

STATIC



MARCH, 2008

Designated Friends

By Mark J. Tharp, KB7HDX

A little preparation can be a big help.

Scott, N7FSP, a friend of mine, called recently after he nearly died due to a misdiagnosis and shared a few thoughts with me. His story is not as important as the message he wanted to share with others in the amateur community and that is just what will happen to our stuff when we are gone. I don't want this to appear to be all gloom and doom, but let's face it, we are all going to become a silent key (SK) at some point. If that were to happen unexpectedly, do you have your shack in order? This article is to promote a bit of thought process when you are sitting in the shack, and the bands are a bit slow.

What Is This Stuff?

We recently lost a fellow here, and he, like many of us, was a total pack rat. It appears that he was not able to walk through a hamfest, flea market, yard sale or any location related to acquiring stuff without bringing some of it home. He passed away quietly in his sleep, and his daughter was left to dispose of his "stuff." I have been involved in a number of SK estate sales, and know first hand what can happen when the survivor, be it a daughter, son, wife or husband, has no idea what things in the shack even *are* let alone what they may be worth. And I think we have all seen at some point what happens when the "vultures" move in after the death of a ham. Items that may be worth thousands of dollars are let go for pennies. I was fortunate to have been called by the widow of another local ham who told me she would like to just give the stuff away to Goodwill. I talked her out of that, and after taking an inventory and making a trip to a local swap meet, she was shocked when I was able to hand her a check for nearly \$5000.

NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Even as a financial planner, this is one area that I never gave much thought. You can believe that I will do so now. While a client may not be a ham, he or she will most certainly be involved in some sort of hobby or avocation that has led to the accumulation of "stuff". Usually the spouse or family have no idea as to the value or just how to properly dispose of this "stuff". Some very good ideas and food for thought in this article.

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LBARA MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	BOARD	REGULAR
MARCH	NOTE: BOARD	3/20
APRIL	MEETINGS WILL NOW	4/17
MAY	TAKE PLACE ONE	5/15
SEPTEMBER	HOUR PRIOR TO THE	9/18
OCTOBER	REGULAR MEETING	10/16

PUNS INTENDED

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

Two peanuts walk into a bar, and one was a salted.

A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says: "A beer please, and one for the road."

Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: "Does this taste funny to you?"

"Doc, I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home.'" "That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome." "Is it common?" Well, "It's Not Unusual."

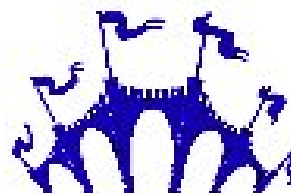
Two cows are standing next to each other in a field. Daisy says to Dolly, "I was artificially inseminated this morning." "I don't believe you," says Dolly. "It's true, no bull!" exclaims Daisy.

An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.

Monday Night Net (7 PM)

System	Location	Freq	Offset	PL
MCARS	Bullhead City	145.27	-	131.8
	Kingman	146.76	-	131.8
	Kingman	448.25	-	131.8
	Lake Havasu	146.62	-	131.8
	Willow Beach	147.12	-	131.8
CRRRA	Lake Havasu City	146.96	-	162.2
	Lake Havasu City	224.24	-	156.7
	Lake Havasu City	146.64	-	156.7
	Lake Havasu City	449.95	-	141.3
BARN	Lake Havasu City	447.54	-	136.5
	Las Vegas, NV	449.95		136.5
	Onyx(Palm Springs)	449.34	-	136.5
	Orange County, CA	447.54	-	100





Once again Dan Matthews and the local March of Dimes organization called upon the London Bridge Amateur Radio Association to provide communication for this year's Walk-A-Thon event: MARCH FOR BABIES.

Club members participating in the event were;

Lyle Ross	W6TPT
Ed Gillespie	AB7EM
Carl Schiller	KE7NA
Bob Denny	K7RKD
Russ Nyblom	K7RUS
Jerry France	K7LY

STATIC ERRATA

Jim and Linda Faulkners' call signs were typed in error in the last issue of the Static. They should be Jim Faulkner, K0JLF, and Linda Faulkner, N0LFF,

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS

2008 Williams Hamfest/ARRL AZ State Convention, July 18-20th, Williams, AZ. See www.arca-az.org

Cochise Hamfest - Cochise Amateur Radio Association . May 3rd, Sierra Vista, AZ. See www.k7rdg.org

2008 ARRL Southwester Division Convention—September 12-14th, Mesa, AZ. See www.AzHamCom.org

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Some Things to Think About

Now as I write this, I am guilty of not being prepared myself, but I felt it more important to share this information with others, to get folks thinking about this before another untimely death leaves a survivor wondering just what to do with it all. So, here are my suggestions, but I think they are sound ideas.

1. Like the title of this article states, designate a friend or two who can help if something were to happen to you. Ask them first, of course, and make sure others know about them. Perhaps even name them in your will. (You might check with your lawyer about this.)
2. Make an inventory of everything in your shack that you feel is worth more than a buck. Okay I know this may take some time, but you can work on it waiting to nab that “rare one” or while listening in on the local net. If you have a box of things that are just miscellaneous items list them as such, but if you repack or rearrange them later, make a note in your list.
3. For all the items that are higher dollar amounts, list the price you paid and the amount it is worth now. You may need to update this every few years, but it will help those who need the help when the time comes. Just because you paid \$800 for it new does not make it worth that now. Many estate sales fall into this trap in that “well we paid that much for it.” We all know that the value of gear drops pretty fast for most items, so let’s give our survivors a good head start on the price.
4. Towers, masts and feed lines: If you are the only one on the planet who knows how you got that 85 foot tower up in your 60 x 20 back lot, let someone in on the secret. I have helped to take down many towers over the years and some of them were real buggers until we figured out how they were put up. Hams are *very* creative at tower installations, and when the procedure is lost with the original installer, things can go wrong. A map or diagram of how the feed lines and control cables are routed out of the shack and out to the antenna support is very handy as well.
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5. Repeaters and packet nodes: These are another whole problem, if you are a packet sysop, or repeater owner, do you have a plan so your most often used equipment will continue to serve the amateur community? Does anyone know who your leases are with? Are they written or verbal? If verbal does anyone know whom to contact to make arrangements to take over the lease? And then what becomes of the equipment? Are you planning to donate it to a club or group if you depart this world? Or will someone be forced to have to deal with it after you’re gone? I hold two leases for packet nodes with thousands of dollars worth of equipment. Do I have a “successor” for these sites? No, but I am working on it now. Do you have a written plan for your site?

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This could go on forever with things to think about, but is intended to get your thought process going on just what will happen to your gear. I know I am going to work on mine so if anything happens, those who live on will not be left with a burden to remember me by. Much of this could have legal implications, so if you do have a will it would be beneficial to talk to your lawyer to insure what you have stated is what will actually be done.

Mark Tharp, KB7HDX, has been licensed since 1989. He is involved in search and rescue as well as other service organizations in the Yakima valley. He has served as president of both the Yakima ARC and Yakima County Radio Amateurs. He is currently ARRL Eastern Washington Section Manager.

Special thanks to the ARRL's Amateur Radio News

On - Air Swap Nets

If Your Looking for A Piece of Equipment, Give These A Try

- 7.240 Every Sat. and Sun. Starts around 12:30PM Controls are various. Covers West Coast.
- 3.915 On Sunday mornings at 10:00AM Pacific Time. Net control W7BUN. Mostly northwest states
- 3.908 "WARFA" swap net. Wed. nights at 8:00 PST. This net is on the West Coast, but many check ins from the midwest.
- 3.922 Mid-West Swap Net On Sunday evenings from 5:30PM to 7:30PM PST
- 7.235 Chaverim Rag Chew/Swap Net Every morning at 11:30AM PST. Monday -Friday Western US. Net control WA6USL
- 3.908 "Northstar Traders net" - 8:30AM Central. (originates from Minnesota/Winsconsin area) Host W5MAZ

More Puns Intended

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.

A man woke up in a hospital after! a serious accident. He shouted, "Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs!" The doctor replied, "I know you can't - I've cut off your arms!"

I went to a seafood disco last week ... and pulled a mussel.

What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fsh.

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says "Dam!".

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why," they asked, as they moved off. "Because", he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer." !

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

AND THE WINNER IS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



**Linda Faulkner, N0LFF,
wins a brand new Yaesu
FT-857D at the 2008
Yuma Hamfest**

Ray Hunnicutt - W7YHC - SK

Ray Hunnicutt passed away on March 13, 2008 after a long illness. Some of you old-timers will remember Ray from the early days of our Club. A memorial service will be held at the Lietz-Fraze Funeral Home on March 22nd. The time has not be finalized, but give Jerry France a call for the extact time (855.3081 or 855.7941).

REST IN PEACE RAY

Welcome New Hams

Ed and his VE Team held another test session on 3/11/2008. The following BLM Park Rangers passed their exams and now hold Technician Class Licenses:

Paul Hoyt

James Miller

Are you also looking to upgrade your license? Give our VE Exam Team a call.

See Ed Gillespie, AB7EM at #453-7412

FOR SALE/TRADE

MFJ-616 Speech Intelligibility Enhancer - Recently serviced by MFJ. Like new condition. With manual and shipping box. \$130

Kenwood TS-50 Transceiver -10 through 160 meters. 100 watts. With mobile bracket, manual and shipping box. Excellent condition. \$450

MFJ - 941E Antenna Turner -300 watts. 10-160 meters. Excellent condition with manual and shipping box. \$90

Hugh Allen, WB6TQP, Phone #453.8659, Lake Havasu City, AZ

All Band Vertical - Lee has an all-band vertical that he no longer needs. He had loaned this to Dick, W7ZR, who was able to work all other the world. The price is right.....it's **FREE!** Contact Lee St. Clair, W7AX at 505.8659.

I HAVE A QUESTION

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, then doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

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FROM THE EDITOR

If you have anything you would like to see included in these issues, please let me know. I'm always looking for articles, news items, construction articles, or anything that might be of interest to our readers. You can contact me at 928.855.7941 or email at grf@unneedspeed.net or francej@ajsinsurance.com.

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ATTENTION READERS

Please note that this issue represents a “work-in-progress” and there are a number of changes to be made in subsequent issues. I would greatly appreciate your comments, both good and bad, as well as any suggestions for future issues. This issue also begins our first attempt to deliver the **STATIC** to your doorstep electronically. Please keep me abreast of any email address changes you may have and I promise to have this delivered promptly and accurately. Also, I still have a number of articles awaiting publication and will do so in the future. This is your newsletter, so keep the articles, letters, and pictures coming. I can be reached at home (855.7941), at work (855.3081) or via email at grf@uneedspeed.net .

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

EDITOR'S NOTE: List your items for sale here. Ham radio related only, please. Include a picture if you like (please use a jpg format). Email all to me at grf@uneedspeed.net along with your name and phone number.

