



Newsletter

MNW Newsletter Presidents

Message for July 2011

This issue of the MNW Newsletter is the first in almost two years. We apologize for this, and hope that we can start fresh again moving forward.

So far this year, there have been many activities and success by MNW members; and the year is not over yet. We would like to make this newsletter a forum for getting the word out about such successes in the hopes that it will inspire and encourage others, and provide another way to let us know what is going on around the region.

One of our big successes this year was the annual conference we had the end of April in Chehalis, WA. Several people were involved in making this a big success. They include:

Dick Morrison
Rue Palmer
Dick Bullard
Zale Archer,
John Callaghan
Greg Conine
Don Stoliker
John Swapp

Thank you to anyone who was involved in any way and to everyone who attended

This year we had over 50 people attend. This is the most people attending in several years.



William J Harding, KE7DEM

Among the presentations included emergency communications and digital radio. One important topic discussed was what Mercury Northwest is all about. I think it is appropriate to mention this topic again here for future reference.

Mercury Northwest is an Amateur Radio Association whose members share common interests. As an organization, we try to provide activities and information consistent with those interests, which, include:

- Amateur Radio
- Church membership or those who like association with members and share common values
- Emergency Radio Communications and Preparedness
- Satisfy the technical and information needs of HAMs at all levels; beginner to advanced.
- To be “Elmers”, and help new operators learn to enjoy the hobby.

Mercury Northwest is not an LDS Church organization or program, and although it has its roots with the old MARA organization of the 1980’s and 1990’s, please do not refer to our present organization as “MARA”. As an organization, we do not provide any service or function to the Church.

This is a difficult concept because it just so happens that most of our membership are also members of the Church, and most have Church callings as Emergency Communication and/or to help them “magnify their calling” as they serve under the direction of their local Stake President and Bishop.

There are many other activities that we would like to get involved with and start (if not already begun). Most of these are people serving in their local area, which is where most of the good is anyway. These activities include:

- Sponsor and conduct Amateur Radio Training Classes.
- Form local VE teams
- Create and be active in local Chapter activities such as helping new HAMs in what I call the HAM 101 (A.K.A. “I have my license, now what do I do”). I have the materials and an outline for

such a class activity. I will share this with anyone who asks me.

- Getting involved with our digital radio group.
- Field Day
- ERC support for members
- Being involved with your local ACS\RACES\ARES groups.
- Being involved with your local community civil authorities.

Moving forward, please help make Mercury Northwest and your local Chapter a success. Also, we are looking for short descriptions of activities to share with each other as we launch another era of our Newsletter. Please help us. And as always ...

Be Save, Be Prepared, Play Radio

William J Harding, KE7DEM

President, Mercury Northwest

Short Bio, William J Harding, KE7DEM

I was born and raised in Provo, UT. I graduated from Provo High School and BYU. I then spent two years in Graduate School at the University of Montana, where I completed my teaching credentials and received my commission in the US Air Force. I returned to Provo and met my wife while we were both working at the Utah Valley Regional Medical Center. My wife is Carol Davidson, from Manti, UT. We were married in the Manti Temple 35 years ago. We have three children; two girls and a boy, all married and with families of their own. We have four grandchildren.

Soon after my wife and I were married, I landed a teaching job in Blanding, UT at San Juan

High School. Following the year in Blanding, I spent three years teaching at American Fork High School, in American Fork, Utah. Then by surprise, I was called back to active duty with the Air Force and spent the next 4 years in Colorado Springs as a headquarters staff officer for SAC/NORAD/ ADCOM, and finally the then newly created Space Command. While in Colorado Springs, I completed a Master's Degree. Following the Colorado Springs tour of duty, I was transferred to Logan, UT (Hill AFB) and was an Assistant Professor at Utah State University. Then, just as suddenly as being called to active duty, it ended in a RIF. Since then, I have been with four different high tech companies including Novell, Microsoft, and now F5 Networks.

My amateur radio associations include Mercury Northwest, Snohomish County ACS, "the Microhams ARC", ARRL, and I am a VE for both W5YI and ARRL. I am also the volunteer Emergency Communication Consultant for the City of Bothell.

New Ham On the Air

by John Swapp K7CXJ

On June 16, 2011, a new Tech class ham, Trevor Furhriman, KF7NZN, of Bellevue, WA, visited the shack of John Swapp K7CXJ to get help with a VHF/UHF transceiver. While there, 20 meter propagation was checked out Trevor's first ham radio QSO was on HF with Laci, HA0NAR, in Hungary. Under K7CXJ's control of the HF station, Trevor had a brief conversation with Europe for his first QSO!

Congratulations Trevor Ed



Rue Palmer, W7RUE

HI, the name is Rue, just like the call sign, W7RUE. I am relatively new to Amateur Radio (2 years as of March 2009) and I am enjoying every moment I can get on the radio! I am a member of ARRL, Mercury NW, NW Country Cousins, and the Olympia Amateur Radio Society.

I am currently a high school principal in a juvenile detention facility, and in a county jail, as well as an alternative high school. I retired from the Army over 18 years ago with 22 years of service. I enlisted as an Infantry Private during the end of Viet Nam. As a Staff Sergeant, I went to OCS and retired as a Major during Desert Storm. I am still married to the love of my life of 35 years with three grown children.

My station consists of a FT-1000MP, a FT-897D, a FT-817ND, Two FT-2900Rs, an IC-2200H, and a VX-170. The support equipment consists of an AL-1200, and a Palstar AT2K Tuner. I have an antenna farm which consists of 2 VHF verticals hidden in the the plumbing vent pipes, a 2 meter yagi on a rotator in the attic, various parallel dipoles in the attics from 80 to 6 meters. I also have 2 HF verticals

hidden in the green belt, with an OCF dipole (80 thru 6 meters) also hidden in the green belt. I live in a HOA/CC&R neighborhood and have Yard Nazis with lots of time on their hands. So far so good! They haven't spotted anything yet! Long Live Stealth Radio! You can get me QRO and QRP; SSB and FM. You can also reach me on Digital - PSK31 as well as Mobile and Portable!

Nice to meet you Rue. Gotta watch out for those Yard Nazis. Some people aren't being given enough useful work to do so they spend their time worrying about other people's antennas and things that are none of their business. Maybe you should tell them that your station is there to save their necks in time of trouble and emergency. Give them a tour of your shack. You've got a nice one. Tell them about the training and expense you have gone to to be an asset to the community. We can't convert them all but we can try.

Your Steamed Editor

Are We Still Valid?

By R.B. Sturtevant AD7IL

A question comes to my mind from time to time and I think you may think of it as well. Are we, as Amateur Radio Operators, still a valid form of response to emergency situations? The technology that we know and love had its Hey Day in the Forties, Fifties and Sixties of the last century. Yes, new stuff is coming out all the time but it tends to be computer assisted bells and whistles that only make some of the stuff that is coming out more complicated for those of us past a certain number of birthdays. No, this is not bad. It is, however, not strictly speaking radio. Some of it is not even necessary. I've looked at all the ads and articles about the latest and the greatest that says that will tell us all that the latest VHF/UFH rigs have upwards of 900 memories that can be programmed into the

tuning circuit for instant tuning to various repeaters and meeting places. In Washington State, where I live, there are about 400 repeaters of all types covering the state. Some of those can't be used on our frequencies but the question remains, why do I need so many memories in my rig when I don't seem to need them?

Surly cell phones and satellite phones, encrypted military and civilian, e-mails and stuff we don't even know about will keep the major government agencies up and running during times of emergencies. The answer is a resounding NO! According to The Homeland Security Agency during a nationwide emergency or threat of one the major means of communications will be e-mail sent by HF means. There are simply more HF stations (meaning us) available than any other means of keeping in touch. (Yes, those HF e-mails mean that a bunch of us are going to have to become familiar with digital modes if we are going to be able to contact stations outside the Church's program. Maybe we can talk about that another time.) In short, what the Homeland Security folks are telling us is that given the number of stations that will be needed in a large scale emergency and the availability of operators trained to operate in emergency situations Ham Radio is the best they got or can afford to get. Maybe we are still valid and need to keep training on how to keep our nets up under emergency situations. Obviously not every one in the country knows that. A woman I once spoke to about Amateur Radio looked at me with a rather quizzical expression and ask "Do people still do that?" Yes, we do and we're planning on keeping it going so you and the rest of the neighborhood will be able to call on the outside world in case of an emergency.



John Abdon, KE7LWW

The FCC Gets One Right

Submitted by John Swapp K7CXJ

Pictured is John Abdon, KE7LWW, of Bellevue, WA. His call sign was issued sequentially by the FCC.

Many of us enjoy custom phonetics and John came up with "Long White Whiskers". These call letters were not issued as a part of the vanity call sign program. John received the call as a luck of the draw. The phonetics are very appropriate, aren't they?

When was the last time you gave a shack tour to someone in your Bishopric, Branch Presidency or Stake Presidency? If they don't know who we are, where we are and what we can do in an emergency they will never think to call on us when the s—t hits the fan. Remember if they don't know about the Church Radio Program we've got to tell them.

AD7IL



K7CXJ's Hangout

Shagri La? Utopia? Almost Heaven? When John Swapp K7CXJ retired last summer, his XYL Joy, gave him this present...a ham shack in the back yard. The shack is 8ft x 16ft giving him three times the space as the previous location in the house. The antennae shown are a Cushcraft 2mtr/7cmtr vertical and in the back is a MURS Blue Dot J-Pole (154.57 mhz) used for church emergency communications. Not shown is a Mosley 3el tribander up 50 feet, Van Gorden All Bander dipole up 60 feet, and a Cushcraft 10 el yagi for 2 mtrs. There is a complete ham station and computer with Internet access.

John's been a ham since 1958 and he says, "This is the best!" Appropriate security systems are in place.

John: I have it on good authority (my XYL) that there are a lot of ladies out there who would like to supply the Hams in their lives with similar accommodations. The only problem is that there are no plans to let us back into the house. Better keep Joy happy.

Before the Emergency Operating Procedures

This is a checklist of things you can do to prepare for any emergency situation. D&C 38:30 ...But if ye are prepared ye shall not fear. By taking action now, you can save lives and reduce the damage caused by natural and other hazards. Feel free to add items that fit your own situation. Nobody's circumstances are the same as yours. And be sure to pass this along to others in your Ward or Branch. We all have to get prepared and we need to help each other to get there.

If you are not finished with this list don't worry. Just get started and do as much as you can. Perfection is a goal to work towards not a minimum level of performance.

- Assemble a disaster supply (sometimes called a 72 hour) kit.
- Create a home emergency plan.
- Conduct a home safety evaluation.
- Have a family communications plan. Know how you will contact each other and review what you will do in different situations. Make sure you have designated out-of-town contacts.
- Know who your neighborhood emergency team is. Know how to contact them and/or your priesthood leaders during and

immediately following an emergency situation.

- Know how to contact the closest Amateur Radio Operator in your area. Your neighborhood emergency team and/or Priesthood leaders may already have this information for you.
- If you have pets, check with your veterinarian for animal care instructions in an emergency situation.
- Know what emergency plans are in place at your workplace and schools.
- Be familiar with evacuation routes, but be prepared to shelter in place.
- Check flashlights and battery supplies.
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