

COMMUNICATOR

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What I Learned This Month Training – How Lucky You Are

Bill Sands ACÆED

Training and education, mostly self-education, have been on my mind now for many weeks. When I came to Colorado I started two things that I've always wanted to do: Ham Radio and Search and Rescue. I've been involved in both now for about a year and a half. Since I didn't know much about either of them, I had a lot of learning to do. As a working scientist, learning is a way of life, and perhaps one of the most enjoyable things I do. Encountering something I don't know much about (sometimes nothing at all), taking on the process of learning, and ultimately grasping the idea, can bring me to near ecstasy. Although solving a problem is fun, the process of pursuing the problem is really the part that brings me (and I suspect you too) back again and again. Isaac Asimov once wrote that the most important phrase in science is not "Eureka!!!", but rather "that's funny...". You may not be a working scientist, but Ham Radio makes you an automatic investigator and problem solver. And, I'll bet you've actually uttered the words: "that's funny..." in conjunction with your operating.

Thinking intensely about training during the past few months has brought me to a provisional conclusion that people in Ham Radio are astonishingly lucky. The contrast between Ham Radio and Search and Rescue, in terms of training, is astonishing. Of course, there are many good and common sense reasons for the differences, but going through both at the same time has served to amplify the contrasts. In or-

der to get where I am now in Ham Radio, I've read *Ham Radio for Dummies*, *Now You're Talking*, the Technician Class license book, General Class License book, and the Extra Class license book. I won't go into the related pleasure reading of a dozen or more books that have often found their way to my writings here in terms of book reviews. And, with all the information out there – I still feel like a beginner. Interestingly, I can't seem to find books on Search and Rescue that serve a similar purpose. There are books on navigation, wilderness first aid, and other topics – but I've had a lot harder time finding information on Search and Rescue like there is in Ham Radio. However, one helpful resource has been a website: <http://www.sarinfo.bc.ca/Sartechs.htm>. In spite of this, there appears to be no comparison.

Hams are so unbelievably lucky. Ham Radio almost has an embarrassment of riches when it comes to written material, courses, and tutorials for self-study, advancement, and simple understanding.

Since Ham Radio, ARES, RACES, and our Mountain Amateur Radio Club are heavily invested in emergency preparedness, I'm going to stick with the idea of emergency preparedness and communications for this article. Here are some examples of things that you can be learning:

Emergency Management Independent Study Program. This program provides independent study courses from the Emergency Management Institute. The information below was taken from their website www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/. I hope you're as impressed

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MARC MEETING: April 19

Minutes 15 March 2006

President Paul Moraine (NØPWM) called the monthly meeting to order at 7:05pm. Following introductions all around, the minutes of the last meeting were discussed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Dean Buckhouse (KBØVVA) and seconded by Mona Beck. The motion passed. Paul then announced that Vice President Sharon Agun (KCØPBR) had recently upgraded to General Class. Paul also mentioned that Tom Dawson (KCØNRZ) had posted an excellent article on Power Poles in the last issue of the MARC Communicator. Dean Haskins (KAØPII) then gave the Treasurer's report. Wes Wilson (KØHBZ) asked if we had given the Library a donation in the past for the use of their resources. Bill Wallick (KCØFNV) was to research this for both the club and the VE team. Dean Haskins indicated that we had written checks to the Library for the Club at Christmas

and one recently from the VE team. Dean Buckhouse gave a report about the recent VE testing. There were two new Technicians, two Generals and one Extra.

There will be a condensed Skywarn training in Colorado Springs, at the Centennial Hall, on March 16th. The LARCFest will be at the Boulder Fairgrounds on April 1st. There were various items on a side table at the MARC meeting, sort of a mini-swapfest, which needed a new home. Paul Moraine suggested a donation to the club for any items purchased.

Under Old Business, we discussed Field Day. Via Dan Scott (KBØPPM), we are still working on Sourdough Valley, but are not sure if it will be sold. Paul Moraine passed around samples and signup sheets for the club name badges. They are \$11.85 with shipping.

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Mountain Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1012
Woodland Park CO 80866

President:

Paul Moraine, NØPWM

Vice-President:

Sharon Agun, KCØPBR

Secretary:

Bill Wallick, KCØFNV

Treasurer:

Dean Haskins, KAØPII

Director:

Carol Wilson, KCØDTQ

Director:

Wes Wilson, KØHBZ

Past President:

Melinda Wright, KCØQQO

Meetings: 3rd Wednesdays
monthly except December - 7
pm Woodland Park Library
218 East Midland Ave
Woodland Park

MARC operated linked Teller
Connection repeater system on:
448.650- Tranquil Acres
146.820- Tranquil Acres
146.685- Badger Mountain
147.015+ Cripple Creek/Victor
447.475- Colo. Springs 107.2 Hz I/O

Membership is open to every-
one interested in Amateur
Radio pursuant to club
regulations.

Membership Dues:

\$20.00 Annually for Individual or
Family Membership
Membership includes full auto-
patch privileges.

VE Testing Session are
held on Odd numbered
months at the Woodland
Park Library. Testing starts at
10:00.

Please notify Wes, KØHBZ
at KØHBZ@arrl.net

MARC is an ARRL®
affiliated Club



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Deadline for submissions is
14 days prior to meeting date.

Mountain Amateur Radio Club fully supports PPARES, CODRT and emergency communications

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MARC will be responsible for the VE sessions and the W1AW portable station at HAMCON this year. It looks like we have 5 operators and 6 to sell tickets at Hamcon so far. Dean Haskins will be running the Left Foot code contest and we will need help on Friday morning June 9th for setup between 9a and noon. We will also need help on Saturday afternoon for tear down.

Under New Business, The ARES Colorado Springs exercise on June 9th; we are working for it to use Ham operators as observers only. The Teller County OEM is looking into having inoculation stations for the Avian Flu in Cripple Creek, Divide and Woodland Park. They would need Ham operators and equipment to coordinate. There will also be a list of public service events coming from Mike Stansberry (KØTER) for this summer, which will need operators to sign up.

Next, Kit Haskins (KAØWUC) gave the Repeater Report. The howling sound was again traced to the .820 repeater. Kit is working with Kenwood on this problem. Kit is also working on a NXØG-9 packet node with WinLink.

Our break began at 7:44pm. The mini-swapfest table was quickly worked over and raffle tickets and club badges were ordered. It was suggested that pictures and order information for the club name badges be put on our club website.

A presentation on Hamcon was given by Jerry Verduff, starting at 8:06pm

Our meeting adjourned at 8:37pm

Submitted by the Secretary, Bill Wallick (KCØFNV)



WIN THIS RADIO

Mountain Amateur Radio Club
Raffle

GRAND PRIZE
Yaesu FT-857D

Drawing on August 27 at 10AM

Tickets

1 for \$1, 10 for \$5, 25 for \$10, 35 for \$15, 50 for \$20, 75 for \$30, 100 for \$40, 150 for \$50

Raffle Tickets for sale in Colorado only.
Winner need not be present to win!!

To purchase tickets send payment and a SASE, (postage will vary according to number of tickets) to:

Mountain Amateur Radio Club/
Raffle

P.O. Box 1012

Woodland Park, CO 80866-1012

NOTICE

A reminder to all to wear name tags with call sign to **all** club functions. A club function could be quite intimidating to newcomers to the hobby and the name tags would help alleviate that.

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with the depth and breadth of topics you can take as I am. Moreover, most of the materials are available for download in PDF format. You take the course, an exam, and you can earn both college credit and Continuing Education CEUs. Here are just some of the courses that are available:

- Emergency Manager: An orientation to the position
- Radiological Emergency Management
- A Citizen's Guide to Disaster Assistance
- Building for Earthquakes of Tomorrow: Complying with Executive Order 12699
- Animals in Disaster – Module A: Awareness and Preparedness
- Special Events Contingency Planning, Training for Public Safety Agencies
- Introduction to Incident Command System, I-100

General

- For Federal Disaster Workers
- For Law Enforcement
- For Public Works Personnel
- Livestock in Disaster
- An Orientation to Community Disaster Exercises
- Exercise Design
- State Disaster Management
- Principles of Emergency Management
- Emergency Planning
- Leadership & Influence
- Decision-Making and Problem-Solving
- Effective Communication
- Anticipating Hazardous Weather

and Community Risk

- The Role of the EOC in Community Preparedness, Response and Recovery Activities
- The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management
- Basic Disaster Operations
- Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- Hazardous Materials Prevention
- Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools
- National Incident Management Systems (NIMS), and Introduction

ARRL Courses and Local Entities

The ARRL offers quite a number of courses – three course levels of emergency communications. I'm currently in the midst of the Level II Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course. In my opinion, the courses are well done. Pikes Peak ARES and Colorado ARES both offer courses and tutorials: <http://www.ppares.org/training/tutorials.html>, <http://www.w0ipl.com/aresco/training.htm>, and I'm sure I'm missing many others.

Certainly, many of these courses are not directly related to emergency communications. However, there are many that are tangentially related and can provide a sort of toolbox of skills and knowledge that foster "cross-training." Cross-training is an idea commonly seen in both the military and sport settings. The military setting is probably more applicable to us. The premise is that more than one person ought to know how to do a job. In the military you need people who are cross-trained so that they can step into another role if there is a loss of a fellow soldier due to death or injury. I believe there is a valuable role for people who are cross-trained in emergency settings. It's good that someone is trained in emergency communications, but the operator may be

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even more valuable if they have medical, logistics, navigation, and other skills to go along with their communication skills. Emergencies need smart people.

It is my hope that our MARC group will see some courses that strike an interest of such significance that many will enroll and begin or continue the process of learning and refreshing skills and knowledge. Sometimes the most unusual and seemingly trivial information can be crucial to a circumstance. Ham radio is extremely lucky to have well-developed and extensive education and training opportunities.

Of course, practice is also vital. Exercises and opportunities to try out newly acquired skills and abilities have to complement all the "book learning." Moreover, a balance needs to be achieved between knowing and doing. But, I would argue that knowing, by necessity, precedes doing – or at least it should. Ham radio offers outstanding opportunities to know, let's also hope that knowing empowers us to do.

MARC VE TEAM ADDS NEW TEAM MEMBER

Bill Sands has recently completed the necessary studies and has been presented Volunteer Examiner credentials by the ARRL. The MARC VE Team welcomes Bill to its ranks.

RAFFLE STATUS AS OF 15 APRIL 2006

EXPENSES

LICENSE	62.50
PRIZE	667.13
TOTAL	729.63

INCOME

TICKET SALES	552.00
STATUS	-\$177.63

You Know You're a Ham if :

- you buy electrical black tape in ten packs.
- you've stripped wire with your teeth.
- you've told your son that, "One day, all this will be yours", and he doesn't respond.
- you'd rather help a buddy put up a new tower than mow the lawn.
- you've grabbed the wrong end of a soldering iron.
- you start giving out RST reports when you are on the telephone.
- the propagation forecast means far more to you than the local weather forecast.
- the microphone or visual aids at a meeting don't work and you rush up to the front to fix it.
- you tell the XYL, when she notices a new rig in the shack, why that has been there for years.
- your watch is set only to UTC.
- at night, when you pray, it starts off something like: CQ CQ CQ GOD DE (your callsign).
- you ever had to patch your roof after an antenna project.
- Ham radio magazines comprise more than 50% of your bathroom library.
- you ever put a GPS tracker in the XYL's car, just so you could watch her on APRS.
- you and the XYL took a cruise so you could visit the radio room.
- you ever tapped out HI in Morse on your car horn to another ham.
- you ever had an antenna fall down.
- your teenager refuses to ride in

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“KERCHUNKING”

Padre, WØ WPD

It's a frequent enough experience for all of us, but it's **often** illegal.

“KERCHUNKING” means keying the PTT to see if you're in range of the repeater, how strong the signal is, and if you can operate it. We all do that frequently enough.

BUT, without a call letter ID it is illegal, **unless** you then immediately use the repeater for a call/QSO and ID yourself. (If you can't bring up that repeater and immediately use it, you must now give your Call ID). Check the FCC rules.

“Each amateur station ... must transmit its assigned call sign on it's transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every ten minutes during a communication No station may transmit unidentified communications or signals....” 97.119 (a). (emphasis added here).

I think that's clear enough.

The trouble is we are tempted that because we have a low power “machine,” and think we may not be heard too far and wide from here we don't have to “worry.” But be aware we **are** heard in Arvada, Aurora, Lakewood and Littleton, among other locations.

After the linking to Kenosha is complete our signal will be copied even further out.

Regardless, we ought strive to be legal and proper whether on the PCRC repeater or on any and all others. Besides being legal, it is a matter of good Ham operating procedures.

Besides all the above --- how difficult is it to say our Call?

"PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE PCRC NEWSLETTER, 'QUA'."

ARES NEEDS YOUR DEDICATION

Thanks to the dedicated packet training participants that have given up their Thursday night for a lot of learning and congestion on the 144.930 packet frequency. This has certainly proven to be a welcome method of training expressed by many and appears to be much better than PACKET 101 we have presented in a group type session. Basic packet operation has been the focus of this training and this is definitely working out in outstanding fashion. Mailbox operation, using nodes and digis, trying to get out of Florissant to the flat lands and now working up the use of ICS 213. Our instructors, Jim, KCØ PAZ, and Wes, KØ HBZ, are really showing the ARES motto in being 'committed' to making D-14 ARES a trained and ready unit. Future training lessons will be much more difficult and rewarding and I look forward to having a responsive team of "Packeteers" ready and willing to provide the finest digital support available.

Look for more participation from the Tri-Lakes and Black Forest area as Elliott Linke, KBØ RFC, has been burning up the supply chain getting equipment operation on top of Roller coaster Hill. Thanks to his efforts and other contributors, we may soon be able to have a link into the Denver area for fun and amusement until we need it for ARES efforts. This could be a very busy system during deployments and exercises.

Lastly, I have tried to impress upon the ARES members the fact that future supported governmental agencies will require Incident Command Systems studies to be completed by responding members. I feel that I am preaching to the choir on the Tuesday Night Net as most of those members have already completed the requirement I have requested. Jim Myers, KCØ PAZ, has also sent out a roster by callsign of those that have followed up on this mandate. This requirement is being imposed by outside agencies and not by me as a necessary evil in order for the supported agencies to receive federal grants. We currently only have 34% of our membership that have completed this IS-700 requirement. Lets' get this up to greater than 90% ASAP.

73 and Always Be Ready

Dean KAØ PII

EC PPARES D-14

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your car because it looks like a porcupine.

- you know the Latitude and Longitude of your home QTH
- you go into the local Radio Shack store and the clerk asks you where something is.

Attention All Amateurs...

Support still needed for House Resolution 230 (Apr 13, 2006) -- The ongoing BPL battles in Manassas, Virginia, and Briarcliff Manor, New York, underscore the need for better FCC rules to protect radio communication systems from BPL interference. House Resolution 230 (H Res 230), introduced by Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR, of Arkansas, calls on the FCC to "conduct a full and complete analysis" of radio interference from BPL, particularly with regard to public safety radio systems. [H Res 230](#) recently received a boost when the March issue of *NPSTC Spectrum*, the newsletter of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, carried an [article](#), "Ham Radio and Public Safety Ask for FCC Reevaluation of Broadband over Power Lines." The article notes "significantly high levels of potential interference in the VHF low band 30 to 50 MHz range" in several test locations. "Members of Congress need to hear constituents' concerns about BPL interference while they are in their home districts this week and next," observed ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Rep Ross has been joined by six co-sponsors, but more support is needed to move this legislation along." A [sample letter](#) is available for ARRL members to use as a starting point. ARRL members logging onto the [Members-Only](#) portion of the ARRL Web site will see contact information for their Member of Congress. Alternatively, visit <http://www.house.gov/>. When writing, please send a copy of your letter to ARRL's Government Relations firm: Chwat & Company Inc, ATTN: [Eric Heis, K14NFC](#), 625 Slaters Ln--Suite 103 Alexandria, VA 22314; Fax 703-684-7594.

Reprinted from the ARRL website

2006—Upcoming Events

(All MARC Meeting and VE Sessions are held at the Woodland Park Library)
 (All PCRC Meetings and VE Sessions are held at Saint

Date/Time	Event
Wed, 19 Apr, 1900	MARC Meeting
Sat, 1 Apr	Longmont ARC
Sat, 22 Apr, 1400	PCRC Meeting
Sat, 06 May, 1000	MARC VE Session
Wed, 17 May, 1900	MARC Meeting
Sat, 27 May, 1230 VE, 1400 Meeting	PCRC VE Session and Meeting
June 9-11	HAMCON
Wed, 21 Jun, 1900	MARC Meeting
Sat, Jun 24, 1400	PCRC Meeting
Jun 24-25	Field Day
Sat, 01 Jul, 1000	MARC VE Session
Sat, Jul 9, 0800—1300	PPRAA Megafest
Wed, 19 Jul, 1900	MARC Meeting
Sat Jul 22, 1230 VE, 1400	PCRC VE Session and
Wed, 16 Aug, 1900	MARC Meeting Program: Nomination of Officers for 2007
Sat Aug. 26, 1400	PCRC Meeting
Sat, 02 Sep, 1000	MARC VE Session
Wed, 20 Sep, 1900	MARC Meeting Program: Election of Officers for 2007
Sat, Sep. 23, 1230 VE, 1400 Meeting	PCRC VE Session and Meeting
Wed, 18 Oct at 1900	MARC Meeting Program: Establish Date and Time of Christmas Party
Sat, Oct. 28 1400	PCRC meeting
Sat, 04 Nov, 1000	MARC VE Session

MARC Trading Post

The MARC Website has a used equipment classified section. Please send submissions to Kirby at kc0qps@arrl.net.

<http://www.nx0g.org/classified.html>

Communicator Article Submission Guidelines

Please follow these easy guidelines when you submit an article to be published in the communicator:

- Submit article in either plain text or Word.
- Do not indent your paragraphs
- Use only one carriage return between paragraphs.
- Please do not apply any formatting.
- When using a Zero in a call sign please use the special slashed zero character "Ø" . To generate this character in Word do the following; with your caps lock on press <CTRL> + / + O. This is the letter O. Or the character can be selected from the Insert/Symbol menu.
- Note the location in your document of any graphics using "<< Pic-

ture 1, caption >> and include the graphics as an attachment in your message. You do not need to create a compact image unless required to email.

- Please include Title followed by First and Call sign.
- Trust that your submission is appreciated.

Miley's Radio

Jess Miley, KØTAA

719 W. 7th Street - Florence, CO 81226

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consignments*

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