

RAINBOW CANYONS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

CEDAR CITY, UTAH



Club Websites: www.rcarc.info OR www.rainbowcanyons.com Number 2 – Vol. 10 – October 2020

Club Meeting Information

The RCARC meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Cedar City Senior Center, 489 E. 200 South. **On Hold UFN. COVID-19**

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CQ, CQ, Happy Halloween



Presidents Message

Greetings fellow HAMs!

Hope you had a good month! It is hard to believe but Fall is upon us! That means cooler weather and for October lots of opportunities to get on the air! October 3-4 a new contest for portable stations, Fox Mike Hotel Portable Operations Challenge will debut. This contest is for fixed and portable stations and will score based on distance (see <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/new-contest-for-portable-stations-to-debut-in-october>). Along with this special event stations and contests are running almost every week! See the ARRL special events page at: http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:2/model:Event for more information. This is a great month for having fun on the radio.

We had a great presentation (Zoom) for our monthly meeting. Thank you Lee Phebus (KF7YRS) for presenting on his PexAlPex magnetic loop antennas!

Continued on page 2

RCARC Club Nets:

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Net - Monday – Saturday – 146.760.

12:30 p.m. Daily – Utah Beehive Net On 7.272.

7:00 p.m. Tuesday's Southwestern Utah Digital Net. Using FLDIGI, FLMSG AND FLAMP – 146.680, 1500/MT63-2KL

8:30 p.m. Tuesday's - ORCA Digital Net. Using FLDIGI, FLMSG AND FLAMP – 3.581 +, 1500/MFSK32.

8:00 p.m. Wednesday – Panguitch Net – 147.160.

8: p.m. Saturdays – SSTV – 449.925.

9:00 p.m. Daily – Friendship Net – 146.760.

11: a.m. Saturdays (Mtn. Time) QCWA – 160 Net, Utah Chapter, 12: p.m. Freq. 7.272.

7:00 p.m. Thursdays – RCARC CW Net on 146.980

Local Repeaters:

146.980 MHz – Tone 100.0 Hz

146.940 MHz – Tone 100.0 Hz

146.760 MHz – Tone 123.0 Hz

147.160 MHz + Tone 100.0 Hz.

448.800 MHz – Tone 100.0 Hz

146.680 MHz – Tone 100.0 Hz

Remote Bases:

449.500 MHz – Tone 100.0 Hz

449.925 MHz – Tone 100.0 Hz

ILRP/Echolink

449.900 MHz – Tone 100.0 Hz

Save The Date

October 13, 2020

RCARC Club Meeting.

[Radio meeting.](#)

November 10, 2020

RCARC Club Meeting.

[Radio meeting](#)

December 8, 2020

RCARC Club Meeting.

[Radio meeting](#)

**Meetings start at 7 pm. on
the Iron Mountain Repeater -
146.760, minus offset with a
PL of 100.**

**Also available through
Echolink – KG7PBX.**

President's Message Continued.

This stirred up a lot of interest. The Cedar City half marathon went well! Thank you everyone who participated. On Oct. 3rd we have the Beaver canyon half and full marathon. I hope you can get out and help. If you need more information KJ7OZI Paul is the contact. I hope you have had a chance to get out and play on the radio and it looks like this might be a good time to get out to try out your mobile radio operations!

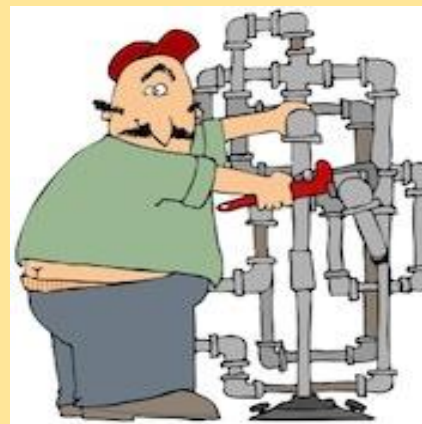
As always, I would like to thank everyone who makes our meetings great by participating and asking questions. I would also like to thank all of our net controls for the nets and everyone who participates! Our next meeting will be on the air on October 13th and we will be hearing from Don Blanchard (WA7GTU) who will present on his repeaters! We are also looking at putting together a series for new and old hams over the next couple of months. Topics may include: what coax should I use, what connectors are best, etc.

Continued on page 16

RCARC Club Breakfast

Come join us the first Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast at the Pastry Pub located at 86 W. Center Street, Cedar City. Check out their website at:

www.cedarcitypastrypub.com



**"Plumber's delight"
version of a fractal
antenna for HF.**



**Happy Birthday and
Anniversary to those
celebrating in October**



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Breakfast & Friendship Net Awards

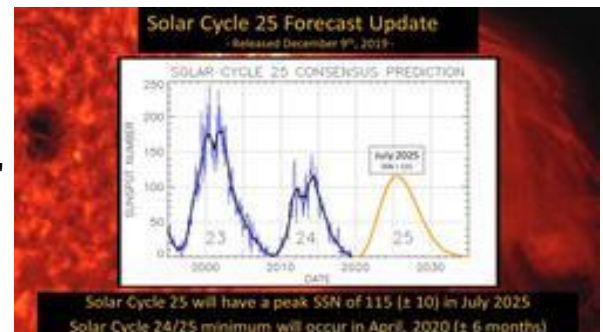
Breakfast Net		Friendship Net	
First Place	Second Place	First Place	Second Place
KI7WEX - Bonnie	N7SND - Larry	KI7WEX - Bonnie	K7HDX - Ron
KI7TPD - Fred	KB7UMU - Sylvia	KI7TPD - Fred	KI7WEZ - Darlene
KG7PBX - Linda	KE6ZIM - Johnny	KB7UMU - Sylvia	KD7TTT - Terry
K7DVP - Vernile	Third Place	K7NKH - Lee	Third Place
K7ZZQ - Johnny	KI7LVC - Tim	KA7J - Lance	K7ZI - Dick
KI7SDA - Jerel		KG7VEJ - Jack	
		KI7SXJ - Isaiah	
		KJ7OZI - Paul	
		N7TCE - Merlin	
		KI7LUM - Bruce	

Analysis Determines We Are in Solar Cycle 25

It's now official. The solar minimum between Solar Cycles 24 and 25 -- the period when the sun is least active -- occurred in December 2019, when the 13-month smoothed sunspot number fell to 1.8. This is according to the Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel, co-chaired by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). We are now in Solar Cycle 25, with peak sunspot activity expected in 2025, the panel said. The panel expressed high confidence that Solar Cycle 25 will break the trend of weakening solar activity seen over the past four cycles.

"We predict the decline in solar cycle amplitude, seen from Cycles 21 through 24, has come to an end," said Lisa Upton, panel co-chair and solar physicist with Space Systems Research Corporation. "There is no indication we are approaching a Maunder-type minimum in solar activity."

At 11 years, Solar Cycle 24 was of average length and had the fourth-smallest intensity since regular record-keeping began in 1755, with what is considered Solar Cycle 1. It was also the weakest cycle in a century. At solar maximum in April 2014, sunspots peaked at 114 for the cycle, well below the 179 average.



Solar Cycle 24's progression was unusual. The sun's northern hemisphere led the sunspot cycle, peaking more than 2 years ahead of the southern hemisphere sunspot peak. This resulted in fewer sunspots at solar maximum than if the two hemispheres were in phase.

For the past 8 months, activity on the sun has steadily increased, indicating that we have transitioned to Solar Cycle 25, [forecast](#) to be a fairly weak cycle -- about the same as Solar Cycle 24. Solar Cycle 25 is expected to peak in July 2025, with a predicted 115 sunspots.

Continued on page 11

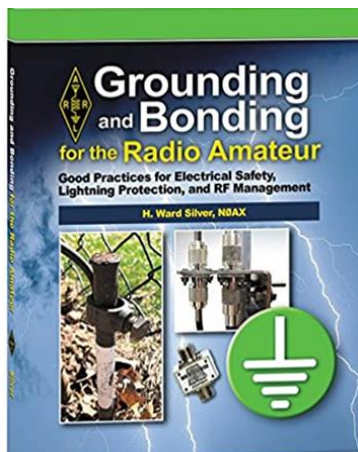
In This Issue

Presidents Message	Page 1
Daylight Savings Time Reminder	Page 4
Buzz's October Safety Tip	Page 5
FCC Proposes to Institute Application Fees	Page 8
EComm. Members Receive Comm. Trailer Setup Orientation	Page 10
Blowhard Repeater Project Update	Page 14
EComm. Members Participate in SWUPHD Comm. Exercise	Page 16
A few Halloween Stories	Page 19
Hints & Hacks	Page 22

RCARC October Meeting Book Give Away

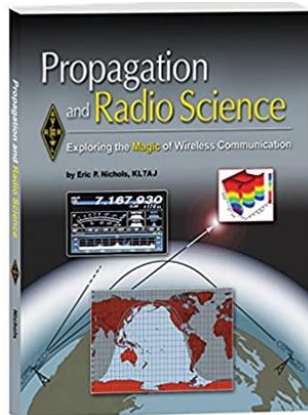
The book shown below will be awarded to one of our RCARC members at our club meeting on October 13 2020.

This book is being donated by Linda Shokrian (KG7PBX).



RCARC Book Give Away Winner.

The winner of the September 8, 2020 ARRL Propagation and Radio Science book give away is Brant (KJ7LTQ).



Congratulations
Brant

Contact Us.

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Newsletter E-mail:

rcarcnewsletter@gmail.com

Website

www.rcarc.info

www.rainbowcanyons.com

Face Book Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/440325486875752/>

Please send your correspondence to the above address or should you have any questions or concerns please e-mail us.

Thank you

Reminder

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1, 2020 at 2:00 AM.



Mark Your Calendar



Buzz's October Safety Tips

October is Fire Prevention Month 10 Home Fire Safety Tips

The [U.S. Fire Administration](#) reports that fires kill more than 4,000 Americans each year and approximately injure 20,000 more. U.S. fire departments respond to nearly 2 million fires each year, with three-quarters of them occurring in residences.

A home is often referred to as a safe haven. This month, make sure your home is protected from (and your family is prepared for) a fire. Here are 10 simple tips to help you avoid fires and reduce the risk of injury should one occur:

Smoke Alarms – These are still a very important addition to your home. Smoke alarms are widely available and inexpensive. Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test it monthly.

Prevent Electrical Fires – Don't overload circuits or extension cords. Cords and wires should never be placed under rugs or in high traffic areas. Avoid loose electrical connections by checking the fit of the plug in the wall outlet. If the plug loosely fits, inspect the outlet right away. A poor connection between the plug and the outlet can cause overheating and can start a fire in minutes.

Keep Plugs Safe – Unplug all appliances when not in use. Follow the manufacturer's safety precautions and use your senses to spot any potential disasters. If a plug is overheating, smells strange, shorts out or sparks – the appliance should be shut off immediately, then replaced or repaired.

Alternate Heaters – Make sure there is ample space around any portable heating unit. Anything that could catch fire should be at least three feet away. Inspect your chimney annually and use fire screens to help keep any fires in the fireplace.

Fire Safety Sprinklers – When combined with working smoke alarms, home fire sprinklers greatly increase your chance of surviving a fire. Sprinklers are affordable and they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.

Create an Escape Route – Create and practice your escape plan with your family from every room in the house. Practice staying low to the floor and checking for hot doors using the back of your hand. It's just the same as a routine school fire drill – but in your home.

Position Appliances Carefully – Try to keep TV sets, kitchen and other appliances away from windows with curtains. If there is a wiring problem, curtains can spread a fire quickly. **Next page 6**



Buzz's October Safety Tips

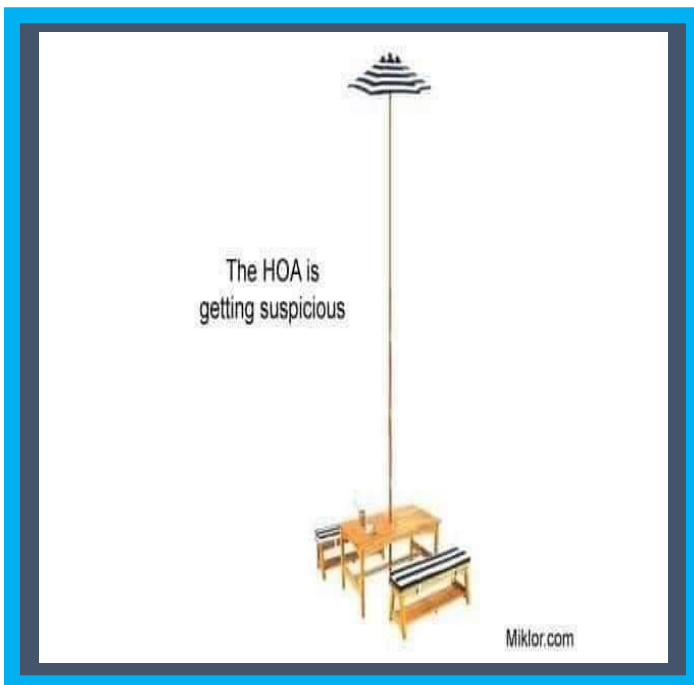
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Additionally, keeping your appliances away from water sources (like rain coming in from windows) can help prevent wiring damage which can lead to a fire.

Clean Dryer Vents – Clothes dryers often start fires in residential areas. Clean the lint filter every time you start a load of clothes to dry or after the drying cycle is complete. Make sure your exhaust duct is made of metal tubing and not plastic or foil. Clean the exhaust duct with a good quality dryer vent brush to prevent blockage & check for lint build up behind the dryer at least twice a year.

Be Careful Around the Holidays – If you fill your home with lights during the holiday season, keep them away from anything that can easily catch fire. Check all of your lights prior to stringing them up and dispose of anything with frayed or exposed wires.

Conduct Regular Inspections – Check all of your electronic equipment and wiring at least once a month. Taking a little time to do this each month can really pay off. Following these simple tips could potentially save your life or the life of a loved one. Pass this list on to your friends and family and make this fire prevention month count!



Iron County CERT Members Assist Iron County Emergency Management Office (OEM).

On Saturday, September 26, 2020 at 8:00 A.M. Iron County CERT members met at the new Iron County Road Yard Facility located across the street from the Animal Shelter on Kitty Hawk Drive. Between Bull Dog and Airport Roads.

Iron County CERT Members were asked to come and assist in gathering all CERT equipment and supplies that are currently housed at the Gold Cross Ambulance Offices and the Visitors Center. The CERT equipment was retrieved and transported to the County Road Yard Facility for storage. Iron County Emergency Manager, George Colson stated "this will now bring all CERT equipment and supplies under one roof".

See Pictures below:



Work Party waiting for instructions



George Colson addressing workers and making assignment's



Bruno (KG7VVN) getting some help from Cedar City Fire Department in taking the TV off the wall at Gold Cross Ambulance.



Cert Members packing boxes at Gold Cross Ambulance.



Workers off loading the equipment at the Iron County Road Yard Facility. **Continued on page 23**

FCC Proposes to Institute Amateur Radio Application Fees

Amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio license application if the FCC adopts rules it proposed last week. Included in the FCC's fee proposal are applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees.

The FCC proposal is contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* ([NPRM](#)) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 -- the so-called "[Ray Baum's Act](#)."

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment.



In its *NPRM*, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service that had been excluded by an earlier statute. The new statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

FCC Proposes to Institute Amateur Radio Application Fees

"[A]pplications for personal licenses are mostly automated and do not have individualized staff costs for data input or review," the FCC said in its *NPRM*. "For these automated processes -- new/major modifications, renewal, and minor modifications -- we propose a nominal application fee of \$50 due to automating the processes, routine ULS maintenance, and limited instances where staff input is required."

The same \$50 fee would apply to all Amateur Service applications, including those for vanity call signs. "Although there is currently no fee for vanity call signs in the Amateur Radio Service, we find that such applications impose similar costs in aggregate on Commission resources as new applications and therefore propose a \$50 fee," the FCC said.

The FCC is not proposing to charge for administrative updates such as mailing address changes, and amateur radio will remain exempt from annual regulatory fees. "For administrative updates [and] modifications, which also are highly automated, we find that it is in the public interest to encourage licensees to update their [own] information without a charge," the FCC said.

The FCC also proposes to assess a \$50 fee for individuals who want a printed copy of their license. "The Commission has proposed to eliminate these services -- but to the extent the Commission does not do so, we propose a fee of \$50 to cover the costs of these services," the FCC said.

The FCC dropped assessment of fees for vanity call signs several years ago, but the Ray Baum's Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service.

ARRL is reviewing the matter and intends to file comments in opposition.

Continued next column

Continued on page 9

FCC Proposes to Institute Amateur Radio Application Fees – continued.

Deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the *NPRM* appears in the *Federal Register*. File comments by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)), posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. This docket is already open for accepting comments, even though deadlines have not yet been set.

Historic Winlink Gateway KH6SP Ceases Operation

The last amateur radio digital gateway -- KH6SP -- at the Navy site in Wahiawa, Hawaii, went silent on August 1. The site housed two amateur radio gateways donated by a group of Hawaii amateurs led by Thomas Overman, W2AIT -- KH6UL and KH6SP. For more than 8 years, Overman maintained the Winlink software running them. The system had high-gain log-periodic arrays with low-angle radiation that provided the maritime community with email service across the Pacific and later handled inter-island traffic.



Station trustee Gus MacFeeley, NH7J, introduced and demonstrated the stations to local amateur radio operators 5 years ago, pointing to the future of amateur radio digital mode emergency communications in the Pacific Section. MacFeeley handled necessary on-site work.

Continued next column

Historic Winlink Gateway KH6SP Ceases Operation – Continued.

The multi-node operation provides continuous Winlink/Winmor service across the Pacific Ocean for many maritime mobile stations that have come to rely on it as their critical link to the world.

The US Department of Homeland Security took possession of the site a few years ago and is now extending its intergovernmental use. All of the antenna quadrants are now needed by the government, including SHARES Winlink.

Since MacFeeley introduced the Hawaii amateur radio community to Winlink, the Hawaii network has grown to five HF gateways providing inter-island communication, and 18 VHF gateways serving local communities. More are planned. During the past few years, the cost of interfacing amateur equipment to Winlink has dropped significantly with the development of PC software sound card modems, which can rival the performance of PACTOR modems.

"We can expect to see an explosion of applications in the future making amateur radio increasingly relevant to our communities," said ARRL Pacific Section Manager Joseph Speroni, AH0A, as he bid "a fond farewell to KH6UL and KH6SP and the group of amateurs that started this revolution in Hawaii." -- *Thanks to ARRL Pacific Section Manager [Joe Speroni, AH0A](#)*



RCARC Monthly Breakfast at the Pastry Pub Pictures



George (AL7BX) ordering breakfast.



Fred (KK7ZL), Sylvia (KB7UMU) and Ann (KJ7OGZ)



Dick (K7ZI), his wife Sue and Isaiah (KI7SXJ)

Iron County Conducts Emergency Communications Trailer Set-up Orientation.

On Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. a number of E-comm. group members participated in an orientation on how to set up the E-Comm Communications Trailer. This included assembling the antennas, placing them outside the trailer, setting up the radios, connecting the unit to electrical power and or a generator and much more.

In addition, attendees were shown how to demob the unit and place everything back in the trailer for its next assignment. With special importance on towing the trailer and cleaning so that it will be ready for its next response.

This orientation was then repeated on Saturday September 19, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

Both orientations were conducted by John Higley (KI7SCX) and both sessions were held at the new Iron County Road Facility located across the street from the Animal Shelter on Kitty Hawk Drive. Between Bull Dog and Airport Roads.

See orientation pictures below:



John Higley (KI7SCX) explaining to the group what they will learn through the orientation.

Continued on page 12

Interoperability Channels Designated for Wildfires and Hurricane Sally Response

SB QST ARL ARLB022

ARLB022 5-MHz Interoperability Channels

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that two 60-meter channels have been made available, as necessary, for interoperability between US Government stations and US amateur radio stations involved in emergency communications related to the wildland firefighting response in California, Oregon, and Washington, and to Hurricane Sally. These interoperability channels will remain active until the need for these channels no longer exists.

* Channel 1 - primary voice traffic 5332 kHz channel center, 5330.5 kHz USB voice.

* Channel 2 - digital traffic 5348 kHz channel center, 5346.5 kHz USB with 1.5-kHz offset to center of digital waveform.

Frequencies may be modified or added to by FEMA Region 10 for their area or operations due to existing 5-MHz/60-meter interoperability plans for their region.

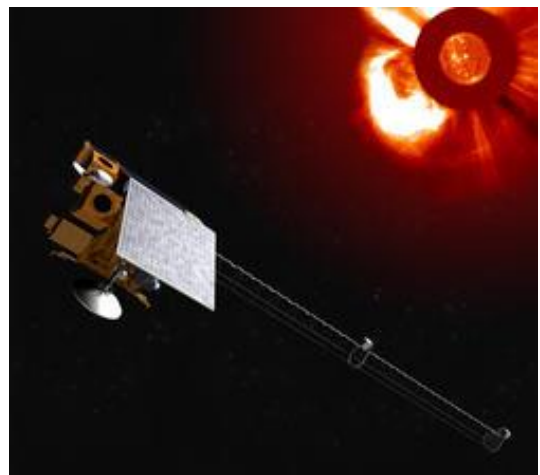
Amateur radio is secondary on the 5-MHz band and should yield to operational traffic related to wildland firefighting and hurricane response. Although the intended use for these channels is interoperability between federal government stations and licensed US amateur radio stations, federal government stations are primary users and amateurs are secondary users.

The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS - <https://netcom.army.mil/mars/>) is following FEMA's lead on the interoperability channel designations for the wildfire and hurricane response. Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, says he has alerted all MARS members of the FEMA channel designations and MARS members are prepared to support response efforts as needed.

Analysis Determines We Are in Solar Cycle 25 – Continued from page 3

"How quickly solar activity rises is an indicator on how strong the solar cycle will be," said Doug Biesecker, the NOAA-NASA panel co-chair and a solar physicist at NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center ([SWPC](#)). "Although we've seen a steady increase in sunspot activity this year, it is slow."

"While we are not predicting a particularly active Solar Cycle 25, violent eruptions from the sun can occur at any time," Biesecker added.



An artist's rendering of the Space Weather Follow-On L-1 observatory.

Before Solar Cycle 25 peaks in 2024, NOAA is slated to launch a new spacecraft dedicated to operational space weather forecasting. The Space Weather Follow-On L-1 observatory ([SWFO-L1](#)) will be equipped with instruments that sample the solar wind, provide imagery of coronal mass ejections, and monitor other extreme activity from the sun in finer detail than before. NOAA's next Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-U) is also scheduled to launch in 2024. GOES-U will carry three solar monitoring instruments, including the first [compact coronagraph](#), which will help detect coronal mass ejections. Enhanced observations of the sun from these satellites will help improve space weather forecasting.

Iron County Conducts Emergency Communications Trailer Set-up Orientation Pictures continued.



John Higley (KI7SCX) explains where the antennas connect to the trailer.



John Higley (KI7SCX) shows attendees how to assemble the antenna and place it on the tripod.



John Higley (KI7SCX) showing how to connect the electrical cord. **Continued on next column.**



John Higley (KI7SCX) points to the four radio positions along the desktop. Each position is numbered and corresponds to the same number located at the antenna connection box on the outside of the trailer.



This is what the trailer should look like when you pick it up and when you return it. Organized and clean.

THANK YOU!

Thank you, John, for presenting the two orientation sessions for the E-Comm. Folks.

The Ham

By: James C. Wheeler (W5IO)

There are these bunch of guys I know who like to talk on the radio.

Around the clock both night and day they never run out of something to say.

They talk to each other about this and that, about problems of the world and how to combat.

New Friendships are born both far and near while enjoying this hobby they hold so dear.

They provide the world and our nation with a constant flow of information.

From humor to technical the subject may run as it's all in good taste it's all in fun.

While old timers tell of how-to home brew some sit and talk while sipping a few.

Newcomers join in rather timid at first only to learn they could have done worse.

A wonderful hobby this ham radio game compared to some it may seem rather tame.

Then comes along a need or disaster and no others can act any faster.

They load up their gear without hesitation and head for the field with emergency stations.

They ask for no pay they cannot accept all this is for caring no fees are set.

This is the time when there is no phone but because of their hobby you can call home.

Your family assured that you are okay re-enforces the spirit they work in this way.

Continued on page 16

Rainbow Canyon's Amateur Radio Club Takes Part in Cedar City's Half Marathon



On September 12, 2020 the Rainbow Canyon Amateur Radio Club (RCARC) participated in this year's event providing Race Communications.

Club members were stationed along the race course route at Aid Stations and provided lead rider information back to Race Control. This information was then be passed on to Race Organizer's at the finish line.

The Cedar City Half is a perfect high-altitude trainer for those preparing for full marathons, including the Saint George Marathon which is held only a few weeks later.

This 13.1-mile closed-canyon course is one of the nation's fastest. Runners descend from 8,408 feet in elevation (Lat-Long: [37.594145 N, -112.912180 W](#)) to 5,600 feet at the finish line.



Blowhard Repeater Project Update

By George Gallis (AL7ZBX) and Don Blanchard (WA7GTU)

In the last 2 months, several work party trips were made to the Intermountain Intertie repeater sites on Blowhard and Frisco Peak.

Blowhard is the location of the 146.80 repeater and a UHF repeater as part of the Cactus system. It is a hub that has UHF radios that provides links to other repeaters on Frisco Peak and Navajo Mountain, Jacob's Lake, and Las Vegas.

Climbing the towers were Jon, NR7T, and Bruno KG7VVN. They replaced a defective antenna that fed Navajo Mountain and upgraded other link antennas with antennas that should operate better when covered with ice.

A new Sinclair antenna has been ordered to replace the current 146.80 repeater antenna at Blowhard. Hopefully, it will arrive and can be installed before snow flies.

On the same day, Barry from the Cactus group traveled from Calif to begin the installation of a complete battery backup for all the radios at the site. On this trip, he installed the mounting racks for the batteries, chargers, and DC circuit breaker panels and ran many of the cables to connect all that together.

On another day there was a trip there to clean up the interior of the building. Some surplus equipment stored in the building was removed to go to other sites in northern Utah.

Continued next column

On still another day Barry returned from Calif with a vehicle load of batteries. He brought 12 batteries that weigh 120 pounds each. Club members were there to move these monsters from the vehicle and slide them into the previously installed racks.

Barry then made all the cables to jumper these batteries together and wired them into the charging system. This also involved adding AC circuit breakers and running lines from the breaker box to the 5 battery chargers.

The actual wiring of the batteries to the racks of radio is still to be finished, hopefully before it snows much.

A few days later Don and George went to Blowhard again. This time was to open the building for an inspection by the Forest Service. This site is on the Dixie National Forest and there is a lease fee paid yearly by the Cactus group. Thanks to all who went up for the cleanup at the site. The inspection went very well. We were only asked to post licenses and add contact information on the door.

And then there was a trip to Frisco Pk. This is another major hub for both the Intertie and Cactus. Jon and Bruno again changed 4 link radio antennas to the type that should perform better when covered with ice.

Thanks to all that helped including NR7T, KG7VVN, WB7TUJ, KE6ZIM, K6QOG, KG7PBX, AL7BX, W7BF, WA7GTU, WA7HEE, K7ZI, N7SND, W6DLW and Terry West.

See pictures on page 15

Blowhard Repeater Work Party



The work party...

Picture by Terry West



George (AL7BX) & Larry (N7SND) loading equipment.



Brad (WA7HHE), Dick (K7ZI) & Linda (KG7PBX)

Continued next column



Dick (K7ZI) moving the equipment in to place.



This was a very heavy piece of equipment.



The loading continues

Continued on page 16

Blowhard Repeater Work Party Pics



John Rice (NR7T) on roof.



Blowhard Site Facility



New Batteries placed in rack

Continued on page 22

The Ham

By: James C. Wheeler (W5IO)

jc@ec47.com

Continued from page 13

And when it's all over they return to their shack resume their chatter and never look back.

Iron County E-Comm. Members participate in the Southwest Utah Public Health Department (SWUPHD) Region-wide Communications Exercise.

On Thursday, September 10, 2020 Iron County E-Comm. Members participated in the SWUPHD Region-wide Communications Exercise.

The exercise is designed to test the response capabilities and availability of amateur radio operators from the five SWUPHD response areas. They are Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington Counties. In addition to pass Health Department related messages during disasters.

Each County does a roll call of available amateur radio operators in their area. Then the Net Control Station in Saint George conducts a roll call of the five counties to gather information from each county.

Iron County had 16 check in's and passed one exercise message to Washington County.

President's Message **Continued from page 2**

Also, the end of the year is getting closer! I am looking for suggestions for our yearly HAM equipment giveaway! Last year we gave out a Comet CAA-500 Mark II antenna analyzer. Send me suggestions! We should also start taking nominations for 2021 club officers so start thing about that as well. I hope everyone has an opportunity to get out and play on the radio! We have our local nets as well as opportunities to participate on HF contests so get out there, have fun, and play on your radio.

Stay safe and healthy!

Cheers!

Fred (KI7TPD)

Save the Date for the following E-Comm & CERT Functional Exercise

When: Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

Where: At the new Iron County Road Yard Shop located across the street from the Animal Shelter on Kitty Hawk Drive. Between Bull Dog and Airport Roads.

This will be a combined CERT & E-Comm functional exercise. The topic will be nighttime communications.

Bring your FRS Radio and a handheld radio if you are a Ham.

Please let Terry Meissner or George Colson know if you'll be there. End.



Launch of Satellites Carrying Ham Radio Payloads Postponed Again

The scheduled September 2 [launch](#) of three satellites carrying amateur radio payloads from the European Space Agency Spaceport in Korou, French Guiana, was postponed again because a typhoon was threatening a tracking station in South Korea. The launch of the Arianespace Vega vehicle will be rescheduled for later this month. The Vega is set to carry a total of 53 satellites into orbit. AMSAT-France Chair Christophe Mercier said in an AMSAT-BB post that the [AmicalSat](#), UPMSat-2, and TTU100 satellites will carry ham radio payloads.

The AmicalSat CubeSat was built by students at the Grenoble University Space Center (CSUG). "The measurements made by the satellite will be available to all," Mercier said. "They will allow radio amateurs to use them for propagation predictions." He said AMSAT-F supported the AmicalSat project. [Software](#) for Linux and Windows platforms is available for decoding the telemetry and posting it to the SatNOGS database.

Continued next column

Launch of Satellites Carrying Ham Radio Payloads Postponed Again - Continued

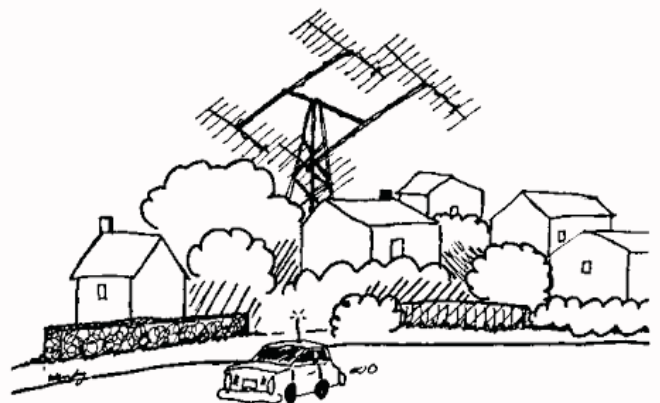


AmicalSat

According to the AmicalSat website, the CubeSat will focus on space weather, monitoring the auroral oval, and photographing the aurora. "Scientifically, the data will be used to reconstruct the flux of particles coming into the atmosphere, especially the electrons in the range of 20 eV - 10 keV," the website said.

AmicalSat will transmit 1,2k AFSK on 436.1 MHz (as RS17S), and 1,000k GFSK on 2.415.3 MHz. Reports are welcome [via email](#).

[UPMSat-2](#), a project of the Polytechnic University of Madrid, will [transmit](#) 1,2k AFSK on 437.405 MHz (as UPMST2). [TTU100](#) (Hämarik), a project of Tallinn (Estonia) University of Technology, will [transmit](#) 1,2k and 9,6k AFSK and CW on 435.450 MHz (primary) and 62.5 kbs and 20 Mbs OQPSK on 10,465 MHz (secondary).



OK, FRED. I'M ON MAPLE STREET. NOW, WHICH ONE IS YOUR HOUSE?

A Few Halloween Stories

Halloween Party

BY KENN NESBITT

We're having a Halloween party at school.
I'm dressed up like Dracula. Man, I look cool!
I dyed my hair black, and I cut off my bangs.
I'm wearing a cape and some fake plastic fangs.

I put on some makeup to paint my face white,
like creatures that only come out in the night.
My fingernails, too, are all pointed and red.
I look like I'm recently back from the dead.

My mom drops me off, and I run into school
and suddenly feel like the world's biggest fool.
The other kids stare like I'm some kind of freak
the Halloween party is not till next week.



The Peace and Plenty Inn

The Peace and Plenty Inn was once a tavern and stagecoach shop before the Revolutionary War. Later, it was converted to a private residence. The sprawling red-clapboard home has welcomed many families in its almost four-hundreds years, yet some people have felt very unwelcome indeed. One night just before Halloween, Ann came to the old inn to babysit for the Armstrong family. The three little girls had done their homework and were already in their pajamas and ready for bed. The Armstrongs left for their dinner engagements. Around nine o'clock, with all three girls tucked safely into bed, Ann settled in front of the television to watch a movie.

About fifteen minutes later, Ann suddenly felt chilled to the bone. She set her cola on the end table and checked the thermostat. The room temperature was set to 70 degrees, and she could hear the oil burner chugging along in the basement. "Hmm, that's strange," she thought. "It's freezing in here." She found an afghan on the back of the couch and settled back to watch television.

A few minutes later, she heard heavy footsteps on the stairs leading from the kitchen to the second floor. "Katie? Elizabeth? Laurel?" she called out the three children's names. The footsteps seemed to be coming closer. "Are you girls playing a trick on me?" Abruptly, the light on the end table flickered, flared and went out.

Continued on page 19.

Ann checked the kitchen and the hallway. It was even colder back there than in the living room. Nobody was there. She shook her head and went upstairs. All three girls were sound asleep. She returned to the living room.

"Hmm, that's funny," she said as she looked at the television. "I thought I left it on Channel 2. It's on Channel 4 now." These were the days before remote controls, so she walked over to the television and put it back on Channel 2. She sat back in the chair.

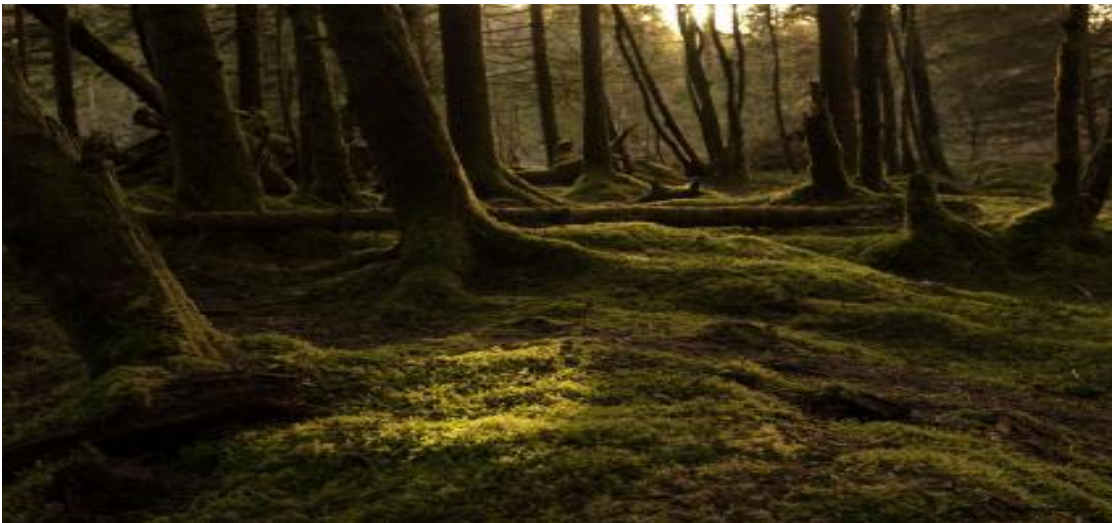
Suddenly the knob began to turn on its own switching to channel 4, 7... and then static. A voice whispered through the TV, "Get out."

With a shriek, Ann pulled the plug from the television. Mrs. Armstrong found her upstairs, curled in her afghan, asleep at the foot of the children's beds. "Ann, are you, all right?"

"T-t-take me home," Ann cried. "This place is haunted!"

Moss Man and the Bully

One Halloween, a group of teenage boys decided to play a prank on the school bully. They invited him to a secret initiation into the Society of the Forest. The most popular high-schoolers would be in attendance. They chose a spot where the ground was completely covered in moss. One of the boys dressed in a camouflage ghillie suit and hid in the thicket while the others, dressed in black robes with hoods, gathered around a makeshift altar underneath the tree canopy. The bully arrived, and the ceremony began with unintelligible chants. The bully looked about and decided he'd been punked. He shouted threats at the hoaxers. Just then the boy in hiding sprung up from the moss-covered ground and grabbed the bully, dragging him deep underground. The other boys assumed their friend had discovered a cave or underground opening. Laughing and cheering him on as the bully cried out in terror, their laughter broke off when the boy dressed in the ghillie suit came walking out of the forest. Confused, the boys turned in the direction where the Moss Man had dragged the bully away. The boys screamed and stumbling over each other ran out of the woods. The bully was never seen again, and the Halloween story of the Moss Man was born.



The Moss Man's Home

Alleged Interference Nets Ham Radio Operator \$18,000 dollar forfeiture

WASHINGTON — An amateur radio operator has come to the attention of the Federal Communications Commission for allegedly breaking FCC ham radio rules. On July 24, the Enforcement Bureau issued a notice of apparent liability for forfeiture to the tune of \$18,000 to Jerry W. Materne. The FCC proposed the penalty after it said that Materne caused intentional interference and failed to provide station identification on amateur radio frequencies. Given Materne's history as an alleged repeat offender, the FCC said his alleged violations warrant what the FCC called "a significant penalty."

The FCC said it received numerous complaints alleging that Materne — who is licensee of amateur radio station KC5CSG in Lake Charles, La., — had caused interference to a local amateur repeater in Lake Charles and was preventing other amateur licensees from using the repeater.

The trustee of the local repeater took action against Materne's alleged interference by telling him in March 2017 that he would no longer be authorized to use the W5BII amateur repeater.

Soon after the FCC issued a Letter of Inquiry in May asking Materne to address the complaints.

Materne responded and denied that he was causing interference though he did admit that he was operating on the output frequency of the repeater.

In June of that year, the commission received another complaint. This complaint alleged that during an attempted Emergency Net broadcast in preparation for Tropical Storm Cindy, Materne repeatedly transmitted on the repeater's input frequency and hindered the local Emergency Net's ability to coordinate weather warnings and alerts on behalf of the National Weather Service. After a warning letter was sent, Materne responded saying that transmitting on the output frequency of the repeater was permitted. "[I am] tired of this trash harassing me," he said in response, and noted, "I'm going to tell you like I tell this trash over here. Pound sand lady."

The interfering signal was tracked to Materne's home.

More complaints poured in to the FCC regarding interference; in response, agents conducted an investigation and discovered Materne sitting in his car causing

Continued on page 21

Alleged Interference Nets Ham Radio Operator \$18,000 dollar forfeiture – Continued from page 20

interference to W6BII for 30 minutes via a handheld radio.

Based on Materne's alleged actions, the FCC moved to propose a monetary forfeiture of \$18,000 that consists of a \$7,000 forfeiture for interference, a \$1,000 forfeiture for failure to provide station identification, and an upward adjustment of \$10,000 due to "violations that are egregious, intentional, or repeated, or that cause substantial harm or generate substantial economic gain for the violator."

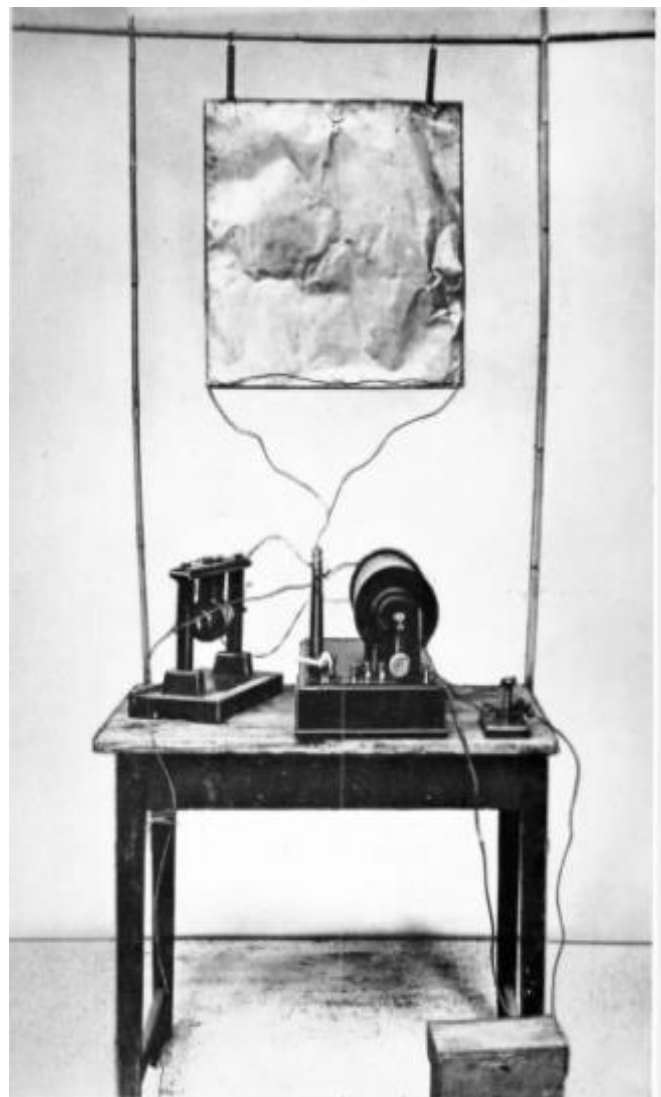
"Mr. Materne repeated similar conduct and did so in a manner demonstrating intent to violate the act and the commission's rules and a deliberate disregard for the commission's authority and the very spirit of the Amateur Radio Service," the FCC said, "by (a) advising the bureau representative to "pound sand," (b) announcing his intent to interfere with the local net, and (c) purposefully driving to the site of the W5BII repeater to deliberately interfere with other amateur licensees."

Continued next column

Materne has 30 days to pay the full amount or file written statement seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture.



Marconi's First Transmitter

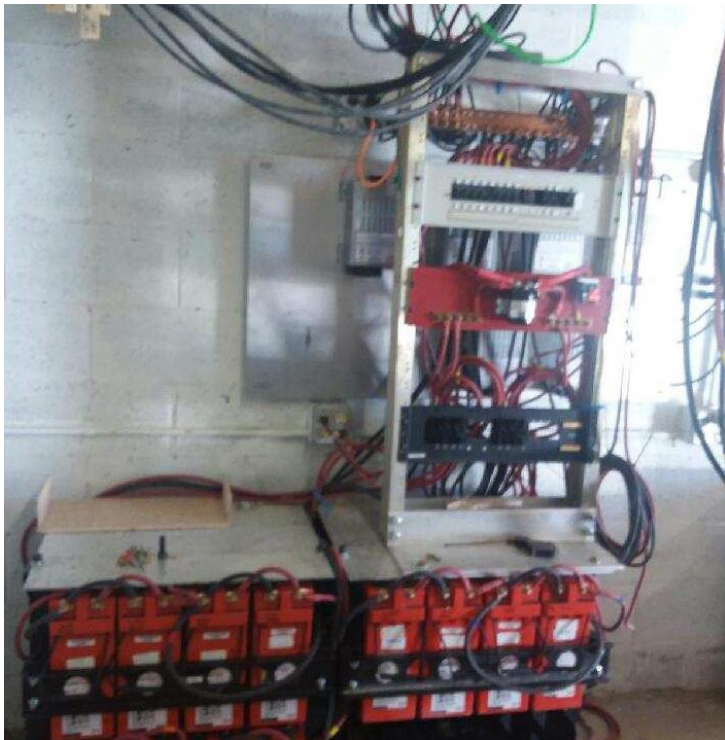


Marconi's first transmitter, incorporating a monopole antenna. It consisted of an elevated copper sheet (top) connected to a Righi spark gap (left) powered by an induction coil (center) with a telegraph key (right) to switch it on and off to spell out text messages in Morse code.

Blowhard Repeater Work Party Pics



Electronics placed on wall just above the battery racks.



Electronics being installed

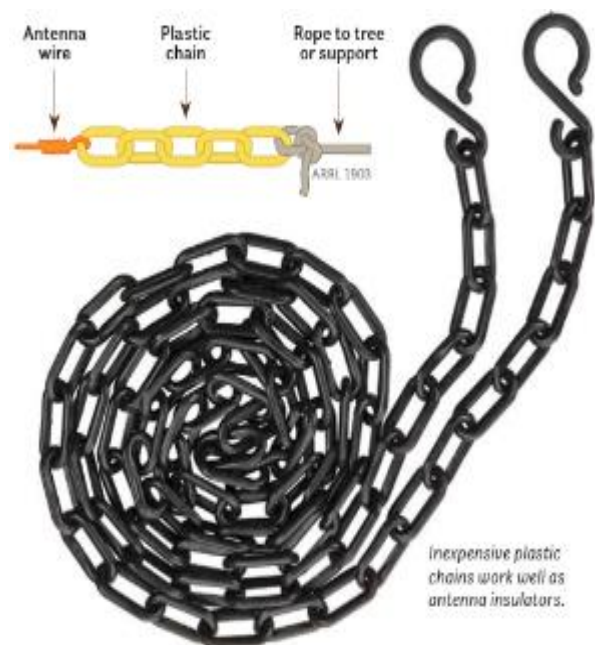
Again, thanks to George and Don for the story & pictures.

Hints (&) Hacks

Cheap Wire Antenna Insulators

You can purchase all sorts of insulators for your wire antennas online, but I have used plastic chain links, which are every bit as strong, but much less expensive (see below).

Hardware stores sell strong plastic chain at around a \$1.50 a foot, cut in half, and you have two excellent end insulators.



Fred Matos, w3icm



Iron County CERT Members Assist Iron County
Emergency Management Office (OEM) Pictures
continued from page 7.



George Colson lifting items to the 2nd floor for storage.



Work crew waiting for another load to be lifted to them.



Workers offloading boxes and placing items on
shelving units

Continued next column



A great big thanks to the work crew shown here
(minus a couple of people).



Note:

As Fred (KI7TPD) stated in his President's Message the end of the year is getting closer. He is looking for suggestions for our yearly HAM equipment giveaway!

Last year we gave out a Comet CAA-500 Mark II antenna analyzer. He is requesting you send him any suggestions!

And please start thinking about nominations for the 2021 club officers.

**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN!**

MARS Communications Exercise to Involve Amateur Radio Community

Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) volunteers will take part in the Department of Defense (DOD) Communications Exercise 20-4, starting on October 3 and concluding on October 26. The MARS focus is interoperability with ARRL and the amateur radio community.

"Throughout the month of October, MARS members will interoperate with various amateur radio organizations that will be conducting their annual simulated emergency tests with state, county, and local emergency management personnel," said MARS Chief Paul English, WD8DBY. "MARS members will send a DOD-approved message to the amateur radio organizations recognizing this cooperative interoperability effort."

MARS members will also train with the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS) and Radio Relay International (RRI) to send [ICS 213](#) general messages to numerous amateur radio leaders across the US.

"This exercise will culminate with MARS Auxiliarists sending a number of summary messages in support of a larger DOD communications exercise taking place October 20 - 26," English added. Throughout the month of October, MARS stations will operate on 60 meters, and WWV/WWVH will broadcast messages to the amateur radio community. English assures no disruption to communications throughout the month-long series of training events.



Hams Help Find Kids by Monitoring FRS Channel

Late on the afternoon of September 16, the police department in Post Falls, Idaho, received a 911 call that two juveniles -- ages 9 and 11 -- were missing from a Post Falls residence for about an hour. According to the report, the pair had left home intending to play in the neighborhood with some Family Radio Service (FRS) radios. Several patrol cars were dispatched to the area to conduct a visual search, and detective Neil Uhrig, K7NJU, responded as officer in charge due to his



training and experience with missing persons investigations. The initial search focused on a 2-mile radius from the missing kids' residence.

One officer received information from witnesses that the pair was probably using FRS Channel 1 (462.5625 MHz). An officer returned to police headquarters to retrieve some FRS radios for distribution to the patrol officers, in the event they might be able to hear the youngsters talking.

Uhrig, meanwhile, pulled out his VHF/UHF handheld with the thought of setting up FRS Channel 1 as an auxiliary frequency, but without the manual at hand, he wasn't able to execute the channel setup. But Uhrig did hear the Northwest Traffic Net (NWTN) that had begun at 6:30 PM on the local 2-meter repeater.

Hams Help Find Kids by Monitoring FRS Channel

Continued from Page 24

Checking into the net at about 6:45 PM, Uhrig explained the missing persons situation to net control station Shannon Riley, KJ7MUA, and asked if net participants in the Post Falls area with FRS capability could listen for the youngsters talking.

A number of stations promptly checked in to say they had FRS radios and were monitoring FRS Channel 1. It was assumed that only stations located near the missing youngsters would hear them, given the limited range of FRS radios.

Not long after 7 PM, Jim Hager, KJ7OTD, reported hearing children talking on FRS Channel 1. Uhrig went to Hager's home to confirm his observation, and the patrol units were redirected to the new search vicinity. A short time later, the missing pair was found safe and returned home.

Uhrig said the most remarkable thing about the incident was that the missing youngsters turned out to be some distance from the original search area, and in the opposite direction from where they were thought to have been headed.

Net Manager Gabbee Perry, KE7ADN, said, "I'm so proud of what a superior job NWTN NCS Shannon [KJ7MUA] and all the operators did last Wednesday. It was a very unusual situation, but everyone had excellent focus and used their resourcefulness to help quickly find the missing kids."

Autumn is on the way, please stay safe everyone.

