



GRAM NEWS



Volume 42, No. 5

W2RCX

January 2004

January Meeting

The January meeting of GRAM will be held on Thursday, January 15th, 2004 at 7:30 PM. The meeting location will be at the Salvation Army in Batavia, 529 E. Main St.

This month's program will be the Club Auction. It is the club's preference that items up for auction be Amateur Radio related. Ten percent of the sales will go to the club. The auctioneer will be our own Pete Brundage, WB2CGF.

The Board of Directors and Club Officers met on 1/10/04 and will **not** meet prior to the General Membership meeting. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be on Thursday February 19th.

Ham of The Year

Ham of The Year for 2003 is Joan Brundage, KB2ZCE. Joan has been active in the club for several years. And is currently serving the club as Secretary. When you see Joan or talk to her on the air be sure to congratulate her on a job well done.

GRAM Christmas Party

The GRAM Christmas Party was held on Thursday December 18th 2003 at the Hamilton House at Terry Hills Golf Course. About 30 members attended the event. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Ham of The Year Award to Joan Brundage, KB2ZCE. A special thank you goes out to Don & Cheryl Yaxley, KB2QKE & KB2RFI, for organizing the event.

VE Results

GRAM sponsored a VE test session on Saturday December 6th 2003. Five candidates took part in the session, which resulted in two new Technician licensees. Welcome to the wonderful world of Amateur Radio. Thank you to Jim Canty, AA2XA, and his VE team for taking the time to hold the VE session. Stay tuned for the next GRAM VE session.

Welcome New Members

Please welcome to the club John Cheatham, KC2MHI & RobRoy McLean, KC2MHH. Make sure to say hello when you hear them on the air. Welcome to GRAM gentlemen !



Club Officers

President: Theodore Karpenko, KB2LXD

Vice-President: Brian Stricker, N2XNY

Secretary: Joan Brundage, KB2ZCE

Treasurer: Harold Hay, W2ABQ

Directors

2005: Jim Cochrane, KC2EZL

2005: Joe DeFazio, W2DIG

2004: Howard Flint, KC2EZJ

2004: Peter Brundage, WB2CGF

2004: Tom Rosica, W2GIR

Committee Chairs

Membership:	Harold Hay, W2ABQ
Program:	Open
Newsletter:	Brian Stricker N2XNY
Website:	Brian Stricker N2XNY
Publicity:	Tom Rosica W2GIR
Education:	Brian Stricker N2XNY
Christmas Party:	Don & Cheryl Yaxley KB2QKE & KB2RFI
Field Day:	Open
Picnic:	Open
Historian:	Open
Ways & Means	Harold Hay, W2ABQ

Committee Chairs (cont'd)

Hamfest:	Harold Hay W2ABQ
RFI:	Harold Hay W2ABQ
Equipment:	John Maha K2ZUT
Benevolence:	Joan Brundage KB2ZCE
Repeater:	Harold Hay W2ABQ
ARRL:	Dr. David Bell W2YCS
ARES/RACES:	Les Wilcox WA2GUP

Club Repeater

The club operates a 2m repeater, W2RCX, on 147.285 MHz with a + offset. The repeater control persons are:

Harold Hay W2ABQ
Howard Flint KC2EZJ
John Maha K2ZUT
Joe Defazio W2DIG

The GRAM Net is held on the club's repeater, W2RCX, on Thursday nights at 9:00PM. All amateurs with a technician class or higher license are invited to check in. This is an informal net. So come on and join in on the fun !

If the repeater is off the air, please tune to 147.285 MHz simplex and attempt to contact a repeater control person.

Name Badges

New members in good standing who have joined the club since 1999 and have not received a name badge from the club will be eligible to receive a name badge from the club at no cost to the member. If you meet these requirements please contact Howard Flint, KC2EZJ, Membership Chairperson, to request your name badge. The deadline to request your badge will be the GRAM meeting on March 18th.

The name badge will have your name, call, ARRL logo and will identify you as a member of GRAM. The badge will also keep in the tradition of a white badge with blue lettering.

Computer Corner

This month let's talk about LINUX. LINUX is an alternative operating system that is like UNIX. LINUX is open source software, which means that the underlying software code is available to everyone. LINUX is generally used as a network operating system in the corporate and academic world. The GRAM website runs on a LINUX server. However, there are versions that are for the desktop computer, the types of computers that consumers use.

LINUX like UNIX and good old DOS are character based operating systems. Which means that you have to type in commands as opposed to clicking on an icon to get the computer to do anything. So why is LINUX gaining in popularity? The main thing is the cost. LINUX can be legally downloaded for free. Or available on CD ROM for a reasonable price. There are also graphical user interfaces (GUI) available for LINUX, that make it easier to use than remembering commands.

What holds LINUX back at this point is the installation and software/hardware availability. The installation can be difficult and if you download it for free, tech support may not be available. Also, the software that you are accustomed to running in Windows may not be available for LINUX. The same goes for hardware.

However, if you are up to the challenge and have an old PC sitting around doing nothing(DO NOT USE YOUR EVERYDAY COMPUTER TO EXPERIMENT WITH !) why not give LINUX a try. This falls into in the HAM tradition of experimenting & tinkering.

There are also HAM radio applications for LINUX. For more information, check out the ARRL Website, <http://www.arrl.org>. There is a feature called surfin' that has been three recent articles on LINUX and HAM radio.

Editors Note

If you have an article that you would like to submit to GRAM NEWS, please submit them via e-mail. My e-mail address is: N2XNY@yahoo.com. I understand that not everyone has e-mail, so you can also send submissions to:

GRAM Radio Club
PO Box 572
Batavia, NY 14021-0572

Program Chairperson Needed

After many, many years, Tom Rosica is stepping down as the Program Chairperson. Many thanks go out to Tom for a job well done. As such, the Program Chairperson position is open to any member of the club. If you are interested in this important position, please let the club officers and board members know.

Activities

Is there a Ham Radio activity (Fox hunt, contest, satellite, SSTV, Road Trip to Dayton, etc.) that you would be interested in ? Chances are that others in the club share the same interest. Please let a board member or club officer know. They can let the rest of the club know about the activity, recruit participants, and select a date.

Membership Chairperson Needed

The club is in need of a Membership Chairperson. As of 11/30/03 Harold Hay, W2ABQ, will relinquish his Membership Chairperson duties. If you are interested in this Chair, please contact a Club Officer or Board Member.

The club thanks Harold for his tenure as Membership Chairperson.

Upcoming Events

- 1/15 GRAM Meeting
- 1/18-1/20 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
- 1/31 Lockport ARA Auction
- 2/19 GRAM Meeting

GRAM Treasurer

Previously, it was reported that Harold Hay was resigning his post as GRAM Treasurer, effective 1/4/04. Harold has agreed to stay on as Treasurer until his replacement can be found.

With that said, any full member of GRAM wishing to complete Harold's term as GRAM Treasurer should contact a GRAM Board member or Officer.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA HAMS RESPOND TO EARTHQUAKE

Amateur Radio operators aided the American Red Cross after a magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck California's Central Coast region Monday, December 22.

Amateurs in San Luis Obispo County provided radio links between shelters and the Red Cross San Luis Obispo Chapter office. Santa Barbara Section Manager Robert Griffin, K6YR, said the San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services requested the assistance of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) teams.

Griffin said San Luis Obispo ARES/RACES operators helped staff the county emergency operations center and backed-up communication for the Red Cross after cell phone service proved unreliable. "About 24 operators were involved," Griffin said. "By 10 PM Monday night, the primary American Red Cross communication resources were again reliable, and the ARES net secured." Griffin says a few operators continued communications support at the EOC.

Griffin said the American Red Cross quickly established three shelters for quake victims--one in hard-hit Paso Robles, another in Morro Bay and a third in the southern part of the county. Hams staffed shelters to maintain contact with the Red Cross chapter office.

Two people died in Paso Robles, some 25 miles from the epicenter. Force 12 President Tom Schiller, N6BT, reports the antenna manufacturer--located in Paso Robles--suffered "minimal damage" from the December 22 quake. "Most of it was confined to the front office, with ceiling tiles falling down, books and computers being tossed around," Schiller said in an update on the company's Web site. "Those who had a view out the front glass doors watched the cars and trucks in the street leave the ground as the shock waves rolled through." He said the quake took out electric power, telephone and cell service within less than a minute, although the power returned and telephones became sporadically operative within a few hours. Schiller reports his own house--about a mile away--was "trashed," although his towers and the plumbing and electrical systems survived. Standing outside while checking the house, Schiller said he noticed that there was no wildlife at all. "No birds, no deer, no dogs barking. Not even a breeze," he said. "Thankfully, we made it through."

Courtesy 1/2/04 ARRL Letter

