THE CODE OF THE WEST

UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB N7UW
Department 3625
1000 East University Avenue
LARAMIE, WYOMING 82071
December 2004
http://picasso.uwyo.edu/uarc

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UARC MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the University Amateur Radio Club will be held Tuesday 7 December 2004 in room 9 in the basement of the College of Business Building at 7:30 pm local time on the University of Wyoming campus. Talk in on the UARC repeater at 146.610 MHz 600 kHz standard negative offset. The College of Business building is west of 15th Street on the north side of Ivinson Street. Entrances should be open on the Ivinson Street (south) side, on the east side (handicapped accessible) and on the north side of the building adjacent to the Wyoming Union parking lot. Parking is also available at the Visitor's Center parking area on the south side of Ivinson Street.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT / COTW EDITOR John KD7NAE

Steve WL7CMA and ARES heads Mack WB7K and Bill AF7E have recently renewed interest in the emergency preparedness of the local amateur radio community. Bill AF7E represented ARES in the formulation of Albany County's Hazard Mitigation Plan and sits on our Local Emergency Planning Committee which meets quarterly. Mack and more recently Doris KD7RQX have been participating with our local emergency exercise design team.

Last month's ARES meeting brought news from Steve about contacts he has made with federal emergency management officials. Steve attended a conference in July in Oklahoma City where he met and talked with FEMA, Federal Marshals and other emergency management officials. After the November ARES meeting Steve also contacted state and local officials and has invited Randy Vickers, Laramie Fire Department Chief and Albany County Emergency Management Coordinator to our 7 Dec meeting. Randy is expected to discuss the role of the local ham community in providing communications assistance in emergency situations.

The meeting promises to be an interesting and informative one and may provide the opportunity for our UARC and ARES groups to become more active in defining and clarifying the role local amateur operators will play in providing communications assistance in cooperation with emergency response agencies. We are hoping for a good turn out for this important and timely program and discussion.

Amateur radio operators represent a valuable asset in many ways. The broad range of technical and organizational talents and willingness to solve problems as they arise with whatever resources are at hand are significant skills we offer the community. Perhaps we can take this opportunity to make our presence and our capabilities better known. Some hams may not be comfortable with self-promotion, but it is important to let people know we are here and constitute a unique and valuable community asset. UARC and ARES members and amateur radio people have always been willing to respond and help when asked. I've seen this routinely since I've been involved in these groups in recent years. I'm sure this will continue to be the case.

I encourage area hams to review the Albany County Hazard Mitigation Plan available on the Laramie Fire Department website, Guidance for Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service from FEMA available at www.ares.org and other pertinent information. There is a wealth of material on the web and through ARRL and many other sources and publications about emergency management and amateur radio. While our appointed and elected leaders and coordinators will usually take the lead in emergency situations if they are in a position to do so, as citizens we also have a responsibility to make know our capabilities to help when needed and called upon and also our expectations and understanding of protocols in emergency situations.

While response to terrorist threats has been emphasized in recent years, many other situations may also deserve our attention and preparation. Local travel conditions particularly along the I-80 corridor can be daunting and dangerous as we've seen again with the recent snow and cold. The power outage a couple weeks ago at a UW evening football game could have evolved into a situation in which amateur communications might have been a useful asset. Fortunately this did not occur. University, state and local officials and staff deserve thanks and credit for their handling of these situations. They also deserve to know that citizens in general and the amateur radio community in particular can help when needed.

We can be proud of our public service tradition as radio amateurs and should continue to make our capabilities and skills known by finding ways to practice and demonstrate where government officials and the public in general can see what we can do and how we do it. Perhaps a little more self-promotion on our part can be a good thing for everyone.

And, of course, we have some fun with our practice and preparation. I'm inspired by the comradeship and teamwork we enjoy as hams and thankful for the wonderful and diverse people I've met and learned from through involvement in amateur radio.

Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

Cheers and 73s. John KD7NAE

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UARC CALENDAR

7 December 2004 UARC monthly meeting at 7:30 pm College of Business room 9. Please note the location. Please pay your dues if not current. Special guest will be Laramie Fire Department Chief Randy Vickers.

15 January 2005 Winter Swapfest Northern Colorado ARC ARRL Hamfest Loveland, CO McMillen Building 700 South Railroad Avenue Talk-In on 145.115 (100 Hz tone), 146.520 simplex. Contact Willis Whatley WA5VRL phone 970-407-6599 fax – call ahead then fax to 970-407-1413 mail c/o Ken Howard K0CPA 4206 Warbler Drive Fort Collins, CO 80526 email whatley@frii.com

20 February 2005 Aurora Repeater Association ARRL Hamfest http://www.qsl.net/n0ara Talk-In 147.715/147.15 Brighton, CO Adams County Fairgrounds 9755 Henderson Road
Contact Wayne Heinen N0POH PO Box 471802 Aurora, CO 80047-1802
Phone: 303-699-6335 Email: n0poh@arrl.net

Upcoming ARRL Special Operating Events of note include:

4-5 Dec 2004 **Grand Junction, CO:** Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club, N0W. 0000Z **Dec 4**-0000Z **Dec 5**. 2004 SKYWARN Recognition Day at Walker Field Airport. 28.460 21.260 14.260 7.260. QSL. Bob Vogel, W0RY, 155 Ponderosa Dr, Fruita, CO 81521. **www.wcarc.ws/status.htm**.

Refer to http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html for more ARRL Special Events

Upcoming ARRL contests include:

3-5 Dec 2004 ARRL 160 Meter Contest
4-5 Dec 2004 ARRL International Earth Moon Earth Competition
11-12 Dec 2004 ARRL 10 Meter Contest

see http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html for more info including contest rules

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HERC Net update *(repeat from last month's newsletter)*

Interest has been expressed recently in re-establishing links in the Wyoming HERC Net that have not been working over the last year or so. Dave KY7DR was asked for UARC's mailing address. More information may be forthcoming for discussion at our next meetings. The status of the HERC Net was a topic at the State Hamfest. Efforts may be beginning to repair the net and re-establish state-wide coverage. This news is timely and worth repeating in light of our last ARES meeting and the upcoming UARC meeting topic of emergency communications.

UARC recent news

Parts from Rhett ND70's antenna installation which he kindly donated to UARC have been distributed. Larry KD7UWR has delivered a check for $125 to the club for two complete tower sections and one partial section. Jim KB7SGR has taken one complete tower section for use on the Laramie Plains Translator Association tower and will get a check to UARC for $50. John KD7NAE and Doris KD7RQX will pay $50 for the tower top section. When added to Doug KD7W's purchase of a 2 meter antenna for $25, UARC will see $250 from Rhett's donation.

John, Doris and Craig KD7BOU have collected a pipe tower from Keith Miller's recently acquired Arlington property which he has donated to UARC along with a large VHF antenna. We can discuss the value and disposition of these items at a future meeting.

Thanks to those who assisted with disassembly of Rhett's tower and antennas. This proved to be an excellent learning experience for some of us and another example of the impromptu team work UARC members enjoy and excel at.

UARC Meeting Minutes 2 November 2004

Call to Order:

The November meeting was called to order by President John KD7NAE at 7:34 pm in room 8 of the College of Business Building. 14 members were in attendance; all officers were present. Those attending were: William Wright AF7E, Paul Pheneger W7MO, Mac McDonald WB7K, Fred Crowell KS7Q, Bill Frazier N7SXC, Bob Hansen WS7C, Jerry Tastad N7JT, Wayne Sutherland NQ7Q, Doug Wheeler KD7W, Lynn Hamblin KB7SGP, Rick Damiani KD7TVV, Suzanne Luhr AA7AY, John Harrison KD7NAE, and Doris Hutcheson KD7RQX.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Bill AF7E moved to approve the minutes of the October meeting. The motion was seconded by Mac WB7K, and all approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report-Suzanne AA7AY gave an approximate report of fund balances:
Regular account balance: $333.64.
Maintenance fund balance: $876.42.

Communications:
John KD7NAE reported that he had responded to an e-mail offering to donate two antennas and a pipe mast to the club.

Old Business:

There was a discussion of moving UARC equipment out of Jerry N7JT's lab to the radio tower in the Union. The equipment includes hand-held radios, two base units used for Field day. The club agreed that the radios should be moved to a cabinet that can be locked at the tower room. There are also a battery for the repeater and two portable commercial and emergency band radios that can be stored in the tower room. There is a collection of QSTs dating from the 1970s and later in binders. He club decided that if they couldn't be given away, they should be recycled. KD7RQX moved and Bill N7SXC seconded that the moves be made and all approved.

Paul offered to store one of the club's Kenwood HF radios for Field day use. Lynn KB7SGP suggested that the club check out the Union tower room and assist with moving the equipment Sunday after pizza.

New Business:

Mac WB7K announced that there would be an ARES meeting Tuesday November 11th. Steve WL7CMA will discuss his meeting with federal Emergency Management officials in Oklahoma. The club discussed holding the ARES meeting in room 8 of the Business Building.

There was a discussion of BPL and lack of support from the FCC. There was discussion of current views that cell phone use is perceived as a replacement for ham radio. Mac WB7K reminded the club that there is currently no section emergency coordinator and that cooperation with the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security was important.

Drawing:

Rick KD7TVV won a subscription to World Radio to be awarded when the new subscriptions are received.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was moved adjourned by Wayne NQ7Q and seconded by Doug KD7W at 8:45 pm.

Doris KD7RQX

UARC's club station site atop the University's Wyoming Student Union building. The VHF repeater along with HF antennae and station and an APRS digipeater are important assets for local hams and the community at large.

The University and Associated Students of UW share credit for providing the space and utilities for the installations.

The Union facilities along with the 146.820 repeater located on Beacon Hill east of Laramie which is linked to the Wyoming HERC net and into Nebraska are significant local emergency communications links.

Photo by John KD7NAE

Submissions to COTW are welcome from all UARC members, area hams and persons interested in amateur radio communications and activities.

Printed copies of COTW are available from John KD7NAE.

Please contact

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