



# The Yavapai ARC Signal



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A Monthly Newsletter

March 1992

## MEMBER FOCUS

An amateur for only six years, Chet Hjelm has enjoyed the hobby/service primarily on 15 meters where he keeps a schedule with his son Bob, VE3DUB who was the motivation behind Chet's obtaining his ham license. Chet has a WAS award for working code and about 40 different countries he has contacted with his first being a DX contact with an Australian ham followed by one with a Japanese amateur.

With three years experience as our program chairman, Chet enjoys most everything in amateur radio and has carried over his enthusiasm with him since leaving Spokane Washington several years ago.

## FIELD DAY

Well, here it is the end of March soon upon us and June is not far behind. The time is NOW to plan for our special field day scheduled to take place June 27th and 28th. This year the event is to take place at the Heritage Park which is located near the entrance to Embry Riddle.

## FM REPEATERS

FM repeaters provide the means the communicate efficiently. However if amateur radio operators communicate inefficiently the function of the

repeater is wasted. This article will address some of the fundamental operating techniques and etiquette unique to repeaters.

In the FM repeater mode, stations usually monitor or scan their favorite frequencies. Unlike HF, a long CQ is not necessary to attract the attention of someone casually tuning across the band. This is why it is accepted to announce your station call followed by listening on your initial call. After you stop transmitting you will usually hear a short carrier or courtesy beep to let you know that the repeater is working.

If you want to join a conversation that is already in progress, transmit your call sign during the break that occurs in between transmissions. The station that transmits after you should acknowledge you. Don't use the word "BREAK" to join the conversation because in most areas "break" indicates that there is an emergency and all stations should stand by until the emergency traffic is passed.

If you want to call another station and the repeater is inactive, simply call the other station (ie. W2XYZ this is N4ABC). If there is a conversation on the repeater and it sounds like it's going to continue, transmit your call sign between their transitions. After you are acknowledged, call the other station

and ask them to move to another frequency or stand by until the present conversation is completed.

If you are in the middle of a conversation and another station transmits it's call sign in between transmissions, the next station in queue should acknowledge the station and permit him to make a call or join the conversation. It is impolite not to acknowledge him or worse acknowledge him and not let him speak. He may have an emergency or something important to say.

Allow other stations to participate in the conversation by pausing briefly before each transmission. If your exchanges are too quick, you can prevent other stations from getting a word in. Some repeaters have courtesy beepers to force users to leave spaces between transmissions. Repeaters that don't have the beep must let the carrier drop to reset the timer. If a station is too quick and begins transmitting before the carrier drops or beeper sounds will not reset the timer and the repeater may shut down. Timer lengths vary with each repeater from 3 minutes to as low as 15 seconds. The purpose of a repeater timer is to prevent extraneous signals from keeping the repeater on continuously.

You must identify at the end of each transmission or series of transmissions and at least every 10 minutes. You do not have to transmit the call sign of the station(s) to whom you are talking to. If you want to check to see if you can hit the repeater and not engage in a conversation, transmit "<your call> testing." Avoid "kerchunking" the machine as this is not only annoying to others, it is illegal. By saying you are testing, someone casually listening may give you a quick signal report.

The main purpose of a repeater is to provide communications between stations impeded by terrain or equipment limitations. After you have made a contact, move to a simplex channel if possible. Fixed stations should stay off repeaters during rush hours and give mobile stations preference. (Some repeaters have a policy to this effect).

## **SOMETHING NEW!**

If everything goes well, we could soon have a 6 meter repeater available for use. It will be an open machine with PL enhancement and might be located on private property near the summit of Mt. Union. I am looking for donations of coax, connectors, a tower or anything else you think might be helpful with this project. For more information on this project please contact me (Rex) at 445-0685 or on the 146.88 repeater.

## **BRIEFS**

It came to our attention recently that some local amateurs are experiencing interference problems while listening to the 147.000 Mingus repeater. It seems that while someone is operating on the 147.040 machine, the transmissions from that machine are being heard on Mingus. It could be a simple matter of poor receiver quality, however try listening from 146.96 to 147.14 the next time you hear someone on the 147.040 repeater.

## **MIR**

It's back in the news, the Russian space station MIR will have an exchange of crew soon as the Russian government has recently launched two cosmonauts last March 17th. It was reported in past newsletters that the current crew was to return by

March 23rd. To our knowledge this is still the return date of the crew. It is unknown if the replacements are going to be active on the ham bands but if they are, listen for them on or near 145.550 simplex.

## **BBS BRIEFS**

Question: How many in the club are actively connecting to BBS services which might be of interest to the club members? If you know of a BBS which might have some information regarding amateur radio, please let us know.

## **ILLEGAL MOBILES?**

January 20th, 1992 - New Jersey law, S-305 was signed into law thanks to the efforts of ARRL volunteer counsel and officers. Under the previous law, licensed amateurs could be prosecuted, and their equipment confiscated, for the mobile operation ( or possession) of any equipment capable of receiving ANY police, fire or public service frequencies most contemporary VHF amateur mobiles and HTs with extended coverage, were in violation of the statutes; and amateurs were in fact being penalized.

In a major success for amateur radio, under S-305 it is no longer a crime for private citizens to possess radios capable of receiving government frequencies in their vehicles. Use or possession of such radios to aid in any criminal act remains a criminal offense.

Arlington, Virginia- In Virginia state, it is illegal to use radar detectors!

According to a recent report, the Arlington police have been directed to forbear issuing summons for illegal radar detectors to amateurs who happen to be operating their 10

GHz equipment. Operation in this band activates the equipment that the department uses to find vehicles with radar detectors. In recognition of this fact, and of the amateurs right to operate in the 10 GHz band, the department will no longer cite persons who hold a valid amateur license and can demonstrate that the radio gear is operating in compliance with FCC rules.

## **NEW ADDRESS**

The FCC now has a new address. Correspondence, applications, inquiries, praises, complaints etc. should be directed to:

Federal Communications Commission  
1270 Fairfield Road  
Gettysburg, PA. 17325-7245.

## **FOR SALE**

Tri-X crank up tower, HD 73 rotator, TH 3 Hi gain three element beam. Asking \$250 for all three. Contact Bob Morgan, W6UMV at 445-9743. When calling this information into the editor's desk, he said that he has been enjoying his vacation.

## **EDITORS**

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Thank you for reading this far. Editorials, comments, materials and ideas are always welcome.

We both usually listen on the 146.88 machine. I (George) have logged on to Leonard's BBS once, leave E-mail at your own risk.

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