



The GroundWire

Feed The Geek

ISSUE 2008—10

MONTANA HAM ASSISTS IN RESCUE OF FELLOW AMATEUR 600 MILES AWAY

On Sunday, September 21, Bob Williams, N7ODM, of Bozeman, Montana, was just tuning around on 40 meters, giving his rig a test just before a scheduled QSO with his brother Rich, K7URU, in Spokane, when he heard a faint CW signal around 1 PM (MDT): Glenn Russell Ruby Jr, W7AU, of Corvallis, Oregon had broken his leg and was using a portable radio and Morse code to send out a call for help. Williams said he was able to understand the injured man's code even when his signal became very weak.

"He called me. He must have heard me testing out the radio. When I finished, I signed off with my call, and then I heard, 'N7ODM, this is W7AU/7,' so I answered," Williams told the ARRL. "I told him to go ahead, I had solid copy. He told me that he was a hiker that had fallen and broken his leg. He identified himself as Russ, provided information as to his GPS coordinates, the shelter, food and water on hand, as well as his detailed physical condition. He told me exactly who I needed to contact for assistance."

According to Williams, Ruby had slipped on a wet rock and broken his leg while out hiking in the Buck Creek Pass area of the high Cascades in Western Washington, 600 miles away from Williams. "Russ really had his act together," Williams said. "Before he even called for help, he set up his tent. It was raining when he fell, so he climbed into his tent and got into some warm clothes and had a snack of sunflower seeds and dried apricots. After that, he strung up a wire antenna, fired up his Elecraft K1 and called me." Williams said that Ruby told him he had a "couple of weeks worth of battery power" for the radio.

Ruby asked Williams to notify the Snohomish County Search and Rescue in Washington State. "I didn't have their number, so I called my local 911 dispatcher. All they had was the info for King County in Washington, so I called them and they gave me the number for Snohomish. When I got a hold of Snohomish County Search and Rescue, they asked me to obtain additional info from



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Russ, such as the color of his tent and if he was in a clear or wooded area, and remain in contact with him as long as possible," Williams said.

"Russ and I were able to maintain contact until about 8 PM on Sunday, during which time I was able to pass additional traffic between Russ and Search and Rescue, but then his signal got so weak where I couldn't copy it anymore. Before he faded, we had agreed to try and make contact in the morning. I tried, starting around 6:30, but he never heard me. I finally heard him calling me around 9 on 7.051 MHz. We kept in contact until he was evacuated from the site by Search and Rescue at about 10:35 AM," Williams told the ARRL.

On Sunday, rescue crews reached Ruby, who had set up camp on Buck Creek Pass, at about 6000 feet just west of the Chelan County line. He was taken to safety Monday on horseback. Williams said that bad weather Sunday prevented a helicopter rescue: "It was snowing all night; Russ told me that when he woke up Monday morning, his tent was all covered in snow."

"I just happened to be at the same frequency," Williams said. "It's just a stroke of luck that turned out great. It was quite an experience. I'm just glad that he was a ham radio operator and that I was able to talk to him. It made the difference for him. What I did was not anything special. I'd like to think that any ham in Montana would've done the same thing."

Reprinted from: From this week's ARRL Letter.

October 21st Program Announcement



October's program will be brought to us by Dan Renois (KE5UZZ). Dan is a Flight Dispatcher in the CareFlite Operations Center. Dan's program will be about the CareFlite radio system, dispatch operations and CareFlite in general. Dan is also a member and regular contributor of the DFWSCAN Yahoo group, and keeps up with all the actions band traffic in the area.

Be sure to tell everyone about this exciting program and invite a guest or two. This program should be of interest even to the none Ham.

Financial Report for August, 2008



General Fund	Income	Expense	Balance
Beginning Balance 9/1/08			\$ 1,051.29
INCOME/EXPENSE			
Dues Income - 2008			
Transfer From Matl. Property			
Tranfer Petty Cash income			
TOTAL INCOME	\$ -		
EXPENSES			
Liability Ins Renewal Ck 567		\$320.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 320.00	
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$ -	\$ 320.00	
Ending Balance 9/30/2008			\$ 731.29
Special Events Fund			
Beginning Balance 9/1/08			\$ 457.21
INCOME/EXPENSE			
Trans from General Fund			
Voided Ck551-Club Shirt Order			
Mtg. food income Xmas & Donation			
TOTAL INCOME	\$ -		
EXPENSES			
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ -	
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$ -	\$ -	
Ending Balance 9/30/2008			\$ 457.21
Material Property Fund			
Beginning Balance 9/1/08			\$ 1,981.28
INCOME/EXPENSE			
Dues Income - 2008			
Transfer from General Fund			
TOTAL INCOME	\$ -		
EXPENSES			
Telephone Ck 568		\$35.16	
Transfer to General Fund			
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 35.16	
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$ -	\$35.16	
Ending Balance 9/30/2008			\$ 1,946.12
 September Totals	 \$ -	 \$ 355.16	 \$ 3,134.62

YouTube Links

Head for the Hills (part 1)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-c7Lax7YKA>

Head for the Hills (part 2)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgJOMx5mnjQ>

OK QSO Party (part 1)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7KgLRctBio>

OK QSO Party (part 2)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7YLQeNUDiA&feature=related>

YOU MIGHT BE A HAM IF ...

1. YOUR WIFE SAID "LETS GO SEE AUNT ANNA AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID ANTENNA!"

2. YOUR WIFE SAID "COULD YOU CUT THE GRASS?" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID POUND THE BRASS!

3. YOUR WIFE SAID "WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO BREAKFAST AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID HAM FEST!"

4. YOUR WIFE SAID "SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE CHECK BOOK AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID LOG BOOK!"

5. YOUR WIFE SAID "IS MY SEAM STRAIGHT? AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID, IS MY BEAM STRAIGHT?"

Minutes of Board Meeting ... September 2008



On Tuesday September 2, 2008 the board meeting for SWDCARC was opened by teleconference at 6:50 PM. Officers Don Hickey (KD5SCZ), Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE) and Floyd Rodgers (KC5QBC) were present with Bernie McPartland (KC5MQC) joining by telephone.

Bill Ellis (N5TXN), Paul Dryer (KD5IVP) and Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB) also attended the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes approved as printed in *The Ground Wire*.

Financial report approved as printed in *The Ground Wire*.

OLD BUSINESS

Johnny (KJ5LB) reported that he had received the club license with the change in trustee.

NEW BUSINESS

Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE) brought up that the clubs liability insurance was due for renewal. The board approved the payment of the club's liability insurance.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to close at 6:55 PM.

Submitted by

Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB) for

Rachel Holt (KE5KMS), Secretary

2008 Board Members

President

Richard Baker (N5KXA)

Vice-President

Mike Harang (K5MNH)

Treasurer

Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

Secretary

Rachel Holt (KE5KMS)

Directors

Bernie McPartland (KC5MQC)

Floyd Rodgers (KC5QBC)

Don Hickey (KD5SCZ)

2008 Elmers

Bob Best: Safety, VHF Satellite

Todd Huovenin: Net Ops, SWL

John Langridge: Propagation, Vertical Antennas, Contesting, HF Ops

Rebecca Ellis: Family Activities

David Lusk: Contesting, Digital Comms

Chuck Poindexter: WiFi Mgmt

Paul Dryer: CW, HF Antennas

Rick Ellis: Foxhunting

Johnny Roberson: Emergency Generators, Mobile Radio Installation

Don Hickey: Screwdriver Antennas

Bill Ellis: Web-Site, *Groundwire*

Floyd Rodgers: Web Management, VHF Ops

Mike Harang: Phased Verticals

Rachael Holt: Railroad Comms

Russ Thompson: Database Management, HF Antennas

Special Counsel to President:

Johnny Roberson, Mike Harang, Floyd Rodgers and Paul Dryer

General Membership Meeting ... September, 2008



Vice-president Mike Harang (K5MMH) called the September 2008 membership meeting Of SWDCARC to order, for Richard Baker (N5KXA). Fourteen members were present with two guests. The guests were Michael Law, Fire Marshall for the DeSoto Fire Dept. and Bennie Nelson of the City of Richardson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer Report - Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE) advised that the treasurer report was posted in the Groundwire.

Minutes - Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB) made a motion with the 2nd by Bill Ellis (N5TXN) to accept the minutes as posted in the Groundwire.

Repeater - Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB) reported that he was again the Trustee of the club repeater.

Membership - Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE) reported that the club currently had 51 paid members.

MRC - Paul Dryer (KD5IVP) reported that he had not been contacted for communications by the MRC to help with the relief effort for Hurricane Ike. Also the DeSoto Mobile Command Center is currently in Galveston to help out with the hurricane efforts.

Net - Todd Houvinen (KB5TMD) reported that there were 7 check-ins for the Monday night net.

VE Tests - Paul Dryer (KD5IVP) announced that the test sessions have been moved to the 3rd Tuesday of the month, the same as club night.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike Harang (K5MMH) explained the procedure to put in motion for the 440 repeater to have W5WB assigned as the club call.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Tonight's Program - Dave Lusk (N5UV)-Texas QSO Party

October Program - Dan Renois (KE5UZB)-Care Flite radio system

Motion to adjourn made by Don Hickey with a 2nd by Richard Baker (N5KXA).

Respectfully submitted by Drena Cromaz (KK5YC)

For Rachael Holt-Secretary

October



CareFlite
Communications

NCS Schedule

2008

October

06-KB5TMD
13-KX5G
20-KC5MQC
27-KJ5UY

November

03-KB5TMD
10-KX5G
17-KC5MQC
24-KJ5UY

December

01-KB5TMD
08-KX5G
15-KC5MQC
22-KB5TMD
29-KJ5UY

Net times are 8:00PM