



# PUSH TO TALK

Push to Talk is the monthly newsletter of the Inland Empire Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL Special Service Club. The club website is <http://www.w6ier.org>. W6IER repeaters are 145.460 and 447.220. Both repeaters have a standard negative offset and 77.0 PL. Our 2-meter net is each Thursday at 7:30 pm.

John Simmons KQ6ES, Editor [kq6es@roadrunner.com](mailto:kq6es@roadrunner.com)

### GENERAL MEETING

The next regular meeting will be August 2 at our normal time and location: 9 am on the first Saturday of the month in the Ontario PFF Bank meeting room, 333 N. Euclid Avenue at D Street.

### SWAPMEET

The next IEARC swapmeet is August 9. It is held on the second Saturday morning of each month in the parking lot of Cable Airport in Upland. Enter from Benson Avenue at 13th Street. Come shortly before 6 am to help set up.

Check out our new 2-meter Trivia Net Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm.

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We wish to acknowledge and thank the following members for coming to the July swap meet and supporting it by helping with vendor check-ins, traffic control, parking, and clean-up.

Lane KC6WGH  
Bill KG6ZJP

Dave KI6NZX  
Clint K6LCS

Frank K6FED  
John K6JGY

Jon KR6ER  
Bob KE6QET

Chuck Sweeten AI6I, IEARC President  
Cliff Wickey N6CTW, IEARC Treasurer



**CONTEST PAGE**

ANNOUNCEMENT – IEARC Contest Chair John kq6es

W6IER will be on the air at my home station in Upland for the North American QSO Party phone contest, Saturday August 16 from 11 am to 11 pm. All club members and friends of the club are welcome, no matter what the level of experience. Come for a few minutes or several hours. Take the mike or just visit.

The HF station is a Yaesu FT-1000MP and a Cushcraft A3 triband beam at 20 feet, with a Butternut HF9V-X vertical for the low bands. We'll log with the easy to use N3FJP software. I have no amplifier, but this won't matter because in this contest the maximum power allowed is 100 watts. Operating as part of a group is a friendly and fun experience. If you are interested in joining us, please e-mail me at kq6es@roadrunner.com or see me at the August meeting.

AUGUST CONTEST CALENDAR

See the August QST or go to <http://www.hornucopia.com> for additional contests and details.

10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 2 to 2359Z, Aug 3
ARRL UHF Contest	1800Z, Aug 2 to 1800Z, Aug 3
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 2 to 0600Z, Aug 3
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 16 to 0600Z, Aug 17
New Jersey QSO Party	2000Z, Aug 16 to 0200Z, Aug 18
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 23 to 0400Z, Aug 24

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From the ARRL web site.

W1AW/KL7 to Operate from Arctic Circle (Jul 10, 2008) -- Just 300 miles south of the Alaskan Arctic Ocean -- where the Arctic Circle crosses the Dalton Highway (66 degrees, 33 minutes north) -- W1AW/KL7 will be on the air (grid square BP56) July 26-August 10 on all bands from 160-6 meters. This ARRL 2008 Alaska State Convention Special Event Station plans to run two HF stations operating CW, SSB and digital, one satellite station and one station devoted to 146.52 MHz. The Alaskan summer skies are ablaze with gray line-enhanced propagation effects, providing six to eight hour spurts of activity to most of the ham radio world. W1AW/KL7 plans to be active from 0600 UTC-1400 UTC to maximize gray line propagation. From Alaska, signals will take off in both directions at the same time: Europe to the East on one side, with Asia to the West on the other side. For an illustration of how Arctic gray line propagation works, see page 21 in the August 2008 issue of QST. The 2008 Alaska ARRL Convention will run from August 1-4, 2008 in Anchorage. -- *Information provided by Bill Balzarini, KL7BB*



W1AW/KL7 operator?

## FOCUS ON:

A regular column looking at organizations and activities of special interest to our club.

### AMERICAN RED CROSS

Edited From various on-line sources including the ARRL website

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The American Red Cross authority to perform disaster services was formalized when the organization was chartered by the Congress of the United States in 1905. Among other provisions, this charter charged the Red Cross:

to continue and carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same.

-U.S. Congress, act of January 5, 1905, as amended, 36 U.S.C.

The authority of the American Red Cross to provide disaster services was reaffirmed by federal law in the 1974 Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 93-288) and in the 1988 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

The American Red Cross provides the following five (5) services: Armed Forces Emergency Services, Biomedical Services, Disaster Services, Health and Safety, Youth, and Community Services, and International Services.

There are approximately 1000 chapters across the United States. Each chapter is responsible for providing disaster planning, preparedness, mitigation, education, and response. Each chapter has a disaster leadership team or committee. This team or committee studies the hazards of the locality and surveys local resources for personnel, equipment, supplies, transportation, emergency communications, and facilities available for disaster relief. The chapter disaster leadership also formulates cooperative plans and procedures with local government agencies and private organizations for carrying on relief operations should a disaster occur. Through its nationwide organization, the American Red Cross coordinates its total resources for use in large disasters. Services will be provided to those in need regardless of citizenship, race, religion, age, sex, or political affiliation.

#### The ARRL and the American Red Cross

The ARRL is organized in relevant part for the establishment of Amateur Radio networks to provide electronic communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies and the furtherance of the public welfare.

Emergency communications are provided by the ARRL-sponsored Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Directed by a Section Emergency Coordinator, the ARES field organization includes District Emergency Coordinators and local Emergency Coordinators.

Complementing the ARES is the National Traffic System (NTS). Directed by a Section Traffic Manager, NTS nets cover widespread as well as local areas. Working and training together, the ARES and NTS volunteers provide emergency communications and message handling that is designed to meet the needs of any emergency situation.

#### The Statement of Understanding (SOU)

The ARRL recognizes the American Red Cross as having primary responsibility for responding to domestic disasters. In order that the resources of the American Red Cross and the ARRL may be coordinated and used to the fullest advantage in rendering disaster relief, both agencies have had a Statement of Understanding which included the following.

The ARRL will maintain a list of deployed Amateur Radio Operators. In such cases when the operators are required to carry American Red Cross identification, they must register at American Red Cross disaster operations headquarters as American Red Cross volunteers. Upon ARRL's request, the American Red Cross will provide the first name and last name of American Red Cross registered Amateur Radio Operators to ARRL.

Chapters and other administrative units of each organization will be encouraged to engage in training exercises, as appropriate. Also, these units may perform other cooperative efforts such as disaster planning and preparedness, first aid, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), health courses, communications training, and community Disaster Education, as well as providing disaster relief services and supplies.

Whenever there is a disaster requiring the use of amateur radio communications facilities, the Red Cross, through its local chapter or through the national sector, may request the assistance of the ARES and NTS near the scene of the disaster. This assistance may include: alert and mobilization of ARRL amateur radio volunteer emergency communications personnel in accordance with a prearranged plan, establishment and maintenance of fixed, mobile, and portable station emergency communication facilities for local radio coverage and point-to-point contact between American Red Cross personnel and locations and maintenance of the continuity of communications for the duration of the emergency period until normal communications channels are substantially restored, or until Amateur Radio communications are no longer necessary in support of the response to the disaster.

#### The SOU today

The SOU ended in 2007 and has not yet been renewed due to the ARRL's concerns over the American Red Cross policy on background checks of volunteers, which the ARRL feels are unnecessarily intrusive and will discourage its members from volunteering. However, cooperation continues as this recent story shows.

#### The Amateur Radio Provides Lifeline During Disaster

By Nick Samaniego, Media & Government Affairs, American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles, on assignment in Oregon

Beaverton, Ore. – Hard hitting disasters like the recent Northwest storms can knock communications for a loop. In Oregon, thousands of homes and businesses were left “powerless” – without utilities, telephones or any lines of communication to outside help. Luckily, local residents in storm ravaged areas could depend on a handful of specially trained volunteers dedicated to an old-fashioned method of information sharing – ham radio. Anticipating that telephone lines, cell towers and internet connections in rural communities could be severely impaired, the Red Cross – in collaboration with CERT and other partners – pre-positioned ham radio operators and relied on them to deal with the multitude of storm-related crises. Amateur radio equipment can be used in disaster areas even when power is out and phone lines, relays and other communications systems are down because these radios run on their own battery or generator power.

On the evening of Sunday, Dec. 2, alarming weather reports prompted Red Cross volunteer Scott Oerding to pack up his portable ham radio and overnight gear, and head to Tillamook to wait out the storm. A Portland resident of nearly 30 years and a seasoned volunteer with the Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross, Scott met up with his crew of eight volunteer ham radio operators to determine where along the storm path they should locate operations in hopes of keeping the emergency dialogue going. Though labeled an “amateur,” Scott would end up relaying dozens of routine emergency calls to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

for Tillamook County like a real pro. Two cold, muddy, rain-soaked days into the operation, Scott's skills were put to the test.

Taking advantage of a break in the clouds, Scott headed to the shelter's parking lot for a breath of fresh air and a brief moment of peace. As he walked toward his vehicle, a mud-spattered pick-up tore into the driveway. "I stood watching, listening as the driver – a frantic woman in her fifties – stumbled out and began rambling about someone hurt and in need of help," Scott explained. "She looked panicked and exhausted." The woman went on to tell Scott about her injured neighbor. "My first instinct was to calm her down a bit and attempt to get as many details as possible before determining how to proceed," he continued. By Scott's account, the woman grew nervous and frustrated as she struggled to articulate just what had happened and who needed the medical help. He managed to figure out that an elderly man – the husband of the woman's close acquaintance – had suffered a bad fall and required immediate medical attention. His condition was deteriorating rapidly. Scott reached for his hand-held radio, speaking into the mouthpiece with clear and concise bursts: "Emergency traffic for 9-1-1." After multiple relay attempts and no response from the EOC, another ham operator answered the distress call. "I have a functional landline and can handle your traffic," said the voice on the other end. Scott then delivered the essential information intended for the paramedics, easing the woman's fears as she heard that professional medical help was on the way. Less than fifteen minutes passed before the ambulance raced past the shelter en route to the home of the injured man.

Once on the scene, the EMTs trudged through mud and debris in the flooded home to stabilize the elderly gentleman before transporting him to a nearby medical facility. Over the airwaves, word reached Scott that the man had shattered his hip and did indeed require the immediate medical attention Scott was able to summon. "I let out a big sigh of relief knowing that we were able to get him the help he needed," said Scott. "Without these ham radios, I don't know how else this man would have been saved."

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### **HF DIGITAL VOICE PROGRAMS ONCE AGAIN AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD**

Abridged from the ARRL Letter Vol. 27, No. 30

Citing codec (coding/decoding) licensing issues, three free Windows programs for sound card-based HF digital voice were yanked from their download site for a short time recently, surprising hams who are interested in HF digital voice operation; several online groups that supported the software were also closed for a short time.

WinDRM, DRMDV and FDMDV, all written by Cesco Lanza, HB9TLK, used a codec that was developed for the US Department of Defense and NATO.

Pearce said these three programs all allow hams to transmit and receive digital voice by connecting their PC sound card to an ordinary SSB transceiver: "The result has been surprisingly high quality audio, with virtually no noise -- sort of like listening to FM, but in the narrow bandwidth of a sideband signal. WinDRM, the best sounding program, uses 2.5 kHz of spectrum. FDMDV sounds a little rougher, but uses only 1.1 kHz of spectrum. They both use OFDM modulation, a set of close-spaced carriers that are each modulated with a little bit of data to add up to the final digital signal. The main problem with HF digital voice is that it needs fairly strong signals. FDMDV works better with weaker signals than WinDRM."

Pearce said that none of the available open-source codecs work as well as the old one: "MELP <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MELP>, or Mixed Excitation Linear Prediction, was designed

specifically for high-quality, low data-rate voice communication. So the on-air audio might suffer some with the new version. Digital voice users have been waiting and hoping for someone to concentrate on developing a codec optimized for ham radio use, but none has been forthcoming."

FDMDV and WinDRM can both be downloaded from Jason Buchanan's, N1SU, Web site <http://www.n1su.com/>.

The AOR digital voice modems and D-STAR radios both use the AMBE 2020 vocoder, and are not affected by the coding changes; the AMBE 2020 vocoder is a proprietary chip that is embedded in each unit.

For more information on WinDRM, check out QST Editor Steve Ford's, WB8IMY, article ["Life Could Be a DReaM," pages 38-40] in the April 2007 issue of QST.

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## Contribute to the Newsletter or suffer the consequences!

Can you identify these six scary Newsletter volunteers who will "encourage" contributions? No, the lady in the middle is not one of them. E-mail me with the answers.

Tell me what you have done recently, or not so recently: been to a convention, worked a contest, worked some new DX, bought or built some new gear, put up a new antenna, upgraded your license, got some interesting QSL cards from the bureau. Send a photo of your station, preferably with you in the photo, at home, camping, or wherever. Scan or photograph that nice QSL card you just received, or contest certificate, or special event certificate. Send a list of your favorite websites or your own personal website address for others to browse.