

“News & Views”

Your Taylorsville HAMnet newsletter

This is your newsletter. We encourage YOU to submit information that will be of benefit to our group members.



The Chase is on!

There is a transmitter out there somewhere and it's teasing you, taunting you, daring to find it! You stop to get your bearings. Where is the signal strongest? It's almost due east, but how far?

Another hunter appears in the distance. She turns her antenna slowly and then, suddenly she stops. Does she have the fix too? You'd better get moving or you'll come in second place...or worse! Your heart is pumping like a jackhammer as you hurry toward the source. Where is that FOX...Where is it!

Every weekend, in cities, towns, and communities all across the country, ham radio operators gather for a very special kind of contest--the Fox Hunt. A small, low power transmitter is hidden and the rest of the crew tries to find it. Sound simple? It can be very challenging and a whole lot of fun. The direction finding skills learned in this activity can be very valuable in locating a repeater jammer, or a lost hiker.

IS THERE A “FOX HUNT” IN THE FUTURE FOR THE
TAYLORSVILLE HAMNET --HMMM

Index

- Page 2 Amateur Radio
Direction Finding
Member spotlight
- Page 3 HAM's in the Park event
- Page 4 Radio Merit Badge
- Page 5 Electricity 101
Push to talk
- Page 6 Calendar Events
Who's calling the Net

Published by Taylorsville HAMnet

Rulon Swensen, Chief culprit

Disclaimer: The Taylorsville HAMnet does not endorse or recommend any specific product for use in amateur radio communication. We provide these articles as a source of information and encourage you to do independent research to determine what will work best for your situation.

Amateur Radio Direction Finding

Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) is the sport of finding radio transmitters hidden by a licensed operator called “The Fox”. The “fox” is responsible for that transmitter and must be a licensed radio operator. It is his/her call sign that is broadcast as part of the transmission. Those looking for the “fox” are just receiving and do not need a license to find the “fox”. If they talking to others by radio, then they do need a license.

The hunt can be done either on foot or by car depending on the contest. It can be as simple as one single transmitter or having several transmitters that need to be located in an organized pattern.

It may be done in a limited area such as a park or in a larger area such as open fields, populated community areas or in wooded terrain.

In a small area it is typically done using just a radio receiver and directional antenna. Often some type of attenuator is used is used to help define the location of the signal. Larger hunts are often done using a radio receiver, map, and compass in diverse locations. ARDF joins orienteering skills like the proper use of topographic maps, compass skills, and locational awareness, with radio direction finding skills using hand-held portable receivers and antennas. It is great fun for young and old alike - an opportunity for personal challenge in the great outdoors!



Member Spotlight

Bruce & Edric Thorup

Bruce, KG7CRG and Edric, KG7IPP are two of our newest members. As a father and son team they have worked together in supporting our group. Both have technician licenses.

They have been involved in our recent activities and each has called our weekly nets.

We welcome their willingness to be involved and look forward to working with them in the future.

HAM's in the Park



Our first **“HAM's in the Park”** event will be held on May 31st from 8 a.m. to Noon.

We would like to have fully functioning radio stations in 3 locations.

Taylorsville Park

Valley Regional Park

Millrace Park

The purpose of the event is to showcase our group and let members of the public experience HAM radio. We can explain how amateur radio has played a major role in emergency preparedness. We will have flyers and brochures available for them to take home. They will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn about the hobby. They can even go “hands on” and talk to one of the other stations if they so desire.

This event will also give us an opportunity to test our propagation between these sites.

We want to have at least 3 operators at each location with their go kits, mobile radios, HT's and other items that might be of interest to the public. We would like to have a packet station up and running at each location as well. We would also like to have a computer at each location to show some Amateur Radio videos.

The city is going to purchase and provide portable canopies for this event.

An event like this can generate interest and support from the members of our community and hopefully will result in some new Ham's

If you know of other HAM's in your area, make them aware of this event and invite them to come and participate.

Let your neighbors know also and have them stop by and see one of the locations on that day.



Did you know there is a merit badge for Radio?

There are many requirements to earn this badge. Most apply to the field of radio in general but there is a section specifically for Amateur Radio that can be selected as part of earning the merit badge.

AMATEUR RADIO

1. Tell why the FCC has an amateur radio service. Describe some of the activities that amateur radio operators can do on the air, once they have earned an amateur radio license.
2. Using proper call signs, Q signals, and abbreviations, carry on a 10-minute real or simulated amateur radio contact using voice, Morse code, or digital mode. (Licensed amateur radio operators may substitute five QSL cards as evidence of contacts with amateur radio operators from at least three different call districts.) Properly log the real or simulated ham radio contact and record the signal report.
3. Explain at least five Q signals or amateur radio terms you hear while listening.
4. Explain some of the differences between the Technician, General, and Extra Class license requirements and privileges. Explain who administers amateur radio exams.
5. Explain how you would make an emergency call on voice or Morse code.

Explain the differences between handheld transceivers and home "base" transceivers. Explain the uses of mobile amateur radio transceivers and amateur radio repeaters.

Do we have scouts in our area that would be interested in earning this badge?

The complete requirements can be found at this website address.

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/boyscouts/advancementandawards/meritbadges/mb-rado.aspx>

ELECTRICITY 101

THE FOLLOWING IS FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER'S BROCHURE

[Most accidents associated with electricity occur when someone comes into contact with overhead power lines. That's why you must always be aware of your proximity to such lines, especially when lifting or moving tall or long objects such as rain gutters, TV [or Radio] antennas, pool skimmers, irrigation pipes and ladders. Such objects can conduct electricity directly through your body as it moves from the line to the ground.]

It would do us all well to review this important information.

Go to our website

taylorsvillehamnet.org

and click on the button "Electricity 101" on the main page

PUSH TO TALK

Microphone etiquette

Do your P's "Pop"? Do your cough's crunch? Does your breathing cause condensation on your mic? You're probably too close and too direct!

Even though good microphone etiquette and technique has probably been beat to death, it is worth covering again for new operators and perhaps old ones who are not educated on the subject.

Change Your Angle:

The idea behind NOT addressing the microphone head-on is keeping the plosive energy ("P" percussion) and highly concentrated air from ever reaching the microphone element. This massive pressure change is normally beyond the SPL (Sound Pressure Level) rating of any microphone and will result in a "Pop" sound.

Some microphone manufacturers recommend that you speak at an angle of at least 20 degrees from straight on. Many radio manufacturers will tell you to talk "across the mic" or at nearly a 90 degree angle. Whatever angle you choose you will most likely find that it makes a difference.

Try it—you may find that will improve your readability to those listening.

Calendar Events - April, 2014

April 7 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater
April 14 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater
April 21 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater
April 25 - **In person meeting, Go kit antenna workshop , Taylorsville-Bennion Heritage Center**
April 28 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater

Calendar Events - May, 2014

May 5 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater
May 12 - Weekly Net 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater
May 19 - Weekly Net 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater
May 26 - Weekly Net 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater
May 30 - **In person meeting, Ham's in the park activity. Taylorsville Park-Valley Regional Park-Millrace Park**

Calendar Events - June 2014

June 2 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater
June 9 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater
June 16 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater
June 23 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater
June 28 - **In person meeting, Taylorsville Dayzz activity**
June 30 - Weekly Net, 8:30 p.m. 146.94 repeater

Who's calling the net?

April 7 th	Rulon	KE7OJX
April 14 th	Edric	KG7IPP
April 21 st	Bruce	KG7CRG
April 28 th	Doug	AD7LO
May 5 th	Dick	W7SAE
May 12 th	Open	Please volunteer
May 19 th	Rulon	KE7OJX
May 26 th	Doug	AD7LO
June 2 nd	Keith	KE7UMK
June 9 th	Open	Please volunteer
June 16 th	Open	Please volunteer
June 23 rd	Rulon	KE7OJX
June 30 th	Doug	AD7LO

We need you to volunteer to take your turn in calling the net. Each member should call the net as part of their readiness training. Thanks to those who have volunteered to help.

To get your name on the list, send an email to tville.hamnet@gmail.com and indicate the day or days you can be net control. You can call the net from your home or if you want to call it from the pantry radio room, let us know and we will make sure you can get in.