



YAVAPAI SIGNAL



The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club • Prescott, Arizona • DM-34 • Volume 26 - No. 3 • March 2011

From the President's Desk...



Hello everyone!

I don't have much to add to this issue of the signal. It's already packed with lots of great information on things that have been happening and things

that will be happening in the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club. Celebrating Arizona's birthday with the enthusiastic members of Granite Mountain Grizzly Radio Club was a high point of the month for me, as was the recent DX contest, but that's just scratching the surface of some of the activities that are available. Don't forget that the fox hunt (t-hunt) is going to start up again, after a brief pause, having been canceled last month due to weather and Super Bowl Sunday. Additionally, as of this writing, there are still a few upcoming public service communication events that need operators, so check with Lloyd (WA6ZZJ) if you're interested in participating in that. If you add to that the weekly nets, and opportunities to volunteer there, I'd say that YARC is off to a great start for the year.

I'd like to take a moment to say thank you to all of the people who took the time to communicate with the Board and share ideas, your input is welcome and appreciated. Your continued involvement and support is the wind in our sails!

Creighton

AD7YR

YARC Officers for 2011

President Creighton Grotbeck, AD7YR cgrotbeck@gmail.com	Vice President Jim Ball, WB7UZV wb7uzv@gmail.com
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Secretary George Imburgia, AD7RL ad7rl@netsecs.us	Treasurer Tom Griswold, WN7E mrgriz@cableone.net
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Board of Directors (includes Club Officers)

Pete Morrison -- K6VVR
 Will Taylor -- AD7WW
 Ellis Rackoff -- KE7NAP
 Neil Vince -- K7SEN

Newsletter Editor: Joe Oliver, AC6AA
joliver@cableone.net

March Program

Lloyd (WA6ZZJ) will be doing a presentation on "Special Event Communications" for the March meeting.



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Minutes of February 3, 2011 Board Meeting



Meeting was called to order at 1820 hrs. by the President, AD7YR. Also in attendance: K6VVR, AD7WW, AD7RL, KE7NAP, WN7E, and WB7RFY.

Arizona Statehood and 2012 Centennial events discussed.

Alternate locations for club meetings explored.

Reviewed scheduled meeting night program speakers.

General Meeting agenda refined.

100th birthday of the Model 1911 .45 celebration on March 29th at Gunsite confirmed.

Buy/Sell/Trade column for newsletter and weekly net discussed.

2012 YARC Party planning initiated.

Meeting adjourned at 1852 hrs.

Minutes of February 3, 2011 General Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. by the President, AD7YR. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, introductions were made.

Attendance: 61 of whom 50 signed in.

Visitors welcomed.

New member Paul, W0PL was unanimously welcomed.

Minutes of the December meeting were approved as published with no dissenting.

Treasurer's report was approved as published and corrected with no dissenting.

WN7E reports that a separate savings account was created to keep repeater funds separate from the general fund.

Club stickers and patches are available from the Treasurer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ARES/RACES: WA6ZZJ announced Friday, March 25th will be the date Inter-agency Fire and Emergency Management Group, Wildfire Exercise. Schedules for the events of April 29th through April 1st discussed. More operators are needed.

Newsletter: AC6AA – Nothing to report.

IRLP: W7JLC reports IRLP working fine, but the repeater to which it connects has been down. Status of the repeater continues to be unknown. It has been suggested to move IRLP to the club's 146.88 repeater, which is a decision to be made by the club.

WB9VGJ moved to connect IRLP to the club repeater. Discussion followed. Motion amended to refer action to the board for advisement. Amended motion seconded by K6VVR. Motion carried without dissent.

Classes: W7JLC has enough instructors for Technician class to be held March 5th at ERAU. The GMMS club has been invited to attend. Testing will be held March 19th at the Jeep Posse building.

Shirts: K6VVR has XL club shirts on hand, please make needs known if other sizes.

Badges: WB6ODR reports a list of badges to be delivered; \$6.75 to order custom engraved club name badge.

Repeater: WB6ODR reports all in order.

Refreshments: K6UWV has provided cookies and soft-drinks and lots of coffee. Please recycle.

Elmers: WB7UZV reports all OK.

Nets: WB7UZV reports on 146.88 nets:

Sunday slow code, 7:30 pm; club net every Wednesday 7:00 pm. Net Control positions available for March, April and May. All please check in.

School Clubs: KB7TRE had 22 students at the last K7GMG club meeting/class, which is currently working on Ohm's Law. The GMMS club will be setting up at Sharlot Hall on February 14th, for Statehood Day.

KB7TRE requests funds for pizza and snacks for the kids, estimated to be about \$75. K7CBK moved to make the funds available to cover the expenses of the event on February 14th. Seconded and carried unanimously.

T-hunt: K6VVR reports the T-hunt will be canceled for February, due to Super-bowl.

Food Bank: KB7TRE reminds us that any time is good to contribute to community food bank; please continue to bring non-perishable items to each meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

A program on building a 2M folded dipole was suggested and discussed.

Buy/Sell/Trade swap column for the Yavapai Signal Newsletter proposed.

KB7TRE announced a special event station will be operated on March 29th, to celebrate the 100th birthday of the M1911 .45 pistol at Gunsite.

KB7TRE led thanks and applause for the people responsible for putting together the 2011 YARC Party.

50/50: of \$44.50 was won by W5VJH.

Adjourned at 1943 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

George Imbrugia, AD7RL

YARC Secretary

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 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 7:00 p.m. local time on the 145.290- repeater on Mingus Mountain. A PL of 127.3 is required.

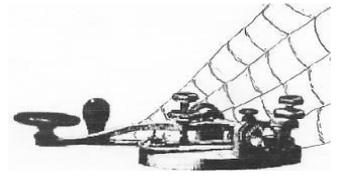
Club Repeater

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 for allowing us to acquire the original club repeater. ■



Robert Behnke, N6QQU

Silent Key



Former Prescott Councilman and YARC member Robert Behnke, N6QQU, became a silent key on Wednesday, January 26, 2011.

Behnke moved to Prescott in 1997 from Arcadia, Calif., with his wife Betty who died in 2002. Prior to that, he lived in Huntington Beach, Calif., and Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He was retired from a 30-year career as a contracts manager with the Santa Fe/C.F. Braun International engineering and construction firm, where he worked on worldwide construction projects involving chemical plants, refineries and power plants.

Besides serving on the City Council, Behnke was involved in a variety of city and community boards and commissions through the years, providing a legacy of staunch community support.

Behnke had three children, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Our condolences to Robert Behnke's family and friends.



Ideas to Ponder On

1. Ever wonder about those people who spend \$2.00 apiece on those little bottles of Evian water? Try spelling Evian backwards: NAÏVE.
2. Isn't making a smoking section in a restaurant like making a peeing section in a swimming pool?
3. If 4 out of 5 people SUFFER from diarrhea, does that mean that one enjoys it?
4. Whatever happened to Preparations A through G?
5. Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?
6. Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a race car is not called a racist?
7. If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?
8. Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?
9. What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?
10. Mothers feed their baby with tiny little spoons and forks; what do Chinese mothers use? Toothpicks?
11. If it is true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?
12. At income tax time, did you ever notice: When you put the two words "The" and "IRS" together it spells ..."THEIRS"? ■

YAVAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

February 2011 Treasurer's Summary Tom Griswold WN7E

Income

Date	Callsign	Name	Code	Check	Amt. Paid	G. F. Amt.	Rep.Fund	ARRL
02/03/11	KEoGE	Kertis, Michael R.	R	8072	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$2.00	
02/03/11	KC8BOB	Thompson, Robert	R	1397	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$2.00	
02/03/11	KC7BPI	Berthold, Harold	R	4146	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$2.00	
02/03/11	WoPL	Leska, Paul J. SR	N	20399	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$2.00	
02/03/11	KW6J	Stapleton, Brian	R F	268	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$2.00	
02/03/11	WA6CWR	Stapleton, Mary	F		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
02/03/11	WD8DOT	Shapiro, Gary	R	1213	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$2.00	
02/03/11	W1OTH	Fobes, Ramon D.	R	2366	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$2.00	
02/03/11		Fifty-fifty		cash	\$89.00	\$89.00		
02/03/11	WA6AQK	Severance, Ken	R F	4148	\$40.00	\$36.00	\$4.00	
02/03/11	KD6FDA	Severance, Loraine	F		\$0.00	\$0.00		
02/03/11	KD6FCZ	Severance, Cheryl M.	R		\$0.00	\$0.00		
02/03/11	WA6AQK	Severance, Ken	R ARRL	4147	\$55.00	\$2.00		\$53.00
02/03/11	KF7MMS	Nelson, Ken	N ARRL	cash	\$59.00	\$33.00	\$2.00	\$24.00
02/03/11	WB7RFY	Hanna, Jeff	R	cash	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$2.00	
Income Totals					\$403.00	\$304.00	\$22.00	\$77.00

Expenses

Date	Callsign	Name	Check #	Amount
01/15/11		Hotel St. Michaels -- Birthday Party	1035	\$1,646.76
01/19/11	W2YAV	Steve Kafka -- Refund 1/2 dinner fees	1036	\$25.00
02/03/11	K6UWV	David Passell -- Refreshments	1037	\$16.14
02/03/11	W5JHV	John Gross -- 50/50	cash	\$44.00
02/03/11	KB6TRE	Terry Pemberton -- Statehd. day refreshments	1038	\$75.00
02/06/11		Allegra -- Newsletter inv. # 47151	1040	\$31.01
Total Expenses				\$1,837.91

Beginning Balance	\$7,274.30		
January Income	\$304.00		
Sub Total	\$7,578.30		
Expenses	\$1,837.91	Dec. End Repeater Fund	\$1,216.92
Repeat fund to saving acct.	\$1,216.92	Jan. 2011 Repeater Fund	\$22.00
General Fund Balance	\$4,523.47	Jan. Repeater Fund Bal.	\$1,238.92
Net Loss/Gain **	(\$2,750.83)	ARRL Payments	\$77.00

** Showing loss due to payout for party and moving repeater fund monies into savings acct.



GUNSITE

1911 Special Event Operation

By John Broughton, WB9VGJ

YARC will be sponsoring a special event operation Tuesday, March 29th, to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Colt 1911 .45 caliber pistol. We will be operating from Gunsite Academy using one of the radio shacks of Buz Mills, K7GST, Gunsite's owner and YARC member. We will be using Buz's call sign. The operating hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All YARC members are welcome to participate. Non-members are also welcome. You will find Buz's radio shack to be interesting.

The listing for the special event will be in the March issue of QST and is on the ARRL's Web site at: <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

(Just enter K7GST in the call sign box to search for the entry.)

If you would like to come and participate, please bring a folding chair and whatever snack, lunch and drinks (non-alcoholic) that you would like. There is a refrigerator available in the shack and a bathroom. The club will also be supplying food

We will be operating both phone and CW on HF. We will have a sign-up sheet for phone operation at the March club meeting and at the event. We want to ensure we have operators for the duration of the event.

Buz's address is 3300 West Ravengard Road. Here are the directions to the operating location.

Take Rt. 89 north to Rolling Hills Rd. (at about the 335 1/4 mile mark). Turn left on Rolling Hills Rd. and then turn right at the top of the rise (you'll see a small Gunsite sign with the raven on it) and follow the road to Gunsite. After entering through the Gunsite gate, stay on the road and bear left (actually, straight ahead) instead of turning right into the Gunsite main facility. Stay on this road to 3300 for about one

mile (address is well marked). Turn right at the 3300 marker following the lane to the gate. Press the call button at this gate and it will be opened (It may already be open.). The barn is under the big tower at the top of the hill. Drive through the gate and straight up the hill to the barn.

Be aware that the speed limit on Rolling Hills Rd. is only 25 mph and it is reported the police keep an eye on speeders. It is too easy to drive faster than that, as it is a rural paved road.

If you need to contact us for directions on your way in, we'll be on the VVARA repeater. If the repeater is busy, you can call on 147.420 simplex.

I encourage any and all YARC members to participate in this event if possible. Please contact me if you have any questions. The past events have been a lot of fun. Buz is a great host and there was a lot of socializing as well as operating.

73,

John, WB9VGJ

775-2259

wb9vgj@arrl.net

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:

Neil Vince, K7SEN at: (928) 775-2158

Jim Ball, WB7UZV (928) 445-2997

Will Taylor, AD7WW (928) 445-1717



By Lloyd, WA6ZZJ

ARES/RACES.....

The annual wildfire exercise with the Interagency Fire and Emergency Management Group (IFEMG) will be held this year on Friday, March 25, 2011. ARES/RACES is a member of the IFEMG and participates in the exercise.

SPECIAL EVENT COMMUNICATIONS.....

APRIL WHISKEY OFF ROAD MOUNTAIN BIKE EVENT SCHEDULE.....

Friday, April 29, 2011...

There will be a 15 Proof (miles) fun ride in the afternoon (starting time to be determined) on the same route as last year. **At least 5 operators are still needed.**

Later in the afternoon will be a 'Fat Tire Criterium' race which is a race over a closed circuit (typically about a mile through city streets). This leads to tight groups with frequent turns, which makes the possibility for crashes more frequent than traditional road races. This event will be run on city streets near downtown Prescott. **At least 4 to 5 more operators are needed for this event due to a change in start time for the 15 proof race. These events will overlap so operators that signed on for both will only be available to participate in one of the events that day.**

Saturday, April 30, 2011...

Two races beginning in the morning. A 50 Proof starting first followed by the 25 Proof both on the same routes as last year. They are expecting 1400 +/- riders for these events. **The 24 operator staffing has been reached, but more can still be used to double up position staffing more.**

Sunday, May 1, 2011...

This is the day for the Professional Racers. There will be two groups (1 male and 1 female) and they are expecting 100 riders. This event will be run on the 50 Proof route. **At least 6 operators are still needed to staff this event.**

33rd ANNUAL WHISKEY ROW MARATHON.....

The 33rd running of the Whiskey Row Marathon will take place on Saturday, May 14, 2011. This is a long standing event for YARC to provide communications for and the YMCA looks forward to our assistance each year. **18 to 20 operators will be needed to staff this event.**

Sign up sheets will be available at the March and April YARC meetings. Check your calendars and become involved in YARC Special Event Communications.

It is extremely rewarding to see how the YARC members have stepped up to sign on to these events, but more are still needed. If this will be your first time operating at an event, every effort will be made to assign you with a veteran special event communicator, so just because you haven't done an event before don't let it stop you from getting involved.

OPERATING AT YOUR NEXT SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS EVENT.....

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 using 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.

6) **Speak slowly and clearly** when transmitting! You may 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. This means acting professionally, using basic hygiene skills, etc. ■

Arizona Worked All Counties

Have you checked your logs lately?
If you've worked all fifteen Arizona counties, email az-wac@w7yrc.org for an application and rules.



2011 TEST SCHEDULE

By Mary Vince, AB7NK



Please note facility change for ALL upcoming test sessions. Testing will be held at the Jeep Posse Bldg in Pioneer Park, off Commerce Rd., Between Willow Creek Road and Pioneer Parkway.

2011 Test Schedule

- Saturday, March 19, 2011 9:00 A.M.
- Friday, May 6, 2011 6:00 P.M.
- Friday, June 24, 2011 6:00 P.M. ***
- Saturday, August 6, 2011 9:00 A.M.
- Saturday, November 5, 2011 9:00 A.M.

*** Last chance to take the General exam using the study aides expiring June 30, 2011.

Information regarding testing and the schedule is on our website at www.w7yrc.org

Anyone needing information or to pre-register for any of the above test sessions, please email ab7nk@arrl.net . ■



Wednesday Evening Net

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 1900 MST on the 146.880 – pl 100Hz repeater for our weekly net.

Keep abreast of club activities and find out what other members are doing.

We need folks to volunteer to be Net control. Newcomers especially are encouraged to try their hand at managing the Net. A Script is provided on the YARC website and a list of stations checking in the previous month also is available. You may provide a topic for discussion, or simply ask members to relate any of their interesting activities, if they wish to do so.

You can sign up for a week at a time or for an entire month.

Contact Neil, K7SEN at k7sen@arrl.net or call: (928) 775-2158 to volunteer.

K7A SPECIAL EVENT OPERATIONS 2011

By Terry Pemberton, KB7TRE

Monday, February 14th was Arizona's ninety ninth birthday and members of the Granite Mountain Middle School Amateur Radio Club and the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club met at Sharlot Hall Museum to celebrate! Eleven GMMS students loaded equipment from our station into the blue and white activity bus around 8:30am and made the 15 minute journey to the Museum.



We were met in the museum parking lot by Lee, K7CBK, who came to work with the kids and brought donuts as well. After offloading the equipment, the kids were ready for donuts but we convinced them to set up the station and antennas first.

To our disappointment, the tree we had used for many years to hang our G5RV had been cut down causing us to use a shorter tree. My newly purchased sling shot did not perform as anticipated for hanging the antenna and after several attempts we decided to try a different approach. Fortunately one of the boys had a good arm allowing us to finally get the antenna up. Our new antenna location did not allow enough altitude for optimal performance causing us to mag-mount 20 and 40 meter Hamsticks to the air conditioning unit on the top of the building. Our 2 meter diamond antenna and mast were quickly assembled and lashed to the windmill derrick and performed beautifully.

Lee, Fred, N7PJN, Jim, WB7UZV, and Creighton, AD7YR helped the students set up the station next to Morris Goldwater Telegraphy display and get on the air. I don't think Creighton or Jim got much of a break the entire day; the kids worked them pretty hard at the two stations and thoroughly enjoyed their help.

The students worked steadily until it was time to strike the station and head back to school for the afternoon busses home. Also helping us throughout the day or for take down were Tony, KI6AHH, Pete, K6VVR, Bob, WB7RRQ, and Bob, WB6ODR. I know there were more YARC members helping, but I didn't take roll and I know I forgot to recognize some of you. I apologize for that and thank you all again for your continued support of my students! Thank you also to Jody and Chris at Sharlot Hall Museum.

Although we did not make as many HF contacts as we would have liked, I feel the day was a success for the Granite Mountain students. At our school club meeting Friday afternoon the boys enthusiastically shared their experience with the members who were unable to participate, and are looking forward to our next activity! ■





Enriching Your World of Ham Radio

By Al Duncan – VE3RRD

From the "Barrie Amateur Radio Club Newsletter"

I could have called this article "What's Wrong with Ham Radio Today" but that gets into the "is your glass half full or is it half empty" argument.

Before I obtained my amateur radio license, I had always expressed an interest in radio, and as a young teenager in rural southern Alberta, had already "butchered" the family five-tube AM radio so as to modify it to pick up the police dispatch from Vancouver B.C. Back then (am I dating myself?), the police dispatch operated just above the AM broadcast band, while the police cars responded on some higher shortwave frequency. In the evenings when the AM band was full of faraway stations from the U.S., I would be out in the garage listening to "all" the crime in Vancouver (murder or even the firing of a gun was pretty rare back then).

In 1969 I joined the Canadian Forces and served my twenty years in the communications and electronics trades (one of which required that I learn morse code). It wasn't until 1983 as a military radio technician that, after being posted to Gander Newfoundland, I decided to write the exam and get my ham radio certificate. I can still remember the long three hour drive to St. John's to the DOC office and the lengthy exam consisting of both written and multiple choice questions. Then came the CW receiving test (sending morse had already been removed as a requirement), and the half dozen perspective hams in the room straining to copy the sounds of 12 words-per-minute CW played through the speaker of an old tape recorder.

So there I was, a newly licensed amateur radio operator with the call VO1RD, and morse code privileges on HF – it was an exciting time (even if I didn't own any radio equipment). A short time later I was posted to the pilot training base at Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. I bought my first 2m and HF transceivers, and hung onto my VO1 call for as long as I was allowed (two years) signing VO1RD mobile VE4; then obtaining the Manitoba call VE4AOA. Back then you had to give up your old call (to be reissued) when you changed provinces, and couldn't collect them like you can today (of course you also had to pay about \$20 every year to the DOC for your call sign).

To get back to the subject of this article, I like to think of

ham radio as not just one thing, but many different things; like a fairly large jigsaw puzzle with many different pieces, some related in that they go together to form a tree or a mountain or a house. Some pieces are more mundane, fitting together to only form the blue sky or the expanse of grassland. When a typical ham first gets his license, he usually buys a VHF/UHF transceiver to get on the air. Getting on the air, actually talking to others via ham radio, is a major piece (a corner piece) of my puzzle concept. Later he may add other pieces such as buying a mobile rig (if his first radio was a handheld), or purchasing a better (higher gain antenna), or joining a ham club.

Therein lies a potential problem; the new ham's perspective of "what is ham radio", is based only on the couple of pieces of the big puzzle that he has. The definition of a ham club might be a gathering of individuals with similar interests, but there is not a lot to talk about when your "ham radio world" only consists of rag chewing with some buddies on a 2m repeater. I have seen a few newer hams gathered together at a club meeting, not to talk about what they are doing as a ham (that conversation ran out before I listened in), but to discuss their shared interests – golfing or fishing or what bars had the best entertainment.

Of course, it is the job of the ham club to involve the new class of "here I am – entertain me" hams that are all too common today. But a more important job of the club and its members is to help the newer hams (and some of the older ones) discover "new pieces" to add to their "ham radio puzzle".

So what puzzle pieces can be added by the new ham with only a 2m handheld transceiver? Well how about IRLP, checking into a net or becoming involved in local public service functions or larger groups like ARES and CAN-WARN.

That's a start, but how about adding a slightly larger, more important piece to his ham radio jigsaw puzzle like HF. Now he can discover a number of associated puzzle pieces such as DXing, collecting QSL cards, collecting various certificates like "worked all provinces", or "worked all continents" and about a hundred other certificates that can be obtained. Other pieces include working various digital modes on HF such as PSK-31, learning morse code to operate CW, contesting (contests occur every month), and with some of the new HF rigs that include 6, 2 and 70cm he can explore using SSB or CW on VHF/UHF. There are so many different things like APRS, SSTV, WinLink2000, QRP and

portable HF etc. How about building his HF antenna, dipoles are easy; and then there is understanding radio wave propagation. How about a membership in RAC.

So now our new ham's "world", his ham radio puzzle has grown and he will start to find that others want to hear about some of his discoveries, not just exchange banalities about what equipment they have purchased at the local ham store, hoping to invoke "equipment envy".

The new ham starts to feel good about ham radio and hopefully this will lead him to discover another major puzzle piece – the camaraderie found when taking part in a group as one of the "DOers". Having new members take part in running the ham club and its various activities is a desired goal, and having members want to form and take part in new groups within the club is even better. These groups could include emergency communications, packet radio, contesting and building kits to name a few.

Many of today's hams tend to want to explore ham radio by themselves, and never discover the good times of getting together with other hams and doing something as a group of peers. This could be one of the reasons why membership in ham clubs appears to be declining.

Another important piece of the "what ham radio is" puzzle is building things. Building a kit can be a very rewarding experience and can lead to other aspects such as an understanding of how some of the circuits work. Other associated puzzle pieces include being able to modify the kit to work even better, or eventually being able to build a project from scratch using nothing but a circuit diagram.

Wow, my description on how to enrich ones "ham radio world" has allowed the new ham to almost reach the high levels found in our hobby back in the 60's, 70's and 80's! Maybe I'm onto something here. With hams like this, we can go back to an old definition of a ham club – a gathering of "DOers" getting together to share their discoveries and experiences with each other.

In our local club, the Barrie Amateur Radio Club <http://www.barriearc.com/> we have tried many methods to attract the interest of the ham population in our area. We have had our successes and failures, but one of the most recent ideas is The Wireless Amateur Experimenter Group http://www.barriearc.com/WAX_Group.htm which has had good success. Most of the members of the group are building RockMite40 CW transceivers from Small Wonder Labs <http://www.smallwonderlabs.com/> and another good source of kits is Hendricks QRP Kits <http://www.qrpkits.com/>

[index.html](#). We meet every Thursday evening in the basement ham shack of one of the club members for "build sessions", and from what I have seen, everyone is having a good time with lots of smiles and joking. They might not have noticed, but the camaraderie aspect is definitely there, with members helping each other count turns on a toroid, or install a part that just doesn't want to fit.

Just think about all the skills and knowledge a ham learns in the course of building and using an HF CW transceiver kit, even one as simple as the QRP RockMite. In my opinion, the concepts contained in The Wireless Amateur Experimenter Group are a good chunk of what amateur radio is all about.

What is your concept of what ham radio is – how many pieces does your ham radio jigsaw puzzle contain? ■

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.

Upcoming Events

- **March 5, 2011** - Technician class at ERAU.
- **March 19, 2011** - VE Testing at Jeep Posse Bldg.
- **March 25, 2011** - Wildfire Exercise -- ARES/RACES
- **March 29, 2011** - Gunsite Special Event Station
- **April 29, 30 & May 1, 2011** -Whiskey Off Road Mountain Bike event.
- **May 6, 2011** - VE Testing at Jeep Posse Bldg.
- **May 14, 2011** - Whiskey Row Marathon.

Membership Count:

1st Thurs. in January.....	186
Gain/Loss.....	-6
1st Thurs. in February.....	180



Weekly Breakfasts



Wed. Morning Breakfasts:

7:00 a.m. at

Iron Horse Restaurant

(Hwy 89 in Chino Valley)

(N 34°43'56.5" W112°27'15.4")*

informal – all are invited

8:00 a.m.

Masonic Lodge

(1280 Willow Creek Road,

2nd Floor; above Bank of America)

informal – all are invited

* Location data (per WGS84) provided

by Fred Zimmermann, N7PJN

Area Repeaters

Fre- quency	PL	Location	Owner/Club	Auto- Patch	Rem. BaseOr Linked	Vo IP	Notes:
52.560-	100.0	Mt. Union	N7NGM			IRLP	Node 3301
145.290-	127.3	Mingus Mtn.	ARES/RACES				
146.780-	91.5	Williams Mtn.	BWARC			IRLP	
146.880-	100.0	Prescott	YARC				
146.980-	162.2	Flagstaff	CARC				
147.000+	162.2	Mingus Mtn	MMRG				
147.140+	162.2	Flagstaff/-Mt. Elden	ARA		Linked to Mt. Ord -		Mt. Ord=147.36
147.220+	162.2	Mingus Mtn	VVARA				
147.260+	103.5	Mt. Union	ARES/RACES				
224.080-	156.7	Mt. Union	WA7JC				
442.150+	100.0	Mingus Mtn	W1OQ/Northlink				
442.350+	100.0	Glassford Hill	N7KPU			IRLP	
448.475-	100.0	Flagstaff-Elden	ARA	Yes			
448.875-	100.0	Flagstaff-Elden	Northlink		Linked		
449.175-	100.0	Towers Mountain	Northlink		Linked		
449.675-	88.50	Prescott Airport	WB7BYV		Linked to P Mtn.		P mtn=927.3875
449.725	110.9	Mingus Mtn	WA7JC				
449.750	91.5	Williams	K7NAZ		Linked to Win-Sys		
927.0875-	151.4	Mingus Mtn	WB7BYV				
927.3875-	151.4	Prescott	WB7BYV	Yes	Yes	Echo	Be Nice

Y.A.R.C. IRLP NODE

Node Number 3182

442.350+ MHz with a
PL Tone of 100.0 Hz

For more Repeater Information & Listings refer to:

- www.w7ara.org/Web/
- www.azrepeaters.net
- www.azfreqcoord.org/listings.htm

YAVAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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PRESCOTT, AZ 86304

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

Many thanks to Pete Morrison, K6VVR, our Webmaster

