



YAVAPAI SIGNAL



The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club • Prescott, Arizona • DM-34 • Volume 30 - No. 4A • April 2015

From the President's Desk ...



Reflecting over the past six months or so, our club has had a number of events, which to me are exciting. The introduction of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) within the club has led to the creation of a weekly 10 meter SSB net, which is open to licensed hams. The Arduino and Raspbrry Pi SIG delivered a presentation and demos for the March meeting program on some new and interesting digital technologies. The weekly two meter FM and SSB nets are active. In March, Randy, W6TYV rolled out an updated version of the club's website, which should provide us with new capabilities. We are acquiring a new FM/ C4FM Digital Mode 440 MHz repeater which will be installed on Mt. Union. This new repeater will provide us with improved coverage and an introduction to a newer technology. As always, our public service events offer interesting experiences in providing community service, applying and growing our operating skills, and providing a means to meet other hams in the area. These engaging activities are due to the involvement and dedication of a good number of club members.

The number of club members on the roster seems to hover around the 200 mark. This actually is a large number for a group like ours. The challenge for a large club is to welcome new members and make them feel at home. We have re-initiated a buddy mentor program to help new hams master the intricacies of our hobby and grow with it. Hopefully this will help new hams retain and grow the excitement over time. If you are a fairly new ham and would like a buddy mentor, please contact Don Bauer, WB7TPH.

For existing club members, I would encourage you to make a point of reaching out to new members. Introduce yourself. Try to get to know them a little bit and offer a friendly face at the meetings. For new members, getting

involved in our varied club activities is a great way to feel a part of our group. I have already touched on a number of these activities in this column. A great way to see what's going with these and other activities is to check out the club website calendar, maintained by Tom, WN7E. The calendar is packed with activities and normally has details regarding times, locations, and contact persons. Becoming engaged in our club is everyone's responsibility, for both new and existing members. If you would like help in becoming involved in some club activity, let me know.

As always, let the board know how we are doing and things that you would like to see in the future. Hope to see you at the April meeting.

73 – Frank, K8FB

Membership Count:

1st Thurs. in February.....	201
Gain/Loss.....	+8
1st Thurs. in March.....	209

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Welcome to the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) is an ARRL affiliated Special Service Club. The club participates in many activities in the tri-city area by providing communications for local events, emergency communications, 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/year (Full-time students \$15). The YARC meets at 7:00 p.m. local time on the first Thursday of every month in the Technology Room 404, at the Granite Mountain Middle School, 1800 Williamson Valley Road in Prescott. It is about ½ mile north of Iron Springs road, 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 p.m. local time on 147.260+ repeater. A PL of 103.5 is required. All amateurs are invited to participate, and visitors are always welcome.

The Yavapai County ARES/RACES Net is held on Monday nights approximately at 7:00 p.m. local time on the 145.290- repeater on Mingus Mountain. A PL of 127.3 is required.

Club Repeater

The YARC 146.880- repeater is located on the hill above Willow Creek road and requires a PL of 100.0 Hz. Our deepest gratitude to Bill Kafka, W2YAV, (SK) for allowing us to acquire the original club repeater. ■

April Program

In our April meeting, Bud Semon, N7CW will be telling us about his latest DXpedition adventures in Kuwait, just miles from the Iraqi border.

Bud and his associates operated 9K2HN in the CQ World Wide CW contest in November. Find out why Bud's family no longer notices that he is not present at Thanksgiving celebrations. Maybe we will also learn where 9K2HN ended up placing in this past year's contest.



Moving Reminder

Our gracious host, Terry Pemberton, KB7TRE is being transferred to Mile High Middle School, near Montezuma and Carleton. As a result, our last meeting at Granite Mountain Middle School is planned for May. It is not clear where the June meeting will be held, but we should be able to meet at Mile High Middle School in July. Stay tuned for further details. ■



Member Vote Participation

Thank you to all the members who participated in the March vote on the Yaesu repeater purchase (approved) and the Van Donation Offer by Pete Morrison, K6VVR (not accepted). We greatly appreciate Pete's generous offer. Joe Oliver, AC6AA estimated that approximately 90 members were present for the March meeting, which noticeably exceeds our normal meeting attendance. I also received several emails before the March meeting from members who were unable to attend the March meeting, expressing their opinions on the issues being voted on. Everyone's participation and input on these two issues are greatly appreciated.

73 – Frank, K8FB



Club Bylaws Amendments

As required by the current Club Bylaws, written copies of the proposed Bylaw amendments were distributed in the March club meeting. These proposed amendments are to be voted on in the April club meeting. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present at the meeting is required to pass the amendments. A copy of the proposed amendments has been posted on the club's website.

Following is a summary of the Bylaws amendments:

1. An interest bearing checking account will no longer be required for treasury funds, as these types of checking accounts are normally no longer offered by banks.
2. The member roster will be required to be maintained by the Treasurer instead of the Secretary. This is because funds are submitted to the Treasurer with new applications and membership renewals, so it makes sense for the Treasurer to maintain the roster.
3. Article XI – Spending Authority is being added. Spending authority had previously not been addressed in the Bylaws. Following is a summary of the proposed spending authorizations:
 - a. The President can authorize expenditures up to \$150
 - b. The Board can authorize expenditures up to \$300
 - c. Members at a regular club meeting can authorize expenditures up to \$3,000
 - d. Expenditures over \$3,000 must be approved by a majority vote of a minimum of 40% of the members on the club roster. The means for assuring that 40% will participate in the vote is left to the board. With the recent repeater purchase and van donation votes taking place, approximately 90 members attended the March meeting, which exceeds the proposed 40% requirement. ■

Yaesu Repeater Purchase

The club members voted in the March meeting to take advantage of Yaesu's special offer to purchase the DR1-X Fusion dual band repeater at a heavily discounted price of \$500. The repeater will work on FM and on the C4FM digital mode. The purchase order has been sent to Yaesu and we are awaiting delivery. Plans are for the repeater to be installed on Mt. Union as the club's 440 MHz repeater. The repeater can be easily reconfigured for use on 2 meters if the opportunity presents itself.

It is with pleasure to inform you that an anonymous member has donated the money to cover the cost of the new Yaesu repeater. This member is greatly appreciative of what the club means to the donor and what this new technology offers to the club. The club's thanks go out to this member for the very generous donation.

73 – Frank, K8FB

Minutes of the February 26, 2015 Board of Director's Meeting

Present at Meeting: WB7TPH, KE6QZD, N7NGM, W6TYV, KF7YZJ, K8FB

Meeting called to Order by K8FB at: _1800___ hrs

Agenda:

Old Business:

- Treasurer's Report and Meeting Minutes:- K8FB - Signal deadline for submission is 18th of month. February meeting minutes were not published
- Trade Mark Renewal Status – KE6QZD reported that the applications were returned with errors noted. Signatures need to be notarized and no cross outs are permitted. To be corrected and re-submitted.
- Magnetic Vehicle Signs – 8 signs received by WB7TPH to be used on personal vehicles at club sanctioned events. Not permitted to be used on

the MARC.

- Yavapai Hamfest Status – K8FB contacted ERAU. Pretty well booked with summer camps. Past hamfests in early May. K8FB to check with WB6ODR regarding details of past club hamfests.
- 2015 Field Day Status –Dearing Park is a Field Day possibility. W6TYV will check with NFS for possibly sites.
- New Web Site Status – W6TYV reports new site nearly ready to go with new club logo. Agreed that go live would be on 3/15/15. Archive files will be backed up.
- Bylaws Modification Review – modifications to be submitted at club meeting. Will also post on web site.
 - o Roster maintenance by Treasurer instead of Secretary – Board approved
 - o Club expenditure authorizations – Board approved with the following changes
 - President’s limit increased to \$150
 - Board limit remains at \$300
 - Regular membership meeting limit increased up to \$3000
 - Majority of 40% of members on roster required to approve anything over \$3000
 - o Removal of requirement for interest bearing checking account – Board approved
- Shortening the Business Meeting – K8FB will continue to work this issue. K8FB has received comments that the new member introduction format is well received.
- Van Donation –Status – N7NGM reported that the van can’t be moved without insurance and thus the mechanic appointment had to be cancelled. Board voted 5 to 1 to recommend that the club not accept the donation, but unanimously voted to submit to the membership whether or not to accept the dona-

tion. This would allow the club to take ownership of the van and get it insured, registered, so that it can be taken to the mechanic for evaluation. Once the evaluation is completed, a vote to approve potential van expenditures would be undertaken by the membership. If van expenditures are not approved by the membership, the club would dispose of the van, reported to be worth around \$750. K8FB to confirm this approach with K6VVR.

New Business:

- Ham of the Month award for March - Award to Arduino and Raspberry Pi presentation group after the presentation/ demo.
- Upcoming Program Events – WB7TPH reported the following tentative program schedule: April - N7CW Kuwait DXpedition; May – 10 Meter dipole construction activity in support of 10 meter net; June - Satellite presentation; September - N7CW, LOTW presentation. W7SUA has offered to do a digital voice presentation. Other clubs have done a movie night where old amateur radio movies have been shown.
- Yaesu New Repeater Offer and Response to Members Comments and Questions – K8FB will email comments and questions responses to members. Through an email vote on 2/15/15, the board voted to recommend purchase of the repeater. A vote on the purchase by the membership is scheduled for 3/5/15.
- Annual Budget Possibility – K8FB proposed that the board consider creation of an annual budget to show ongoing allocation of monthly expenditures and establishment of a reserve to cover unexpected expenses. To be considered at a later board meeting.
- Club QSL Cards – KV8TD submitted a new QSL card format in the March Signal. Doug has suggested having 3,000 cards printed up by his realtor, at no cost to the club, for use by any club member who wants to overprint their call and info.
- Club on FaceBook – suggestion of Tony, KI6AHH – W6TYV reported that Facebook account

“W7YRC” has been created. KI6AHH can be made administrator by W6TYV if he “likes” the site.

- Buddy Mentor Program – WB7TPH reported that two hams have requested to be assigned mentors so far. Don wrote an article on the program that appears in the March Signal.
- Williams Hamfest Participation – WB7TPH reported that the Williams Hamfest is the last full weekend of July (24, 25, and 26). Board approved \$80 for rental of four spaces for the club, requesting the same spaces as in 2014. The club will continue to take donations for sale at the hamfest and also do consignment sales. K8FB reported that N7CW requested that the club actively participate in the ARCA Repeater Owners meeting at the Williams hamfest, to see about opening up more 2 meter frequency pairs for mountain top repeaters.
- Scholarships – K8FB suggested the club consider creating an annual college scholarship to be awarded to a deserving club member attending a local university. Consideration deferred to a later meeting.

Adjournment: K8FB adjourned the meeting at 2005 hrs.

Respectfully submitted by
Frank Bender, YARC president

Interdependency, The Need For Others In Order To Succeed

By Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

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All relationships require effort from all who are involved. Member recruiting and retention has long been a challenge for local clubs and cultivating interpersonal relationships with your club members is important to achieving the goals of the club and its members.

As people we are independent, capable of our own thoughts, actions and opinions but as members of society we are interdependent and rely on others to fill certain

needs. As radio amateurs our interdependence is as basic as the need to have another radio operator to establish a contact. The local club fills a need beyond this basic illustration and provides where we can go to meet with friends and share knowledge and experiences.

If the needs of the individual are the Ying then the Yang must be needs of the club as an organization. Clubs need members to manage club business and perform the jobs required to operate a successful club. One does not have to look too far to see that successful clubs rely on synergistic roles that benefit both the individual and the organization. If a club provides a way for non hams to get licensed then the club will recruit new members. The club that offers classes for licensed hams to upgrade will retain members. Active hams that are willing to share their experience will teach the newcomers who then become club members and so-on and so-on.

Clubs that seek perfection and a world all the members get along and agree on everything are striving for an unrealistic goal and often end up in discontent. Healthy and active clubs tend to work together as a group toward a common goal. Setting the goal can be a democratic process, which in itself is a healthy activity, however once the objective is set it takes the effort of everyone to achieve the result. For club leadership, it is your job to keep the members focused on the mission. Club members also have a responsibility to the club by supporting the mission and not undermining the project just so they can say "I told you so."

People joined your club to get involved. One of the best ways to keep club members is to include them in club business and activities and most importantly, recognize your people for their contributions to the club. Your club newsletter is a terrific vehicle for recognizing members who participate in club activities and programs.

Sometimes a special presentation or award may be in line with a member's exemplary involvement. The actual deed is not as important as is the recognition of the people who make it all possible. When others see that the club appreciates the work of the members then more people will be willing to take on jobs and run for office.

Mutual effort must be ongoing if a club is to recruit and retain members. ■



**Yavapai Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 11994
Prescott, AZ 86304-1994**

**TREASURER'S REPORT
February 2015**

			General Fund	Repeater Fund
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE - January 31, 2015			\$ 11,024.24	\$ 2,553.75
Description	Call	Amount		Amount
x Dues - Rick Cofone	K2CRC	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 2.00
x Dues - Richard Taylor	KG7BGW	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 2.00
x Dues - Doug Meyer	KF7YZJ	Cash \$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 2.00
x Dues - George Imburgia	AD7RL	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 2.00
x Dues - Forest Murdock	WH6EAL	Cash \$ 13.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 1.50
x Dues - Richard Boller	AF6PE	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 2.00
x Dues - MaryJo Boller	KG7ERK	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
x Dues - Bryan Whipp	W7BNW	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 2.00
x Dues - Theresa Whipp	W7TRW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
x Dues - Jackie Rose	KB0YYG	NEW \$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 7.00
x Dues - John Szelka	A11K	NEW \$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 2.00
x Dues - Dale Montgomery	AD7NQ	Cash \$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 2.00
x Dues - Ken Nelson	KF7MMS	cash \$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 2.00
x Dues - Brian Ferguson	KK6PGR	cash \$ 13.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 1.50
x Dues - Branden Johel	KG7GLX	cash \$ 13.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 1.50
x Dues - Steve Kile	KG7PAO	cash \$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 2.00
x Dues - Charles Henry	KG7RGK	cash \$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 2.00
x Dues - Bob Thompson	KC8BOB	cash \$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 2.00
x Dues - Christopher Cone	KG7GTZ	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 2.00
x Dues - Paul Compton	WA7US	Cert \$ -	\$ -	\$ -
x Badges - Kathy Laing	KJ6KMK	cash \$ 7.00		
x Badges - John Laing	K7PRS	cash \$ 7.00		
x Badges - Charles Henry	KG7RGK	cash \$ 7.00		
x Badges - George Steiner	KG7LMK	cash \$ 7.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 3.00
x Badges - Tom Azlin	W7SUA	cash \$ 21.00		
ARRL - Jkohn Broughton	WB9VGJ	\$ 39.00		
Donation -				
50/50 Raffle		\$ 70.00		
50/50 Raffle - (Winners Name)		\$ (35.00)		
Interest Income				\$ -
TOTAL INCOME			\$ 415.50	\$ 40.50
Description	Check #	Amount		Amount
Christmas Pary Supplies - Tom Griswald	1235	\$ 36.08		
Forms - Forest Murdock	1236	\$ 45.75		
Printing Supplies - Staples	ATM	\$ 65.19		
Web Software	ATM	\$ 89.00		
NRA Cert- Terry Pemberton	1237	\$ 63.71		
Party Rembs - David Passell	1238	\$ 22.00		
Cookies - David Passell	1239	\$ 37.50		
ARRL Patches- Don Bauer	ATM	\$ 60.00		
Badges - Erica Simpson	Cash	\$ 49.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$ 468.23	\$ -
ENDING CASH BALANCE - February 28, 2015			\$ 10,971.51	\$ 2,594.25

Signature: *Tracey A. Dashiell*
Tracey A. Dashiell, KE6QZD, Treasurer

Date: 02/28/15

Yavapai Amateur Radio Club to Conduct Free Ham Radio License Course

May 2, 2015

By Jack Crabtree, W7JLC

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club will conduct a free, one day, amateur radio course for those wishing to obtain their entry level ham radio license. This Technician Class License course will be on Saturday, May 2, 2015. No Morse code is required.

The class will be conducted at the Jeep Posse Bldg. in Pioneer Park off Commerce Drive behind the outdoor hockey rink in Prescott, AZ.

The course will start at 8:00 A.M. and will conclude about 4:30 P.M. There will be a half hour lunch break at about noon. Students should bring a sack lunch.

Preregistration is requested for the class. Contact Jack Crabtree at classes@w7yrc.org.

Once registered, you will be provided additional information including ordering a recommended but optional license study manual at a group discount rate.

This class will be followed by an examination session the next Saturday, May 9, 2015 at the same location. For additional information on the exam, see http://www.w7yrc.org/ve_testing.htm.

Badges and Patches

Members can purchase a club badge with their name and call from our Treasurer, Tracy, KE6QZD for \$7. Club patches can be purchased for \$3 each.

Shirts

Club shirts with the member's name and call can be purchased from Pete, K6VVR for \$24. Shirts without the name and call can be purchased for \$20.

YARC Officers for 2015

President

Frank Bender, K8FB
president@w7yrc.org

Vice President

Rex Mauldin, N7NGM
vice.president@w7yrc.org

Secretary

Forrest Murdoch, WH6EAL
secretary@w7yrc.org

Treasurer

Tracey Dashiell, KE6QZD
treasurer@w7yrc.org

Board of Directors (includes Club Officers)

Don Bauer -- WB7TPH

Doug Freeman -- KV8TD

Doug Meyer -- KF7YZJ

Randy Dashiell -- W6TYV

Newsletter Editor: Joe Oliver, AC6AA
newsletter@w7yrc.org

Need a Hand?

If you need assistance, we want to help you. If you are just starting out in ham radio, or simply have run across something that you could use a hand with... technical assistance or answers to questions about the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club, are available from knowledgeable club members.



Don't Hesitate to Ask for Help!!

CALL:

Bud Semon, N7CW at: (928) 899-7400

or

Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ at (928) 713- 0542

Need Cards Checked for ARRL Operating Awards?

Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ can check your QSL cards for DXCC, WAS, VUCC, WAC, etc.

For information contact Jim at: (928) 713-0542.

Jim's QTH is at: 778 Grapevine Lane,
Prescott, AZ 86305.

Ham of the Month Award

By Frank Bender, K8FB

A very interesting presentation and demonstration was provided at the March meeting by the Arduino/ Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group (SIG). Their presentation is posted on the club's website under Club/Club Program Presentations. Our thanks go to SIG members Chuck, KE7SA; Russ, AD6ZL; Dan, AE7IH; and Tom, W7SUA who presented the material and were awarded March's Hams of the Month recognition award.

The Special Interest Group program, instituted at the end of last year, seems to be very popular with the club. Already March's program and the weekly 10 meter net have resulted from the SIGs efforts. We look forward to seeing additional programs and activities out of the SIGs.



L to R: Dan, AE7IH, Chuck, KE7SA, Tom, W7SUA, and Russ, AD6ZL, receive the group Ham of the Month Award.

A Thank you From Jan Halgunseth

Frank - YARC President,
I would like to thank the
Yavapai Amateur Radio Club
for their donation to the
ARRL in memory of my
husband, Lloyd Halgunseth
It is very much appreciated,
Sincerely,
Jan Halgunseth

Yavapai Amateur Radio Club made a donation to ARRL to purchase a memorial brick in honor of Lloyd Halgunseth, WA6ZZJ

Creighton Grotbeck's (AD7YR) New Son

Creighton and his wife, Stephanie, are the proud parents of their new son, Connor. Connor was born on February 19th, which is also Creighton's birthday. His birth weight was 6 lbs 12 oz. Mother and baby are doing fine. Creighton hopes to get back to his normal activities once Connor begins sleeping through the night. Congratulations go out to Creighton and Stephanie on the birth of Connor.



Connor Grotbeck

VE Testing

By Don Bauer, WB7TPH

If you are thinking of upgrading or want that first license, please don't forget to pre-register for the May 9th test. And for anyone who needs a class to prepare for the Technician test, that is scheduled for May 2nd. Both the class and the test are at the Jeep Posse building in Pioneer Park.

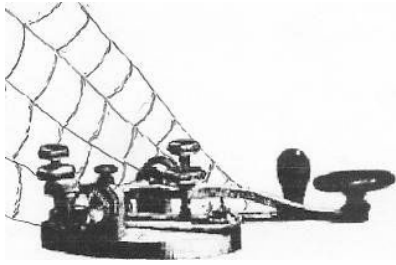
The 66th Annual International DX Convention



Sponsored by the Northern California DX Club will be held again at the Visalia Conference Center in downtown Visalia, California from April 17-19, 2015.

For more information: www.dxconvention.com/

Joan Tremper, AB7KE Silent Key



Ab7ke Joan Tremper became a silent key on March 15, 2015. She passed away peacefully at the Good Samaritan Marley House in Prescott in the early morning hours yesterday, losing a long fight with Alzheimer's.

She was a member of the VVARA and MMRG clubs.

Her family has decided there will be no funeral or memorial services. We will remember her as the vibrant, outgoing, and loving person we knew and loved.

Claude Tremper {Charlie}

Joan Tremper was Quite a Lady

By Erika Shiltneck, KI7JZ

Joan Tremper was quite the lady – silent, but with strong values and always there if needed. For 5 years she checked on me daily to see if I was OK, since I have no relatives and am 87 years old.

She was a member of the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club for at least 10 years, and the unofficial photographer for the Ham clubs (YARC and VVARA). She went to all the parties, and attended weekly luncheons with her husband.

There was many a stranded Ham who was rescued because she monitored the radio and answered distress calls.

She loved dogs, but when the last one died, she switched to cats – a happy thing except the day she went out into the yard and found one hanging by the

collar from a tree – dead – caught while trying to jump down.

She had strong values and was an old time V.E. Test Administrator for years, until one short tempered superior (years ago) decided to read her out for noise...that was the end of V.E. Testing.

Joan had a real estate license and was shafted by a local doctor – an event which was not to be forgotten for years. She was loyal, but did not forget those who were not the same.

Joan and Charlie built – hand built – their home in Alaska, as well as some of their home on Williamson Valley Road. She was a tiny thing and it was amazing what she accomplished – fetes most would not try.

She kept her promises and one could trust her with their life if she took on the task.

I miss her. KI7JZ :>(

THE IMPORTANCE OF ARRL MEMBERSHIP

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated club, and as such, our membership roster must have a minimum of 51 percent ARRL members. Therefore it is important we maintain this requirement to remain an ARRL affiliated club.

If you are not presently a member of the ARRL, or if your membership has lapsed for more than two years, there is a good way to join the ARRL and benefit our club as well.

ARRL Membership Application forms can be obtained from the YARC web site: <http://www.w7yrc.org/>, or ask our Treasurer for a Special ARRL Club Membership Application.

Complete the Application and return it to the Treasurer with the application fee.

There is no extra cost to you, and our club gets to retain a portion of the dues. ■



What do we expect from YARC?

By Don Bauer, WB7TPH

I was having a discussion recently with other YARC members, and have come to the conclusion that some of us expect the club to be our supply/equipment warehouse. I truly think that this is unrealistic. But, let me backup a bit.

When operating a club station such as the one at the school, it is not unreasonable to use the equipment that is in place and ready for operation. Further, almost every member has some VHF radio(s). Many have HF radio equipment as well. I am the recipient of a "loaner" HF rig for which I am grateful. I have found that I enjoy HF very much and without the borrowed radio, I would not be operating "worldwide". So, it doesn't have to be a situation of "I can't get there unless the club provides the means".

So, if I (or you) want to operate from a club station, I can do it. If I want to operate from home, I can do it. Now, what about events such as Field Day, or other remote operations? Here is where the sport of amateur radio comes into play. We recently had a contest to build and demonstrate a radio go-kit. We had four entries in the contest. Each entrant demonstrated a self contained means of taking radio into the field. The purposes of that contest were to show creativity and to make up rigs that could be deployed for events such as Field Day. It is possible to do remote operation with my own go-kit, or buddy up with someone else who has completed such a kit. Of course, if you want to go VHF/UHF, you probably are already mobile/portable.

All of the above suggests that YARC need not supply field radios, trailers, vans, land yachts etc. for club members to utilize. What should the function of YARC be in support of remote operations? My opinion may vary from others; so make up your own mind. But, from this writer's perspective, the club can and should provide for a comfortable group setting that promotes amateur radio and the enjoyment of club members. Supporting the group effort means providing folding tables, a few chairs (most of us have camp chairs), some pop-up tents for shade, a portable generator, solar power (if there is sufficient interest) and perhaps, a BBQ grill for picnics. These are the ancillary items that fall under the mantle of support for field operations. Of course, smaller items end up in the equipment locker as well, such as power cables, coax, even antenna masts (remember the antenna is part of the go-kit you built, right?) and lights for night operations. All of these are intended to support the effort of the radio owner/

operator. It seems to me that this is the proper scenario for the club. It may even require a utility trailer at some point to carry the supplies, but probably not a traveling radio station.

I want to remind myself from time to time why I got into this hobby in the first place; I like to build things and play radio. I should be as self-sufficient as possible. Maybe not as much as I would like (I haven't won the lottery) but as much as I can achieve. I think I need to find a 10M band pass filter for my HTX-10, so that I can sit next to you while you operate on 20M at Field Day. See you there amigo! ■

Club contacts - At a Glance

President - K8FB	president@w7yrc.org
Vice President - N7NGM	vice.president@w7yrc.org
Secretary - WH6EAL	secretary@w7yrc.org
Treasurer - KE7QZD	treasurer@w7yrc.org
Board Member - WB7TPH	wb7tph@w7yrc.org
Board Member - KV8TD	kv8td@w7yrc.org
Board Member - KF7YZJ	kf7yzj@w7yrc.org
Board Member - W6TYV	w6tyv@w7yrc.org
Arizona WAC Administrator	az.wac@w7yrc.org
Ask Elmer for Help	ask.elmer@w7yrc.org
Badges	badges@w7yrc.org
Calender	calendar@w7yrc.org
Events	events@w7yrc.org
Field Day Chairman	field.day@w7yrc.org
Fox Hunts	fox.hunt@w7yrc.org
Information	info@w7yrc.org
License Classes	classes@w7yrc.org
Mail List	yarc_mail@w7yrc.org
Mentors	mentor@w7yrc.org
Membership Application	membership@w7yrc.org
Newsletter Editor	newsletter@w7yrc.org
Nominations	nominations@w7yrc.org
Program Inputs	programs@w7yrc.org
Public Information Officer	pio@w7yrc.org
Public Service	public.service@w7yrc.org
Repeater Trustee	repeater@w7yrc.org
School Clubs	school.clubs@w7yrc.org
Vendors	vendors@W7yrc.org
VE Test Liaison	testing@w7yrc.org
YARC Party Coordinator	yarc.party@w7yrc.org
Webmaster	webmaster@w7yrc.org
Weekly Nets	www.w7yrc.org/ weekly_net.htm

March 2015 Foxhunt

By John Broughton, WB9VGJ

The monthly foxhunt was held Sunday, March 8th. Jeff, WB7RFY, and I, WB9VGJ, were the foxes again as no hunters found the hidden transmitters before the time ran out last month.



We had five teams of hunters:

1. Bob, WB6ODR, and Linda, KD7EEO.
2. Randy, W6TYV and Tracey, KE6QCD.
3. Diane, KE7ODP, and Patrick, KG7EWD.
4. Clayton, KJ6QJS, Brian, KK6PGR, and Forrest, WH6EAL.
5. Ron, KC0TGG, and Dave, W7BJ.

It was a successful hunt and all hunters arrived at the park and only a couple failed to find the primary transmitter and only a couple failed to find the secondary one.

I had promised the hunters a less challenging hunt this month. I chose Pioneer Park as the place to hide the transmitters. We hid the primary transmitter in a tree branch a short way off the trail to some picnic tables. Jeff picked the spot for the secondary transmitter and buried it in a sand pile. I buried a Styrofoam cup I found on the ground a few feet away from the transmitter as a decoy and several hunters did look under it only to find the transmitter wasn't there.

Randy and Tracey were the first ones to arrive at the park. However, they were not the first to find the transmitters as Randy didn't have sufficient attenuation to be able to do so. I discovered that, at the location from which Jeff and I watched the hunters, the signal from the primary transmitter was just as strong directly away from it as facing it. Forrest and his team were the first to find the primary transmitter, with Forrest being first on the team.

The certificate that Jeff has made for the winner(s) of the hunt was made out to N7ERU, the Eagle Amateur Radio Club at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, as the winning team members are all members of the club and

they wanted some wallpaper for their ham shack.

Congratulations to Forrest, Clayton and Brian! Forrest promised a challenging hunt in April.

We had our usual social get-together after the hunt. It was another fun Sunday in beautiful, sunny Arizona.

You can see pictures of the hunt at:

<http://tinyurl.com/YARCFoxhuntMarch2015>

We would encourage more folks to get involved in the hidden transmitter hunts. They are really fun and help develop direction-finding skills.

73,

John, WB9VGJ

Severe Solar Storm In March Disrupts Ham Communications.

A severe solar storm smacked Earth with a surprisingly big geomagnetic jolt Tuesday March 17, potentially affecting power grids and GPS tracking while pushing the colorful northern lights farther south, federal forecasters said. So far, no damage has been reported.



Two blasts of magnetic plasma left the sun on Sunday, combined and arrived on Earth about 15 hours earlier and much stronger than expected, said Thomas Berger, director of the Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colorado. This storm ranks a 4, called severe, on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's 1-to-5 scale for geomagnetic effects.

It is the strongest solar storm to blast Earth since the fall of 2013. It's been nearly a decade since a level 5 storm, termed extreme, has hit Earth.

YARC EVENT COMMUNICATIONS.....

By Patti, KD7VBG



Upcoming Public Service Event Communications.....

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2015 will be the three day **Whiskey Off Road** mountain bike event in Prescott. They are anticipating close to 2000 riders

this year so our communications will be very important to the success of this event, as we found out last year when the weather turned nasty stranding some riders on the course. Signups continue and at the April Meeting

Saturday, May 2nd, 2015 The Whiskey Row Marathon - YARC's long standing participation in support of the Prescott YMCA. Signups continue and at the April Meeting.

Saturday, May 2nd, 2015 will be the Chino Valley Grinder. With it being on the same day as the Whiskey Row Marathon, Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, has stepped up to coordinate this event

Saturday, May 30th, 2015 The Mountain Mayhem Bike Event - Will be the second annual for this event. The course might be slightly different this year; details to follow as time gets closer. Signups continue and at April Meeting.

Will Post September and October events after May Events are over.

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There will sign up sheets at the April YARC Meeting or you can sign up on line. See me at the meetings.

TACTICAL CALL SIGNS.....

tactical call sign (*plural tactical call signs*)

- 1. A call sign which identifies a tactical command or tactical communication facility.

TACTICAL NET OPERATIONS, PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS BACKGROUND: Amateur radio has a long standing tradition of providing support in events where the

official sponsoring organization cannot provide all the communications required for adequate public safety. Competent service rendered by amateurs has proven valuable, and often essential, to public safety in these events by providing rapid alerting of officials when people need help.

The use of Tactical Calls at Public Service Events is becoming more and more common place and it is legal. The use of tactical calls can and does increase the efficiency and speed in identifying a specific function or person. They also eliminate confusion when working with other agencies that have no idea what an amateur radio call sign is or means. Using "Rest Stop 1 from Net Control" is a lot easier and to the point than "K5XXX this is W4III." The assignment of tactical call should, if possible, relate to the amateurs function at the event. Tactical calls such as "Sag 1, Aid Station 4, Police 2, First Aid, Logistics" and so on provide a verbal "picture" of the function. The use of tactical call signs at an event does not relieve the amateur radio operator of the responsibility of identifying his or her self with their FCC assigned call sign. As required in Part 97.119(a) of the FCC Regulations, the amateur radio station must transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting frequency at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication.

By using Tactical Call Signs, the net can be conducted without regard to which operator is at the radio. They identify the position and not the operator.

*Use the Tactical Call Sign to identify your transmission and address another station by its Tactical Call Sign.

*No call sign is necessary in a two-way conversation once the communications has been established.

*To comply with FCC rules, add your FCC call sign to your last transmission in a series. Also this will let Net Control knows that you are finished with your traffic. If for some reason the transmission is over 10 Minutes, which during events are rare, then you must identify per the 10 minutes rule.

*It is not necessary to add the receiving party's call sign, just your own.

Example:

*Aid Station Two: *Aid Station Two*

*Net Control: *Aid Station Two*

*Aid Station Two: *The first runner has passed this location #1234*

*Net Control: *I copy, W7YRC*

*Aid Station Two: *K7XXX*

OR:

*Aid Station Two: *Aid Station Two*

*Net Control: *Aid Station Two*

*Aid Station Two: *The first runner has passed this location #1234 K7XXX*

*Net Control: *I copy, W7YRC*

AN EASY WAY TO REMEMBER IS TO ESTABLISH CONTACT USING YOUR TACTICAL CALL, AND END THE CONTACT WITH YOUR FCC CALL TO SIGNIFY THE END OF YOUR TRANSMISSION...


Your Tactical Call Sign can be found on the assignment sheet to the left of your call sign and name. Tactical Calls will go into effect when the controlled net is activated shortly before the events begin.

We will continue more on Tactical Call Signs and passing traffic in the next newsletter. ■

While traveling overseas, 3 guys were arrested and wrongfully convicted of being spies. They were sentenced to death in the electric chair. When the fateful day came, the first guy was placed in the electric chair and the executioner threw the big switch. Nothing happened. The judge said "this is an omen. You are free to go".

The second guy was placed in the chair. Same results. The judge said "this too is an omen. You are free to go."

The third guy, an Extra Class amateur, was placed in the chair, and before the switch could be thrown to the Zap position, he said "hey fellows, I'm a ham radio operator and if you will re-set the circuit breaker on that panel, I think this thing will probably work just fine."



Summary of Upcoming Club Events

Following is a summary of upcoming club events. For further details and other events, refer to the calendar on the club's website.



Club Meeting – Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 PM – Program: N7CW's Kuwait DXpedition Presentation.

Transmitter Hunt – 1 PM, Sunday April 5. Meet at Arizona State Credit Union parking lot on Gail Gardner Way near Willow Creek Road. Contact: Pete Morrison, K6VVR or John Broughton, WB9VGJ.

Public Service Events – Contact Patti Halgunseth, KD7VBG

- Whiskey Off Road Mountain Bike Event – April 24, 25, and 26
- Whiskey Row Marathon – May 2
- Mountain Mayhem Bike Event – May 16

License Classes – Free Technician Class license class is being offered on May 2d. Anyone wishing to assist with teaching this class, contact Jack Crabtree, W7JLV.

License Tests – The next license exams are scheduled for May 9th.

Williams Hamfest – July 24, 25, and 26 in Williams Arizona

- The club is currently accepting donations of equipment that will be sold at the hamfest.
- The club will also sell members' equipment at the hamfest on consignment.

Weekly Nets – All licensed radio amateur operators are welcome to participate in these nets. Reference the Weekly Nets tab on the club website for further details.

- 2 Meter FM Net – Wednesdays at 1900 on 147.260+, PL 103.5 Hz
- 2 Meter SSB Net – Wednesday at 2000 on 144.220 USB
- 10 Meter SSB Net – Thursdays at 2000 on 28.444 +/- QRM USB
- 220 MHz FM Net – Wednesdays at 1830 on 224.080-, PL 156.7 Hz

Boot my computer

Reprinted from the "PCARA Update", June 2013 issue, courtesy of Malcolm Pritchard, NM9J

I have been looking after small computer systems for a multinational chemical company for quite a long time. Over three decades, I have seen microprocessors advance from handling 8 bits of data to 64 bits of data at a time, random access memory size increase from 8 kilobytes to 8 gigabytes and disk storage move up from 360 kilobyte floppy disks to terabyte sizes.

Along the way, the largest change has been for small computers to become **connected** — first by dial-up modem to central services like CompuServe, then with a local area network covering one or more buildings, and most recently with wide area networks, which can be public or private, national or global. The public wide area network we are most familiar with nowadays is of course the **Internet** and its reach is global.

Small computers have worked their way into our homes and into our radio shacks — so we have had to learn new skills to keep up with a world that is permanently connected. In just the last few weeks, I have heard about four radio amateurs who ran into problems with their home computers. Perhaps some advice from the corporate world might have kept their small systems running longer.

Safe start in a Wi-Fi world

Most home computers have a high-speed connection to the Internet, from a Telco or cable company. In our area, the usual Internet service providers (ISPs) are Cablevision and Verizon.

Those always-on high-speed Internet connections can be the source of all kinds of problems. An unprotected computer connected directly to the Internet is likely to be probed and attacked within a few minutes!

The first line of protection within a home network should be a **router** with network address translation and



If you don't take care, booting your computer might be the only cure.

firewall, positioned between your home computer and the cable modem. You must change the router's default login username and password from the factory settings — be sure to write down the new values. Most home routers include wireless access — you should change the default SSID (service set identifier) and select a suitable level of wireless encryption such as WPA-PSK. The pre-shared-key (wireless password) should be long and complex. There is additional advice on Small Office/Home Office router security at the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team site: <http://www.us-cert.gov/security-publications>.

If your computer is portable, you might be using it away from home, over another organization's Wi-Fi connection. Examples include coffee shops, airports, hotels and train stations. These Wi-Fi networks are frequently unencrypted, meaning that a nearby snooper could monitor your wireless packets. Do *not* send account details, passwords or private data over this type of public network unless you are quite sure the web-site you are using is secure and encrypted, with an <https://> address.

Staying safe

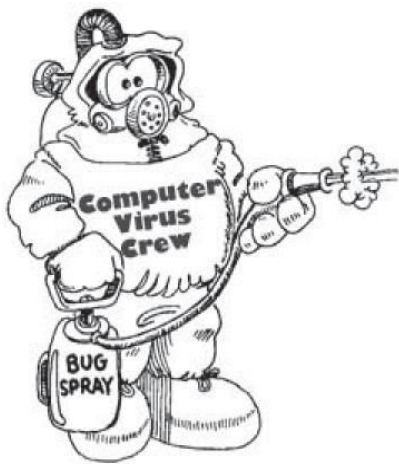
Encrypted Wi-Fi and a correctly-configured router are a good start, but you also need to take active precautions in order to *stay* safe. The first requirement is to keep your computer's operating system and software *up-to-date*. Millions of computers running the same software offer an irresistible temptation for 'hackers' and other ne'er-do-wells, who hope to find exploitable security holes. As a result, Microsoft issues regular security patches on the second Tuesday of every month, known as "Patch Tuesday". You can configure Microsoft Windows to install critical security patches automatically, or to notify you when patches are available so you can select which ones to install yourself. Occasionally, a Microsoft patch will cause more problems than it fixes, and it can be worthwhile checking with alternative sources online

Attacker		
No	IP Address	Frequency
1	112.101.64.168	5
2	60.173.8.247	5
3	60.173.8.239	4
4	60.173.8.248	3
5	60.173.8.246	3

Attacked Category		
No	Category	Frequency
1	DoS/DDoS	71

Report from the Intrusion Protection System (IPS) on a Cisco/Linksys router shows multiple attackers coming in from the Internet. The IP addresses shown are located in China.





that no problems are being experienced before installing each month's patches. Patch installation almost always requires a restart, so be sure to save your work and close applications before rebooting.

These days, popular software from other companies also re-

quires patching. Examples include Java from Sun/Oracle, Flash Player from Adobe and Adobe Reader, also known as Acrobat Reader. Some authorities see so many vulnerabilities in web browsing to sites with executable content such as Java and Flash that they recommend disabling these add-ons altogether, along with Active-X and scripting languages such as JavaScript. Unfortunately, this will also prevent many web sites from operating correctly. If you are using Mozilla's Firefox browser, there is an extension called "NoScript" which prevents executable content on a web site from running unless you trust it. See: <http://noscript.net/> for more details.



Incidentally, use of Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox as alternative browsers to Microsoft's Internet Explorer will reduce your exposure to some types of attack, since these browsers offer a less tempting target and are not tied so closely to the operating system as Microsoft's browser. These alternative browsers also need to be kept up-to-date to avoid vulnerabilities.



Firefox logo

Spam, spam, spam, spam

As well as your web browser, there is another way for temptation to arrive on your computer, and that is through e-mail. Around 80% of all messages are



The origin of "Spam" comes from Monty Python.

unwanted and termed "spam" after the Monty Python sketch where just about every item on a café's menu contains Spam canned meat.

Unsolicited messages might be sent to your e-mail address for legitimate advertising purposes, but they can also be used by miscreants to send you a link to a website containing malware, a script that interferes with your computer, or an executable attachment. These messages often originate from countries such as China, Russia, Ukraine or Brazil and might be composed in broken English. Others are written by experts to look exactly like an official communication from a business, bank or government agency that you already deal with.

There are several approaches to this problem. The first is to be ultra-cautious whenever you receive an unexpected e-mail message, remembering that it is relatively easy to "spoof" or mask the true source of a message and substitute a more trustworthy "From" address. Never open an attachment that accompanies unexpected e-mail, and never, ever click on a web link inside any such a message. It is quite simple for the originator to display a visible, trustworthy <http:// address> that links to a totally different web site — probably in one of those dubious countries from which most spam originates. (For a list, see: [http:// www.spamhaus.org/statistics/countries/](http://www.spamhaus.org/statistics/countries/)). And be wary about "phishing" sites that trick you into revealing personal information such as your SSN, bank account, credit card or e-mail logon details.

There are opportunities for filtering Spam *before* it reaches your Inbox. Some Internet service providers have a facility such as Barracuda for safely previewing suspect messages on a secure web site *before* you release valid items to your mailbox. Another approach is to run Spam filtering software on your *own* PC — my own choice is Mailwasher Pro (see: <http://www.mailwasher.net/>). These programs filter incoming e-mail based on source and content, but you can also white-list your own friends and blacklist known sources of problem e-mail.



"Mailwasher" filters incoming e-mail before it reaches your mail program's Inbox

If you are using a program such as Microsoft Outlook 200x to read e-mail, there is a built-in Junk E-mail Filter with monthly updates This built-in

capability is of some use, but I would not rely on it as your sole protection against spam.

One last hint — in Windows Explorer, uncheck the option to “Hide extensions for known file types”. This will display file-name extensions such as .exe, .zip, .bat, .doc, etc., giving you some forewarning about what will happen when a file is opened.

Something for nothing

There is a variety of free and low-cost software available on the Internet. Some is from large, reputable companies, while other items might be offered by a one-man business with limited support capabilities. In the world of amateur radio, there are many hobbyists and small companies who nevertheless offer good products. Part of the fun of our hobby is investigating these low-cost opportunities — but you should always be a little cautious. Before you download free software, carry out a search on the Internet to make sure there are no reports of hidden malware or unwanted interactions with other products. If the software offers to install additional items such as a browser toolbar, do *not* accept their kind offer. If an email address is required for registration, be sure it will not be sold on to spammers to add to the rubbish in your mailbox.

A computer with a large collection of ‘bloatware’, shareware and freeware can become over-burdened with programs that load automatically and clutter up the Windows registry. Perhaps the best advice is — keep a second computer available in the radio room for testing patches and shareware — before any installation on your main computer.

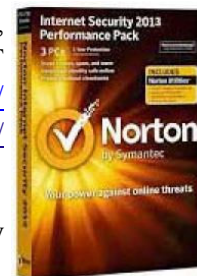
Take the AV train

The suggestions so far should be part of anyone’s outlook for safe computing in a connected world. But there are times when you might let your guard down, or perhaps a computer is shared with family members who are not as careful as you are. Family members should be given separate computer accounts with their own passwords and ‘standard’ user privileges. But you should also install effective **anti-malware** software on *all* your connected computers, and let it update automatically every day.

This type of software began in the early 1990s with products like Norton AntiVirus and McAfee. They were designed to prevent infected software being introduced

to personal computers via the media of the day — usually floppy disks. As computers became more and more connected, the capabilities of anti-malware software grew to include a software firewall, protection against infected e-mail, spam, browser attacks, spyware, adware and scareware.

Many anti-malware packages are available nowadays. They vary in effectiveness for recognizing and cleaning malware and in how much they slow down operation of the computer. Some manufacturers offer an effective “free version”, encouraging an upgrade to their pay-for version with more features — see for example: <http://free.avg.com>. Bear in mind that support for a “free” version may not be as good as the paid version. And it takes a large staff to continuously monitor evolving malware to keep these products up-to-date. For advice on the best solutions, take a look at review sites such as CNET (<http://www.cnet.com/topic-reviews/antivirus.html>) and PC Magazine (<http://www.pcmag.com/reviews/antivirus>).



The larger vendors provide daily updates to their anti-malware software. Without these updates, the software becomes rapidly less and less effective. After the first year of protection, most manufacturers offer an annual subscription to continue their services. So make sure your subscription has not expired, otherwise your daily updates stop and the protection becomes almost worthless. If your anti-malware software prevents you from visiting just one heavily-infected web site, then it was worth every penny.

Do you know where your data is?

A computer system can be rendered useless without help from any hackers, viruses or spam if it suffers a **hardware failure**. The most likely component to fail is the computer’s hard drive. Imagine all your valuable data and programs spinning around at 7200 rpm on a thin layer of magnetic material with a read/write head floating just above the surface on a tiny cushion of air. It only needs a brief power failure or a mechanical shock for the head to crash down onto the spinning disk, and gouge out magnetic material. Bye-bye data!

Hard disk drives — especially for portable systems

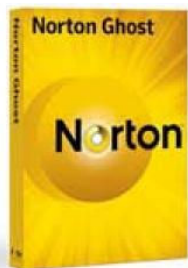
— have made great strides in capacity and reliability. But they are still prone to failure. Notebook computers have their own built-in power supply, and the operating system



Hard disk head crash – bad news for your data.

will usually shut down before the battery is completely drained. But if you rely on a desktop system, then I would add an Uninterruptible Power Supply to make sure the computer can be shut down in a controlled manner in the event of a power outage.

I have seen too many hard drive failures to let anyone rely on a single spinning disk for storage of vital personal data. Corporate systems rely on arrays of redundant hard drives, and daily data backups to an off-site location. What you decide to do at home might be less comprehensive, but it should be based on the value of your personal data. Is it worth \$120 to have a second copy of your data?



Then I would suggest an external USB hard drive and some backup software such as Acronis “TrueImage” or Norton “Ghost”. A lower-cost solution might involve periodic manual copying of all your data files to a USB flash drive. If you are worried about the entire computer being lost, backup of personal data

to “The Cloud” (Internet) is possible with solutions like CrashPlan and Carbonite.

Hold on to your hardware

If you have a notebook PC — or any other portable electronic device — you need to take good care of it when traveling. In the corporate world, we dealt with notebook PCs that were stolen, mixed up in an X-ray scanner, left behind on a plane and frozen to death in a cold trunk. Take care of personal electronics when they are left unattended — a Kensington security cable provides some protection against notebook theft. LCD displays on portable computers, tablets and smartphones should not suffer rough treatment as their thin, glass covers are easily damaged.

PC Optimizers

A set of products has sprung up which promise to improve performance of your home computer. Some utilities such as Iolo’s “PC Mechanic” and Piriform’s free “CCleaner” remove temporary files and clean-up unused items in the Windows Registry. Other utilities such as

ConduSiv’s “Diskeeper” and Piriform’s free “Defraggler” consolidate file fragments and rearrange their position on the hard drive for optimum disk-read performance.

In my opinion, the need for these utilities has reduced with newer versions of Microsoft Windows. There is always the chance that removal of a “temporary” file or an unnecessary registry entry might cause problems down the road. Windows XP had a manual Disk Defragmenter built-in. With Windows 7, disk optimization takes place in the background — and is automatically turned off for Solid State Drives, where excessive writing might cause undue wear. Unless you are very familiar with their capabilities, I would stay away from PC Optimizers.

Stay up-to-date

One item we were inevitably concerned with in corporate computing was the need to keep both hardware and software up-to-date. Warranty coverage was maintained on computer hardware so that a failed component could be rapidly replaced by the manufacturer. Corporate standards had to be followed for computer software versions. Software is in a state of continuous development, with new versions of popular products replacing old versions on a predictable cycle of 3-4 years at most.

But there has been an exception to that “rule”. Microsoft Windows XP was first introduced in August 2001, almost 12 years ago. This is an age in computer terms! A typical computer of the time would be the Sony Vaio FXA49 notebook that I have brought to past Field Days. It had a single



Sony FXA49 notebook computer.

core AMD processor running at 1.2 GHz, 512 MB maximum memory (RAM) and a 30GB hard drive. Historical features included a 3 1/2 inch floppy drive, serial, parallel ports and PCMCIA card slots. These days, it has too little memory and is far too slow.

The time for Windows XP is drawing to a close. It can no longer be purchased on new systems and Microsoft will withdraw all support in April 2014. From that

point on, no more security patches will appear, making the XP operating system wide-open to newly-found vulnerabilities. Manufacturers of security software and other utilities will drop support for Windows XP. Soon it will become unloved and abandoned, much like the long-forgotten Windows NT and 2000.



Extended support for Windows XP ends on April 8, 2014.

So — if you still rely on any computer systems with Windows XP, it is definitely time for an upgrade. Take a look at modern hardware, which is a lot cheaper than in 2001, with faster, multi-core processors, larger hard drives (some of which are solid state) and 64 bit operating systems that can support more than 4GB of RAM. ■

- NM9J

Major Geeks – Simply the Best There Is

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR
skaplan@mcw.edu

Reprinted with permission from the Ozaukee Radio Cub Newsletter

I have visited many a website over the years, looking for good software to make my computing life easier. Indeed, I still have bookmarks to a few, though I don't visit them much at all anymore. Why? Simply because there is one site that stands out above all others. Of course, I am talking about majorgeeks.com, the best there is on the web for safe software.

I urge you to take a look at the site, so you can easily find solutions when problems pop up. Once there, look at the panel on the right and click on **NEW? START HERE**. You will be presented with a short video that tells you how to use the site, along with some text that tells you about the site and why it is heads and shoulders above the others. Next, click on **TOP FREeware PICKS**, the

second item in the panel on the right. This is a relatively new section on the site that lists just what it says, in several categories shown below. The number in parentheses is the number of suggestions in that category at the time this article was written. Of course, as new software is written and evaluated, both the titles and numbers may change. Note also that the software packages are listed in order of preference. What a time saver! And, realize that these are the pick of the pick, from nearly 10,000 files on the site. Sweet!

1. All-in-One PC Optimization Suites (4).
2. Antivirus Protection (4).
3. Malware and Spyware Removal (3).
4. Update Your Drivers (2).
5. Free Up Hard Drive Space (5).
6. Defragment Your Hard Drive (3).
7. Identify Your Hardware or Computer (1).
8. Get a Better Web Browser (2).
9. Protect Your Computer with a Firewall (3).
10. Get a Better Email Client (3).
11. Diagnose Problems With Your Computer (4).
12. Backup Your Important Files (3).
13. Uninstall Old Programs Completely (2).
14. CD/DVD/Blu-Ray Burning Tools (3).
15. Recover Deleted Files (3).
16. Edit or Manage Your Photos (6).
17. Office Tools (5).
18. Very Honorable Mention (2).

I think majorgeeks.com is so valuable that it has been my homepage for a number of years. Amazingly, the site itself is free – and no registration is required. I scan the new additions daily to discover updates to programs I use, and also to find new tools. Try it. You will like it. Happy Computing! ■



Area Repeaters

Freq.	PL	Location	Owner/ Club	Auto- Patch	Links	Vo IP	Notes:
52.560-	100.0	Mt. Union	N7NGM			IRLP	Node 3301
144.390	Simplex						APRS- www.aprs.fi
145.290-	127.3	Mingus Mtn.	K7YCA				ARES/RACES
145.350-	162.2	Wildflower	W7QHC				Dawn
146.620-	162.2	Yarnell Hill	N7YKT				H.A.R.K.
146.760-	131.8	Hayden Peak	N7SKO				WECOM INC
146.780-	91.5	Bill Williams Mtn.	K7NAZ			IRLP	BWMRC LITZ, 3178
146.880-	100.0	Prescott Heights	W7YRC				YARC
146.920-	162.2	Mount Ord	W7MDY				ARA
146.980-	162.2	Mt. Elden	W7ARA				ARA
147.000+	162.2	Mingus Mtn.	K7MRG				MMRG
147.140+	162.2	Mt. Elden	W7ARA				ARA
147.220+	162.2	Mingus Mtn	W7EI				VVARA LITZ
147.260+	103.5	Mt. Union	K7YCA				ARES/RACES
147.260+	127.3	Mt. Francis	K7YCA				ARES/RACES
147.360+	162.2	Mt. Ord	W7MDY				ARA
224.080-	156.7	Mingus Mtn.	KI6FH				
442.150+	100.0	Mingus Mtn	K7MRG				MMRG
446.025	Simplex		N7NGM			Echo	
448.475-	100	Mt. Elden	W7ARA				ARA
448.875-	100.0	Mt. Elden	W7ARA				ARA
449.250-	192.8	Chino Valley	K7POF				
449.7250-	107.2	Mingus Mtn	K6DLP				
927.0875-	151.4	Mingus Mtn	WB7BYV				
927.3875-	151.4	Prescott	WB7BYV			Echo	ARA



Get Together for Breakfast

Wed. Morning Breakfast:
7:30 a.m. at the Manzanita
Grille (Prescott Golf Course).

informal – all are invited

Breakfast at Masonic Lodge:
3rd Saturday of each Month
at 9:00 a.m.

(1280 Willow Creek Road, 2nd
Floor; above Bank of America)
informal – all are invited

Area Packet Node Station Frequencies.

See [http://www.k7yca.org/
packet_radio.htm](http://www.k7yca.org/packet_radio.htm) for a list of
Winlink nodes and gateways "

YARC 7p.m. Wednesday Night Net

147.260+ with a PL of 103.5 Hz.



T-Hunt Frequencies:

Primary - 145.100 MHz
Secondary - 146.565 MHz

For more Repeater Information & Listings refer
to: ● www.w7ara.org/Web/
● www.azrepeaters.net

YAVAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. BOX 11994

PRESCOTT, AZ 86304

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

Many thanks to Randy Dashiell, our Webmaster

