



High-Country Static

November 2014

News and Information Concerning
Amateur Radio in Northern Arizona and
Beyond

Welcome to the Coconino Amateur Radio Club (CARC) Monthly Newsletter. CARC is a non-profit club devoted to providing communication services to local volunteer agencies and events. Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month **1650 S. Plaza Way**, Flagstaff, at 7:00PM. All persons interested in amateur radio, whether licensed or not, are welcome to attend.

Coconino SkyWarn meets 1900 every Monday evening on the 146.98 repeater and at 1930 on the Navajo Mountain CACTUS repeater and 146.480 simplex.

Coconino ARES meets 1900 every Wednesday evening on the 146.98 repeater and at 1930 on the Navajo Mountain CACTUS repeater and 146.480.

Christmas Party Dec. 7 (afternoon) Meadowcroft's home near Hwy 180 and Snowbowl Rd.

Location for CARC meetings: 1650 S. Plaza Way. Pull in off S. Plaza Way and go to the far left behind the building on the left. Our meeting room is in the building on the left. Big thanks to Bruce Sidlinger who is providing this room to CARC for free.

Officers:

President: Sandy Meadowcroft KF4JHC
Vice-President: Tom Shehan W7TGS
Secretary: Erv Perelstein, KE7QFI
Treasurer: Pat Traber, KE7QFG
PIO: Janice Enloe, KI6WCK

October 9 next meeting

If you have not paid your 2014 dues yet please do so at this meeting: \$25 for individuals and \$30 for a family.

Thank you to all who have run the Monday and Wednesday night nets:
Jason, Dan, Pat, and Erv.

Next licensing exams

Oct 18 License Exam

<http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>

Arizona Newsletter: <http://www.arrl.org/>

Tutorials: <http://www.arrl.org/tutorials>

Upcoming 2014 Events:

November
18-19 Arizona State Full Scale
Communications Exercise

December

6 SkyWarn Recognition Day at NWS

Belmont (UTC date)

8 County Table Top Exercise (Simulate
winter flooding)

Dec. 7 (Sunday) Christmas party

Minutes of the Coconino Amateur Radio Club 10/9/2014

Meeting Started: 7:00 pm

Guests:

1. Mark Christian, Emergency Management Program Coordinator.

Mark invited the CARC to participate in the November 19th State Exercise of Emergency Management (EM). The exercise will itself be a full day affair but our help is needed between 8:00 am and mid afternoon. Our job will be to monitor the EM HF frequencies (3.990 MHz, 7.250 MHz and 5.4035 MHz) and relay EM tasking messages from and to the State EOC and the Coconino Emergency Management. Many of the HF operators at the meeting agreed to participate in this exercise. Mark will have more information next week which he will send through Joe Hobart to the other club participants.

2. Elizabeth Vogler, Girls-on-the-Run of Coconino County. This organization is hosting an annual 5K run in Northern AZ at Buffalo Park on Nov 8th starting at 10:00 am and asked the club to help by providing radio safety services at four locations. They are expecting 300-400 runners and each runner will have a "run-buddy" to assist them. The run is expected to last about 1 hour. There will be no sign-in at the finish line, the "run-biddies" will ensure that each runner is accounted for. Dawnelle made a motion that the club participate in this run and JD seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of club participation.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the Sep meeting were published in the newsletter. There was one correction provided by Phyllis concerning the day of our CARC Christmas Party. Erv corrected the Sep minutes to show that the party will take place on Sunday rather than Saturday. Erv moved and Sandy seconded a motion to accepted the minutes as corrected. Unanimously accepted.

Treasurer' s Report: The closing bank balance for 10/7/2014 was \$1,643.16. Membership was 49, consisting of 46 paid members and 3 lifetime members. Ron moved and Kay seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Unanimously accepted.

President's Report: Sandy thanked everyone who participated in the 100 mile Stagecoach Race, especially since the Saturday portion was cancelled because of the weather and the race was reorganized to be a 50 Mile run on Sunday only. She complimented the flexibility and cooperation of all participants to accommodate these changes.

ARES Report: Joe asked if anyone had suggestions for speakers/topics for our meetings. The suggestions were: Neil Weintraub/ coverage for additional races; Batteries Plus/ latest innovations in battery development; and Survival Organizations/with ideas on preparedness and survival techniques. Anyone who has additional speaker ideas please contact Joe.

Joe told us that he will be supporting a Solar Observing Days the Montisori School during the week of Oct 20th and at the Northland Preparatory Academy on Oct 27th. He will be setting up several telescopes for the students to view the sun, especially the partial solar eclipse, scheduled for Thursday 10/23. He made an appeal for volunteers to help with these projects.

Joe thanked all members (and non-members) who have been checking into the ARES and SKYWARN networks. The monthly on-air report makes CARC one of the top groups in the state for on-air communications.

A further discussion of communications for the Nov 19th State Emergency Management Exercise centered on the linked repeaters we can use to communicate by VHF to other parts of Arizona. We have access to 2 linked systems; the Rim Link on VHF and the North Link on UHF. Someone suggested we look into what it would take to get these two systems connected to each other so that we can communicate from Tucson up to the Utah border.

Joe told us that the club will host a Radio License testing session on 10/18 at 9:00 am which will again be held at the Bilby Center, thanks to Dan Boone's efforts to provide the facility to us.

Old Business: Bob Meadowcroft, this year's Soulstice Run Radio Manager, finalized details and assignments for the race and explained the course from maps he brought. Participants should arrive about 7:00 am to get to their positions and get the net started prior to the 8:00 am race start. He told us it was not necessary to record every runner at each radio station, just the first 5 runners of each class (short course/long course) and the last few runners.

Sandy thanked Ron Gerlak and Phil Brunner for the work they have been doing to update and revise the club's webpage. One innovation is to create a portal for members for a roster available to club members only. They will have a form available for members to give their permission to publish their information, if they agree. Ron told us that there is now a link on our current website leading to the new proposed website and that members should check it out and feed their thoughts back to Ron, Phil or Sandy whose contact information is on the webpage roster. Our current info@cocoradio.org email

goes to Joe and Scott. Joe suggested that it is time for other club members to take responsibility for this task.

The subject of CARC offering ham licensing classes was discussed. Phyllis found a location at NACET, 2225 N Jiminy Dr. in Flagstaff that we could use. It holds up to 25 people. The cost is \$25.00 for half a day, \$50.00 for a full day and requires a key deposit for weekends or evenings. It is a good location. We will check out the facility. The plan is to offer about 4-5 session, 2 hours each for about 9 weeks and just start with teaching the Technician Class. If we register with ARRL they will advertise for us. We thought that a class size not to exceed 20 students seems comfortable. If anyone is interested in teaching a session or selected topics, please contact Sandy.

J.D. reported on the progress of the upgrade to the Williams Repeater. He found a single antenna to handle both transmit and receive. He donated \$50.00 to its purchase along with the \$150.00 that CARC voted to approve last month.

Joe reminded us that Skywarn Recognition Day is scheduled from 0001Z on 12/6 to 2359Z on 12/6, (for those that are "Z" challenged, from 1700 local time on 12/5 to 1659 local on 12/6). Volunteers are needed to organize and help operate the radios at the NWS office on Camp Navajo. They will be using the NWS HF equipment probably on the 10 meter band. The mission of Skywarn Recognition is to thank all HAM operators who have helped the NWS during the year and to advertise Skywarn on a national scale. Mike Clever volunteered to be the organizer for the event and will be looking for additional HF operators. Please let Mike and the club know, by next meeting, who is interested in helping with this project.

Neither Pat nor Joe could talk to Dan Boone this past month concerning the clubs decision to offer making him a lifetime member of CARC due to the many years he has been an active member and served as a club officer. Joe will attempt to talk to Dan during our testing session on 10/18.

New Business

Sandy reminded us that the Christmas party will be held on Sunday, Dec 7th at 2:00 pm at the Meadowcroft's home near Hwy 180 and Snowbowl Rd.

50/50 Drawing Dawnelle Shehan won the 50/50 drawing this month.

Meeting Ended: 9:05 pm. Joe moved to adjourn, Tom seconded it and it was passed unanimously.

CARC website: Hello to all CARC members, others who read the newsletter and everyone that views our website. We have updated some of the information on the website and made technical changes to improve it. Now we need your input. If you see anything that is incorrect or if you have ideas on how the website could be improved upon please let us know. Phil Brunner and I are

committed to making the site informative and user friendly. Forward your ideas to Ron Gerlak <mailto:rbgerlak@gmail.com>. Visit the CARC website at CocoRadio.org.

ARES and RACES formal traffic handling:

We usually pass tactical traffic, which consists of short reports or requests. During the November Full Scale Communications Exercise, we may be asked to transmit and receive formal traffic. Formal traffic is a written and signed message from one person to another. This could be a welfare message sent through the amateur radio National Traffic System (NTS), or it could be a request from one emergency manager to another.

In both cases it is critical that the message be sent and received exactly as written. This may be a challenge if communications conditions are unfavorable. During the next two months, we will practice using NTS and ICS-213 message forms. To do this, I recommend everyone become familiar with and practice using the international phonetic alphabet:

<http://www.arrl.org/quick-reference-operating-aids>

(Select: International Telecommunication Union Phonetic Alphabet)

There is extensive information about traffic handling at:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/MPG204A.pdf>

The most important item to remember is to SPEAK SLOWLY. The person receiving has to write the message down; give them time to write legibly. Speaking too rapidly is THE major cause of errors, and speaking too rapidly actually slows the passing of formal message traffic because the receiving operator has to ask for repeats.

I will send copies of the NTS and ICS-213 forms to the CARC mail list. Look over these forms; during September and October we will discuss how they are used.

Joe, W7LUX

Ham Radio Newsletter

Ham radio payloads lost in a Orbital Sciences Antares launch mishap

- Indonesia hams may play a part in that nation's Ebola prevention plan
- Islands on the Air program to freeze all actions involving the Crimea
- Flea power pico balloon launched down-under is heard in the USA
- Sunspot AR2192 says goodbye by sending two X-class flares our way

10/31/2014

Strong solar activity continued this week, with average daily sunspot numbers rising 36 points to 119.9 and average daily solar flux up 24 points to 198. The X-Ray background flux from GOES-15 has ranged from C1.2 to C2.6 since October 19. RWC Prague predicts a range from B2.0 to C1.5 from October 31 through November 6.

You can see daily X-ray flux at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/latest/DSD.txt>. It also shows for each day the number of new sunspot regions which appeared, and on October 30 there were four new regions and the sunspot number was 121. This is the highest number of new regions to appear on any day since August 14, when there were four, on December 31, 2013 when there were also four new ones, and August 7, 2013, and April 5 2013. Way back on January 4, 2013 five new regions appeared in one day.

If you are recording solar flux and sunspot data into a personal archive, you will be happy to know that the DRAO site in Penticton has their archive of solar flux data now current, and updated three times per day. You can find it at ftp://ftp.geolab.nrcan.gc.ca/data/solar_flux/daily_flux_values/fluxtable.txt and at <http://www.spaceweather.ca/solarflux/sx-5-flux-eng.php> for the html copy. The data has been updated infrequently over the past couple of months.

You can also download an update from <http://www.craigcentral.com/sol.asp> of the data file for Scott Craig's solar data plotting utility. A new data file through October 29, 2014 is now up. It replaces the April 3, 2014 file. You can update the data file weekly using Scott's program with new copies of this bulletin. This gives you daily solar flux and sunspot numbers stretching back over a quarter century, to January 1, 1989.

The *Solar Data Plotting Utility* only runs on the *Windows* operating system, on all versions through *Windows XP*. I currently use it in *XP* mode in *Windows 7*.

Our updated prediction has daily solar flux at 130 on October 31 through November 2, 125 on November 3-4, 120 on November 5-7, 160 on November 8, 165 on November 9-10, 175 on November 11-12, then peaking at 200 on November 19-20, and reaching a low of 110 on December 12.

Predicted planetary A index is 12 on October 30, 8 on October 31 through November 4, 12 on November 5, 8 on November 6-7, 5 on November 8-9, 8 on November 10-11, then 5 and 8 on November 12-13, 12 on November 14-15, then 22, 15 and 10 on November 16-18, and 8 on November 19-21.

OK1HH sees quiet to unsettled geomagnetic conditions on October 31, quiet conditions November 1, mostly quiet November 2, quiet to unsettled November 3, quiet on November 4, quiet to active November 5, active to disturbed November 6, mostly quiet November 7, quiet to unsettled November 8, quiet November 9, mostly quiet November 10-11, quiet to unsettled November 12, mostly quiet November 13-14, quiet to unsettled November 15, mostly quiet November 16, active to disturbed November 17, quiet to active November 18, quiet to unsettled November 19, mostly quiet November 20-22, quiet on November 23, quiet to active November 24, and back to quiet on November 25-26.