



RAINBOW CANYONS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
CEDAR CITY, UTAH 84720

Issue 1

Club Web Site www.rcarc.info

January 2009

This will be a new experience for me. It has been many years since I undertook to write articles for the newsletter and publish them. Please forgive the spelling and especially the grammar—I never was accused of being good at English.

As I learn this word processing program I will be changing the “look” of the newsletter, adding photos and articles and other fun stuff. For now, all you get is words.

2009 CLUB OFFICERS

For starters, your new Club officers for 2009 are: President: Russ Chaffee, N7BO. Vice President: ???? (I will explain later). Secretary: Bill Stenger, K6QOG. Treasurer: Ken Oliver, W7KBM. Newsletter Editor: Richard Parker, K7ZI.

During elections, the nominee for Vice President withdrew his bid because of unforeseen conflicts which arose and required him to withdraw. Therefore, we start 2009 with a “lame duck” presidency. The Vice Presidency is a key position in the club and must be filled by by-law decree.

If you thought you “scatted” this year elections, you are mistaken. We will be calling on someone to fill this position. The reason: The club by-laws state that in the event the elected president can not fulfill his duties, the duties will *fall upon the vice president in his absents*. Therefore, we will have a Vice President.

Out of the 170 odd hams in the Cedar area, surely there is someone who can prepare an agenda for the club meeting, 12 times this year. Ladies, you are not exempt, either.

CLUB BREAKFAST

Beginning in January, 2009, the club breakfast will be held the 2nd Saturday **following the regular club meeting**. Some months it will be the 2nd

Saturday and some months it will be the 3rd Saturday. Check your calendar so that you don't show up and end up eating alone! For those without a calendar, we will remind you in the newsletter and on the air. Its a fun gathering for the “talkative”, so come join us. You don't need to purchase a meal to just sit and talk. Denney's would like your business, however.

DECEMBER'S MEETING

The regular meeting of RCARC convened promptly at 7:30pm in the assembly room. About 12 members showed up to elect the new presidency and enjoy Christmas refreshments. Thank you for your attendance.

IN A NUT SHELL

The status of the Club repeater on Iron Mountain. Club dues were reduced and voted upon by members present. Emergency communications were discussed, our relationship with local government agencies, and the need to prepare ourselves **regardless** of personal involvement during an actual callout. The previous year's calendar was reviewed. Several suggestions voiced for future club activities or meeting topic. Refreshments provided by the club served. A relaxed social gathering concluded the meeting following elections.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

For years the club has struggled with the delicate balancing act of involving club members in a field some do not wish to participate in. It was decided to separate RCARC from Emergency Communications. That entity is now under its own leadership.

Trever Adams, AC6HR, is the leader of that organization and will continue to work closely with local government agencies to promote ham radio proficiency for them. Under his leadership, individuals will be encouraged to prepare themselves to a level of proficiency required by law. No longer will hams be welcome at an EOC or other government agency without proper training and credentials. This is a direct result of 9-11 and rightly so.

If E com is your cup of tea, please contact Trever at: 867-0105.

DUES

It was proposed and seconded that annual club dues be **reduced** by \$5 across the board. Thus, the 2009 dues will be \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family of 2 or more.

This reduction is in light of present economical times and an abundance of club money in the bank. We are not “rich” but have ample for present and future needs—barring any

unforeseen expenses related to repeater repairs. A sizable breakdown could deplete the funds overnight. Reduction in newsletter expenses has also contributed to the reduction of expenses.

Club dues are due and payable January 1, 2009. Please send your contribution to: Ken Oliver, W7KBM, at 2364 N. 2225 W. Cedar City, 84721.

You may also bring them with you and pay at January's club meeting.

2009 CALENDAR

The 2009 calendar is not finalized. We have received several good suggestions to improve the club and add activities. If you have been wanting more out of the club than what you have received in the past, please contact a club officer with your "want". If you don't like something, let's hear about it. You won't hurt our feelings any. If you have a great idea, we want to hear about it. We would much have too much to choose from than too little—as in the past.

I can promise you we will have more Fox Hunts, antenna parties, and special event activities than in the past. We want the club to be your club—not ours.

CLUB REPEATERS

The '76 repeater, located on Iron Mountain, is an interesting anomaly, to say the least. It is owned by Jon Hunter, N7JH, and maintained **at his expense** and located in **his** commercial FM radio building located on "Tip Top" on Iron Mountain. Our antenna is mounted on **his** tower as well. This unique "relationship" is one that is rare in ham radio, providing wide area coverage to the Cedar area at little expense.

Jon graciously invited us to share the valuable space inside his building—then provided a modern, solid state, state-of-the-art repeater for our use. He graciously maintains the gear as he does his commercial radio station—*asking little financial compensation* in return. So, when the '76 goes down, remember the benefit you enjoy when it is up. Our expense could be much greater if we were housed in **our** building—lower on the mountain and **without** a 150 foot tower!

The next time you meet Jon, tell him how grateful you are he treats us so well.

So, who is in **our** building? It is presently the home of the '98 repeater, owned by Ken Munford, N7KM. This is the same machine that is used during the Utah Ham Fest at Ruby's Inn. When you "talk in" on that frequency you are actually using Ken's machine.

The club has a relationship with the BLM to use that building for radio purposes, renewable annually. In the event we no longer use the building for its prescribed

purpose we stand a good chance of losing the building. If they reclaim the land, the building and site improvements will be destroyed and the land returned to its native status—a terrible waste of a valuable resource.

What about the '94? It is actually owned by RCARC and again, graciously maintained by Don Blanchard, WA7GTU. Occasionally, Don will ask for funds to repair or replace defective apparatus. Most of the expense is covered by the Utah VHF Society. So when Don ask you to join the VHF Society, your dues go a long way in providing long standing, long range and wide coverage communication in our area. It is also a "hub" which links southern Utah, Nevada and other states to northern Utah, Idaho and Wyoming.

It is unique in that it was the 1st repeater in the western United States—inter mountain area at least. It has been on Frisco Peak, west of Milford, Utah since the 60's.

A number of years ago, Don was able to obtain a unique call sign for the '94. It has a history all in itself. You can read about it and the repeaters colorful history elsewhere in this website.

Because of the numerous other repeaters and radio gear on the mountain it suffers occasionally from interference generated from those powerful sources—a problem that only grows as the number of radios increase on Frisco.

There are other privately owned repeaters in the area, the 147.060 machine originally owned by Kenny Brunson, N7DZP, now maintained by his son, Kenny Jr., N7AKK.

Dave Harris, N7NKK, of Panguitch, Utah, after many years negotiating with the National Forest Service, has been successful in locating one on Mount Dutton, in central Utah. Give Dave a call for particulars. A quick scan of the [Repeater Directory](#) or on line, will reveal many more that you may be able to use in and around the Cedar area.

NEEDED—GOOD USED H.F. TRANSCIEVER

A project is afoot to locate a good used H.F. transceiver in good working order and without excessive "bells & whistles" for a needy ham wishing to upgrade and pursue the wonderful world of H.F. radio. If you know of one, have one needing minor repair or know someone who is looking to sale a unit, please contact a member of the club presidency.

LOCAL NETS

RCARC sponsors two separate nets. They both are intended to encourage new hams to use their privileges, overcome shyness, develop and enjoy new friendships. I was quite surprised that there are 80-odd new hams in the Cedar area. We hear from them very rarely. During our last club meeting it was voted upon to return the

2 meter net to a **nightly net**. We use the local 146.76 repeater for this net. Remember, it has a PL tone of 123. Please tune in at 9:pm and make your presence known.

The other net is an HF net that has been in operation for over 20 years. It meets on frequency 28.400, each morning at 7:am, except Sundays and holidays.

Both nets are hurting for net control operators. Thus, the intent to encourage new hams to use their privileges. There is no better way to overcome shyness or feeling of inadequacies than to be a net control. Those who have taken the opportunity have benefited greatly from the experience. A whole new world opens to those who try. We only encourage and never condemn.

So, blow the dust of your rig and put it to good use. Regular members love to talk to an meet new folks. See you there!

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

****A new feature beginning with this issue of the newsletter. Each month we will spotlight a local ham radio operator. We are an interesting lot, so lets find out more about you****

Seeing as we have not collected any biography to date, I will begin with myself.

I was born and raised in the Salt Lake valley, attended Union Elementary, Midvale Middle, Jordan and Hillcrest High Schools. Graduated in 1964 with honors in Industrial Arts. Attended Freshman year at the University of Utah, didn't do too well there, so enrolled at Utah Technical College and graduated with honors in Machine Shop.

Worked for Edo Western Corp. in their machine shop until receiving a mission call to Australia for the LDS church. Following my honorable release I returned to Edo Western and worked for them until I was drafted into the Military a short time later.

Married Susan A Poulsen, a young lady I met on a blind date and probably knocked down in the halls of high school while running to class (they were always on the opposite end of the building) but did not know her while in high school.

Because of constantly moving around the world with the military we postponed our family until we were reasonably secure I would not end up in Viet Nam. Our daughter, Cindy, was born in Belgium, and our son, Larry, conceived in The Netherlands and born in Utah.

Because I had a very low draft number I enlisted in the Army and choose the longest school I could get it to, Tactical Microwave Radio and Multiplex systems. I was fortunate to never see "action" at the time and ended my military service after 3 1/2 years, 2 of which were in The

Netherlands.

Went to work for Utah Power in 1973, was awarded an apprenticeship in Metering with 3 years seniority. (Most apprenticeships were going for 20-25 years seniority!) The apprenticeship was in Richfield, Utah, so we moved our young family there.

After "journeying out" a position was opened in Richfield so we stayed another 7 years until most of the work was in Cedar City and vicinity. Moved the family here in 1986 and retired from the company in 2002 with 30 years service.

My hobbies include: hunting, fishing, backpacking, Jeeping, archery hunting and tackle making, Scouting and family life. (My wife said I had to include "tinkering" as well). I have a hard time leaving anything "alone" when I can see a way of improving it.

Ham radio didn't come into the picture until early winter, 1989. I answered an add in the newspaper and took the entry level class under the guidance of Brad Biedermann, WA7HHE. I had always been interested in electronics since early childhood but never pursued the interest only briefly for the military and a supportive role in my employment with the power company.

Our daughter and son met their mates at *Matrix Marketing* (now Converges) and are fiercely independent. Cindy is married to Rich Payton, son of Richard & Mary Lou Payton of local notoriety. Rich is a helicopter pilot for the Army, presently stationed in Savanna, Georgia, along with their 4 children.

Larry is married to Shannon Bennett of Granite Falls, Minnesota. He has done the family proud being the first grandson to graduate as a Doctor in any field, Dentistry in his case. They make Mankato, Minnesota their home along with 2 1/2 children.

My wife and I are very active in the LDS church with several "callings" each and also serve on a district level in Scouting—she also has a Council level position she would like to get rid of.

We are presently employed with Iron County Schools as full time part time employees. Susan is a bus aid for preschool and I drive a full size bus daily.

As they say, "the rest is history". Richard Parker, K7ZI.

NEWS WORTHY ITEMS

If you have any news worthy item, something for sale, a want or need, please let your newsletter editor know. I desperately need items to put in this newsletter so I don't have to think up everything myself! Call me at: 586-2167 and leave a message.

Meeting Minutes December 9, 2008

Dick Parker N7ZI opened the meeting at 7:30 pm. He asked if there was any exciting activity. Merlin Mackay N7TCE mentioned activity on 10 and 40 meters on new antenna. Russ Chaffee N7BO participated in 160 meter contest. Ken Oliver W7KBM began PSK31 operation.

Ken Oliver W7KBM reported over \$1000.00 in the bank and the only bill is \$6.00 a month for power for the repeater site that has 146.98 repeater.

Joel Clements N7SIY ECOM training needs more participation. Trever Adams AE6HR agreed to take the next training meeting, January 7th, 2009. Training subject will be Tactical Call Signs. The frequency for the training net is 28.430 at 9 pm.

Dick asked for any floor items. Sylvia asked about dues and monthly Saturday breakfast. Unanimous vote for Saturday after the club meeting for the Saturday breakfast. Ken Munford N7KM suggested the dues be reduced \$5.00 to \$15.00 for single and \$25.00 for family membership. The vote was unanimous.

Sylvia asked about the Friendship Net. It is currently held on Sunday and Wednesday with ECOM held on the 1st and 4th Wednesday of each month. A discussion followed about dates, net control station and preamble. It was agreed to follow up with this item at a latter date.

Joel mentioned that the Red Cross was planning a net on 40 and 75 meters.

Dick asked if there were any further additions to the nominations for club officers. None were reported. Sylvia mentioned that Jim Beal KG6LFU will not be able to accept the nomination for Vice-President. Dick asked for any volunteers, none responded. Dick said he was willing to take the position until some could be found. The nominations from last month are as follows:

President – Russ Chaffee N7BO
Treasurer – Ken Oliver W7KBM
Secretary – Bill Stenger K6QOG
Newsletter – Dick Parker N7ZI

A vote was taken and was unanimous.

Ken conducted the year end raffle. The winners were: Dick Parker, Ken Oliver, Joel Clements and Sylvia Clements.

Dick adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm and offered various desserts and treats for the Christmas party.

Respectfully submitted.

Bill Stenger K6QOG
Secretary