

A History of
HASSAYAMPA AMATEUR RADIO KLUB (HARK)

North Ranch Escapees Park, Congress, Arizona.

By Larry Francis (KW7I) - April 21, 2009

The seeds of HARK were planted in January of 2004 when Larry and Donna Francis passed the Technician License tests at the Mile Post 99 gathering called Quartzfest. When they returned to North Ranch that fall, they were more confident in their two-meter radio skills and began talking to other folks in the area.

It turned out that there were several hams at North Ranch, so Donna and Larry initiated a patio gathering, with coffee and cookies, to see if there was any interest in starting a radio group. Several of the attendees thought it could be a bad idea, basically because of the very close proximity of neighbors. The majority, 4 to 2 as I recall, were in favor of another gathering.

For the next year or so, Donna and Larry circulated around the park with gathering notices and the group grew. And in that time frame Doug Jarmuth came on the scene, as the new husband of a North Ranch resident, Joyce Linnerud.

At this point things moved quickly to the forming an informal club, primarily Escapees, but including hams from the surrounding communities. Several names were suggested, and Hassayampa Amateur Radio Klub was selected. This name did not actually tie us to exclusively Escapees or Yavapai County. Hassayampa is a river that comes down through the Bradshaw Mountains near Prescott and joins the Gila River in the south. And by now we had 15 to 20 regular attendees.

About half of the membership is involved with the Yavapai County ARES/RACES group in Prescott, AZ. Although from North Ranch we can not access their main repeater, they did refurbish the Mt Union repeater, and we have our own weekly ARES net, in conjunction with the regular Mingus Mt net.

Various members of HARK have been involved in the communications assistance for a number of community events, some through Yavapai or Maricopa County ARES, Southern Yavapai County Sheriff's Response Team (Search & Rescue), and others on our own.

In the spring of 2009 HARK became a certified affiliate of ARRL with constitution, officers... Everything most clubs have, but dues. We have had our first VE session, headed by Chuck Carter, and graduated a new General... Bob Pugh (KD7JIG).

The regular HARK meetings are held in the North Ranch Activity Center at 6:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month, except for June through August when we do not meet.

The HARK Charter Officers are:

President : Doug Jarmuth - N0DAJ

Vice President : Chuck Carter, Jr - AA0RI

Secretary : Larry Francis - KW7I

Treasurer : Judi Piper - WD8BFX

Committee Chairs are:

Membership : Chuck Carter, AA0RI

VE Sessions : Roy Shelso - W5RT

RF Interference : Bill Fageol - KA9A

Education ; Art Bross - KC7GF

Some of the folks from the earlier days that were instrumental in getting our group active are: Warren Ullberg - W7WRU, Larry Francis - KD7ZIK (now KW7I), Donna Francis - KD7ZIJ, Bill Fageol - KA9A, Roy Shelso - W5RT, Larry Mosinski - KF6ELV, Doug Jarmuth - N0DAJ, Cecil Shafer - N5UUR, Art Bross - KC7GF, Kathy Bross - N7AYR, Jim Browner - AF4MC, Hubert Chesley - K7LRJ, Bob Pugh - KD7JIG, Brent Haberer - KB0ZCO and some others that I can not recall at the moment.

As you pass by or come to stay at North Ranch, please make contact. We try to monitor 146.580 simplex. And we have a website hosted RFStuff.com, so check it out, too - <http://www.harkaz.org/> .

PS - This was all result of a chance meeting at the 2003 Escapees Fun Days by Larry and Donna with two of the nicest people you could every expect to meet.... The Bingham's, Bob - K9WMP and Laura - K9BZY. Larry has since , via Bingham testing, progressed to General, then Extra Class with the call sign KW7I.