

YAVAPAI SIGNAL

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club - Prescott, Arizona DM-34 Vol. 13 - No. 8

August, 2003

Welcome To The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) is an ARRL affiliated club. The club participates in many activities in the tricity area including providing communications for local events, emergency communications, volunteer exams, and promotion of the hobby throughout the community. Membership in the YARC is open to any interested amateur or non-amateur alike. Dues are \$20.00/yr. The YARC meets at 7:00 PM local time on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Granite Mountain Middle School, 1800 Williamson Valley Rd. in Prescott. It is about 1/2 mile north of Iron Springs Rd and all amateurs and non-amateurs as well are invited. Programs of interest are included as part of the meeting. The weekly NET is held every Wednesday at 7:00 PM local time on the 146.880- repeater. All amateurs are invited to participate and visitors are always welcome. The Yavapai County ARES/RACES NET is held on Monday nights approximately at 6:45PM local time on the 147.220+ repeater on Mingus Mtn.

Club Repeater

The local 146.880- MHz repeater is the official adopted repeater for the YARC. It is located on the hill above Willow Creek Rd and requires a PL of 100.0 Hz. If you hear a 1400 Hz pulsing tone, the repeater is on backup battery power and usage should be limited to necessary communications. The 147.040+ (100.0 PL) repeater is back up and running in Prescott Heights. Many thanks to Bill Kafka, W2YAV for the upkeep and use of the repeaters.



YARC Donates ARRL Handbook to Library

On August 5, 2003, in accordance with the membership's wishes, Bob Smith, WB6ODR, President of the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club, donated a copy of the 2003 American Radio League's Handbook to Prescott Library's Head Library Administrator, Janis Burnt.

The Handbook was recently given to the Club by ARRL Southwest Division Director Art Goddard, W6XD, and the Club in turn, agreed to donate the Handbook to the Prescott Library where it will be prominently displayed alongside the main floor display case, which has in the past displayed historic and modern amateur radio equipment and paraphernalia. After a brief display period, the book will be placed on the main shelves, in accordance with its call number.

A bookplate dedicates the Handbook in memory of John Wilson, KM6BF, immediate past President of the Club, and Lloyd Coppock, N7QZQ, a long-time Club member.

Most of the amateur radio books now on the library shelves are dated and the 2003 ARRL Handbook will be a welcome and helpful addition to library patrons that have an interest in entering the hobby or a desire to enhance their Ham Radio technical and operating knowledge.

The Handbook may not show in the Library catalog because of its recent acquisition, but an inquiry at the Reference Desk will provide a call number.

Yarc Officers For 2003

President Bob Smith-WB6ODR bsmith@cableone.net	Vice President Terry Pemberton-KB7TR kb7tr@aol.com
Secretary Tony Masvidal-W7PCU W7phcu@webtv.net	Treasurer Al Crook-KD7MTJ

YARC Board of Directors (includes Club Officers)

Lee Cunningham-KC7CBK

Bob Kane-K7KOL

Bob Rosevear-WB7RRQ

Jack Ragen-W3JVO

Weekly Net Control-Dale Leslie-N7XFD

Newsletter Editor-Hal Trittel-N6OVE

YARC Minutes of July Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7pm by the President, Bob-WB6ODR.

Visitors: Dave-N0GRL

The club members read the minutes of the meeting for themselves. Motion passed. Treasury report by Al-KD7MTJ. We have a total of \$2086.57 in the account.

Committee reports: Road rally, everything on schedule. RACES-Lloyd-WA6ZZJ. The Crown King radios were installed with battery back-up. ARES was activated for the Spruce fire.

Thanks to the operators who participated in the Frontier Day parade.

Upcoming event is the Sept 13th walk for Diabetes. Saturday 27th the march of Dimes at 0730. October 3rd and 4th Road rally. Saturday Aug 9th with the comm's van setup for the Fann road grand opening.

Old business:

Brochures or advertisements about the club.

New business:

VVARA with license plates at \$10 + S/H for the scenic and \$15 + S/H for the copper. Contact KC7TIL at kc7til@earthlink.net.

Lloyd-WA6ZZJ. with the 2 members as SK's we should donate \$50 to each of the charities of their choice. Also to donate the ARRL handbook in both KM6BF and N7QZQ's name.

W6XD-Art donated the book from the staff. We thank you from the club.

Jim-KD7AOI wanted to send an article via e-mail to the VVARA about KM6BF. Motion carried.

Tony-W7PCU and Hal-N6OVE will work on updating the clubs roster...

Break at 7:35pm.

7:41pm. Drawing of the ticket with the winner being John-KC5DKN. Also 2 books were donated by ARRL folks on QRP power and Antenna Pendium (I think).

Program was by Art Goddard, W6XD, on ARRL BPL and new frequencies and HR1478. Good job Art.

Meeting ended 8:52pm

Submitted by
Tony Masvidal-W7PCU



ARES/RACES

Fortunately things have been relatively quiet since the Spruce Fire activation on July 5, 2003. A few trips have been made to Mt. Union to repair problems with our repeater and packet equipment there. Everything is running good again now.

The CommVan along with an Emergency Communications display has been at two events this month. The National Night Out at the Prescott Country Club on August 5th and again at the Fain Road opening in Prescott Valley on August 9, 2003.

The new Sector 8 Skywarn Net is now being held on the Mt. Union 147.260 ARES/RACES repeater at 1930 hours every Monday evening. The newly created Sector 8 includes all of Yavapai County and the Northern part of Gila County. If you would like to get involved with Skywarn, check into the net.

Get Out of the Shack and into the Action

Public service communications is a golden opportunity to demonstrate how ham radio operators can assist their friends and neighbors.....

Providing communications at public service events is an Amateur Radio tradition. With so many VHF repeaters and portable handheld transceivers, the coverage hams are able to provide is remarkable. Can you do it? All you need is a handheld or in some cases a mobile transceiver to lend your assistance.

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club provides public service communications for several organizations throughout the year, but somehow it seems to be the same familiar faces turning up at the events to assist. This is your club, folks. Let's see some new faces coming out to help. In

September and early October the club will be involved in four communications events with two of them taking place on the same day so your help is going to be needed. When the sign up sheets go out and help is called for on the Wednesday Net, lets take the challenge and sign up to help.

Communicating for public service events also gives us valuable experience to be used if we are needed in an emergency communications situation and showcases Amateur Radio at its best, serving the community and performing with dignity. *Below are 10 tips to assist you to optimize your performance:*

10 Ways to Optimize Your Effectiveness in Public Service Events

1) Make sure your radio is in top operating condition.

Small problems (such as loose antenna connections, bad microphones, intermittent operation, etc.) may be just annoying during casual operation, but *will* cause major grief under the continuous/severe service of net/emergency operation.

2) Don't operate your handheld with it hanging on your belt.

Using the radio while it's strapped to your waist reduces your effective radiated power by more than 10 dB. That's a 90% reduction in power. Hold the radio in your hand, with the antenna in the clear.

3) Regarding antennas,

those 3" rubber dummy loads may be cute, but you're throwing away 3-6 dB of power when using one. (If you're really into math, compute the loss of a 3" rubber dummy load used on a belt clip). A telescoping half-wave has a gain of as much as 10 dB over a 3" rubber duck and a quarter-wave provides a 4-6 dB improvement. Even a 12-15" rubber duck will boost your signal by 3-6 dB over the 3" ones. Remember that one dB can mean the difference in whether or not a critical message gets through.

4) Have charged batteries and

spare battery packs!

If you also have a dry cell battery case, fill it with alkaline batteries. Make sure you have enough batteries with you to carry you through, even on high power.

5) Use headphones or an

earphone rather than a speaker/mike. Most earphones will plug directly into your HT. Low cost stereo headphones are widely available and will work perfectly with your HT using a mono to stereo adapter. The headphones also have the advantage of concentrating the communications in your ears, while partially shutting out the outside noise. Headphones will also prolong battery life by allowing the radio to operate at lower audio output. A speaker/mike is the worst thing you can use --- it doesn't cut the outside noise, it doesn't save batteries, and where is that HT while you're using the speaker/mike?? (Hint --- see #2!)

6) Speak slowly and clearly

when transmitting! You make take pride in your ability to run your words together and mumble, but the station on the other end may be in a noisy environment and may not receive your message.

7) Check out your ability to use simplex.

Even if the operation is being conducted on a repeater, there may be "dead spots," the repeater may go down, or, sad to say, there may be jamming. Even if you can only work the two or three stations closest to you, a message can still be relayed. To maximize your simplex range, please reread #2 and #3.

8) Listen to net control

and direct all communication through him/her. Identify your station when calling net control and keep all communications direct and to the point.

9) If you must leave the

radio or the area to which you have been assigned, first seek permission and acknowledgement from the net control station, make your "time off" as short as possible, and check back in with NCS immediately upon your return.

10) Project a good image

to the non-hams around you that are part of the event/emergency. Present a professional image, in manner and physical appearance. Wear a name/call sign badge, identifying cap, shirt or jacket.

**Upcoming YARC public service communications events are:**

America's Walk for Diabetes on Saturday, September 13, 2003. This will be held on the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Reservation. 5 to 6 operators may be needed at this event.

The Tour de Pee Vee, 1/2 Marathon, 10K, 5K, 2 mile race also on Saturday, September 13, 2003. Operators for this event will need to be in place by 0630 as the half-Marathon begins at 0700 with the other events starting after that at fifteen minute intervals. This is a new event for us this year and at this time it is unknown the number of operators needed.

March of Dimes Walk America on Saturday, September 27, 2003 This route begins at the Courthouse Square and is a circle route back to the Square. Last year we had 8 operators on this event.

The Road Rally will be Friday and Saturday, October 3rd & 4th. Bob Rosevear, WB7RRQ, will have more information on this event.

There they are folks. Lets fill all the needed communications spots and do our club proud.....

Lloyd Halgunseth
WA6ZZJ

**Old Songs for New Times**

For those who are feeling a little older and missing those great old tunes, there is good news! Some of our favorite artists have re-released their great hits with new lyrics to accommodate us, their aging audience.

Herman's Hermits
"Mrs. Brown, You've Got A Lovely Walker"

The Bee Gees
"How Can You Mend A Broken Hip"

The Temptations
"Papa's Got A Kidney Stone"

Nancy Sinatra
"These Boots Aren't Made For Bunions"

The Beatles
"I Get By With A Little Help From Depends"

Marvin Gaye
"I Heard It Through The Grape Nuts"

Procol Harem
"A Whiter Shade Of Hair"

Johnny Nash
"I Can't See Clearly Now"

Leo Sayer
"You Make Me Feel Like Napping"

ABBA - "Denture Queen"

Paul Simon
"Fifty Ways To Lose Your Liver"

Roberta Flack
"The First Time I Ever Forgot Your Face"

Commodores
"Once, Twice, Three Times To The Bathroom"

Rolling Stones
"You Can't Always Pee When You Want"

Bobby Darin
"Splish, Splash, I Was Havin' A Flash"



Hams Help Bighorn Sheep Society Build Water Tanks

I don't know of any other so called hobby that has as wide a reach in our lives as amateur radio does. The hams operators who help out with communication regarding the construction, care and upkeep of various sheep tanks found throughout Arizona are an example.

Only a very small portion of the Big Horn Sheep Society members are amateur radio operators. Most of the members are hunters, and some are Arizona Fish & Game, BLM or Forest Service officials. Due to the remoteness of locations, only the hams are capable of long distance communications without using a repeater, via HF.

As Fred Zimmermann, N7PJN has discovered, a dipole placed about 10 feet off the ground is usually enough to allow near vertical incidence propagation to occur, which usually gives an approximate 400 mile footprint. This is more than enough to provide for an excellent and reliable signal to be heard in Prescott where Jim

Blackmore, W6KCF and Gene Floerchinger, N7LYX are located and monitoring.

Usually on or near 7288 Khz, messages are relayed at least once a day if not more. Occasionally, a helicopter is needed to bring in large bulky items such as a new water tank or various parts. This is another means of communication should there ever be a real need.

Besides HF, there are two repeaters that are sometimes used. One is located in Kingman on Hualapai mountain. The 146.76 repeater is an open repeater that covers a large area and has a small group always listening for those in need of help,



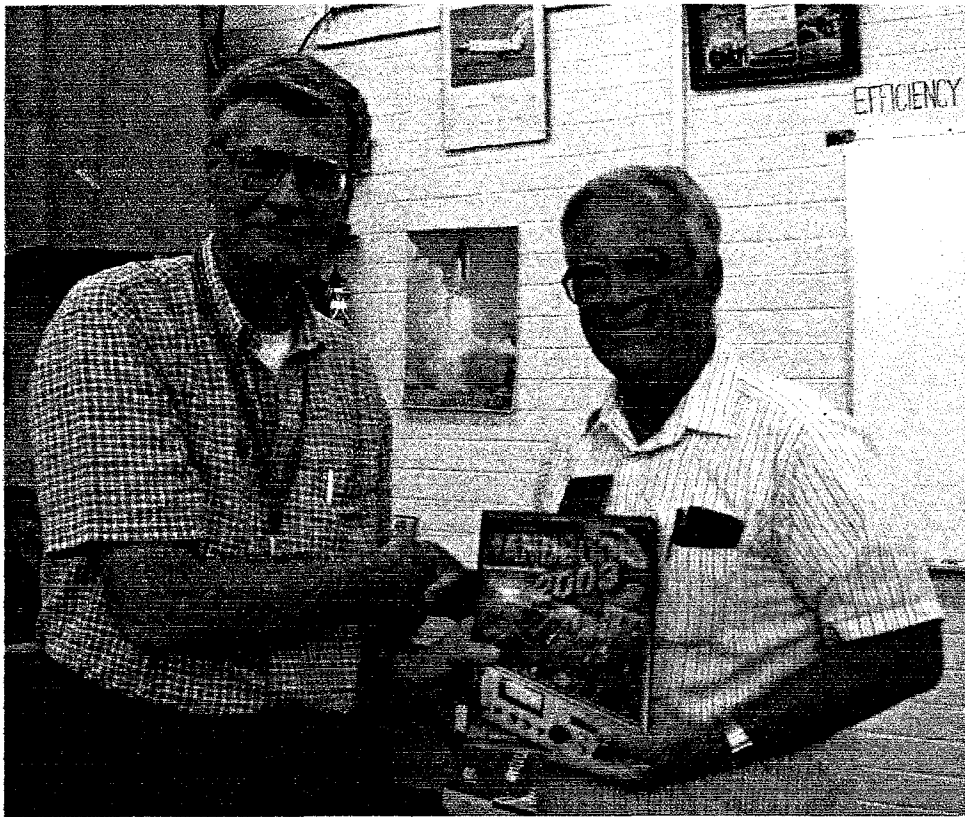
as Fred and Bob Tillman found out one day while searching for a water tank, they became stranded and were running low on water.

By using the Kingman repeater, someone was able to send a tow truck to them and get them back to town. Another repeater that has come in handy is the Smith Peak repeater that operates on 146.68. It covers well into Phoenix and in many parts of Chino Valley.

With the help of amateur such as Fred, Bob, Jim and Gene, the rest of the members can do their tasks with some assurance that help can be called upon thanks to amateur radio.

*Rex Mauldin
N7NGM*





Art Goddard Donates AARL Handbook to YARC

Art Goddard, W6XD, Southwest Division Manager of the American Radio Relay League presents the League's latest edition of the Radio Amateur's Handbook to Bob Smith, WB6ODR, President of the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club in Prescott, Arizona.

This Handbook, the "Bible" of amateur radio technology and operating techniques, was later inscribed with a bookplate honoring two late amateur radio operators from the club, John Wilson, KM6BF, immediate past President of the club and editor of the Yavapai Signal, the club's newsletter, and Lloyd Coppock, N7QZQ, a long time member of the club. Lloyd was known for his tantalizing descriptions of his wife's cooking, especially the deserts she offered him after dinner.

This Handbook was subsequently bequeathed by the radio club to the Prescott Public Library in memory of KM6BF and N7QZQ and will reside on a shelf reserved for donations to the library before being cataloged and placed in general circulation.

*Bob Kane
K7KOL*

My heartfelt thanks to the club members who contributed articles to the Yavapai Signal newsletter. Without their help there would be no newsletter.

I urge all YARC members to e-mail—photos, stories, for sale items, tech tips, news, jokes, cartoons-- anything that could be of interest to the club. I would like to make this the best amateur radio club newsletter but without your cooperation it won't happen, so please contribute something.

Contributing Editors

Lloyd Halgunseth WA6ZZJ
 Bob Kane K7KOL
 Tony Masvidal W7PCUH
 Rex Mauldin N7NGM
 Bob Smith WB6ODR

FOR SALE

**Collins 75A4 Receiver Ser. # 5129 80-10 meters
SSB,AM,CW 2 Collins Xtal filters in place \$400.00**

**ITT Mackay Marine Receiver .07 - 30 Mhz
A true all band receiver. \$350.00**

**OPTIMUS Speakers, 4 each, 100 watts RMS / 200 watts Max
8 ohm \$50.00 each**

Bob Smith WB6ODR 443-9321

AREA REPEATERS

Frequency	PL	Location	Notes
52.560-	100.0	Mt. Union (-500 Khz)	CARS N7NGM
53.040-	C/S	Prescott Airport (-1Mhz)	KC7WBE
145.350-	C/S	Wildflower Mtn.	DAWN
145.370-	C/S	Towers Mountan	MMRG
146.780-	C/S	Bill Williams Mtn.	BWARC
146.880-	100.0	Prescott	YARC
146.980-	100.0	Flagstaff-Elden	CARC
147.000-	100.0 162.2	Mingus Mountain	MMRG
147.040+	100.0	Prescott Heights	W2YAV
147.140+	162.2	Flagstaff-Elden	ARA Link to Ord
147.220+	162.2	Mingus Mountain	VVARA
147.260+	103.5	Mt. Union	YC Emerg.Svcs.
223.960-	127.3	Chino Valley	NW7AZ
442.150+	100.0	Mingus Mountain	Northlink
442.350+	100.0	Glassford Hill	N7KPU
448.475-	100.0	Flagstaff-Eldon	ARA
448.500-	100.0	Prescott	KB7TWC
448.875-	100.0	Flagstaff-Eldon	Northlink
449.175-	100.0	Towers Mountain	Northlink

SK ESTATE SALE

Richard Haskey, KG7BT, of Mesa Arizona passed away June 10th, 2003. He was in business for the past 25 years as a communications contractor. As such, he has a number of items from his estate that his family is ready to sell. Among the many items posted at his web site, are an Icom 756 PRO, ICR7000, ICR7100 and an MFJ-269.

His daughter-in-law was present at the recent hamfest held in Flagstaff where she was handing out flyers that had a listing of his equipment, contact phone number and web page address. According to the information on the web site, the Haskey family is removing his equipment out of his facility by September 1st when they plan to take much of the remaining equipment with them.

Among his broadcasting equipment are: FM, AM, Monitors, Signal generators, dummy loads, connectors and rack mounted transmitters and receivers.

For a more complete inventory please visit [//www.westernwirelessworks.com](http://www.westernwirelessworks.com) or email westernwirelessworks@yahoo.com

Rex Mauldin N7NGM

For Sale

Kenwood - TS-430S Xcvr,
AT-250 Ant Tuner,
PS-430 Power Supply,
Antenna, Mike.

TS5220S Kenwood 160-10
meter Transciever w/digital
freqncy display and MC-50
microphone \$350
TEN3 Cushcraft 10 meter
3-element yagi \$60
GTX-2 Genave 2m transciever
10 channel crystal controlled
No PL tone \$20
Antenna Specialists
2m glass mount antenna \$20
Autek QF1-A audio filter \$45
Call Phillip Scott
632-7441 Humboldt, Az.

A Black Border for Us?

The Sunday, June 29th New York Times Book Review critiques the book, *Hello World: A Life in Ham Radio* by Danny Gregory (Princeton Architectural Press).

The review reports that author Gregory failed his amateur radio license test three times when he was a boy of 12 because he never mastered Morse code. Mr. Gregory adds, "I wanted desperately to be a ham, so I saved up, bought an old Hallicrafters shortwave rig and made up my own call sign, which I then printed on QSL cards..." He continues, "Most QSL's were beautiful – not because of their artistic design but because the odd juxtaposition of letters and numerals, along with graphics and cartoons of antennas, radio waves, lightning bolts and technical doodads, gave them the allure of a secret society."

Is that US? Are we a secret society? Is the community service done by individual hams and clubs around the country for naught? Wasn't the amateur's contribution during the painful New York disaster in full view?

Mr. Gregory apparently thinks the collection of "juxtaposed graphics" (a wordy way of saying "attractive") QSL cards is the essence of ham radio. Wouldn't philately and the colorful stamps of foreign lands satisfy the visual desire?

Gregory's opinion is anointed by the Times reviewer Steven Heller with this homily: "This book is a profusely visual, clever and handsomely designed (the title on the book cover is not set in words but in Morse code) paean to ham radio presented through reproductions of hundreds of QSL cards and other ephemera collected and annotated for more than 70 years by an avid New Jersey enthusiast and found by the authors at a flea market after he died. Instant messaging and e-mail have made ham radio virtually obsolete, but these QSL's from all over the world recall the days when strange and wonderful voices filled the airwaves." (my emphasis, K7KOL)

I think these two wordsmiths have totally overlooked the vitality of ham radio.

All hams are familiar with the mundane of clicking away on a key, or speaking

through a mike to some other ham in some other place. These accomplishments are rather routine and earth bound, but it's not mundane to have every NASA space shuttle equipped with ham radio equipment and federally licensed ham radio operators. Is ham radio equipment NEEDED for communications on such a sophisticated vehicle? Of course not; it's done to entice youngsters interested in space to see how cool it is for earth hams to talk to space hams.

Can you imagine the excitement of a young earth ham receiving a QSL card from the space ham? It would be treasured for life, not because of its artistry or juxtaposed graphics, but because it came from an invisible human in an invisible machine in invisible space.

As for IM and e-mail: Yes, they are extremely efficient and easy methods of communicating, and most of us use these media every day, but can they compare to the technical and intellectual challenge posed a ham living in a restricted housing development who covertly constructs an antenna that is invisible to his neighbor? Can it compare to the satisfaction felt by that same ham as he mag-mounts a ham stick on his car parked in the carport, and jumpers with 50 feet of RG8 to his desk mounted transceiver to pump out 100 watts SSB on 20 meters? His C, C & R's don't apply to the car!

And what about typing to a ham in Perth, Australia using your two meter handheld piggybacked to a computer? How can any thoughtful writer opine that ham radio is "obsolete" when we use modern, miniaturized transceivers and cyber technology to communicate around the world?

Anti-ham books aren't flooding the book stores, but something about ham radio fosters this apocalyptic literature. Is our demise forecast because some see ugly in antennas? The case of a 99 foot tower in Tucson comes to mind! Is it because we must pass a test to use our equipment rather than just signing up for cell phone or internet service? A certain amount of jealousy?

Do we need a more sophisticated PR approach? We emphasize crisis communications to the public and that might be our "poison pill"! We know it's a worthy cause, but is the public impressed? It's like the warnings of the "big one"

coming some day in California! We've paraded and accommodated other groups for years, without much notice; but link the kids to astronauts by ham radio, and we get noticed. Maybe that's a clue – doing something that's fun for people, in a one on one encounter.

I don't know, but it's frustrating to see ham radio book reviews that make the hobby appear so superficial. Where has the glamour gone? We need a "quick fix" personality like Arthur Godfrey or Barry Goldwater to stir the public. A quick check of Barnes and Noble on line presents more than 40 titles with the words "ham radio" in them. Most of those were technical, though I found two positive-sounding books about our hobby for a non-ham reader, and one negative – Gregory's.

I'm prejudiced, and I'm preaching to the choir when I say, "what we do is important", but it's "spittin in the wind" if we can't influence authors to write more positive literature. Any ideas? ANYONE??

Our hobby is just that – A HOBBY. We're not *Yahoo* or *Microsoft* or *AT&T*. We have fun finding ways around the speed bumps a more "technically fickle" society places in our path. I got the greatest kick from my hobby last Field Day when I sat in my kayak on Willow Lake, talking to Len KB7FRV, Walt WF7J and Tony W7PCU using my two meter handheld, and signing as K7KOL/Maritime Mobile!!

Who ever heard of a maritime mobile in a desert state? The salutation would be meaningless using IM or e-mail.

We won't expire; we'll just keep changing with the times and enjoy the new challenges. The hobby will be here for as long as electrons are willing to jump from negative to positive, (or are they going the other way today?) and the curious are willing to snare them, mid air. Bring on the black border crapehangers; we'll over-ride them with inquiry, enthusiasm and enjoyment.

73's
Bob Kane
K7KOL/terra firma
070503

Weekly Information Net

Wednesday Nights @ 7:00 pm 144.880 (100 PL)

If you don't have PL, transmit on 144.880 simplex when the repeater drops out.

All amateurs welcome

Monthly Meeting

3rd Thursday at Granite Middle School @ 7:00pm

(N 34°43'56" W 112°27'15.4")

Next Meeting Thurs. Sept. 18, 2003 7 pm

Wednesday morning breakfast–*Iron Horse Cafe*

S. Hwy 89 in Chino Valley

(N 34°43'55.5" W 112°27'15.4")

Informal –All are invited

Thursday morning breakfast–*Michael's Restaurant*

in the Safeway Shopping Center,

Hwy 69 Prescott Valley

(N 34°35'13.33" W 112°19'44.6")

Informal–All are invited

Location data provided by Fred Zimmerman NPJ, per WSG84 Datum



YAVAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. BOX 11994

PRESCOTT, AZ 86304

Visit us on the web at: <http://www.w7yrc.org>

Many thanks to Bob Smith, WB6ODR, our Webmaster

