

RADIO SOCIETY OF TUCSON NEWSLETTER

October-November 2017

NEWS

New newsletter!

The RST board has directed the Communications SIG to produce a monthly newsletter. You're reading the very first one under that directive! It's crude and bland right now, but the appearance and content will evolve and improve with time. They'll *especially* improve if the Communications SIG can get help from the membership for a few things:

- **Our newsletter needs a name!** Typical templates for newsletter names are "The _____" or "The RST _____". Submit your ideas to the Communications SIG. If there are enough good ones, we'll hold a vote!
- **Events.** The goal is to list every RST event happening until (roughly) when the next newsletter comes out. Event coordinators, please keep the Communications SIG up-to-date on all these. If we don't know, we can't get the word out!
- **Officer and SIG reports.** These are the core of this newsletter. You'll note below that many SIGs failed to provide a report by publication time. This newsletter will be the most useful with 100% participation, even if it's to say "Nothing to report for this month."
- **Meaty articles.** Member-written articles going into detail on some technical or historical subject are badly wanted!
- **News.** If you know of something interesting that happened or is about to happen, and has some connection with RST, please submit a news item!

One of our own elected ARRL Assistant Section Manager

Congratulations to RST member (and president) Mike Boger W7IJ for his appointment as Assistant Section Manager for the southern counties, ARRL Arizona Section!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- License testing; 19:00, Monday November 13, at the Patrick K. Hardesty Midtown Multi Service Center, 1100 S Alvernon Way, Tucson.
- Board of directors meeting; 18:00 to 19:00, Tuesday November 14, at Golden Corral, 4380 E 22nd St, Tucson.
- Club meeting; 19:00, Tuesday November 14, at Golden Corral, 4380 E 22nd St, Tucson. Our guest speaker will be Lyle Johnson KK7P of Elecraft.

OFFICER AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP REPORTS

President

I'm very excited and happy to be given the opportunity to serve as your president this year. I have a lot of ideas for moving the club forward and I hope that you will join with me on this new chapter in the story of Radio Society of Tucson.

We have a lot planned and a few changes coming. I'm sure each of you have seen my emails asking each of you to take part in the "RST Satisfaction Survey"—It's not because I'm nosy—I just want clear direction from the membership on where they want the club to go. I do want to thank the 45 folks that did take the time to fill out the survey. It will be open until Monday, November 13th at noon. That will give me time to go over the data, tally the results and prepare my report for you and the RST board on November 14.

If you haven't taken the survey, please take the time. It's only eight questions and takes less than five minutes to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8ZDPSMC>

Anyhow, I do look forward to working with each and every one of you to promote the Radio Society of Tucson as the premier amateur radio club in Tucson.

73.

Mike Boger W7IJ, President

Treasurer

No report received.

10 m Repeaters

No report received.

Communications

The board has abolished the Publicity SIG, and replaced it with the broader Communications SIG. The Publicity SIG's scope was limited to communications reaching the non-member public, but the Communications SIG is to supervise *all* communications, public and otherwise.

The big new communications initiative the month (and going forward) is... this newsletter!

Facebook has recently rolled out the ability for Facebook Page admins to link to a Facebook Group, and manage the group as the Page. RST formerly had two Groups and one Page. Both Groups have been archived, with the Page being the only current official RST Facebook presence. I am looking into reopening one of the Groups and linking it to the Page. This would give RST the benefit of both the Page and the Group without increasing the maintenance overhead, or diminishing our Facebook presence by spreading a possibly inconsistent message in two places.

Jason Ninneman KL3PD, Communications SIG chair

Contesting

Notable November contests:

- WAE DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Nov 10 to 2359Z, Nov 11
- 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital 0001Z, Nov 10 to 2359Z, Nov 11
- ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB 2100Z, Nov 17 to 0300Z, Nov 19
- Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 0200Z-0400Z, Nov 19
- CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Nov 24 to 2400Z, Nov 25
- ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Nov 30 to 1600Z, Dec 2

More opportunities for Contesting can be found at <http://www.contestcalendar.com/perpetualcal.php>.

Owen Watson AK7W, Contesting SIG chair

Days in the Park

No report received.

Direction Finding

No report received.

DSTAR

No report received.

Field Day

I am most appreciative to have the opportunity to serve as an RST Board Member and RST Field Day Coordinator. I have been busy meeting RST and CRC Members who have been involved in recent and past Field Day activities. I have attended many Field Day events since I was first licensed in 1961. This is the first time I have had any involvement in administering one. I am a bit anxious about this task. But when we get right down to it, as long as we get together on the mountain with some radio gear, some kind of food and an outhouse, what could go wrong - right? Looks like I am going to find out!

Speaking of Field Day 2018, I am looking at a bit of a problem. I need your input to resolve it. It is the outhouse - perhaps “port-a-potty” is a more genteel term. It is large and purple - VERY PURPLE and hard to miss amongst the trees on Mt Bigelow. The color is not the problem. On the door is a large sign identifying the name and contact information for the company providing the service. Our Field Day site is on U.S. Forest Service property. USFS Regulations forbid advertising on the Forest. During our 2016 event the thing was placed in plain sight of the road leading to our site. A USFS Ranger saw it and brought the violation to our attention. In 2017 Kriss, the then serving FD Coordinator for RST, placed the thing further up the hill amongst some trees out of sight of the road - and next to my trailer!



It was a brand new one freshly serviced so odor was not a problem -plus it was a great way for me, as a new Club Member, to see and get to know all who were there! But the problem with the sign remains. We need to come up with a simple but “meaningful” sign to cover up the advertisement. I am thinking about a simple sign saying “PURPLE PEOPLE EATER”. Please Please Please offer your help in two areas: (1) submit your idea for a name to give the outhouse - you will get recognition if your name is selected. (2) if you are skilled at making a sign get ahold of me and we will “get the job done” as they say - no pun intended! I am k7nsw@ispud.net.

Don't forget: WHAT SHALL WE NAME THE OUTHOUSE?

Richard Schmidt K7NSW, Field Day SIG chair

Hamfest

No report received.

Mesh

No major changes have taken place with the mesh network to date. The Mesh Node map has been re-established and the link publicized. Also, a survey was publicized with questions designed to get updated information about individually owned nodes. Very few of the previous node owners responded to this survey. The map will be updated shortly with the nodes removed (actually, removed from display only) for which we do not have updated information.

Projected major additions:

1. Bank of America Building Downtown:

- Three 2.4 GHz sectors antennae nodes slated to be installed to cover approx 270° spanning from the southeast to the west with no coverage to the s/sw due to the obstruction known as One Church Street. It is hoped these nodes will have good access to PECOC and 5151 E Broadway as well as any neighborhood nodes closer to this location.
- One point-to-point 3GHz antenna pointed to Sahuarita Schools auditorium. There is clear line of site and no fresnel zone interference. One Church Street sits just to the west of the line and out of the fresnel zone.
- All nodes will be DtD linked via a Ubiquiti ToughSwitch.

2. Sahuarita:

- One point-to-point 3GHz antenna pointed to the Bank of America Building downtown. There is clear line of site and no fresnel zone interference. This link is expected to provide RF connectivity to the Tucson Metro Mesh network.
- One 2.4 GHz mimo Omni node to cover the neighborhoods and any other more distant nodes that may be set up as point-to-multipoint.
- All nodes will be DtD linked via a Ubiquiti ToughSwitch.

3. Border Patrol:

- Three 2.4 GHz sectors antennae nodes slated to be installed to cover approx 360°. Will be installed near the top of the Border Patrol tower at Swan and Golf Links.
- Will provide neighborhood connectivity as well as connectivity to PECOC and 5151 E Broadway, and hopefully to the Mt Lemmon node.

4. Mt Lemmon:

- There is one 2.4 GHz sector node at Radio Ridge which is only about 12 feet above ground. It is pointed in the general direction to the south toward Tucson Metro. Does not provide good connectivity at this time largely due to tree obstructions. It is desired to move this node to the GATR site that will provide clearer LOS to the south.

Bob Junke W7REJ, Mesh SIG chair

Public Service

No report received.

Repeaters

No report received.

Testing

The RST VE Team held VE Exams on October 11. We tested 22 applicants and administered 33 elements. Our next VE exam session will be held on November 13.

Diane Zimmerman AA3OF, Testing SIG chair