



The Cochise **Smoke**

The Cochise Amateur Radio Association, Inc. K7RDG

January 2012

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
THE CARA JANUARY MEETING
JANUARY 2ND AT GREEN ACRES
7:00 P.M. – GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NEXT BOARD MEETING TO BE ANNOUNCED BY E-MAIL**

If you'd like to see the "pretty copy" of this month's Smoke & a world of other club info,

Go to the CARA web pages

<http://www.k7rdg.org>

**COCHISE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Dale NJ7C at 1200 hrs. December 10, 2011 or perhaps it was ordered "called" depending on how you look at it. Total membership present: Every hungry member.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Well, the Christmas Party was a great success again this year, as usual. Lots of turkey, ham, dressing, potatoes, yams, relishes, cranberry sauce, beans (green and otherwise,) rolls, pies, cobbler, cookies, etc., etc., etc.! Yum! Nancy and I want to wish everyone Season's Greetings (trying to be PC here) and a Happy New Year. Dale NJ7C

DRINKING AND DRIVING

Bill Crowley K1NIT

I would like to share an experience with you about drinking and driving. As you well know, some of us have been known to have had brushes with the authorities on our way home from the odd social session over the years. A couple of nights ago, I was out for a few drinks with some friends and had a few too many beers and some rather nice wine. Knowing full well I may have been slightly over the limit, I did something I've never done before - I took a bus home.

I arrived back safely and without incident which was a real surprise since I had never driven a bus before and am not sure where I got this one.

CONGRESS WANTS FCC TO STUDY HAM EMERGENCY INVOLVMENT

ARRL Letter Dec. 15th

The *Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011* ([HR 3630](#)) -- the bill to extend the payroll tax reduction that passed the US House of Representatives on Tuesday, December 13 -- included among its many other provisions the “Jumpstarting Opportunity with Broadband Spectrum Act” or “JOBS Act” that passed the Communications and Technology Subcommittee on December 1. The JOBS Act made up Title IV of HR 3630 and included the following:

SEC. 4205. STUDY ON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BY AMATEUR RADIO AND IMPEDIMENTS TO AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.

- (a) In General- Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the [Federal Communications] Commission, in consultation with the Office of Emergency Communications in the Department of Homeland Security, shall--
 - (1) complete a study on the uses and capabilities of amateur radio service communications in emergencies and disaster relief; and
 - (2) submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the findings of such study.
- (b) Contents- The study required by subsection (a) shall include--
 - (1)(A) a review of the importance of emergency amateur radio service communications relating to disasters, severe weather, and other threats to lives and property in the United States; and
 - (B) recommendations for--
 - (i) enhancements in the voluntary deployment of amateur radio operators in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts; and
 - (ii) improved integration of amateur radio operators in the planning and furtherance of initiatives of the Federal Government; and
 - (2)(A) an identification of impediments to enhanced amateur radio service communications, such as the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use restrictions on residential antenna installations; and
 - (B) recommendations regarding the removal of such impediments.
- (c) Expertise- In conducting the study required by subsection (a), the Commission shall use the expertise of stakeholder entities and organizations, including the amateur radio, emergency response, and disaster communications communities.

Such a study has long been sought by the ARRL.

HR 3630 is now up for consideration in the Senate where its prospects for passage are dimmed by the inclusion of a controversial provision concerning a pipeline project.

HAM RADIO GOES VIDEO

ARRL Letter Dec. 12th

Tim Allen -- star of [Home Improvement](#), [Toy Story](#), [The Santa Clause](#) and [Galaxy Quest](#), just to name a few -- stars in [Last Man Standing](#), an ABC comedy airing at 8 PM (EST) on Tuesday nights. Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, a married father of three and the director of marketing at an outdoor

sporting goods store in Colorado whose life is dominated by women. While Amateur Radio has not been prominently featured in the first episodes, according to John Amodeo, NN6JA -- the producer of *Last Man Standing* -- it is a part of the show and an important part of Mike's character. The episode that will establish Mike as a radio amateur is currently scheduled to air in mid-January.

"Tim's character Mike is involved in creating the sales strategy for the store, including their catalog and Internet identity," Amodeo told the ARRL. "The store is like Bass Pro Shops or Cabelas. There is a strong self-sufficiency overtone to Mike's approach to life. Ham radio fits in the story as a means of emergency communication. It's not directly featured in the foreground story, but at the moment, it's a background element on the home set. Once I allow something to be put on the set, there's a chance the writers will feature it. Now that we have actually established Mike Baxter as KA0XTT, we can do more things featuring Amateur Radio."

To make Mike a ham, Amodeo needed Mike to have a call sign. So he contacted ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, to help him out. "In film and TV, we create fictitious telephone numbers, addresses and brands," Amodeo explained. "We do this mostly to avoid being sued by real brands and to avoid complications with advertisers. As a producer and a ham, I was torn between wanting the show to be accurate and needing to keep my studios out of trouble. An accurate and positive portrayal of ham radio on TV would be a good thing." Many TV shows and movies use telephone numbers with a 555 exchange (such as 555-1212), as that exchange is not valid.

Together with Pitts, and with input from Tim Allen, Amodeo created a call sign for Mike Baxter: KA0XTT. Since the show is set in Colorado, they wanted Mike to have a call sign with a 0 in it. "We wanted a call sign that sounded real, but was not valid," Amodeo said. "The call sign is a 2x3 format with an X suffix. A call sign in this format is an experimental call sign and is not assignable to a radio amateur except in special circumstances. We especially liked the suffix, as it is a play on Tim's character from his former show, *Home Improvement*: 'ex-Tim Taylor.'"

Amodeo told the ARRL that both his studio (Fox) and ABC were "delighted to have a useable call sign. In the past, TV shows just made up some crazy call or used someone else's without permission. And because we've had so much talk about Amateur Radio here on the show, a few of my production assistants took their Technician exam." Amodeo applied to be an ARRL Volunteer Examiner so he could help administer the exams. On October 6, Amodeo and two other ARRL VEs administered the Technician exam to seven prospective hams. All seven passed, with two making perfect scores.

Since Mike Baxter is a ham, he needed a shack. So Amodeo and the set designers installed an Amateur Radio station in the corner of Mike's set office. Allen, as Baxter, uses an ICOM IC-9100 HF/6 meter/2 meter transceiver and an IC-92AD handheld transceiver, both provided to the show courtesy of ICOM America. Amodeo told the ARRL that he has plans to add vintage equipment to the shack in the future. "The radio equipment was originally intended to be used as props and set dressing items," Amodeo told the ARRL. "But since eight of the show's staff members are radio amateurs, it didn't take long before we made the radio equipment 'practical,' which is to say, actually capable of making radio calls live from the stage when we're not shooting." He said that radios will always be on and lit whenever they are shooting scenes in the office.

Pitts and ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, have been working with Amodeo to make sure that Amateur Radio is correctly portrayed in the show. Keane also provided ARRL and Amateur Radio-related materials that are used on the set, such as issues of [*QST*](#), [*NCJ*](#) and [*QEX*](#), as

well as a call sign map, a [2012 ARRL Handbook](#), a 2012 ARRL calendar and various ARRL stickers (look for one on the HF rig). “We also sent fake versions of [DXCC](#), [Worked All States](#) and [Worked All Continents](#) certificates, as well as a [Morse Code Proficiency Certificate](#),” Keane explained. “Each certificate bears the name Mike Baxter and has KA0XTT as the call sign. All the certificates have issue dates of December 25, playing upon Tim Allen’s role in *The Santa Clause* movie series.”

Amodeo told the ARRL that he also installed a Comet CHV-5X HF dipole and GP-1 antenna for 2 meters and 70 cm (courtesy of NCG/Comet) “up high, about 50 feet, inside the sound stage. The ultimate goal is to have the hams on our staff make contacts from our stage during down times.”

Last Man Standing also stars Nancy Travis ([Three Men and a Baby](#)) as Mike’s wife and Hector Elizondo ([Pretty Woman](#), [The Princess Diaries](#), [Monk](#)) as Mike’s boss. Amodeo also produced the critically acclaimed [Sports Night](#) and [Arrested Development](#).

THE COCHISE SMOKE is published each month by e-mail and snail mail.
Editor is Ted Weaver, K9TED tedweaver2@juno.com Snail mail stuff you’d like to have me publish in Smoke to P.O. Box 6017, Huachuca City, AZ 85616 or use the above e-mail address.

The Cochise Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (CARA)
P.O. Box 1855
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636



“This Is A First Class Publication”