



# “From the Shack”

## Newsletter



January 2021

### WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF “FROM THE SHACK”

With the growth in our club membership and participation, we feel this is a good time to reintroduce a monthly newsletter to share the news and activities of our club. So, this edition of **“From the Shack”** is the beginning of that effort and the success will depend on you to provide information, ideas, articles, news and other ham related content for publishing in our monthly newsletter.



As we begin a new year, we hope to increase our membership and involve more of you in the workings of the club. We value your input on what YOU would like to have happen during the coming months.

The last year has brought much uncertainty and disruption in our community efforts. With the “remodel” of the city offices, we had to remove the radio equipment from its original location and put it into storage. The only thing that was not moved was the antennas on the roof. The equipment at the pantry has remained in place. We do need to do a radio room clean up, repair/replace a defective antenna and generally make this equipment more usable. We will be asking for help on that project in the coming months.

As the city completes their remodel and office layout change, the radio equipment will be reinstalled and tested. It will actually be closer to the antenna connection location and will be in a monitored environment in the emergency managers office.

## NET CONTROL

Simply put, we need each of you to become involved in calling the net. We have a list of about 15 members who are willing to do this but that list needs to grow. PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

We appreciate all the work and participation by our members over the past year and look forward to greater things in the future.

## IN PERSON MEETINGS

Because of the Covid19 restrictions and the city office remodel, we were required to suspend our in-person meetings at city hall. The remodel is in its final stages and we are monitoring the Covid19 guidelines from the state and will resume our meetings as soon as conditions allow.

## FOX HUNTS



We held our first club “Fox Hunt” in September in conjunction with district 2 and had 6 participants. The next one was in in October with 4 participants. It was held in the park just north of city hall on 2700 West and was an in-person event. But then because of Covid19, we had to curtail the in-person aspect because of the Covid19 guidelines. The November, December and January “Fox Hunts” were conducted as virtual exercises. February will most likely be the same.

The virtual aspect has allowed us to try another form of fox hunt “strategy” and to put the results on a map. This is done by supplying your GPS locations and then a compass reading of the strongest signal. Some even used a “triangulation” method (three GPS locations) to more accurately locate the fox. We have been using two “foxes” to make things a little more challenging and fun. Again, as soon as Covid19 conditions improve, we plan to go back to in-person fox hunts in conjunction with virtual for those who can’t be there in person.

Our monthly fox hunts will be on the second Saturday of each month.

As we move forward, we will be inviting other clubs to join with us in these events and to even select the hiding locations. We want to nurture the friendly association and involvement from all who want to participate.



It is important to know that in these fox hunts, the only one who needs to be licensed is the controller of the fox transmitter. In the case of our club, the two fox transmitters will now be assigned to our club call sign, KT7ARC. Those searching for the fox, do not have to be licensed since they are only receiving the signal. *[We do warn you to use caution to avoid hitting the transmit button when participating].*

## GOALS FOR 2021

We have several goals for the coming year. Here is a list of those high on the list.

### INCREASING OUR NUMBERS

First is to increase the number of participants in our net and activities. We welcome others who may live outside the city limits to take part. We have, over the last months, seen an increase in our net participation. We are very pleased with the recent nets with 40 + check-ins. Several of these are from other areas of the valley and from other clubs.

The first order of business for 2021 will be to locate and invite other licensed operators to join in our efforts. We will be sending out post cards to each FCC listed operator in the city and invite them to join with us. Those already associated with us, will also get a card to make you feel a part of the effort. We encourage you to talk to your neighbors and friends to help find other ham's in your circle.

### ARRL AFFILIATION

We are going to make application to ARRL to become an official ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB. This will give us some distinct advantages and notoriety by giving us solid alignment to the nationwide organization of ham radio. We will then be able to display on our website, newsletter and other club documents the official logo as shown here.



### TRAINING

We are assembling a training subject list and schedule for the upcoming year. We will be asking many of you to begin taking part in presenting training (net and/or in-person meeting) for our club and members. The list will include many ham radio subjects as well as topics requested by you.

Training does not have to be too lengthy or extremely technical in order to be affective. Net training should be 3-4 minutes in length and give enough content to "tweak someone's interest" in the subject. In-person meeting training will of course, be a little longer [20-30 minutes] and should at least contain a good basic description of the subject. A higher level of training can be presented

as desired by the presenter. We can have more than one subject in our in-person meetings. Once presented, you and others can work together to learn more.

## **SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT?**

What topics, activities, programs and social events would you like to see or volunteer to organize and participate in during 2021? The key word here is “participate”. In order for our club to move forward and have meaningful training, activities, and meetings, we need each of you to bring your skills and talents to the table. Actively taking part is the best way of learning.

Successful clubs all over the country will tell you it is member participation that makes the difference. When you give your input and then take part in the task at hand, you will enhance the experience for all.

Send your input to our club email address [taylorsville.hamnet@gmail.com](mailto:taylorsville.hamnet@gmail.com) or through the contact page on our website.

Website address is [www.taylorsvillehamnet.org](http://www.taylorsvillehamnet.org)

Direct form address is <https://www.taylorsvillehamnet.org/contact-us.html>

73

Taylorsville Amateur Radio Club Officers

Troy, N4HAM

Kelli, K7KDP

Gary, AG7PY

Rulon, K7BTU