



SDARC Newsletter

www.sdarc.us

Volume 5, Issue 1

March 2010

Hams Join in Communication Training Exercise

By PHIL FAUVER (condensed from Emery County Progress, see 1 Mar 2011 issue)

Sinbad Desert Amateur Radio Club, Borderline Radio Club and Skyline Radio Club volunteers were invited to participate in the Seven Eastern Utah Counties mock disaster exercise February 15. The counties involved in this exercise were Duchesne, Daggett, Uintah, Emery Grand, Carbon, and San Juan.

This exercise was part of a Homeland Security Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Program for the Uintah Basin and Southeastern Utah.

Scenario. around 8 a.m. Feb. 15, Delta Flight 3126 from Salt Lake City to Denver reported a total engine failure and was attempting to crash land on a plateau in the Book Cliffs area.

By 10 a.m. the Emery County Command Center was in operation and making contact with dispatch centers in each of the seven counties by radio. As the disaster happened in Emery County, it became the command and control center. Emery and Carbon counties set up their mobile communications command centers at the county fairgrounds in Price. The other counties set up mobile command centers and dispatch centers in various places in their area.

Hospitals and health departments in close proximity to the disaster area were contacted to make sure each were prepared to receive and transport injured and non-injured crash survivors and deceased bodies. Castleview Hospital has a functioning ham radio operator and radio. The purpose of this exercise was to test the communications by radio to and from all seven counties utilizing the State Road System mountain top radio repeaters.



Jim Anderson KA7YIV, Allen Orton KA7LEG, JJ Grant K7JNJ, Emery Co. Sheriff Greg Funk, Sgt. Dusty Butler, Bret Mills WX7Y, Paul Porter K7BFE, John Barker K1HOD.

Several ham operators reported in from Emery, Carbon, Sanpete and Duchesne counties when asked for a report by dispatch. The ham radio operators were asked to report their locations using their hand held radio or mobile radios through the ham radio club mountain top radio repeaters. Hams can be an additional source of communication

in case of a real disaster. They would be extra eyes and ears on the ground assisting where needed. Others involved in this communications test were the BLM, State of Utah Division of Homeland Security and Communications, Allen Memorial Hospital, Uinta Basin Medical Center and Castleview Hospital.

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Upcoming meetings:

April 7, 2011
Old Orangeville Fire House
May meeting will be held the Saturday of the spring camp-out

SDARC on the web:

For latest news, repeater updates as well as other great ham resources check out the Club site: www.sdarc.us

2011 SDARC Club Officers

President: J.J. Grant K7JNJ
North Vice President: Allan Orton KA7LEG
South Vice President: Paul Porter K7BFE
Communications Officer: Jim Anderson KJ7S
Security Treasurer: Anita Mills KB7GFV
North area Liaison: Ken DeMille W5KWD
South West area Liaison: C. Dee Zeeman N7RVS



2011 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention

Sagebrush Inn & Convention Center • Taos, New Mexico

August 5-7, 2011 • *(Re)Discovering the Thrill of Ham Radio*

The 2011 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention will take place August 5-7 (Friday through Sunday) in gorgeous Taos, New Mexico at the Sagebrush Inn hotel and Convention center. The theme of this year's Convention is "(Re)Discovering the Thrill of Ham Radio."

Here is just a HINT of what is being planned:

New/used ham equipment sales, major manufacturers and vendors (details below), outdoor tailgating, technical and non-technical forums, banquet meals with notable speakers, homebrew challenges, W1AW/5 special event station, CW pileup contest, club/major manufacturer sponsored hospitality suites, prizes galore, antenna shootout, transmitter hunts, Boy Scout radio merit badge class, midnight Wouff Hong ceremony, satellite QSO demonstrations, high speed CW copying contest, a possible high-altitude balloon launch with ham payload, and much more.

Activities around Taos will be organized especially for spouses and family members, making this Convention a perfect trip for the entire family.

Numerous manufacturers will be present. Yaesu, HRO (Denver), and Southwest Antennas and Accessories have already committed to being present. Icom, Heil, Elecraft, Alinco, FlexRadio, Ten Tec, Byonics, DZKit, as well as Hendricks QRP Kits, and many others have expressed their interest to attend as well.

A Convention isn't complete without great guests and speakers. Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, retired FCC special counsel, will attend as will Chip Margelli K7JA, notable DXpeditioner, contester and co-star of the past but still popular "CW versus text messaging" segment that aired on Jay Leno's Tonight Show. Additional guests are being lined up.

All the details you'll need about the 2011 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention including registration and vendor information will appear at www.2011Convention.org Event registration and hotel reservations at the special Convention rate will be opened soon.

This event will be held in lieu of the Albuquerque Duke City Hamfest, which returns full-tilt in 2012.



Questions about the Division Convention should be directed to

info@2011convention.org
and anyone wishing to volunteer their time and talent for this event should email volunteer@2011convention.org.



SDARC Club Meeting Highlights

January SDARC meeting. 20 members/spouses, Los 2 Amigos. Price

- Allen, KA7LEG proper "Shack Grounding", shared a new filter to reduce RF interference from local radio stations. The company, Industrial Communication Engineers, LTD has free tech publications <http://iceradioproducts.com/>
- Tech Tip/Presentations each month, give us input for what you want or can teach with SDARC survey: <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dGJaTXqtWk800ThQUk5KcW9CY19VV2c6MA> Topics receiving the highest interest will be presented at club meetings and campouts.

February SDARC meeting, 16 members/spouses, Orangeville Old Firehouse Community Center

- Bryan, K7GX APRS, Automatic Packet Repeating System: describe and demonstrate APRS including parts and equipment, where to purchase them, and how to create and use our own APRS system.
- Bret WX7Y will sign SDARC as a group on CODE RED (Reverse 911)
- Feb. 15 emergency communications mock disaster. Signups for volunteers to attend at Fairgrounds in Price.



Up Coming Club Events

- April 29 – May 1: SDARC Spring Campout, San Rafael Desert
- June 24 – 26: ARRL Field Day and SDARC Campout, Cottonwood Canyon
- May 27-30: Friendship Cruise, Moab
- Sept. 23-25: SDARC Fall Campout, San Rafael Desert

Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) is an amateur radio-based system for real time tactical digital communications of information of immediate value in the local area. In addition, all such data is ingested into the APRS Internet system (APRS-IS) and distributed globally for ubiquitous and immediate access. Along with messages, alerts, announcements and bulletins, the most visible aspect of APRS is its map display. Anyone

may place any object or information on his or her map, and it is distributed to all maps of all users in the local RF network or monitoring the area via the Internet. Any station, radio or object that has an attached GPS is automatically tracked. Other prominent map features are weather stations, alerts and objects and other map-related amateur radio volunteer activities including Search and Rescue and signal direction finding.

APRS has been developed since the late 1980s by Bob Bruninga, callsign WB4APR, currently a senior research engineer at the United States Naval Academy. He still maintains the main APRS website. The

Castlevew Partnership: SDARC is continuing to work with Castlevew Hospital in order to train ham operators among their staff to better prepare for emergencies which disrupt normal medical communications. Harvey Peet, hospital project manager has been meeting with Allan Orton KA7LEG, Bryan Anderson K7GX and Bret Mills WX7Y to begin setting up the program at the hospital. Problems with the tower need to be resolved. Equipment lists are being compiled and are in the process of being ordered. Classes will soon be scheduled and dates announced for those interested.





2010 Statistics on Licensing Exams

Sinbad Desert Amateur Radio Club meets the first Thursday of each month, alternating between a Carbon County site one month and an Emery County site the next.

Next meeting will be April 7, 2011, Orangeville, 6 pm Old Fire House 100 North Main

Maria Somma, AB1FM, Manager of the ARRL VEC, reports that 27,528 new hams were licensed in 2010. This is a decline from the 30,000+ new hams licensed in 2009, and there is at least one explanation.

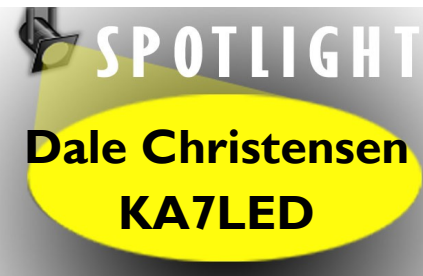
Licensing of new hams declined significantly during the last half of 2010 as compared to the first half of the year. A couple of factors help to explain that decline. Maria notes that the second half of the year is typically less busy—there is always a decline in the number of examinees in the second half of the year because of the summer travel months (July and August) and because of the holidays (in November and December), but it doesn't normally drop off as much as we experienced in 2010.

Another factor at play, an anticipated change in the question pool creates a surge in testing before the change and a slump afterwards. In the first half of 2010, Maria noted that we were actually ahead of the 2009 new amateur 6-month totals. But by September, it was clear that we were lagging behind the 2009 totals and the number of new licenses being ARRL e-newsletter for registered instructors and teachers,

February 2011 -6- issued thru the end of 2010 had dropped by 23% from the beginning of the year. Finally, Maria notes that there is always an adjustment period for teachers and examinees whenever a new pool is released. An indication of this adjustment is reflected in the pass rate. The pass rate for the previous Tech pool (expired June 30, 2010) was 87%. The pass rate for the new Tech pool (effective July 1, 2010) is 77%, also helping to explain the decline in new licensees.

The surge in upgrades to General and Extra that occurred in 2008 after the Morse code requirement seems to have stabilized, but at a significantly higher level than prior to 2007. Total number of upgrades during the past two years has averaged between 10,000 and 11,000. (Upgrades do not include those who sit for their first license and pass the Tech and General or Tech, General and Extra in a single sitting.) This is a dramatic increase over pre-restructuring upgrade totals per year, which averaged 6,200. Here's the breakdown of exam activity for 2010 by license level.

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
EXTRA CLASS	6,108	3,579	3,534
GENERAL	11,861	9,897	9,968
TECHNICIAN	25,598	27,464	24,752
TOTAL	43,567	40,940	38,254



Dale E. Christensen KA7LED
PRICE, UT 84501 License Class: General

Dale was in the military and was a radio operator. He was always good at CW or Morse code and still can get incoming information from any where. He got his Ham license after he retired from the post office about 1980. Dale faithfully checks in every week with the SDARC Tuesday Net. When asked what he likes best about amateur radio, "Talking to different people all over." Dale even contacted the space shuttle once and received a QSD card from them. He's a great proponent of ham radio and has recruited over 10 people who got their licenses including Jimmy Dart, LaMar Edwards and Ross Sacco. Hats off to a great HAM!!!



Repeater Redundancy Plan

Here is the block diagram for everyone to look at so they can see what the links will look like if we build the redundant links using the addition of 4 more DSP-404 VOIP Linking Controllers.

This will let us stay connected if and when Bruin goes off the air for a while again. Basically the DSP-404 controller at the SHOP becomes the **new** HUB at this point so the Blue lines go away if Bruin dies and the link can work by switching over to the Red VOIP links.

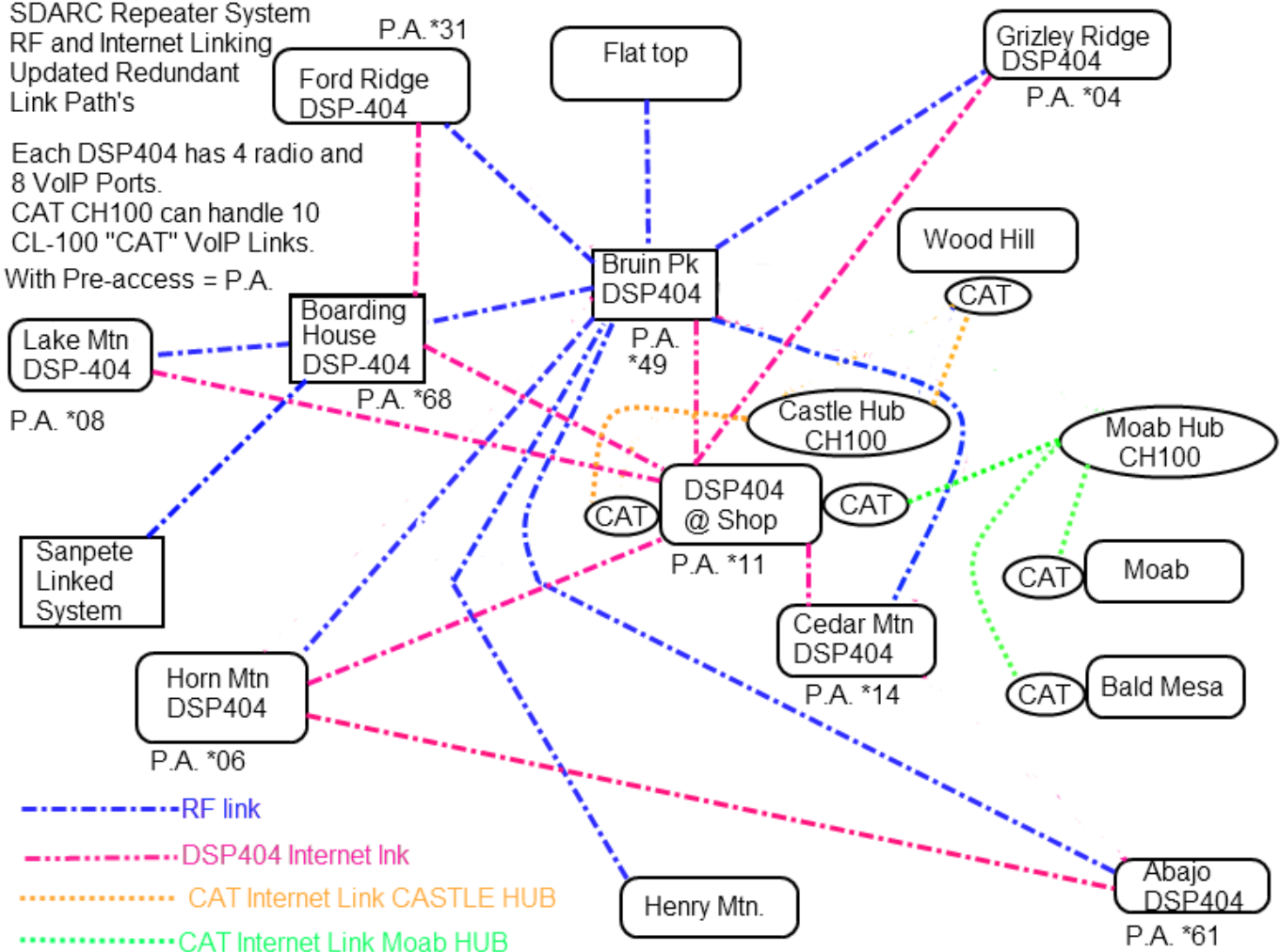
AGAIN this just looks complicated, it is really quite easy to do. I also added the Pre-Access and the box showing the Sanpete link.

If the Sanpete group wanted to create a redundant path into the SDARC network then they could use a CAT CL-100 or a DSP-404 Repeater controller connected back to the appropriate controller or HUB.

73's, Bret WX7Y

SDARC Repeater System
RF and Internet Linking
Updated Redundant
Link Path's

Each DSP404 has 4 radio and
8 VoIP Ports.
CAT CH100 can handle 10
CL-100 "CAT" VoIP Links.
With Pre-access = P.A.





Visit us at www.sdarc.us

Please send submissions for the SDARC Newsletter, published quarterly, to Cynthia Grant KE7KTV at cgrant@etv.net.

Nominate your favorite ham for the newsletter spotlight by sending a picture and brief article.



Reminders:

SDARC HF Net, Saturdays 8:00 a.m. on 3.828MHz +/-
Skyline Radio Club Net Night, Sundays 8:00 p.m.
Borderline Amateur Radio Club Net Night, Mondays 9:00 p.m.

SDARC Net Night, Tuesdays 8:00 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Division HF Net, 2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m. on 3939 kHz +/-

Utah HF RACES Net, 3rd Saturday 8:00 a.m. on 3.920 MHz +/-

**Weather Spotter Training
5 p.m. March 16 at Emery County
Sheriff's Office Training Room**

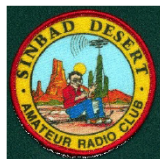
The Sinbad Desert Amateur Radio Club is a general-purpose club that mainly serves the Carbon and Emery Counties but has members from all over Utah and surrounding states. The Club was formed by local Hams in Eastern Utah in 1982 by individuals with a common interest. Those interests range from a "ragchew" on one of the standalone repeaters or on the SDARC repeater system to the many different modes on the low bands.

Club Decals are available. For prices and orders contact George Ingram K3RZD at 435-613-0350 or e-mail him: g@ingram-tech.com

Please use the following form to pay dues, to give a donation, and/or to update your contact information.

Please update your contact information below.

Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Daytime Telephone _____
Evening Telephone _____
E-mail Address _____



Dues—\$25.00 (per year, per member)	\$
Donations (If any)	\$
Total	\$

Please make checks payable to below and send to:

Sinbad Desert Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1073
Castle Dale, UT 84513

Check here to receive the newsletter by e-mail instead.