THE AMATEUR

The Amateur in You, Part 2

What have you been pondering?

Repeater systems

Repeaters are wonderful things. They allow us to talk easily with local folks, and make local nets sound like we're all next door to each other. But each repeater can only be reached by the operators within a particular geographical region we call the repeater's *coverage area*. If you want to talk with folks at a distant part of the state, for example, you'll need to either travel to an area covered by a repeater near those folks, or resort to methods such as EchoLink or IRLP.

Well, it turns out that some repeaters are *linked* with each other, such that they make it appear like you can talk locally with not only those in your own repeater's coverage area, but with folks in another repeater's coverage area too. A collection of repeaters that are linked this way is called a *repeater system*.

Utah has several repeater systems available, and they can actually get connected with each other, as demonstrated during the bi-monthly RACES Net. Most of these are *open* systems, meaning they'll permit anybody with a ham license to access the system without any special codes or links. Here are most of them:

Intermountain Intertie (IMIT)

Open system connecting repeaters near Boise, West Yellowstone, Malad, Lake Powell, Kanab, St. George, Las Vegas, Cedar City, Fillmore, Salt Lake City, Logan, Levan, Bear Lake, Flagstaff, and Evanston. You can actually link manually into the Arizona *Rimlink System* through the Navajo Mountain repeater of the IMIT. A person can drive the entire I-15 corridor from mid-Idaho to mid-Nevada, and use the Intermountain Intertie to carry on a lengthy, continuous conversation with an operator who is stationary in Provo, for example. From Utah County, access the Intertie by 147.120+ MHz (100.0 Hz tone).

Sinbad System

Open system connecting repeaters through north-central Utah, including some by Vernal, Orem, Myton, Price, Castle Dale, Hanksville, Monticello, Green River, Manti, and Mount Pleasant. From Utah County, access the Sinbad System by 147.080+ MHz (77.0 Hz tone).

Skyline System

Open system connecting several repeaters in central Utah, including some near Ephraim, Manti, Gunnison, Salina, and Monroe. At the moment, this system is connected full-time to the Sinbad System, so accessing a Sinbad repeater will place you on the Skyline repeater system as well.

Cactus Intertie

Private system, including many repeaters across much of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and California. Access to this system requires an annual $140 membership.

Western Reflector

Open system originating in Las Vegas connecting far-away locations such as Hawaii, Alaska, and much of the US. From Utah County, access the Western Reflector by 449.425- MHz (100.0 Hz tone).

Western Intertie Network (WIN) System

The WIN System is unfortunately unavailable from most of Utah, but would be quite useful if it was accessible. It's mentioned here, because it's one of the big ones in the western US.

UVARC Stack

The open repeater trio of UVARC (146.780, 224.560, and 448.200) is a *stack* of linked repeaters that act like a system, connecting repeaters, not of varying locations, but of varying bands in a single location.