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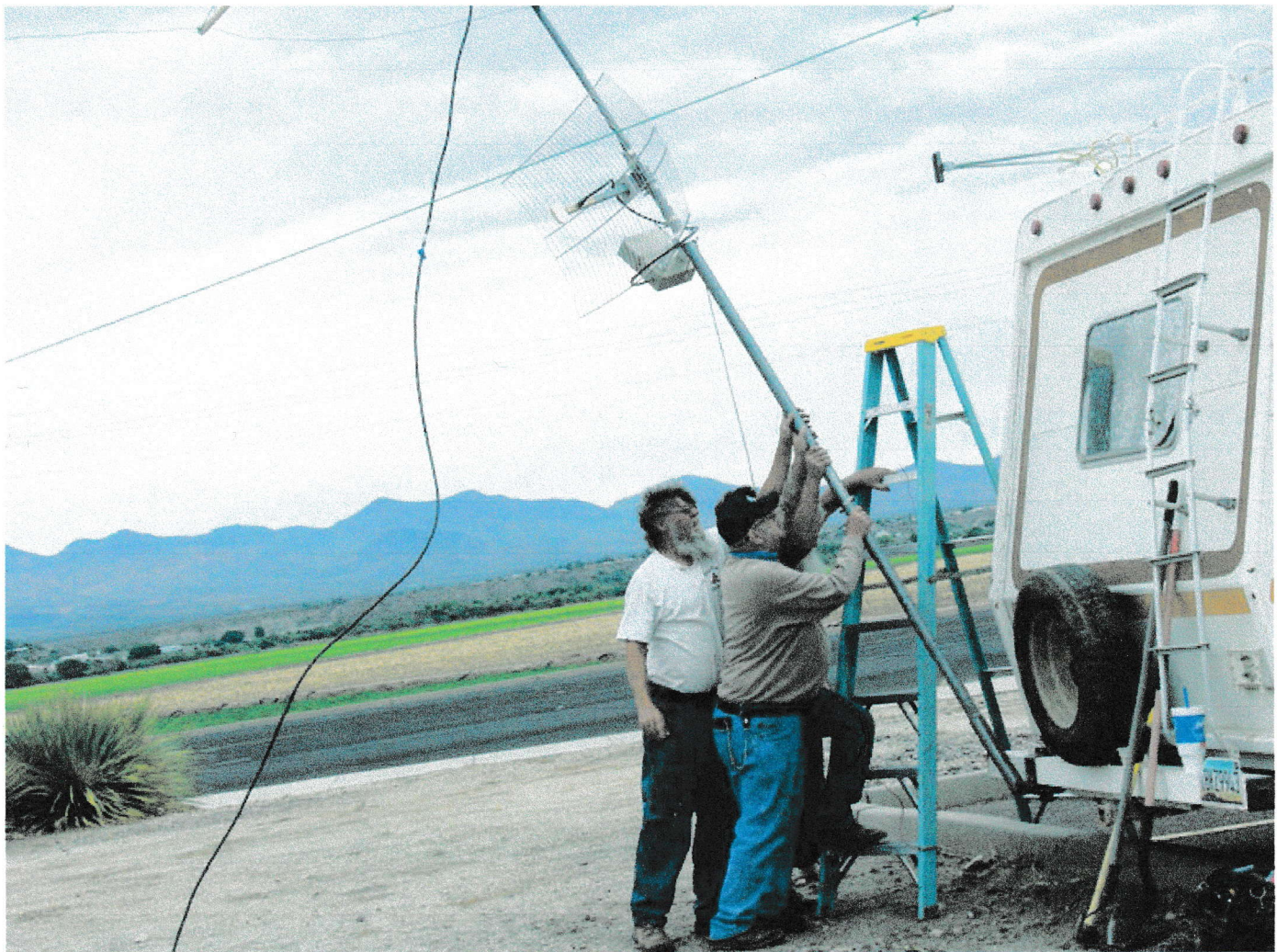
FEATURED

Amateur radio showcased over weekend

By David Sowders davids@eacourier.com Updated 4 hrs ago

THATCHER — “When All Else Fails, Ham Radio Works” is the motto of the Eastern Arizona Amateur Radio Society, which put its technology on display in the Bashas’ parking lot over the weekend.

The group was there to participate in Amateur Radio Field Day, a nationwide showcase for ham radio operators to demonstrate their skills to the public.



Richard Imel, in the white shirt, and Dave Wells, wearing cap, help Danuel Quaintance mount a Moxon beam directional antenna on his vehicle.

David Sowders Photo/Eastern Arizona Courier.

A number of antennas were set up, including Society vice president Danuel Quaintance's 20-meter Moxon beam directional antenna, supported by a PVC and wire structure of Quaintance's own design.

Amateur radio's range depends on atmospheric conditions. Quaintance said he has made contact with operators as far away as the Balearic Islands in Spain, and society president Dave Wells said he once communicated with an operator in Russia.

Society member Curt Laumann said one goal of Amateur Radio Field Day is to contact as many people as possible in 24 hours. On Saturday morning, Laumann received voice and Morse code transmissions from radio operators in Idaho, California and New Mexico.



Danuel Quaintance and his grandson Dakota Quaintance assemble a structure to hold a Moxon beam directional antenna.

David Sowders Photo/Eastern Arizona Courier.

A key use of amateur radio is to provide communication should a disaster occur. That was one thing that led Richard Imel to join the Eastern Arizona Amateur Radio Society, to which he has belonged for five months.

Imel, a former CB radio user, decided to switch to ham radio because of its greater range. He also read about the role of amateur radio operators in helping Hurricane Katrina victims and decided, "That's something I want to get into."

For more information on the Eastern Arizona Amateur Radio Society and ham radio contact Danuel Quaintance at 928-235-1152 or visit www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio.