

I N-SERVICE



Fall

Volume 90

November 2004

SIANOMO BIKE RIDE

Lamoni Amateur Radio Association Assists Bike Ride

The Southern Iowa, Northern Missouri (SIANOMO) bike ride, sponsored by the Lamoni Chamber of Commerce, has been held annually for the past several years. This year's ride was held on Saturday, September 11, 2004. This scenic bicycle ride through the rolling hills around Lamoni provides three routes for riders to choose from. All of the routes began at the Lamoni Welcome Center, at the I-35 mile 4 exit, and ended at the Lamoni Central Park. The shortest route proceeds from the Welcome Center to the Andover, Missouri Community of Christ, just south of the state border, and then back to Central Park. The medium route proceeds north on U.S. highway 69 to Davis City, Iowa, east to the Nine Eagles State Park near Pleasanton, Iowa, and then back to Central Park. The long route passed Nine Eagles State Park on Route O, south to Cainesville, Missouri, west on Route N to Blythedale, and then north on Route T, past the Andover Community of Christ and ending at Central Park.

Lamoni Amateur Radio Association members were among a number of persons providing assistance for this year's ride. With the Lamoni repeater down, a backup plan was established, with Tony Crandall (KØISA) serving as base station net control. Tony was actually located at the home of Jon Barney (AAØOS), operating with 23 watts and a 9-element beam 70 feet in the air. From this vantage point, Tony was able to hear all stations as well as be heard by them. As it turns out, the band was quite "open", and Tony was hearing repeaters all over the place on the 146.73 MHz simplex frequency we had chosen. All of the other operators were located at various checkpoints along the route. Larry and Lila Oiler (NØBGG and NØVWS) were located at the Andover Community of Christ. Lynda Farnham (KBØUBT) was located at the Nine Eagles State Park. Jon Barney (AAØOS) was mobile between Cainesville and Blythedale. Virgil Scholley (NØDYT) provided backup base station support. Bob Farnham (KGØII) was located at Central Park, running a handie talkie with a ducky antenna.

Also providing assistance were members of the Lamoni Lions, providing refreshments to riders along the way, and others providing "sag wagon" and check in services. Members of the Lamoni Cattlemen's Association grilled hamburgers at Central Park for the riders as they returned. All in all, events such as this succeed because of the spirit of volunteerism shared by many people. The Lamoni Amateur Radio Association is already looking forward to next year's ride.

Bob Farnham, KGØII

20-M NET CHECK-INS

These are the 20-M net check-ins I have recorded from 8/8/04 to 10/31/04 at 3:30PM CST, Sunday, on 14.287 MHZ.

Hope it is complete.

Ernie Miles, WB2UJL

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|                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| NØAIX, Larry Reagan              | NØBGG, Larry Oiler     |
| WØDZX, Dave Atkins               | NØELM, Fred Troeh      |
| WØFEN, Robin Cross               | WAØIBS, Andy Ferrar    |
| KBØINN, Harlin                   | WDØJIM, Jim Hong       |
| NØONN, Chuck Palmer              | KFØSJ, John Morgan     |
| WØSHQ, ASCRA Doug, Operator      |                        |
| WØSHQ, ASCRA Robin, Operator     |                        |
| GØWSP, Phil - UK                 | WBØWWU, Ed Morris      |
| NØWZH, Steve Hampton             | KGØXU, Michael Hahn    |
| ~~~~~                            |                        |
| KDIR, Ralph Stetson              | W1ZNK, Art Gandelman   |
| ~~~~~                            |                        |
| N2ALO, Noah Gottfried            | W2DYK, Donald Grieg    |
| W2IK, Bob Hejl                   | N2RRA, Eric Cuevas     |
| W2TFT, Tom Thatcher              | WB2UJL, Ernie Miles    |
| ~~~~~                            |                        |
| VK3AQN, Fred Naylor              | W3HEN, John Seither    |
| K3RD, Donald Schmidt             | VE3SCP, Scott Price    |
| VE3UN, Don Squire                |                        |
| ~~~~~                            |                        |
| K4BLM, Lee Plaskoff              | N4CLT, Hubert Feild    |
| W4CTE, Vincent Doerr             | N4MBN, David Freeman   |
| KQ4UB, Scouts, Steven Harpole    |                        |
| ~~~~~                            |                        |
| WB5BRD, Raymond Hooper           | N5ECP, Jeff Salmons    |
| W5HKY, Barbara Redding           | N5LCL, Dave Gates      |
| K5MCW, Buddy Howard              | W5QPT, Ellis Thatcher  |
| W6RWH, Hale Collins              | K5RY, Tom Alexander    |
| KC5THR, John Glover              |                        |
| N5XU, Cub Scouts Univ. TX Austin |                        |
| ~~~~~                            |                        |
| W6LMJ, Terry Redding             | W6NRE, George Hammerle |
| KC6PJA, James Grieg              |                        |
| ~~~~~                            |                        |
| KD7DCM, Dwane Lytte              | K7IGE, Daniel Widmer   |
| K7NCG, Jim Fish                  | KB7NLG, Frank Warner   |
| AL7O, Gary Mc Crorey             | WA7TBP, Tom Needham    |
| KA7VMA, Dick Wynes               |                        |
| ~~~~~                            |                        |
| W8BDH, Chris Atwater             | K8QA, Mike Oiler       |
| W8QK, Muirl Robinson             |                        |
| K9AAD, Irwin Goldstein           | KC9EUH, Jay Gutknecht  |
| KC9GBN, Larry Vincenti           | KB9UTO, Jon Wilcox     |
| WA9YWK, Keith Peterson           |                        |

## THANKS FOR PRAYERS

We want to extend our thanks for your prayers and also to all the friends of Saints Church Radio Amateurs. We are once again on our way back to Honduras. We appreciated your concern. God bless each of you.

Chuck & Regina Sperry and family, HR1CSS

(The above message was forwarded by Doug Shaw, WAØEMX. Background information is on page 3 of Volume 88—IN-SERVICE for May 2004)

## WORLD SERVICE CORPS LETTER

### Can ASCRA Help the Volunteers?

John Kirkpatrick  
Community of Christ World Headquarters  
1001 W. Walnut  
Independence, MO 64050-3562 USA

Brother Jack,

A few years ago, a good friend of mine (Chris Davidson) shared with me in an e-mail that she and her husband were accepted into the World Service Corps (WSC). She was sharing with me their excitement over their assignment, which was in a remote location in Africa. In her e-mail, she wanted to let me know that her "replies" may take a while as they would be an hour's drive to the nearest town and the gathering of their regular mail and e-mail.

I still remember my reply to her. In wishing her and her husband well on their new adventure, I casually mentioned that maybe she and or her husband should look into getting their HAM Radio license, and that they would not be so isolated.

Now my own daughter (Allie Cook) is looking into joining the WSC, and my statement to Chris has started to haunt me. I have visited with other former members of the WSC and other church associates who went overseas on behalf of the church about being isolated from home, and if there was an opportunity to contact home or close to home, would that help. Everyone I have talked to, even though they would not give up the experience they had, said having a way to send a message home or receive a message from home in a timely fashion would be a bonus.

Jack, I believe HAM Radio (AKA: Amateur Radio) can do this for WSC. On behalf of the Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs (ASCRA), I would like to offer a proposal of how HAM Radio and ASCRA can help the World Service Corps in enhancing your operation.

I realize that HAM Radio has certain misleading paradigms that it must change. Hopefully I can start the process of that change. For example, here are some misconceptions:

- HAM radio tests are hard to pass.
- You have to learn Morse code.
- HAM radios are large and hard to operate.
- Radio Towers for HAM Radio are eyesores.

Let's address the first two misleading paradigms about Ham Radio Tests and learning Morse code. FCC requires certain standards for Radio Communication, which is the reason why future HAM operators must pass a test. This test mostly covers radio operation, such as what is acceptable language, what kind of traffic can be passed over the radio, and what traffic has priority. A small portion of

the test covers safety and theory. The most popular and fastest growing license is the Technician license. It is a no-Morse-code license and a perfect entry license for the beginning HAM Radio operator. This license would be ideal for the WSC Volunteer.

The last two misleading paradigms: HAM Radios are large and hard to operate and the Radio Towers are an eyesore. The short answer is that they do not have to be. The HAM Radio industry, like the telecommunications industry, such as Cell Phones, has state of the art devices. They are small and portable. In fact, my HAM Radio (the radio, battery and antenna) I use daily is smaller than my cell phone.

A good example of HAM Radio portability is my brother, Ed Cook (KF4TBU), who is a HAM Radio Operator and a commercial pilot. His flying assignments took him throughout the Caribbean. He would pack up his Ham Radio and associated equipment (a step down transformer – 220v to 110v and wire for his antenna) in his suitcase. From the comfort of his hotel room, he would take a few minutes to set up, and he would be on the air, talking to folks in the US, Central and South America, Europe, and Australia.

Throughout the year, HAM radio has field day contests. Sometimes we go into a remote area with no commercial power, using low wattage radios and simple antennas, and try to make as many contacts as we can throughout the world. Our efforts are very successful.

The beauty of the HAM Radio hobby is that the hobbyist can make it as simple or as complex as he or she desires.

On behalf of the ASCRA Board of Directors and our members, I would like to propose a pilot project between our respective organizations:

1. ASCRA members will teach the WSC volunteer the FCC requirements for the Technician class test. In the past 2 years at SPEC, volunteers from ASCRA have conducted classes with positive results with students passing the Technician class test
2. ASCRA will recommend radio equipment for WSC volunteer operation and provide training for its operation. Our objective would be lightweight equipment, easy to set up and easy to use.
3. Investigate how to procure this equipment.
4. Some countries do not allow HAM Radio communication. Our organization will advise the WSC which countries will or will not allow this kind of service.
5. You will have an international network of volunteers monitoring for the call sign of the WSC volunteer and will be willing to pass traffic to them, to the WSC, or to their home. Currently there are established HAM radio stations at the Auditorium and at Graceland.

During times of emergencies, including such natural phenomena as hurricanes, typhoons, tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanic disruptions, or a mankind-created disaster, such as what happened on September 11<sup>th</sup>, it has been proven that commercial communications will get overloaded or disrupted. HAM Radio, in many of these incidents, has been the only constant medium of communication for the community affected. If the WSC volunteer in that community is also a HAM radio operator, he or she would bring additional value.

To find out more about ASCRA, please visit our web site: <http://www.ascra.org> or contact any our Board of Directors listed below, or feel free to contact me, as I am willing to be the point of contact between our respective organizations.

Your Brother in Christ,

David E. Cook – KCØMHT  
Phone: 303-688-2204

E-Mail: [Dave\\_Cook@juno.com](mailto:Dave_Cook@juno.com)

# FLORIDA HURRICANES

## Four Hurricanes in Florida – 2004

As most of you know, I live in Florida. One aspect of my Ham radio activities is that I follow the weather, especially storms, and participate in a national network of storm trackers, the Hurricane Watch Net, which feeds minute by minute weather spot reports to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) to aid them in micro-tracking a storm to fine tune their path predictions. This hurricane season Florida was subject to four hurricanes as first Charley, then Frances, Ivan, and finally Jeanne made landfall in my state

This past season Hurricane Charley provided an excellent example of why micro-tracking a hurricane is important. It was the weather reports from ham radio stations along the Florida west coast that provided the earliest warning that Charley would take a sudden and unexpected turn to the south, coming ashore nearly 70 miles farther south than expected. The coastal radars confirmed the shift as it occurred - but the NHC had been watching for it for some minutes before it occurred based on wind direction reports and a wobble in the eye of the storm that was detected by a sudden drop in barometric pressure on the extreme southern edge of the storm, as reported by the Hurricane Watch Net.

Hurricane Frances followed just after Hurricane Charley. I began following Frances just days after Charley made landfall. And, some eight days after Frances, I was still operating on battery power following Ivan as it crossed the Leeward Islands, hit Grenada, and then Jamaica. Frances stalled over the Bahamas finally coming slowly ashore just north of my position here in north Palm Beach. Jeanne, moving much faster, and a stronger hurricane, came ashore four short weeks later.

Storm and hurricane forecasting is simply getting better and better. But one of the difficulties is predicting forward speed. Frances was a case in point. We were all surprised when Frances slowed to a crawl, wobbled and slid backwards and then finally started forward again for the east coast of Florida. Its sheer size and slow speed meant that a very large area of Florida would be subject to damage and flooding as a result of Frances. Here in West Palm Beach we started feeling the effects of Frances almost 20 hours before landfall. Many think a hurricane happens in a few minutes, or at best a few hours, based on the way they are depicted in the movies. But each storm is different. The eye of Frances as it came ashore was almost 80 miles across. The hurricane effects stretched out 110 miles from the center of the eye, or nearly 220 miles from edge to edge. Frances stalled and then edged forward several times - often with an average speed of between 2 and 4 MPH. Its slow movement meant that the effected area would be subject to tropical storm and hurricane force winds, rains, and associated tornadoes for a very long period of time. I received over 15 inches of rain at my house during Frances - but never more than 5 inches in any one hour.

Most hurricanes are viewed and experienced as a slow buildup, high intensity, then the quiet of the eye, and then a reversal of the same process as the hurricane moves away. But that describes a small hurricane that passes directly over a single point. The surrounding area experiences a hurricane in a very different way. Most experience waves of rains, areas of frequent high intensity severe weather to either side of the hurricane. In our case the eye wall passed within a few miles of my house. Thus, I never experienced the calm of the eye of the hurricane - but did experience an extended period of hurricane force winds - about 110 MPH in my area - intense rainfall and tornadoes (yes, plural), and lightning.

My house has laminated hurricane-proof windows - so neither shutter nor plywood are needed. I get to look out the window and watch the storm. In the intense part of the storm it is black dark - interrupted by flashes of lightning. I have weather measuring instruments so I know how many inches of rain are falling per hour, the wind speed and

direction, and a digital barometer that shows me both the rate of change and the actual current air pressure at the house.

My amateur radio equipment is on a tower that I can lower from 70 feet to about 22 feet prior to a storm. I did that, which means it can withstand a hurricane with no problem. But the antennas are only good to about 75 miles per hour, and they came off the tower in the storm.

I also lost the front porch cover, which is designed to tear away before weakening the structural integrity of my house.

My family and I spent nearly 24 hours in the house waiting for the hurricane to subside. I have emergency power for two-way radios, portable crank-powered radios and battery powered TVs, but you still feel isolated in a large hurricane. I monitored the local radio stations which were all broadcasting current information associated with Frances. I also monitored the local VHF amateur radio nets which man the Emergency Operation Centers in each large city and all counties, plus most of the shelters - so current information and the running commentary associated with the storm were always at hand.

It took twelve days for the commercial power to come back on. We used a backup generator that kept the fridge and TV available. But during the storm, we had no power.

Immediately after the storm passed I ventured out to check my business, olt.net, and my church. Happily both came through just fine, and the business was able to resume operation following Labor Day using wireless Internet connectivity. My servers are located in the Disney World server farm and pretty much are bullet proof. So they never faltered or failed.

While I was typing this I was listening to the Hurricane Watch Net reading the public bulletins, talking with the hams in Jamaica, Cayman, and Cuba. Cooperation is high and all of us involved in the effort know each other well. It has been a service activity of mine for about 20 years. Ivan was then a CAT 5, with the sixth lowest barometric pressure ever recorded. Luckily, it looked like it would miss my part of Florida - but I prayed it would blow itself out and return to being just a tropical depression. Of course that didn't happen, and a few days later it slammed into the panhandle of Florida.

The first day after hurricane Frances was spent moving debris away from the yard and to the curb. For three days following the storm most of my neighbors were still shut up in shuttered homes. We felt very lucky to have windows. Tuesday I bought a generator - lucky and blessed to find one - and thus our refrigerated food did not spoil and we had as much electricity as needed. I haven't run the AC in the house, but ran the AC in the garage so my wife can return to sewing - her passion - and the real use of our garage.

The pool was cleaned the second day and we were able to swim, play water volley ball, and relax after yard work each day.

Most of my staff did not return to work the first week after Frances. They were busy tending to their families. But the office was up and fully functional beginning Tuesday, after the Labor Day Weekend, with the backup generator, and the battery powered notebook computers on hand.

The Hurricane and tropical storm force winds from Hurricane Jeanne lasted just a few hours, and passed much more quickly than those associated with Frances. Our home had power restored in less than a day, and the business never missed a beat.

In all, my family and I feel blessed and are just concerned for the many others who are not as fortunate as we.

God bless and thank you for your concern. Let us just pray that those affected more severely may soon have their lives and property returned to normal.

Terry Redding W6LMJ

## TECHNICIAN LICENSE EXAM

Element 2 Test to be Given

During the Winter Term at Graceland University, I will be teaching an Amateur Radio Licensing course. Winter Term begins on January 3 and ends on January 20, 2005. My goal is to get everyone in the class ready to take their Element 2 examination for a Technician license. The test will be given on the last day of Winter Term, January 20. We will have three certified Volunteer Examiners on hand to supervise the examination; including Jon Barney, AAØOS, Hale Collins, W6RWH and me, KGØII. Anyone who is interested in taking the test, who is within a reasonable driving distance of Lamoni, Iowa, is welcome to join us for the examination session. Please contact Bob Farnham to indicate your interest or if you have any questions. Bob can be reached via telephone at 641-784-5291 (daytime), 641-784-7377 (evenings and weekends), and email at farnham@grm.net.

73 de kg Øii

Bob Farnham

## SILENT KEY – KCØLSE

My name is Mollie and KCØLSE is, well was, my husband. He passed away in his sleep on Monday morning 927 at around 12:30 at home in MS. We came down here to help my parents. You see, my father is very ill and Mother needed help caring for him.

He was 47, we lived in Independence MO. There will be a memorial service for him at East 39th Street Congregation of the Community of Christ on Saturday 10-2 at 10:30 am. If you are need of directions please call me at my home number in MO. I have the phone forwarded to my folks home. The number is 816-833-2296.

Joe loved being a HAM radio operator and was trying to get his extra class, but never quite made it for the test.

Please tell everyone that I thank them for helping Joe with problems he had with his radios and just plain being his friend.

Mollie Andrews

## SILENT KEY – WDØARL

Ed Gordon of Boonville, Missouri passed away in December, 2003. Please remove him from your mailing list for "the Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs". I am his son-in-law, Jack Terrell (married to Jennifer Gordon, his daughter).

WDØARL is now permanently "signed off"; good luck with your association's future activities.

Jack Terrell

## PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

Greetings, friends.

With this issue of In-Service, you are receiving a ballot for the election of six directors to lead the activities of ASCRA. For this election, it appears we have a FIRST for ASCRA's history of elections. Not only were all six of the incumbent directors nominated multiple times, but for the first time, no additional nominations were received. We briefly considered whether it was even necessary to proceed with an actual election under these circumstances. However, we feel strongly that the election of directors is a significant role for ASCRA members. As much as I am one to jump on the bandwagon of votes by acclamation, and as much as I want to resist unnecessarily spending scarce resources from the treasury, it turns out that the cost of sending the ballots with the In-Service is minimal. Also, the quantity of returned ballots in the past has served as a measure of members participation and response. Finally, the election is specified in our association bylaws, which are available for your review on our web site at [www.ascra.org](http://www.ascra.org).

We have provided a few write-in spaces on the ballot in the event you desire for someone else to be elected. Any member of ASCRA may be elected as a director who is also a member of the Community of Christ after being nominated (or written in on a ballot) at least once and by indicated her/his willingness and availability to serve. Members are those persons who are legally licensed as operators in the amateur radio service, and have requested membership.

In my first paragraph, above, I mentioned response. Since you will be returning your ballot via surface mail, may I request that you consider including a contribution? ASCRA's budget for 2004-2005 is \$765. \$500 of that is the estimated cost of sending the In-Service to you. The remainder covers such things as copies, other postage, our P.O. Box 73 post office box, license fees and bank charges. ASCRA has no dues structure to provide the revenue to support even such a modest budget as we have. Instead, we rely on the generosity of our members. Those of you who watch the Red Green television program know that he always closes one of his segments by saying, "I'm pulling for you. We're all in this together." Indeed we are all in this together. If we all send a portion of the revenue needed, then the responsibility for supporting the association can be spread out more evenly. On behalf of your fellow members and the Board of Directors, I thank you for your willingness to participate in ASCRA.

73 de kg Øii

Bob Farnham  
ASCRA President

## A VERY SUCCESSFUL UPGRADE

Congratulations are due to Ralph Behnke of Fort Worth, Texas. Ralph is sporting a new call sign, N5XA, which would seem to be a very successful upgrade from his Tech+ to Amateur Extra Class license.

CONGRATULATIONS, Ralph !!!!

Doug Shaw WAØEMX  
ASCRA Secretary

# 2005 ASCRA DIRECTORS BALLOT

ASSOCIATION OF SAINTS CHURCH RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

Election Ballot - Board of Directors - 2005-2006 term

You may vote for up to six (6) nominees by marking the box alongside their name.

More than six votes will invalidate your ballot. Please sign your ballot with your call sign.

**Ballots must be RECEIVED by Saturday, January 8, 2005.**

Voting Member's Signature & call sign: \_\_\_\_\_

All nominees were nominated multiple times, but only six names were nominated this time. If you wish to write-in different name(s), use a space provided. Vote for no more than six:

-----  
? \*\* Robin Cross, WØFEN, Kansas City, MO

? \*\* Bob Farnham, KGØII, Lamoni, IA (current president)

? \*\* Michael Hahn, KGØXU, Independence, MO

? \*\* Ernie Miles, WB2UJL, Apalachin, NY

? \*\* Chuck Palmer, NØONN, Independence, MO (current treasurer)

? \*\* Doug Shaw, WAØEMX, Raytown, MO (current secretary)

? \_\_\_\_\_

? \_\_\_\_\_

? \_\_\_\_\_

? \_\_\_\_\_

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\*\* Indicates current board member

Return ballots to:

Douglas Shaw, WAØEMX, Secretary  
Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs, Inc.  
P.O. Box 73  
Independence, MO 64051

**ASCRA Bylaws require ballots be mailed by US or other postal service.**

**E-mail ballots cannot not be accepted. Please use the Snail Mail.**

*Since ASCRA has no dues please consider enclosing a tax exempt donation by check paid to ASCRA, Inc., to help defray newsletter and other expenses.*

Questions, concerns or comments are also welcomed via your ballot envelope or may sent via E-mail to: wa0emx@arrl.net

If you have any changes for the database (upgrades, new post office or e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc.), please send them to [frtroeh@iastate.edu](mailto:frtroeh@iastate.edu) or mail them to:

Fred Troeh  
4117 Quebec St.  
Ames, IA 50014

## AUTHORS NEEDED

Our thanks go to the authors who have provided material for publication in IN-SERVICE. Without them we would not have a newsletter.

We have only a few members who are regular contributors. The rest of our material comes from both members and friends who provide a variety of items of interest. Could that be you? Please share what you know that the rest of us would like to know—what makes ASCRA and amateur radio special to you. The hopper for our next edition is empty and waiting for your contribution.

## IN-SERVICE

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Send comments, suggestions,  
and material for future issues to:

Editor: Fred Troeh NØELM  
4117 Quebec St  
Ames, Iowa 50014  
e-mail [frtroeh@iastate.edu](mailto:frtroeh@iastate.edu)  
Phone 515 292-2279

Lamoni Heartland Mission Center  
*Community of Christ*  
**531 West Main**  
Lamoni IA 50140

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