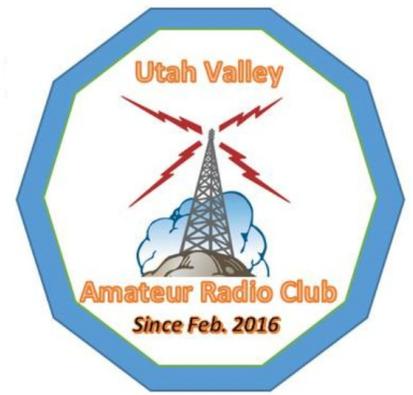


Way to be

Spotlight on our members



Michael Preuss W7MJP and Noji Ratzlaff KNØJI

Saturday August 3 found a bunch of our ham radio friends and club members helping out with the annual [Kat'cina Mosa 100](#) ultra marathon foot race up in Hobbles Creek Canyon. Caryn Alarcon KG7UUR was Net Control stationed at Kelly's Grove since early that morning and had already run into problems communicating on VHF with some of the aid stations, UHF proving somewhat un-workable, due possibly to weather conditions. Fortunately, Mike Preuss W7MJP was stationed at Aid Station 8, which somewhat overlooked the mouth of the canyon, and was able to relay many messages from other stations to Net Control.

Noji Ratzlaff KNØJI and his son Ricky KDØWRV and Ricky's wife Katie KI7NQD were set up at Aid Station 9, about six miles up the canyon from Kelly's Grove, and the last aid station in the marathon before the finish. They soon found it difficult for Net Control to hear them, even at high power. After trying a variety of antenna and radio alternatives, Noji and Ricky settled on communicating all their runner statistics and conditions to Net Control via relay by Mike at Aid Station 8. None of their phones could reach a cell tower, so nearly all communication was by radio.



Here is Noji's take on what happened next:

Since our aid station was near the finish line, only two or three runners had come through our location by the time we were all set up. Around 2 pm, a burley, white man in his late fifties limped up to us, wet and bleeding from his head, face, elbows, and knees. He said he had rolled his car about ¾ of a mile up the canyon, and had landed upside down in the river. Wow. I quickly assessed his condition, which was surprisingly good, and asked somebody to grab a camp chair for the man. Instinctively, I took out my phone, only to remember that there was no cell service at that location.

I radioed to Mike W7MJP, "Hey, Mike, this is Noji. We have an actual emergency. Can you help?" Mike answered, and asked what the issue was, and I told him. He asked me to stand by while he raised dispatch using a Motorola MTS2000 that he was carrying at the time. Mike asked me the standard questions, then relayed the info back to dispatch. In about an hour, a tow truck came by our aid station, followed by a sheriff's deputy and an ambulance. The injured man was taken to a hospital, and his vehicle was towed back to town. Once that emergency was addressed, we went right back to work at the aid station, helping runners and reporting their stats. Definitely made for an exciting day, especially knowing that the injured man was going to be properly cared for.

Another example of ham radio coming to the rescue, this time aided by a commercial radio. Thanks to Mike and Noji for being at the right place at the right time!