

IN-SERVICE



Fall

Volume 102

November 2007

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings friends and fellow hams. As I write this it is the last day of October and the weather is just now turning cooler here in the mid-west, the colors of nature are bursting out and our thoughts begin to turn towards the year winding down and the holidays just over the horizon.

There has been some activity on the airwaves as our 20-meter net continues to plug along providing a constant for many of us. We know we can go week after week to visit with friends, reminiscing about the past and discussing the issues that confront us in the here and now. I encourage you to continue to check in as time and opportunity permits.

For my part, I haven't checked in much in the last few months. Since our membership and board meetings earlier this year (at the time I was unemployed) I have started a new job as the executive minister at my home congregation, Gudgell Park. Starting a job that never existed and I have never done before, I am, in effect, creating the job from scratch. It has, as you might imagine, been time consuming and somewhat stressful. I have, however, missed checking in to the net and sharing my few comments with the group and listening to the others. I am hopeful that I will be able to meet again more regularly on the net soon. We are connected not only by our interest in amateur radio but also by our faith. Both are strong ties.

I have been thinking a lot lately about what amateur radio means to me. My total involvement in this avocation is with ASCRA. I am not particularly technologically talented. My strengths lie elsewhere and I am glad that I have been able to be actively engaged in the life of our association. But if I don't spend time on the air like a "normal" ham, then what is it that holds me still to this hobby? ASCRA, widely dispersed as we are around the country and here and there in other parts of the world, doesn't really DO much. Fellowship is by far the greatest activity we do. And that's ok. But is it enough? I know others have thought about this as well.

By our nature as human beings we desire to associate with others who are like ourselves, who have similar interests and concerns. What draws you to ASCRA? Better yet – what would draw you closer? How can we be actively engaged in our mission as an association even though our membership is far-flung? Is the weekly net enough? Now that the World Conference of the Community of Christ has been extended to every three years (next conference is scheduled for 2010) we will have fewer face-to-face gatherings to renew friendships. So, I ask again – what more can we do?

At the board of directors meeting in Independence this past spring the board commissioned the executive council (president, secretary, treasurer and executive director) to meet together and attempt to articulate ways in which ASCRA can renew and reinvigorate itself. I believe to do that we must look at the very heart of who we were established to be and where we have come from and determine how best to move into the future.

There are no easy answers but I suspect there are plenty of possible outcomes.

The executive council has not yet met together but we will be meeting soon. I encourage all our members to pause and reflect on what ASCRA has meant to you. What is important to us to be doing today and how can ASCRA apply its unique structure and personality to the amateur radio community in the 21st century. Write or e-mail me or others on the board of directors and share your stories and insights. Reflect on the questions I have posed above. We are a community that must rely on each other in order to survive and grow.

May you all be blessed with clear signals and noiseless receptions in all your contacts this holiday season. May the God who created each of us help us to see the divine nature in others and allow us to be agents of joy, hope, love and peace!

73

Michael Hahn, KGØXU

ASCRA EQUIPMENT

If you need or know someone who needs equipment, then please ask. ASCRA has several pieces of equipment that could help stations get on the air or improve their signal. Particularly if you know of a new Ham in your congregation or someone you are mentoring. These would get the highest priority.

Robin wøfen

ASCRA LOGO ITEMS

Reminder that items with the ASCRA LOGO are available at <http://www.cafepress.com/ascra> With each item purchased you are also donating \$5.00 directly to ASCRA. There are a multitude of shirts and a couple of coffee cups as well as other items. WOW, think if everyone showed up in ASCRA apparel at the next meeting. That would be AWESOME!

Robin wøfen

ASCRA QSO PARTY

ASCRA is proud to announce a new opportunity to communicate with other ASCRA members. ASCRA will hold a QSO PARTY on April 6, 2008. Please write this date down on your calendar for next year. This is a TUESDAY. ASCRA has plans to man the flagship station WØSHQ on this date. WØSHQ will 100% QSL with all stations contacted. There are no points, no number of stations contacted. More info to come such as suggested operating frequencies. But for now, keep this date on your calendar.

Personally, I plan to operate as much as possible from home as well as staffing WØSHQ. I look forward to getting to know more of you (ASCRA Members).

Robin wøfen

CANDIDATES FOR ASCRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LARRY L. RAGAN NØAIX

My father introduced me to Amateur Radio while I was in high school. He built his radio receiver from an old surplus military radio and we listened and practiced code together. I received my Novice license WD6EEX while I was stationed in California in April 1978; I passed Technician a month later and obtained General N6AGL in June 1978. I retired from the Navy in July 1978 and moved to Kansas City and applied for a new call and received NØAIX. My wife, Virginia NØAQA, and I joined ASCRA in 1979. We produced the IN SERVICE from 1979 thru 1981. She was the editor and I did the paste up. We served as net control for the Saturday morning 40 meter net. We developed the SESQUICENTENNIAL certificate that was issued for contacting WØSHQ.

I would like to see ASCRA broaden its scope and look at new ways to serve the amateur community, specifically by reaching out to younger individuals, men and women, boys and girls. If the amateur organizations do not draw in younger members the Amateur Service will cease to exist. Young people of this generation have cell phones that provide communication and radio as a communication tool is not a drawing card for them but radio as a service to community, nation and world can be a drawing card. There are also a number of women amateurs that we hear very little from and they need to be made to feel more welcome.

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 (in 1995), but still lived in Ames, Iowa, until my wife, Zahra, finished her Ph. D. and accepted a job in Maricopa, Arizona, in March of this year.

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. Ham radio friends there helped us communicate with Bob Turner in Independence, MO, and through him with our family. I have been a member of the ASCRA board and the editor of this newsletter for the last four years.

DAVID GATES N5LCL

My name is David Gates (N5LCL) and I live in Newcastle, Oklahoma with my wife of 23 years, Lisa (N5VFA), our 2 sons, Preston (KD5SDL) and Brandon. My first interest in ham radio came from watching my great-uncle sitting amongst his radios and equipment. He nurtured my growing interest and was a huge influence. I became a licensed amateur in March of 1986. I joined ASCRA during a trip to Independence that same year. I have been blessed to be a board member since 2003. My main activity in ham radio at this time is APRS but I also enjoy logging into the 20 meter net when time allows. My career is as a project team leader at Dell Computers.

I've been involved and active in the Community of Christ since 1980 and am now a deacon in my congregation. The question has been asked what I would like to see ASCRA become. I hope that we can increase our presence within the church. The organization is an excellent outreach tool. We just need to find ways to reach out to the membership and I am eager to help make that happen

THOMAS W. THATCHER W2TFT

I grew up 3 miles east of the Independence, MO, courthouse. I went to high school in Independence, and in my senior year obtained the call W9QPI. I went to Graceland 1938-1940 and then to Iowa State at Ames, IA. In Des Moines, IA, on an early 1941 Saturday, I obtained 1st Class Telephone, 2d Class Telegraph and Advanced Amateur licenses. I then became one of several students being, in turn, the single operator of Iowa State's 5 KW AM station, WOI. I graduated with a BS in EE in late December, 1942. Having accepted an earlier job offer, within a week I was at the Headquarters of Bell Telephone Labs, in New York City, working on a military project. I met my wife at church in Washington, DC in the fall of 1945, one of many times while there on that project. After World War 2, I received the W2TFT call. After being involved in quite a variety of activities, generally involving equipment and measuring the performance of Bell System phone networks, I retired the end of April 1986, with 43 years of service.

In August 1993 my wife and I moved from Fair Haven, NJ, to our new home in Shawano, WI, 40 miles northwest of Green Bay, near the home of our second son. Since my wife's death in February, 1994, I have lived there alone. I resumed Amateur Radio activities and am involved in several volunteer responsibilities here in Shawano.

**JIM FISH
K7NCG**

I have been an active ham since 1960 when I was 16 years old. Bought things with money saved from our paper route and built most of my equipment back then. I still build a lot of the stuff I use today but mostly interface type devices or antennas and tuners. I've been an active member of the Community of Christ church since I was introduced to the church in 1966 and presently serve in the Crystal Springs Congregation as an Elder. And having recently retired from Verizon/GTE (34 years), I have spent a lot of the past year working at the church with additions, repairs, and painting. I have enjoyed the ASCRA fellowship very much now for several years and would consider it an honor to serve the association in any way possible.

**TERRY REDDING
W6LMJ**

I am pleased to again be nominated for the ASCRA board. I am a 5th generation Latter Day Saint on both sides of the family. An elder in the church, I have pastored two congregations/branches and three missions. Five of my six children were licensed amateur radio operators and my wife is also licensed. Many of you know me from my articles in In-Service and still others know me from the various ASCRA nets that I have participated in.

I may hold the record for having checked in to ASCRA nets from more continents, more places, and with more call signs than any other. I would have to think about it to be sure.

I look forward to serving, should I be elected.

20 M and 40 M NET CHECK-INS

November 11, 2007

These are the checkins on the 20 M and 40 M nets since July 29, 2007. Many have served as net control and provided these call signs. Several were copied incorrectly and the errors are an unsolved mystery. If you were omitted, sorry we messed up.

Ernie Miles, WB2UJL

~~~~~  
20 M net

NØAIX, Larry Ragan  
NØELM, Fred Troeh  
KØHIH, Richard Musat  
WAØJGT, Keith Sykora  
WAØLVG, Michael Morris  
KCØSAL, Andrew Ring  
KCØZZH, Derek Weis  
WØDZX, Dave Atkins  
WØFEN, Robin Cross  
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrar  
KØJNW, Michael Thayer  
KCØQID, Mike Wright  
KBØWIZ, Earl Russell

KB1FRF, Ovide Flannery  
W2FEZ, William Hood  
W2TFT, Tom Thatcher  
WB3GBF, Frederick Joyner  
W4HKL, Stephen Smith  
KA4RUR, Frederick Carslick  
KE4VXC, Cheaster Allen  
WB5BRD, Raymond Hooper  
AE5EH, Terry Perry  
W5HKY, Barbara Redding  
K5JHR, Robert Ashby  
KB5LXT, Larry Hahn  
KE5PPF, Mark Duncan  
AD5QZ, John Palmer  
KB5SDU, Grady Ebert  
N5TYR, James Plemmon  
N5UOA, Mark Widerstrom  
K5WDW, Warren White  
WA6BFW, Brent Foster  
W6LMJ, Terry Redding  
N6VXM, Arnold Peller  
WB6ZRP, Jacques Wibier  
W7ABF, Dwayne Campbell  
W7DDD, Robert Bogash  
K7HIL, Micheal Perrett  
K7NCG, Jim Fish  
W7UIT, Dan Rockrich  
KC8DSZ, Jason Kaufmann  
W8UAN, Timothy Brockett  
N8VHL, Keith March  
KB8YVS, Herbert Baker  
KC9ILZ, Frank Moss

~~~~~  
40 M net

NØAIX, Larry Ragan
WØDZX, Dave Atkins
KØJNW, Michael Thayer
N1FGN, Leroy Musser
N2GQQ, Michael Garone
N2TJ, Tammy Fazzi
K3AI, Frederick Hermann
W4BUM, Trevor Dooley
WA4DBY, Eddie Martin
KI4YGV, Ricky Buchanan
W5CPO, Ralph Moore
KG6BEI, Thomas Miller
WA6OUX, Charles Slocum
K7NCG, Jim Fish
KC8YGW, Windell Ely
WA9AWJ, Arthur McGlothlin
WU9T, Donald Chinnery
K1YHB, Marvine Bruck
KH2JK, Joseph Bailey
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles
VA3RZ, Ray Else
KI4GND, Richard Taylor
KI4UAO, Ricky Hale
N5ECP, Jeff Salmons
W5GAP, Gene Augustine
KE5JDH, George Kell
W5LN, Carlos Hamm
KD5MBX, Aaron Thompson
W5QPT, Ellis Thatcher
KC5SCO, Mike Wolters
N5TP, Travis Pederson
AF5TX, Robert Evans
WD5USA, Michael Minor
KC5YYT, Sarahlynn Redding
KA6GSE, Dennis Smith
K6V, Vet. Day Events Sta.
KF6ZOL, Michael Davis
WB7CLR, George Magras
AL7HH, Thomas Hamrick
KE7JHA, David Kutiej
K7RTH, William Herberg
N7ZA, Bruce Wade
N8LCD, Robert Moy
K8QA, Mike Oiler
N8VES, Andrew Anderson

MY NEW INVERTED-V ANTENNA

The radio and amplifier went with us when we moved from Iowa to Arizona, but the tower and antenna had to remain behind, so I sold them. After some weeks of unpacking boxes and getting settled in Arizona, it was time to do something about an antenna. We were renting a house in a community with a home owners' association, so whatever I did had to be temporary. I needed to set it up, use it for an hour or so, and take it down again. Furthermore, I didn't want to spend a lot of money on a temporary antenna.

I had a balun and some coax with me, so all I really lacked was some wire and a way to hold it up in the air. I decided that an inverted V in the backyard was my best bet. I bought some wire and two 10-ft pieces of PVC pipe. I wanted my signal to propagate toward the east, so the wire needed to run north-south. I fastened the two PVC pipes together at the top and spread their bases far enough apart to provide east-west stability as a center support for the antenna.

I wanted to optimize the antenna for the net frequency at 14.287 mhz, so I used the standard formula $300/14.287$ and got a wave length of 21 m, or 68.9 ft. I wanted each of the two legs of the antenna to be $\frac{1}{4}$ wave length long so that a signal that traveled from the center each way and back again would total a full wave length and therefore be in tune. That would be 17.22 ft, but since the standard formula assumes that the signal is traveling through a vacuum, the actual velocity through a wire is a bit slower and the lines should be a bit shorter. I made the antenna wire reach about 16 ft each way from the center point and tied it via insulators to anchor cords that provided north-south stability. I ran the coax from the balun at the center of the antenna into the house and hooked it to the radio. It worked, but the signal was weak. I could just barely communicate with a really favorable station.

I called on some of my fellow ASCRA members by e-mail and they responded with help and advice. Ernie Miles, WB2UJL, sent me an SWR meter so I could tune the antenna and suggested that I needed to get more height and use copper wire rather than the iron wire I started with. Robin Cross, WØFEN, knew about my amplifier because he had worked on it last year, and he gave me some tips on how to get it to work in my new environment. Terry Redding, WB5LMJ, not only made several suggestions, he came by to help me in person. No, he didn't make a special trip from his home in Florida, but he did drive down from Phoenix when he was attending some meetings there. With their guidance, I put up a copper wire antenna with legs about 15 ft long that was tuned to the 14.287 mhz net frequency and reached a height of about 19 ft at the center point. The amplifier was working at an output of about 500 watts, and I was able to check into the Sunday afternoon net. The signal was stronger than before, but still only marginal.

Then, we purchased a new home and moved again to our present address. Again, I set up the antenna in the back yard with a similar arrangement and similar results to those of the rental location. We are in another home owners' association, so I still have to get approval to do anything special in the way of a permanent antenna. I can't use an attic antenna because this house has a metallic radiant heat shield on the underside of the roof. I bought some more PVC pipe so I could make the mast about 23 feet tall. Standing next to the roof ridge, it reaches

about six feet above the ridge. The antenna wires extend down from there as before but at a higher elevation. The coax runs from my shack (a bedroom converted to serve as computer room and shack) through the closet ceiling into the attic and out through the attic vent to the antenna.

Too much resoldering ruined my balun, so I coiled four turns of coax in about a 6-inch circle just below the connection to the antenna wires. After readjusting the wire length by a few inches, the SWR is down to 1.3 at or near the net frequency.

The signal is the strongest I have had since we came to Arizona, and time will tell how well this setup will serve. I still take it down when I am not using it, but it is working well enough that I plan to request permission from the home owners' association to attach it to the house so it can be quickly raised into place when I want to use it and dropped down to be semi-hidden when not in use. I expect to replace the old coax soon with a new balun and a heavier coax that will carry my amplifier's full output of 1200 watts.

Fred Troeh, NØELM

ASCRA CONTRIBUTIONS/IDEAS

ASCRA is just like CHURCH. We are a NON-Profit organization. We have been nearly a LOSS (much less not-profit) organization in recent years. We NEED you contributions. We have no annual dues. When ASCRA eliminated dues about 20 years ago, contributions zoomed. Many of you have recently forgotten to include ASCRA in your giving plan. Anything will help. Can you give \$5, or \$10? If each Member gave \$10, we could do much more for you. The above apparel will have the same effect. Buy a coffee cup, even if you drink milk from it. We are happy to provide documentation that you have donated equipment to ASCRA (remember to follow the IRS laws for personal deductions). We would like to hear from you for suggestions for activities, nets, training, testing, or ANY other ideas for what you would like to see YOUR organization do. If you don't think ASCRA is responsive to your ideas, then run for the Board.

Robin wØfen

2008 ASCRA DIRECTORS BALLOT
ASSOCIATION OF SAINTS CHURCH RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

Election Ballot - Board of Directors - 2008-2009 term

Members only may vote for up to six (6) nominees by checking the box, by circling, or otherwise marking their selections. **More than six votes will invalidate your ballot.** Per the Bylaws revised 24 March 2007, **ballots may be returned to the Secretary via postal mail, fax, or E-mail.** Each member voting must submit a separate ballot to avoid invalidation -- no multiple votes on the same ballot will be accepted. The name and call sign of the voting member must be clearly indicated for a ballot to be valid. If returning paper or fax ballots please also sign your name on the ballot as indicated. A simple E-mail listing your selections, by name and call sign, is an acceptable alternative to returning the ballot form itself but must include "Submitted by: your name, call sign" because E-mail addresses often do not sufficiently identify the originator. Contact the Secretary if you voted via Email and did not receive an acknowledgement.

Ballots must be RECEIVED by 23:59 CST, Saturday, January 5, 2008.

Voting Member's Signature & call sign: _____

(Please print your name below signature)

Six nominees were submitted by the 01 October 2007 deadline; listed in order nominated. If you wish to write-in different name(s), use a space provided. **Vote for no more than six.**

-
- ** David Gates, N5LCL, Newcastle, OK
 - ** Fred Troeh, NØELM, Ames, IA
 - ** Terry Redding, W6LMJ, West Palm Beach, FL
 - ** Tom Thatcher, W2TFT, Shawano, WI
 - Jim Fish, K7NCG, Woodinville, WA
 - Larry Ragan, N0AIX, Gladstone, MO
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

** Indicates incumbent board member (current office held if any)

Return ballots to:

Douglas Shaw, WAØEMX, wa0emx@arrl.net

Secretary

Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs, Inc.

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Call or otherwise contact the Secretary in advance to have receiving Fax activated: 816-358-6856

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

Questions, concerns or comments regarding the ballot process are welcomed via your ballot envelope or may be sent to Doug Shaw via E-mail at: wa0emx@arrl.net.

If possible, please review your ASCRA directory/roster data on <http://www.ascra.org>. If you have any changes for the database (license class upgrades, new post office or E-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc.), please send them to the Directory Manager at frtroeh@iastate.edu or mail them to:

Fred Troeh, NØELM
36399 W Barcelona Ln
Maricopa, AZ 85238

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