

SCARS - SCT Chartered Club

Do you know how Amateur Radio Operators became known

as "Hams". Several opinions can be found, but we prefer the one that it is a lazy adaptation of the word amateur - "HAMATEUR." Ham Radio has a long history of service to the community. During the War Hams provide communications between the troops and loved ones. Many Missionaries have counted on Hams for a



Some station of Jim Hester

contact "back home." Times change and communications available to civilians improve, but Hams remain the recognized back-up communications service for failed civil communications. Amateur Radio Operators are issued an Operators License from the Federal Communications Commission after passing an examination covering FCC rules and regulations, operating privileges, and communications theory

The Sun City Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) became a chartered club in 2002 and now has 80 members, many of whom are licensed Amateur Radio Operators. The purpose of SCARS is to exchange ideas about amateur radio, prepare for emergency communications through our affiliation with the Williamson County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, help those interested in becoming a ham, and having fun with others who have something in common.

Hams are always on the cutting edge of communications technology and many enjoy building their own equipment. Some still prefer to communicate using international Morse code. Digital communications modes are also common and several Sun City Hams communicate around the world with text and TV using digital modes.



Club Officers Craig Boegler, Curtis Guyote, Jim Young and Ed Behrman along with guest Herb Nolan at "Field-Day."

We meet every Wednesday at Accents at 9 a.m. for coffee, and we also meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in room 1 of the Activities center for a business meeting and presentation of some topic of interest to Club members.

We typically have two field days per year, one in the spring, and one in the fall, usually at the pavilion, where we test different types of communications equipment and demonstrate Ham Radio to the public. Attic antennas do not perform well so in an emergency Sun City Hams would have to take to the outdoors with portable antennas and equipment.

The club also maintains a communications repeater on 441.625 MHz located in the Sun City Fire Station. The purpose of this repeater is to provide emergency communications if an emergency occurs in Sun City requiring coordinating of emergency response efforts. Members of the Club are often called upon to provide emergency communications as in the case of the Hurricane Rita disaster and the tornado that struck Jerrold a few years ago. Members practice their communications skills by providing communications for bike races and other civic activities. Member Jim Hester has prepared a Sun City Emergency Communications Plan that will be put into action should an emergency occur affecting Sun City. Ham Radio Operators are considered an integral part of Homeland security plans and work closely with all municipal agencies to provide communication when normal channels fail.



Craig Boegler, Ed Behrman and guest with a portable antenna.



Craig Boegler and Ed Behrman at the operating position.