



K7EAR



May 2009

EAARS open repeaters. PL is 141.3 unless noted otherwise

Helio 146.860 and 440.700 EAARS Network, 146.900, 447.825 w/ closed remote PL 100.0
or 141.3. Packet 145.010 **MT. Lemmon** 147.160 EAARS Network **Pinal Peak** 145.41
EAARS Network **Guthrie Peak** 147.28 EAARS Network **Jacks Peak, NM** 145.21
EAARS Network
GMRS Repeater on Helio 462.625 PL 123.0

Field Day

We are going to do a small, low level Field day this year. The location will be Cluff Pond south of Pima. We are planning on a 2A entry so we can get all the bonus points. If somebody wants to do any of the bonus point things or just operate we welcome you. The plan is for one phone station and one digital/ cw station with the main effort on the phone station. Come on out and join the fun! We are not trying to set records just have fun. Beth, AA7NW and Dave N7AM are the ones in charge, let one of us know if you'd like to participate and how you would like to participate. There are things that anybody can do including just experiencing HF operation. The dates are June 27th and 28th.. The plan at this point is to set up 1 beam and rotor on the bus mast, a ground mounted vertical, and a dipole. If somebody wants to do a VHF station or a GOTA station we'll add some antenna's but, NO large tower raising or anything, this is for fun

7QP

A nine minute youtube video and some pictures of our setup this year are on this page. <http://eaars.com/7qp/> The video is excellent, done by Steve N7SCL

7th District QSOPARTY Score Summary Sheet

Start Date : 2009-04-27

CallSign Used : K7EAR

Operator(s) : WA5Y, K7IA, N2IC, N5BG, W5CF, W7WGW, K7COR, K7LON,
N7XEU, KB5ZKE, KB7CSE, AA7NW, N7AM, KB7ZZY, N7CSL, N5IA

Operator Category : MULTI-Multi County Line Expedition

Band : ALL

Power : LOW

2009 Officers

President Lon Whitmer K7LON
Vice President Quentin Kavanaugh N7QK
Secretary/ Treasurer Larry Griggs N5BG
Net Control Operator James Reid W1EYE
Helio Site Trustee Joe Montierth K7JEM
Technical Adviser Milt Jensen N5IA
Newsletter Editor Dave Wells N7AM

Email Addresses

Email all Officers at once
Newsletter Editor

Club Address

EAARS
P.O. Box 398
Solomon, AZ 85551

Nets

EAARS Net; Sunday Night 7 PM general check ins
Smart Net; Monday evening 7:30 to 8:30 Technical discussion
Weather Net Daily 5:30 AM collect local weather information
To get your own email at EAARS.com contact Larry, N5BG

OFFICERS@EAARS.COM

NEWSLETTER@EAARS.COM

Mode : MIXED
Default Exchange : AZGHM/GLE
Gridsquare : DM52

Name : Eastern Arizona Amateur Radio Soc.
Address : PO Box 398
City/State/Zip : Solomon AZ 85551
Country : USA

ARRL Section : AZ
Club/Team : Eastern Arizona Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
Software : N1MM Logger V9.5.0

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Sec
3.5	CW	148	444	0
3.5	LSB	58	116	0
7	CW	410	1230	16
7	LSB	180	360	4
14	CW	457	1371	20
14	PSK	36	108	0
14	PSK3	1	3	0
14	RTTY	4	6	0
14	USB	621	1242	15
21	CW	142	426	2
21	USB	13	26	0
28	PSK	3	9	0
28	USB	8	16	0
Total Both 2087 5375 57 + 10 DX = 67 Mults				

Score : 360,125 x 2 counties = 720,250 total score

Rig : 20 & 80 CW = Elecraft K-3

15 & 40 CW = Yaesu FT-1000-MP

20 & 80 SSB = Yaesu FT-1000-MP

15 & 40 SSB = Yaesu FT-1000-MP

PSK & RTTY = Yaesu FT-867

Antennas : 15 CW = 2 x 4 element beams with Stackmatch

20 CW = 2 x 4 element beams with Stackmatch

40 CW = Double Extended Zepp

80 CW = Double Extended Zepp

15 SSB = 2 x Force 12 C-3

20 SSB = One Force 12 C-3 & one Mosley Classic 33 w/ Stackmatch

40 SSB = Double Extended Zepp

75 SSB = Double Extended Zepp

PSK & RTTY = Hustler 5BTV vertical over 20 radials

Soapbox :

Building upon two years of experience, the Eastern Arizona Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (EAARS) improved considerably in many aspects of operating in the 7QP this year. With new participants, both experienced and contest beginners joining with the seasoned crew, a good time was had by all.

The weather cooperated for our high desert experience somewhat better than it had the past two years. It was warmer, and with less wind during the setup day. However, the winds on the operating day did reach 35-40 miles per hour for 5-6 hours and nearly equaled the winds of two years ago.

The addition of the digital option this year by the 7QP organizers prompted EAARS to invest in an all band vertical for a digital station. It was anticipated that the cross polarization from the main station antennas and the low power of the digital transmissions would keep inter-station interference at a minimum. Suffice it to say that the SSB station receivers suffered some degradation while the digital transmitter operated.

Plans are already underway to mitigate that problem for next year. Our budding digital operators didn't make a bunch of contacts but learned a whole lot about how to use the modes in a contest environment. Watch out for them next year.

They will become a real asset.

The installation of the 4 portable towers and antennas had no problems. Permanent mounts on the sides of the towers for the lower beam antennas and permanent lifting slings on the booms of all the beam antennas were added for convenience and more swift deployment and takedown. These additions worked very well.

The 2.4 GHz Internet connection worked excellently as usual and the 5.8 GHz link for the logging network, connecting the CW and SSB operating locations, operated without a burp for the entire contest period.

Two problems did show up which caused the CW team to leave a lot on the table. The genset for the CW operations intermittently would cut out for a couple of seconds, allowing the voltage to drop enough to cause the logging PCs to shut off. UPSs don't like small generator power, so besides fixing the genset problem we have to devise an effective power backup system for next year.

The power dropouts also caused another problem which was not discovered until very late in the contest. It appears that an unordered shutdown (power going off) of one of the new transceivers causes the radio to be in the condition of the last orderly shutdown when the radio is turned on again. Because the last orderly shutdown of the radio had been after a QRP schedule the night before the contest, each time the radio was turned on after the power interruptions, the radio apparently came up in QRP power out mode.

The power out meter display automatically tracks the QRP or the higher power settings of the TX power out so the operators did not notice a discrepancy until band conditions late in the day and early evening made something appear wrong. So, most of the contest period the 20 Meter and 80 Meter CW position was operating at less than 10 Watts. So much for Mr. Murphy's house call on us.

The QRN on the low bands was quite heavy but was not as bad as two years ago. But it was a far cry from last year when at the end of the contest 75 Meter SSB sounded like 2 Meter FM it was so quiet. Last year we made 434 and 132 Qs on 80 CW and 75 SSB respectively. The QRN this year limited those stations to 276 Qs on CW and 116 Qs on SSB.

15 Meters was slightly better than last year. There was some decent sporadic E but no F layer contacts at all. Ten Meters even showed it still exists with a handful of E layer contacts.

Again 20 Meters was the money band. The CW ops and the SSB ops were in a very tight race all day long until 0100. The Q count was never more than 15 apart, with the lead changing a number of times. About 0100 the CW band ran out of stations to work. The later discovered QRP problem probably contributed to

much of the problem that late in the day. The SSB station continued working them at a good clip until 0400.

The high rate hour for the whole operation was the very first hour, from 1300 to 1400 Z. We put 410 Qs in the log during that hour.

We worked all 50 states in 11 hours and 35 minutes. The hold out was South Dakota. # 48 was Vermont at 8 hours and 16 minutes. Maine entered the log as # 49 worked at the 9 hours and 5 minute mark. It took another 2 hours and 20 minutes to get South Dakota as # 50 into the log. A total of 7 Canadian Provinces were worked to give us a total of 57 domestic multipliers.

Although they don't count as multipliers for our operation inside the 7th District, a benchmark of a good operation is how many of the counties in the eight states comprising the 7th District we can work. K7EAR did well by working a total of 128 of the 259 counties in the eight states.

EAARS thanks the stations everywhere that called in to our stations. As usual the California operators led the way with 562 in the log. Texas came in 2nd with 282 entries. Oregon was 3rd with 258, Washington 4th with 250, and Utah 5th with 164.

A total of 21 DXCC entities were logged making it easy to achieve the 10 DX mults needed. The PSK31 station made a contact with UA0FTU in Siberia just 12 minutes before the end of the contest. That was a great one.

A great big thank you also goes to the Grace, KB7CSE and Beth, AA7NW along with Cheri and others, who braved the wind to setup the kitchen for the evening meal. It doesn't get much better than that; operating a contest while eating grilled hamburgers and home made potatoe salad.

Thanks again to the 7QP organizers and the many, many ops in the Indiana QP and the NEQP who called in. It was one blast of a day.

After 5 hours of sleep, we were taking it all down at sunup. There was improvement in this aspect also, as we were totally loaded up and gone from the site in 5 hours time. The new slings on the beams and the tower side mounts really cut time off the disassembly process.

73, and we will see you all next year.

Milt, N5IA
Chairman, EAARS 7QP operation