



Yavapai Signal

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club – Prescott, Arizona – DM-34 – Volume 39 – No. 1 — January 2024

Upcoming Club Events				
Event	Date	Time	Place	Contact / Info:
General Meeting	January 4, 2024 Thursday	1900 MST 7 p.m.	Freeman Building, Prescott Rodeo Grounds	Club Website
YARC Breakfast	January 18, 2024 Thursday	0800 MST 8 a.m.	Backburner Restaurant, Prescott Valley	Don WB7TPH or Jeff WB7RFY
Transmitter Hunt	January 6, 2024 Saturday	1300 MST 1 p.m.	OneAZ Credit Union parking lot, Gail Gardner Way & Willow Creek Rd., Prescott	Pete K6VVR or John WB9VGJ
General Meeting Programs — See page 4.				

YARC:	Badges	Patches	Shirts
Features:	Name & Call	Club Name & Logo	With or Without Name & Call
Contact Person(s):	Go to the URL below.	Jane Lerette	Pete Morrison K6VVR
Cost:	See prices on website.	\$6.00 each	Without Name & Call \$20.00 — With Name & Call \$24.00 each
https://www.hamcrazy.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=14_20_74&products_id=500			



Welcome to the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) is an ARRL affiliate Special Service Club. The club participates in many activities in the quad-city (Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, and Dewey-Humboldt) area by providing communications for local events, emergency communications, and promotion of the hobby throughout the community.

Membership in YARC is open to any interested amateur or non-amateur alike. Dues are \$20.00 per year (full-time students \$15). YARC general meetings are usually at 1900 MST (7 p.m.) on the first Thursday of every month at the Danny Freeman Building, Prescott Rodeo Grounds, 840 Rodeo Drive in Prescott

www.w7yrc.org

YAVAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – PO BOX 11994 – PRESCOTT AZ 86304-1994

Club Nets — Revised, August 1, 2023

Band	Mode	Frequency	PL	Day or Night	Time
2M 70cm	FM	146.880 MHz 447.650 MHz	– 100.0 Hz	Monday	1200 MST 12:00 noon
2M 70cm	FM	146.880 MHz 447.650 MHz	– 100.0 Hz	Wednesday	1900 MST 7 p.m.
2M	SSB (USB)	144.250 MHz	N/A	Monday	1900 MST 7 p.m.
6M	SSB (USB)	50.140 MHz	N/A	Friday	1900 MST 7 p.m.
10M	SSB (USB)	28.444 MHz +/- QRM	N/A	Thursday	1900 MST 7 p.m.
2M 70cm	FM	146.880 MHz 447.650 MHz	– 100.0 Hz	Saturday	0900 MST 9 a.m.
Yavapai County ARES/RACES Nets					
2M	FM	147.260 MHz	+103.5 Hz	Monday	1830 MST 6:30 p.m.
2M	FM	145.290 MHz	–127.3 Hz	Monday	1900 MST 7 p.m.

Submission Deadline for the Yavapai Signal from editor Loren Singh, AE7CG

The usual deadline for submission of articles and photos to appear in the Yavapai Signal is the 18th calendar day of each month. That gives me time to edit and format submissions, and to have the newsletter available for distribution to the club membership by the 20th calendar day of each month. The aim is to have the newsletter in the hands of club members approximately 10 days or so before the holding of the general meetings on the first Thursday of each month.

ae7cg@arrl.net

Share Your Surplus Items

Bring any ham related surplus items that you no longer need to the next club meeting. There will be a table at the meeting where your items can be placed. Let your fellow club member take those things that they want. The table will be available at each monthly meeting.





From the President's Desk by Raymond Kolman, KD7RK

Another year is almost gone. I am looking forward to a fantastic 2024. In this month's newsletter, I take a look back at my first year as President of YARC.

2023 was a fantastic year for our club. We had some great changes and some things that might have been better. Let's start with the not-so-great changes. HamClubOnline might fall into this category. Most members are doing fine with the transfer to the new system. A few are having difficulty navigating the site. To take the burden off our club from having to manually input and manage our membership rolls, there was a need for the move. In every new endeavor, there is a learning curve and difficulties are to be expected. I hope everyone will persevere with the new website.

There were good things that happened during 2023. We got a new LOGO, and a new Badge distributor, HamCrazy.com. Here is the link to buy a badge

(https://www.hamcrazy.com/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=14_20_74)

We improved our YARC weekly Wednesday night net with establishing two person teams to run the net. Each team is assigned to do one net a month. If you want to learn how to run a net let us know and we will team you up with an experienced net controller. Our youth programs have been awesome. Dave K1AN and Heather W8GEM Anderson were instrumental in making the youth program a big success. With their stepping away, we are looking for a new Youth Coordinator to run this program in 2024.

We continue to excel in supporting our community. Our club is the go-to organization for communications during events. Our involvement ranges from supporting the Prescott Rodeo, the outdoor races, and parades. Think about getting involved in one of the events coming in 2024. All this information is on our web page www.w7yrc.org – go to the website, scroll down, and click on Public Service 2024 Events.

Ron Shimek – W7WWB served his last year on the Board of Directors. Thank you, Ron, for your hard work and for dedicating your time to serve the club. We also say goodbye to our Vice President, Mike Reid and welcome Steven Stock - WAØA as the new Vice President. Mike Reid – WU7V did a fantastic job for our club. He was always there when I needed him. He organized our club presentations and made our monthly meetings run smoothly. Mike, it has been a pleasure to work with you and I appreciate your help as I learned the ropes during my first year as President.

I'd like to share an interesting and challenging experience I recently had with applying for a vanity call sign. After I passed the Amateur Extra test, I decided to apply for a new call sign. I managed to log in to my FCC license account. Make sure you have your FRN number because you will need it for the login. Next you will need to find the link to apply for a vanity call sign, then fill out the form, and pay. Paying the fee presented another challenge because instead of being given a link to click on, one has to find the payment page from another web page.

The positive thing about the FCC is their call-in help number. The people that run the help desk are the best. Don't be afraid to use this service. Fantastic people are on the other end of the phone, use them if you have any questions.

I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's all make a resolution to be a more active Ham Radio Operator in 2024. Whether it is trying out a new net, socializing with fellow hams over breakfast, or getting out there in the field as a volunteer for one of our YARC events. Let's all make 2024 as the year to BE RADIO ACTIVE!

Meeting Minutes

By decision of the board of directors, minutes of the board and general meeting minutes will no longer appear in the Yavapai Signal. They are posted online at the club's website:
www.w7yrc.org .

Upcoming General Meeting Programs, 2024

by Steven E. Stock, WAØA

<u>Month:</u>	<u>Program:</u>
January	Portable HF Operating
February	ARRL Update by Rick Paquette W7RAP, ARRL Section Manager

Mentor Buddies — Revised October 27, 2023

by Bill Noe, WG7W

Name	Call Sign	E-mail	Telephone
Don Bauer	WB7TPH	dbauer2250@aol.com	928.775.4690
Art Protas	KG6AY	kg6ay.dm34@gmail.com	928.227.2954
Jerry Warzеха	W7FNC	jerry.warzеха@hotmail.com	612.205.3810
Bill Noe	WG7W	wq7w@arrl.net	928.710.6925
Mike Belanger	W1DGL	fix_broke_airplanes@hotmail.com	928.710.2565
Ron Purcell	KI7EVK	728rwp@gmail.com	707.849.7099
Jack Szelka	AI1K	radioaik@gmail.com	401.580.0330
Mike Reid	WU7V	mdr126@gmail.com	480.250.6093

New Membership Website

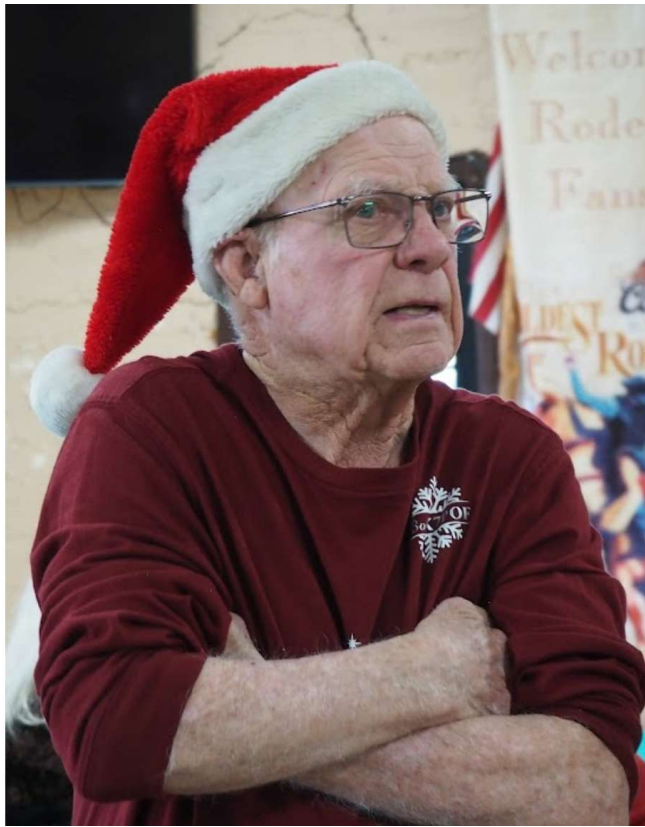
by Steven E. Stock, WAØA

Big thanks and congratulations to Robert Riester WA6FBA for successfully transferring 300 plus membership records to HamClubOnline.com. Robert spent many hours handling membership data. He created a password system and a mass email application. We are very grateful for Robert's dedication in ensuring our club's success.

When directed to <http://hamclubonline.com/> you may need a new password — just click on "Forgot Password" and enter your call sign. If you don't have a call sign yet, use your appropriate email address. An email with instructions will be sent to you which may be the email address that the FCC has for you.

Send replies to VicePresident@w7yrc.org .

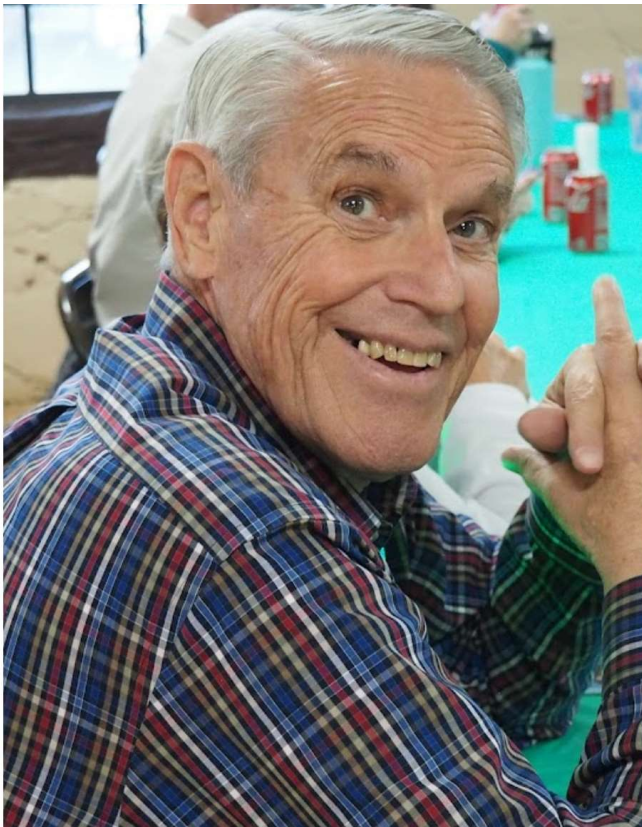




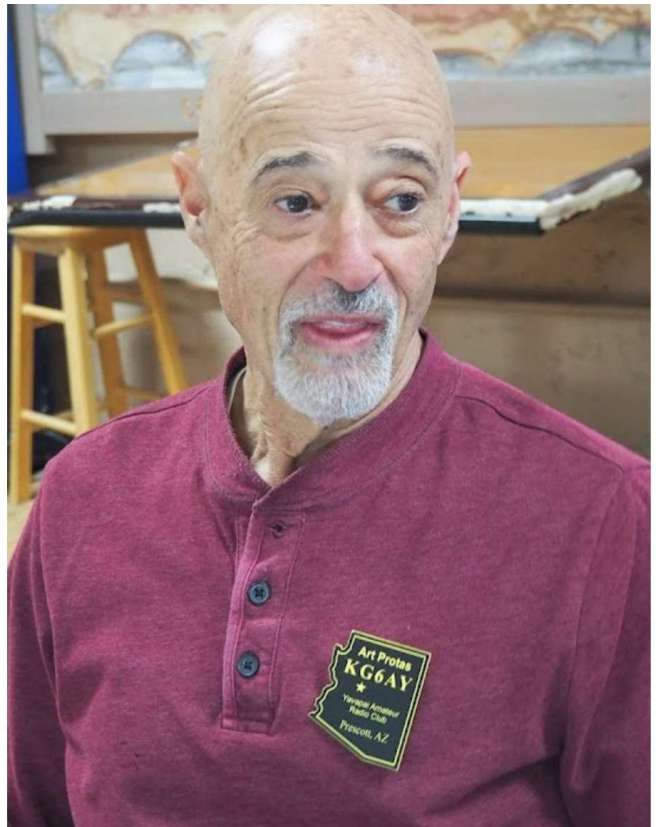
Bob Sitterley K7POF



Heather Anderson W8GEM



Steve Smith KG7SDY



Art Protas KG6AY

YARC Annual Dinner, December 7, 2023
(Photos courtesy of Fernando Mendigutia KJ7QHI)



Pete Morrison K6VVR



Jerry Lawson KF7FPD

Hidden Transmitter Hunt, December 9, 2023
 (Photos courtesy of Fernando Mendigutia KJ7QHI)



December 2023 Foxhunt by John Broughton, WB9VGJ

The December foxhunt was held Saturday, December 9, 2023. Jeff WB7RFY, Keith KJ7GTX, and John WB9VGJ were the foxes.

There were four teams for this hunt:

1	Rich WB7NRM and Sharon KK7NNK
2	Mike WU7V, Andy N7AAW, and Steve KG7SDY
3	Byron KK7BFL and Don KI7IOM
4	Robert WA6FBA and Gary K6JXM
5	Pete K6VVR and Jerry KF7FPD

The results of the hunt were:

Finish	Team	Time
1	5	11 min.
2*	4	15 min.
3*	2	15 min.
4	1	18 min.
5	3	42 min.

* Teams 4 and 2 both had the same times, but Team 4 drove fewer miles, 4.4 as opposed to 5.8 miles for Team 2.

The foxes hid the transmitters at the BMX track at the Arizona Downs, formerly the Yavapai County Fairgrounds on Rt. 89A just east of Prescott Valley. This was the last foxhunt in Prescott Valley. The starting point was changed to the parking lot of the Prescott Valley Arizona Stake (church) near the intersection of Viewpoint Drive and Rt. 89A. That helped account for the short times of the teams. It was a very good hunt in that all five teams found the transmitters.

Congratulations to Team 5 for winning the hunt!

You can see pictures of the hunt here:

<https://tinyurl.com/YARCfoxhuntDec2023>

Rich WB7NRM took a nice video at the hunt with his drone. You can watch the video here:

<https://vimeo.com/893063932>

We went to the A&W restaurant in Prescott Valley for socializing after the hunt.

We invite anyone interested in foxhunting, especially anyone who has not done it before, to join us. Those new to the hobby can ride with an experienced hunter. We always have a good time, win, lose or draw.



Club Station Notes

by Mike Belanger, W1DGL — Station Manager
928.356.8267

Well, here's my first article for the Yavapai Signal as Club Station Manager. I'm fairly new to writing stuff like this, so please forgive any errors (of which there'll probably be many).

Recently, we installed a new(er) ICOM IC-7300 radio at the station, replacing the 2nd ICOM IC-746 Pro and boy, does it work nicely. Through much 'trial and error', I was able to get it and the club computer on that side of the station (Station "A") to communicate with the following programs:

- MMSSTV (for SSTV, or Slow-Scan TV)
- WSJT-X (for FT8/FT4 and others)
- fldigi (for RTTY, PSK31, Olivia, Contestia, Hellschreiber ["Feld Hell"] and several other digital modes).

We can now operate HF digital, Phone (SSB) and CW using it. In addition, I worked with the other radio (Station "B"), the ICOM IC-746 Pro to do the same. I took the 'old' Signalink USB that was connected to the 746 Pro that the 7300 replaced and reconfigured it for the ICOM IC-706MkII; all we need to connect it to the computer is a USB "A" to USB "B" cable and we'll be able to use it for either 6m Phone or digital as well (the IC-7300 hasn't been connected to the 6m beam yet, but should be soon).

Additionally, during one of the RTTY contests I was working, the ISS happened to be making passes overhead and the Russian segment was transmitting SSTV (PD120 mode), so I was able to configure the MMSSTV software to use the TNC connected to the TM-v71 on the Station "A" side to receive those pictures, so I was not only operating in the RTTY contest, I also received the SSTV pictures from the ISS during it on each of its close passes. This was purely a software change and did not involve changing anything physically on that radio, so we can still do Winlink/VARA on it as well.

I sent pics of the 'new' radio and suggested changes to the club station webpage (<http://www.w7yc.org/club-station>) to Mike WU7V, but he hasn't had time to update that yet.

I worked several contests from this station, and all I can say at this point is that, even though improvements can (and at some point will) be made, it's overall a very good station to operate. For those Technicians that would like to operate under their 10m privileges, about the only mode you can't do is SSTV; the frequency's well above the 28.500 MHz 'edge' for you (until you upgrade to General, anyhow), but all other digital modes: FT8/FT4, RTTY, PSK31, CW and a few others are well within your license's privileges.

Will AI help us have more fun with amateur radio? by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In this morning's email was a message from Inc. magazine with links to some articles in the magazine. At the top of the list was, "4 Unimaginable Ways A.I. Will Change Your Life Within the Next 5 Years, According to Bill Gates" (<https://www.inc.com/minda-zetlin/4-unimaginable-ways-ai-will-change-your-life-within-next-5-years-according-to-billgates.html>) Gates says that in the next five years, you will have your own artificial intelligence assistant, or agent, that will be a frequent voice in your ear and will help you with everything from deciding where to go on vacation to managing your friendships and more. Let's think for a minute about Gates' 4 Ways and how they might help us enjoy amateur radio more.

1. You won't bother with software or operating systems anymore.

How cool would this be. You could simply tell your AI amateur radio assistant, "Hey, HAL. Let's operate 20-meter FT8 this afternoon," and the agent would set up the radio and begin looking for contacts. If the band wasn't open, it would come back and tell you, "I'm sorry, Dave, but propagation on 20 meters is terrible this afternoon. May I suggest 30 meters instead?"

2. Your agent will be a frequent voice in your ear.

Gates believes that most of us will wear at least one earbud most of the time so that our agents can talk to us whenever they need to. So, for example, it might be monitoring the activity on 6 meters and notify you when the band is open. Or, you might want it to notify you when a particular contest or operating event is coming up so that you don't miss it. "Dave," it might say, "remember that the 2-meter club net is at 8 pm tonight."

3. Your agent will get involved in your personal relationships.

We often don't think of amateur radio as having a personal aspect, but it really does. For example, don't we enjoy talking to some people more than others? Your personal agent could monitor your club's 2-meter repeater or 40-meter CW and notify you when your friends are on the air.

Gates also notes that you could have your AI assistant talk to your friends' assistants and set up lunch for you. If those friends are also radio amateurs, you could also use that capability to set up an on-air sked.

4. It might even help you solve personal problems.

The article notes, "One of the most intriguing predictions Gates made is that your agent could also become your therapist" While many hams probably do need therapy, I'm not so sure how applicable this will be to amateur radio.

What I could see happening is using an AI assistant to help you choose your next rig or maybe help you troubleshoot a problem. Here are some scenarios:

- You ask your AI assistant what rig you should buy next. Since it already knows what bands you like to operate—and the state of your finances—it can analyze all the options and find a radio that meets your operating needs and fits into your budget.
- You might describe your backyard and the bands that you want to operate, and your AI Assistant could come back with antenna suggestions.
- You ask your AI assistant about a problem that you're having with your rig. It comes back with, "Dave, if you would just RTFM, you will find the answer on page 67 of the operating manual." Or, after scanning the appropriate online forums, it would tell you, "Dave, several other owners seem to be having a similar problem. Here's what they've done...."

All of this sounds kind of fun to me, but I can understand some of you having reservations. What do you think? Can you think of other ways an AI assistant would make amateur radio more fun for you?

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (<https://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/>), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (<https://icqpodcast.com>). When he's not trying to decide if artificial intelligence will help us have more fun with ham radio—or destroy humanity—he tinkers with electronics projects and works CW on the HF bands. You can email your AI comments to Dan at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



The DX Store

sales@dxstore.com

www.dxstore.com



Breakfast and Lunch Gatherings

There are a number of breakfast and lunch gatherings in the area that are open to all radio amateurs and interested persons. Please let us know of any updates or corrections at info@w7yrc.org.

Third Thursday of the Month – **YARC** holds an informal **breakfast** gathering at the **BackBurner** Restaurant at 0800 MST (8 a.m.). The restaurant is at 8400 Long Mesa Drive in Prescott Valley. Contact Don Bauer WB7TPH or Jeff Hanna WB7RFY.

Every Wednesday – Lunch – 1030 MST (10:30 a.m.) at **Costco** – “The Umbrella Club,” now without the umbrellas!

Club Officers, 2024

Officer	Name	Call Sign	Email Address
President	Raymond Kolman	KD7RK	president@w7yrc.org
Vice President	Steven E. Stock	WAØA	vicepresident@w7yrc.org
Treasurer	Jane Lerette	K7ZHF	treasurer@w7yrc.org
Secretary	Tim Norton	K7PVY	secretary@w7yrc.org
Director	Mike Schnell	NC7X	nc7x@w7yrc.org
Director	Debbie Kolman	W1QT	w1qt@w7yrc.org
Director	Byron Wilkinson	KK7BFL	kk7bfl@w7yrc.org
Director	Bernard A. Sakowicz	W1RAD	w1rad@w7yrc.org
Editor Emeritus	Joseph Oliver	AC6AA	ac6aa@arri.net
Editor	Loren Singh	AE7CG	ae7cg@arri.net
Webmaster	Robert Reister	WA6FBA	webmaster@w7yrc.org

Yavapai Amateur Radio Club — W7YRC Club Station Access List — Effective January 1, 2024

Permanent Station Access (defined by YARC role) —

Name:	Call:	Lic. Class	Notes:	Telephone:
John Snedden	KT7P	E	YARC Ex-President	909.844.5108 – Do not contact for access
Frank Bender	K8FB	E	YCJP Bldg. Mgr.	928.379.5575 – Do not contact for access
Mike Belanger	W1DGL	E	Club Sta. Mgr.	928.356.38267 – OK to contact for access
Pete Morrison	K6VVR	E	W7YRC Trustee	928.899.8555 – Dont not contact for access
Bud Semon	N7CW	E	ARES/RACES DEC	928.899.7400– Do not contact for access
Rob Redford	KG7LMI	G	ARES/RACES ED	623.252.3980– Do not contact for access
Jim Zimmerman	N6KZ	E	Elmer Group	928.713.0542 – OK to contact for access
Art Protas	KG6AY	E	Elmer Group	928.227.2954 – OK to contact for access
Doug Freeman	KV8TD	E	N7GMH Trustee	928.759.0958 – Do not contact for access

Building Access for Other Reasons (includes station access) —

Donald Bauer	WB7TPH	E	VE Chair	928.775.4690 – Do not contact for access
Kathy Laing	KJ6KMK	E	License Classes	928.778.2526 – Do not contact for access

Rotating Access (changes every July 1st) —

This category is limited and consists of volunteer members —

Jim Custer	WØHJ	E	Rotating Member	507.720.4053 – OK to contact for access
Tony Jackson	K6PSR	G	Rotating Member	562.644.0528 – OK to contact for access

Note to YARC Members —

For station accss, first try to contact the Rotating Access members.
If you are not able to contact the Rotating Access members, then try to contact the other “OK to contact for access” members.

