

IN-SERVICE



Winter

Volume 95

February 2006

Opportunities for Service

Opportunities for service sometimes come because we make ourselves available. I received an interesting telephone call in my office today. Mildred Smith called to say that she was writing an article for the Women's Council newsletter of the Conference of Restoration Elders. The Women's Council held a "how to" workshop this past summer. Ruth's article will follow-up on this workshop. The workshop included the following promotion:

In light of the times in which we live, it seems prudent to be better prepared to deal with disasters—local or national, natural or man-made. We hope the following classes will add to your knowledge and abilities to deal with disruptive events in a way to help reduce any adverse impact on your family and others.

While our spiritual preparation is of paramount importance, we also need to increase our knowledge in the practical applications of emergency preparedness.

(from the Women's Council web site at <http://www.eldersconference.org/womenscouncil/>, retrieved February 14, 2006)

With this in mind, she contacted me to find out how individuals might contact amateur radio operators who could assist in providing communications with family members in the affected area of an emergency. Mildred had asked her son, Ron Smith, for a suggestion of whom to contact. Ron, a colleague of mine in the Division of Science and Mathematics at Graceland University, suggested that she contact me.

Certainly providing communications, especially in the event of an emergency, is one of the core principles of Amateur Radio. Our conversation led me to suggest that she publish the Internet address of the ASCRA web site, which includes the roster of our ASCRA membership (<http://www.ascra.org/roster.htm>).

As we talked, I brought the web site up on my own computer. The roster page contained three links for the roster; one sorted by name, another sorted by call sign, and a third listing that includes email addresses. (The latter directory is password protected to prevent web crawlers from picking up our ASCRA membership addresses and exposing our members to receiving unsolicited spam email messages.)

As I looked at these roster lists, it occurred to me that it would be very helpful to be able to locate ASCRA members in specific areas; either to locate members living in or near an affected area, or to locate members living near an individual seeking to make contact into an affected area. So, I modified the ASCRA web site to include another roster link for our members in order of country, state and city. With this new

feature, it is possible to quickly scroll through the membership roster to locate all ASCRA members in a specific region.

I am looking forward to reading Ruth's Women's Council newsletter article resulting from our conversation. I am expecting she will publish the ASCRA web site address given above as a service to her readership who may seek to locate Amateur Radio operators. With this in mind, we can each be prepared that we might be contacted. I encourage each of us to examine our own preparedness to communicate in the event of an emergency, so that we are ready to provide the emergency communications service which is one of our core purposes as Amateur Radio operators. And I encourage you to continue your financial support of ASCRA to enable us to improve our organization's capability to communicate. Elsewhere in this InService there is a statement about the purpose of our headquarters station, WØSHQ. Several changes have recently been made to upgrade our WØSHQ station for emergency communications capability at the Auditorium in Independence, Missouri.

73 de KGØII
Bob Farnham, ASCRA President

2006-2007 ASCRA Board Election Results

On Saturday, 14 January 2006, the ASCRA Secretary convened a committee to count the ballots for the election of the 2006-2007 term of the ASCRA Board of Directors. Twenty four ballots were received in good order by the published deadline of 07 January 2006. None arrived after the deadline - well done! Only one ballot included a write-in candidate. Donations accompanied 11 ballots.

The following members were duly elected to the 2006-2007 term of the ASCRA Board of Directors:

David Gates, N5LCL, Newcastle, OK
Mike Oiler, K8QA, Liberty, MO
Terry Redding, W6LMJ, West Palm Beach, FL
Muir Robinson, W8QK, Bald Knob, AR
Tom Thatcher, W2TFT, Shawano, WI
Fred Troeh, NØELM, Ames, IA

Congratulations to our five re-elected board members, and to new board member, Mike Oiler, K8QA. Thanks to all the members who participated in this year's election, and to those who contributed funds as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Shaw, WAØEMX, ASCRA Secretary
Chuck Palmer, NØONN
Bill Shaw, KBØCDD

Trailer HF!

Greetings from West Palm Beach, Florida.

Is it just a matter of age, or do we all seek change from time to time in our lives? Barbara, W5HKY, and I have owned trailers in the past. In 1974 I bought a 19 foot Red Dale and eventually mounted an 18 foot vertical in the middle of the metal roof – as my antenna solution for my then new ham radio hobby. While on vacation to visit with her family in upstate New York, I had two weeks to play with the radio and work on portable antenna projects. My process for selecting an RV HF antenna consisted of installing a 40 and 80 meter reference dipole that I could use on 15/40/80 meters and then comparing the performance of the vertical to that antenna.

I was still a novice, but with three years of radio hobby activity and electronic courses behind me, and an extended amount of experience with US Army MARS stations in Vietnam, and various other sorts of field communications. While only operating CW, I wanted to provide myself with the best possible signal while traveling. The solution I was seeking needed to be simple and easy to implement at the end of a day's travel. I thought the best solution would be to mount a vertical antenna on the upright of the trailer tongue jack. However, since I was on vacation I also looked at the trailer antenna project as an opportunity to play with several approaches. I strung the parallel dipole between two 40 foot pine trees, as a reference antenna, and then started looking for ways to produce a better signal using a base loaded 18 foot vertical. The first solution involved hose clamps and a mounting pipe for the vertical, clamped to the trailer tongue jack. The reference dipole was better than the vertical in all cases.

Next I mounted the vertical on a cold water pipe in the yard, again the dipole was better – much better. I then tried mounting the vertical on the side of the trailer and the rear bumper of the trailer, again in all cases the reference dipole

was better. With the reference dipole I could check into the novice slow speed CW nets in Oklahoma and Kansas from New York with a good S-5 to S-7 signal. The vertical was often not heard. Finally, I had a metal plate cut and drilled to allow me to place a pipe flange in the center of the roof of the travel trailer. The roof was a single sheet of stainless steel. The mounting plate

mounted between two of the roof rafters was a solid well grounded mounting point. The reports of the vertical mounted in the center of the roof were spectacular. The vertical was producing S-9 to S-9 +20db signals, as compared to the reference dipole. Because the vertical collapsed down into itself, its total stored length



was less than four feet. Fully extended, the 18 foot vertical mounted in the center of the roof was an excellent antenna. The trailer had a ladder on the back that made getting onto the roof for mounting, easy and quick. With practice I got to the point where I could install the vertical on the roof of the trailer in less than 5 minutes. Very nice for making the evening CW contacts and listening on the bands.

Now, 30 years later – things are only somewhat different. Today my schedules are all SSB, and the nets of interest are all on 20 meters. The new trailer, after 20 years with no travel trailer, is much lighter, the construction laminates and plastic. There is no metal in the roof, except electrical wiring. The old approach, with a vertical in the center of the roof, may not work. But I have new tools to play with. The Internet is available most places and I can control an HF station over the Internet, making having a totally stand-alone mobile operation not as important. But it continues to be my goal. To date I have tried random wire antennas, some using the trailer as the support (a plastic trailer means I can think of it as a non-conductive antenna support), verticals and dipoles. The dipole works the best. Mine is installed on three 5-foot sections of pipe extending the dipole well above the roof. The dipole approach even allows me to consider running an amplifier in order to be better able to participate in the ASCRA net.

I have included some photos taken with my cell phone camera of the dipole set up on the beach in Florida, from which I was able to call the net one Sunday afternoon a few months ago. The dipole consists of two 20-meter ham sticks, fed in a dipole configuration. The system works surprisingly well. In the future I plan to try a telescopic 33-foot vertical, weighing less than 3 pounds. I have fabricated a bracket and end mounting support that allows the vertical to be installed in less than five minutes. I am still working out the details for power and permanently remoting the radio inside the trailer without taking up space unnecessarily. A Portable operation with good signals is possible in almost all situations, with either commercial solutions or through a bit of ingenuity. The dipole approach costs less than \$50 to implement, and the 33 foot vertical will have cost less than \$60 by the time I finish the project. The option of working the net through any one of a multitude of Internet remote bases is also a possibility.



I look forward to many years of ASCRA and ASCRA nets in the years to come. Whether we seek change, or simply must adjust to change, amateur radio and portable operations continue to be a great deal of fun.

Terry – W6LMJ

LARA Licensing Class Results

The Lamoni Amateur Radio Association (LARA) recently concluded an Amateur Radio licensing class. The class began on Tuesday, January 10. The class met two evenings per week throughout the month of January and the early part of February. The class concluded with a licensing examination session on Sunday, February 12. The class was conducted by Bob Farnham, KGØII, assisted by Volunteer Examiners Jon Barney, AAØOS; Hale Collins, W6RWH and Steve Murdock, NØZY. Eight individuals took the Technician Class licensing exam, of which six passed. As of this writing, the following individuals are anxiously awaiting their new tickets: John Adamski (Systems Analyst for Graceland's Information Technology Services department), Steven Campbell (Boy Scout from Eagleville, Missouri Troop 229), Leona Dorothy, Blake Grundman, and Bojan Raic (Graceland students), and Jim Hammer (resident and former City of Lamoni Mayor). Congratulations to these new Amateur Radio operators!

I encourage ASCRA members to get involved in licensing new Amateur Radio operators. Anyone can assist in teaching a class. Assisting in a licensing examination session requires becoming an Accredited Volunteer Examiner (VE) of one of several Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs). I outlined the process of becoming accredited in the August, 2004 In-Service. (See <http://www.ascra.org/in-service.htm> to review this In-Service online.) Since that article was written, the ASCRA Board of Directors – at its June 5, 2005 meeting – budgeted the expenditure of funds to cover the VEC license examination fee for candidates who are taking their FCC Amateur Radio licensing examination for the first time. From my own experience, I can affirm this New Member Development fund substantially lowers the resistance of individuals who are thinking about taking the licensing exam, but whose “test anxiety” increases with the thought of having to pay a fee to take the test!

While the ASCRA New Member Development fund is a substantial benefit in attracting new Amateur Radio license candidates, the money must come from somewhere. As you know, ASCRA maintains its budget without a formal dues structure. Last year, the budget was supported by only a dozen or so members. Our organization currently has 320 members. Surely we can do better than having only a few members supporting the entire budget. If a quarter of the individual members contributed only \$25, we would meet this year's budget! I am pleased that your Board of Directors is contributing the lion's share to meet the annual budget. Even so, we appreciate everyone's participation. If you are like me, you regularly receive requests for donations from many worthy organizations. Please join with me in generously choosing ASCRA for your tax-deductible contributions.

73 de kgØii

Bob Farnham, ASCRA President

Internet Store

Just a reminder that I have set up an internet store that benefits ASCRA.

Here is the link to it: <http://www.cafepress.com/ascra>

Robin, wØfen

Dick Smith – Silent Key

Dick Smith, 84, of Independence, MO, passed away on November 21, 2005. The following letter was sent to his family on behalf of ASCRA:

Beth, Doug, and Walt Smith, and Family
c/o 660 North Spring, Apt # 805
Independence, MO 64050

Dear friends,

On behalf of Dick's many friends of the Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs, I want to express our profound condolences at this time of his memorial. We share with each of you; Beth, Doug, Walt, and all the family; a great sense of personal gratitude for his kind and gentle soul.

We will all certainly miss Dick's presence and fellowship in different ways. His humor, his public and private prayers, and his sweet loving-kindness blessed us all. He truly was a living example of the kind of life Christ would have all of us to live.

While we sorrow at having lost such a remarkable, good and loyal friend in the Lord, I am certain that on Dick's arrival at the Throne of Grace he will have heard, "Well done. Good and faithful servant." Rest well, Dick. You were indeed a shepherd and pastor to us all.

May God bless each of you and your extended family with His comforting Spirit, that it may bring you many happy and bright remembrances of Dick and his love for his family in the weeks, months and years to come until all are reunited in the presence of our Lord.

With many fond memories and great regard,

Douglas Shaw, WAØEMX

Secretary

Assn of Saints Church Radio Amateurs

ASCRA Directors Meeting

I am pleased to set the date of the next ASCRA Directors meeting. Saturday, April 22, 2006. The location will be at the KCUR Studios. The address is:

4825 Troost Ave
Suite 202
Kansas City, MO 64110

Any ASCRA members are invited to attend.

A tour of the station will be given. This may last an hour depending on questions.

Robin Cross

ASCRA Nets

The 20M net was the first net we established and has run continuously since then. The 80 and 40M nets came a bit later and ran for quite a few years. There was even a CW net for awhile for the Morse Code set. The west coast ASCRA group also had a weekday morning 80M net that operated before rush hour drive time, as I recall. I even checked into it a time or two in the winter when 80M was long skip from the midwest to the west coast.

73 doug waØemx

Maldol HVU-8

Foreword. Several weeks ago I had the pleasure of meeting Fred, KA4RUR, on 20 meters. After a few minutes of enjoyable chat we started to exchange information about our stations. I was surprised by the small size of his antenna and its uniformly good performance. I invited Fred to join us on the ASCRA net, and since the first meeting he has been a regular check-in. Again, each time he checks in he has a uniformly good signal from his modest antenna. During the first net in February I asked Fred to write an article for In Service. Below is his article as promised. – W6LMJ -

The Maldol HVU-8 is a unique and ultra-compact HF, VHF, and UHF antenna developed for confined and restricted space installations like apartments and condominiums or for emergency communications. Installation is easily accomplished and convenient due to the size of the HVU-8 being only ½ the traditional height and weight of an HF vertical antenna.



The antenna was made to cover the following bands – 80/40/20/15/10/6/2m and 70cm bands. While experimenting with the antenna (like all good Hams do) I found out that I was able to tune the 60/30 meters band with no problem by using a tuner.

Each HF band and the 6M has its own independently tuned radiator and radial system, while the main antenna mast is pre-tuned for constant operation on the 2m/70cm.

Since the bandwidth is very narrow, the radiator element tuning takes time and patience. Therefore, if you have ever been to St. Louis, Missouri in the summer time you must have patience when you are working outside in the heat.

This is my main antenna, and I have it installed on the side of my garage. The total height is 18.6 feet, this includes a 10 foot mast and the height of the antenna which is a modest 8.6 feet tall. This antenna is used with my FT-890 running at 100

watts. I have no problems getting reports of 5 x 9 or better. The antenna has also been used on 2m ssb with no problems using an FT-857. The antenna was meant to be used with all the multiband HF/VHF/UHF radios that have been recently introduced.

This is an antenna that was designed for two things – for those of us that have severe space limitations and/or antenna restrictions or portable use. The HVU-8 is an extremely outstanding antenna in every respect.

HF and 6m: ¼ wave-length; Gain 2m: ½ wave-length, 2.15dbi; Gain 70cm: Two 5/8 waves in phase, 5.5dbi; Impedance: 50 Ohm; Max power: HF 200w SSB, 6m-70cm: 150w FM.

Fred
KA4RUR

20M Net Check-ins

February 13, 2006

Here in Cary, NC with my temporary antenna, it is tough to hear the net activity.

Terry and Robin have been sending me the checkins so I can try and keep providing the list of 20M activity.

Some calls may have been left out, but this is most of them.

Ernie, WB2UJL

~~~~~  
WØAVH, William Carver      NØELM, Fred Troeh  
WIØF, Gary Tickemeyer      WØFEN, Robin Cross  
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrar      NØAIX, Larry Ragan  
NØONN, Chuck Palmer      AAØOS, Jon Barney  
WØSHQ, Robin, Auditorium      KGØXU, Michael Hahn  
WØYO, Bob Farnham, KGØII operator

KA1WER, Paul Geng      KA1EAJ, Elmer Paquette  
KL1OU, Debbie Underwood

K2ANM, Don Wallace      KC2KSL, Roberta Boudrot  
AB2TC, Knut Spang      W2TFT, Tom Thatcher  
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles      KC2WD, Ernest Paul

WB3AXE, Jim Gardner      VA3INV,  
VE3MEP,

W4CYF, Jimmy Bishop      W4FKD, Davis Gann  
KI4GWC, William Farmer      N4MBN, David Freeman  
WA4MJQ, Larry Lawhorn      KA4RUR, Frederick Carslick

N5HQM, Jody Bryan      N5LCL, Dave Gates  
W5QPT, Ellis Thatcher

KU6I, Pit Schmidt      W6LMJ, Terry Redding  
W6RWH, Hale Collins      VE6WDE, Bill

KB7AIL, Jeff Benedict      K7NCG, Jim Fish  
WA7TBP, George Needham

K8CKW, Gary Grabenstein      N8LCD, Bob Moy  
K8QA, Mike Oiler      W8QK, Muirl Robinson

K9FBI, Michael Bentley      WW9H, James Long  
K9YV, Stephan Fagan

## PHONE AT WØSHQ

Do we have a phone line in the shack that works?  
Terry,

Yes, WØSHQ does have a working extension number at the Church HQs complex. It can be reached as 816-833-1000, then when the PBX auto answers you can enter the extension number, 1319. One can also access the WØSHQ extension via the Church HQs 800 number as well (800-825-2806).

As far as I can determine there is no number that rings through directly to WØSHQ. Currently, the extension will ring two (or at most three) times before rolling over to Michael Hahn's extension (and/or voice mailbox).

73 Doug waØemx

## WØSHQ

WØSHQ is the club station of the Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs, a non-profit service organization affiliated with the Community of Christ (international HQs in Independence, MO). A 20M net meets on Sunday afternoon (US) on 14.287MHz +/- at 21:30Z Standard Time or 20:30Z Daylight time, to meet at the same local time (USA) throughout the year. It is a church fellowship net open to ALL radio amateurs. ASCRA also operates WØSHQ/R, an open 2M repeater in Independence, MO on 146.73 -600 input. ASCRA has a second WØSHQ open 2M repeater in Lamoni, IA also on 146.73, with access to the WØYO-L EchoLink node operated by the Graceland University Ham Radio Club. See the ASCRA web site, <http://www.ascra.org>, for more information about ASCRA, its other nets, activities, and affiliations. 73 to all.

## Extracts from ARRL News Items

forwarded by Doug Shaw

An ARES emergency net using the Van Buren repeater reacted quickly when the dam was breached and millions of gallons of water were released from a mountaintop hydroelectric reservoir in Reynolds County, Missouri, December 14, 2005. One of the homes that was swept away was that of a park superintendent. His family, including his wife and three children were washed away and found a half-mile downstream. The children were all hospitalized.

Ham radio operators from 16 stations in the surrounding area checked into the net and kept Dave Hannigan, the Shannon County sheriff's dispatcher, updated via his 2-meter radio as he worked. He said "No emergency traffic was passed but it was a good exercise, and I was really proud of the rapid wide-area VHF radio coverage."

Randy McCloy, the sole survivor of the January 2 Sago mining disaster in West Virginia, is a ham radio operator, KC8VKZ. He was among 13 men trapped for more than 40 hours in the mine with dangerous levels of carbon monoxide following an explosion. His condition was serious, but his heart and liver functions and general condition have been improving. Only time will tell the full extent of his recovery.

## A 40- or 80-meter ASCRA Net?

Terry here from West Palm Beach, Florida.

Please send me your responses to the questions below

Please use a scale of 1 through 5, with 1 being least preferred and 5 being the most preferred.

For example, Question 1, response 5. Question 2, response 1. would indicate a strong preference for a 40 meter net, but little preference for an 80 meter net.

1. Interested in 40 meter net?
2. Interested in 80 meter net?
3. Prefer
  - A. Daily net
  - B. Weekly net
  - C. Weekend net
  - D. Saturday net
  - E. Sunday net
  - F. Early morning net
  - G. Morning net
  - H. Daytime net
  - I. Afternoon net
  - J. Evening net
  - K. Night net
4. I am interested in supporting a net
5. I am interested in forming a net
6. I would be willing to serve as net control
7. Your comments. Please limit comments to 500 words or less.

Thank you for taking the time to participate. You may send your response via e-mail or regular mail to the address below.

I will compile the results received and share them in an article for In Service.

73 - Terry - W6LMJ  
[terry@oltraining.com](mailto:terry@oltraining.com)

Terry Redding  
2470 Gabriel Lane  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406-5247

## SuitSat-1

(Summarized from ARRL)

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program seeks voice telemetry reports from amateurs who have heard the FM signal at 145.990 MHz from SuitSat-1. This signal comes from a ham radio installed in a Russian space suit that was discarded February 3 from the International Space Station. Its telemetry transmission order is: DTMF tone, CW ID, SSTV image, 30 seconds of silence, voice identification, mission time, temperature and battery voltage repeated on a 9-minute cycle. Its power output is likely in the range of 1 to 10 mW, so listeners need to have excellent VHF receiving equipment and high-gain antennas.

More information on the SuitSat-1 project, including QSL information, is available on the AMSAT Web site

You can find information about ASCRA on our web page at [www.ascra.org](http://www.ascra.org), including previous issues of this IN-SERVICE newsletter.

## IN-SERVICE

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