

ON THE BEAM

Inside ON THE BEAM

1. From our president

2. Wyoming State Hamfest

Its May...State Hamfest is Here, Banquet speaker named, Hamfest committee meeting, Hamfest committee shirts.

3. Technical committee

Technical committee report

4. Section manager

Section News from our Section Manager

5. Members

TNC Project, Field Days, Field Days Needs A Committee Chairman, Ambulance, Welcome New Members, Letter of appreciation from Greg (KB7MUP), Spotter Tips, WARS, Hunting The Airways, Cheyenne Area Hams, Hams and Flies, Emergency Batteries, Shy Wy Net, Protect Your Shack, Repeaters Are Open Repeaters, General Scott, Club Dues, Tuesday Lunches, From The Editor

Shy Wy Officers

President-Steve Cochrane

Vice President-Marty Luna

Secretary-Beth Harris

Treasurer-Pat Baird

May meeting location changed

Shy Wy will hold its May meeting at the American Legion Post No. 6, 2001 E. Lincoln Way on May 14 at 7 p.m.. The meeting room is in the east side of the building. There is handicapped parking, ramp, and entry on the west side of the building.

1. From our president

The Hamfest is just around the corner. Everything is progressing as planned and it looks like it's going to be a great time, thanks to the hard work of the Hamfest committee.

The Club is in need of a Chairman

and committee members for Field Day. Field Day is the last full weekend in June and is traditionally a club activity. We sure need someone to step up and take on this project. How about some of the newer folks taking this one on and that way maybe there will be some new ideas and enthusiasm. I will not be here for the May Meeting so talk to Marty, KJ7JJ, if you want to have Field day. Also, don't forget the Club meeting will be at the American Legion on Lincolnway on the 14th at 7 P.M... Please give me your thoughts on this trial meeting place. Have a great month and Happy Mothers Day!!
Steve, WA7H.

2. Wyoming State Hamfest

It's May...State Hamfest is Here

May 25 and 26 are the dates for the Wyoming State Hamfest. The Holiday Inn is the location. Advanced registrations are coming in from a three state area. The hamfest committees are saying they are ready, so let the fun begin.

Banquet speaker named

The person who will speak at our hamfest is Thomas E. Nelson, N0GQA. Tom is an associate Scientist with ASTeR, Inc., working on the Sprites '96 project. He is a forensic meteorologist.

His talk will be on lightning, lighting safety and Sprites. Sprites are very long lightning blasts that travel almost 100 miles. Ham radio operators can use sprites to communicate with others similar to using meteor bounce or scatter.

Hamfest committee meeting

The next hamfest committee meeting

will be held immediately following the Shy Wy Club meeting on May 14.

Hamfest committee shirts

Susan Parkins KC7DDP is asking all hamfest committee members to bring their money for their share of the committee shirts to the May Shy Wy meeting. Your share of the cost of the shirt is \$7-\$8 depending on the sizes of the shirts.

3. The technical committee

Technical Committee Report

Greg (KB7MUP), the technical committee chairman, has been working hard on our equipment and gives us the following report:

146.775: I have installed a bandpass filter on this machine and put in an additional ground cable. We'll have to give it a bit more time to see just how effective this will be in reducing our intermod problems. I have been unsuccessful in obtaining a copy of the service manual for this machine. It looks like the club will have to buy the manual from Spectrum.

147.105: This machine is in need of a bit of work. The antenna is missing a couple of radials and the annoying squelch tail has got to go. I have obtained a replacement cabinet to house this shoestring repeater. In case you were unaware, this is a home-brew repeater made from a couple of old Harris mobiles. The duplexers are even home-brew and that says a lot for the resourcefulness of previous club members! Look for this machine to go off the air for repairs in the early summer months. A site cleanup will be scheduled when I get the time to "rebuild" this reliable machine.

147.165: It's on the bench. (Sort of like "The check's in the mail" -HI!) This repeater is another D-I-Y repeater. It consists of two Motorola Micor 100 watt mobile radios the club obtained from the sheriffs office (150.174 Mhz). I traded these two

mobiles for two others (also Micors) that operate from 136-150 Mhz. They have been retuned and are ready to go. The cabinet has been painted and installation is underway. Now if I could only find a manual for the S-Com 6K controller..... I hope to have this on the air by the time you read this newsletter.

Soap Box: The club repeaters are not being used enough. Your club dues maintain these repeaters. SO USE EM! They are there to provide a service to you, the city and the county. Both the 146.775 and the 147.105 have phone patch capability. The phone patch is one of the privileges of club membership.

4. From our section manager

Section News from our Section Manager

Rev Morton (WS7W), our Section Manager sent the **ON THE BEAM** the following newsletter: "It is three weeks away but I would like to thank Steve Cochrane, WA7H, and the SHY-WY A.R.C. for putting together the Wyoming State Hamfest this year. State Hamfests take a lot of planning and work and it is quite obvious that SHY-WY has done what is necessary to host a first rate Hamfest. On behalf of the hams in Wyoming thank you all very much. I will have more info on the Hamfest in next month's column. The 64th Annual W.I.M.U. will be held August 2-4 in Park City, Utah. If you need info concerning W.I.M.U. please call Duane Anderson KJ7HO at (801)288-1859. I tip my hat once again to the Cedar Mountain A.R.C. in Cody. As of April 30, they had 75 paid members which is one of, if not the largest clubs in Wyoming. Considering the size of Cody, this is a very impressive number. Don't forget the Willow Park gathering on August 8-11. For additional info call Bob N7LKH at (307)527-7758. With summer upon us, so is our severe weather, so stay up to date with your SKY-WARN training and your local A.R.E.S. activities. 73's es DX Rev WS7W."

5. Members

TNC Project

Steve (WA7H) has received all of the parts for the IMP TNC. Total cost to you for the TNC is \$16. You can get a check to Pat Baird (N7SDI) and pick up the TNC from Steve. Checks should be made out to Shy Wy Radio Club.

Field Days

The last weekend in June is traditionally Field Day weekend. This is a national amateur radio event. The primary purpose is to test out communications in emergency situations. The main format of Field Days is to set up your equipment and determine its functional effectiveness. Rigs and antennas are setup as if you no longer have that nice shack to operate out of. (I guess that term field is appropriate). Contacts are made throughout a 24 hour period with other field sites. Some groups get into a contest mode, trying to get as many contacts as they can, and other groups just enjoy the comradeship with their fellow hams, testing their equipment, themselves in emergency field conditions and enjoying a good outing.

Field Days Needs A Committee Chairman

Steve (WA7H) is asking for someone to step forward and be this years Field Day Committee Chairman. This years chairman and his committee can choose the field day site and the format for field days. **If we cannot come up with a chairman and a committee, Shy WY's Field Days for 1996 will be canceled.**

Ambulance

The ambulance project is on temporary hold because the ambulance service is going to be turning in an ambulance that is currently in service until August of this year. This one is in better shape than the older one and might be of better use for the Club as an emergency communications vehicle.

Weclome New Members

Shy Wy would like to welcome its new members. Old members (I am not talking about your chronological age..hi) take time to introduce yourself and welcome our new members. Shy Wy is a group of people with a common interest of being licensed amateur radio operators. However, all of us bring with us our individual interests. Many interest groups have been formed within the Club. Your interests are important. If the Club does not have a group going that satisfies your interest, let it be known and a new interest group could be formed. There are others in the Club who probably share your interests.

Letter of appreciation from Greg (KB7MUP)

APPRECIATION: Most of you are aware that I recently suffered a lightening strike. Needless to say, several pieces of equipment ceased to function as originally

intended. Believe it or not there can be a good side to such a misfortune. That good side was the many offers of equipment that you extend to me. Power supplies, computers, TNCs and radios were offered up for loan to me by many Hams. Thank you all for you generosity.

Spotter Tips

Severe weather season is rapidly approaching ol' Cheyenne and it is time to think about being prepared for severe weather. Spotter's classes were held in April for those individuals who are interests in being Skywarn spotters. They were trained on severe weather identification, what to report to the Skywarn net, and their personal preparations for these situations. *Are you personally prepared???*
Have you checked out your rigs?
Do you keep your batteries charged up so that your rig is ready for an emergency?
Do you have spare charged batteries?
Do you have an emergency plan for your family in case you get separated with family members in a disaster situation?

SKYWARN trained individuals know what constitutes severe weather and for what they are looking. The following is a brief summary of severe weather observations that trained Skywarn spotters report. They are:

- WHAT you have seen.
- WHERE you saw it.
- WHEN you saw it.
- WHAT it was doing

They identify themselves (name and call sign) and their location.

Sky warn control operators want information about severe weather that meet the following criteria.

What to report!!!

1. Tornado, funnel cloud, waterspout, or wall cloud.
2. Hail, 3/4 inch or larger (3/4 inch is the size of a dime).
3. Damaging Winds (usually 50 mph or greater).
4. Flash Flooding
5. Rain, (rate of 1 inch per hour or more).

If you missed this session and are interested in Skywarn training so that you can be a trained observer, contact Joe Sullivan at the NWS and see if he has any other training sessions that you may attend this year.

WARS

The 146.820 machine (WARS) is up and running. It is linked back into the HERC system again. It is a very valuable connection between Cheyenne and the State and has been used many times for emergency communications around the state and has been important to motorists with problems. If you use this repeater, please consider joining WARS and give them your support. The annual dues are \$15, or \$20 if you also use the packet nodes . Greg (KB7MUP), or Tom (WA7MAL) will be glad to take your dues for WARS membership.

Hunting The Airways

Have you made that rare contact lately? If so, let us know about it and we will share with the rest of the Club. Give us the call sign, location, and a few details about the QSO.

Cheyenne Area Hams

The April edition of **ON THE BEAM** went out to all of the licensed ham operators in the Cheyenne area. It is interesting to note that there are currently 297 licensed hams in the Cheyenne area.

Hams and Flies

No, this is not a gourmet receipt. Club members have just completed a three session course on the basics of fly tying, basic fly tying equipment, rod selection, tapered leader construction and fly casting. Thanks to Hal (KA7USG), who has taught fly tying for many years at Laramie County Community College, for giving his time and talent in conducting this mini-course. We all enjoyed this new hobby.

Emergency Batteries

Emergency batteries will be available to members of Shy Wy at the next club meeting. They will be given out to club members who are ARES/RACES members.

Shy Wy Net

The Shy Wy Net operates every Sunday morning at 11:00 on 146.775-. This net is run by GREG (KB7MUP) and is open to all hams. Discussion groups are held as well as a swap list. Greg would like to share the fun of being the control operator. He has put together a pamphlet with all of the information needed to be a

control operator. Please give Greg a breather and volunteer.

Protect Your Shack

Do you have your shack protected against those spring and summer thunderstorms? If you have not taken those precautions, you should have a heart to heart talk with Greg (KB7MUP) and Linda (KC7NGM). Thursday, 11 April was a disastrous day to say the least. The "airplane crash" the snow, sleet, hail, and last but not least, the early morning thunderstorm. Yes the thunderstorm. It was short lived, but it did it's damage at Greg and Linda's shack. Lightning struck an antenna on their house and wiped out their entire shack.

It raises these questions to all of us:

1. Do we have all of our equipment properly grounded?
2. Do we disconnect our antennas from the rigs when we are not using them?
3. Do we unplug all of the equipment from the electrical outlets when they are not in use?
4. Do we unplug the phone modem from the phone line when it is not in use?

True, it is a big pain to unplug everything whenever it is not in use, but in the spring and summer when those unexpected thunderstorms come up, it is a bigger pain to replace the whole shack. The KB7MUP/KC7NGM shack has not been the first of our members' shacks to be fried. *Let's hope it is the last.*

Repeaters Are Open Repeaters

Editor's note (I apologize for making the error of calling our beloved 146.775 repeater the 146.750 repeater in the last issue of **ON THE BEAM**. The repeater is 146.775-).

The 146.775-, 147.105+, and the 147.165+ repeaters are **open repeaters**. This means that any licensed ham operator can use these repeaters at any time. During Sky Warn and ARES/RACES activation the 146.775 repeater is the primary repeater and the 147.105 repeater is used as the secondary repeater.

General Scott

Congratulations to Scott Harris (KC7DVE/AG) for his upgrade to the General Class at the last VE testing session at the DOT.

Wilson Silner (WB7RRZ) announced that the next testing session at the DOT will be held on Saturday, July 13 at 9 a.m..

Club Dues

Club dues were due in April. Pat Baird forwarded the following information to me. Please note the changes from the last issue of **ON THE BEAM**. Pat says: "Here's the dues information out of the Bylaws. Annual dues \$15 per year. A spouse or child of any member may join for an additional \$5. Individual youth membership is available to individuals 17 years

of age or younger for\$7.50. Dues is due on the 1st day of April each year.

At the bottom of this page, you will find an application form.

Tuesday Lunches

Have lunch on Tuesdays between 11:30 and 1:30 with other hams at McDonalds on East Lincolnway.

All hams are welcome.

From The Editor

Thanks to all who have contributed to this month's **ON THE BEAM**. Your efforts in getting news articles to me is greatly appreciated. It's your news that makes this news letter interesting. If you have news for the newsletter or important dates for the calendar, please get that information to me at least one week before the club meetings.
TNX Bob AA7TB