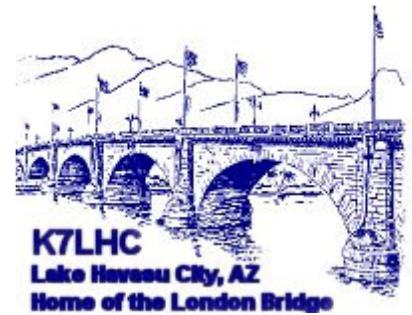


STATIC



MARCH, 2005

Ham Radio Saves a Ham in Alaska

By Jim Wiley, KL7CC

Despite rugged terrain and a temperature of 10 below, rescuers found a young ham whose handheld radio proved to be a lifesaver.

This is the WL7CVG site. The repeater antenna is on the tower to the right. The repeater itself is in the Quonset hut behind the antenna. In a typical winter, the snow will get to a depth of 15 feet or more, sometimes completely covering the building. Elevation is 4400 feet AMSL. The repeater antennas are Diamond X-50N dual-band models, with custom-built cradle mounts, and are fed with Andrew 7/8 inch FHJ-50 Heliax cable. The antennas can survive in 200 MPH winds while carrying as much as 5 inches of ice.

Two Alaskan hikers who were on a day outing in the rugged mountains of Chugach State Park near Anchorage had their afternoon turn into something entirely unexpected on February 12. One of them, Jesse Jones, KL1RK, unfortunately slipped and fell more than 200 feet down a steep ravine, losing his snowshoes in the process. Jesse found himself unable to move forward or back, trapped between a low overhang on one side and a swift moving winter stream on the other. His precarious position was made worse by the fact that his descent could have continued into the water at any moment, and since snow depth exceeded 10 feet, the loss of his snowshoes meant he could not walk out. Since the outside air temperature at that time was near -10 degrees F, falling into the water would likely have meant immediate hypothermia followed by freezing death shortly thereafter.

Fortunately, Jesse had brought along his 2 meter handheld transceiver. He tried several local repeaters with no luck, because his signals were being swallowed up by the mountainous terrain. Finally, he was able to access one of the wide-area machines, the WL7CVG repeater atop Mt Susitna, almost 40 miles distant. This repeater, owned by the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club and used primarily as the area ARES repeater, had been installed atop the 4400 foot mountain just last summer. It was the only system he could access with his low-power handheld.

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LBARA MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	BOARD	REGULAR
March	3/15	3/17
April	4/19	4/21
May	5/17	5/19
June-July-August	No Meeting	No Meeting
September	9/13	9/15

MARCH OF DIMES

WALK-A-THON

LBARA members once again provided communications for the Lake Havasu City's March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon on Saturday, February 26, 2005. Participating Club members were: Victor Lopez (KC7QEK), Lyle Sibbald (K7YQ), Don Sgro (KF0YP), Bruce Hunt (N6BRH), Jerry France (K7LY), Jim Gould (KF7X), Russ Nyblom (K7RUS), and Brad Slaughter (WA7QOK) as Net Control. The March of Dimes gave their thanks with commemorative T-shirts and plenty of food after the Walk.

MARCH'S PROGRAM:

David Holm, N7DRH, will present a program on the use of your computer to enhance your amateur radio hobby. David is also our Club's webmaster. If you haven't taken a look at our site lately, I urge you to do so. <www.lbara.com>

Monday Night Net (7 PM)

System	Location	Freq	Offset	PL
MCARS	Bullhead City	145.27	-	131.8
	Kingman	146.76	-	131.8
	Kingman	448.25	-	131.8
	Lake Havasu	146.61	-	131.8
CRRRA	Willow Beach	147.12	-	131.8
	Lake Havasu City	146.96	-	162.2
	Lake Havasu City	224.24	-	156.7
BARN	Lake Havasu City	449.95	-	141.3
	Lake Havasu City	447.54	-	136.5
	Las Vegas, NV	449.95		136.5
	Onyx(Palm Springs)	449.34	-	136.5
	Orange County, CA	447.54	-	100

EVER WONDER?

- If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?
- No one ever says, "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
- Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to them? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen can look for them while they deliver the mail?
- When someone asks you, "A penny for your thoughts" and you put your two cents in, what happens to the other penny?



FOR THE BIRDS

It seems that lately everywhere I go I hear someone making a negative comment about snowbirds. In addition, I pick up the newspaper and see the same thing in print. I would like to go on record on the other side of the issue. I believe that we are not cursed by the snowbirds, but blessed. There are many snowbirds in the club and I look forward to seeing them return each year and am sorrowed to see them go away when the time comes. Perhaps some people forget that they were snowbirds (or sunbirds for summer visitors) too at one point before they decided to live here full time.

I hear some people complain about the snowbirds that drive too slowly. Well I for one would prefer to be behind the snowbird rather than the local driver with the cell phone in one hand and the steering wheel in the other, swerving all over the road, stopping for green lights and not stopping for the red lights.

As amateur radio operators we have the opportunity to talk to people all over the country (if not the world) on a regular basis and we are regularly reminded how much all people are alike. We all have a lot in common. Sure there are differences, but that is what makes life interesting. So the next time you hear someone talking negatively about the snowbirds, set them straight. Let them know that many here do not agree with them. I think we are the silent majority, don't let the vocal minority run our friends away.

To those of you that will be leaving soon for other parts of the country (and Canada), you will be missed. We look forward to seeing you come back next year and for many years to come.

73 de N6BRH (Bruce)

Consumers near military sites alerted to possible interference to garage door openers

The FCC says increased government use of spectrum commonly used by Part 15 garage door opener controls has reduced the operating distance of the devices or caused them to stop working altogether. "The vast majority of consumers will not experience any interference to their garage door opener controls," the FCC said in a [public notice](#) released February 15. Typical garage door openers operate on an unlicensed basis at very low power on lightly used frequencies allocated to the federal government since World War II for air/ground communications systems. As Part 15 devices, however, they receive no protection from interference. In response to increased homeland security needs, the Department of Defense now is making greater use of these frequencies to deploy mobile radio systems on and around certain military bases. "Some consumers near these bases may experience interference to their garage door openers that can reduce operating range or cause the remote control to cease functioning," the FCC explains. "This interference will not cause the garage doors to open or close on their own." Because of the range of technical characteristics of garage door controls and the configuration of the mobile radio systems, the FCC says it's impossible to predict which specific users or locations may experience interference. The FCC says the Defense Department is working with the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) "to make reasonable effort consistent with their mission requirements," while the FCC is working with the garage door opener industry to minimize consumer impact. Garage door opener manufacturers, the FCC says, "stand ready to help consumers resolve any interference to their systems, including, in some cases, making available for purchase, a replacement transmitter and receiver that operate on a different frequency." The FCC advises consumers experiencing interference to contact the garage door opener's manufacturer or local installer for information on available solutions. The FCC directs further inquiries to its Call Center, 888-CALL-FCC (888-225-5322).

Fortunately, Jesse had brought along his 2 meter handheld transceiver. He tried several local repeaters with no luck, because his signals were being swallowed up by the mountainous terrain. Finally, he was able to access one of the wide-area machines, the WL7CVG repeater atop Mt Susitna, almost 40 miles distant. This repeater, owned by the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club and used primarily as the area ARES repeater, had been installed atop the 4400 foot mountain just last summer. It was the only system he could access with his low-power handheld.

The Rescue Begins

As a control operator for the repeater, I heard his weak Mayday! Mayday! Mayday! call just a few minutes after 4 PM local time. I immediately called 911 and was placed in contact with the local fire department rescue coordinator. I was able to pass on Jesse's messages to the local rescue coordinator, including coordinates from a GPS unit Jesse was carrying. The rescue coordinator's office called out the local mountain rescue group and the Alaska State Troopers, who immediately left for the scene with a search team and snow machines.

The rescue team met with Jesse's climbing partner, who had been able to hike out to a place he could assist the rescue team. Jesse was able to keep in touch via 2 meters to tell the rescuers his condition, including the fact that he was uninjured but very cold. His extremities were becoming numb after being forced to remain in one position in the sub-zero conditions. Complicating the issue was the fact that Jesse's hands were so cold he was having trouble operating the PTT button. On top of all this, his signal was very marginal, sometimes fading out altogether.

At about 6 PM, after the rescue operation had been running for almost 2 hours, the first rescue team made contact with Jesse. After some observations and a few attempts, the rescuers came to the conclusion that they would not be able to get Jesse out without additional assistance. At this point, the local Air National Guard unit was called. They at once began warm-up of an HH-60 "Pave Hawk" rescue helicopter. After a brief but complete preflight check, the helicopter left for the scene. The crew arrived on scene about 15 minutes later, at 6:45 PM local. Unfortunately, the presence of a high voltage power line directly above Jesse's position made it impossible to lift Jesse out in the normal way. Instead, they had to lower some para-rescue jumpers to a nearby location, and from there they rappelled down to Jesse's position.



The para-rescue team then worked with others on scene and were able to bring Jesse out of the canyon by about 10 PM. After some on-scene checks by paramedics, Jesse was taken to a local hospital for observation. He was released just before midnight, cold and a bit hungry, but otherwise almost as good as new.

A Team Effort

Several local hams also assisted the effort, either directly or by their connection with local emergency service groups. They are Dave Cloyd, KL7M; Raymond Taber, KL7UHF, and others who stood by, ready to help if needed. Among those directly involved were Msgt Mike O'Keefe, KL7MD, with the Alaska Air National Guard, and Heather Hasper, KL7SP, and John Ramsey, KD6YKS, both with the local American Red Cross emergency response team. Also assisting was Bruce McCormick, KL7BM, who was involved with the event as a member of the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group. (cont. page 5)



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS

Williams ARRL State Convention – July 7-10, 2005, Williams Arizona

Kingman Fallfest - September 17, 7 a.m., Mohave Community College parking lot, Kingman, AZ. This is the 13th annual Hamfest sponsored by the Hualapai ARC. Contact Bill Beaman (KA0IYS), 928.758.6780 or email <train@citlink.net>

FOR SALE/TRADE

ALINCO DX77 MOBILE TRANSCEIVER - 100 w, 166-6m, CW filter, Removable Face Plate, Jim Varner, AE6N, 680.7259

MISC - Converted typewriter to send code for practice, \$15; Radio Shack SWR meter, never used, \$15; DSI Frequency Counter, 50-550 mhz, \$15. Call Ted Taft, WA7WBM, 680.1245

ICOM 28H - 2m, 45/5w, with original manual and mike. \$120. Call Dick Zalewsk, W7ZR, 505.5489 or <w7zr@citlink.net>

KENWOOD TS-50 TRANSCEIVER - 100W, 10-160, w/mobile bracket, manual, and shipping box. \$575

ATLAS 210 TRANSCEIVER - 10-80, w/manual, \$55

Hugh Allen, WB6TQP, 453.8659

KENWOOD TM-241A TRANSCEIVER - 2m, w/Astron 35A Power Supply, 2 Larson antenna (mobile and base). Package only. \$150 Bob Parker, KI7LO, 680.4841.

Just last fall, both the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group and the American Red Cross of Alaska received a large grant for communications equipment from the Anchorage ARC. Little did any of the club members know that this very equipment would have a part in the rescue of one of their own.

As an interesting and somewhat odd coincidence, Jesse is employed by a local TV station, KYES Channel 5. That station owns and operates a TV translator atop Mt Susitna, where the WL7CVG repeater is located. The station owner, Jeremy Lansman, has graciously allowed the Anchorage club to mount their repeater antennas on the KYES tower. This is apparently yet another case where goodwill and cooperation among the community has come back in an unexpected way. (Tnx to Dick, W7DXJ)



LBARA ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC

**SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH
10 A.M.
JACK HARDIE PARK
CABANA'S 2 & 3**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR DELICIOUS POT LUCK ITEMS
TO SHARE. THE CLUB WILL FURNISH FREE
HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, BUNS, POTATO CHIPS AND
CONDIMENTS. YOU JUST CAN'T BEAT THIS DEAL!**

**COME ONE...COME ALL
SHARE THE GOOD TIMES WITH YOUR FRIENDS. IT'S
THE LAST PARTY BEFORE OUR SNOWBIRDS HEAD
HOME**

**MORE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE MARCH 17TH
MEETING. FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE SHARON SGRO, KC7UTM,
505.2183**

WEIRD FACTS

- Americans on average eat 18 acres of pizza every day.
- If Barbie were life-size, her measurements would be 39-23-33. She would stand seven feet, two inches tall. Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.
- The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.
- No word in the English language rhymes with "MONTH."

FROM THE EDITOR

If you have anything you would like to see included in these issues, please let me know. I'm always looking for articles, news items, construction articles, or anything that might be of interest to our readers. You can contact me at 928.855.7941 or email at grf@unedspeed.net or francej@ajsinsurance.com.

LBARA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Bruce Hunt	President
Jerry France	Vice-President
Bill Carrao	Treasurer
Anita Hansen	Secretary
Dick Jernigan	Director (1 YR)
Mike Burson	Director (1 YR)
Jim Gould	Director (2 YR)
Reiner Schick	Director (2 YR)
John Hunter	Sgt-at-Arms
Dave Holm	Web Master
Jerry France	Static Editor

MORE WEIRD FACTS

- The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache.
- Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.
- Walt Disney was afraid of mice.
- Pearls melt in vinegar.
- The three most valuable brand names on earth: Marlboro, Coca-Cola, and Budweiser, in that order.
- It is possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.
- Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

WARNING! WARNING! WARNING! WARNING! WARNING!
REMEMBER TO WEAR A NAME BADGE AT THE MEETING OR SUFFER THE WRATH OF THE SGT-AT-ARMS AND THE ACCOMPANYING FINE!

L.B.A.R.A
P.O. BOX 984
LAKE HAVASU CITY
ARIZONA 86405

STATIC

ATTENTION READERS

Please note that this issue represents a “work-in-progress” and there are a number of changes to be made in subsequent issues. I would greatly appreciate your comments, both good and bad, as well as any suggestions for future issues. This issue also begins our first attempt to deliver the **STATIC** to your doorstep electronically. Please keep me abreast of any email address changes you may have and I promise to have this delivered promptly and accurately. Also, I still have a number of articles awaiting publication and will do so in the future. This is your newsletter, so keep the articles, letters, and pictures coming. I can be reached at home (855.7941), at work (855.3081) or via email at grf@uneedspeed.net .

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

EDITOR'S NOTE: List your items for sale here. Ham radio related only, please. Include a picture if you like (please use a jpg format). Email all to me at grf@uneedspeed.net) along with your name and phone number.

