

High-Country Static

October 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: Tom Shehan KY7WV

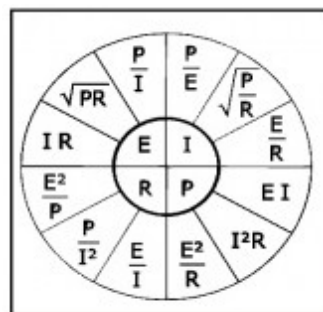
Vice-President: Sandy Meadowcroft KF4JHC

Secretary: Erv Perelstein, KE7QFI

Treasurer: Pat Traber, KE7QFG

PIO: Vacant

Newsletter: Janice Enloe, KI6WCK



E = voltage I = current
 R = resistance P = power

Calendar of Events for 2016:

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| October: | 8 | Soulstice Mountain Trail Run (KF4RKS) |
| | 15 | Amateur Radio License Exams at North County Health Care (W7LUX) |
| November: | 12 | 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 |

A Note From Our President, Tom Shehan, KY7WV

Adventures in Supporting an Event in New Mexico

Dawnelle, KG7LTR, and I decided to help out a co-worker of hers in Albuquerque with a major run on Mt. Taylor in Cibola County, New Mexico. They were very short of amateur radio operators for a 50K run with 170 participants – the Mt. Taylor 50K. You can “Google it” for more information. I was net control. Dawnelle staffed an aid station. Thus this is how we spent the first weekend of October. Besides, I wanted to see how other areas and clubs support their events. Might learn something while we were at it too.

I learned something. Maybe a couple somethings. First we really do have a great club! Okay. I already knew that. This experience just reinforced it. There was only one (1) civilian Ham besides Dawnelle and me. What do I mean by civilian? The rest were emergency services personnel employed by the county! Yes, they were amateur licensed. The very distinct impression I had is they use amateur radio to supplement radio communications for their jobs. Interesting....

For a race this long we would probably have 5 or 6 stations. There were 3 and no radio operator at the most remote and risky station for most of the day. I staffed net control alone. Dawnelle was the only Ham at her station.

Tracking runners actually proved to be a breeze. The aid station personnel were required to track every runner. They then provided the information to the radio operators. I liked this a lot. Took that pressure off the radio operators. However it made for some long periods of time with no need for radio communication – meaning it sure was boring for spells. Only the first 2 runners and the last 1 runner had to be reported to net control. I was a little uneasy with this, but the aid station personnel did a good job. I could easily find out if a particular runner had passed through an aid station.

Numerous emergency personnel remained on site for the entire race. Unfortunately, towards the end of the race they were needed. A runner fell, pulled her left shoulder out of joint and broke her collar bone. Believe it or not, she ran for 3 more miles after this! Emergency services assisted her after she finished the race. At least I had the report she was coming and had them ready for her.

Lessons:

- 0 We do have a great club that professionally supports our events. Not everywhere is so lucky.
- 1 Having emergency personnel on scene is a good idea. They also transported another runner who dropped from exhaustion.
- 2 The procedures and processes we are using are good. I have some ideas to standardize some things I will be presenting later this winter, but overall what we do is great.
- 3 Having emergency personnel as amateur radio operators is challenging. They have their own way of communicating. You have to pay attention when they are operating.
- 4 Do not rely on someone else's radio communication plan. Check it out. Test it. Looking at maps I knew one station was going to be problematic using the designated primary repeater. We arrived the day before the race. We tested that station. Sure enough, we decided to use

the backup repeater. It was much more reliable.

- 5 If you have the opportunity to assist another club, do so! It will broaden your experience and might give you ideas about how to do something better.

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.

Licensing Exams for 2015-2016:

October: 15 Radio Exam. North Country Health Care, 4th Street

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

Next Business Meeting:

Our next business meeting will be October 13, 2016 at the East side Sizzlers at the corner of Highway 66 and Fanning. Dinner @1800 and meeting starts @1900.

Minutes of the Coconino Amateur Radio Club

9/8/2016

Meeting Started: 19:00

Secretary's Report: Since the minutes of the August meeting were published in the newsletter, there was no need for Erv to read them. MaryLou Hagan made a motion and Nikki Orlosky 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 \$3,723.79. Membership is 58 members, consisting of 54 paid members and 4 lifetime members. Since there was nothing additional for the Treasurer's Report, MaryLou moved and William Hagan seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Unanimously accepted.

Guest Speaker: No Guest Speaker this month.

President's Report: Tom Shehan opened the meeting as CARC's new President. After Introductions, he thanked everyone who participated in the AZ Trail Marathon Run at Jacobs Lake on 8/28. He noted that the race officials provided the best statistical data on bib numbers of runners in each category and bib numbers of runners not running. He said that Matt Nelson and his team were very well organized and kept him updated with changes very quickly. He recommended that we should make a check list so that when we discuss CARC requirements with other race officials, we can outline the type of information we need similar to what was provided by the AZ Trails Association. He also announced that the 60 meter band HF communications worked very well for the links not able to use VHF.

Vice President's Report: Sandy Meadowcroft, CARC's new Vice President, greeted all members and said she was happy to have been elected Vice President and was looking forward to starting this year's CARC activities.

Old Business: Tom opened the discussion by reminding members that we need a new Public Information Officer (PIO) for all the activities we are engaged with. He said the job can be shared by two or more members, if that works better. The PIO would be leading our advertising, especially with Field Day and helping with getting race volunteers, etc. Anyone interested please contact Tom or let us know at the next meeting.

Tom reminded us that we are still searching for a CARC Communications Trailer, in the \$2,000.00 price range. It should be approximately 10 - 12 feet long, about 6 feet wide and tall enough for members to work in. We intend to mount radio equipment, have an operating station and be able to install a few antennas. If anybody comes across a trailer meeting those requirements, please call Tom or Sandy.

Jeff Hartig, from Northland Preparatory Academy reported on the status of the upcoming ISS contact. NPA has decided that they will cover the ISS contact by Telebridge and not install VHF radios. The project is no longer in the science department so there will be no need for our participation this year. Tom and Joe Hobart thanked him for his efforts on our behalf. NASA changed the dates that were originally scheduled from August, September or October to November. Antenna installation on the roof could be very dangerous in November because of snow and ice.

Bob Meadowcroft told us that the Big Brother's Big Sister's Half Marathon went off very smoothly. He thanked Ron Gerlak and Phil Brunner for helping in his absence. He distributed race shirts to those who did not stick around after the race. He also thanked all volunteers for their efforts during the race.

Mike Clever talked about a potential problem that occurred during the Fat Tire Race. CARC radio stations were being released when all runners and sweeps passed THEIR point. He suggested that we should not release our radio operators from a check point until all runners and sweeps have passed the NEXT check point in-line because some runners were stopping between stations and walking back to the previous station for assistance. It would be better if there were radio people remaining at the previous station to offer help. All agreed that was a good policy.

Tom asked how the Williams Labor Day 10K race went. Nikki reported that there were more radio people and volunteers than runners but it went very smoothly. The Williams radio volunteers thanked us for our help.

Ron suggested ICS log forms should be kept by NCS. Emergency Management personnel are making increased use of the ICS forms during exercises and real disasters therefore practicing with them will help us to use them when we participate. In addition, they will act as a good reference for the next year's race team.

Upcoming Project Review:

9/24-25 Flagstaff to Grand Canyon 100 Mile Race. Bill Smith and Mike Clever coordinating. Bill said that the 30 hour race would start at 7:00 am on Sat 9/24. Joe and Janice will be NCS. The race will be using the 146.98 repeater, the Williams Repeater and possibly HF on 60 meters or 75 meters if 60 is unavailable. They should have about 120 participants total for the 4 different categories. Bill said that the categories will be separated by different bib number groups. Look for email packets for operators.

10/8 Soulstice Trail Run. Bob Meadowcroft coordinating. Bob said that, as usual, no number separation between the 2 categories and there might not be a sweep. Some radio people will be able to drive to their locations but some will have to hike. In the past, the .98 repeater has worked well for all locations. Tom will be NCS.

10/15 Administer Amateur Radio Tests at North Country Health Care. Joe coordinating. VE's are requested to arrive at 8:30 am, testing will start at 9:00 am in the 2nd floor conference room of the main NCHC building.

11/12 Girls-On-The-Run. Change of venue; will be held at Ft. Tuthill instead of Buffalo Park. Sandy and Dawnelle coordinating.

12/3 SKYWARN Appreciation Day at NWS. Mike Coordinating. Seeking HF operators for the NWS contesting.

12/11 Christmas Party, hosted again this year by the Meadowcrofts, thank you both from the club. Start about 2:00 pm, bring side dishes, salads, desserts, the club will provide the meat.

New Business Sandy told us the 2017 CARC Technical Class for HAM Licensing will be held March to May 2017 and she will publish the schedule when it is finalized. It will still be held in High Country Health Clinic but in the conference room in the main building where we usually do the VE Testing. Thanks to Bill Smith for arranging this location for us.

There is an organization for Reservation Races which has asked for radio coverage during some of their events. We told them that we cannot support them October or November of this year but we would like to help during some of next year's events. The first event we might support is in February of 2017 at Cameron. Joe added that we should work with Lena Fowler, who has been trying to increase radio coverage on the reservation.

Ron announced that the Route 66 On The Air Event, supported by the Northern AZ DX Assoc., has invited CARC members who would like to work HF to participate with them. They will be in Belmont 9/10 - 9/14 then at Winslow from 9/15 - 9/18. In Winslow they are trying to load a steel bridge to use as an antenna. That should be interesting to see. Anyone interested are welcome to come out and operate.

Bob Meadowcroft displayed some of the new CARC logo clothing for new members and replacements for long time members: Hats from Flagstaff T Co. are \$13 and he can have the embroidered with call signs and name for a small additional cost. Vests are \$11. We are using a new supplier so the prices may go up a bit.

ARES Report Joe said the ARA Repeater people will be here this weekend and will be using

the repeater to support a bike race around Kendrick Mt. They requested we try to stay off the repeater this weekend.

Northland Preparatory Academy will be hosting a Solar Observation Day. Joe will be installing several telescopes.

Joe told us that the Emergency Management Exercise has been cancelled this year. No one is sure why but Joe will tell us if he finds out.

Joe asked members to consider supporting our 2 nets, (SKYWARN on Monday and ARES on Wednesday), by taking Net Control duties. The more people who practice, the better real disaster nets will be. If anyone is interested, there are scripts available. Contact Joe for more information.

This Sunday, ARA will attempt to install the Station Master antenna on the 146.980 repeater. It has been down since the top section of the tower collapsed last year. They will try to mount it with a side mount brace to relieve some of the wind and weather loading on the antenna. They will take a look at the .14 repeater as well.

Joe told us about a very good book called, Portable Antennas. He said the book can be downloaded from Amazon for the Kindle for \$5.00. It has some good ideas for building portable antennas for disaster work.

Joe and Janice are planning to bring the new back-up batteries for the repeater up to Mt Elden this week.

Joe talked about cross-band repeaters, reminding members that it takes a little longer to access the repeater after whoever is talking releases the PTT. We should wait until the repeater completely drop-off before initiating another call.

Joe also mentioned that the 60 meter band is working well so give it a try. Remember that we are secondary users on this band. If you hear official traffic, you need to back off until that traffic is finished.

50/50 Raffle: MaryLou won the raffle this month.

Bill moved to adjourn, Dawnelle seconded the motion. It was accepted unanimously.

Presentations: No additional presentations this month.

Meeting Ended: 20:25.

In Light of the Current Hurricane Event: Information Regarding Two Important Nets

Maritime Net 14.300

.....all Amateur Stations are welcome to check-in and assist with traffic at any time. 14.300 MHz can be utilized by all Amateur Stations who are licensed to transmit there. Maritime Mobiles use it to get their position/observed weather reports posted to the internet, they also can get offshore weather information and the latest advisories on any tropical cyclone activity from the Net Control Stations. Marine radio manufacturer's are putting the word out about 14.300 MHz as a possible frequency to use in an emergency because of the help available there. Missionaries still often check-in looking for phone patches or one way telephone calls to family and friends. Amber Alert bulletins are read when they are posted by law enforcement agencies. Some stations use 14.300 MHz as a "contact"

frequency. 14.300 MHz is a good place to establish contact with your station then move to another frequency that is clear..... Other traffic passed on 14.300 MHz range from handling medical emergencies in remote locations to handling health and welfare traffic in and out of areas struck by natural disasters.

As you can see, keeping 14.300 MHz as clear as possible can benefit us all.

The Hurricane Watch Net

The Hurricane Watch Net is a group of licensed Amateur Radio Operators, trained and organized to provide essential communications support to the National Hurricane Center during times of Hurricane emergencies. We are not housed in a single location - as some of our followers believe - but strategically disbursed across North America, throughout the Caribbean Sea, and Central America so that we can provide a continuous path of communications from storm-affected areas to the forecasters in the National Hurricane Center in Miami, and when needed, the forecasters in the Canadian Hurricane Center in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

The primary mission of the Hurricane Watch Net is to disseminate tropical cyclone advisory information to island communities in the Caribbean, Central America, along the Atlantic seaboard of the U.S., and throughout the Gulf of Mexico coastal areas. We also collect observed or measured weather data from amateur radio operators in the storm affected area as well as any post storm damage, and convey that information to the Hurricane Forecasters in the National Hurricane Center via the amateur radio station in the center ([WX4NHC](#)). In addition, we provide the same service for the Canadian Hurricane Centre whenever a hurricane threatens their country.

The Hurricane Watch Net generally activates whenever a hurricane is within 300 statute miles of expected land-fall. Our area of coverage includes the Caribbean, Central America, Eastern Mexico, Eastern Canada, as well as all US Coastal States. When activated, you will find us on 14.325 MHz by day and 7.268 MHz by night. Why do we state these frequencies without a plus or minus amount? Because those who are operating using marine radios have to program in the frequencies – marine radios do not have a VFO or RIT. Furthermore, these two frequencies come preprogrammed into many marine radios. Many non-hams listen in via shortwave radio and know this is where to find us when are activated. Before any net activation, if either frequency is in use, we always ask permission to use them. Additionally, it is our practice of being on the air ahead of the amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center - [WX4NHC](#) - for the explicit purpose to establish our net operating frequency, to issue advisory data, and to line up reporting stations. It helps us tremendously to know the operators locations, names, and weather measuring capabilities in advance of the storm's arrival.

For those of you who may not possess an amateur radio license, we invite you to monitor net activities on 14.325.00 MHz USB, which is available on many popular general coverage receivers. Amateur Radio operators who desire to participate are encouraged to visit our [membership discussion](#) and note the requirements particular to becoming a member of our organization.

If you want to see a really cool site with storm surge information, see this website http://www.hwn.org/resources/storm_surge.html

Using Phonetics, standard if you please!

The use of phonetics when checking in to one of the nets makes life a whole lot easier for the net control and relay stations. All of us have had an occasion while speaking to someone in person and they happen say a letter such "D" when maybe spelling a word and you have to ask them, "did you say D or was that B?" With the inherent nature of single sideband alone being what it is and with the less than desirable band conditions on twenty meters lately, the need to use phonetics becomes quite clear. Here's a tip, if you use phonetics when checking in, you'll probably get recognized by the ncs sooner! Also, when you use phonetics, stick with the standard. You can get the official list of standard phonetics all over the internet. I will include the list at the bottom of this page, so you'll have no excuses!

Next time you check-in, remember, phonetics, standard if you please!

A	alfa
B	bravo
C	charlie
D	delta
E	echo
F	foxtrot
G	golf
H	hotel
I	india
J	juliet
K	kilo
L	lima
M	mike
N	november
O	oscar
P	papa
Q	quebec
R	romeo
S	sierra
T	tango
U	uniform
V	victor
W	whiskey
X	x-ray
Y	yankee
Z	zulu



Whereas we of the Oro Valley Amateur Radio club (OVARC) wish to promote fellowship and collegiality among the radio amateurs of the state of Arizona, and

Whereas we recognize that ARRL Field Day serves to sharpen skills necessary for emergency and public service communication within amateur radio, and

Whereas Field Day encourages radio amateurs to participate in radio operations, especially for HF, Morse, and digital modes,

We therefore propose an Arizona Field Day Challenge. Clubs involved include Cochise Amateur Radio Association (CARA), Coconino Amateur Radio Club (CARC) and Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club.

Winning club each year shall take possession of an Arizona-themed trophy, presented at a joint meeting of the clubs in December. Winner shall be determined by official Field Day scores as posted in the December issue of QST magazine. Participating clubs shall field no more than 3 transmitters operated simultaneously, plus one GOTA station. Class A (club group operating from emergency power) and Class F stations (operated from a designated Emergency Operations Center) shall be eligible for the competition .

Please consider accepting our challenge. OVARC will furnish the trophy and club presidents will present and accept the trophy after the winner has been determined.

Sincerely,

Steve Wood, W1SR
OVARC President

Tom Kravec, W8TK
OVARC FD Chairman

Please respond to tkravec@simplywhite.net