From the President’s Desk…

Hello YARC members:

I am writing my last monthly message as President of the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club. Next month (January) will begin a new year and a new slate of officers and board members. I want to take the opportunity to thank all those who have served with me. Thanks to Rex N7NGM, Dave W7BJ, Forrest WH6EAL, my fellow officers. Thanks, also to Tom WN7E, Ralph W7HAM and Bob WB7RRQ, and a very special thanks to Creighton AD7YR who helped me learn the ropes (still learning, by the way). During my first year in office I was aided by Loren AE7CG and Doug KV8TD as secretary and board members. I would be remiss if I failed to thank all of you, our members for the encouragement and help as we muddled through. This is the greatest club I have ever belonged to.

I believe that our new president Frank K8FB will lead this club into bigger and better things, so please give him your support as he takes office in January. And, that reminds me; we will do the installation of our new officers and board at the YARC party on January 10th. You are planning on attending the party, right? There will be no regular January meeting as the first Thursday in January is New Years Day. The party is just a few days later, so we will have a brief meeting there.

At the December meeting, we hope to begin the process of creating special interest groups. YARC has several special interests, but we have not taken the time to identify them as such. Look for a little more information in the December Program announcement.

And finally, I would like to begin something for YARC in the area of “special service”. One thing each of us can do to be of service to our community is to monitor 146.52, and FRS Channel #1. More details on this are in a separate article titled “146.52”. Look for it in this issue.

See you at the meeting on December 4th.

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<tr>
<td>Boat Anchor Manufacturers</td>
<td>13 &amp; 14</td>
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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.

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.

Club contacts - At a Glance

President - WB7TPH    president@w7yrc.org
Vice President - N7NGM    vice.president@w7yrc.org
Secretary - WH6EAL    secretary@w7yrc.org
Treasurer - W7BJ    treasurer@w7yrc.org
grobeck@gmail.com
Board Member - AD7YR    smokey7@cableone.net
Board Member - W7HAM    roseyear520@cableone.net
Board Member - WB7RRQ    mrgriz@cableone.net
Board Member - WN7E    az.wac@w7yrc.org
Arizona WAC Administrator    ask.elmer@w7yrc.org
Ask Elmer for Help    badges@w7yrc.org
Badges    field.day@w7yrc.org
Field Day Chairman    fox.hunt@w7yrc.org
Fox Hunts    classes@w7yrc.org
License Classes    yarc_mail@w7yrc.org
Mail List    membership@w7yrc.org
Membership Application    net.manager@w7yrc.org
Net Manager    newsletter@w7yrc.org
Newsletter Editor    programs@w7yrc.org
Program Inputs    pio@w7yrc.org
Public Information Officer    public.service@w7yrc.org
Public Service - DEC    repeater@w7yrc.org
Repeater Trustee    special.event@w7yrc.org
Special Events    testing@w7yrc.org
VE Test Liaison    yarc.party@w7yrc.org
YARC Party Coordinator    info@w7yrc.org
Information    w7yrc@w7yrc.org
Webmaster    yarc@w7yrc.org
Webmaster    webmaster@w7yrc.org

Thanks to all who contributed articles, photos, and other items to include in the Yavapai Signal this past year.

Members are encouraged to submit material for the newsletter. Deadline is the 21st of each month.
It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the passing of Lloyd Halgunseth, WA6ZZJ. Lloyd died on November 1, 2014 after a long struggle with MDS. The services were held on November 14 - it was gratifying to see so many ARES/RACES and YARC members there and I am positive that Jan and the rest of Lloyd’s family truly enjoyed seeing so many people whose life Lloyd touched. Although it was a solemn occasion, it was good to come together and share Lloyd stories, from the humorous to the touching.

From my point of view, Lloyd was my boss (in ARES/RACES), my mentor and most importantly, my friend. We worked together in many real emergency situations, in drills, in public service events and in ARES/RACES infrastructure repair and improvements. If you came to the service, have read any of the ARES/RACES tributes to Lloyd or spent any time with him, you know that above all else, he was calm, cool and collected. When everyone else’s hair was on fire, Lloyd just went about his job with no fanfare - doing it right. This trait served him so well - whether half a dozen people were telling to go in different directions during the Gladiator Fire, whether a bicyclist had gone off the road during the Whiskey Off-Road or runners were developing hypothermia during the Whiskey Row Marathon - he never let it get to him. Maybe it was his way or maybe he developed it during his 33 years as a UPS driver in Southern California (imagine the frustration of spending 8 hours a day on the road with California drivers). In any case, it’s a quality I wish I had.

In his 16 years of leading ARES/RACES and being a YARC member (he was voted a lifetime membership in YARC for his years of public service), he touched a lot of lives and I’m sure we all have our favorite anecdotes. Mine involves our decision to snowmobile up Mt. Union to repair the repeater a few years ago. The snowmobiles were unstable and we were constantly putting our feet out to keep them from rolling over. Lloyd did that once too often, caught his boot on a branch and wrecked his ankle. Soon after that, the snowmobile ran out of gas. We walked up to the mountain top, repaired the antenna and walked back to our cars through several miles of snow. Although he was limping, he didn’t realize he had broken his ankle until he got home. And there was no swearing or whining on the way back down - at least not from him.

The club has decided to honor Lloyd with an annual award to the ARES/RACES or Club member that most lives up to his spirit of public service. The details are still being worked out and will be announced when finalized. ARES/RACES has added a short tribute to him on our website homepage at www.k7yca.org and Yavapai County is working on an appropriate memorial in the new EOC on Commerce Dr. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation in his name, Lloyd’s family requests that you send it to the American Radio Relay League. Please send a checked made out to ARRL/Brick to the ARRL Diamond Club, 225 Main St. Newington, CT 06111 and note that it is in memory of Lloyd Halgunseth, WA6ZZJ. Donations will be used to support the ARRL’s emergency communications program.

I urge you to make a resolution (the New Year is right around the corner) to use your ham radio privileges and the skills you have learned to give back to our community - join ARES/RACES (http://k7yca.org/how_to_join.htm) or participate in a club sponsored public service event (http://www.k7yca.org/calendar.htm). Let’s keep Lloyd’s memory alive.

Editor’s Note:

Lloyd was a major contributor to this Newsletter. He faithfully submitted his monthly article, always on time, and without a need for editing. He was a person you could always count on. We will miss him.
### TREASURER'S REPORT
**October 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
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<td>10,783.70</td>
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<td>Dues - Randy Dashiell</td>
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<td>Dues - Rex Mauldin</td>
<td>N7NGM</td>
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<td>KF6SPS</td>
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<td>Dues - Tony Jackson</td>
<td>KI6AHH</td>
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<td>Dues - Marty Jackson</td>
<td>KF6BTV</td>
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<td>KJ6QJS</td>
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<td>Dues - Paul Schoenfeldt</td>
<td>K7SPX</td>
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<td>50/50 Raffle</td>
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<td>50/50 Raffle – Rex Mauldin</td>
<td>N7NGM</td>
<td>(34.00)</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>209.50</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>David Passell - Cookies &amp; Pop</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Bauer - Meals with Speaker</td>
<td>1219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Void</td>
<td>1220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Passell - Cookies &amp; Pop</td>
<td>1221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **TOTAL EXPENSES**                               | 68.57        | 0.00          |

| **ENDING CASH BALANCE - October 31, 2014**        | 10,924.63    | 2,479.69      |

Signature: [Signature]

David B Hanson, W7BJ, Treasurer

Date: 11/2/2014
The following club members were unanimously elected, in accordance with the YARC Bylaws, to serve a term as follows: President - two (2) years; Treasurer- two (2) years and Board Members - one (1) year. Each term of office will begin January 1, 2015. Also the current officers, Vice-President, Rex Mauldin, N7NGM, and Secretary, Forrest Murdoch, WH6EAL, will complete their term in office at the end of 2015. Don Bauer, WB7TPH (as past President), also will serve on the Board.

Thanks to all Officers and Board Members for stepping forward in a leadership role to ensure that the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club continues to be an active, Special Service Status type organization.

**Officers Elected**

President - Frank Bender, K8FB

Treasurer - Tracey Dashiel, KE6QZD

**Board Members Elected**

Doug Freeman, KV8TD

Doug Meyer, KF7YZJ

Randy Dashiel, W6TYV

**Membership Count:**

1st Thurs. in October...........199

Gain/Loss.......................... 0

1st Thurs. in November........199
A few months ago we determined several things you would like to see this organization do. Most of the items noted fall into the area of special interests. IRLP was on top of the list, a 10M net and others along with the desire to identify those who are interested in each of the special interests. So, at the December meeting we will start the process of creating these special interest groups.

The officers and directors of YARC can authorize funding for special interests, and establish tasks for such interests, BUT, it takes people who share the desire for having such specialties. These folks need to band together, pick a group leader, identify themselves as members of the group and we can identify the group on the club website, so that someone coming along can find the movers and shakers of their interests.

At the meeting, we will begin by seeking anyone interested in a particular subject (such as IRLP). Then within that small group (or large) you will identify any particular knowledge about the subject within the group and pick a leader/coordinator. So, if you have one or more specialties that interest you, this would be the time to speak up, and sign up. See you at the meeting.

Our 2014 special event communications have wrapped up, but preparations are already beginning to take place for upcoming events in 2015 so be sure to check over your ‘Go-Kit’ and keep your equipment in good operating condition, and batteries charged.

Upcoming Public Service Event Communications.....

Saturday, January 31st, 2015 The Sedona Marathon in the Verde Valley. Once we will try to coordinate with the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association. Sign up’s will begin at the Dec 2014 meeting.

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 with the weather turned nasty stranding some riders on the course.

Saturday, May 2nd, 2015 The Whiskey Row Marathon - YARC’s long standing participation in support of the Prescott YMCA.

Sometime in the Spring will be the 2nd annual Mountain Mayhem Bike Event in Groom Creek, as of this writing no date is out yet.

So... It's time to check your calendars and sign up for an event. In 2015, I hope to see some more of our members who haven't worked a communications event, step forward and volunteer. These events are not hard to work and they are excellent practice for emergency communications. If you are new to event communications, every effort will be made to place you with a 'veteran communicator'

Once again, THANK YOU to all who participated in 2014. Looking forward to your help again in 2015. All the veteran, event communications, operators should be encouraging some of our new members and members who haven't participated into becoming active in special event communications.

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Sign up for Events……

Signup sheets will be at the Meetings, they will usually start 2-3 months before the events, so you can see me at the meetings. You may also sign up for any event at kd7vbg@cableone.net, or leave a message on home phone = 928-772-6766 and cell phone = 623-203-5085. Looking forward to the 2015 year of events.

By Patti, KD7VBG

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Once again, THANK YOU to all who participated in 2014. Looking forward to your help again in 2015. All the veteran, event communications, operators should be encouraging some of our new members and members who haven't participated into becoming active in special event communications.
The monthly foxhunt was held Sunday, November 9th. The foxes were Diane, KE7ODP, Pete, K6VVR and Patrick, KG7EWD.

We had an added bonus for this hunt. There were four Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University students who came along on the hunt. They are a team working on an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) radio direction finding (RDF) project. The goal of the project is to create a UAV with RDF capability to aid in search and rescue. The main objective is to be able to use the UAV to reduce a 30-mile radius search area to a 1-mile radius search area. None of them are hams, but one is active in geocaching. They had a very good time and they all said they learned some things about RDF. Their presence made for a very enjoyable hunt.

We also had a former ham, Will, who passed the Technician exam Saturday and will be getting his expired General license back; his old call sign is still available. This was the first time he was ever on a foxhunt and he enjoyed it, even though his team did not find the transmitters.

There were four teams of hunters this month:

1. Jeff, WB7RFY, I, Mariah and Joseph.
2. Dave, W7BJ, and Adam.
3. Bob, WB6ODR, Dakota and his girlfriend.
4. Frank, KF7ANX, and Will.

This hunt was interesting as the signal at the starting point was very weak and it took a while for the hunters to be able to hear it.

There were no dummy antennas used for this hunt. The hiding location was well chosen in that one had to navigate side streets to get to them. Neighborhoods in Prescott are often like that with many streets that are not through streets, so one has to make choices at intersections on which street to take.

The hunt was won by W7BJ and Adam. Dave said one factor in their success was that Adam was a very good map reader. The team I was on tied for second place with WB6ODR’s team. Unfortunately, KF7ANX and Will did not find the transmitters before time expired.

We had our usual after-hunt get-together at Prescott Junction Restaurant. The social aspects of the hunts are as enjoyable as the actual hunts.

You can see pictures of the hunt, and our gathering at the restaurant, at: http://tinyurl.com/YARCFoxhuntNov2014

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
Radio Go-Kit Contest

Congratulations to Pete, K6VVR for winning the “Radio Go-Kit Contest” prize -- a one year YARC membership.

Four members presented their portable stations. Pete’s compact Go-Kit won the most votes by members attending the November 6th meeting.

Thanks to the other contestants, who presented some very unique and well constructed entries.

146.52, etc.

By Don Bauer, WB7TPH

As outgoing president, I would like to suggest something to the membership. As you all know, YARC is an ARRL Special Service Club. For some the meaning of that may be less clear. Because of our community service; event communications, ARES/RACES participation, licensing classes and testing, YARC has demonstrated that involvement with the community at large and the amateur radio community, is a club priority.

I would like all club members to make an effort to extend that spirit of community service a little bit further. Please, whenever you are in your shack, or mobile, or where ever you have radio access, please monitor the 2M calling frequency 146.52, and if you are equipped to do so, also monitor Family Radio Service (FRS) channel #1. These frequencies are used by people who need help or directions, and often no one is around to hear them. We live in a mountainous area of Arizona. We can make a difference. We should be radio friendly to those in need. Many non-hams are equipped with a FRS radio and most hams are carrying at least 2M or dual-band transceivers when they are out and about.

As monitors, we don’t have to leave home and rescue people. Most of us are not prepared for that service. What we can do is hear an incoming call for assistance, and respond appropriately. Does someone need directions; offer what help you can (unless you are directionally challenged). Can you Google a map to aid someone on the radio? If there has been an accident, can you get location information and the kind of help needed (is an ambulance needed or simply police), and call the police or sheriff dispatch office. Why can’t the victim call 911? Perhaps they are out of range of the cell service, but in range of radio communication. All we are trying to do is to provide simple communication service to someone in need. Better still; be prepared and never have to use the ability. At least we are available if needed.

Many of you already monitor 146.52 on a regular basis, but if 50% of our club members were monitoring at some time during an average day, think of the increased safety net we can offer the community. Foolish? I hope not! And be assured, the person who needs help and finds a concerned ham on the receiving end of a call won’t think so either.

If you begin to monitor and are called on to help someone, please let us (me) know. It would be helpful if the club were credited for our efforts in one more area of community service.
YARC Net Changes with Thoughts and Recommendations

Dale AD7NQ

Thanks to so many of you that have supported and participated in our Wednesday 7:00 pm YARC Net. We have done so much lately, including changing from the 146.88 repeater to the ARES/RACES unit 147.26 on Mt Union. Your patience and cooperation are appreciated while we have experimented with the various locations made available and evaluated subsequent coverage.

Our net on November 12 was special to me because it was my last time as YARC Net Manager/Net Control. Personal obligations are the main reason for me stepping down. Mike W1DGL will be our new Net Manager so I ask that you give him your support. Check out his QRZ page, it’s impressive.

Special thanks to those who took Net Control during the last couple of years, the relief was appreciated. Thanks also to those who offered to take Net Control if needed.

We had 22 participants during our November 12 net - which indicates continuing interest and better coverage. This includes the fact that we had a repeater change which, so far, has been beneficial. There are a few issues concerning coverage, yet, there were numerous positive comments regarding the improved signal. Of course it’s a different animal and some antennas needed to be tweaked (for example: parts of downtown Prescott), but overall it appears to be better availability for all.

During the November 12 net, I opened our discussion and asked for comments as to what we might do to improve things going forward - regarding subject matter and the trivia question. The participation and suggestions were great. Here’s what I learned:

1. Follow the ARES/RACES protocol during the roll call which will save time.

2. Discussions (in general) should include technical stuff associated with Amateur radio. Otherwise be flexible—talk about club activities, holiday plans, weather, and current events—make it fun.

3. Trivia questions are appreciated and it’s best to limit them to ham radio (including FCC quiz review), electronics and Arizona historical trivia – perhaps a sprinkling of questions about some of the earlier movies filmed in Prescott.

Hopefully more of you will participate in this net and support our new Net Control. One way you can do this is to volunteer to take Net Control. The Scrip and Roll Call are available on line – it’s easy and fun. We really encourage our new members to volunteer as it helps you to get some on the air practice. ALSO, it’s kind of a cool way to get up-to-date club info and to chat with our club members.

Another thought/suggestion I had was that our club might grow this net by sending an invitation email (perhaps from the Net Manager) to all new members. Not immediately, maybe a few months following membership. There is so much new member info, emails, rules, passwords, etc. sent after one joins our club. Why not give it a break for a couple of months and then invite them to join our net? This could be automated and will remind those that our net is available - especially to new licensees. HEY, a really cool way to get on the air and get to know our club members.

Thank you again and I really look forward to joining you as a participant on the Wednesday night net.

YARC Officers for 2014

President
Don Bauer, WB7TPH
president@w7yrc.org

Vice President
Rex Mauldin, N7NGM
vice.president@w7yrc.org

Secretary
Forrest Murdoch, WH6EAL
secretary@w7yrc.org

Treasurer
David Hanson, W7BJ
treasurer@w7yrc.org

Board of Directors (includes Club Officers)

Creighton Grotbeck -- AD7YR
Ralph Gendron -- W7HAM
Bob Rosevear -- WB7RRQ
Tom Griswold -- WN7E

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

December 2014

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) 771-8267
or
Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ at (928) 713-0542

YAVAPAI PARTY 2015

The Grill at Stone Ridge Country Club, Prescott Valley
January 10, 2015, 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Menu

No-host bar available
Luncheon served at 12:00 Noon
Your choice of:

Prime Rib Au Jus, with roasted red potatoes, salad, rolls, beverage
Chicken Marsala, with Au Gratin potatoes, salad, rolls, beverage
Oven Baked Salmon, with long grain and wild rice, salad, rolls, beverage

YARC will provide a cake for dessert
All this for only $22.00 per person. Cut-off for getting money in will be Dec. 10th
Vegetarian choice available upon request

There are two ways to make your meal choice, online at the club website under the YARC Party tab, or by a PDF that you can print out and mail in or bring to the club meeting.

The form will also be available at meetings. Mail or bring your selection/check to the club meeting.

If you cannot attend the December meeting, please mail your selections to:

Tom Griswold WN7E
8519 E. Tranquil Blvd
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314
Reading Between the Lines

By Don Keith N4KC

www.n4kc.com

When I am contemplating an amateur radio purchase, I find the reviews offered by others here on eHam or other similar sites to be quite helpful. After a piece of gear has accumulated several dozen comments, I find there is enough input to make a good judgment about not only the quality of the item but whether its feature set is really what I am looking for. After many years of perusing the reviews, though, I think I have picked up the ability to read between the lines of some of them, and to glean even more information from them.

As a service to my fellow hams, here is a quick guide to what posters are really saying in those reviews.

No need to thank me. I'm happy to help.

What the reviewer says: “This thing is a POS!”

What the reviewer means: “This wonderful bit of electronic engineering is a POS - a 'perfectly operating system!' I'd buy a dozen but I don't have room to store them.”

What the reviewer says: “0/5”

What the reviewer means: “I know the thing has a 4.9/5 average, and I'm the only one—out of 527 reviews—to give it less than a 4. But I pulled mine out of the box, tossed the box and manual in the dumpster, hooked it up, tried to load it up to a lawn chair, and the output transistors went pppsssszzzzlll. What a pile of junk! How can they get away with selling stuff like this?”

What the reviewer says: “I know this antenna is only a 50-ohm resistor in a tub of epoxy, but it is the greatest radiator ever invented. My first contact was with a VK on 40 meters in broad daylight from St. Louis. Forget the laws of physics. This technology may well win the Nobel Prize. A hundred years of antenna engineering and never, until now, has someone discovered such a stunning breakthrough like this. The thing is a miracle!”

What the reviewer means: “My brother-in-law and I make these things in our basement. Every other positive review you see is from somebody we gave a free one in exchange for the ‘5.’ Please buy one. I suddenly have lots and lots of legal bills and the Federal Trade Commission is spamming my in-box.”

What the reviewer says: “Too complicated, too many knobs, the menu structure reminds me of that calculus class I dropped in college. What good is it if I can't figure out how to even turn it on?”

What the reviewer means: “I want DC-to-daylight, roof ing filters, noise blanking, all modes, backlighting with a choice of a hundred colors, and instant mode and bandswitching, CW speed, mic gain, sideband selection, satellite choices, split and reverse split, three receivers, voice processing, and more…all with two knobs and no menus.”

Alternative version of what the reviewer means: “I've been inactive since Nixon was president. I'm still looking for some tubes in this thing. And knobs for the plate and load. A menu on a radio? Next thing you'll tell me is that people are getting radios that plug into their computers. I think I need to go lie down for a while.”

What the reviewer says: “Their customer service is the worst. Dunno how they stay in business.”

What the reviewer means: “Okay, so I questioned the person's ancestry and sobriety, and used some language more appropriate for a dockworker. And that was just while talking to the receptionist. But their junk blew a fuse and all I did was go key-down for an hour with no antenna hooked up. And fudged just a bit when I told them when I bought it. Fudged by six years. But the least they could have done is send me a new one.”

What the reviewer says: “Man, this is one fantastic radio! I had no idea something this great was on the market. I'd buy six more if I had the desk space.”

What the reviewer means: “Look, I could have bought a slightly used Toyota for what this box full of parts cost me. It makes power on two bands, drifts like a hobo, smells like sardines when it gets hot…which it does quite quickly…and produces transmit audio that sounds like a cement mixer full of gravel. But if you think I'm going to spend that much on something and not pretend to love it, you're out of your mind!”

What the reviewer says: “reel gud flox bt som time seemz to gof wen glocking the qtr. hey, ifn want craigy s wartz, this is the wun yu waant.”
What the reviewer means: “Well, truth is that I haven't quite figured those kinds of posts out yet. I know our education system is superb and that no one could graduate high school without being able to string together a coherent sentence. I figure this must be some other language with which I am not familiar.”

What the reviewer says: “WOW! THIS IS ONE SWEET, SWEET PIECE OF GEAR!!!!!!!”

What the reviewer means: “I do like this piece of equipment. I just can't figure out how to get the caps lock on my keyboard turned off since all the RF in the shack turned it on back in ’98.”

So that is my little attempt at interpreting the web reviews for ham gear. I do hope it has been helpful and that you will all continue to give the rest of us the benefit of your comments. They do mostly serve a useful purpose, and thanks to the sites that allow for this first-hand commentary.

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**NRA Birthday Special Event**

By John Broughton, WB9VGJ

The annual NRA birthday special event, using the call sign K7NRA, was held at Gunsite Academy on Monday November 17th. It was a very cold morning when we got there, 13 degrees, but with sunshine and little to no wind, it was not too bad. We operated from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

We had our usual two stations. Gunsite’s owner, Buz, K7GST, lets us use his station in his barn for our operation. It is used as the phone station. Loren, AE7CG, and Jim, N6KZ, set up a CW station. We were busy making contacts all day and worked phone and CW on 20M and phone only on 10M, 15M and 40M. The contact numbers were;

Phone: 336
CW: 50
2M: 5

Total 391

The operators for the event were Terry, KB7TRE, I, WB9VGJ, Pete, K6VVR, Mary, AB7NK, and Tony, K16AHH, on phone and Loren and Jim on CW. On phone, the most contacts were made by Terry, 161, and Tony, 98. They put in a lot of effort and really enjoyed themselves.

We had 18 amateurs total who attended the event. Unfortunately, Mike, K7NRA, was under the weather and unable to attend. He has participated in the event most every year since we’ve been doing it and usually starts off the event as the first operator. He is very generous in lending his call sign for the event.

Our special thanks to Buz, K7GST, for his hospitality in using his facility and to Mike, K7NRA, for the use of his call sign.

You can see a few pictures of the event at:

http://tinyurl.com/K7NRAspecialevent2014

73,

John, WB9VGJ

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**VE Testing**

By Don Bauer, WB7TPH

On November 8th, our VE team saw 14 candidates take their license tests. We were only expecting three as of a week before the test session. Of those tested, we added nine new Technician licensees, one upgrade to General and one upgrade to Extra class. And, an expired licensee who took the Tech test to regain his General. Pretty good morning!

The next licensing test will be in early February, so get those books open and ready yourself for that upgrade. Check the club website soon for the 2015 dates.

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**Upcoming Events**

- **January 10, 2015** - YARC Party.
- **January 10, 2015** - YARC Meeting at YARC Party.
- **January 31, 2015** - Sedona Marathon
Introduction

In reading the history of this industry, one thing strikes me. There just isn't a lot of future in making ham radios. The real money seems to be in military contracts, which are less speculative and more profitable, but even these didn't save a lot of companies.

The Japanese may be an exception, as they don't do a lot of military work, but ham radio is pretty much a side line for them too. Their meat 'n' potatoes are marine and commercial radios, and then ham radio as the Japanese see it, which is often closer to (pardon the expression) a licensed version of our CB. Sure, there are a million hams in Japan, but most have a readily available, severely restricted license that allows only a couple of bands and modes.

Even mighty RCA, which was way too big to ever have to depend on hams, and which for some years even owned the very concept of the superheterodyne itself, has pretty much vanished into the ether. Its historic building in New York, still the headquarters of NBC, now says "GE" on top. It's that kind of business.

Most U.S. communication radios were originally made in three regions, possibly because the first companies clustered around the few plants that were licensed by RCA. There was one group in the Northeast, one in the Midwest, and one in California, generations before anyone had heard of Silicon Valley.

Many of the Northeastern companies began in small factories on Manhattan's Radio Row, which later became the country's primary retail source for WW II surplus gear and esoteric electronics in general. In 1966, Radio Row's few blocks along Cortlandt and Greenwich were utterly obliterated for construction of, ironically enough, the World Trade Center. Here's a nice site with photos of the area in its heyday. There is also some good stuff on the Sonic Memorial Project, which collects multimedia WTC and 9/11 related history.

The California firms tended to concentrate in what is now a grungy part of L.A.'s Westlake district, near Alvarado and Venice Boulevard (where Gilfillan, now ITT's radar division, made radios on license from RCA). The Midwestern manufacturers were more spread out, like Collins in Iowa, Motorola in Illinois, and Drake in Ohio. Nearly all of these companies began in basements or garages, before or during World War II.

After World War II, HF voice radio started out pretty much with prewar AM technology, but soon began the slow conversion to the far more efficient SSB. It's true that hams invented sideband, but not that they perfected it. The phone company was using it in the 1930s. The ARRL pushed hard for its adoption after the war, but the real impetus for conversion came when General Curtis "Iron Ass" LeMay got the U.S. Air Force to adopt sideband for all of its HF comm. After this, it was only a matter of time for hams, and just about everyone else on HF. AM didn't die out completely, and it remains a fine ragchewing mode and a viable hobby within a hobby, but for 99.99% of hams the quack-quack sound became standard.

SSB required some circuit changes in receivers, but nothing fundamental. The BFO had to be refined, filter passbands had to be adjusted, AVC had to be tweaked, and ultimately product detectors replaced simple diodes. Stability, both mechanical and electrical, needed a magnitude of improvement. The common solution was a multiple conversion/ fixed HFO/ narrow-range PTO/ high first IF/ low last IF design, as pioneered by Collins. The signal flow of the receiver remained essentially unchanged from the 1930s, as it still does in today's superheterodynes.

Transmitters, however, needed a complete rethinking. For most hams, transmitters had always been more fun than receivers. They were simpler, and way easier to work on. Also, they tended to look like serious equipment, which they were. They could even kill you. Most
transmitters were relatively simple oscillator/ multiplier/ driver/ PA chains, with class B modulators.

However, SSB required considerably more complex designs, with filters or phase-shift networks to get rid of the carrier and unwanted sideband. Modulation took place at low level, early in the signal chain, and this modulated signal was heterodyned to the working frequency. PA's were set linear, instead of the more efficient class C. This design approach involved severe compromises to AM operation, and to a lesser extent CW, both of which are still way more fun on the 'boat anchors.' The ham radio became a complex mass of critically aligned circuits, best adjusted by trained techs with special test equipment. The average ham, even the technically aware one, couldn't just tweak a tx by ear anymore.

Even so, the 60s began the gradual acceptance of small, self-contained transceivers, which could share a lot of the same mixer and filter circuits. Within a decade, these had replaced the roomfuls of equipment once associated with short wave radio. By the mid-70s, vacuum tubes remained a viable design approach only in the largest, external, lin-ear, where they were a cheap, rugged alternative to high current, solid-state devices. Boat anchor lin-ear, using heavy-duty components and commercial-grade output tubes, are very much with us today.

The rest is history. ■

Live, as it happened, by radio?
From the American Museum of Radio and Electricity

On May 6, 1937, radio reporter Herb Morrison was at an airfield in Lakehurst, New Jersey. He had been dispatched by WLS in Chicago to cover what was to be the routine moorage of a mighty German zeppelin. Instead, he chroni-celed a disaster as it happened, de-scribing the explosion of the Hindenburg, the anguish of the waiting crowd, and the condition of survivors. But his riveting account of the tragedy was not broadcast live; there was no way to do that. Morrison and his sound en-gineer raced back to Chicago where his report was broad-cast from the WLS studios. At least some of it was heard in New York before noon on May 7.

Ellisville, Mississippi, April 12, 2014.

An Ellisville school teacher called the local phone company to report her telephone failed to ring when her friends called - and that on the few occasions, when it did ring, her dog always moaned right before the phone rang.

The telephone repairman proceeded to the scene, curious to see this psychic dog or senile lady. He climbed a telephone pole, hooked in his test set, and dialed the sub-sciber's house.

The phone didn't ring right away, but then the dog moaned and the telephone began to ring.

Climbing down from the pole, the telephone repairman found:

1. The dog was tied to the telephone system's ground wire with a steel chain and collar.
2. The wire connection to the ground rod was loose.
3. The dog was receiving 90 volts of signaling current when the number was called.
4. After a couple of jolts, the dog would start moaning and then urinate.
5. The wet ground would complete the circuit, thus caus-ing the phone to ring.

Which demonstrates that some problems CAN be fixed by pissing and moaning.

Thought you'd like to know. ■
**Get Together for Breakfast**

**Wed. Morning Breakfast:**
7:00 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

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**Freq.** | **PL** | **Location** | **Owner/Club** | **Auto-Patch** | **Links** | **VoIP** | **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 | | |
146.760- | 131.8 | Hayden Peak | N7SKO | | WE.COM 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 |
147.000+ | 162.2 | Mt. Elden | W7ARA | | MMRG |
147.140+ | 162.2 | Mingus Mtn. | K7MRG | | 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 |
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 | | ARA |
927.3875- | 151.4 | Prescott | WB7BYV | | Echo |

**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 "

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**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

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**YAVAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

P.O. BOX 11994

PRESCOTT, AZ 86304

Visit us on the web at [http://www.w7yrc.org](http://www.w7yrc.org)

Many thanks to Dick Hughes, W6CCD, our Webmaster