

Sinbad Desert Amateur Radio Club Meeting

April 7, 2011

Old Fire House

100 North Main, Orangeville, Utah

website: www.sdarc.us

yahoo group: sdarc

Welcome

Minutes (attached)

Financial Report

Tonights Meeting Schedule

- Pot Luck Dinner and Open Discussion: 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- SDARC Business Meeting: 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- EchoLink Training by Jim Anderson, KJ7S: 7:00 – 8:00
- Adjourn: 8:00 p.m.

Old Business

Repeater Report – Bret WX7Y

- Other

Castlevision Hospital – Allen, KA7LEG, Bryan, K7GX, and Harvey

- Tower problem
- Classes
- Other

Communication Trailers

- Carbon Update – Bryan, K7GX
- Emery – Bret, WX7Y

Code Red Sign-ups – Bret, WX7Y

Boy Scout – “On Target 2011”

- Link to website: www.ontargetunpc.com

Ferron Care Center – Phil, KF7BJQ

Weather Spotter Training Report

New Business

Class Schedules

Spring Campout: Friday April 29th – Sunday May 1st - San Rafael Desert Site Map:
<http://sdarc.us/Maps/SpringMap2008.pdf>

- Friday – Arrive and setup

- Saturday – Pot Luck Breakfast, Command Center Training, Test Session, Beehive Net Check-in, Business Meeting, SDARC Steak Fry, 4 wheeler ride, other
- Sunday – Pot Luck Breakfast, Beehive Net Check-in, break camp.

Friendship Cruise: May 27th – 30th, 2011

Other

Up Coming SDARC Activities / Events

- Campouts:
 - June 24th – 26th, 2011 (ARRL Field Day 2011) – Cottonwood Canyon Site Map: <http://sdarc.us/Maps/FieldDayLocation.pdf>
 - September 23rd – 25th – San Rafael Desert Site Map: <http://sdarc.us/Maps/SpringMap2008.pdf>
- Friendship Cruise: May 27th – 30th, 2011 – Information available at: <http://www.ecso.com/friendship/> and <http://ka7oei.com/fc.html>
- Repeater Trips: June, July, August – Dates TBD

NETS:

April 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th – **SDARC HF Net**, 8:00 a.m. on 3.828MHz +/-
 April 10th, 17th, 24th, May 1st - **Skyline Radio Club Net Night**, 8:00 p.m.
 April 11th, 18th, 24th, May 2nd – **Borderline Amateur Radio Club Net Night**, 9:00 p.m.
 April 12th, 19th, 26th, May May 3rd - **SDARC Net Night**, 8:00 p.m.
 April 13th - **Rocky Mountain Division HF Net**, 7:30 p.m. on 3939 kHz +/-
 April 19th – **Utah RACES Net**, 8:00 p.m. 3920 kHz +/-
 Daily: **Utah Beehive Net**, 12:30 p.m. 7272 kHz

April's Tech Tip: [EchoLink](#) – Jim Anderson, KJ7S

Next Meeting: April 30th – Spring Campout, San Rafael Desert

Email agenda items / ideas to k7jnj@sdarc.net

Minutes of the Sinbad Desert Amateur Radio Club

March 3, 2011

21 members and visitors present

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by JJ at his offices in Price. Minutes read and treasurer's report given. There is a balance of \$3620.35 in all accounts. JJ read minutes. Bryan moved to accept minutes as read, Bret seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Bret reported on CAT machines. They are coming along great, and the ones up and running are great
- Allan reported on the hospital tower. They are going to try and use something different than the tower with a different antenna. There is a conflict for them as to whether they should do training first or get equipment first. Allan and Bryan would like to get training started first so that they can be ready when the equipment is purchased and set up. Some other issues were discussed regarding the hospital. Allan was worried about Wood Hill. Bryan and Bret let them know all the sites that are ready to connect to Castleview.
- Carbon County Communications trailer was discussed.
- Emery County Communications Trailer was discussed. The new Sheriff is trying to get settled, so he is still not set for too many decisions. He was impressed with the small one we have and would like to get busy on the new larger one.
- Bryan's APRS was discussed. It was great. JJ mentioned the survey and asked again for interest in upcoming Tech Tips for each meeting.
- The mock disaster February 14 was discussed. Phil did a great write-up in the Progress, making particular note of the participation of Hams both on site and calling in. The Sheriff was impressed by the participation on the amateur wave lengths.
- JJ would like Jim to do a little more info and training on NET night.

NEW BUSINESS:

- JJ let us know that Bret sent an e-mail out to the Feds who are trying to cut off more band width. Other members encouraged to send messages to the Congress.
- Weather Spotter training for NOAA will be given at 5 p.m. on March 16 at the Sheriff's Office. Ham operators invited to participate. The National Weather Service would like more spotters and report systems.
- Bret also sent out a message on Boy Scout Mirror Program on the mountain tops. They would like some more help with it. More information will be upcoming. Bret would like the Boy Scout leaders to push more for the troops to get involved.
- JJ let us know that they will be making us ID cards for our participation in these classes. The credentialing cards will be used on the Sheriff's Office in case of an emergency. Other training that we ought to get are the IS 700, 200 and 800 classes which can be completed on line.
- Phil let us know that the Ferron Care Center would also like to get some of the staff involved in radio same as hospital classes and equipment.

Next meeting will be April 7, 2011 in Orangeville at the Old Firehouse Community Center.

Bryan moved to adjourn with Paul seconding. Dismissed 6:50

IS100.b training followed.

ECHOLINK VoIP For AR

EchoLink is software which allows Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the Internet, using voice-over-IP (VoIP) technology. The program enables worldwide connections to be made between stations, from computer to station, or from computer to computer.

Callsign Validation

If you have never used EchoLink before, the callsign you entered will need to be validated by the system before you will be able to access it. To gain access, you must provide proof of license to the EchoLink system; for details, please see the [Validation](#) section of the EchoLink Web site. Until the callsign has been validated, the Station List area of the screen will be blank, or may display a message indicating that your callsign is not yet validated. Once validation is complete, you will see the list of stations appear in the Station List area, and you can proceed to use EchoLink.

Connecting to a Station

To connect to another station, find the station's callsign in the Station List. Use the tabs at the bottom to select either Index View or Explorer View, depending on your preference. Once you've located the station you're looking for, double-click on the station's callsign to connect to it. After a few seconds, you should see the station's callsign and name appear near the bottom of the screen, and you should hear the "connected" signal. You are now in direct contact with the other station and you can begin conversing.

If, after about 30 seconds, you see the message "Timed out", it means that the attempt to connect to the other station failed. This can happen for several reasons. The other station may have already established a contact with someone else, or may have just logged off the system. Another possibility is that a network "firewall" problem is preventing your PC from receiving data from the remote station. If you suspect this might be the case, see [Firewall Issues](#) for more information. You may also be able to find solutions in the [Support](#) section of the EchoLink Web site.

Speaking Back and Forth

Once you're connected, you can converse with the remote station as in an ordinary QSO. The space bar works as a locking "push-to-talk" switch. Tap the spacebar once to begin "transmitting", tap it again to stop (don't hold it

down). A red TX indicator appears on the screen whenever EchoLink is "transmitting", that is, sending audio over the Internet to the connected station.

If you prefer, you can click the "lightning bolt" icon near the upper left corner of the screen, instead of using the spacebar. You can also change the software so that the spacebar is held down to transmit and released to receive, more like a push-to-talk switch. See [Preferences](#) for details.

You can switch to Transmit only when the other station is not already transmitting. When the other station is transmitting, the letters RX appear in the status bar at the bottom right, and the sound-level meter moves from left to right to show incoming sound. If you see that the other station is speaking, but you do not hear audio from your PC speakers, you may need to increase the volume on your sound device. Click the loudspeaker icon near the bottom right-hand corner of your Windows screen to adjust. Also, be sure the volume knob on your speakers is turned up.

While transmitting, speak into the microphone and watch the sound-level meter at the bottom-center of the EchoLink screen. The meter moves farther to the right as the sound gets louder. For best results, adjust your Windows Recording Volume settings so that the meter moves vigorously, but does not reach full-scale except on peaks.

If you see the red TX indicator while transmitting, but see no indication on the sound-level meter while speaking into the microphone, see [Sound Card Issues](#) for more information.

Chat

If the other station is also sitting in front of his PC (rather than communicating over a radio link), you can "chat" while connected by typing messages back and forth. Type a brief message in the box near the bottom-right corner of the screen and click Send. The message you sent, and any response you might receive, appear in the Chat window just above it. Note that you can send a Chat message even while the other station is transmitting.

Disconnecting

Once your conversation is finished, click on the red "broken link" icon near the top of the screen to disconnect. You should hear the "Disconnected" signal, and see the message "Not connected" near the bottom of the screen.