

December 2011



Peter Reinzuch VE7REZ

President's Message

Your new Board of Directors is already busy identifying projects and activities for the upcoming year as well as reviewing improvement ideas on how we do things in the Club. Most notably is the complete replacement of our repeater system that will be fun and exciting for all Hams in the valley to use. We continue discussions on how to revamp our Bylaws and in the New Year will present the new document for your consideration and ratification. In these times of fast change and expansion of our hobby, we need a flexible set of guidelines. More and more the

Internet is becoming the norm for almost everything these days and our Bylaws will reflect this. My last reminder to you as President is that most of your memberships are due for renewal and can be paid online or mailed the traditional way.

I'd like to briefly mention the Thanksgiving Weekend D-RATS 2nd Annual Antenna Event in the Desert. A small group of us did the now traditional deep fried turkey and potluck picnic with one member, Bill K6ACJ, coming from Huntington Beach to attend.

We really were in the desert as it took us about 3 hours of hard work clawing our way back to the road from our quick sand-like location. We literally saw Bill's and also Mike Brennan's KA6PGN pick-up almost sink to the axels just sitting there. We decided to wait till the end of the weekend to extract everyone and did not let that get in the way of having fun, putting up a modified quarter wave Rhombic antenna that was about 210 feet long per leg. Contacts were made in rapid succession and before we new it, there was a pileup ready to make

contact with our Station's fantastically performing antenna. To make things even more exciting, at one point during the night we had 3 fire trucks attend a fire in some trees not far from us. One also got stuck and it required removing everything from the truck including dumping water tanks to make it light enough for a tow truck to extract it. Seems that some crazy's were making gas bombs that blew up beyond expectations, causing the fire and injuring those that did this pretty dumb thing. After everyone got unstuck, for a lunch pit stop, Laura Brennan made a wonderful turkey soup and other delights at their home North of Salton City. I'm already looking forward to next years adventure!

My term as President is nearing its end and what an experience it has been! A wonderful, at times challenging, 4 years and I will never forget them. You have given my wife and I the opportunity that few will have the chance to experience. Your support and words of thanks to me for serving as President are deeply cherished and appreciated. However, one person does not

make a Club. It is our members and volunteers who deserve all the accolades. I thank Vice-President Glenn Morrison WB6RLC for all his support this year and with him as President, the Club will be in good hands next year.

Our Executive has been tremendously capable and supportive; if I looked like I always knew what I was doing, it was because of all of you – a sincere thank you.

I especially thank the countless members who gave their time, sat in on Board meetings, came out to lend a hand during events and contributed to the year. Thank you for being part of the team.

With events like Palm Springs Hamfest 2012, our Club has been put on the map! Spread the word about our great event to others on air and on the various Nets you check in to. We have a fantastic Club that few can compare to in the country. We should all be proud of that; I am.

Regina and I wish you all a Festive Holiday Season and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting in January!

73 Peter VE7REZ

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Vice President Pro Tem

Hi!

I have had my Amateur License since 12/2/2009 and immediately joined the Desert Rats. With the help and tutelage from many patient, understanding and



Tom McLean KJ6DZT

knowledgeable members, I have achieved my Extra license in less than two years and learned the correct and proper use of equipment, the band waves and frequencies. Antennas still remain a complex and elusive subject for me, but I am “gaining” on it.

Ham radio has given me many opportunities. Through amateur radio, I have met many fine people and been able to assist and volunteer when help is needed. Under the direction of Peter Reinzuch, Gary and Suzie Boskovich, Glen Morrison and many, many others, I have watched the Desert Rats evolve from a meager membership to a membership well over 120+ members and growing.

The Desert Rats Ham Fest although small, is growing in recognition and stature and is considered as one of the most successful Ham Fest events in the Western Region. Major vendors and manufacturers have lined up for this year’s Ham Fest and we will also be including lectures and forums.

As Vice President Pro Tem, it is my goal to work with the all the members of the Club and continue to grow and serve the Desert Rats and promote their image and goals.

73’s

Tom McLean 760.393.1799



Pat Case KG6NXC

Treasurer’s Message

I have been a member of the Desert Rats since 2002.

I took office as the treasurer in 2003 & have been such till this date (except for one year). I have seen this club grow quite remarkably since I joined it.

I have seen a lot of very good speakers at our meetings & have gained a lot of good information from them. Our field days & Hamfests have really been great. I have high hopes that the coming year will be even better with our new board.

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Christi De Rouen KJ6LWJ

Secretary's Message

I grew up moving all around the country, living in Kansas, Arizona, Tennessee and Virginia before moving to California in 1994 to attend USC. I have lived in the desert since 2000 and just got my Ham radio license last year at the urging of my husband, Evan KI6WNF. I have enjoyed being a member of the Desert RATS this past year because of the fun events like the Hamfest, the great guest speakers each month, and all of the wonderful people in the club. My first goal as Secretary is to update the email list for the club. Please email me at c.rouend@gmail.com with the best contact email address for you so I can make sure that everyone receives their newsletter each

month along with any other club emails.

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Glenn Morrison, WB6RLC

Incoming President

Well, I guess as your incoming president, I should tell you a little about myself first.

I first got interested in Ham radio when I was about 13. I wanted an interesting book to read for a book report. You remember those things. I asked the Jr. High librarian for suggestions. I wanted something with some action. She suggested "SOS At Midnight". It is kind of a Hardy Boys with ham radio. Later I read "CQ Ghost Ship". These are by Walker Tompkins. He has written several in this series. Anyway, I was hooked. I owe that lady a lot. I got my first license (Novice) in Jan. of 1966.. .WN6RLC, then later WB6RLC. I now hold an Extra Class ticket.

At one time I held a FCC 2nd class radiotelephone license with

broadcast and radar endorsements. For a while I worked repairing Marine Band HF SSB and VHF FM radiotelephone gear. The plan was to run away to sea on a Merchant ship and be a radio operator. You needed a 1st radiotelegraph license at the time and I just could not hit the code speed required. So on to plan "B".

I spent the most of the next 30 some years working in electronic R&D labs from Collins Radio/Rockwell, Martin Marretta at Vandenburg AFB, and the last 25 years at Parker Hannifin in Irvine Ca. I retired from Parker about 2 years ago now and moved full time to the desert. I looked around the valley and decided that the D-RATS were for me.

I enjoyed being the VP for the last year for you and lining up what I thought was a pretty good group of guest speakers (if I can toot my own horn). Peter has worked very hard for the last 4 years as president of the D-RATS. He would like to be able to spend more time working Hamfest and continue his close association with Angel View. Peter has done a great job bringing the club up to where it is today. I plan on carrying on the tradition. They are a big pair of shoes to fill.

I don't really know what to tell you. I plan on helping the club to continue to grow. I'd like to see more group activities, picnics,

how-to events, like antenna building, some more camping weekends. Etc. I'd like to see the club join in activities with other clubs in the area. This next years Field Day looks like it will be shared with the Morango Valley club. So we have a lot on the plate for the next year or so.

Do you have any ideas as to activities for the club? Things that you'd like to see us do. Email me or catch me or Tom at the meeting. Speaking of Tom KJ6DZT, he is the new VP and will be in charge of getting speakers for the meetings. We already have some good speakers lined up for the coming year. He is also rewriting the clubs outdated by-laws. He is going to be a great guy to work with.

OK, that's about the long (no short) of it. Me in a well deserved nut shell and a little about the club. Here's to us Desert RATS (clink). Hope everyone has a good Holiday and see you at the January meeting.

Catch you on the bands. 73

Glenn WB6RLC
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Ham Classes

We have just completed our 5th Technician Class in the past 2 years sponsored by the Desert RATS. We have 17 new hams awaiting their call signs. You will soon be hearing new call signs on the Monday night net. Due to the holidays it may take a

little longer for them to receive their calls. We did have two that will be testing with ARRL in La Quinta on Saturday, December 10, as they were unable to test on December 3. Two other's were unable to test due to a conflicting activity. If this student tested on December 3, her soccer team would have had to forfeit their game. We commend her for her decision and will plan to test she and her dad at a future date. We had one student upgrade to General and Tom McLean, KJ6DZT, has upgraded to EXTRA!! Congratulations to all the New Hams in the Desert.

The Desert RATS started sponsoring Ham Radio Classes in January 2009. We have completed 5 Technician Classes and 1 General Class. There have been 100 + new hams, upgrades to General and Extra's through our classes. Many have joined the Desert RATS and have filled key positions in the club. Quite a few have volunteered to help on the Hamfest, Field Day, and club activities and several from the newest class have volunteered to help at the January 28, 2012 Hamfest.

Our classes are spread out over a 6 week period so that the students can absorb the information and review each section a week at a time. We want the students to learn the material and not just memorize the answers. This helps with the background and understanding when they prepare to upgrade to General or Extra Class. All of our instructors and administrators are volunteers. They give their



Tom McLean KJ6DZT and Glenn Morrison WB6RLC

time and energy to make the classes a success.

Throughout the course of the class we ask the students to give suggestion as to how to improve what we are trying to do. We have had many praises and complements. One student wrote "Thank you so much for all your work, dedication, knowledge and donating your valuable time and effort to conduct the technician class license for amateur radio (HAM) license from the FCC. Without your efforts and knowledge, I know I would never have passed my technician exam and obtained my technician license. I am looking forward to visiting with you at the Desert RATS meeting, and most importantly on the air when I obtain my call sign."

It is our pleasure to put on these classes and we thank the students for participating in the classes. We thank the instructors, VE test team, and all the volunteers for their dedication, knowledge, and

enthusiasm in creating the quality of classes that are given.

We will be starting a General Class in the near future. Anyone interested please let us know. We will be working on the dates and will inform you as soon as we know

73's Gary and Susie Boskovich
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Susie Boskovich KD6TVO

Tidbits

Peter, VE7REZ, underwent surgery for a shoulder replacement on Monday, December 5. We hope he is recovering nicely and will be healed real soon.

Silent Key Steve Smith, passed away on November 15, 2011. Steve was a former president of the Desert RATS and had been a ham since he was 15.

Tom, AE6WL, lost his mother on November 18. We are very sorry for your loss and our thoughts are with your family.

Earl, KJ6DQR, lost his brother on Thanksgiving. Our thoughts go out to all the Haltman's of which many are ham's in the club and the community.

The Desert RATS annual meeting on November 15, 2011 was a very sad occasion and a very happy occasion. Peter Reinzuch, VE7REZ, has resigned as president for the Desert RATS, but we have a new board to take over. Peter, VE7REZ, did an outstanding job as President for the past 4 years and helped build up the club to a 100+ membership. He was instrumental in starting our Hamfest and again doing Field Day activities. Peter will still be around and we have lots of things he can do, whether he is President or not. Thank you Peter for a great job and all your effort and energy you put into the presidency. You were very innovative with your ideas, and kept the enthusiasm going with all the members of the club. We are very sad to see him go but know that he will still be very involved with all the club activities.

We held elections, had a terrific guest speaker, and discussed Hamfest. The new Board was elected unanimously and they are:

- President:**
Glenn Morrison, WB6RLC
Vice President:
Tom McLean, KJ6DZT
Secretary:
Christi De Rouen, KJ6LWJ
Treasurer:
Pat Case, KG6NXC

DESERT RATS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Monday Evening Net
Newline · 6:30 pm
Regular · 7:00 pm
146.940 PL 107.2**

**ARES Digital
7:30 pm
144.435 Simple**



We congratulate the new officers and look forward to their leadership for the next year (or more). They have been involved with all the club activities and been very active members of the club. They will take over at the January meeting on January 17, 2012. Look for a little bio on each of the new officers in this newsletter.

Our guest speaker was Marty Woll, N6VI, and the Vice-Director of the Southwestern Division of the ARRL. He gave a terrific talk on Emergency Power Management. He gave everyone something to think about when powering up their equipment.

Speaking of the ARRL, they have sanctioned our Hamfest and will have representatives at the Hamfest. They will be able to tell you about the ARRL (American Radio Relay League) and how it benefits all the hams. You can join at the Hamfest and we really encourage everyone to join.

Hamfest is just around the corner. We have a lot of volunteers but can use anyone that would like to help. We have lots of committees and several volunteers on most of the committees. The committee chairpersons are:

Earl Haltman, KJ6DQR and Orin Gilbertson, WW6O as parking cars and RV's

Tom McLean, KJ6FZT and Julie Haltman, KJ6FYY for food service & cooking

Pat Case, KG6NXC and Darline Case, KG6NXB for Registration.

Tom Averett, AE6WL for Special Event and Talk-in Station

Gary Boskovich, KD6QLT & Susie Boskovich, KD6TVO for Security and Rovers.

Bill Prats, K6ACJ and Glenn Morrison, WB6RLC for Club Table

Tom Seaman, KF6BSL for set up and take down and maintenance.

Cameron Robbins, KJ6LWH, and Glenda Stultz, KJ6MNW, for the CERT Trailer.

Evan DeRouen, KI6WNF for ARES and our Web Master

Peter Reinzuch, VE7REZ will be MC and Raffle Prize distributor

Genie Balentine-Segroves, KM6D will be doing Raffle Tickets

Lloyd Segroves, W6LGS, will be operating the Golf Cart Service.

Regina Epps, RN, (Peter's wife) will be First Aid and Nurse on staff

John McKee, WB6VKS, is our Newsletter Editor.

If you see any committee that you would like to help on, please contact Susie Boskovich at sboskovich@dc.rr.com and we will sign you up. Those already on committees will be hearing from the chairman to tell you times you will be helping at the

CALENDAR

December 2011

No meeting due to the holidays.

January 18, 2012

Desert RATS Meeting 7:00 PM
Palm Springs City Yard
Conference Room
Last meeting before Hamfest

January 28, 2012

PALM SPRINGS HAMFEST
9:30 – 4:30
ALL ARE WELCOME

Hamfest. The more we have helping, the more time everyone will have off to enjoy the Hamfest.

We are up to 30 participants so far. Many have returned from previous years and we have quite a few new ones. We have done some rearranging to make room for more. We are still expecting about 15-20 RV's from Quartzfest to join in the activities. Keep checking the website at www.desertrats.am for updates on participants.

So mark your calendars for the next meeting on Tuesday (3rd), January 17, 2012 and Hamfest on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Lots of great activities coming up this next year so stay tuned.

Susie Boskovich, KD6TVO

(Peter is recovering from shoulder surgery)

Plan on attending...

ARRL Sanctioned:

PALM SPRINGS HAMFEST January 28

Over 25 Commercial Vendors such as HRO, CQ Magazine and Manufacturers like Alinco large Swap Meet, Consignment sales bring your surplus gear and we'll sell it off for you at our Second Hand Store...Food Concession...How to Demos... guests like Gordon West ...Last year over 700 Happy Hams attended come join us under the Palm Trees.....

**..we have a few commercial spaces and lots of swap meet space still available book early



An official Sanctioned Event

HAMFEST!

for more info

PalmSprings.hamfest@gmail.com



Presented by the
Desert RATS Club

visit our Web Site
<http://www.desertrats.am>

Twitter: [hamradio](#)

Jan 28, 2012 follow the rat @desertratsam

Talkin 146.940- PL 107.2 in Palm Springs or 146.520 on the road
Convoy of RV's from Quartzfest on January 27th led by Gordon West!



Get all the updated information on our Forum <http://desertrats.x.am>

tell your friends & Club about it next meeting or NET night



Event Coordinators Gary Boskovich KD6QLT and Susie Boskovich KD6QVO 760-328-9662 sboskovich@dc.rr.com

RSVP: RV Dry Camping reservations for vendors: sboskovich@dc.rr.com Vendor Set-up time 7:00-9:00 AM

Hotels Nearby check early to get reservations! **LOCATION:** 4193 Matthew Drive, Palm Springs, CA

MAKE this a reunion of on air buddies or Ham Club outing!