

# THE SIGNAL

Tulsa Repeater Organization

TRO's Official Monthly Newsletter

Volume 45 Issue 8

July/August 2012

#### Is Amateur Radio Too Focused on EmComm?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup, a Yahoo Group mailing list for anyone looking for help with anything related to amateur radio, one ham asked "Over lunch today I read the September issue of QST, which is heavily EmComm oriented. The articles were interesting, but the oped piece on page 98 seemed a little over the top to me...Has this focus of this intensity always been a part of ham radio and I just wasn't expecting it? How has it evolved over the years?"

To answer the question, another replied by posting Section 97.1, namely the principles behind the amateur radio service:

Sec. 97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary non-commercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to con-

tribute to the advancement of the radio art.

- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

He went on to say, "I think that 97.1 (a) addresses your question."

I like that reply a lot. First, it shows that providing emergency and public-service communications has been a part of amateur radio since its beginnings. Some hams are extremely focused on this, and I applaud them. In my opinion, the piece referred to in the latest QST was not over the top.

I think, however, that some hams do sometimes go overboard on emcomm, and act as if it's the only reason that ham radio exists. It's not. As you can see, the rules describe five different "purposes" for amateur radio. Emcomm might be the first, but it's only one of five. We

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#### FROM THE EDITOR

# Want to be published?

Send in your ham radio related articles. Without your contributions the newsletter would be blank.

Charles Sharpe— NE3M

#### **MEETINGS**

The next TRO
meeting will be
Tuesday,
August 28th
starting at 1930
at
Tally's Good
Food Cafe
1102 S Yale



#### PREZ SAYS BY STAN CALLAHAN—KE5HPB

#### July:

I hope everyone had a great, safe 4th of July. Field Day is now in the history books, Thanks to everyone that helped out and came out to

field day. Fox 23 news came out to interview and film our event. Dan Threlkeld form KJRH Channel 2 weather also came out to participate and learned a little more on ham radios. Dan is new to ham radios.

Looking ahead we will have Dam Jam in early September and the M. S. 150 ride is also in September. My last meeting with the M. S. committee is early August. If you plan to work on that event, I need to know who is working so I can get the room reservations in for the overnight stays. All expenses are covered or reimbursed by M.S.

At our July meeting we will have Carrie Suns of the Tulsa Co Health Dept speaking to us about the OKMRC, including emergency preparedness and events. The role of Ham radios operators in the MRC.

By the July meeting we hope to good news on some tower space. Steve and Merlin will have more on this.

Looking way ahead on the calendar in the month of December, Christmas is on the 4th Tuesday of December, when we would have our meeting, and New Year's is also on the following Tuesday. Think about when you would like to have the Christmas party meeting and let me know what's up.

#### August:

This has turned into another record breaking summer! Heat breaking records & the second hottest summer. Much of our area has been scorched by the recent wildfires with over 200 homes lost and counting. This heat wave start-

ed on the last day of field day.

Improvements are being made to the 146.88 system, with a tower in Keetonville. Soon we will have a new home for the .94 machine in the downtown area. We are waiting on legal paperwork to be finished. Very soon more improvements and upgrades coming to other units as well. If I were a [politician I would take all the credit, BUT I'm not and I won't. There are others whom are responsible, like Merlin, Ben, Mark, Steve just to name a few. I don't know who all the players are! But thank you to all whom has hands in this.

Looking ahead on the calendar we have Dam Jam on September 8. This is a one day event in Pryor. Fuel cost will be refunded that day with receipts. One week later is the M. S. Ride from Tulsa to OKC. This will happen on September 15/16. We will meet on Sept 15, Saturday, around 5am on 2nd street at the Hyatt Hotel before the event. We will have breakfast and pre-event meeting to get assignments and paperwork in order. This year we will have ops a little different than in past. NCO will be handled by multiple operators at different times as so we are all on the move through-out the day. We will leap frog ops along the course. Day 2 course is different this year. We should not have the communication problems that we had last year (we hope).

Mark your calendar on Dec. 18 will be the TRO Christmas party/meeting. This is a little earlier this year but because Christmas is on the fourth Tuesday of the month and there was no other way without not having a meeting.

Stay cool and Say safe for the rest of the summer.



#### VICE PREZ SAYS BY JOE GORKOS N5TEX

#### July

Field Day weekend was just as promised, hot, hot, and hot. Many radio amateurs came by to either partici-

pate or just for the fellowship. Set up went pretty smooth, and this year TARC did not put up their wiggling noodle of an antenna saving us from the challenge of getting it up in the air. Ben WB5VST brought his command vehicle and set up the ARRL go Kit for HF. Stan KE5HPB cooked up another good breakfast for all.

As reported in the West Coast July Newsletter: Director Woolweaver spent the weekend in Oklahoma, exploring eight (8)Field Day sites with OK SM Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW. Making their way to Tulsa, Woolweaver and O'Dell found the Tulsa Repeater Organization/Tulsa ARC operating in full force at Chandler Park. The club brought their new ARRL provided HF Go Kit to insure it

was ready to go in the event of emergency. TRO/TARC, had a large number of operators actively making contacts. The food was very good again this year as in the past.

This month's meeting Stan will have Carrie Suns, from the Tulsa Health Dept. speaking on the OKMRC it functions and duties. The meeting will be Tuesday July 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, at Talley's Good Food Café. Hope to see you there. Joe, N5TEX 73's......

#### August

This time of the year there are a lot of activities associated with Ham radio going on it could make your head swim in circles figuring what is next on the list to do. There are bike races, marathons, fund raisers, Ham fest, radio contests and other club activities. All of this is training and volunteering to prepare for real priority communications needed in an emergency.

Which brings me to this pointed question, how well are you prepared? When is the last time you checked out your gear? Example; some of you may have a generator, when is the last time you have fired it up, and were operating off of it? Better yet when is the last time you changed plugs or changed the oil in that generator? And what about all the connectors from the power and the cords, are they in good shape? Oh you have batteries and are they fully charge and clear of any corrosion, not sure you say. This is a good time to make sure maintenance is performed and you are ready for the next big activity. Nothing more aggravating then having a loose or poorly connected antenna on the mobile, enough to cause one to say some foul words when out on location and cannot communicate without their signal breaking up. Is your "Go BAG" fully prepped for service or have you used some stuff from it and not replenished it from the last outing.

This past month I was having a serious noise issue on 40 meters making it difficult to hear everyone on the Sunday afternoon ARES net. By installing wire loop antenna cut for 40 meters in a horizontal axis (even though the antenna design called for it to be either a sloper or vertical mount), resolved the issue. What I missed on the original loop antenna install was not being grounded, causing higher than normal noise to enter through the antenna.

No matter what activity you are helping with be prepared check everything out before deploying to the field. As part of the team on a marathon or race you need to come ready to operate. Enjoy the fun of operating and being part of the team by helping out at some of these events. Just be prepared.

#### MEETING MINUTES BY ED COMPOS—K5CRQ



# Board meeting notes: TRO BOARD MEETING 04-24-2012

TRO NEWSLETTER 7-24-2012

Meeting called to order by Stan Callahan KE5HPB at Talley at 19:30 hrs on 7-24-2012.

Introductions were made of people present and Stan KE5HPB introduced Kari Suns representing the Tulsa City/County Heath Department and the Medical Reserve Corps.

She gave a good talk on what the MRC does and how you can assist them by becoming a Volunteer. And passed out some pamphlets. You don't have to be a medical person to join the have many jobs that you can help with. Check it out online at WWW.OKMRC.ORG

There was no report from the treasurer and no minutes from Ed Compos K5CRQ.

Field Day went well and everyone who attended had a good time. Food wad good as always.

Activities coming up ate the Dam Jam Sept 8,2012 they need operators contact Mike Orange.

MS150 is Sept 15 and 16 Tulsa to Oklahoma City they also need operators contact Tom Stroud KD5OPH or Stan KE5HPB.

GPS/APRS . Ben Joplin WB5VST has finished 2 more units and they are operational. Good Job Ben.

Meeting closed at 2100 hrs after a motion by Ben WB5VST and second by Ed K5CRQ.

#### FROM THE EDITOR BY CHARLES SHARPE NE3M



Fellow members, First let me apologize for the lack of a July only Signal. What do you want to see in the next issue? What do you want to see in your Signal? Are there any special topics you want to include? Do any of you have an special interests you would like to show off. Send your articles to me @ csharpe3@gmail.com. I'll get as many as I can in the next few issues.





ARES/RACES Net Tuesday evenings at 2030 local time on the 146.88 repeater with back-up on 146.94

Op Standards With Ben Joplin, WB5VST

More next month

#### TRUSTEE'S CORNER—MERLIN GRIFFIN WB5OSM

Isn't it strange how we go out of town to run into people we know. I went to Texas Ham-Comm in Plano, Tx this year, first time in a long time.

- 1. To sit in on the Texas VHF-FM Society's board meeting. (They handle repeater frequency coordination in Texas.)
- 2. To spread around flyers for the next Green Country Hamfest coming March 8-9 2013. (I'll unashamedly put in a plug for that.)

I ran into Bob W5RAB (Bartlesville) and Joe WA5VMS (Muskogee). They gave me information about potential space on a 200 ft. Tower a few miles due west of Claremore, on a nice hill. I used to live out there, I knew exactly of where they spoke. We now have approval to put some equipment out there. It looks like we will start with a remote receiver for the 88 machine. There are a couple of other commercial VHF systems out there, with their antennas very close to the one we will use. One is Limestone Fire Protection District, and I am not sure who the other is. There will also be a VHF APRS node, I think Bob said at 150'. So we will monitor and see if this creates any problems before we commit anything else. They have supplied a DB-224 with feedline already in place, and added a UHF Yagi at 70 feet with feedline in place for our use, and a six foot cabinet for the equipment. All the equipment is properly grounded and the feedlines have Polyphasers installed for lightning suppression.

We will not be able to place the 94 repeater out there, the Kansas and Arkansas frequency coordinators both said we would be too close to repeaters in Pittsburgh, KS. and Ft. Smith AR. I started out in ham radio out there, and I

am very familiar with the Pittsburgh 94 machine. It boomed in most days. I could pick it up on an antenna setting on my ham-shack floor

#### **UPDATE ON THIS:**

The equipment for a link receiver for 146.88 has already been installed out there, thanks to Bob W5RAB. He found the CAT 200B controller was not working properly, and installed a simple repeater control board he had laying around his shack. The next step in this process is to get a working UHF link receiver back up and running at the main transmitter site on the 59th floor of City-Plex Tower. Steve AA5V, and Ed K5CRQ are working on that part of the project.

The tower belongs to Muskogee Communications, and the two other VHF tenants up there are Limestone Fire Protection District that operates in that area serving portions of rural Owasso, Collinsville, and Claremore. Then Med-Tec Ambulance service out of Claremore. I think Muskogee Communications has some stuff operating up on UHF for themselves. My calculations show that our receiver antenna is around 380 ft. above average terrain, slightly favoring due south. As of right now TRO is undecided as to what if anything else we will use that site for. We also have an offer of a downtown Tulsa site that may be useful for the 94 repeater.

73 DE WB5OSM Merlin

#### TRUSTEE'S CORNER—MERLIN GRIFFIN WB5OSM

**TEST SESSIONS**-We did have a July test session, and there were three applicants. Typical of our semi-monthly test session everybody walked out with what they came for.

Charles Burka KE5HHE upgraded to General

Tina Westfall and Keith Engle passed the Technician Class Exam and are now new hams.

If you run into any of these folks on the air, please congratulate them on their achievement.

The VE Team was Eli W5PPD, John KC4URD, Merlin WB5OSM, and we welcomed a new VE, Mark KE5LIB.

#### **GREEN COUNTRY HAM**

The Green Country Hamfest Committee kicked off their new fiscal year with a meeting held at Rib Crib 81st and Yale on August 9. We know the next Green Country Hamfest will be March 8-9 2013 back at Claremore Expo Center. Admission and table prices remain the same as last year.

Admission \$8.00 in advance, \$10.00 at the door.

Tables \$10.00 in advance, \$15.00 at the door.

Commercial Booth space \$50.00 includes admission. Electrical Connections \$25.00 for commercial vendors. We did have to make a slight price increase there. Expo Center has increased the cost of providing electricity to the point we could not absorb the increase.

Electrical service to flea market tables, will be very limited and flea market vendors will need to call Richie W5OKL or me and discuss it.

The deal on this is that Expo Center charges us a substantial fee just to set up an electrical distribution box, then charges us a fee for every cord they see plugged into it. So we are hoping to avoid setting up any distro boxes this year, and if we do use just one, and all flea marketers that need electricity will probably be back in the north-east corner of the arena. However, that's a good area, since you would be near the huge and popular display from WBOW.

We also have confirmed that a new commercial vendor will be with us this year, MTC out of Paris Texas, has committed to us. Also the makers of Ham-Stick antennas has expressed interest in being part of this years show.

Other items discussed: Possible improvements for the web-site, and we are looking into going back to Justice Golf Carts to rent the golf carts this year. Last year we used ones provided by Expo Center themselves, and one was broke down, and one didn't run very well. Justice will probably be a little more expensive, but they've always provided a good product. The one year when we had problems with one of their carts they just cancelled the entire bill. How's that for service? We also will get billing more than likely as the ARRL Oklahoma Section Convention. The exciting news is we are being considered for the 2014 ARRL West Gulf Division Convention. The Hamfest Committee will convene again September 13, 2012 back at Rib Crib 81st and Yale. Official meeting start time is 7:00 PM, come early if plan to eat. Any interested person is welcome to attend an participate.

73 DE WB5OSM Merlin

#### ENGINEERING REPORT FROM STEVE MILLER—AA5V

Note from the Editor. Steve is on vacation. As the deadline gets closer I have to run with what I have. But don't worry, Steve will update us all after he gets back and I will place that in the Sept. version

### **Tuesday Night Meeeting Agenda**

Opening and Intros;

Minutes - Ed

Treas. - Gary

V. P. Report - Joe

**Engineering** - Steve (if he's back from vacation), Merlin, on Keetonville, Ben, update on Autum Oaks?

P.R. - Charles - Out of Town.

Activites - Tom / Stan

DamJam Sept 8

M. S. Ride Sept 15/16

????

Old Biz - Christmas/Dec Meeting December 18

**New Biz** 

Close meeting

Training - Joe -?

F	requency Rev/Xmt	Location	PL	Status
1	46.940/146.340		none	Down
1	46.880/146.280	Cityplex	141.3	Down
1	46.880/146.280	Skiatook	88.5	Up
1	46.805/146.205		none	Up
4	144.100/449.100	Temp - WB5OSM	88.5	Up
4	44.725/449.725		88.5	Up
4	44.950/449.950		none	Up
4	34.250/421.250	ATV	none	Up

#### Activities Chairman—Tom Stroud KD5OPH



Thank you for all of your support toward the TRO activities without your help none of this would be possible. We are fixing to enter back into an active time for event activities. Here are some dates and details that you as a supportive

communication volunteer will need to know and please note we are in need of your help for all of them. Ok let's get started September 8th we will be at the 21st annual Dam Jam in Pryor Oklahoma that will be on a Saturday starting at 6 am. We will meet in the Pryor Park and assignments will be conveyed at the safety meeting we are in need of Rest Stop, SAG, Safety, and Sweep responsibilities. Should last most of the day covering around 100 miles you may drive up to 150 miles in support of the event Fuel, will be reimbursed and a lunch will be provided Dam Jam is a fun event to work and it covers some awesome country in eastern Oklahoma I am happy to support Jim Beach in this Grate bike riding event. Next Up September 15th through the 16th will be our MS Bike 150, (see maps on page 7) this event will kick off Saturday morning on the 15th at the Hyatt Hotel. Stan Callahan will be the ring leader on this one with 6 events to keep up with through the year I have had to let some things be covered by others and Stan has Become very active with bike MS 150 as it a personal endeavor for him for he has family that is effected with this dreaded disease, never step in the way of someone wanting to work that's what I say. I will help him in any way possible. I like being control of things so it will take some adjustment. don't worry though I will be out on the route on the radio as the NCO. Ben Joplin has been working diligently to improve our ARPS capabilities for these events I have heard grate comments from committee members on his work with APRS "thanks Ben". After a full day on the road we will settle down to a good meal and they put quite a spread on to include Ribs, Brisket, Chicken and Stake, with all the fixing. Latter they will have a dance and party for all the Bike riders it will be a fun

night for all and you can be part of it for helping out. Sunday morning things kick back off with a pancake breakfast and back on the road for a full day of activities this event can be a nice little many vacation for you and the wife if you would like to bring her along. equipment needed your 2 meter will work just fine a handheld and mobile for the main talk box. A good antenna fully tested and ready to go will help make things go smoother. Ben will set you up with APRS so we can keep track of everyone you don't want to miss out on this one so come have some fun for a good cause at Bike MS 150.

See You There!

Other Dates and Activities:

September 22nd - we are need of 2 0r 3 to take HAM Radio to the boy Scouts at Fall Festival 2012 you expect up to 500 Scouts and family. lunch will be provided and power for the Public relations Booth / Table.

November 17 and 18 - we will need communication volunteers for the Williams Route 66 Marathon you can expect up to 20,000 runners for this event and our responsibilities to include medical golf cart communication.

Addition information can be found on our Face-book Page and main page.

#### **Meeting about Fall Festival**

Hello fellow Fall Festival helpers,

First of all, I want to thank you and/or your company, Scout Pack, Troop or Crew for participating in Indian Nations Council's Fall Festival for 2012. We hope to show the Tulsa, Broken Arrow and Oklahoma residents what being a scout is and how much fun it can be while you are still learning values, morals, and life skills.

There will be a Fall Festival meeting for ALL participating and the council committee on Thursday August 23rd at Jack Graves Outdoor Education Center. Time will be 7:00pm. Please have your Fall Festival contact and/or your set up person in attendance at this meeting. We will be hosting a

need to keep in mind the other four as well. I Cont EmComm—personally like (e), and would like to see amateur radio actually do more to promote international good will.

What do you think?

When he's not pondering the place of emergency communications in amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU, writes books about ham radio. He is currently feverishly trying to finish the No-Nonsense Extra Class License Guide. You can read excerpts from this upcoming book on his website, http://www.kb6nu.com/. You can e-mail him with comments, questions, compliments, or brickbats at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

**Cont Festival**—general meeting with information on set up dates and times and confirming special requests for camp assignments.

Here is a link to the directions to Jack Graves Scout Reservation - http://www.okscouts.org/camping/graves/directions-to-camp-russell/. We will be in the Outdoor Education Center (in front of the pond) at Outer Limits which is closer to the NSU campus. If you need a street address for NAVIgation, use NSU's address at 3100 E New Orleans and that will get you next door.

If you have any questions, please contact me. My information is below.

Thank you again and I'll see you on Thursday August 23rd at 7:00pm.

Vickie Dahnke

#### Letter from Jim Beach KE5URF about DAM J.A.M

This may be a repeat message for some of you but I want to make sure those of you on my "inside list" of hams who regularly support DAM J.A.M. and Tulsa Tough are aware that the 21st edition of DAM J.A.M. is Saturday, September 8, in Pryor, Oklahoma.

We need 6 or so radio amateurs to drive SAG and 4-6 to work stationary safety check points. If you can help, please let Tom Stroud or me know by reply to this email. No need to reply again if you already let me know.

Attached is a draft map of the "Whole DAM J.A.M." century route. Please take a look and let me know if you think it will be easier to work with than what we've had in the past, or if it needs more work. I plan to have final maps this week. There will be a separate, similar map for each of the four routes. All will be available as hard copies and online.

Also, you should know, I had a nice conversation yesterday with Ken Duncan WB5Y. He assures

me we are clear to use the Mayes County repeater 147.060 for the event. Ken will work on getting it announced on MCARC's net on Thursday evenings and I will make an effort to check in and announce it too. Ken asked that if anyone who isn't aware tries to use the repeater during our event Saturday that we courteously yield to them for a quick contact so they can get their traffic done or arrange to go to another frequency. I promised him we would.

Do any of you have a contact for the Rose repeater 146.985? Parts of our routes out east around Eucha and Jay may have trouble hitting the 060 machine.

Feel free to pass this along to anyone you think might want to come play.

73

Jim Beach KE5URF

**Road Painter** 

damjamjim@gmail.com

### AREA AMATEUR RADIO TESTING

#### When:

Start @ 7:00 P.M.

Third Thursday of odd numbered months.

Red Cross building at 11th & 169.

Tulsa Area Chapter 10151 East 11th Street Tulsa, OK 74128

#### Contact:

Merlin Griffin Phone: 520-7668

Email: wb5osm@hotmail.com

#### When:

First or Second Saturday of ODD numbered months for 2012

January 7th March 3th May 5th July 7th

September 8th (subject to change) November 3th

From 0930 to 1100 AM. Walk-ins Welcome Until 10:00 am

Hardesty Regional Library VE Group (ARRL)

#### Where:

Hardesty Regional Library 8316 E 93rd Street Tulsa, OK 74133

#### Contact:

Loyd - AE5MM Phone: 918.638.2393 (text msg or voice)

Email: ae5mm@arrl.net

#### When:

Second Saturday of even numbered months

Start at 9:30 A.M. Walk-ins Welcome

#### By:

#### Where:

Broken Arrow Church of Christ 505 E Kenosha Street Broken Arrow, OK 74012

#### Contact:

Don Doyle AC5II Phone: 379-0962 Email: ac5ll@arrl.net

#### When:

Last Saturday of even numbered months

Start at 10:00 A.M.

All testing by appointment ONLY.

#### Where:

Martin East Regional Library 2601 S. Garnett Rd. Tulsa, OK 74129

#### Contact:

John K5ENA

Phone: 918.346.8284 Email: K5ENA@cox.net

#### THE TRO WISHES TO THANK THESE SUPPORTERS

Tower Properties (CityPlex) Tulsa Tech College Bates Realty City Of Tulsa City of Skiatook Liberty Fire Department















### AREA AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dates	Event	Need	Info	
Sept 8th	Dam J.A.M			
		Rest Stop, SAG, Safety, and Sweep responsibilities.	Meet at Pryor Park @ 6am	
Sept 15th &				
16th	MS-150			
		SAG, Safety, and Sweep responsibilities.	Meet at Hyatt Tulsa @ 6am	
Sept 22nd	Fall Festival			
		Public relations Booth / Table.	Contact Tom Stroud	
Nov 17th &				
18th	Route 66	Medical golf cart communication, Safety, and Sweep re-		
	Marathon	sponsibilities.	Contact Tom Stroud	



P.O. Box 1422 Tulsa, OK 74101

Mail To:

## For more information about the TRO visit www.tulsahamradio.org

Want more information about the *Tulsa Repeater Organization* or have questions about articles in the newsletter, contact us at email address <u>wa5lvt@tulsahamradio.net</u> or write to:

#### Tulsa Repeater Organization

P.O. Box 1422 TULSA, OK 74101-1422

#### TRO officer contact information:

President	Stan Callahan	KE5HPB	918.381.9990	KE5HPB@tulsahamradio.org
Vice-President	Joe Gorkos	N5TEX	918.230.8243	N5TEX@tulsahamradio.org
Secretary	Ed Compos	K5CRQ	918.231.7730	k5crq@cox.net
Treasurer	Gary Parham	KC5ZQP	918.369.1055	kc5zqp@aol.com
Trustee	Merlin Griffin	WB5OSM	918.520.7668	wb5osm@hotmail.com

#### **Committee Chairperson contact information:**

Membership	Joyce Callahan			joyce@tulsahamradio.org
Activities	Tom Stroud	KD5OPH	918.695.3735	kd5oph@tulsahamradio.org
Engineering	Steve Miller	AA5V	918.381.8574	steve@aa5v.com
Public Rel.	Charles Sharpe	NE3M	918.630.3636	K5CED@tulsahamradio.org
Op Standards	Ben Joplin	WB5VST	918.396.1651	wb5vst@tulsahamradio.org
By-Laws	Bud Blust	WA5QDZ	918.747.3704	debtfree@ionet.net
Past Pres.	Mark Conklin	N7XYO	918.366.2007	n7xyo@arrl.net