



# RARA



Official Newsletter of the  
Rural Amateur Radio Association  
"The Loneliest Ham Club in America"  
Website: [www.qsl.net/kc7wir](http://www.qsl.net/kc7wir)

Volume 8 Issue 5

November/December 2003

## CCARES SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

REPEAT OF DIXIE VALLEY/FAIRVIEW PEAK  
EARTHQUAKE

NOVEMBER 8, 2003

BY

RICHARD H. GIEBITZ, EMERGENCY

COORDINATOR CHURCHILL COUNTY, NEVADA

Since December 16, 1954 the Great Basin earthquake activity has been relatively quiet. Evidence of the Dixie Valley quake can be readily seen and is marked by a state historical sign. Earthquake Fault Road, Fairview Peak, Nevada. Additionally the population of Churchill County has grown immensely since the fifties. What are the facts of this quake? What would be the damage if this happened again?

"Quote, Seismo-Watch" <[www.seismo-watch.com](http://www.seismo-watch.com)> Two strong earthquakes ripped west-central Nevada on December 16, 1954. The first quake of Dixie Valley struck at 3:07 a.m. and measured M 7.2 registering shaking intensities of (10) (12 being max) on the Modified Mercalli scale.

The second quake occurred about 4 minutes later and measured 6.8. Surface fault ruptures occurred along six different faults that defined a complex north-trending 100 km long and 15 km wide zone. Both vertical and horizontal displacements were measured with maximum offsets of over 12 feet.

Because of the remote location of these potentially destructive tremors, little structural damage was reported. However widespread non-structural damage occurred in Fallon about 40 miles away and included items thrown from counter tops, cracked walls, and broken windows.

After shocks persisted for years and the remnant fault scarps can still be seen today. The Dixie Valley earthquake

is rated as number (24) of the largest earthquakes in the United States.

Additionally on October 3, 1915 the Pleasant Valley earthquake occurred just north of Dixie Valley all the way to Winnemucca. This earthquake was rated at a 7.7 and recorded as the seventh largest earthquake ever recorded in the United States, with numbers 5,6 and 7 being of the same magnitude as Pleasant Valley. Quote, Ten Largest U.S. Earthquakes, <[www.disasterrelief.org/Library/WorldDis/wde2\\_txt.html](http://www.disasterrelief.org/Library/WorldDis/wde2_txt.html)>

As for a veteran of the U.S. Navy I was given the personal opportunity to experience a 6.9 in Misawa, Japan, a 6.8 two miles offshore of Guam Island, 5 or 6 good shakers in the Bay Area and the Loma Preata quake. I Kind of know what happens. The first push wave comes through and knocks everything over that is not fastened down, seconds later the ground starts moving like the waves on the ocean shaking everything vigorously. Can this happen in the Great Basin? Yes! Are you, and your local Government prepared? Don't know! You better ask. Anyway, as Emergency Coordinator for the Churchill County Amateur Radio Emergency Services group we are going to simulate the Dixie Valley happening again to hone our skills as communicators.

### CONDITIONS NOTED AFTER QUAKE (simulated)

Fairview Peak Communications Facility

Building walls cracked but building still upright. No voice or data communications operating because underground interduct with fiber optic cable is broken in three places where it crosses the main fault line. Tower still standing but not in same ground azimuth. Communications casualties: (2) cell sites off the air. Navy's voice and data gone because of fiber optic cut. All Navy's unsecured repeaters laying down on floor. All phone service via microwave is

gone. If emergency generator is actually running it will cause circuit breakers to blow from broken wire on unsecured equipment. All microwave antenna's out of alignment due to earth shift. Churchill County's Sheriff's repeater is gone due to broken antenna. The State of Nevada Digital Trunked Radio System is inoperative. Essentially Fairview Comm Site is gone.

#### **Gabbs, Nevada**

Route 361 to Luning is unsafe due to open cracks in roadway. Road to Luning near Petrified Summit is covered with rock debris and is impassable. Gabbs is essentially isolated. The town of Gabbs has no commercial power and is attempting to activate mining generators to power the town. Nevada Bell's phone service is gone due to all microwave dishes being out of alignment. A three foot fisher has opened in the roadway at the Nye, Mineral, Churchill County line closing route 361. Road is impassable.

#### **Austin, Nevada**

Phone service terminated due to microwave dishes out of alignment. Power out due to shorting of power line wires. No communications in or out. Condition unknown.

#### **New Pass Canyon**

U.S. route 50 completely closed at New Pass Canyon due to rock slides.

#### **Middlegate, Nevada**

Five miles from epicenter. Major destruction. No phones in or out due to Fairview Comm Site being down.

#### **Navy, Centroid Facility**

Some buildings collapsed. No power or communications in or out. Condition of range personnel is unknown.

#### **Dixie Valley Geothermal plant**

Right on fault line. Completely damaged and phones out due to Stillwater microwave inoperative. Steam everywhere. Plant personnel isolated and wondering if aircraft can land on buckled runway.

#### **Rawhide Mine**

Completely isolated road impassable. Miners conditions unknown.

#### **Sand Springs Pass**

Rock and debris fallen on U.S. 50 in canyon area. Impassable. California tourists bailing out of Sand Mountain headed for Fallon.

#### **Stillwater Reservation area and wetlands**

Due to high water table Stillwater experiences liquefaction of the of the underlying ground sediments. Extreme violent shaking occurs.

#### **Churchill County Community Hospital**

Emergency room in turmoil due to a continued onslaught of minor cuts and bruise injuries from flying debris. Hospital administration is trying to recall all available medical personnel to assist with the emergency but are being hampered by phones being out of order. Additionally management has moved all available medical assets to the emergency room area to take care of the masses.

#### **NAS Fallon**

Base subsoil saturated with a high water table. This area experiences liquefaction which amplifies ground shaking. Areas of the runway and taxiways are cracked and unsafe. Field closes. ASR-8 air traffic control radar shaken enough to cause mechanical failure of turning mechanism. Commercial power unavailable. Back-up generators running. Six story tower survives six foot side to side shaking but some injuries due to violent motion of control tower. Hangar doors have jumped the track. FAA Oakland Center air traffic control radar out of service. FAA air to ground radio's at Stillwater off the air due to phone line interruption. Oakland Center routing commercial air traffic north and south of Reno area due to outages. NAS Precision Approach Radar van moved off supports and is unusable. Alarms going off everywhere.

#### **Southside Communications Site**

New 100 foot communications tower is down due to cracks in tower supports. Backup generators starts upon power outage but stops within (5) minutes due to the lack of natural gas. Gas line cracked somewhere down stream.

#### **Rattlesnake Hill Communications Site**

Tower intact, generator running but no communications being conducted due to broken fiber optic voice and data lines. Sheriff's second repeater is not working. County only has radio dispatch running from downtown. The three major cell site radios are intact but have no phone line

connect with their respective switching center so they are inoperative. This interrupts cellular service from Humboldt County to Nye county in the south.

### **Fallon**

Commercial power out due to damaged power feeders. Old brick buildings on Maine Street have cracked and some bricks have collapsed. County generator running downtown. Police, Fire and Sheriff's Department are overwhelmed with incidents. Public safety Communications channels overwhelmed. Emergency Operations Center activated.

### **Lahontan Dam**

The 100 year old rock dam has held however the initial push wave has created a large water wave that has cascaded hundreds of thousands of gallons of water over the dam and it's heading down the Carson River and drainage canals for the City of Fallon.

### **County Line at Farm District Road**

Commercial cellular tower has developed a lean. Equipment running on backup batteries but inoperative due to telephone cable breaks.

### **I-80 Interstate bridge and railroad bridge in Fernley**

Bridges still intact but expansion joints in bridges have opened up and police have closed I-80 east and west. Only entrance to Alt 50 is over the railroad tracks.

### **Trinity freeway overpass**

Expansion joints have opened up and cracks in concrete supports are noted. Highway Patrol is overwhelmed by unsafe bridges to close. East west travel and trucking commerce is stopped due to I-80 closure.

### **Average County Household**

Most houses are intact with many broken windows. Some brick chimneys have come down. The main problem is potable water. People in the county with wells can't pump water due to the lack of power. People in the City of Fallon lose water pressure due to lack of power and cracked water mains. Again people are facing food spoilage due to lack of commercial power. This continued power outage has locals calling on government agencies to provide potable water at assorted locations throughout the county.

### **Sierra Pacific Power**

The power company is overwhelmed with downed lines and shorted lines but the main problem are the feeder lines into the county. Management is trying to figure out where to start the repairs first. Obviously a call for mutual aid is the only way to repair the grid. Individual power lines have to be repaired and energized one at a time to prevent as shorts and downed lines further down the grid from throwing the fuses again.

### **Southwest Gas**

Calling for mutual aid as natural gas leaks present a continuing hazard.

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## **2003 EC SET Report**

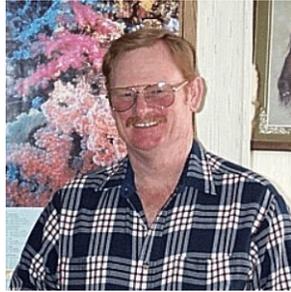
The Dixie Valley/Fairview Peak SET was activated at approximately 10:00am by EC Richard Giebitz, KE6QK with 16 participating amateurs stationed at various locations in Churchill and Lyon county with 11 of the stations operating under emergency power. This exercise was a good practice session to prepare the participating volunteers for the real thing.

At 11:40am participating station KC7ORU who was stationed at Sand Mountain broke with actual emergency traffic. A person had flipped their off road machine breaking their leg with compound fractures. Net Control, KE6QK, called 911 and routed the Sheriff and ambulance 40 miles into the desert. Individual was care flighted to

Washoe Medical Center. It took 23 minutes for response time. The respondents deserve a job well done for the quick response and in a professional manner. CCARES earned 137 points for the set plus the valuable training that was put to actual use.

## Presidents Corner

Greetings from Fallon, the home of Top Gun. As the years draws to a close I wish to thank the board members, officers and members who have volunteered their time to make RARA function. Serving as President of RARA the past four years has been an interesting experience. When I



look at the RARA banner it has the familiar RARA logo and the ARES logo. The founders of the club saw the need for a social a club and for those who are interested to support emergency services. Participation in emergency services is a volunteer effort that requires additional training and being able to follow the directions of the served agencies involved. Sometimes it is difficult for some individuals or members to respect the ideals of the two groups, social and emergency oriented. The different nets held around the state are social but directed around the emergency format. RARA suffered when a group of members saw no need to participate in the training involved but still maintained they would respond in case of emergency. The only problem was they would not follow the directions of the ARES chain of command and served agencies. The group of members decide to resign from the club. I have decided to run as vice president to support the ARES function in the club for the interested volunteers and still look forward to meeting with the social members. The RARA membership has been working as a team both social and emergency to keep the club going. I wish to point out the training is free or reimbursed for interested volunteers. Dave Hough, W7GK is very capable to serve as president of RARA and I give him my full support. Dave was able to be present at the Yerington meeting and went to lunch so he could introduce himself to the members.

## 2003 RARA Officers:

**President:** John Hughes, WB6QGH, 9009 Ara Lane, Fallon, NV 89406 775-423-1474  
email: [jchughes@cccomm.net](mailto:jchughes@cccomm.net)

**Vice President:** Bill Whitesides, W7YAK, 2325 Sheckler Rd., Fallon, NV email: [w7yak@arrl.net](mailto:w7yak@arrl.net)

**Secretary:** Melissa Flanagan, KK7AA, 2851 Esaw St. Minden, NV 89423-9059 775-267-4900 email:

[kk7aa@arrl.net](mailto:kk7aa@arrl.net)

**Treasurer:** Leroy Clement, KA7UIS, 3599 Arcadia Drive, Carson City, NV 89705-6905 775-267-3216 email:

[lfcsmc@aol.com](mailto:lfcsmc@aol.com)

### Board Members:

Chairman: Dick Flanagan, W6OLD, 2851 Esaw St. Minden, NV 89423-9059 email: [k7vc@arrl.net](mailto:k7vc@arrl.net)

Vice-Chairman: Dick Creley, KJ7UK, email:

[ki7uk@arrl.net](mailto:ki7uk@arrl.net)

Kay Goodwin, WA7EEJ

Sam Boyer, N7VCL, email: [n7vcl@gbis.com](mailto:n7vcl@gbis.com)

Jo Ann Paul, N7MBM

**Newsletter Editor:** John Hughes, WB6QGH

**RARA Address:** 2851 Esaw St. Minden, NV 89423-9059

## RARA 2004 Renewals Due

Membership renewals for 2004 are due. As always donations support the club in it's function and your help is needed to keep it going. Please take a moment and fill out the application in this newsletter even if you have no changes.

## Directions to RARA/CCARES Fallon Meeting December 13

The RARA general membership meeting will be held at December 13 at Jerry's Restaurant starting at 10:00am. Following the RARA meeting we will be having a CCARES meeting. Jerry's is located on the south side Highway 50 in the middle of town. Members from the south can take highway 95 north to Williams street and turn left. Travel west until you see Jerry's. Members coming from the north will travel down highway 95 until you get to Williams st and turn right and go west. Members from the east will be traveling on highway 50 and going west until they see Jerry's. Members from the west will be traveling on alternate Highway 50 or Highway 50 and traveling east until they reach Jerry's.

## Fallon Meeting Tentative Agenda

Call meeting to order, Introductions  
Correction, and approval of minutes  
Correspondence, Announcements,

Officers Report

President, John Hughes, WB6QGH

Vice-President, Bill Whitesides W7YAK  
Secretary, Melissa Flanagan, KK7AA  
Treasurer, Leroy Clement, KA7UIS  
Chairman of the Board, Dick Flanagan, W6OLD

Committee reports: Anything of interest to Ham Radio,  
Upcoming events, Contests, Etc.

Unfinished Business

Deadline next newsletter input, January 14, 2003

New Business  
Elections, CCARES following RARA meeting

## Minutes of October 11, 2003, General Membership

Meeting of Rural Amateur Radio Association. The meeting  
was held at the Lyon County Public Library in Yerington,  
Nevada.

ACTION. Meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by  
President John Hughes WB6QGH.

Introductions of officers and members found the following  
in attendance:

John Hughes WB6QGH (President)  
Dick Flanagan K7VC (Chairman of Board of Directors)  
Kay Goodwin WA7EEJ (Member of Board of Directors)  
Erlesta Goodwin  
Richard Hepperle KB7WJQ  
John Abrott KD7NHC  
Kathryn Pfaffle KD7ERR  
Dale Pfaffle KK7KS

ACTION. Dick Flanagan moved to accept Minutes of  
August 2, 2003, General Membership Meeting as published  
in September Newsletter. Motion seconded by Kathryn  
Pfaffle. Motioned passed unanimously.

ACTION. Reporting for Secretary Melissa Flanagan, Dick  
Flanagan reported that no club correspondence had been  
received since the previous General Membership meeting.  
No announcements.

ACTION. Officer Reports:

President John Hughes; nothing to report

Vice-President Bill Whitesides; not present

Secretary Melissa Flanagan; not present. Chairman  
Flanagan reports no correspondence received.

Treasurer LeRoy Clement; not present. President Hughes  
presented Treasurer's report. Report showed year-to-date  
income \$662.00, year-to-date expenses \$876.56, for a net  
outflow of \$214.56. Current cash on hand \$1,399.19.  
John Abrott moved to accept Treasurer's report. Motion  
seconded by Kay Goodwin. Motion passes unanimously.

Chairman Dick Flanagan; nothing to report.

ACTION. Committee Reports:

Chairman Flanagan presented Membership Committee  
report, showing one new member, Paul Beavers NG1Q,  
Reno.

President Hughes reported that neither Lyon nor Churchill  
County ARES participated in October 4 Simulated

Emergency Test. However, both are planning to  
participate in SET planned for November 8 in the Dixie  
Valley. Harry Bryant KC7HVM and Richard Giebitz  
KE6QK will be coordinating the exercise.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS. IRS 501(c)(3) application.  
Nothing to report.

ACTION. Deadline for input to next newsletter November  
13, 2003.

Next General Membership meeting 10:00 a.m. at Jerry's  
Restaurant, Fallon, Nevada.

NEW BUSINESS. Nominations for 2004 Officers and  
Board Members were published in September newsletter.  
Dick Grady AC7EL had been erroneously listed as  
candidate for Board of Directors, so his name was  
removed. President Hughes called for additional  
nominations. Receiving none, he declared the nominations  
closed and a ballot would be prepared containing the  
corrected nominations as published.

Club station trustee Al Penaluna N7RAA has requested the  
trusteeship be transferred to another member. President  
Hughes has approached Gale Conard W7VPK who has  
agreed to serve as trustee. Chairman Flanagan will provide  
President Hughes with the necessary forms.

Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) issue was discussed.  
Dale Pfaffle moved to donate fifty dollars to ARRL to  
assist with anti-BPL effort. Motion seconded by John  
Abrott. Motion passed unanimously.

Dale Pfaffle won Worldradio subscription door prize.

DISCUSSION. No additional subjects were presented for discussion.

ACTION. President Hughes adjourned meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dick Flanagan K7VC Acting Secretary

## RARA Gets New Station Trustee

Gale Conrad, W7VPK has agreed to become the new club station trustee for KC7WIR. Gale resides in Fallon and his participation is greatly appreciated.

## Greetings to everyone in the Nevada Section!

The month of October began with a bang as the nation/section-wide Simulated Emergency Test (SET) took place on Saturday, the fourth. Promptly at 8:00 a.m. ARES and NTS operators throughout the section and neighboring states put their simulations into effect. Over the next several hours both county and section-wide emergency and traffic handling resources were well exercised.

Assistant Section Manager (ASM) Gary Hartman KK7LV <kk7lv@arrl.net> reports that several clubs in Southern Nevada participated in the MS-150 and Corporate Challenge bike races. Gary also reports an Emergency Exercise at McCarren International Airport. Even though ARES was asked to participate at the last minute, they were able to respond with a full complement of operators.

Gary Hartman also reports that a new amateur radio club is forming in the Moapa Valley. Gary has attended one of their meetings and reports they already have a majority of ARRL members. Gary will be following up with them to provide whatever assistance he can, as well as encouraging them toward ARRLclub affiliation.

Speaking of ARRL club affiliation, congratulations go out to the Nellis Radio Amateur Club (NRAC) <<http://nellisrac.org/>> club for their recent ARRL affiliation. Thanks to President John Bigley N7UR <n7ur@yahoo.com> and his hard-working crew, NRAC is growing by leaps and bounds.

The Nellis Radio Amateur Club also reports a good turn-out for the annual Jamboree-On-The-Air over the weekend of the eighteenth. Reports were also received from the Elko and Reno areas where hams brought the excitement of ham radio to scouts all over the section.

Also across the weekend of the eighteenth, the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC) produced one of the best ARRL Pacific Division conventions in recent memory. Pacificon 2003 <<http://www.pacificon.org>> was held for the first time at the San Ramone Marriott Hotel and everyone agreed the new venue was top notch! I think next year will see even more people making the easy trek to San Ramone.

Congratulations go out to two brand new Official Emergency Stations (OES): Jim Sheldon K7ZE <k7ze@arrl.net> and Charlie Kunz AA5QJ <aa5qj@arrl.net>. OES appointments are for the best of the best and all ARES members are encouraged to work towards an appointment. Information on the OES appointment can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/oes.html>.

Steve Lybarger NU7T <nu7t@arrl.net> reports that Cy LaPorte KG7GP recently received a new hip. He moved to the Washoe Rehabilitation Center on October 28 and is expected to quickly be back at home.

SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) is only a few weeks away. The event operates from 4:00 p.m. Friday, December 5, through 4:00 p.m. Saturday, December 6. SRD 2003 Event Coordinator Matt Parker N7TOD <n7tod@arrl.net> has put together a very informative web site at <http://renoskywarn.org/srd2003.htm>. Special news releases can also be obtained from Public Information Coordinator (PIC) Don Carlson KQ6FM <kq6fm@arrl.net>.

Speaking of Don Carlson, shortly after my report last month, Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) Dick Creley KJ7UK <kj7uk@arrl.net> appointed Don ARES Northern District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) following previous DEC Paul Cavnar's NN7B decision to step back and take a well-deserved breather. Paul is also the author of our recently updated Section Emergency Plan which can be found at <http://www.cvrc.net/ares/plan/2003plan.htm>.

Clubs all over the section are currently soliciting nominations for their slates of officers for 2004. Show your support for your local club by running for one of their elected positions. It is easy to just pay your dues and wait for somebody else to do the work, but new blood is vital to any organization.

For a current list of all ARRL Nevada Section Field Appointments, you can always check <http://www.pdarrl.org/nevsec/officers.html>.

Please send me your concerns, opinions, questions and newsletters.

Until next month,

73, Dick K7VC <k7vc@arrl.org>

## SKYWARN Recognition Day

The fifth annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) will take place this year on Saturday, December 6, 2003. This is the day that Amateur Radio operators visit National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other operators around the world. The purpose of the event is to recognize Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather, and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local National Weather Service office. The event is co-sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service.

Traditionally, hams have assisted the National Weather Service during times of severe weather by providing real-time reports of severe events and storm evolution. "You simply can't put a price tag on it", says Scott Mentzer (N0QE), organizer of the event and Meteorologist-In-Charge at the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas. "The assistance that radio amateurs provide to the NWS throughout the year is invaluable".

SKYWARN Recognition Day this year will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC on December 6, 2003. Scott Mentzer, the creator and promoter of the event, strives to involve more NWS offices and Amateur Radio operators each year. In 2002, participants logged nearly 23,000 QSOs during the 24-hour event. Last year nearly 70 countries were contacted. To learn more about this year's event, check out the NOAA Web site: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>. This site includes a link to a list of participating National Weather Service offices and their call signs.

Questions concerning this event can be directed to Larry Boyd, K0ILB, at [larry.boyd@noaa.gov](mailto:larry.boyd@noaa.gov).

--Thanks to David Floyd, N5DBZ,  
Warning Coordination Meteorologist,  
NWS Goodland, Kansas  
[david.l.floyd@noaa.gov](mailto:david.l.floyd@noaa.gov)

An announcement on SKYWARN Recognition Day also appears in November, 2003, QST, p. 90, and at this Web page:<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/skywarn-recognition-day.html>

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## AMATEUR RADIO: Emergency Communications Liability or Asset?

-- By Robin L. Faulkner, N7GSU - McMinnville, Oregon

Over nearly forty years of involvement in emergency communications in amateur radio, the military and public safety; I have been asked many times for my input in matters pertaining to the emergency communications capabilities of the Amateur Radio Service. Having served on both sides of the fence, I suppose one does sometimes have the advantage of being able to see the forest, in spite of all those trees.

The truth is, those not directly involved in Amateur Radio, and in some cases, those that are; do not fully understand how truly unique Amateur Radio is. From the standpoint of it's potential as an emergency communications asset, unlike the communications systems normally deployed by public safety agencies; Amateur Radio has the ability to adapt and expand to meet the rapidly changing requirements of any communications emergency.

This is not the case with any other public safety radio system, no matter how large, well designed or financed it might be. This aspect of the Amateur Radio Service alone is in no small way responsible for our very existence, and one of the reasons why nearly every nation on the planet has set aside very valuable radio spectrum to it.

Our many available modes and bands allow us flexibility unmatched by any other single communications service. In an emergency, we can simply select additional channels to handle the increased traffic load. Our spectrum space is nearly limitless, whereas even the largest public safety agency system has a finite number of channels available. Our high frequency capabilities using NVIS and other techniques, allows communications in any terrain, without the support of fragile infrastructure, such as repeaters.

Even with all our capabilities, there are some very real, and not so real shortcomings of our service in the minds of some public officials. There are many Emergency Managers, public safety agency chiefs and elected public officials with Amateur Radio Licenses; even these

professionals are often of the opinion that our service is more a liability than an asset, when it comes to it's use in an actual emergency. Unfortunately for all concerned, this opinion is often not without foundation. Although from a technical point of view, there is little doubt our service has potential as an asset to public safety in an emergency, the volunteer nature of our service, if not it's very name; is often the greatest obstacle to its' greater acceptance and utilization by those agencies we seek to serve.

To many, the very word amateur is associated with being less than professional, or something less than expert. When one is used to dealing with human lives and property, you can see where a term like "amateur paramedic", or "amateur police officer" might give one pause, where the term "professional paramedic" or "police professional" might invoke completely different feelings. Amateur, as in 'Amateur Radio' of course, reflects the unpaid, volunteer nature of the service, i.e., 'amateur athlete'. But this is an example of why we are sometimes met with some reservation on the part of those charged with the public safety, when it comes to being utilized in their emergency operations plans. This however, is only one example, and one more easily dealt with. There are, unfortunately, other examples that are more difficult to overcome.

There are 'volunteer paramedics' and "volunteer fire fighters" and we know that this reflects only the fact they are unpaid for their services to the public. This does not mean they are less trained than their paid counterparts, or that they are exempt from meeting certain standards of education and conduct. Perhaps we should move to have the term Amateur Radio Operator changed to Volunteer Radio Operator? I would probably not support that idea, but I certainly do support becoming more like our volunteer cousins, the fire fighters and paramedics. These folks train and work very hard, and subject themselves to certain demands of conduct, training and experience.

Certainly a person having just completed basic training as a fire fighter, is not going to be expected by the public, his peers, or his superiors to be as well suited to all aspects of the job, as one who has undergone additional training above the basic level, or one with more experience in the field. Why is it then that many of the Amateur Radio fraternity feel that having an operator's license makes them an automatic asset to public safety communications? Unfortunately, this attitude is held by many amateurs, and is an example of something in need of change. A driving license gives one the right to drive upon the public streets and highways, but does not entitle the driver to drive a heavy truck for hire. It is the minimal requirement for

**Rural Amateur Radio Association, Inc (RARA)**  
 An ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB  
 MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM for 2003

We have built a new data roster. Please help by filling in the pertinent information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Current ARRL member Yes\_\_ No\_\_ Spouse current ARRL member Yes\_\_ No\_\_

*RARA gets a \$15 commission on NEW or LAPSED ARRL members if done through us.*

Count on me to participate in the following activities: Field Day\_\_\_\_ Race communications\_\_ VE exams\_\_  
 JOTA\_\_\_\_\_ Kids Day\_\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_

Date received by Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ RARA donation amount \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Sheila Clement, Membership email:ka7ajq@arrl.net 775-267-3216  
 3599 Arcadia Drive  
 Carson City, NV 89705

The Rural Amateur Radio Association is organized especially for those hams in rural Nevada, and our neighbors. RARA prints a bi-monthly newsletter and relies on donations to support the newsletter and other organization activities such as Field Day. Thanks for your support.

additional training and experience.

A Technician or even an Extra Class Amateur License does not make anyone an emergency communications expert, or even an asset to the public safety. Unless one is willing to undergo additional training and experience, and to subject one's self to accepted standards of conduct and discipline, these serve only as minimal requirements. An Emergency Manager or Fire Chief is not going to place anyone at risk; including his other personnel, and certainly not the public; without making very sure you know what you are doing. In matters pertaining to emergency communications, this means you are expected to know more than how to hook up and use a radio transmitter and antenna.

You must also know something of how to conduct yourself concerning sensitive communications, dealing with the press, your limitations as well as your assets. If you expect to be dumped into the middle of a forest fire to provide emergency communications to professional and volunteer fire crews, then you had best also know the basics of fire fighting, and how it related to your own safety, that of the public at large, and the other members of 'the team'. In short, you might be the best communicator in the world, but if you expect to be placed in the thick of it, you might want to know which way the wind is blowing!

Until a Fire Chief or Emergency Manager is relatively confident you will be more of an asset than a liability, he or she is not going to utilize you in any meaningful way. At best he risks a lawsuit, at worst he might be responsible for having cost someone's life. Unless you become part of the solution, you are part of the problem. Be willing to view the issue from his or her perspective, and you will soon realize there is more to it than just showing up with a car full of radios, and an orange vest. If you are willing to show up for offered training, and not just when there is a real emergency. If you are willing to listen as well as talk. The Fire Chief or Emergency Manager might just move you and your ARES group into his asset column, and out of the one headed 'liabilities'.

## ARRL Emergency Communications course registration

(Nov 28, 2003) -- Registration opens Monday, December 1, 12:01 AM Eastern Time (0501 UTC), for the on-line Level I Emergency Communications course (EC-001). Registration remains open through the December 6-7 weekend or until all available seats have been filled--whichever comes first. Class begins Tuesday,

December 16. Thanks to our grant sponsors--the Corporation for National and Community Service and United Technologies Corporation--the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. During this registration period, approximately 175 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. Senior amateurs are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Those interested in taking an ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) course in the future can sign up to receive advance notification of registration opportunities. To take advantage, send an e-mail to [prereg@arrl.org](mailto:prereg@arrl.org). On the subject line, indicate the course name or number (eg, EC-00#) and the month you want to start the course. In the message body, provide your name, call sign, and e-mail address. Please do not send inquiries to this mailbox. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, 860-594-0340.

## Yerington Meeting Pictures



Dave Hough, W7GK

## LETTERS=VOTERS=SUPPORT ON AMATEUR RADIO LEGISLATION

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says the good news is that the number of House cosponsors for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, HR 713, has topped 50. The Senate version of the legislation, S 537, now has eight cosponsors. The downside, Haynie says, is that the Spectrum Protection Bill as well as the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478, will need many more cosponsors if either is to succeed.

"I'm frustrated," Haynie said this week. "Neither one of these bills is ever going to see the light of day unless we get more cosponsors." While thanking those who already have done so, Haynie again encouraged ARRL members to not only urge their senators and representatives to cosponsor the bills but to write and ask them to actively support them.

"It's going to take 10,000 letters, it's going to take 50,000 letters or contacts," Haynie said. "To me, this is a no-brainer. This is something that's important to the future of Amateur Radio."

Sponsored in the House by Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) and in the Senate by Sen Michael Crapo (R-ID), the Spectrum Protection Act would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

The latest House members to sign aboard HR 713 include representatives Jo Bonner (R-AL); John Peterson (R-PA); Albert Wynn (D-MD); George Nethercutt (R-WA); Jim Ramstad (R-MN); Barney Frank (D-MA); Todd Tiahrt (R-KS); and Fortney "Pete" Stark (D-CA). The latest Senate members to sign aboard S537 are Carl Levin (D-MI) and Christopher Dodd (D-CT).

HR 713 has been referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. In June, Haynie testified before that panel, telling lawmakers that that hams have lost more than 100 MHz of VHF and UHF spectrum over the past 15 years and that another nearly 360 MHz of VHF and UHF spectrum "has been substantially compromised." S 537 has been referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478--known informally as "the CC&R bill"--would require private land-use regulators such as homeowners' associations to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities. Introduced by Rep Steve Israel (D-NY), the bill has been referred to the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet and now has 29 cosponsors.

Among the latest to get onboard HR 1478 are JD Hayworth (R-AZ); David Price (D-NC); Rep Mike McIntyre (NC); Anna G. Eshoo (CA-14); and Mark Udall (D-CO). No equivalent bill yet exists in the Senate.

Haynie says that if ARRL members value Amateur Radio and want these proposals to succeed, they'll make the time to write letters or send e-mails pushing for support of the three measures. "Peoples' own words and their own expressions are what's going to count, not some canned letter from Newington," Haynie said, while conceding that a form letter "is better than nothing." Haynie said a personally crafted letter or e-mail "adds a lot of weight."

Sample letters on the ARRL Web site for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003 <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html#sample>> and for the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr1478/sample-letter.html>> cite Amateur Radio's role in public safety and emergency communication.

"We'll do our part to get more organizations to support these bills," Haynie said. The League has been contacting other organizations involved in public safety that have firsthand knowledge of the value of ham radio to the public and advocating their support. But, Haynie said, letters from individual voters get the most attention.

Cosponsorship is important while a bill is in committee, and Haynie suggests that a representative or senator who gets 40 or 50 letters from on a topic is going want to sign on to that bill.

"I can't emphasize enough the importance of that contact to the member of Congress from the constituents out there in the district," Haynie concluded, "because that's the ticket."

For guidance on the best methods of contacting your members of Congress, see "Communicating with Congress," by Derek Riker, KB3JLF, on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/0304046.pdf>> or in the April 2003 issue of QST (p 46).

Additional information--including the bills' texts and information on how to write your congressman or senators--is on the ARRL's "The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>> and on the "HR 1478, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr1478/>>.

Those writing their lawmakers on behalf of either bill are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail: Spectrum Protection Act, HR 713/S 637 <[specbill03@arrl.org](mailto:specbill03@arrl.org)> or Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478 <[ccr-bill@arrl.org](mailto:ccr-bill@arrl.org)>.

### Join us on the Net

RARA  
75 meters  
Every Saturday at 7:35am  
3965kh

2 meters  
Hawthorne, NV & Vicinity  
146.79, Fri., 8:00 PM

Dayton, NV  
146.52, Thurs, 7:30 PM

Other Clubs

Bishop, CA  
146.94, 9:00 PM Nightly

Elko, NV  
146.91, Wed., 7:35 PM

Weak Signal  
Sun 6PM  
3.943 LSB

Tues 7 PM  
146.260 SSB

Sunday  
1284.985 FM

CCARES  
Sunday 7:00 pm  
146.970 pl 103.5

CC RACES  
Sunday 7:30 pm  
145.350  
146.970 pl 103.5

### Treasurers Report as of December 1, 2003

Assets	
RARA Checking Account	1399.19
Liabilities	0.00

Overall Total	\$ 1399.99
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### Cash Flow 1/1/2003 to 12/1/2003

Inflows	
Donations 2003	615.00
Donations 2004	135.00
Patches	12.00
Total Inflows	\$ 762.00

Outflows	
ARRL BPL Defense Fund	100.00
Field Day	44.91
Insurance, Bus	325.00
Newsletter Printing	206.65
Postage & Delivery	220.00
Secretary of State	15.00
Subscriptions	65.00
Total Outflows	\$ 976.56

Overall Total Year 2003	\$ (214.00)
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ARRL Defense Fund:  
\$50.00 passed by membership on October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
\$50.00 designated donation from LeRoy and Sheila Clement

ARRL sent RARA a thank you letter and a certificate for our support of the "Special Campaign to Fight BPL"

LeRoy Clement, Treasurer



RURAL AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
2851 Esaw Street  
Minden, NV 89423-9059

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**Ballot 2004**  
**Board Members and Officers**  
**Please vote**

President	Dave Hough, W7GK	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President	John Hughes, WB6QGH	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	LeRoy Clement, KA7UIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Member, 1 year	Sam Boyer, N7VCL	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Member, 1 year	Sam Musselman, KB7VBU	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Member, 1 year	Al Penaluna, N7RAA	<input type="checkbox"/>