



UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

N7UW

P.O. BOX 3625

LARAMIE, WYOMING 82071

November, 2002

<http://picasso.uwyo.edu/uarc>

PRESIDENT: Anthony Arnerich KD7TA

VP/SECRETARY: Suzanne Luhr AA7AY

TREASURER: Brent Gurnsey KC0FUP

EDITORS: Wayne M. Sutherland NQ7Q and Bill Wright AF7E

UARC MEETING

The regular meeting of the University Amateur Radio Club will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2002 in the UW Engineering Building Rm. 2101 at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 146.61 MHz repeater in case of room reservation malfunction.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dead Dog Classic Bicycle Race support, 7/6/02

Now that winter has decidedly arrived, let's roll back the calendar to the middle of summer when the biggest worry several of us had was getting too much sun...

The first of UARC's two public service events of the summer, sort of a warm-up for the 2-day MS150 bike ride I reported about previously in Code of The West was the Dead Dog Classic bike race. This was the reinstatement of an annual tradition of the Laramie Bike Net. In case you're wondering, the race is named after what must have been a

particularly memorable road-side "find" out along the course during the first race. That encounter must have been at the end of a long day is all I can say.

Many thanks go to Bill N7SXC for stopping in at the Laramie Bike Net during this summer's Freedom Has a Birthday celebration in Washington Park. He got to talking to the race organizer Catherine Skinner-Martin about the upcoming race and discovered that they had no means of communication between the various volunteers running the event. I ran across Bill as he was talking to Wayne NQ7Q at the free ice cream booth (can you guess what brought me there?) and Bill suggested I go see if our services would be appreciated. Within 15 minutes it was decided that I would see if I could round up some volunteers for the ride which was to take place in just a few days time.

The club participation was better than I had hoped, with these volunteers: Mac WB7K (Libby Flats), Rhett ND7O (Net Control along with yours truly KD7TA), Suzanne then-AC7SZ (ambulance ride-along), Dick KD7FHE (mobile rover), John KD7NAE and Doris KD7RQX (USFS station), Wayne NQ7Q (Green Rock), and Jerry N7JT (Porter Lake). On the day of the ride we had a last-minute addition of Jerry KD7CTP who was one of the volunteer workers. John and Doris apparently didn't get enough radio time that Saturday because they also worked the time trials out near the Armory and the Criterium which was held downtown, on Sunday. Bravo!

7/6/02 8:30 AM: The ride course started at Alsop Lake just North of the airport, went S along Herrick Lane to highway 130, and along 130 to the top of the Snowy Range at Libby Flats as a midway point. The course backtracked from there along the same route back to Alsop Lake. We decided that we could use the club's 146.610 repeater to handle all communications.

To serve riders of varying levels of competitive edge, there were shorter rides available with turnaround points at Porter Lake, the USFS Ranger Station just above Centennial, and Green Rock Campground. One of the interesting challenges we faced was that we were asked to try to keep track of the riders in each competitive sub-group, while there was no official head count from the race coordinators. That turned out to be the major activity of the day, making up about 4/5 of the traffic we handled. The balance of the communication had to do with coordinating supplies at the rest stops. Happily, there were no accidents with outcomes more serious than minor road rash. Rhett will probably recall that I placed the Net Control desk (the tailgate of my SUV) smack dab on top of one of the more populous ant hills at Alsop Lake. That generated more laughs than bites.

I had a lot of fun operating at the Net Control station that day, a first for me for an actual public service event. There were a lot of lessons learned about how to put together a picture of the tactical situation and keep it continuously accurate throughout the day. The race was in reality 4 simultaneous races that took place along the same course, as we were trying to track the lead and trailing riders of each group. In addition there was the routine work of helping the ride workers move supplies to the rest stops that were

running low, re-deploying our mobile assets, and doing an orderly release of the hams at the stations along the route as the riders headed back home. By the end of the ride at 12:30 we had collected 6 single-spaced pages of traffic.

One major lesson learned was that the task of keeping count of the riders is a task best left to the ride organizers. Then again, we came into the game very late and did not have the luxury of attending any of the planning meetings where we could have made that point. This was in contrast with the much larger MS150 ride later in the summer where we were participating a month in advance. In the MS150 we let them know in advance that we couldn't do the counts because that would impact the more important functions we were there for. That decision worked out very well for us and the ride organizers.

When it was all said and done, race boss Catherine was absolutely thrilled with the help we provided. It was a superb way to serve the community and spread a good name for the club and for ham radio in general. It was another of those "I don't see how we could have done it without you guys" experiences.

73,
de Tony KD7TA

UARC DUES

A reminder that UARC dues are now payable. The amounts are \$20-regular membership; \$30-family; \$10-student, with the first year being free.

UARC CALENDAR

Nov 2-4 ARRL Sweepstakes 160-10m* CW

Nov 5 UARC Regular Meeting

Nov. 8-10 Japan International DX Contest 80-10m* SSB

Nov. 11 K0GRL Bellevue, NE, 1200-2400, SAC Memorial, Veterans Day & Gen. Curtis LeMay's Birthday. 28.347, 21.347, 14.247, 7.247, 3.947 SSB.

Nov 16-18 ARRL Sweepstakes 160-10m*SSB

Nov 23-24 CQ WW DX Contest 160-10m*CW

Nov 30-Dec 1 W4F, TN, Anniv. of Civil War Battle of Franklin. 21.325, 14.280, 7.280 SSB

Dec 5 UARC Regular Meeting

Dec 6 ARRL 160m CW Contest 2200Z

* Note: Contesting does not include WARC bands (30m, 17m, & 12m)

UARC MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 1, 2002

Call to Order:

In president Tony's KD7TA's absence, Treasurer Brent KC0FUP kindly volunteered to run the show and called the October meeting to order at 7:30 pm in room 2101 of the Engineering Building. Thank you Brent for so masterfully taking charge and letting me do what I do better. We eventually got to introductions: 15 new and old members were in attendance. Those present were: William Wright AF7E, Fred Crowell KS7Q, Mac McDonald WB7K, Bill Frazier N7SXC, David Rush KY0DR, Lynn Hamblin KB7SGP, Suzanne Luhr AA7AY, Jerry Tastad N7JT, Doug Wheeler KD7W, Chad Mitchell (no call), Nathan Hornor (no call), Brent Gurnsey KC0FUP, Doris Hutcheson KD7RQX, John Harrison KD7NAE, and Barry Mather KB7VQV.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Brent KC0FUP moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting. The motion was seconded, and all approved.

Reports:

Treasurers Report-

Bills: Bill for \$2⁷² submitted by Bill AF7E, for envelopes and stamps. Mac WB7K moved to pay this bill to Bill and it was seconded. Any other bills, Bill?

Payments: Phone bill: \$21⁷³.

Deposits: \$335⁰⁰ in dues;

Regular account balance: \$648⁷⁶; Maintenance fund balance: \$500⁰⁰.

ARES- Mac WB7K announced NO ARES meeting the following week-they are moving to shift to quarterly meetings.

Announcements:

Jerry N7JT mentioned the need to renew the clubs incorporation papers. As no one has seen any mail regarding this, Jerry will check the web site for information.

Jerry also announced the upcoming radio classes. Starting October 8, at 7:00 pm in room 130 of the Physical Sciences building, they will go on pretty much through the semester. This will be listed in the Branding Iron.

Fred KS7Q has a list of for sale items.

Jerry N7JT commented that if you have an N call sign there is likely to be an airplane

with the same call. Ask Jerry how to look that up!

Drawing: Doug KD7W won a year's subscription to World Radio.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm. Eleven minutes! That's got to be a record!
Brent, you're hired!

The program was Open Discussion over pizza and pop left by the previous group.

Happy October!
Suzanne AC7SZ

WYOMING SECTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER QST

In the wake of the 9-11 incident there has been increased interest in amateur radio for emergency communication. We have always been on call for that for floods, hurricanes, earthquakes etc, but the national disaster has wider implications. As a consequence, ARRL has initiated training sessions for people who would become local mentors for training people in their locality in disaster relief activities. These classes are focused on crisis management techniques and go far beyond the basics of emergency communications. The classes have begun and will continue to cycle for the next month or so.

So far there has been one volunteer from the WY Section and more would be welcome. If interested contact your local EC or WY SEC, Marty Luna, or your SM. It is to be hoped that on a local basis more emphasis will be placed on emergency communication activities and less on incident command because in Wyoming, some WEMA or county type will ordinarily be the Incident Commander. Be reminded that the monthly Section reports will not be in QST after this month and Section News will be found on the ARRL web page. And after all that have a Happy Holiday Season.

WYOMING: SM Bob Williams,
N7LKH

WANTED OR FOR SALE ITEMS

For Sale: DB Products 2m four bay folded dipole with heavy mast

DB Products 2m & 70cm four bay folded dipole with heavy mast
70cm four bay dipole with no mast
Hustler 4BTV 40-10m trapped vertical with heavy KW 80/75m resonator
14 AVQ 40-10m vertical (no book)
Butternut 160-80m vertical with top hat
11-10m vertical with ground plane
Light 11-10m vertical
Shakespear style 376-GB (big stick 111) 11-10m marine vertical
Call for prices.
Contact KS7Q Fred Crowell, 307-742-2077

ASSISTANCE WITH SPECTRUM THREAT

This is a letter sent for Info to all Amateur Radio Organizations. It is paraphrased as follows:

TO: All Radio Organizations

FR: Chris Imlay, W3KD, ARRL General Council

RE: Assistance with spectrum threat, SAVI Technology, Inc.; RM-10051
ET Docket no. 01-278

DT: November 6, 2001

On November 22, 2000, SAVI Technology filed a petition for Rule Making. The Petition was placed on Public Notice January 30, 2001 by the FCC (report no. 2462), and given file number RM-10051. The petition asks the FCC for changes in the Part 15 rules governing unlicensed, periodic, intentional radiators so as to permit increased duty cycles and permitted field strengths for radio frequency identification (RFID) systems.

The FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order in this proceeding was released October 15, 2001. It is FCC Document NO. 01-290, and can be read in its entirety on on the FCC web site. As of this writing, the NPRM has not been published yet in the Federal Register. The ARRL will let you know what the comment date is, but don't wait to get your comments filed.

The purpose of the docket is to review and up-date certain rules governing unlicensed RF emitting devices. The most important argument is that interference will inevitably result to Amateur stations from these mobile devices at unpredictable locations transmitting at 110,000uv/m immediately adjacent to the 432 MHz weak signal band, in a band used extensively by Amateurs for control links for repeaters and other functions.

It is understood that Representative Cubin has already sent a letter of approval on this matter. Amateur Radio Operators are encouraged to send a QSL card to Rep Cubin and urge her to rescind her letter of August 20 to FCC Chairman Powell concerning FFID in the 433 MHz Band. Her address is:

The Honorable Rep Cubin
Suite 4003
100 E B
Casper, WY 82601

73, de Mac WB7K

ICOM REPAIRS

I have a tidbit of information that may be of interest.

I know that eventually, most of us encounter a need to send equipment in for service, and then there's the big question of where to send it. Over the summer Sharon dropped her Icom ht and the LCD display quit working. I'd heard bad things about several places (long turnaround times or high rates) and worried whether the ht would even be worth repairing. My first thought was to be a good husband and give her my own radio. (Of course, I'd have to go buy a new one for myself...)

I looked on the web for some hint about where best to send it, but nothing much turned up. Eventually I took a chance and sent it into Comtek, which advertises in QST and World Radio. Seems to be a one-man operation by an ex Icom tech named Kuni. Even though he'd warned my by email that he was about to go on vacation, I took the chance and sent him the radio, figuring I'd probably never see it again.

When the box came back two weeks later I assumed it was returned for insufficient postage. To my pleasant surprise, the radio inside was fully repaired with a shiney new LCD display. The bill was something like \$42, including parts (about \$10) and labor (at \$40/hr). Since some of the other outfits I investigated have rates at more than double this, I was very impressed. I know that a single good experience is not what we call "statistically significant", but sometimes its better than nothing.

So, if you have an Icom that needs work, you might consider giving Kuni a try.

Regards,
Bob N7CII

GOOD AMATEUR PRACTICE" MEANS NEVER HAVING TO SAY YOU'RE SORRY

FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth has endorsed a list of several points that he feels help to define the concept of "good amateur practice." Section 97.101(a) of the Amateur Radio Service rules refers to "good engineering and good amateur practice"--considered to refer to maintaining the highest standards of engineering and on-the-air comportment. But the rule lacks specifics.

"Good amateur practice is a hard thing to define," Hollingsworth conceded. "I'd have to say it's operating with the realization that frequencies are shared, that there's going to be occasional interference and that's no reason to become hateful and paranoid."

Hollingsworth says amateurs have to realize that more people than ever are listening in, especially since September 11, 2001, and that amateurs always need to remember that "our rights end where another person's begin."

A Michigan Amateur Radio club has been credited with distributing a list of "Riley-isms" culled from Hollingsworth's various talks at conventions and hamfests and club meetings around the US. Hollingsworth--who verified that he had been cited accurately--says his various comments represent an effort to flesh out what "good amateur practice" consists of for considerate the Amateur Radio operator. According to Hollingsworth, good amateur practice means:

- Giving a little ground--even if you have a right not to--in order to help preserve Amateur Radio and not cause it to get a bad name or hasten the day when it becomes obsolete.
- Respecting band plans, because they make it possible for every mode to have a chance.
- Being aware that we all love Amateur Radio, and there's no need to damage or disgrace it just to save face.
- Keeping personal conflicts off the air. Settle your arguments on the telephone, the Internet or in person. Just keep them off the air.
- Cutting a net or a contester a break, even if you don't have to and even if you have no interest whatsoever in nets or contesting.
- Realizing that every right carries responsibilities, and just because you may have a right to do certain things doesn't mean it's right to do them in every circumstance.
- You don't "own" or get preference to use any frequency.

- Not operating so that whoever hears you becomes sorry they ever got into (or tuned in on) Amateur Radio in the first place.

Hollingsworth notes that the list "doesn't touch on a lot of other technical issues, such as using 1500 W when your signal report received is 40 over 9." Good amateur practice, he said, "just means a lot of things that can't always be quantified." --thanks to Riley Hollingsworth

Taken from The ARRL Letter
Vol 21, No 40
October 11, 2002

EDITORS' NOTES

Your editors want to thank Tom, N7MMC for the service he provides with his repeater on Sherman Hill. The repeater gives good coverage over into Cheyenne and even in spots as far north as Shirley Basin. For those of you not familiar with this repeater its frequency is 147.015 with a standard positive (+) offset and tone of 114.8. This is an uncluttered repeater and the good news is that Tom wants to see it used. Give it a try next time you are out and about.

Tom's repeater is one of several examples of local hams quietly providing communications related service to friends, community and to our great hobby. If you happen to notice other hams in the Laramie area providing service, or just helping a new ham, please let us know so that we can give them a supporting accolade in the Code Of The West.

If you do write an article, editorial, or other comment for the COTW, please send your material to our e-mail addresses at: nq7q@arrl.net and af7e@juno.com.

73, Wayne NQ7Q & Bill AF7E

"No man is allowed to be a judge in his own cause, because his interest would certainly bias his judgment, and, not improbably, corrupt his integrity." – James Madison, The Federalist No.10, 1787

qtx