



## RCARC Minutes for September 10, 2013

President Larry Heddings WD0CDG called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Those in attendance:

K7KCH	Ken Head	K5JCA	Jim Ashby	N7KM	Ken Munford
KB7OWE	Don Carter	NL7EL	Blaine Nay	KF7HTE	David Myers
KG6LFU	Jim Beal	KC7UT	Roger Smith	KA7QJN	Dennis Porter
KF7MOX	Barry Basel	KF7GPZ	Fred Sheffield	KF7WIY	Denice Sheffield
N7TCE	Merline Mackay	KD7TTT	Terry Lee	KG7AHS	Travis Horton
KE6ZIM	Johnny Ellison	N7SIY	Joel Clements	KB7UMU	Sylvia Clements
WD0CDG	Larry Heddings	K7ZI	Dick Parker	K6QOG	Bill Stenger
KF7YWY	Cameron Abbaticchio				

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Jim Beal KG6LFU and seconded by David Myers KF7HTE. The minutes were approved.

There was no treasurer's report.

Sylvia Clements KB7UMU ask for a breakfast count.

Joel Clements N7SIY mentioned EMCOMM Training on Net Control. He will start on message handling forms during net training. Joel handed out and briefly explained the:

- 1) INCOMING EMCOMM MESSAGE FORM
- 2) OUTGOING EMCOMM MESSAGE FORM,
- 3) EMCOMM STATION OPERATING LOG,
- 4) EMCOMM STATION NOTES.

The forms are also available on [fema.gov](http://fema.gov) and [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) websites.

Larry Heddings WD0CDG announced

- a) that we have a special event station call sign W7F to be used for the Frontier Days at the Frontier Home-  
stead State Park and Museum on November 9th. Times of operation will be announced later.
- b) the Equestrian Endurance Ride is Oct 4th and 5th and volunteers are needed. A sign up sheet is on the  
desk.

Jim Ashby K5JCA announced there will be an ARES exercise October 14th at 10am on HF and VHF.

Sylvia Clements KB7UMU announced Tony Schriver KF7DLQ died September 7th and gave funeral information.

Next Meeting October 8th, 7:30pm at Sheriff's Search and Rescue Building

Dick Parker K7ZI presented a program on locating a source of radio frequency with a ham handheld radio. Some basic techniques to find a radio signal at an unknown location:

- a) use your body as a shield to block the signal from the side and back
- b) when signal is very strong, remove the antenna from the radio
- c) use an attenuation box to reduce the signal input

Merlin Mackay N7TCE demonstrated a doppler direction finder which provides bearing and null information. The unit is a commercial unit. Dick Parker K7ZI showed his home made unit similar to Merlin's but cost less.

Ken Munford N7KM hid a low power transmitter tuned to 146.46 Mhz. Those with a hand held radio turned it on and went looking for the hidden "fox".

The first one to find the "fox" was: Denise Sheffield KF7WIY



Ken Munford N7KM motioned to adjourned the meeting and seconded by Sylvia Clements KB7UMU. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stenger K6QOG  
Secretary

Topic for next meeting:

Basic Digital Electronics. (Adult tinker toys, Hands on at SUU electronics lab)  
(Ken Munford, N7KM and David Ward, N7HYA)

Next Meeting October 8th, 7:30pm at Sheriff's Search and Rescue Building

# HAM buffs boost hospital communications

By Kevin Jenkins  
kevin@thespectrum.com

ST. GEORGE — A group of HAM radio operators who volunteer their time to support Washington County's disaster response efforts are helping the Southwest Utah Public Health Department install radio communication equipment at hospitals and other care facilities throughout Southern Utah.

"One of our goals has been to set up (an emergency communications

network) with the hospital, health department, police departments and other (public service) user agencies," said Norm Smith, the spokesman for the Washington County Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Last year the health department bought antennas, radios and other HAM radio equipment with federal funding it receives each year for public health emergency preparedness and hospital preparedness programs. The equipment will help

hospitals in St. George, Cedar City, Beaver, Milford, Panguitch and Kanab communicate with each other even during power outages or cellular network failures.

"We try to purchase some equipment that we can use to build (public health response) capabilities," said Steven Rossberg, the regional medical surge coordinator for the five-county area covered by the SWUPHD.

"In the past we've bought some water purification systems. We've done some work related to mass fatalities, like an earthquake or pandemic type of focus," Rossberg



Steven Rossberg and Bob Vosper show HAM radio equipment purchased to improve communications between county hospitals Aug. 22 at SWUPHD offices. KEVIN JENKINS / THE SPECTRUM & DAILY NEWS

said. "This year we've tried to close some gaps on additional communication methods. ... Once these are all installed, every one

of our hospitals in every one of our counties will have HAM radio capability."

WCARES' role has been to help the health department install the equipment at each of the hospitals and ensure that it's working.

The hospitals already had some equipment, but each of the six facilities had distinct configurations and capabilities, so the trick was to ensure that a volunteer HAM radio operator could go to any of the locations and find the same type of equipment used elsewhere, with the same frequency reach the others have to communicate across the mountains separating the counties.

WCARES members visited the hospitals in Beaver, Milford and Kanab on Aug. 16 to do work at the sites with Rossberg, who recently obtained his

own HAM license. The three hospitals are where the most work needs to be done to establish the network within the SWUPHD's region, the group said.

"Once we have this all done, we will move over to the care centers as well," WCARES Emergency Coordinator Jim Ashby said.

Rossberg said Kanab's hospital experienced a situation during the past year in which a power outage cut all of its communications with the outside world, including cell phone communications, at a time when the medical personnel needed to summon a Life Flight helicopter to transport a patient.

"They all made it happen, but they were lacking some ability to communicate as quickly as they probably could have (if they'd had HAM capability)," he said.

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## INCIDENTS

At the discretion of the editorial department, The Spectrum reports police or rescue incidents of general interest in which no arrests are made. The following incidents were responded to Thursday.

### St. George Police Department

- » Vehicle burglary on the 2900 South block of 2350 East.
- » Controlled substance problem on the 3000 South block of Little Valley Road.
- » Misdemeanor theft on the 100 North block of Main Street.
- » Simple assault on the 800 North block of 700 West.
- » Vehicle theft on the 1400 North block of Dixie Downs Road.
- » Structure fire on the 1900 West block of 1575 North.
- » Controlled substance problem on the 1000 East block of Riverside Drive.

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