



# Desert Radio Amateur Transmitting Society

## October 2010

### HYPERLINKS

Desert RATS Website

DRATS Calendar

Riverside ARES

Riverside RACES

ARRL Website

ARRL Newsletter

DX Zone

Ham Radio Links

Submit Articles to Newsletter

### CALENDAR

October 7<sup>th</sup> 2010  
Community Emergency Response Team  
CERT Training for Palm Springs  
Thursday 6pm to 10 pm  
Additional Info: 760.323.8186

October 9<sup>th</sup> 2010  
CERT Training for Palm Springs  
Saturday 8am to 5pm

October 10<sup>th</sup> 2010  
CERT Training for Palm Springs  
Sunday 8am to 5pm

October 19<sup>th</sup> 2010  
Desert RATS Meeting 7pm  
Palm Springs City Yard Conference Room  
425 N Civic Drive • Palm Springs  
Guest Speaker ...

October 25<sup>th</sup> 2010  
Technician Class for Ham Radio  
Monday 7pm to 9pm  
Palm Springs City Yard Conference Room  
425 N Civic Drive • Palm Springs  
Additional Info: 760.328.9662  
Gary or Susie Boskovich • Email

November 1<sup>st</sup> 2010  
Technician Class for Ham Radio  
Monday 7pm to 9pm

November 8<sup>th</sup> 2010  
Technician Class for Ham Radio  
Monday 7pm to 9pm

November 15<sup>th</sup> 2010  
Technician Class for Ham Radio  
Monday 7pm to 9pm

November 16<sup>th</sup> 2010  
Desert RATS Meeting 7pm  
Palm Springs City Yard Conference Room

November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010  
Technician Class for Ham Radio  
Monday 7pm to 9pm

November 29<sup>th</sup> 2010  
Technician Class for Ham Radio  
Monday 7pm to 9pm

December 4<sup>th</sup> 2010  
Technician Class Testing 9am  
Palm Springs City Yard Conference Room

December 2010  
No Desert RATS Meeting  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS



**Peter Reinzuch VE7REZ**

### President's Message

Although the summer months have been quiet as far as club meetings are concerned, they were still active online. Evan KI6WNF continuously added new things to our Website ... as I did on the Forum when I returned from my extended, almost 3 month trip to Canada (appearing briefly for Field Day)...I know, like spotting Elvis, some would say I was observed recruiting for ARES (not) ....then again appearing in the Cathedral Fire Hall (not), hi hi; maybe it was a hologram eh? It makes for good story telling by some.

Our membership continues to grow, with just under 100 members from across the Coachella Valley, from around the USA & Canada .....because we have Pay Pal online payment, one can apply for membership online anytime. Welcome to our newest members: Mike Eidson AE6ST (drummer for our Hamfest Jamfest Session), Gary Burden KJ6GKX, Norm Friedman W6ORD, Steve Grasha WA6ARC, Micheal Piltz KD6KOI,

And Nicholas LaMay-Perry KJ6HEE

I hope you all feel welcome in the Club and I sincerely look forward to seeing you at future meetings. Behind the scenes we've been busy with Palm Springs Hamfest 2011. We are in need of many volunteers for this event (we expect over 600 attendees). On our Web site you can sign up as a volunteer now, to help out. We've begun our Marketing campaign with a number of National/Regional vendors and service groups already lined up; more are signing on by the day. All of last years' commercial vendors are coming back and are looking forward to some big sales numbers again. I recently attended the ARRL Southwest Convention in San Diego as an Ambassador for Palm Springs Hamfest 2011 and spoke with many vendors and swap meet sellers who are looking forward to another great event. Even in the swap meet area guys were coming up to me and said what a great event we had! This year we anticipate having some international representation with a few of the major radio manufacturers represented. Stay tuned for some big announcements to come. I attended a few workshops and was also pleased to see a number of our members attend. Notably, one of our members giving a presentation there as well...Clint Bradford K6LCS, our 'Satellite Guy', was there giving his presentation on handheld satellite contacts and representing AMSAT. He'll be there at Palm Springs Hamfest 2011 again too. His live demonstration alone is worth the trip.

Carl Gardenia WU6D was there also, giving a number of presentations. Carl is running for ARRL SW Director and I support him in his

seeking this office. Carl participates in various Club Hamfests, Field Day, DX Club, ARES, SATERN (Salvation Army), ARRL plus many other events throughout the year; even at the recent big 7.2 earthquake south of us on the Mexican border. He is a dedicated hard working person in our Hobby so I hope you will give him your vote this month in the ARRL Elections! Oh, and if you are not an Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) Member, now is a good time to join and vote for Carl! <http://www.arrl.org/membership>

This month I'll be continuing my promotional travels to another Ham event at PACIFICON October 16-18, held at San Ramon (Near San Francisco). Fellow Desert RATS member Bill Pratts K6ACJ (ARRL So-Cal Clubs Representative) and I will travel to PACIFICON and further spread the word about Palm Springs Hamfest. Bill will also be there competing in the QRP backpacker contest on the Saturday evening of PACIFICON. So listen for him and give him some contacts from here eh!

Another big supporter of our Palm Springs Hamfest is Gordon West WB6NOA. He is coordinating with Quartzite Hamfest to tie in our event to coincide with theirs ending. Quartzite has some great speakers and activities at their event but is not allowed to sell new Ham gear because of BLM restrictions so ours is promoted as the selling end of their event. Gordo is an avid promoter (especially for ARES) famous for his Ham radio classes and instruction materials. We use his study books for our Ham Classes. Our next Tech Class starts Monday, October 25th

7PM for six weeks. If you know of someone who wishes to get their Ham Tech License, contact Gary KD6QLT at 760-328-9662 to register. Price is only \$30 including text book and study materials.

Let me conclude by reminding everyone that we continue our Monday night activities on air on the Club Repeater 146.940 - PL107.2 (a designated Emergency repeater for Riverside County ARES/RACES and anyone in need) —(disclaimer: only one local RACES group at La Quinta EOC presently uses it as an emergency use repeater...Coachella Club/RACES uses 145.480 by their decree). 6:30 PM Amateur Radio Newline— Ham radio news from around the World! When his time permits, Evan hosts it live on USTREAM online; see our website for details...great for our out of area members and guests). 7:00 PM Desert RATS NET—a great 2M repeater NET in the Valley open to all Hams. 7:30 PM DIGITAL NET using PSK 125 (FLdigi software recommended but any PSK 125 program will work; see our website to download the software). This is an instructional NET and welcomes new users to try out digital on air communications. If you need help, please ask using voice at anytime and we will help you with the setup etc. 8:00 PM Slow Scan TV on air depending on who hangs around after the Digital NET. This is an experimenter's NET; it is also a voice net to help out newcomers.

Hope to see you all at the next Meeting especially our Snowbird friends like Emil, Carl & John. •



**Gary Boskovich KD6QLT**

### Vice President's Message

In the late 1990's the Desert RATS hosted several all valley picnics to raise funds for a repeater link system with Edom Hill, Cactus City, and Chuckwalla. It had good coverage for a low level repeater system from Palm Springs to Blythe. Everyone worked together to get this system going and it worked well for a number of years.

The link could be shut down at will by the control operators, depending on the emergency situation at hand. Or they could be used as 3 separate repeaters if necessary for events that required more than one repeater. This can cover different areas at the same time. The link system was made so that hams throughout the valley could have wide spread coverage. RACES decided to use the link system when it was installed which would benefit RACES and all hams in the valley.

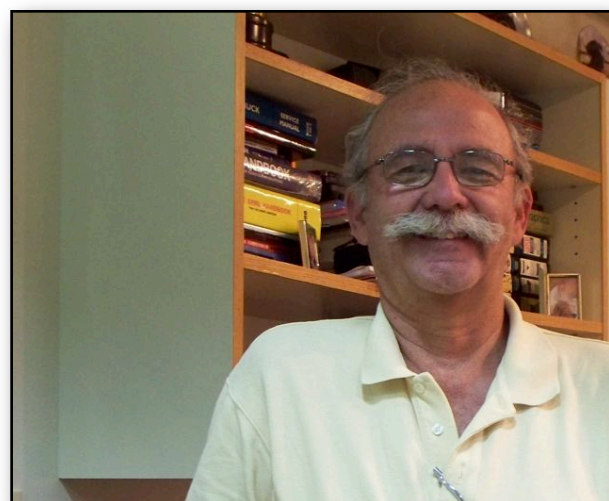
Last fall it was discovered that the Edom Hill, Desert RATS repeater, had a problem with the link radio. It was removed from the repeater site and a technician, who does repair work for the Tram repeater and other repeaters in the valley, picked it up to repair it. After 6 months and no word as to when or if it would be repaired the Desert RATS decided to find another radio to put in its place. Over the summer, we worked with Comcirco to repair a link but it still had problems. A local Ham offered a radio to replace the link radio so that the link could be put back into place. The Cactus link is still operational, but is turned off.

Unfortunately, linking the radio again with Cactus City seems not possible. Upon contacting Bobby, KI6JIZ, President of Coachella Valley Amateur Radio Club who owns the equipment at Cactus City, we were informed that their board and RACES chose to not use the Desert RATS repeater, but plan to connect Cactus City with the 145.200 repeater at the top of the Tram. In the meantime,

RACES decided to use 145.480, the Tram repeater, for RACES operations.

The Desert RATS repeater has always been an open repeater for all hams, RACES, ARES, and anyone else to use. At a time of an emergency, it is open to all. If the Tram Repeater fails and Edom Hill is working, it is available to all emergencies.

It is the wish of the Desert RATS club that this link will be restored one day so all hams in the valley have the option to use the link system again. •

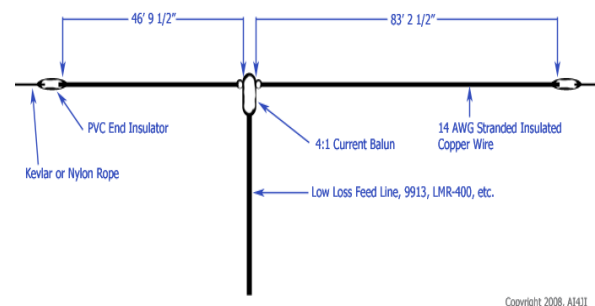


**Glenn Morrison WB6RLC**

### The Magic Antenna. 80M-10M on one wire with NO tuner!

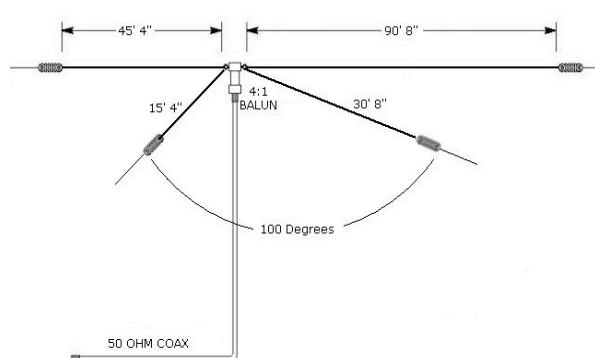
Try building an OCF (Off Center Fed) Dipole. This little known, gem of an antenna has been around for quite a while. The basic design was by Loren G. Windom, ex-W8GZ, Loren lived in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Loren was originally 8ZO from Columbus, Ohio in 1922. His call is now reissued. His design was published in QST in 1929.

The antenna its self is as simple to build as any standard dipole. The feed point is through a 4:1 **current** balun which is offset by 33.33 percent to one end. The result is an antenna that will work on even harmonics of 80 meters. These usually do not work well on 15M, however. You well need to buy a good quality 4:1 **current** balun, run down to your local home supply store and buy 150 ft (uses less) of 14ga stranded copper wire and that's it. If you need end insulators, pick up some 1/2 sched. 40 pvc pipe, cut it into 6 inch lengths, drill a hole across each end...presto end insulator.



Copyright 2008, AH11

I am going to build one cut for 40M and will less than 70 ft long, over all. It will be only 23 ft on the short end. By adding an extra wire (similar to a multi wire dipole or a spider dipole as some call it), I can pick up 15M as well as some of the WARC bands.



These do not need to up terribly high either. Usually 30 ft at the center will do. They can also be set up as an inverted "V" with great results. As I seldom get on 80M, I am building mine for 40M and up. This works well for me as I can tie one end to a flag pole at the front of the garage. The center support is at the rear of the garage (both anchored to the eaves of the garage) and the only thing that will need guying is the long end, out in the back yard. And as it will only be 20 some feet up, it will not take much in the way of support.

For more info, theory and plans, check out: ARRL Antenna book •

<http://kh2d.net/windom.cfm>

[http://www.wcerc.org/Projects/ocf\\_dipole.asp](http://www.wcerc.org/Projects/ocf_dipole.asp)

<http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=15701>



**Evan De Rouen KI6WNF**

### Web Master - RivCoARES

Before I begin, I would like to give credit to C. Edward Harris, KE4SKY, AEC for Fairfax County ARES in Virginia for his article on "Getting the most from your Hand Held Transceiver." Much of this has been taken from that article. Some minor editorial changes have been made.

HT Antennas: It shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone that when limited to "barefoot" operation with a "rubber duck" on simplex, HTs are not adequate as a primary rig for emergency communications. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) ran some tests (back when they were still the NBS) on Public Safety high band and amateur 2-meter antennas. They found that a "rubber duck" has -5db gain compared to a quarter wave antenna held at shoulder height. In terms of effective radiated power (ERP), a 5w HT with rubber duck antenna, held at shoulder height would actually radiate 1.5 watts. Placing the HT on your belt attenuates the signal another 20db, reducing ERP to only 15 milliwatts! UHF results weren't found to be much better.

A simple and inexpensive improvement that can be made to the "rubber duck" is the addition of what is called a "tiger tail". You can make one of these using a quarter-wavelength (19-1/4" for 2 meters) piece of #14 through #20 stranded wire, crimped and soldered to a battery clip. Reinforce the soldered connection with heat shrink tubing or tape to resist flex. Clamped to the outer collar of the BNC connector on your HT antenna, it acts as a counterpoise so that RF from the HT doesn't couple with your body. A "tiger tail" is directional and can be used to change both radiation angle and direction. It gives best simplex performance when pointed in the general direction of the station you are trying to "hit".

Almost any antenna works better than the "rubber duck" that comes with an HT. A flexible 1/4 wave or telescoping half-wave antenna are both improvements. A 1/4-wave used at shoulder height with a counterpoise has "unity" gain, which is a 5 db improvement over a rubber duck, because most of the signal is radiated. Using an HT at 5 watts with a 1/4 wave mag mount on an improvised ground plane, or telescoping half wave with a "tiger tail" improves simplex readability even further.

Look for part 2 of this article in next months Rats Nest. •



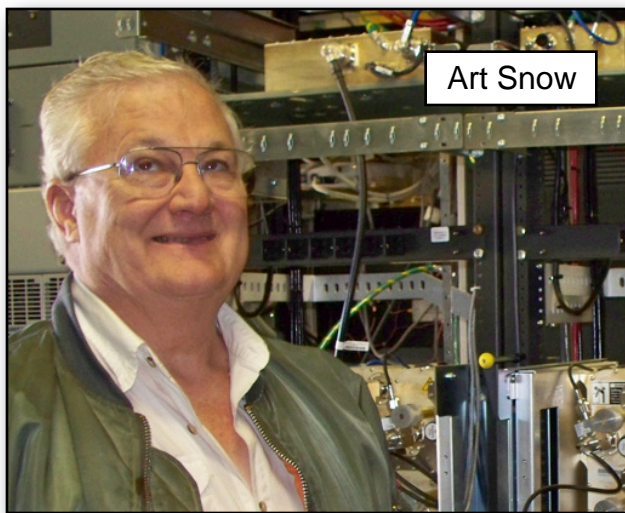
**Susie Boskovich KD6TVO**

### Technician Classes

The Desert RATS are again sponsoring a Technician Class for Ham Radio. The classes will begin on Monday, October 25, 2010 and will meet each Monday after, Nov. 1, Nov. 8, Nov. 15, Nov. 22, and Nov. 29 for a total of 6 weeks. Class will begin at 7:00 pm and conclude at approximately 9:00 pm. The test will be given on Saturday, December 4, 2010. They will all be held in the Palm Springs City Yard Conference Room at 425 N. Civic Drive, Palm Springs. The cost is \$30.00 due the first night of class. This will include a W5YI Gordon West Book. The book is new this year so we are sorry if you already have an old one. The new book started on July 1, 2010. We have some great instructors, but anyone is welcome to come to the class. Let us know if you have anyone that is interested in taking the class.

At this point there is not a General Class scheduled. Let us know if anyone is interested and we will see what we can do. If there is enough interest it is a possibility. •

Contact us at [sboskovich@dc.rr.com](mailto:sboskovich@dc.rr.com).



Art Snow



Dr. Henry Richter



Edom Hill

# The Desert Rats and the Palm Springs DX Club

invite you to attend the 2nd annual \* \* \* \$1 admission with raffle ticket.

## HAMFEST - RAFFLE - WINTER FIELD DAY

Bring your ham gear to sell, no fee charged for selling if you bring own table and chairs. Maybe you only have one or 2 items for sale put it on our single items table with a sign and tell us your reserve price... (for a small commission to the club) ...we'll handle the sale.

**Saturday,  
January 29  
9:30 A.M. to  
4:30 P.M.**

**CHECK OUT OUR  
WEBSITE!**

<http://www.desertrats.am>

An official  Sanctioned Event

# HAMFEST!



## Winter Field Day 2011 Special Event Station

Email us for more info:  
Peter Reinzuch VE7REZ~President of 'the Desert RATS' Club  
[ve7rez@desertrats.am](mailto:ve7rez@desertrats.am)  
Evan DeRouen KI6WNF - EC Riverside County ARES  
[riversidecountyares@gmail.com](mailto:riversidecountyares@gmail.com)  
~Check ze Tweets @hamradio @RivCoARES

**Admission only \$1 includes 1 free raffle ticket!**

Event Coordinators Gary Boskovich KD6QLT and Susie Boskovich KD6QVO 760-328-9662 [sboskovich@dc.rr.com](mailto:sboskovich@dc.rr.com)

Nearby Hotel: Holiday Inn, corner of Sunrise & E. Palm Canyon, Palm Springs 760-323-1711 call for best room rate.

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

Talk-in frequency:  
146.940- PL 107.2  
WD6RAT Desert RATpeater  
Daily Nets Thursday thru Sat.  
8 A.M. - Noon - 6 P.M.

Directions:  
Take I-10 to Palm Drive Exit.  
Turn onto Gene Autry Trail  
(becomes Matthew Dr. as it  
crosses Hwy. 111)  
Follow the RAT...  
4193 Matthew Dr. is on left

Lots of vendors and exhibits! Check website for the most up to date list.

- ICOM
- Buds Engraving
- Old Military Radios
- EDS Emergency Pack
- Ham Radio Outlet
- Impulse Electronics

ARRL  
DX  
Store  
W5YI  
RF Stuff



Clint Bradford and Gordon West

**Vote WU6D as your next  
Southwestern Division Director**



**Carl H. Gardenias, WU6D**

[HTTP://WWW.WU6D.COM](http://www.wu6d.com)

The best way to predict the future of Amateur Radio is to create it together! As Director of the Southwestern Division, I will continue to recommend and vote on policies for the betterment of amateur radio, to represent each section and their interests, to protect the spectrum, band plan, and I will continue to challenge CC&R's in Ca & AZ. I have many years of experience with managing and decision making on funds used for multi-million dollar operations with the USAF and as Project Manager at the University of California, Irvine. My main goal will be to act as a conduit to carry information to and from Division radio operators and HQ.

I will also actively participate in policy making at HQ Operations to promote amateur radio on the national level. Sending out a newsletter every-so-often is not getting the information out, nor is waiting for an invitation to a meeting. Attending as many meetings as possible is personal and up-front. This, most of all, is what I like doing best. Being with people and sharing experiences. (Among fellow amateur radio operators and sharing their experiences their thoughts and concerns)

As Director, you will see me at club meetings, hamfests, swap meets, and conventions gathering information and ensuring all about League activities and decisions on all aspects of amateur radio.

Are you ready for a change? You have a choice! VOTE I am ready to serve the Southwestern Division as your Director.

Qualifications: BA in Business, Orange Section Manager of the Southwest Division since 2003, licensed since 1969, Life member of the ARRL, and I participate in all aspects of radio and demonstrations of radio in public forums. 73 •

## DESERT RATS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:**

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**Website:**

<http://desertrats.am>

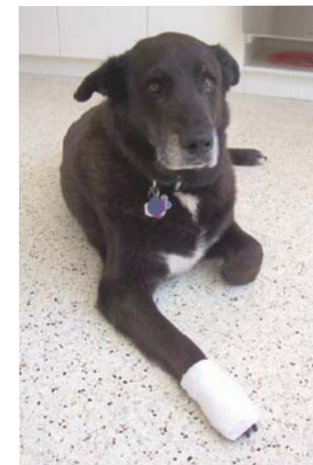
**Repeater:**

146.940 PL 102.7  
Monday Evening Net  
Newline • 6:30 pm  
Regular • 7:00 pm  
ARES Digital • 7:30 pm

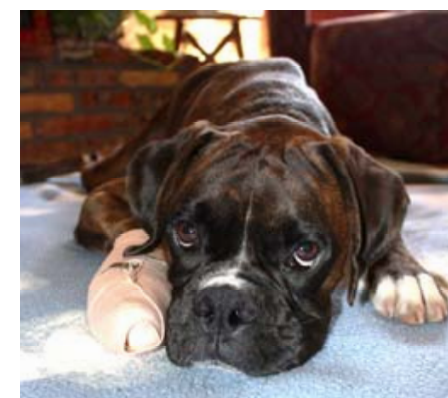


## ANIMAL SAMARITANS SPCA

### Pet Wellness Seminars



## Pet First Aid and CPR Training Fall 2010



Improving the lives of animals and  
people since 1978.

## Classroom Locations

Our training spaces are generously donated by the following organizations. We appreciate their support in helping to provide our quality education.

Weil Institute of Critical Care  
Medicine

35100 Bob Hope Drive  
Rancho Mirage 92270

Riverside County Department  
of Animal Services

72050 Pet Land Place  
Thousand Palms 92276  
[www.rcdas.org](http://www.rcdas.org)



Enrollment is easy! Please call,  
email, or use our online  
enrollment form at our website.

[www.animalsamaritans.org](http://www.animalsamaritans.org)



760-343-4326

[education@animalsamaritans.org](mailto:education@animalsamaritans.org)

Shelter: 72307 Ramon Road  
Clinic: 72120 Pet Land Place  
Thousand Palms, CA 92276  
[www.animalsamaritans.org](http://www.animalsamaritans.org)

## Training Schedule

### Dog First Aid and CPR = \$40

September 23 (9:00am-1:00pm) at the  
Weil Institute of Critical Care Medicine

October 14 (9:00am-1:00pm) at the  
Weil Institute of Critical Care Medicine

November 18 (12:30am-4:30pm) at the  
Riverside County Department of Animal  
Services facility in Thousand Palms

### Cat First Aid and CPR = \$22

September 23 (1:30pm-3:30pm) at the  
Weil Institute of Critical Care Medicine

There is an additional \$8 certificate fee  
if you are a previous student. Students  
from the morning Dog First Aid and  
CPR class can join this class for the re-  
duced rate.

### Pet First Aid and CPR Review = \$15

October 7 (10:00am-12:00pm) at the  
Weil Institute of Critical Care Medicine

December 16 (10:00am-12:00pm) at the  
Riverside County Department of Animal  
Services facility in Thousand Palms

Please bring your own student hand-  
book.

