





## Linked Ham Radio Repeater System Instrumental in Hiker Rescue



A hiker in distress in Nevada is thankful that he had his hand-held transceiver along when he found himself stranded in the hills near Henderson. Western Intertie Network (WIN) System member Jim Frederick, KF6QBW, in Arizona reports he was monitoring the system November 3 around midday when he heard,

"Mayday, Mayday. Hiker in distress!" from his WIN System repeater.

"I grabbed a charged battery for my VX-5, and the call came over the radio again," Frederick said. He responded, and the hiker on the other end, Nathan Rischling, KDØHFM, of Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, told him he'd misread the elevation on his topographical map, had ended up on a very steep and rough area, had hurt his hand on a cactus, and could find no safe way out of his situation. He had a GPS, however, and was able to provide Frederick with his precise coordinates. Rischling said he had a day's worth of food and water but needed help getting off the mountain, as he would not get back to his starting point before sundown and, he didn't think his GPS battery would last out the trip.

"KDØHFM stated that he did not take a conventional trail and was using a topographical map and GPS for guidance," Frederick explained.

Frederick said he knew from experience that a call to the Las Vegas search and rescue would expedite the process, so he put out a call on the WIN System for any Las Vegas station that could make the call. James Freeman, KG7EWP, promptly came back, and Frederick handed off the emergency traffic. Freeman called 911 and spoke with search and rescue, and stood by until the situation was resolved. Within 15 minutes a rescue helicopter was on the way.

Frederick kept his ear to the radio until the event was resolved, in case someone needed more information from him, and a few hours later, he overheard Rischling thank KG7EWP for helping "and everyone else on the WIN System for standing by."

The WIN System is a series of 90 linked, or inter-tied, repeaters -- most on UHF (70 centimeters) -- that cover a substantial portion of California, 16 other states, and four countries around the world. It is owned and operated by Shorty Stouffer, K6JSI. KF6QBW is an affiliated repeater station with the WIN System.

"Without Shorty, K6JSI (my Elmer), and the WIN System and its members, I would not have known what to do, let alone been able to help, as I was just a link in this chain of events," Frederick said. -- *Thanks to Chuck Baer, W4ROA; Jim Frederick, KF6QBW; Shorty Stouffer, K6JSI, and Sean Kutzko, KX9X*

Our thanks to The ARRL Letter for November 7, 2013 for this article

## Interesting Devices to Launch an Antenna

Ever tried to get an antenna at the exact place you wanted it? The AARC November 18, 2013 meeting addressed that challenge with a very informative discussion on air cannons.



K1GAH explaining the intricacies of the Air Cannon.



K1GAH and KB1MVV demonstrate that it takes 2 to get an antenna up in a tree.



K3TH demonstrating his antenna launcher.





# REPEATER FREQUENCIES

<b>Davidsonville</b>
<b>147.105+</b>
<b>223.880-</b>
<b>444.400+</b>

<b>Millersville</b>
<b>224.560-</b>

<b>Glen Burnie</b>
<b>147.075+</b>

<b>Annapolis</b>
<b>442.300+</b>

**PL: 107.2 for all repeaters**

The 147.105 and 147.075 repeaters are frequently linked. Please leave an extra second after the courtesy beep to allow the link to reset as well.

*Visitors are welcome to all meetings and nets.  
Meetings are held in the Clubhouse at the  
**Davidsonville Family Recreation Center,**  
Queen Anne Bridge and Wayson Roads off  
MD Route 214 near Davidsonville, MD.  
For en-route directions, make initial contact on the 147.105 repeater.*

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## Wednesday Night Talk Net -- All are welcome

**8PM, On the AARC Repeater 147.105**

Other Amateur Radio Nets

Name	Frequency	Day	Time
Morning Commuter Net	147.105+ PL 107.2	Weekdays	0600
AA County ARES Net	146.805-Mhz PL 107.2	Sunday	2000
Baltimore Traffic Net	146.670-Mhz	Daily	1830
Maryland Emergency Phone Net	3.820Mhz	Daily	1800
MD-DC-DE Traffic Net	3.557Mhz	Daily	1900 and 2200
Maryland Mobileers Net	146.805 PL107.2	Monday	1930
Maryland Slow Net	3.563 MHz	Daily	1930
REACT Net	442.300+Mhz PL107.2	1st Sunday	1930



# The Night Before Christmas -- for Hams

by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

T'was the night before Christmas,  
And all through two-meters,  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,  
Took their HT's to bed,  
And dreamed of the day  
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
by a signal with power.  
It smoked a small diode,  
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky,  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,  
But the moon made it gleam -  
A flying sleigh, with an  
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver  
who looked slightly mean.  
So I thought for a moment,  
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa  
The Santa of Hams.  
On a mission, this Christmas  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of CQ,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late QSLs  
For a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth, till

The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,  
Resoldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp...  
(Never worked right before --  
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter  
Cleaned up the TV,  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer  
That would not compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought,  
And he pulled out a big box,  
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?  
A Yaesu, for me?!"  
(If he thought I'd been bad  
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those hours  
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up  
And in record time, quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,  
It was my call he sent,  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,  
And left a card by the key:  
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.  
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad,  
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,  
And the pile-up was big,  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final  
came over the air.  
It was copied all over.  
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed  
What a ham might expect,  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX."

# **Slate of Candidates for 2014**

## **(Adjusted)**

**President:** Jim Goldsberry, KB3NQY

**Vice-Pres:** Chuck Tanner, K3ACT

**Secretary:** Brian Mary, K3HMX

**Treasurer:** Rick Creager, KK4GV

**Directors:      Vote for 3**

Steve Kelly, K3BAY

Mark Bova, W2PAW

Wayne Precht, AB3RY

Many times the question asked, "**What do I get for my dues?**" After all, the newsletter and roster are electronic now and anyone can read the newsletter on-line. (The roster takes a password but any member can see it and even print a copy.) Aside from the obvious, six repeaters, two digipeaters, full blown club station, clubhouse, presentations, operating events, training, and testing, a typical answer could be: "**The value of club membership is inherent in belonging to and supporting an amateur radio organization that you participate in and care about.**" It's not about what you get. It's about why you care. You are a ham and this is your club.

***So get involved!***

# Anne Arundel Radio Club, Inc.

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First Class Mail

