



**RAINBOW CANYONS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
CEDAR CITY, UTAH 84720

Volume 1

Club Web Site [www.rcarc.info](http://www.rcarc.info)

January 2010

### **CLUB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Our new club President, Steven Judd, KB7BGS, took charge and began the meeting at 7:30pm.

Steve had introductions of club Officers, Ken Munford, N7KM and Jon Rice, NR7T, acting as co-vice presidents. There was a question if that was legal according to club By-laws? The members present felt it was a non-critical issue, at present, and they will work together to fulfill the demand of Vice President.

Bill Stengel, K6QOG, will continue as Club Secretary, as will Ken Oliver, W7KBM, Treasurer and Dick Parker, K7ZI, as newsletter editor.

Reports from our continuing Secretary, and Treasurer were given. Ken reminded the group that 2010 dues are due this month.

Steve proposed a motion that instead of taking precious time during club meeting to read the previous month's minutes, that they would be available for those who wished to read them on-line at the club's web site; [rcarc.info](http://rcarc.info). Corrections would be brought to Bill's attention and would be corrected on-line at the web site. The members present passed the motion favorably, thus freeing up more time for meeting theme and activities.

Several visitors were present. Don McRae, KA0IGI, who has lived in Cedar for a while and still holds a Novice license, and Fred K7GPZ a recent Technician class license holder. James Gale and his son were also visiting "to see what this was all about". All total, we had close to 24 present at the meeting.

Steve turned the remainder of the time over to Ken Munford who distributed a paper with numerous "ideas for club meeting and activities" on it. He discussed each and has us number the top 5 of interest. The top 5 would become the basis for the club calendar this year. I felt like the top 15 would be more in order, however, we only have 5 months that do not already have something scheduled!

### **PROPOSED CLUB ACTIVITIES**

Dick Parker, K7ZI, made a proposal to have a Special Events station in conjunction with the annual Boy Scout Expo in May.

This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scouting and will be celebrated world-wide. The proposal received a favorable vote. There will be several HF and VHF stations set up at the Expo attempting to make contacts wherever possible.

In the past, the club has been asked to have a booth demonstrating ham radio and has only met with less than favorable success. A special event station does not require audience participation so it will be up to the radio operators to make it successful. Handout material provided by ARRL will be available along with select individuals for the few who may wonder by and have questions about amateur radio and the club operation.

We are planning on other operating activities throughout the year including Field Day, mini contest between members, member station visits and, of course, Fox hunts. The presidency has determined there will be many operating activities not yet completely identified.

### **COAXIAL CABLE, ANYONE?**

The club has been donated several lengths of coaxial cable in like-new condition. They range in length from 20 to 35 feet with weather tight "N" type connectors on each end. The quality of cable is similar to LMR-400 and is regular .405 diameter jacket size. Wilson Electronics is the beneficiary and Riki Cline, K7NJ, has made them available to the club for the *asking*. Contact, Russ Chaffee, N7BO, for whatever is left (they were going like hot cakes on a cold winter's morning following club meeting).

Have only PL-259 connectors? Simply cut off the N connectors and solder on a unused PL-259. Or, purchase some adapters. They are pricey but are available through various electronic distributors. Have need for better "jumpers" between rig and equipment? Here is your chance to upgrade and make custom length jumpers for the cost of connectors alone!

Riki has also made the club membership an unbelievable offer. He is willing to purchase 500 or 1,000 foot spools of this cable at ridiculously low price per foot! Let Ken Oliver know how much you (and your buddies) need. Several club members will be placing an order soon. The more we buy the cheaper it gets!

## VHF SOCIETY

A new year also brings the need for collecting money for needy purposes. The Utah VHF Society holds its annual dues drive this month. If you wish to become a member and have your name printed in the society's annual booklet then you need to submit your name, call, address and money to Don Blanchard, WA7GTU before the end of January. The booklets will be published and made available to those who join.

The \$12 fee goes for many good purposes. In Don's words, the repeaters we enjoy locally and state wide would not be possible without your generous support. In the past the society has purchased very expensive "cavities", antennas, towers and a host of other equipment which we all use each time we talk over a repeater. I encourage you to donate the \$12 for a worthy cause. Its money well spent.

The VHF Society holds an annual meeting and Swap meet at the Utah State Fair Grounds in Salt Lake City. This years meeting is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup>. Gates open at 8:am. If you have never been, you need to go and see what an exciting time you can have for a few hours. If you are looking for something for the shack, more than likely, you will find it on one of the vendor tables. Its also a good place to make "eye ball contact" with that person you speak to over the VHF links or on regional HF nets.

Along with that, RCARC annual dues are also due and payable to Ken Oliver, W7KBM. Single member dues are \$15 annually and unlimited family members are a bargain at \$20.

## UPGRADE TEST SESSION

Russ Chaffee, N7BO, is putting together another test session on the same night as our regular club meeting, February 9th. The test will begin at 6:00pm for anyone wishing to challenge a test. Each effort has a price affixed at \$15 per test. If you are planning on testing, make sure you have a copy of your FCC license and a photo ID with you. Be sure to let Russ know ahead of time so he can have the correct tests printed and ready. Russ' phone is 586-7297 and leave a message.

Many wonder why the test costs \$15 each when the FCC issues licenses free of charge? The reason is that there is a lot of behind the scene preparation and volunteer work which has gone into each test module. According to FCC rules, this is the way administrators recoup some of the cost of testing. None of the money goes to the local VE's. Russ, being the authorized VEC, uses some of the money to pay for photo copy expense, mailing expense, etc. The remainder is forwarded to the National VEC bureau to cover their costs for time spent up dating pool questions VE administration books and whatever.

Actually, this is a very good deal in relation to the expense of obtaining a commercial, business band or even a family MRS license. These licenses cost anywhere from \$50 to well over \$1000 per license! Your welcome.

## IN CLOSING-

If you are struggling with activity, don't know how to tune that home brew antenna, need help setting up an antenna or station shack, make this the year for you. Let your club presidency know and someone will be glad to come and help. Your license is good for 10 years, so let make use of them and fill the air waves with your signal!

## December Meeting Minutes

President Russ Chaffee, N7BO, opened the meeting at 7:30 pm. 16 people were present. He extended a welcome to all and thanked the library personnel for allowing the club to meet on such short notice. As a reminder the Club breakfast would be Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup> 9 am at Denny's restaurant. Congratulations to Fred Sheffield who past the Technician exam prior to club meeting.

Riki Kline, K7NJ, reported that his employer, Jim Wilson K7JW, of Wilson Electronics will be able to sell on a one time basis Wilson LMR 400 coax. It comes in either 500 or 1000 ft drums. If members want to get together to buy a drum and share the cost and present one check to Wilson Electronics. The cost is about .50 cents a foot whereas the going rate is about \$1.00 a foot. This offer is limited to stock on hand.

There were no minutes read for November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There were no reports from LEPC, ECOM or ICACES.

There were no comments from the floor.

Russ initiated a discussion about raffle tickets. It was mentioned that tickets are based on net check in and club meeting attendance. This was started about 3 years to increase net participation. The question proposed is do we want to keep the raffle tickets or not. A vote was taken to keep the raffle tickets: ayes have it.

Prizes for the raffle are: 3 25 ft lengths of Wilson LMR 400 coax, and cash prizes of \$25, \$50, and \$100. The drawing will be during eating time.

Club officers were voted in:

Steve Judd – Presidency  
Ken Munford and Jon Rice - Co-Vice Presidents  
Bill Stenger – Secretary

Ken Oliver – Treasurer

Appointees:  
Dick Parker – Newsletter

Joel Clements reported that he will not be able to accept the ECOM coordinator position.

Dick Parker presented some ideas for activities for 2010:

- Scout Expo – May
- VHF SSB contests – June
- Field Day – June
- Summer/Western Senior Games
- Fox Hunts
- Iron Man National Meet – St. George
- Club Contest

Dick suggested that training for ICS 100 & 200 be available for club members. It would be nice to have an instructor be brought in.

Don Blanchard mentioned that RACES is a State run organization. Applications are available online. They have a VHF net on 146.94 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month and an HF net on 3.920 MHZ on a Saturday. All repeaters and links are up and running.

Russ declared in was time to eat.

Drawing winners:

- Coax – Dick Parker
- Coax – Ken Oliver
- Coax – Joel Clements
- \$25 – Sylvia Clements
- \$50 – Riki Kline
- \$100 – Bill Stenger

Russ adjourned the meeting a 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Bill Stenger K6QOG  
Secretary