

# Eagle Rock ARC

TALKING TO THE WORLD, SERVING THE COMMUNITY



VOL 13 NO. 6

JUNE 1, 2000

Eagle Rock Amateur Radio Club P.O. Box 2415 Idaho Falls, Idaho 83403  
The Eagle Rock Amateur Radio Club will be meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. The Eastern Idaho Technical College, John Sessions Building, room 22. The executive meeting will start at 6 p.m., same place.

We appreciate Jim's presentation last month on J Pol antenna's and antenna theory. It was a well done and informative presentation. We appreciate Jim's expertise and willingness to share with us.

This month Ron Moss, K7ENE, will give a presentation on directional antennas, fox hunting (or Bunny Hunting), and how it can apply to more than just fun in finding interference and search and rescue. Ron has been licensed for more than 40 years and has been involved in electronics of one sort or other for most of that time. He is well qualified to make this presentation.

I remember some of the transmitter hunting I was involved in years ago as being good and education fun on a slow afternoon. We used 75 meter mobiles running 10 to 150 watts. Antennas that were about 12 feet high with big loading coils. Home brew transmitters made from scratch or modified army surplus equipment. Dynamotors to produce 500 to 600 volts dc direct from 12 volts dc. Someone was picked to be the bunny and they would take off. They would find a place where they were not visible, a potato cellar with doors closed and tracks brushed out, a wooded area with gates across any roads and tracks brushed out (of course), or maybe even someone's private garage. Sometimes even a low power rig might be used, less than a watt, ID done on c.w. The fun would begin with the bunny well hid. He would transmit for 1 minute and be silent for 2. He might talk to the hunters but they may not be able to talk back because they had their rig connected to their directional antenna.

I remember hunting in Island Park at the WIMU hamfests. Someone might build a low power rig (75 meters still) walk out through the forest and either climb a tree or crawl in a thicket or bushes no one could see into. I remember finding a patch of sweet wild strawberries instead of the transmitter. I remember finding a pool of frogs, catching some, and taking them back to the main meeting to be given to one of the YL as a prize drawing. I remember finding the transmitter also. It was fun. It was a learning experience. It was a good way to make friends.

I believe we will be in for a treat in this month's presentation.

Field day will be coming up June 24th and 25<sup>th</sup>. This is an emergency communication exercise. The participants are to pick an area with non commercial power, set up antennas, and stations, and operate for 24 hours. The purpose is to make as many contacts as possible in that time period. Points for the number of contacts are weighted according to how many transmitters are being used at one time, what bands are being used, what power level is being used, etc.. It also is a fun experience. Contacts are very short, call, name, signal strength, location. Very fast, a few seconds per contact. This year the spot will be the central shelter in Freeman Park. The details will be given at the meeting, but the location is close enough that access is going to be easy. Plan to spend some time there if not the whole time. I have heard that Jim, WB7RBU, will be bringing his Hot Dog Wagon. The shelter is reserved for us from 6 a.m. Saturday morning to 6 .m. Sunday night. Come and participate and enjoy.

### Other happenings

This last month the Idaho Falls Planning and Zoning Commission met to consider an ordinance on antenna structures. They were talking of anyone putting up an antenna more than 30 feet would need a building permit. The structure would need to be locally engineered, not accepting the manufacturer's engineering, Existing towers would be grandfathered until some maintenance was needed or an antenna needed to be replaced. They indicated that when the city passed an ordinance the county often soon followed suit. There were about 15 amateurs present and some gave information. They were talking of exempting amateurs from the ordinance but the measure was finally tabled until the next meeting. The next meeting will be June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m. in the council chambers in the electric building southwest of the library. A large showing of amateurs is needed to get an amateur community exempted from this costly ordinance. Come and support.

Many of you may have received a letter from Mike Crapo about amateur frequencies. I would like to know what this bill really means. For instance, if the FCC put 2 meters up for auction, do they just have to allocate 4 megs at , say 312 meg, for a replacement. Could our specialized equipment soon be useless unless we can sell it to the new users on our current band allocations. I would like a discussion about what this bill would really mean.

**WHY DID THE UNWASHED CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD TWICE?**