THE CODE OF THE WEST

UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
N7UW
P.O. BOX 3625
LARAMIE, WYOMING 82071
March 2004
http://picasso.uwyo.edu/uarc

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UARC and ARES MEETINGS

The regular monthly meeting of the University Amateur Radio Club will be held Tuesday 2 March 2004 in room 2100 of the Engineering 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.

A meeting of Albany County ARES will be held Tuesday 9 March 2004 in room 130 of the Physical Sciences building at 7:30 pm local time.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT / COTW EDITOR John KD7NAE

The range of interests shared by hams always amazes and impresses me. Several members of UARC are musicians and others are avid music listeners and hi-fi hobbyists. I've reprinted an article from the last ARRL newsletter on the Buddy Holly memorial event that took place at the beginning of February with those of us who share a love of music in mind.

Organizing meetings continue for the Laramie Enduro mountain bike race scheduled for Sunday 1 August 2004 around the Happy Jack area north of I-80. Communications assistance is needed from local hams. I've been attending the planning meetings and have a map of the proposed route from race organizer Rich Vincent. I will try to get the route into a reproducible form and into DeLorme Topo USA software which I hope to be able to use with APRS. March is Red Cross month so this is a good time to mention that some of the proceeds from the Enduro will go to the Albany County chapter of the Red Cross.

Ham communication assistance is also needed for the Dead Dog Classic bicycle road race to be held Saturday 26 June 2004. This is amateur field day, so the possibility of selecting a field day site adjacent to the highway 130 race route is being discussed. This would permit field day participation and help with race communications. Dave KY7DR has modeled 2 meter communications along the proposed route using Radio Mobile software available at http://www.cplus.org/rmw/english1.html. He has identified locations that might permit good communication for most of the route and could also be good potential field day locations. I've reprinted his email in this issue.

Dave has also proposed using APRS tracking to help with our bike race support and has offered to assist with setting this up. Hopefully he can tell us more at Tuesday's meeting. Thanks Dave.

Cheers and 73s. John KD7NAE

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UARC CALENDAR

1-7 March 2004 Arlington Heights, IL: US Peace Corps ARC, KA9NLX. 1700Z Mar 1-2200Z Mar 7. 43rd Anniversary of founding of United States Peace Corps. 28.500 21.375 14.325 7.283. Certificate. John Paskevicz, 1423 North Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

19-21 March 2004 Princeton, NJ: Mercer County ARES/Central NJ American Red Cross, N2ARC. 2300Z Mar 19-2300Z Mar 21. March is Red Cross Month, celebrating ARES/ARC partnership. 28.445 14.255 7.240 3.952 2 m 220 MHz APRS. Certificate. Gerry Jurrens, N2GJ, POB 147, Kingston, NJ 08528. users.tellurian.com/gjurrens/n2arc_special_event.htm.

26-27 March 2004 Timonium, MD: Baltimore Amateur Radio Club, W3FT. 1300Z Mar 26-2000Z Mar 27. Celebrating the Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest. 14.265 7.265. Certificate. W3FT C/O GBH&C, PO Box 95, Timonium, MD 21094.

27 March 2004 Waco, TX: Lake Whitney Amateur Radio Society, WA5BU. 1600Z-2000Z Mar 27. Activating the Baylor University Ham Club Radio Station. 28.425 21.300 14.250 7.250. QSL. Allen Newton, PO Box 1181, Whitney, TX 76692.

3 Apr 2004 Longmont ARC ARRL Hamfest in Longmont, CO http://www.qsl.net/larc
contact Brian Steege K0BRS larc@qsl.net 303-678-0406 PO Box 86
Longmont, CO 80502-0086

10-11 April 2004 Indianapolis, IN: RCA Amateur Radio Club, W9RCA. 1300Z Apr 10-2200Z Apr 11. 50th Anniversary of 1st production RCA color TV set. 28.450 21.350 14.250 7.250. QSL. RCA Amateur Radio Club, 624 Lexington Blvd, Carmel, IN 46032.

29-30 May 2004 Wyoming State ARRL Convention in Casper, WY
http://www.wyohamfest.com contact Rev Morton WS7W ws7w@arrl.org
307-235-2799 1341 Trojan Drive Casper, WY 82609

upcoming ARRL contests include:

6-7 Mar 2004 International DX Contest
see http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html for more info

USING THE ARRL 7TH CALL AREA INCOMING QSL BUREAU

Are you an amateur radio operator who is not a current user of the ARRL 7th Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau, operated under the auspices of the Willamette Valley DX Club?

The 7th Call Area QSL bureau is open to all amateurs with a '7' call (e.g., W7, K7 AK7, etc., but excluding Alaska or Hawaii calls), regardless of operator class. You do not have to be an ARRL member.

We currently have thousands of cards for hundreds of 7th call area amateurs in our dead files because no SASE'S [self-addressed stamped envelopes] are on file or there is no established credit with the bureau. Reasonable contact attempts are made using email addresses from QRZ and Buckmaster (and in some cases through postcards), but many of these email addresses are not current and bounce.

If you are not a current bureau user, but have had contacts with amateurs outside the US, you may have cards in our dead files. Due to the high costs of mailing, most foreign amateurs accumulate and forward their cards in bulk to the ARRL HQ for redistribution or direct to the various US QSL bureaus.

To claim foreign QSL cards (including from Canada) see the instructions and forms at www.qsl.net/wvdxc. No Internet capability? Follow the basic rule - keep at least two 6x9 or 5x7 SASE's on file with:

ARRL 7th Area QSL Bureau
PO Box 555
Portland, OR 97207-0555

Have Internet capability and want to know the status of your account or if you have cards in the dead file? A list of the current bureau sorters, by alphabet letter, is at www.wvdxc.org under the 'W7 QSL Bureau' button. Most volunteers have email addresses and can give you the status of your account.

Please note - ARRL rules allow for the disposal of dead file cards 90 days after reasonable efforts have been made to contact the affected amateur. Each sorter only has limited space for storing dead file cards.

We don't want to dispose of any cards that might be yours, so please, always keep at least one SASE on file with the bureau.

Thanks,
Ken, K7IFG, Manager
ARRL 7th Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau

PEGGY SUE GETS LICENSED

from the 27 Feb 2004 ARRL email newsletter

During the recent Buddy Holly W5B commemorative special event operation, Peggy Sue Gerron-Rackham was perhaps the most prominent of the W5B guest operators. The namesake of Holly's 1957 "rockabilly" hit "Peggy Sue"--who went to high school with Holly and later married the drummer in his band, The Crickets--says participating in the W5B event sharpened her desire to get her ham license. That happened this week when the FCC granted her the call sign KE5AKW. She now plans to apply for a vanity call sign.

"Out of all the Buddy Holly events that I have attended in my life," she said after the W5B special event. "This event will always stand out in my memory."

As rock n' roll history has it, Holly originally titled the song "Cindy Lou," but Crickets drummer Jerry Allison convinced the singer to change the tune's name to "Peggy Sue" just before the recording session. Gerron, who still goes by that name, says that story is "close" to the truth but not entirely accurate. After Holly's death, Gerron toured with The Crickets when the band got back together. Holly's follow-up song "Peggy Sue Got Married" inspired a 1986 movie starring Kathleen Turner.

Over the years, Gerron has made public appearances all over the country--including on "Oprah," VH1, the Oxygen Network, as well as network TV, and has worked as a speaker, columnist, back-up singer and talk radio co-host (her show was called "Rave On"). Getting on the air during the W5B special event, however, turned out to be very "special" for her.

"You can do TV specials, and you can be interviewed by the very best DJs," she said, but there is nothing like the feeling of putting your finger down and transmitting your call sign and having somebody answer back."

The Buddy Holly special event--January 29 through February 2 in Holly's home town of Lubbock, Texas--marked the 45th anniversary of the entertainer's untimely death in a February 3, 1959, plane crash in Iowa. The mishap also claimed the lives of early rock n' rollers Ritchie Valens and JP "The Big Bopper" Richardson.

The Lubbock Amateur Contest Club's W5LCC provided the site for the special event station. Some area hams still remember Holly as a classmate at Lubbock High School. Bryan Edwards, W5KFT, who obtained the W5B call sign, reports W5B logged more than 1000 contacts. The special event generated a lot of interest in talking to Peggy Sue, and she obliged as many as possible. A few shared personal recollections of Holly and his music.

"This is not planned conversation," Gerron said of Amateur Radio. "It's one person communicating with another. Is anybody out there? You bet they are! Keep rockin'!"

Other operators during the W5B special event included Doug Hutton, W5JUV, Terry Bajuk, KE5BL, Dennis Brush, WA5CBG, Joey Johnston, KC5MVZ, Eddie Petmecky, KC5OBX, Davis Plunkett, K5DLP, Rick Roy, KB5KYJ, and Tom Tucker, KB5UOP.--thanks to Mike Gruber, W1MG, who provided information for this article.

Dave KY7DR Investigates Field Day Site for Dead Dog Bike Race

I've been playing with Radio Mobile, a software package for predicting RF coverage. It appears to be quite sophisticated, and I've only scratched its surface.

Using Radio Mobile, I've created a station-to-station plot: http://davidarush.com/hamradio/deaddog-1.png

I've marked several points or "stations" along the route for the Dead Dog Classic bike race. Green is a good path, yellow or red dashed is marginal/poor, and red is bad. Radio Mobile's default station assumptions are 10 watts transmit power, 0.5 dB feed line loss, 2 dBi antenna gain, 2 meters antenna height, 1.0 microvolt receiver threshold.

The race starts and ends at Albany. The route goes Hwy 11 to Hwy 130, then 130 over the Snowies to Ryan Park. At Ryan Park the riders turn around and return to Albany. There are shorter courses for other classes of riders, which follow the same route but turn around at earlier points.

Most of the points on the attached picture (generated by Radio Mobile) are along the race route (with the exception of Fox Park, Spruce Mountain, and Sheep Mountain).

It's rather cluttered, but none of the points on the route showed a good (green) path to all the other points. I played around with some other points, and found that Spruce Mountain appears to be a nice spot with good comms to all the points I chose along route.

Albany was the hard-to-hit point on the race route, as it appears to be sitting in a hole. Even Libby Flats didn't look good to Albany.

Based on this data, I'd suggest we shoot to put net control and an APRS digi-peater at Spruce Mountain. There appears to be a road that goes right up to the top, and there's even a clearing that's about 250 meters across, so I think that we could consider it for Field Day. I've not been to the site in person, but have checked it out from maps and aerial photography.

If anyone has any other locations you'd like me to plot, for the bike race and/or Field Day, let me know.

So, what do you think?

David KY7DR

KY7DR signal mapping of the Dead Dog bicycle race route using Radio Mobile modeling software

UARC MEETING MINUTES from 3 February 2004

Call to Order:

The February meeting was called to order by President John KD7NAE at 7:35 pm in room 2100 of the Engineering Building. 14 members were in attendance; all officers were present. Those attending were: Paul Pheneger W7MO, Wayne Sutherland NQ7Q, Larry Dean K7UWR, Lynn Hamblin KB7SGP, Brian Kassin II KD7RQU, David Rush KY7DR, Doug Wheeler KD7W, Barry Mather KB7VQV, Bill Frazier N7SXC, Troy Hanks N7QXA, Suzanne Luhr AA7AY, Brent Gurnsey KC0FUP, John Harrison KD7NAE, and Doris Hutcheson KD7RQX.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Wayne NQ7Q moved to approve the minutes of the January 4th meeting as written in the Code of the West. The motion was seconded by Brent Gurnsey KC0FUP, all approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Brent KC0FUP reported:

Income - Dues $20.00

Bills paid - Phone $21.73

Transfer from regular fund to maintenance fund $250.00

Regular account balance $252.[48]
Maintenance fund balance: $938[67].
The bank is no longer providing cancelled checks, but will send copies of the front of processed checks.

Communications Reports:

John KD7NAE observed again that some of the HERC-net is down. Some Wyoming clubs have lost interest or no longer have the funds to participate. Links to the northern portions of the state from southeast Wyoming are no longer working.

Code of the West:

There was a discussion of the distribution of COTW. The current distribution list used by John ND7NAE includes more than the current 33 paid members. The club decided it was alright to continue with the current list.

Field Day:

The club is still investigating locations for the upcoming field day that would be close to the route for the Dead Dog Classic bicycle race being held the same weekend.

VE Exams:

The Shy-Wy club will be offering courses and exams for the general license in February. UARC will wait to hear from Jerry Tastad N7JT at the next meeting for a schedule of review sessions and an exam date.

Old Business:

Additional discussion of the club's support for the Dead Dog included the amateur radio law and intent to provide whatever is necessary to keep things safe, but that does not include participation in maintaining race statistics. The club would verify that all riders complete the course or are accounted for by race personnel. A review of the route and the start time of 9:00 am at Albany and a finish there at approximately 1:00 or 2:00 pm.

John KD7NAE reported no new information from the Laramie Ranger District of the U.S. Forest service regarding the waiver of the fee to lease the tower site. He has left a message on their voice-mail asking for confirmation of the lease status. Doug KD7W mentioned his concern that the fee waiver might set a precedent for the Forest Service to terminate the lease.

John KD7NAE has attended a preliminary meeting for the Laramie Enduro Mountain bike race to be held August 1 at Happy Jack. The race committee expects 100 to 300 participants. They anticipate injuries to downed riders and bicycle damage, but do not expect hams to provide First Aid. John said he had informed the race committee that preferred mention as a supporting organization on the T-shirts for the race rather than accepting a donation from the race committee. The race committee has said any proceeds from the race will be donated to the Albany County Red Cross. There was discussion of the use of nearby repeaters, including 147.015 with the tone 114.8 (south of Ames monument) and 145.325 (Mark's repeater).

Lynn KB7SGP reported that he does have a case for field day equipment that he will donate to the club in the future. Brent KC0FUP reported that he has also found a larger case.

Lynn KB7SGP also reported that he still has the club scanner.

New Business:

John KD7NAE reported that he had attended a meeting of ASUW leaders and that ASUW preferred to fund specific events and that there did not appear to be a need for the club to request funds.

John KD7NAE was contacted by Mac WB7K regarding e-mail from ARRL discussing changes to the license classifications. The details of those changes were in last month's Code of the West.

Drawing:

This month's winner of the club drawing was Brian Kassin II KD7RQU, winning a subscription to World Radio.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was moved adjourned by Lynn KB7SGP and seconded by Bill N7SXC with all agreeing at 8:44 pm.

Doris
KD7RQX

BRIDGE at Burlington, Iowa taken from the Illinois side of the Mississippi river in December 2002. The long span is a cable-stayed suspension bridge. The image was solarized in Corel Photopaint which enhanced the cables and turned the sky dark sepia.

Photo by John KD7NAE
Printed copies of this image and others are available up to 13"x19" size as well as printed COTW issues from John

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

Please contact

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