

atching U.T. Shorts

by Creations

Reg. 12.83

Amateur Radio Field Exercise Draws About 30 Local 'Hams'

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By TOM YANCEY Staff Writer

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About 30 local "ham" radio operators, operating from a pavilion at Kinser Park, this weekend contacted between 1,500 and 2,000 other amateur radio enthusiasts across the nation.

Ralph Bible, vice president of the Andrew Johnson Amateur Radio Club, said the event went well, with three regular and one novice station operating concurrently from a pavilion at the park.

Bible, whose ham call letters are K4MIJ, said the local effort was part of the American Radio Relay League's field day, an annual event that is something of a training and shakedown exercise for emergency radio operators.

The national organization estimates that 35,000 hams participate across the country.

"There was good participation from what I heard on the air," Bible said.

Local operators contacted other ham operators in every state in the nation, plus ham operators in most Canadian provinces in several other foreign countries, Bible said.

They used a real-time computer logging system to verify whether anyone else had previously talked to the same remote station, he said, and this helped speed operations.

Ham radios traditionally provide emergency communications for natural disasters and emergencies, Bible said. Often ham operators use their home units, but sometimes they must operate from mobile equipment, such as that used at Kinser Park. Emergency generators and field antennas are often used for tests of this kind.

The 24-hour event is considered a fun way to spend time with other radio enthusiasts, as well as a chance to fine-tune skills and verify that equipment is operating properly in case it is needed for a real emergency.

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Bible said the event gives radio operators a chance to "check our preparedness in case of a natural disaster or emergency."

The local effort stopped short of 24 hours, Bible said, beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday and continuing until noon Sunday.

The local club will send its logsheets for the event to the American Radio Relay League for judging, and the results will be published in "QST," a ham radio magazine.

Bible said interest is growing in ham radio, as evidenced by the fact that QST is available on newstands again, for the first time in 50 years.

He said part of this rising interest is because novice ham operators no longer have to master the international Morse Code of dots and dashes before going on the air.

Mighty Waters

Nabisco Chips Ahov

Reg. 2.57

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — About 700 miles northeast of here, on the border between Argentina and Brazil, lie the spectacular Iguassu Falls.

The falls, which consist of 20 cataracts separated by rocky islands, plunge more than 200 feet. They are situated about 14 miles above the junction of the Iguassu and Parana Rivers.