

IN-SERVICE



Fall

Volume 94

November 2005

The Infrequent Check-in

One of the five principles of Amateur Radio speaks to the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications. (Part 97.1(a)) Elsewhere in this InService is an article by Doug Shaw, WAØEMX, summarizing ASCRA support in the relief effort during this years hurricanes.

By extension, one of the purposes of our Sunday afternoon 20-meter net, in addition to providing a regular opportunity for fellowship, is to provide a cadre of operators who are ready to provide a communication service. We hope emergencies are rare, but there are other occasions in which our readiness to be of service comes into play. Thus, we encourage ourselves and each other to keep the 20-meter net alive, so that we will be there reliably when we are needed. Elsewhere in this InService is an article by Ernie Miles, WB2UJL recalling his own excitement about checking into the ASCRA 80-meter net for the first time, and how much he appreciated the net being there. Another occasion occurred recently on August 14, 2005. The following report comes from Hale Collins, W6RWH:

Sunday the 14th of August WAØDVU/mm called in to the net from just south of Juneau, Alaska. He was on a fishing boat in the Inland Passage. His name is David Tickemyer and has checked in to the net on occasion in the past. His signal was moderate but solid in Lamoni. David and his brother are sons of Garland Tickemyer. He said the water was rough so they were not catching Halibut. They were going to have to get by that night with King Crab for supper that they had previously caught. He was out of cell phone range so wanted a routine message sent to his brother in Independence. I called the brother and left a message. He called me back the next day to thank me for the call.

To me, these stories beautifully illustrate why we monitor repeaters and net frequencies, and that is so that we will be there when we are needed. In these two examples, we were there for newcomers and those who check in infrequently. As I travel, I always appreciate other hams who monitor their repeaters, and who willingly provide assistance when I seek local information and travel directions. Certainly the stories of amateur radio operators assisting in emergencies will make the headlines, but we can still make a difference by providing the ministry of presence on the air; simply by being there.

73 de kgøii

Bob Farnham

The ASCRA Net is There

Can I tell you again, *probably*, how important the net "being always there" was to me back when I saw the cover of the 1973 Herald with Duane Feeley/Fealey sitting at his station and an article which mentioned the time and frequency of the net on 80M.

After being an airborne radio operator in the Air Force till 1956, I figured this would be a good way to technically challenge myself and also develop more social interaction with a group I had yet to meet.

I delved into the HeathKit catalogues and decided the SB102 would be the best for the dollar while working on building my code speed back up to 13WPM. Found a multi-band design for a turnstile dipole arrangement using one balun and put up a 36' telescoping TV mast against the house using RG-8 in case I wanted to run an amplifier in the future. The 80M dipole passed over the garage to a nylon rope from a guy on the power poll at the curb. It stretched to the far corner of the lot to a tree where it was 15' off the ground.

It took months to get up to 13wpm and take the exam. Took the general and advanced the same day and passed. Toughest word I heard in the code test was SLEET.

When I finally had my transceiver in operation, I could hear the 80M net gathering with strong signals back and forth in the Center Place, but couldn't break-in for 3 weeks. Finally someone thought they heard a call and found me after probably 1 1/2 to 2 years of waiting for this opportunity. Think it might have been Doug who asked, "Where did you come from?" Of course I gave the Herald article the credit for my being there and I've enjoyed telling ASCRA members all about the importance of articles in the Herald ever since.

I counted on the net still being there when I finally was able to call. No, just being there does not bring many new members but it does do something especially for ASCRA members outside of the Center Place to find the net continuing to involve many locations around the US and the rest of the world, on those occasions when the in-frequent check in happens.

No it doesn't cause large contributions to ASCRA, but it meets a special need in a group of us. It makes us feel good to be a part of the ASCRA net and find it is still there.

I'm sure that last sentence could be written a lot of ways by each of us.

Ernie, WB2UJL

Lamoni Amateur Radio Association

Annual Meeting Report

Members of the Lamoni Amateur Radio Association (the Lamoni chapter of ASCRA) met on Saturday, October 8 for breakfast and to discuss business items for the chapter. LARA meets for breakfast for a Chat-and-Chew on the second Saturday of every month. We were unable to meet in September due to power problems at our usual restaurant, so this meeting was our annual meeting to elect officers and discuss other business items. The following persons were elected (listed alphabetically by call sign):

Tony Crandell, KØISA - Net Control Operator
Lila Oiler, NØVWS – Treasurer
Jon Barney, AAØOS - Repeater Control Operator
Lynda Farnham, KBØUBT – Secretary
Bob Farnham, KGØII – President

Our guest at the meeting was Richard Erke, Decatur County disaster services coordinator. We discussed the county emergency response plans, including amateur radio participation in providing communication services. The county will be submitting a grant proposal for a communications trailer that will include amateur radio equipment that we specify.

In other business, annual chapter dues were set at \$25 for individuals and \$50 for families.

73 de kgøii
Bob Farnham, LARA President

Raytown Amateur Radio Club

On Tuesday September 20th, the Raytown Amateur Radio Club held a w5yi VE (volunteer examiner) Amateur Radio testing session. These are regularly held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the One Spirit United Methodist Church at 79th St and Blue Ridge Blvd in Raytown. Walk-ins are welcome and the session starts at 7:00 pm. Come in the double doors and down a few steps to the testing session. I have been a VE at the last two sessions. At the last session, we had one lady take the General class test and pass. Norma Libby passed the written test with an incredible 100% correct. She is the XYL of kcøgs (Dave Libby). We congratulate her on passing. She already holds the vanity callsign wbøjmp that was Dave's old call.

If you desire to take an FCC Amateur Radio Test in the Independence Area feel free to contact me or Steve:

wøfen	or	køou
Robin Cross		Steve Lufcy
816-356-0888 H		816-353-6705
816-235-2880 W		k0ou@comcast.net
816-235-2864 FAX W		11020 E 72nd Terrace
rhcross@swbell.net		Raytown, MO 64133
8520 E 73 rd Terrace		
Kansas City, MO 64133		

Robin Cross, wøfen

KCUR "Field Day"

On Wednesday June 8, 2005 my cell phone rang about 9:00 PM, which was about the time that the announcer was supposed to leave. KCUR operates by computer from about 9 PM to 5 AM. The Announcer said that the power was out in the building but that KCUR was still on the air. She said that strange things were happening. The mixing board was still lit up but the lights in the room were off. I headed for the studio. When I got there everyone was gone and the station was still broadcasting because a UPS was powering all the needed equipment to keep the programs coming from satellite going to the transmitter. I unplugged many devices that weren't needed in order to let the UPS last for as long as possible. Just after 10:00 PM the UPS battery died. I figured that the power would be back on in a short time. I called the Power Company but it was busy. When the battery-operated lights went out I decided to lay down on a small sofa and get some rest. When the lights came back on in a couple of hours I would wake up and reset some things and go home. Not so fast. After some fitful sleep, I woke up to flashes of light. The morning Announcer had arrived at 4:30 AM. Obviously there was still no power. After talking things over, I decided the best plan was to go to the Home Depot when it opened at 6:00 am and buy a generator. I waited 'til 6 and called the General Manager for approval. At about 6:15 I walked into the store and assembled everything I thought I would need.

- 600 ft of extension cord
- 1850 Watt generator
- 2 outlet strips
- A fluorescent drop light
- A 5-gallon gas can
- 2 quarts of oil

I kept asking myself if I forgot anything. I filled the gas can on the way back to the Studio. After stringing out the extension cords, filling the generator with oil and gas, it looked like we would be back on the air soon. From the night before I knew what equipment would be needed to at least get the NPR network programming back. I was also going to try to get a microphone and mixing board powered up as well. The generator cranked up and allowed us to resume transmitting. I had turned off the transmitter while there was no programming being sent to it.

It is amazing how good and bad my brain was working after such little and poor sleep I had gotten. At about 8:00 am the other Engineer arrived. I had not been able to figure out what pieces of equipment were needed to get the microphone working. I went home for much needed rest. After about 3 hours I returned, showered and feeling much better. The Utility power was restored at about noon on Thursday, June 9. We started resetting everything. The 15 server computers that run the station were a little temperamental to get going again because they had not been shut off properly. We only lost one piece of equipment where the power supply didn't come back up. The cost to the Station was about \$700. There will be many memories of this event.

Robin Cross
wøfen

ASCRA Stations Involved in Hurricane Relief

Four ASCRA members report activities supporting the recent hurricane relief efforts.

Doug Shaw WAØEMX operated ASCRA HQs station WØSHQ from the Auditorium in Independence, Missouri, for 32 hours over a two week period in support of communications in relief of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. During his operation Doug primarily joined the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN Net), occasionally serving as net control station. He also periodically checked with the Hurricane Watch Net, the Maritime Mobile Service Net, and the RV Service Net. As a result, the station relayed several messages on the SATERN, Hurricane Watch, and Maritime Mobile Service nets.

Terry Redding W6LMJ (West Palm Beach, Florida) worked primarily with the Hurricane Watch Net, many times as net control station. He also worked daily with the SATERN net after hurricane Katrina. Terry averaged approximately 16 hours on air time each for hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ophelia.

Bob Farnham KGØII (Lamoni, Iowa) reports working with the SATERN net for a total of five hours on September 24-25, while passing messages from Lamoni to Port Arthur, Texas.

ASCRA member Maryjo Hallberg KØTGU and her husband Chet KØTCB of Prairie Village, Kansas, are both active with the Kansas City chapter of the Red Cross. She is involved in Health Services as a nurse working with the many evacuees in the Greater K.C. area including children brought to Children's Mercy Hospital. Chet works with Red Cross communications (including Amateur Radio) from Falls Church, Va. on the National level. Most recently he was in D.C. at American Red Cross headquarters.

Please send any additional participation reports as soon as possible to ASCRA Secretary Doug Shaw via E-mail (wa0emx@arrl.net) or snail mail (either to P.O. Box 73 or his home address which can be found on the ASCRA web site or on the ballot form included in this newsletter).

Doug Shaw

CANDIDATES FOR ASCRA BOARD

David Gates
N5LCL

My name is David Gates (N5LCL); I'm 47 yrs old. Married with two children. Lisa (N5VFA) and I have been married 21 yrs. Our son Preston (KD5SDL) is 18 and attending Graceland and a member of the Graceland Radio Club. Brandon is 13 and is 8th grade and plays piano and alto sax. We live in Newcastle OK, a suburb of Oklahoma City. I have been licensed since March 1987; have been a member of ASCRA since 1988. I'm active on 2 meter, APRS, and the 20 meter net. I have also served on the board the last 2 years.

ASCRA 20-M Net

From Cary, NC, this is an attempt to bring together my few notes and those provided by Terry to build this list. Hope we found most of them.

Ernie, WB2UJL

~~~~~  
NØAIX, Larry Ragan  
NØELM, Fred Troeh  
WØFEN, Robin Cross  
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrar  
AAØOS, Jon Barney  
WØSHQ, Robin Cross operator  
NØWHY, Donald Dillard  
KGØXU, Michael Hahn  
WAØDVU, David Tickemyer  
NØECE, Jerry Bratton  
WIØF, Ronald Ignowski  
KGØII, Bob Farnham  
KCØPDG, Michael Lovold  
KCØUFX, Malcolm Kucharski  
NØWZH, Steven Hampton  
WBØYEA, Douglas Zeiler

W1MEO, Emery Howard Jr.

W2MJL, Malcolm Lee  
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles

VA3CHD, ??????  
VA3FST, ??????

W4CYF, Jim Bishop

K5ALF, Donald Brooks  
KD5DSH, Gregory Smart  
KB5JRV, Abert Spencer  
N5MOI, James Young

WB6AYV, Jean Guilmette  
W6CTQ, Lawrence Doyle  
W6LMJ, Terry Redding  
W6RWH, Hale Collins

J73CAJ, ????

W8IKN, Arthur Tewksbury  
K8QA, Mike Oiler  
KC8YGW, Windell Ely

N9DJB, Lionel Spears  
WA9IMJ, George Smith  
K9MAK, Mark Kurtz

W2TFT, Tom Thatcher

K3CK, David Eaton  
VE3SCP, Scott ????

N4NPI, Charles Byerly

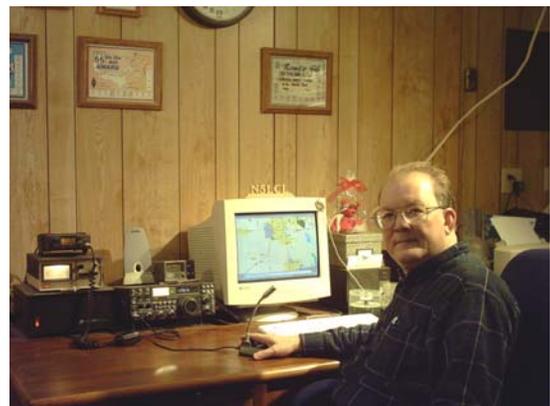
KE5CUT, William Stone  
KJ5EA, Scott Williams  
N5LCL, Dave Gates  
W5QPT, Ellis Thatcher

NH6CJ, Michael Minor  
WB6EMD, Donald Moody  
W6MEI, Robert Rett  
N6XVO, Rayond Ledford

W7S, ????

W8QK, Muirl Robinson  
N8WK, Edward Kuhn

WA9HIR, Bill Hargadon  
KF9JQ, Steve Kacvinsky  
N9RGE, Wilbert Warke



David Gates in his shack

## CANDIDATES FOR ASCRA BOARD (continued))

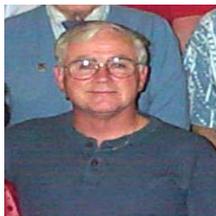
### Mike Oiler K8QA



I have a wife, Debbie (Bayless) and two sons, Ian and Corey. I'm employed by Cargill Salt as a business generalist--my business card says "Growth & Innovation". I research new projects and champion them through marketing, R&D, etc., to rollout. I've worked for Cargill for 16 years, since graduating from Graceland with a chemistry degree. I also volunteer as a CASA/Guardian ad Litem for the Clay County Family Court and I'm attending the Graceland Seminary.

I've been a Ham since 1997, when Debbie and I decided to get our Technician licenses instead of getting cell phones. We were living in Hutchinson, KS, at the time and that was a valid choice. I got my Extra license when I moved to Michigan in '99, and had to take the 20 wpm test. Shortly thereafter they dropped the requirement! I enjoy CW and have built a couple CW QRP kits, the latest is a 40m transceiver with keyer built in an altoids tin. I was active on satellites until my favorite ones were swatted down by the sun. I am the public relations officer for the Clay County ARC. Today, I only operate sporadically. Mostly I do contests and repeater contacts. It's hard to get free time! You can find me on the 20m net unless the boys' soccer season interferes (does it ever end?).

### Terry Redding W6LMJ



My name is Terry Redding, W6LMJ. I live in West Palm Beach, Florida with my wife, Barbara W5HKY, formerly WD5HKY and daughter Sarah Lynn, KC5YYT. Previous calls held include WB5LMJ, AAB8TR, DA2TE, HP1XTR, and my novice call WN5LMJ. In 1995, after twenty years in the US Army and six years at the University of Oklahoma, I moved to this QTH to become the Director of Corporate Training at Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Florida. I completed my PhD in Adult and Higher Education in 1997 and left Palm Beach Atlantic College to start OnLine Training, Inc.

In April, 2004 we established N4OLT, an amateur radio club station at OnLine Training Institute. The club station is available via the Internet to club members and associates. Guest operators, both licensed and non-licensed individuals may use the station via the Internet to listen - but not transmit.

My current amateur radio activities include ASCRA, the Hurricane Watch Net, and the Microcomputer net. I teach a ham radio class once a year at Graceland University, as part of the annual Spectacular youth event.

I have served on the ASCRA board since 1981 and look forward to being of service in the future, if elected.

### Thomas W. Thatcher W2TFT



I grew up about 3 miles east of the Independence, MO, Courthouse. When I was old enough, it was my job each Saturday to clean our n Services; which my brothers contin crystal sets; I was licensed W9Q] School in Independence, and had crystal controlled oscillator on the 160 meter band as my first transmitter. I went on to Graceland College, then Iowa State at Ames, where I was a student operator of 5 KW station WOI. A week after graduating in December, 1942 I reported to work in New York City at Bell Telephone Laboratories. After WW2 I received the W2TFT call. I was married in 1946, retired in 1986, we moved to Shawano, WI in 1993; my wife died in February 1994; I've lived alone since. My physician son and wife also live in Shawano and check on me.

I have had church responsibilities since about 1950, which continue. My present amateur activities are participation in the Sunday afternoon ASCRA net and a Thursday morning net of Bell Labs retirees.

### Fred Troeh NØELM



My name is Fred Troeh, NØELM. I grew up in Idaho and worked for the Soil Conservation Service before returning to school. A Ph. D. from Cornell University helped me land a teaching job at Iowa State University. I retired 32 years later (ten years ago), but still live in Ames, Iowa. My wife, Zahra, is working on her Ph. D. degree. I first met her in 1982 while I was in Morocco on a USAID assignment.

I am an Evangelist now, after having been a priest, elder, pastor, and high priest. My interest in ham radio developed in 1979 when Miriam (my first wife, now deceased) and I were serving as term appointees for the church in Argentina. I have been a member of the ASCRA board and the editor of this newsletter for the last two years.

### Muirl Robinson W8QK



I was first licensed in 1954 as WN8QOE and upgraded a year later to general. In the 60's, I upgraded to advanced and then extra.

I enjoy chasing DX, CW operating, and especially checking into the Sunday afternoon 20-meter net. I feel the organization is moving in the right direction in becoming prepared to be of service in emergencies as well as attracting more young people to ASCRA. If chosen, I would be willing to serve on the Board of Directors again.

**2006 ASCRA DIRECTORS BALLOT**  
ASSOCIATION OF SAINTS CHURCH RADIO AMATEURS, INC.  
Election Ballot - Board of Directors - 2006-2007 term

You may vote for up to six (6) nominees by marking the box alongside or by circling 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 7, 2006.**

Voting Member's Signature & callsign: \_\_\_\_\_

All nominees were nominated multiple times, but only six names were nominated by the 08 OCT 2005 deadline. If you wish to write-in different name(s), use a space provided. **Vote for no more than six.**

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

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\*\* Indicates incumbent board member

**ASCRA Bylaws require ballots be mailed by US or other postal service.  
E-mail ballots cannot not be accepted. Please use the Snail Mail.**

Return ballots to:  
Douglas Shaw, WAØEMX, Secretary  
Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs, Inc.     or c/o home address:  
P.O. Box 73                                                     11312 East 55 Terrace  
Independence, MO 64051                                     Raytown, MO 64133-2965

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 or mail them to:

Fred Troeh  
4117 Quebec St.  
Ames, IA 50014

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. The candidate information for this election is posted at [www.ascra.org/2006candidates.htm](http://www.ascra.org/2006candidates.htm) (with a link from the ASCRA home page).

## IN-SERVICE

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