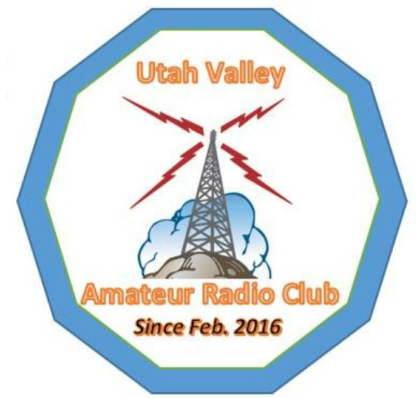


Way to Be

Spotlight on our members



Brad Kirk, AF7FP

I had just finished installing a mobile 2-meter rig in my truck, and had just turned it on, when I heard someone calling on the 146.76 repeater that they had an emergency. I made sure I had my cell phone so I could call 911, and decided I could try to help the person. As I contacted them I asked for their call sign and they tried to give me one, but it turned out to be his friend's call sign, and the guy calling was not licensed. His licensed friend knew he was going to a remote place on an ATV, and had loaned him an HT in case of emergency. I also knew that in an emergency no license is required, so I felt I had no problem if I talked with him.

He said he had crashed his ATV and had injured his back. He was in a group, and his friends wanted to help the guy, but there was no cell service where they were in the remote 5-Mile Pass area west of Fairfield, Utah. I asked all stations listening to please stand by, and announced that there was emergency traffic on the busy 76 repeater. I asked the guy if he thought he would need an ambulance, and he said Yes, so I called 911.

The 911 operator ran me through some questions about the injured person, and then we needed to figure out where the injured party was. I asked the guy and he said Rattlesnake Canyon. Neither I or the 911 operator knew where this was, so I asked if he could provide a GPS co-ordinate. He had the coordinates available, so I relayed that to the 911 operator.

While speaking to the guy reporting the emergency, I changed my transmit frequency to the repeater output to see if he copied me any better. He couldn't hear me without the repeater, so I stuck with regular repeater mode.

We used the repeater for over an hour, and it was great that other operators stood by. I was announcing from time to time that we were dealing with an emergency. The 911 operator told me the ambulance drivers were equipped with a VHF radio and wanted me to try to tell them where to go. But when I called out to them on the repeater output and input several times, I never heard from them, so I just described the location to the 911 operator, to relay to the ambulance.

911 told me that there were two National Park Rangers who were patrolling the area, but they didn't know where Rattlesnake Canyon was. I asked the guy reporting to have a member of their group ride down to the parking lot at 5-Mile Pass to guide the responders up to where the injured man was. They sent a rider down, and he was able to guide the Rangers up. The ambulance was responding, but from far away, and it took quite a while to arrive. The injured man was eventually rescued and transported to the hospital.

I'm glad someone thought to loan their friend an HT, and I felt proud that ham radio helped out that day.

