



November 2017

I invite you to join in the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the founding of SCIRA, Inc. In late 2007 Mark, N7YLA the first Secretary of SCIRA, Inc., filed paperwork for a 501 (c)(3) California non-profit corporation which was granted and the Southern California Intermountain Repeater Association (SCIRA, Inc.) was formed.

Why was SCIRA, Inc. formed? The topography and the distance that Southern California covers made emergency communications impossible by simplex. A repeater network was needed to provide emergency communications to such a large area so church units, church authorities and members could communicate when other methods of communications failed.

I thank the original SCIRA, Inc. board members, the present and all past board members who have served and supported this important work. The past support of Area Authority Seventies has been and continues to be very important. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints does not provide any financial support to SCIRA, Inc. Without generous contributions from many people, yearly membership dues and the hard work of so many individuals, the current network of seven repeaters, number eight soon to be on the air, would have never become a viable system. SCIRA, Inc. also has a robust Winlink and Digipeater system, including the M.C.U. which can be used to communicate during an emergency.

You are invited to join SCIRA, Inc. Continued financial support is needed to insure new repeaters can be installed to cover areas that need to be covered, maintain current repeaters, and pay for liability insurance. Simply go to the website: [www.SCIRAINC.ORG](http://www.SCIRAINC.ORG) and click on join.

I am in the process of introducing a motion at the SCIRA board meeting that amateur radio operators be called to work closely with all 14 Mission Presidents in our current coverage area. During an emergency missionaries and Mission Presidents may not have land line or cell phone coverage to communicate. The radio operators could provide communications by ham radio and keep them informed. I invite you to support my motion. This coverage is near and dear to my family.

My grandson Elder Brock Dowdle serves in the Texas Houston East Mission. When hurricane Harvey hit recently he and other missionaries were moved a few times to keep them safe. At one point electricity, land lines and cell phones were not working for an extended period of time. Their Mission Presidency could not communicate with them and did not know their status. The "Diesel Brothers" from Utah were in a position and said they would "go look for them". They found Elder Dowdle and five other missionaries and transported four of them in a large pickup diesel powered "monster truck" and Elder Dowdle and his Zone Leader in a helicopter to a safe place where their Mission President could communicate with them and find out their status.

Elder Dowdle shared these events, and many other details of serving in a hurricane in an email to family and friends. He concluded his email by writing:....."It's been such a blessing to see how the Lord protects and watches out for His servants. I am eternally grateful that God gave me a chance to be out here at this time in this place."

Regards,

Jim Dowdle KG6TQT  
Vice President, SCIRA, Inc.