how it is used. Different countries have different rates or required number of IRCs to send a letter airmail from that country. Either way you may know more than your local postal clerk. You could have some fun with this.

NOMINATIONS

According to club bylaws, nomination for club officers is to be conducted during the November meeting. That done, the following individuals were nominated and accepted the nominations.

President: Steve Judd, KB7BGS, (running unopposed).

Vice. Pres: Jon Rice, NR7T and Ken Munford, N7KM.

Treasurer: Ken Oliver, W7KBM, (unopposed).

Secretary: Bill Stinger, K6QOG, (unopposed).

An appointed "nomination" that of Newsletter Editor, was accepted by Dick Parker, K7ZI, also unopposed. If there is an individual you would like to nominate for any of the nominated positions, you can nominate him or her during elections, **with his or her consent only**.

Elections will be held by open ballot during the December meeting.

DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting is on the 8th of this month. Please mark your calendar so that you can be in attendance and support next year's officers.

In addition, it is the annual Christmas Party. If you have a special treat that is your specialty, bring it and share with us.

You may want to bring your recipes; I know there are those that like to cook. Bring a spouse or friend and join in the fun!

MEETING MINUTES

November 10, 2009. President Russ Chaffee opened the meeting at 7:30 pm. Welcome the 17 people that were in attendance. Visitor Fred Sheffield brought by Kal Kahler.

Russ Apologize for cancelled Octobers club meeting. The reason was for got to pick up the key to the building.

Remind all that the club breakfast coming up on that following Saturday November 14th at 9:00am.

For sale 55' tower, rotator, antenna, etc. Contact Betty at 435-986-1493 for more info.

The September minutes were read and approved.

Ken Oliver W7KBM took a brief moment and reported on the flu shoot-out held in conjunction with Iron County Health Department.

Messages were transmitted from mobile radios. Bank and equipment conditions were poor at the best.

Steve Judd KB7BGS relayed message from his home station using 1500 watts. Messages sent from all counties when thru Steve because St. George could not hear anyone from any county participating.

All the ham stations and all the counties involved considered the exercise a success.

Thanks to Merlin Mackay, N7TCE for doing all the let work on our behalf.

Thanks to all the operators that participated in this exercise.

The treasure reported that there have been a lot of membership dues that have been paid. The bank statement from October read as 1081.31.

Ken also reported that Don Blanchard WA7GTU has a HF remote base on the air. Those that are interested please give Don a call.

There was an L.D.S. church exercise on emergency communication. The response was very poor. Merlin Mackay N7TCE will do the follow up on these details.

Reports from committee members.

LEPC Merlin Mackay reported nothing at this time. ECOM Joel Clements had nothing to report at this time. ICACES Not in attendance.

Also there was a VE test session before club meeting started. The test session went well, and the candidate passed his exam. We now have a new general class operator amongst us. Congratulations to Darrell Olmsted KC6MKB.

The floor was opened for nominations for next year's officers.

Nominations as follows: President Steve Judd KB7BGS, Vice President Jon Rice NR7T, and Ken Munford N7KM. Secretary Bill Stinger K6QOG. Treasurer Ken Oliver W7KBM. Newsletter editor Dick Parker K7ZI.

Business from the floor Steve Judd proposal club members buy 1000 feet of coax and make it available to whoever needs coax at a better price. R&D has the best price on RG-213 in 100-foot length with connectors.

Comments were made about the poor net control attendance on the VHF nets. It has been suggested that if the net controls that are assigned a net, and you need to be out of town, please see if you can get some one to fill in for you.

Also mentioned, that net controls need to get the names of those who checked in to Ken Oliver for the up coming drawing in December.

The club Roster on the website needs to be updated.

Program: Jon Rice gave a presentation on tower safety.

Dick Parker gave a brief presentation on the basic techniques of direction finding.

Following the clubs presentation, President Russ Chaffee, asked for a motion for meeting to be adjourned. Motion made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Test Session

There has been a request for a test session. I thought it has been good to hold these just before club night. It seems to work out just fine.

I need to have VE's let me know if you can make the test session.

So far we have one candidate testing.

Thanks to the VE Team.

Russ N7BO