

Arnie

From: "Arnie" <askj@cox-internet.com>
To: <burroughs@countysun.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2004 3:18 PM
Subject: Press release

Dear Editor, I am also an amateur at writing press releases but I hope you will find this newsworthy.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
 Sun City Amateur Radio Society
 103 Dawson Trail, Georgetown, TX 78628
 Contact: Arnie Skjelbostad, Secretary, 512-868-3426

THE HAMS OF SUN CITY PRESENT AN EXPO ALERTING RESIDENTS HOW TO PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES (think Florida)

The Expo was presented at the Pavilion in Legacy Hills Park in Sun City, Wednesday, October 6 between 1:00 and 5:00 pm. Residents were shown recommended materials to have on hand prior to emergencies and how the hams of Sun City would be able to communicate with other hams and summon authorities regardless of power outages.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) of Williamson County was present and informed residents how they prepare, practice, and conduct their activities when needed during emergencies.

Other activities of amateur radio were also shown by the 69 member Sun City Amateur Radio Society. Solar panels for generating power, transmitting antennas, and high frequency transceivers to reach all over the world were demonstrated.

One reason for putting on the Expo was that several residents had asked for more specific information on how to be prepared for emergencies. It was felt the Expo provided the additional information residents wanted.

Arnie Skjelbostad, Secretary

said Ms. Davidson. Musical presentations often include offerings by Southwestern students and faculty.

music."

In addition, Jane Russell and Buzzi Ball performed selections at

Jane S. Davidson contributed to this article.

Sun City Amateur Radio Society hosts Expo

By ARNIE SKJELBOSTAD

The Sun City Amateur Radio Society presented an Expo to inform residents about how to prepare for emergencies — think Florida. The Expo was presented at the Pavilion in Legacy Hills Park in Sun City on October 6 from 1 to 5 p.m.

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emergencies and how the hams of Sun City would be able to communicate with other hams and summon authorities regardless of power outages.

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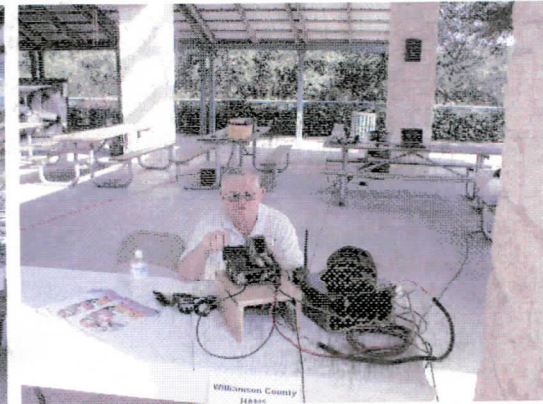
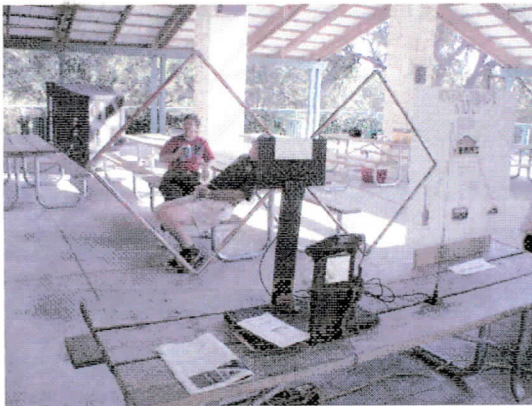
The 69-member society also gave

demonstrations of solar panels for generating power, transmitting antennas and high frequency transceivers to reach all over the world.

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Photos of
Ham Radio
Expo at the
Pavilion
Oct 6, 2004



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.

Traveling by train to ham radio gathering

Several members of the Sun City Amateur Radio Society last month attended Ham-Com, the largest conference for amateur radio operators in Texas.

The radio club is open to FCC-licensed ham radio operators, shortwave listeners and radio or scanning enthusiasts. Club members have 24/7 access to the fully equipped "ham shack" with state-of-the-art equipment. Members are available to assist residents and the Georgetown fire and police departments during local or regional emergencies when additional radio resources are needed. When normal communication modes are down, ham radios still work.

Club president Bob Frost attended the convention. He and wife Kay traveled by rail, taking the Amtrak from Taylor to Fort Worth, where they visited family, and then the Trinity Railway Express to Dallas. They used the Dallas light rail to get from their hotel to Irving and then walked

to the Irving Convention Center.

The conference draws more commercial vendors than any other Texas event and provided programs related to amateur radio operators. Members purchased items for their individual use and items were also examined for purchase for the club. "Being able to speak to a vendor about a product goes a long way in understanding its pros and cons for club consideration," Bob said.

It was hard to tell which Bob enjoyed more: the convention or the train trip. He said the Amtrak seats are comfortable with access to air conditioning and power to charge phone, tablet or music devices. Casual food as well as a dining car were available.

Bob offers this advice for those interested in rail travel: "Yes, American trains are historically late, so if you want to take a trip via Amtrak just relax, enjoy the ride and know that the bar is seldom closed."

— Linda Dwyer



Courtesy photos

Kay and Bob Ross at Ham-Com, the largest conference for amateur radio operators in Texas.



The Rosses took the Trinity Rail Express from Fort Worth to Dallas, then traveled by light rail to Irving.

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around sun city



FIELD DAY!

The Sun City Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) Club held a Field Day in June at the Legacy Hills Park Pavilion to test their radio equipment and hold a picnic.

Pictured at left are Jim Young, Jim Hester and Craig Boegler.



CRUISIN' TO WALBURG

The Sun City Corvette Club and the Heart of Texas Corvette Club (HOTCC) cruised to the Walburg German Restaurant on June 7.

Pictured Front Row: Judy Landry, Deanna Menesses, Celia Olson, Denise Gorel. Back Row: Don Landry, Alan Menesses, Lee Meyners, Pam Meyners, Don Olson, Stef Gorel

Weather watchers train to spot tornadoes, more

By LINDA DWYER



National Weather Service meteorologist Larry Hopper trains future weather watchers.

Linda Dwyer

"Everyone talks about the weather but no one does anything about it," as Charles Dudley Warner said to Mark Twain.

Weather is a natural conversation ice-breaker. Neighbors exchange comments on summer heat and farmers talk about lack of rain at the local diner.

Summer days in Texas are always hot but we check the weather report to see how hot. We are all weather watchers. Our ancestors were weather watchers and those that follow us will be weather watchers.

We can't change the weather and severe conditions often cause damage and death. Our power lies in being prepared to take action or take cover.

The National Weather Service offers Skywarn Spotter Training that teaches participants about weather preparedness and safety. After basic training, individuals become official weather spotters.

Atmospheric Sciences, a new special interest group within the Nature Club, sponsored a visit July 20 from National Weather Service meteorologist Larry Hopper. Mr. Hopper conducted a Skywarn training session at the first Atmospheric Science meeting, which was held inside the Cowan Center Amenity Center and attracted 36 people.

Gail Abend, event organizer, said the group will be "extra eyes to the National Weather Service."

The Austin-San Antonio office of the National Weather Services covers 33 counties and needs those "eyes" out in the field. According to Skywarn, "real time reports to our office can save lives and property. Post-storm reports can help us find severe weather damage, tornado tracks and verify severe weather warnings."

Sun City's Amateur Radio Society includes members of the Williamson County Amateur Radio Emergency Services, who participate in annual Skywarn training and weekly check-ins.

"Members volunteer their time and equipment to help when normal communications fail or become inadequate," said Bob Frost, president of the Amateur Radio Society.

Weather watchers are trained how to estimate in their reporting. For example, reports for hail use a generalized sizing chart based on approximate stone diameter. Golf-ball size hail is reported as 1 3/4 inches in diameter while grapefruit size is for hail five inches in diameter. In case you are wondering, the largest hail ever recorded was in South Dakota with a diameter of eight inches and weighing almost two pounds.

Lee Scott, who saved those record-sized ice stones, said "it sounded like a guy throwing bricks at the house."

Types of reportable weather include funnel clouds, tornadoes, flooding and strong winds. Watchers learn to give exact locations but to "never place your life in danger."

It's reassuring to know our area is in good hands with its Skywarn trainees because, as Mark Twain said, "Climate is what we expect and weather is what we get."

City Week expands coverage to all Sun City homes

City Week, which highlights the people and institutions that make Sun City a great place to live, gained more than 5,000 readers in the past week.

Previously an insert in subscribers' week-end editions of *The Williamson County Sun*, *City Week* is now available free of charge to all Sun City residents.

We will continue to feature Sun City residents' amazing stories, report on their achievements and air their concerns in these pages.

Please direct any questions or suggestions to *Sun* Managing Editor Will Anderson at 512-930-4824 or email him at editor@wilcosun.com.

Additionally, any residents interested in having their work appear in *City Week* can submit ideas or examples of past work to Mr. Anderson using the aforementioned methods.

We are also happy to showcase club news and residents' artwork in these pages. Whether it's a smashing birthday party, a great photo of your grandkids visiting or a newly formed special interest group, email the good news to editor@wilcosun.com.

City Week is also included in all editions of the *Sun* for sale at City Market and at the Walgreens at Williams Drive and Del Webb Boulevard, at the entrance to Sun City.

Thanks for reading!

— Will Anderson



Medicare Advantage Plans:

Historically the primary Medicare Advantage plans available in Travis and Williamson counties were provided by United Health Care and Scott and White. I am pleased to report the addition of Aetna Medicare plans to the mix including both an HMO and a PPO plan. Both are MAPD plans which include prescription drug coverage with a robust provider network. Come join us for coffee and refreshments at the Cowan Creek Andice Room.

For more information, contact Ron Isgitt at (512) 773-8412 or (512) 763-1097.

Thriving at home with Alzheimer's

Monday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m., CCW

Hosted by: Georgetown Living

Purchase your \$1 ticket online or at the Member Services Office.

Jane Austen famously said, "There is nothing like staying at home for real comfort." Though most will agree with this sentiment, staying at home can be a challenge if you are afflicted with Alzheimer's or another type of dementia. Fortunately, there are a growing number of services, technological solutions, and academic studies that can be leveraged to help those with dementia stay safely at home. Join us for a discussion of these tools and learn about some best practices that have been used to allow those with dementia to live safely in their home for as long as possible.

For more information, contact Margo Hays: (512) 639-1238 or email at margo@gtownliving.com. Visit www.gtownliving.com for more information.

HealthSpeak Education Series at Sun City

UNDERSTANDING HERNIA

Learn about the recent advances in the diagnosis and minimally invasive treatment for hernias. Join surgeons **John Eckford II, MD**, and **Staci Hix-Hernandez, MD**, from Scott & White Healthcare to learn about quicker recovery times and positive outcomes.

Please join us for this FREE program.

Tuesday
November 17
3:30-5 p.m.

Cowan Creek Community
Center - Sun City
1433 Cool Spring Way
Georgetown, TX 78633

RSVP requested. Please call 844-BSW-DOCS (279-3627) to register.

For information on upcoming events, visit healthspeak.sw.org.

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SUN CITY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY'S SEPTEMBER FOX HUNT

Ham Radio operators Bob Frost and Don Parrish (far left and right) using radio directional finding equipment were the first hunt team to find a hidden transmitter (the "Fox") hidden by fellow ham club members Dee and Curtis Guyote (center).

This monthly Saturday morning radio hunt is sponsored by Sun City's Amateur Radio Society to hone members' radio operation and signal-tracking skills. Each month's winners hide the "Fox" somewhere in Sun City for next month's hunt.

around sun city



OCTOBER FOX HUNT

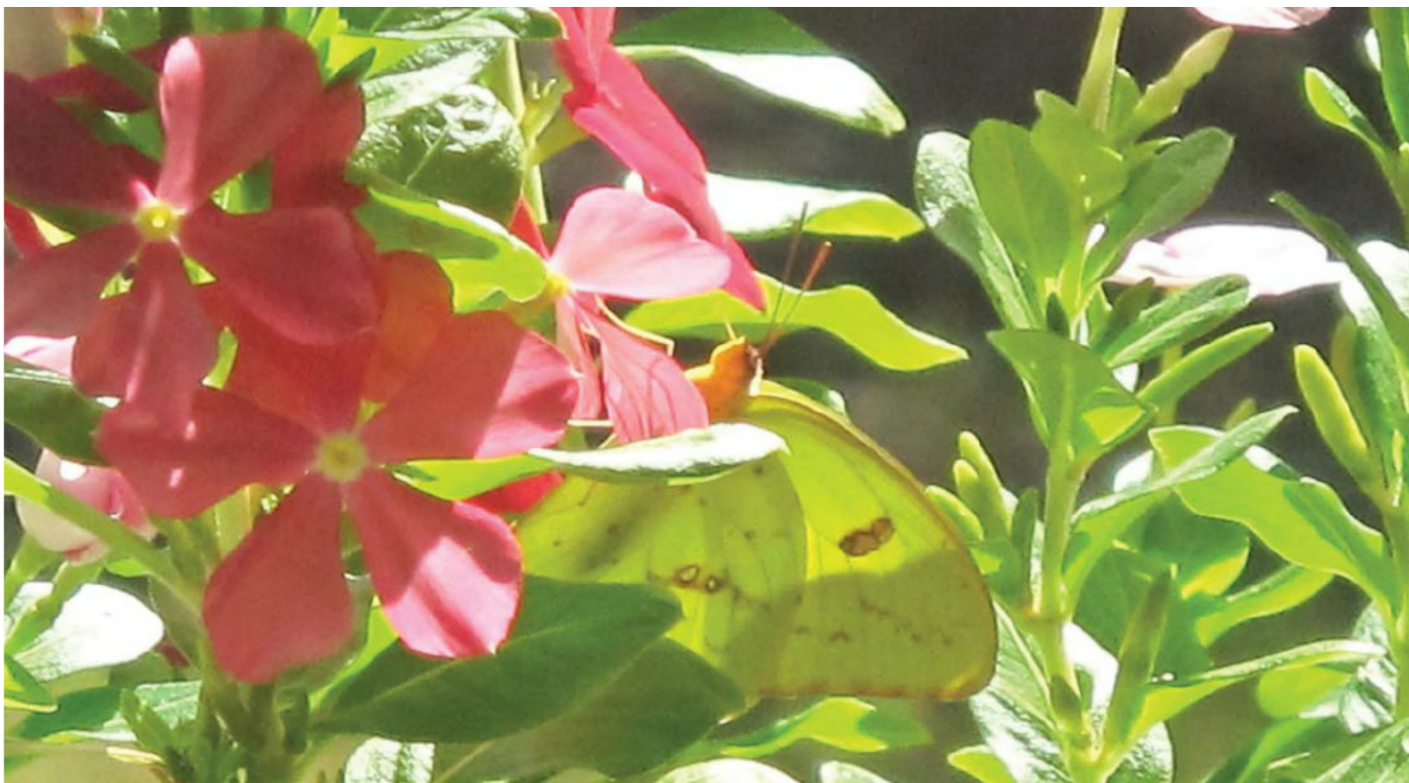
Left to right: Ham Radio operators John Scott and Don Miller, using radio directional finding equipment, were the first hunt team to find a hidden transmitter (the "Fox") hidden by the winners of the September hunt.

The monthly Saturday morning radio hunt is sponsored by the Sun City Amateur Radio Society club.



AUTUMN IN VERMONT

In October, Lynne and Jimmy Wray, along with Kerri and Roland Schroeder, visited the Apple Barn in Vermont.



BUTTERFLY BY BARBARA LUNA

Continued from the previous page
 deployed service members. In just three years, these efforts have amounted to over \$30,000 in community giving.

PET CLUB

Pet Club members strive to help the community and fellow residents in a number of different ways. Each year, we donate several thousand dollars to the Georgetown Municipal Shelter, Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter, Georgetown Animal Outreach and Texas Humane Heroes. The Pet Club is instrumental in reuniting lost animals with their Sun City owners and even helps rehabilitate strays, as we did in 2015 when members came together to provide a stray, injured pug with desperately needed medical attention. Each December, we sponsor the Toys & Treats drive, donating food, toys, treats, blankets and more to local animal shelters. Our Pet Partners



SCARS member Curtis Guyote assists with radio communication at the Red Poppy Bike Ride.



A Pet Partners member visits with a Southwestern University student.

Pet Therapy program sends over 50 specially trained dog and handler teams to visit with patients at St. David's and Rock Springs hospitals; residents of area nursing, assisted living and memory care facilities, and students at local grammar schools and libraries. Finally, our dogs and handlers have been active participants in Junior Camp for several years, introducing many grandkids and great-grandkids to the joy of playing with dogs.

SUN CITY'S AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY - SCARS: *On the air and standing by!*

When all else fails, the Sun City Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) is ready to go! With self-maintained stations that can survive disasters, operate on backup power and communicate locally, regionally

or worldwide, SCARS' hams serve in emergency situations as a reserve pool of trained radio operators. Members Craig Boegler and Bob Frost serve as Assistant Emergency Coordinators for Williamson County and Georgetown's Emergency Operation Centers (EOC), operating under Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to support local agencies. SCARS assists with crisis training events, such as Williamson County's Simulated Emergency Tests and Austin-Bergstrom International Airport's full scale exercise, and maintains radio facilities in the Williamson County and Georgetown emergency operations centers, Georgetown Fire Station #3 and at St. David's Georgetown Hospital, ensuring critical information reaches first

responders. Bottom Line: Sun City's hams are on the air and standing by to help!

- Authors Don Parrish & Bob Frost are both FCC-licensed ham radio operators and current SCARS officers

SOLOS CARE

Since 2009, members of Solos Chartered Club have come together through Solos Care to take on charitable projects for local causes, provide manpower for donation collections and ensure intended recipients are reached. Our very first collection in 2009 was for toilet paper! We learned that The Caring Place needed toilet paper, which is not covered by assistance to low-income families. Did our members ever respond! We delivered an entire pickup load of toilet paper. More recent efforts have included Breakfast in a Box, which provided breakfast items to The Caring

Place during the school year; Treats and Toiletries for Troops, which shipped nonperishable foods and personal items to active military from Williamson County, and creating a focused drive to collect toys for older children for the Georgetown Police Department's Blue Santa program. Solos is proud of its members for taking the lead, going beyond socialization to enhance our lives as well as the lives of others.

- Karen Livingston, Solos Care Chairman

HIKING CLUB

We are privileged to live in an area with an abundance of natural resources, and the Sun City Hiking Club is proud to aid in the preservation and promotion of those resources. In addition to developing and maintaining the Bonita Loop of Sun City's Tranquility Trail, we have assisted the

Army Corps of Engineers with Goodwater Loop upkeep, painted trail markers at Inks Lake for the Texas Parks and Wildlife, and contributed to multiple preservation and trail development projects for Williamson County. The club's recent charitable donations include funding the purchase of trail maintenance tools and interpretive signage for the Burnet-based nonprofit Friends of Inks Lake. Our volunteers participate in Public Lands Day projects, meet monthly at the Estrella Oaks Care Center to walk with residents and routinely carry bags to pick up trash wherever they happen to be. Finally, six members of the Hiking Club are certified by Williamson County Conservation Foundation to provide Leave No Trace training, and have taught hundreds of Sun City residents to be stewards of the land.



Solos President Marla Forrest and Solos Care members Richard Liardon and Bill Ramsey unload school supplies donated for needy Georgetown students.