

It is time for a New Year (a new beginning) of activity and we have two (2) big events this year. The Arizona State Hamfest, normally located at Fort Tuthill in Flagstaff, is now going to be at the **Williams, Arizona Rodeo Grounds, and the date will be the first weekend in July the 2nd through the 4th**. The city of Williams is located 33 miles west of Flagstaff on Highway 40. The reason for this move is for financial cost only. The Coconico county fairgrounds were becoming too expensive and ARCA would have been required to increase fees to cover the additional cost. As you have seen over the past years, the grounds have not changed (they are getting worst) but the cost of putting on the Hamfest has risen very fast. The ARCA web site, "www.arca-az.org/arca", has a financial chart showing increased cost of the last 10 years. Many people have complained about the high cost of a selling space and if had we stayed at Flagstaff this cost would have increase again. The city of Williams has offered ARCA the use of their Rodeo Grounds at a lower cost and is willing to give other incentives to the people who attend the Hamfest. This means that ARCA will be able to maintain the present cost of selling spaces (maybe lower the cost) and each selling space will be larger in size because there is more room available. ARCA is presently talking with the city officials about discount cost for motel rooms, RV parting spots, and Grand Canyon Railroad tickets. The RV part is located next door to the ground and has full hook-ups and there are several motels close by (Fairfield, Holiday Inn, etc). The next order of business is the **2004 ARRL Southwestern Convention** that will take place at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort located near Chandler on 27-29 august 2004. The Central Arizona DX Club is putting on this event and they do everything first class. There will be many presentations on almost every subject of amateur radio plus many top companies showing you their new products. This event will have everything in-doors (except Saturday morning swap meet) so you need not go outside for anything except the boat ride to the casino for other entertainment or go swimming in the large pool. All presentations and vendor areas will be in air-conditioned comfort. The hotel has many rooms available for \$91.00 a night and this rate is good for the week prior to the event and the week after the event. Where else can you get resort treatment for standard motel prices. Make your plans ahead of time to be at this event. The convention web site is "www.hamradio2004.com/swdc2004". The next **Big Issue** is that Pima County is in the process of changing its amateur radio tower height ordnance, that is presently at 100 feet, to a lower height of just 34 feet. Bill Jordan K7KI, Ken Hirschberg, K6HPX, and myself, have been part of the civilian committee and we are fighting this issue. When it comes time to appear before the Planning and Zoning Committee, I will inform, as many amateur radio operators in Pima County as possible on the date and time of the meetings so we can come together and let the committee know that any change is unacceptable. Thanks to Dick Jernigan, W7DXJ, of HavaComm in Lake Havasu, Arizona, I now have my CommTrak APRS tracker working. It has been mounted in my truck so if you want to know where my present location is, just check **KD6XH-12**, on www.wulfden.com. The next Hamfest will be at the Glendale Community College on January 10th. Bring a flashlight for the early morning treasures. The Spring Hamfest will be at the Scottsdale Community College on the 13th of March, the Cochise Amateur radio association will hold its Hamfest on 01 May 2004 in Sierra Vista, and Kachina ARC will have its Hamfest on 5-6 June 2004 in Show Low. There is talk of trying to plan a new Hamfest for Yuma; I will keep you informed of the developments and progress. If I miss returning your telephone call or did not respond to your e-mail, please call or re-send. I do try and respond to all telephone calls and e-mails as required but I do miss a few so if that has happened please have

patience and call/resent again. Since this article no longer appears in the QST magazine, you can find it on the state website, www.qsl.net/arrlaz, www.hamsrus.com, and www.arrl.org/sections/index/html. If you want a copy e-mail you, then just drop me a note and I can add you to my e-mail list. Several people who requested an e-mail copy of this article have had their e-mail address changed and I do not have the new address. Please provide new address so the article will arrive at the correct location. Clifford Hauser, KD6XH; E-mail is kd6xh@arrl.org.