

# High-Country Static

August 2016

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 at the East side Sizzlers Restaurant Highway 66 at Fanning Dr. 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.*

## Officers:

President: Sandy Meadowcroft KF4JHC

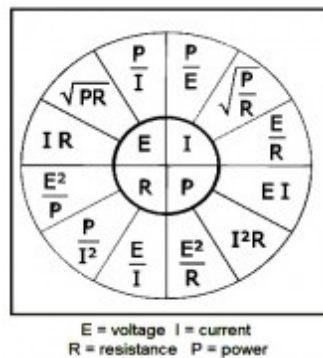
Vice-President: Tom Shehan KY7WV

Secretary: Erv Perelstein, KE7QFI

Treasurer: Pat Traber, KE7QFG

PIO: Vacant

Newsletter: Janice Enloe, KI6WCK



## Calendar of Events for 2016:

- August:     **11     Club Board Elections**  
                   13     Big Brothers/Big Sisters Run for the Magic (Bob Meadowcroft)  
                   28     Arizona Trail Marathon at North Rim  
                   \*\*Northland Preparatory Academy to ISS amateur radio contact during  
                             Aug-Sep-Oct
- September:  5       Williams 10K Labor Day Run  
                  24-25  Flagstaff to Grand Canyon 100 Mile Run
- October:     8       Soulstice Mountain Trail Run       (KF4RKS)  
                  15     Amateur Radio License Exams at North County Health Care (W7LUX)  
                  ??     Northland Preparatory Academy solar observing (W7LUX)

November: ?? Arizona Division of Emergency Management Exercise  
            ?? Girls on the Run (KF4JHC)

December: 3 SkyWarn Recognition Day at NWS Belmont (UTC date) (KD8RQV)  
            11 Christmas party- Sandy and Bob Meadowcroft's home

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## Thank you and Help Wanted:

Thank you to all who have run the Monday and Wednesday night nets:  
Flagstaff: Tom KY7WV, Erv KE7QFI, Mike KD8RQV, Bob KF4RKS, Janice KI6WCK  
Page: Lee KF7YRS and Vince WB7UWW

If anyone one would like to help with the nets, please let Tom know. It is good practice for radio skills and the script is written for you to use.

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## Licensing Exams for 2015-2016:

October: 15 Radio Exam. Location TBD

Remember to bring your HAM license and a copy (if you are upgrading your license), a government issued picture ID, a black ink pen, calculator with memory erased and fifteen dollars (exact change is appreciated).

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

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

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

[http://www.arrl.org/exam\\_sessions/flagstaff-az-86004-1221-2](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/flagstaff-az-86004-1221-2)

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## Next Business Meeting:

Our next business meeting will be August 11, 2016 at the East side Sizzlers at the corner of Highway 66 and Fanning. Dinner @1800 and meeting starts @1900. We will be holding elections for the 2016-2017 year at this meeting.

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## Minutes of the Coconino Amateur Radio Club

### Minutes of the Coconino Amateur Radio Club

**7/14/2016**

Meeting Started: 19:00

**Secretary's Report:** Since the minutes of the June meeting were published in the newsletter, there was no need for Erv to read them. Pat Traber made a motion and Bill Smith seconded the motion to

accept the minutes as written. They were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Pat Traber, our club treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report. The closing bank balance was \$3,771.75. Membership is 55 members, consisting of 51 paid members and 4 lifetime members. Since there was nothing additional for the Treasurer's Report, Bill moved and Betty Gerlak seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Unanimously accepted.

**Guest Speaker:** No Guest Speaker this month.

**President's Report:** After Introductions, Sandy thanked everyone who participated in the 2016 Field Day Event. We had several State and City Officials attend: Mayor Jerry Nabours and State Representative Bob Thorpe spent quite a bit of time discussing CARC's role in disaster response. There are several pictures posted on the CARC Facebook page (you have to have a Facebook account to open the CARC Facebook). We also sent a digital Winlink (WL2K) message to many of the county officials to get Field Day credit if they responded to us by email. All responded.

**Vice President's Report:** Tom Shehan told us that we are continuing our request for digital check-ins on the ARES Net. He is working on putting together a presentation for one of our meetings to get people started with digital communications.

Tom and Sandy both reminded us that CARC elections are coming up soon. The two positions we will be voting on are President and Vice President. At the last meeting, Tom volunteered to run for President but we still need a Vice President. Tom opened up the nominations for additional nominees for President and new nominations for Vice President. Erv nominated Sandy Meadowcroft for the Vice President position. Sandy agreed to run for VP. No other nominations were made this month.

Tom told us about a potential CW class that is trying to form. It will be taught by ZIP and he is looking for at least 5 people who are interested in learning CW. He will hold classes on either Saturdays or Sundays in the afternoon. This looks like a good opportunity for those members who would like to learn or improve their proficiency in CW.

Tom reminded us again that the National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) project is still active and will continue to be through the end of 2016. He urged HF Operators to try their hand at contacting "activators" in as many National Parks as possible. It's fun and excellent practice. You can find the entire schedule at [NPOTA.ARRL.org](http://NPOTA.ARRL.org).

**New Business:** We received information from the Northern Arizona DX Club that they would like to share events with CARC to a larger extent than they have. Discussion followed about how to go about bringing the two clubs closer together. It was proposed that we have one of our members attend the DX Club meetings and we will request that one of their members attend our meetings. For many years the DX Club participated in Field Day with us but did not do so this year. Many members felt that cooperative events between the two clubs is a goal which could improve both clubs.

**Old Business:** Pat told the club that Bob Meadowcroft is trying to find a new source for CARC hats and that there is a local provider who has been providing T-Shirts for us who could be an excellent source for hats. Pat said that since the hats are embroidered, the company will charge \$55.00 for the initial set-up and then we can order any number at a time. Pat moved that we authorize the \$55.00 one-time, set-up charge and Bobbie Brunner seconded it. Unanimously approved.

Upcoming project review:

7/17 Snowbowl Run, Sandy coordinating. We will be using 146.480 Simplex for the 2 meter frequency.

7/22-23 Williams Hamfest, VE Testing on Saturday the 23rd. Joe coordinating. Joe reminded us that attendees can watch a Balloon Launch from the hamfest, starting at 9:00 on Saturday morning.

? ISS communications at Northland Preparatory Academy. Jeff Hartig is NPA contact. The contact will be in Aug, Sept or Oct. We will get date from NASA. Joe coordinating.

8/6 Toys for Tots/Fat Tire Bike Race, Mike Clever and Ron Gerlak coordinating. There was a thorough discussion about assignments, frequencies, and radio coverage. Ron and Mike will collect all info plus maps and email all members volunteering to help. Ron said they could use about 8 more volunteers for this race. Ron told us that in addition to Ham Radio, they would be using SOME Multi Use Radio Service (MURS) on channel 5.

8/13 Big Brothers Big Sisters Run at Thorpe Park. Bob/Phil Brunner coordinating. Discussed the race maps, the volunteer positions and frequencies for the race. Bob said there are no procedures changed from last year's race.

8/28 AZ Trail Run at Jacobs Lake. Tom organizing. Tom said they could use a few more volunteers.

**ARES Report** Joe reminded us that we are into the wildfire season and there have already been several in our area. He talked about the fire on the north rim of the Grand Canyon becoming worse because of heat and windy conditions. He said that CARC assisted in the Cedar Fire near ShowLow. Ron Gerlak went to the area and monitored the VHF repeaters in case the fire disrupted established communications. Thanks to Ron for doing that and thanks also to Diane Martin for organizing that support. Joe reminded us to make sure we had enough food and water on hand to shelter in place and to keep our VHF radios on Mt Elden frequency to be notified of any immediate danger or help needed.

Joe reported that the Alternate EOC near Buffalo Park has completed the installation of coax cable from the proposed radio room to outside the building. He said that we will be able to connect to VHF and HF antennas if we bring and set them up outside the building.

Joe mentioned the CW Class that ZIP wants to teach. He said he had several code practice oscillators and would be happy to assist with the teaching.

Joe again explained that he is a member of the Cactus UHF Repeater Group which he uses for the ARES and SKYWARN northern Arizona nets immediately following our regular 7:00 pm ARES and SYKYWARN nets here in Flagstaff. As a member of the group, he invited us to use the Cactus Net (448.624 with a pl code of 107.2) to listen in or participate in the northern nets at 7:30 pm.

Matt Messier confirmed that the Bill Williams VHF repeater is once again on the air. Joe invited members to try it out as a good link to Yavapai County, especially during disasters. Speaking of Yavapai County, they are getting into digital communications in a big way and are doing a bit of practice which we could get in on. Send Joe an email for further information about times, call signs and frequencies.

**50/50 Raffle:** Ken Held won the raffle this month and a second drawing for a free Sizzler meal was won by Betty Gerlak, again.

Meeting Ended: 20:40. Bob moved to adjourn, Mike seconded the motion. It was accepted unanimously.

**Presentations:** No additional presentations this month.

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## Code Class Update:

The Code class has been moved to January 2017 start date and will be held on Saturdays. Thank you to ZIP (W7ZIP) for offering this class for us. You do not need to be a member of the club to attend- invite your friends. Be sure to put this one on your calendar.

### Morse Code Class Forming-

We have been learning about the newer technologies of digital communications but this class returns to the classic mode of Morse Code (or Code for short).....

W7ZIP- (ZIP) is offering to each code to those that want to learn the language of ...*the code*... join us for this new, old style of communication. Classes are free but require a great deal of time with practice at home.

W7ZIP to teach Morse code to CARC members.

The course will teach Morse code and CW operating techniques. The 8-week course will get you operating at 5 words per minute or more.

We will practice actual "on air" techniques using the sample novice Code test format.

You might want to get an early start by downloading a Morse code application for your smartphone or computer.

There are many good applications offered at no charge. Snoop around and test drive different applications.

The classes will be held on Saturday or Sunday afternoons. The starting time will be 2 or 3 p.m. We will begin with a one hour session. I will be available for 30 minutes after class for clarifications, or questions.

There is no charge for the class. There will be take home exercises to be practiced between sessions.

You will need to bring your own:

- Telegraph key
- Pencil or pen and paper
- Headphones or earbuds
- \*Code Practice Oscillator\*

(\* this might be the most expensive component required to learn the code.)

The MFJ -557 Code Practice Oscillator with built-in key and headphone jack can be purchased for about \$40.\*

\*We will discuss other options for Code Practice at home with your key.

??W7LUX will poll people interested in taking a class.

We need a minimum of 5 devoted individuals.

I could do a short intro and explanation at one of the club meetings.