

VCARA

# CONNECTION

Vermilion County Amateur Radio Association



March 2010

## Calling All Rookies -- and Non-Rookies, Too! Get On the Air for the ARRL Rookie Roundup

(taken from the ARRL web site)

The ARRL Rookie Roundup is designed to help newly licensed amateurs build their operating skills on HF. It is a contest specifically for those new to Amateur Radio, similar to the ARRL Novice Roundup that ran from 1952 until 1995. The Rookie Roundup brings the fun and Elmering of the old Novice Roundup into the 21st century. Three Rookie Roundups will be held each calendar year: SSB in April, RTTY in August and CW in December.

The Rookie Roundup will be scored 100 percent in real time through the [www.getscores.org](http://www.getscores.org) scoring system. There are three ways to participate: by using your favorite logging software with the real time scoring support, by downloading a simple logging program from the [www.getscores.org](http://www.getscores.org) Web site or by logging your contacts directly into a [www.getscores.org](http://www.getscores.org) Web page. No separate logs are required -- it all happens online in real time and final scores will be available online within hours of the end of the contest! More information is available on all of these options at [www.getscores.org](http://www.getscores.org). Of course, you can get on the air and make contacts without logging them, but you won't have as much fun!

### Who Can Participate?

Any ham licensed for 3 years or less qualifies as a Rookie. If you were licensed in 2008, 2009 or 2010, you can compete in the 2010 Rookie Roundup. Non-Rookies may only work Rookies, while Rookies may work everybody. A major part of the success of this contest will be non-Rookies getting on the air and working the Rookies, just as in the Novice Roundup. Just like in the Novice Roundups of years past (when Novices could work anyone and non-Novices could only work Novices), Rookies may work anyone, be they Rookie or non-Rookie; however, non-Rookies are limited to only working Rookies.

### Entry Categories

Single Operator Rookie, limited to a maximum of 100 W. Spotting assistance or using call sign and frequency alerting systems is allowed, but self-spotting or asking somebody to spot you is not. All Rookies must identify themselves as a rookie. Example: "Kilo Bravo One Quebec Alfa Whiskey, Rookie." Non-Rookies only need give their call; no designation is needed.

### Awards

Certificates will be available for all participants to download. The top five high scores from each US call area, Canadian province and Mexican call area will be recognized on their certificate. No national winners will be recognized.



Join us at  
**Lynch Volunteer Fire Dept**

Station 2  
14<sup>th</sup> St in Tilton  
March 8, 2010



**2009/2010**

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# From the Prez:



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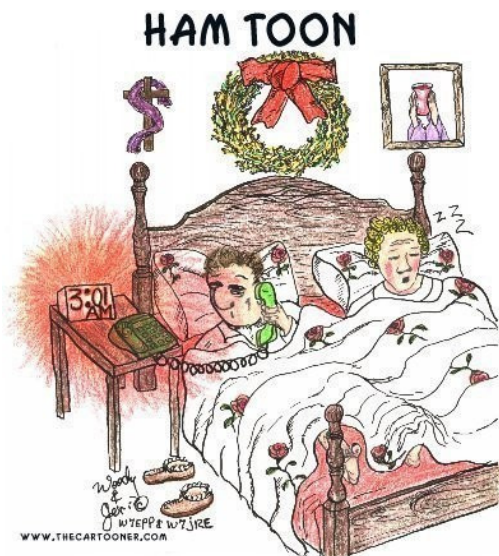
**Josh Kittle N9WEW**

I hope everyone enjoyed the snow this winter, it is sure to soon be over.

Time for towers to start growing and sprouting new antennas. There is sure plenty to do at the clubhouse grounds as the weather improves. Hopefully when we get several days in the upper 60's we can get the roof coating done. This has to be our highest priority project for the spring before we run into major problems.

I hope we can see a continued increase in activity there by all members. Please let me know your ideas for fun activities we can all participate in and utilize our facility. I would like to at least have a spring cookout out there in April or May. It would be nice to get back to regular programs at our monthly meetings as well. Let me know your ideas for these so we can get something scheduled for the rest of the year.

One last request is to keep in mind the Hamfest is coming up in August. Due to work taking more time than it has in the past I will be unable to chair the Hamfest committee, but will help out as I can. I'm still looking for a volunteer to chair this so we can continue to have a successful hamfest. This has been a great fund-raiser for the club and I would like to see it continue.



HELLO----- WHO-----  
THAT RARE ONE YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IS ON  
RIGHT NOW. OH, HE'S CALLING ME NOW-----  
CLICK !

## VCARA CONNECTION

The Vermilion County Amateur Radio Association (VCARA), a group of Amateur Radio operators, interested and active in the service of the Amateur Radio service, publish a monthly newsletter, where members and officers can post information of interest to other members.

Our policy is to print and/or post only information that is related to Amateur Radio, and not items of a political or religious nature, unless it has an impact on Amateur Radio, such as antenna ordinances, etc.

If a member wishes to have printed/posted any topic that is not Amateur Radio related, they can submit a copy to the club newsletter editor, webmaster, e-mail reflector moderator or any club officer, and the matter will be discussed and decided upon by the Board of Directors.

**No PERSONAL attacks** will be allowed.

**Submissions are due on the last Friday of each month!!**



## February Meeting Monday March 8, 2010 7PM

Lynch Fire station # 2  
E. 14th St, Tilton, Il

## For Sale!!!!

Radio Shack 2M FM radio (Unknown model)  
Clegg 22ER 2M AM with a clegg mike

Contact Dave Cline for more info at kb9zmf@gmail.com

## Your help is needed!!

You will notice that the newsletter is 4 pages! I would like to see it at least 4 pages every month. That is up to you, the member!!

I would love to see people who can write an article each month..maybe on constructing small indoor antennas for 2 meters, making your own antennas for not only VHF frequencies, but HF frequencies as well. Maybe step by step directions on installing connectors. Believe it or not, there are probably some newbies who might not know.

Send me articles in Word or text if at all possible. I can not convert pdf files back to text. Sorry.

Help out your newsletter!!! Deadline is the last Friday of every month!! 73.

Tuck NF9T

## Helping Others.....

.....Always Worthwhile!!

## As I See It.....

By Tuck NF9T



I am a newbie, well sort of. I was born and raised right here in the Illiana area, but in 84, we moved to the San Diego area, where I was fortunate to have worked in many different positions in Amateur Radio. We retired back to this area in October, 2009 and hope to become quite active, not only here, but maybe beyond!!

I have a couple of items I would like to pass on from my previous experience. Of course I am NOT demanding these things be done, rather simple suggestions from some one who has been there, done that.

Having been net control for a couple of nets over the years, I hear all ways of conducting them. I have always changed a few words to fit my style of "delivery". One thing I have always started off with is something like this, "This is a directed net. You may break at any-time for emergency or priority traffic." I then proceed with the rest of the net. I do not pause or wait for emergency or priority traffic. I just told everyone they could break at any time for that type of traffic. I hope that makes sense. Perhaps people doing the local nets could incorporate the same thing. Just a suggestion.....

Now, an activity we did in the San Diego area. Perhaps you have done it here. Every year we had a booth at the fair, where volunteer operators would go out and work the booth for 2 to 4 hours or however long they wanted to. Gave the people who attended the fair to see us in action and even get on as 3rd party traffic. The club could go out, bring some equipment, etc, and set things up. I do NOT know how security is set up when the fair is not open, so do not know if this is viable or not, but...if so, can be a lot of fun. Usually the fair will provide FREE tickets for those actually working the booth. 2 or 3 persons at a time is normally sufficient.

Folks, I don't mean to step on any toes, just another point of view. Please accept it that way. 73 all.

## Radioactive!! Nets to you.....

Monday ICARC 8:00 147.030 dup+ pl tone 103.5

Wed. Night Net 7:30 146.820 pl 88.

Fridays: 73's Late Night Net 9:00 pm 146.820 pl 88.

## VCARA QSO Party Every Saturday Morning!! 9:00 am - 11:00 am

VCARA Club House - Woodbury Hill

A weekly get together for fellowship and to work on various club projects. Continued planning for upgrades to the club house facility. All are welcome, your help is appreciated.

## Injured Colorado Skier Uses Amateur Radio to Summon Help

(Taken from the ARRL web site)



When Steve Priem, N0YIV, of Boulder, Colorado, decided to go backcountry skiing near Yankee Doodle Lake in the Guinn Mountain area of Colorado's [Roosevelt National Forest](#) on Friday, February 19, the 60 year old ham made sure he was well prepared: Not only did he take along a rescue whistle, he made sure his handheld transceiver was fully charged and in his pack.

It's a good thing he did: When Priem was injured while skiing, he used his radio to summon help. According to ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jeff Ryan, K0RM, a ham more than 100 miles away in Colorado Springs answered Priem's call for help and called 911. Priem was able to provide GPS coordinates for his position.

[According to KCNC](#) -- the CBS affiliate television station in Denver -- Priem asked the amateur on the other end of the radio -- Gary Gosney, K6USN-- where he was located. "He said, 'I'm in Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs, Boulder County, 120 miles away.'" Gosney was monitoring a local Colorado Springs UHF frequency that links to the Mountain Amateur Radio Club's (MARC) 146.82 repeater located in Woodland Park, Colorado. Gosney called 911 around 4 PM and emergency responders reached Priem around 7:30 that evening, according to the sheriff's office. Priem was evacuated five miles via snowmobile to the town of Eldora to a waiting ambulance.

"When Steve pulled out his radio and started calling for help, he wasn't sure of the frequencies that were programmed into his handheld transceiver," Ryan said. "He started flipping through the memory channels and calling MAYDAY. He told me that he was still unsure how he was communicating with a ham in Colorado Springs from Guinn Mountain. When I informed him of the MARC Woodland Park repeater, he told me that he had never heard of it, so he was perplexed as to why it was programmed in his radio."

A quick check of the Colorado frequency database revealed two other repeaters in Colorado on that frequency -- and Steve recognized one in Grand Junction. "He told me that he used to travel to Grand Junction and had programmed that repeater into his handheld transceiver years ago," Ryan told the ARRL. "That repeater is more than 150 miles to the west and would be impossible to hit from Guinn Mountain. Coincidentally, it is also the frequency of the Woodland Park repeater -- which sometimes has a CTCSS tone required for input -- but fortunately for all on this day, the tone access was turned off, allowing Steve's signal to key up the machine." The path between Woodland Park (about 9000 feet above sea level) and Guinn Mountain (about 11,500 feet above sea level) is about 75 miles.

There is a lot of high terrain preventing a direct line-of-site path, so Steve's signal must have been either knife edging or bouncing off of nearby granite."

Roger Krautkremer, K0YY -- a member of the Colorado Alpine Rescue Team Communications Unit and Colorado ARES® District 9 -- told the ARRL that Alpine Rescue, Boulder County's Rocky Mountain Rescue Group and Gilpin County's Timberline Fire Department responded to the call. "Priem was located in deep snow in Boulder County backcountry and the rescue teams would need to bring him down the mountain terrain by way of adjacent Gilpin County," Krautkremer said. The rescue teams coordinated via Amateur Radio, using both simplex and the mountain-top repeaters maintained by [Rocky Mountain Ham Radio](#), the [Rocky Mountain Radio League](#) and the [Colorado Connection Repeater](#)s.

"This is a good example of multiple agencies working together to rescue an injured individual in difficult backcountry deep snow," Krautkremer said. "The incident provided communications challenges coordinating among the several responding agencies on both the operations and on-scene tactical frequencies. Ham radio played a role in positioning resources and advising the Command Post and Operations Centers of en route resources."

According to a report from KCNC, Priem was praised by the group leader from Rocky Mountain Rescue for being so well prepared to be in the back country: "The snow is blowing, it's dark, it's cold and when we're on snow machines, we can't hear very well. But we turn them off and we listen and we can hear his whistle from a long way away," said Jeff Sparkhawk of the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group.

Ryan called it a coincidence that the Grand Junction repeater is the same frequency as the Woodland Park repeater and that the CTCSS tone required for input to the Woodland Park repeater was disabled, since Priem wasn't transmitting the CTCSS: "It was very good propagation that allowed the signal to reach Woodland Park from Guinn Mountain -- and is was good luck that someone was listening."

Priem was taken to a nearby hospital where he was treated for two cracked ribs and a knee "that was swollen to the size of a grapefruit," the KCNC report said. Priem told a reporter from that station that he would like to find the Colorado Springs ham and thank him for saving his life. -- *Thanks to ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jeff Ryan, K0RM, and television station [KCNC](#) for the information*