

### Club meeting for May 9<sup>th</sup> 2006

This month's club meeting will be a treat. Mel Parks our Utah State ARRL Representative, will be our guest speaker. Mel has been to our club meetings before and is a good speaker. Mel has a great deal of knowledge on amateur radio, and I am sure whatever the topic he will be speaking on will be no doubt good. Please come out and support Mel Parks.

KB7QXB last month's door prize winner Screw driver set.



## Don't forget Mother's day!

Last month's club meeting was on DF'ing. (Direction Finding). N7TCE Merlin was our key speaker. Merlin started out showing us his three DF devices. Merlin explains the difference in quality and cost.

First Quality, as it seems the more money you spend the more you get, meaning the more bells and whistles. K7FWR Kal is holding, is a home brew. It does the basic tracking. And probably cost in

neighborhood of \$15.00 to \$20.00 to build. The one K7ZI Dick is holding is store bought and cost \$125.00 just a few years ago, and has a couple of extra features on it. For example, on top it has a compass, along with a couple of other things.



Finally, the machine that Merlin is holding is custom built for around \$225.00 and is used for DF'ing downed aircraft. One of the neat features on this device is, when you are in the air plain, you can hook it to an external antenna.

Merlin also explains how they have found a transmitter in a garage in I believe Leeds Utah that had been accidentally set off.

I understand that there is a fox hunt coming up soon and it maybe on a Saturday so we can have more time to find the fox. Also may even be a dinner to go along with finding the fox. Oh, I think the dinner is in the fox den. Keep your ears and eyes peeled, you don't want to miss out in this event.

Greetings fellow Hams,

During an actual catastrophic event in which normal communications paths may be severed it is likely Hams will be pressed into service to help fill the void. There is nothing new about this statement—we are all well aware of that reality. What we are unaware of is the series of events that will be placed in motion, both positive and negative, in nature.

Some of you are aware of the recent, unannounced call out drill conducted by club leadership to test our system. Some of you responded instantly even though it interrupted your normal course of the day. Some of you did not respond for various reasons. Still other could not respond because they were not contractible.

What you are unaware of is what we, as the leadership of the club, learned. Some of the more important findings were:

- Many people could not be contacted by phone. (Expected).
- Some were contacted but were unable to respond favorably or could not call others they were responsible for. (Also expected).
- The callout list is wantonly out of date. (An overlooked surprise).
- Equipment failure was a hindrance to a smooth operation requiring a “work around”. (The ‘work a round’s’ did work but took time).
- A lot of “doubling” was monitored. (This caused confusion and delays to good communication and control of the net).
- A surprising number responded favorably and followed instructions. (Encouraging!)

It was a good “education” as to what could be expected during an actual alert. We may think we “done good” but we really did look like “amateurs” to anyone monitoring the frequency. Frankly, folks, we got to do better.

There will be changes and updated to the callout list. There will continue to be unannounced drills to test our skill level. Training will be offered to help improve our “professional attitude and KSA (knowledge, skills and ability). I will continue to encourage you to “be prepared” with survival packs and portable equipment. I hope to begin seeing a variety of such show up at meeting for ‘show and tell’.

The various local and regional nets are intended, in part, to prepare us to be good communicators. It seems to me that many seem to think that ‘Net Control’ is always someone else responsibility. I have requested numerous times for all to ‘take a turn’ calling a net so you know what to expect and how to conduct, control and handle “traffic” during a stressful situation. The other half of NCS is the fun and enjoyment derived from making mistakes ‘in front of’ each other and shrugging it off as a learning experience. Embarrassment never hurt anyone, only his or her ego.

Daylight time has been extended and we enjoy light to almost 9pm. I think it will be a good time to plan, conduct and reward those who want to participate in a weekend Fox Hunt. Get you locating gear ready!

Field Day! Is just around the corner. Do you want to participate? Do you want it with or without food? Do you want it in a valley or public location or in a mountain setting? Do you want to operate in conjunction with the emergency service/agencies locally? Do you want 1 or more transmitters? Do you want it to be an ‘emergency training experience’ or just a gathering of hams having fun contacting others? Or, are you serious about the high-score contest side of it? Will you help when Steve calls? Better yet, call him now with your desires. 867-1431.

Don’t forget, Mel Parkes, NM7P, our Utah state ARRL representative is scheduled to be our guest speaker this next meeting. Bring a friend and lets fill the room to overflowing!

A natural or man-made catastrophe can happen at any time. We sit, by virtue of our license, in a very desirable, yet unused position. Our skills may not be perfect, we may not possess the latest radio with all the bells and whistles but we do have is knowledge, skills and abilities that will be admired and coveted by those in need of communication when normal systems fail.

73's

K7ZI

