



Happy Holidays

A Ham Radio Operator's Night before Christmas

The Newsletter of Salt Lake County A.R.E.S. Inc.
THE REPEATER

Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their HT's to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver
who looked slightly mean.

So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before --
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV.
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box.
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent.
But the cards and the postage

Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile-up was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

© 1996 by Gary Pearce KN4AQ

On behalf of myself and all the other members of the board I would like to wish all of the members of Salt Lake County A.R.E.S. and their families a joyous, safe and happy holiday

The Newsletter Of Salt Lake County A.R.E.S. Inc.

Purpose

To train and provide Amateur Radio Operators
For volunteer communications support during a
Public emergency or disaster, and to provide
Radio communications for public service
events.

If you would like to donate to
Salt Lake County A.R.E.S. Inc.

Send donation to:

P.O. Box 26642

Salt Lake City, Utah 84126

Please state:

"Donation is for communications equipment"

Richard Jorgensen
Emergency Coordinator
Salt Lake County ARES
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"CANDY STORE"

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New Store Hours:

Sun/Mon Closed

Tues thru Fri 11am-5pm

Sat 10am-2pm

Locally Owned by Bob Wood W7OAD

(At the annual Utah State ARES/ Races Conference Jerry Wellman, W7SAR presented the Utah Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Plan. This plan is becoming the backbone of many communication plans in Salt Lake County. The county presently has more than 1.3 million residents among 13 municipalities. This plan is an outline of how things should happen in case of a very serious disaster or emergency.)

Utah Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Plan

In the event of a significant and wide-spread (or large-scale) event that threatens a great number of people (floods, storms, earthquake, pandemic) or a large geographical area (such as a fire), Amateur Radio operators can be a significant resource for response and recovery. This plan ONLY applies to emergency events. This plan allows EVERY licensed Amateur Radio operator the opportunity to be involved in an emergency response.

Activation of this plan can be done by ANY Amateur Radio organization upon the request of a government official/agency or private group (such as the American Red Cross) with the caution that the Amateur Radio organization should exercise due diligence to ensure the activation meets the criteria of a “significant” and “wide-spread” event that will stress or has the potential to overwhelm normal communications channels.

The activating Amateur Radio organization has the responsibility of conducting (or overseeing) the establishment of an information net (InfoNet). As such, various Amateur Radio groups should prepare by identifying and training select net control operators (NCS) in advance. The second responsibility for the activating Amateur Radio organization is to identify an emergency frequency coordinator. These potential emergency frequency coordinators should ideally be coordinated with the ARRL’s frequency coordinator IN ADVANCE. Minimally these individuals must be familiar with spectrum use and assignment, propagation and with local repeater use (nets, coverage, ownership, etc.).

When this plan is activated, EVERY Amateur Radio operator is encouraged to monitor the information network frequency and offer assistance AS ASKED by the NCS. The most important skill is the ability to LISTEN, LISTEN, And LISTEN. As tactical nets are established on frequencies assigned by the emergency frequency coordinator, the NCS can direct volunteers to these frequencies.

The purpose of the information net (InfoNet) is to collect and disseminate VERIFIED information to those listening. This could include weather data, road conditions, shelter locations, summaries of media reports, status of commercial power, staging areas, locations of supplies, requests for volunteers with specific expertise, etc. This is NOT a tactical or staging net. The NCS will not conduct roll calls or keep lists of stations who have checked in. Generally stations will not “check in” with “any traffic as this simply wastes air time. Stations may check in with VERIFIED information such as “Interstate 15 is blocked at 4500 South as of 1400 hours” or “commercial power has been out in Magna since 0730 hours.” As needed the NCS may ask for lists of undamaged roads into a particular area to assist agencies moving and staging emergency vehicles. Emergency traffic of any kind is, obviously, encouraged.

When a group (such as CERT, Red Cross, shelter, church, staging area manager, search/rescue, etc.) has a specific assignment and geographic area, the emergency frequency coordinator will determine a simplex or repeater frequency for use. The group MUST have enough operators to justify a frequency assignment AND must have an NCS. The InfoNet will keep track of such assignments (location, purpose, frequency and NCS). The InfoNet can regularly update listeners as to what activities are occurring and what frequencies various tactical nets are using. When the tactical assignment is complete, the frequency is released for assignment by the emergency frequency coordinator.

The following areas and InfoNet frequencies have been identified as part of this plan. The areas selected reflect consideration for the potential of large geographical impact or areas of large population. (Please check current Utah VHF Society information for location, offset and sub-audible tone of listed repeaters or systems.)

AREA FREQUENCIES

Statewide Intermountain Intertie: 147.18, 145.27, 147.02,
145.49, 146.80, 146.94
Cache County 146.72
Box Elder County 145.49
Weber/Davis 147.04
Salt Lake/Tooele 146.62 or 146.94
Summit/Wasatch 147.36
Utah County 146.76
West Central 146.94 (Millard, Beaver, Iron counties)
Washington County 146.82
East Central Sinbad system: 145.31, 146.76, 147.06, 147.08
(Carbon, Emery, Grand, Wayne counties)
Central Skyline system: 146.66, 146.86, 147.10
(Sanpete, Sevier, Piute counties)
Other areas Monitor 146.52 simplex

Amateur Radio operators should have their radios programmed for the InfoNet repeaters in their area. Amateur Radio organizations can assist preparation by educating operators on net procedures, preparation measures and providing in-depth information on how this plan can function in a large-scale emergency event.



Salt Lake County A.R.E.S. Board

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A.R.E.S. Frequencies

146.880 (88.5 PL)
449.900 (100.0 PL)
146.700 (100.0 PL)
147.54 (simplex)
447.250 (100.0 PL)
448.450 (100.0 PL)
448.000

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Next ARES In Person Meeting:

Jan. 21, 2009
On Air net every Wed.
@8:00 pm
Except for the 3rd Wed.

Member at Large

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Any announcements or ideas for "The Repeater" contact Aubrey at 495-9327 or email: ke7ghj@gmail.com

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We're on the web @
www.slcoares.org &
@ yahoo groups "SLCARES"

There will no "official" nets on December 24th or 31st. I have concluded a copy of the currency requirements so that you can begin to fill it out and get it turned in as soon as possible. Thanks 73 to all Richard NOCL

