



RAINBOW CANYONS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
CEDAR CITY, UTAH 84720

Volume 1

Club Web Site www.rcarc.info

March 2010

CLUB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Steve Judd, KB7BGS, opened the meeting at 7:32 pm. by welcoming all and visitors. He introduced the theme of the meeting which was “logging”

No, the Club has not turned into a wood cutting entity. “Logging”, as known by amateur radio operators, is keeping track of the contacts one makes on the radio.

Ken Munford, N7KM, Steve Judd, KB7BGS, and Jon Rice, NR7T, led a presentation on the various ways amateurs documented their on-air radio contacts. Years ago, all HF contacts made were required to be “logged” in a station Log book, in a precise way, in a according to FCC rules. That rule has since been repealed and stations no longer are required to log contacts.

Many hams still log contacts for a variety of reasons; out of habit, as a “journal” of radio activity, award chasing, contesting and for the sheer fun of it.

Logging use to all be done on paper. Now days, there is a myriad of software programs available plus direct download from the radio to the computer at the time of the contact! That software is known as “contest logging” and is used almost exclusively by modern day contesters.

The sponsoring agency of the contest pretty much requires it. The software insure accuracy, speed contest results published in magazines and to detect cheaters. (Now, there wouldn't be any of those type of people in ham radio, would there?) All of these methods were discussed and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Along with that, additional computer programs were discussed and their application shown.

I wish to thank the people in the “know” for taking the time and explaining it to those of us in the dark so we have a little more understanding of evolution in the ham radio community.

The direction ham radio seems to be headed is the Digital Direction—which almost exclusively requires a computer connected to a radio and some form of “program” required to make everything connected together, work together. If all this seems a bit complicated—it is. People are having fun playing with it so you may have some fun too, if you choose.

This writer is, at present, is a little perplexed over it all. I think there is something even better “around the corner” we haven't seen yet which will be a derivative of all this “protocol” and “water falls” I hear so much about. I have decided to take the “wait and see” stance and “see” what transpires—then dive into the pool at the deep end!

And, yes, I log all my HF contacts still and I do it on paper—still, even though I do have a logger program on my computer. Problem is, the log book fits my desk OK, the computer doesn't.

SPECIAL EVENT STATION, WR7AAA

Looking outside you would not think it is Spring or that there is only 30 odd-days before the club's Special Event station operation. We talked about this way back in January—remember?

I thought so.

This year is the only year you will ever witness the *Centennial Celebration of Scouting in America*. We want people to remember the millions of men and women who have benefited from Scouting's ideals, aims and methods.

To do that we decided in January to join with Cedar Breaks District during their *Scouting Expo* with our own celebration, a Special Event station at the Expo, May 14 & 15.

How does this year differ from previous years involvement?

In past years we encouraged people at the Expo to come visit our “booth”. The turnout of guests has been pretty poor, to say the least. I think all those “old guys” over there kinda scared off all but the real adventurous. Those that did venture in found it quite educational and fun.

This year, we will be operating our station **independent of visitors**. If none show up, we can still have a successful operation. Of course, we hope there are a few who will wander in. All we need are radio operators for 4 to 5 hours—and a few hands Friday evening to help set up our shelter for Saturday's half-day operation. If we have one or two others who would like to “stand by” to greet people, hand out literature, answer questions and show people around, that would be appreciated as well.

A Special Event station is just that; we call "Special Event station WR7AAA, celebrating 100 years of Scouting" and wait for others on the air to call us back. Pretty simple.

Of course you do have to explain what we are celebrating and who you are celebrating with (Cedar Breaks District Scouting Expo and Spring Camporee, celebrating 100 years of Scouting in America)

So now, all I need is---everything! I need radios, antennas, antenna trailer, coax, table and chairs and radio men or women willing to have some serious fun on Saturday. I can't do it alone (I could, but more is merrier!).

If this sounds like something you would like to do, please contact me and volunteer your equipment and services. Dick Parker, at: 586-2167. If you don't call, I will be contacting you!

CLUB UNIFORMS

Merlin Mackay, N7TCE, has taken a big responsibility upon himself and is pushing this often talked about but nothing been done, subject along.

A sample uniform will be presented during April's club meeting for inspection and approval. They will also be available for sale **with lettering** on the back, ready to go.

The reason for his effort: the club has been invited to participate in an **emergency drill** later on in the year. If we (meaning those who are interested) want to be used during an actual emergency we need to **look** the part of a professional organization as well as **act** the part. We have the skills and tools to communicate virtually anywhere, we need to step up to the plate and be as professional as we think we are.

Merlin has contacted several individuals to obtain their feelings regarding this facet of amateur radio service. Emergency communications is not for everyone, those not interested are welcome to "opt out" and go do something else. Those that are willing and interested must meet a minimum standard now set by Homeland Security for all agencies so interested.

Come to meeting this April and learn more.

APRIL MEETING FORECAST

Speaking of Club meeting, I thought it would be good to give a preview of what is coming up. Unfortunately, I don't know what is coming up so consider it a surprise meeting. I could call around but seeing as the newsletter is late already, just show up and be surprised at the content.

FOR SALE

You ordered it, now come get it. Ken Oliver, W7KBM, has several 500 foot spools of coaxial cable waiting for those who ordered it. He would like to clear the books and get the cable into the hands of those who ordered it.

Please contact him and make arrangements for payment, if you have not already done so. He can be reached at: 586-9033.

EDITORIAL

Rainbow Canyons ARC has struggled for many years to be of value to the local amateur radio enthusiast. The elected club officers have tried a variety of ideas and interests to encourage involvement. And, like so many grass roots organizations, have met with some but not tremendous success.

I don't know about other "clubs" but ours is generating less than 10% of licensee in attendance at any one meeting. I doubt that other organizations would survive with only 8 to 10% attendance at their meetings.

I was once involved in an off-road driving club that generated close to 50% attendance at **every** meeting. Their meeting structure was similar to ours, their activities were limited to building and driving 4 wheel drive vehicles. Their attendance at these events was very good—usually a monthly trail ride with about the same number in attendance. Dues were collected and challenges were extended to other clubs in and around Southern Utah. We even hosted hard rock competition before it became nationalized as an Extreme Sport.

I have often wondered why they flourished so well with such a simple premise and RCARC struggles with just a handful of members in attendance each month? Are we not meeting your needs? Are the meetings and activities of little or no interest to you? Are meetings on the wrong date or at the wrong time? What can we do to increase interest in local events? I have yet to find an answer.

When you visit with club officials, will you take a few moments and tell them what you would like to "see" as RCARC? They would be most appreciative of your comments. For an organization that specializes in communication, we are "not doing so pretty good" as Kal Kahler, KB7FWR, often states on the breakfast net. Various nets are offered to encourage activity on all license levels. Got a problem you can't figure out? Communicate with someone and we will get it figured out. Need help setting up a station or mounting a mobile rig in a car? There are people available who do it all the time. Having interference problems from some electrical device? There are people available and willing to resolve it for you. Whatever your concern is relating to radio, someone in our club has expertise in resolving it. (Sorry, financial matters plague us all).

In all seriousness, please begin to enjoy your license privileges. Not satisfied with only being a Technician? We can help there too.

Russ Chaffee, N7BO, is scheduled to conduct another test session prior to club meeting, this month. If you have been studying and feel like you wish to challenge a test, contact him so he can prepare the necessary paperwork.

See you on the air or at club meeting.

Minutes
March 9, 2010

President Stephen Judd, K7BGS, opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m. with 18 people present. He welcomed all and a special welcome to 3 new visitors.

The minutes were read and approved.

The Presentation was paper logs versus electronic logs.

Stephen started the presentation with a 1960's Drake log book that he called a hypie log. He explained the items listed in the log.

Ken Munford N7KM continued the explanation of paper logs.

Jon Rice NR7T demonstrated N1MM logger computer program and explained how it worked in connection with the WINN Keyer interface.

Ken N7KM talked about the Ham Radio Deluxe program and it's logging program. His favorite log program is the N3FJP electronic program. Ken said that each program has it's pro's and con's, programs for contests and for normal operations. Some programs are connected to the transceiver and automatically inserts frequency and mode of operation and others the info is entered manually.

Throughout the presentation questions were fielded and answered by the presenters.

After the presentation Stephen asked for comments and Sylvia Clements KB7UMU reminded the group of the club breakfast at Denny's restaurant Saturday at 9 am. All are welcome.

Stephen adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted;

Bill Stenger K6QOG
Secretary