

Native America Calling

National Radio Show Features Mark Charles

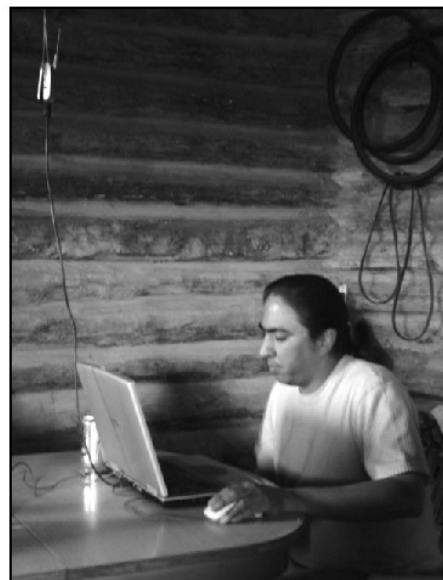
When Mark Charles posted an article from his blog advocating a “Virtual Native American State” on January 6, 2009, he never expected the response he would get. [IndianZ.com](http://www.IndianZ.com) published the article on-line and it caught the attention of Andy Harvey of Channel 12 News in Phoenix Arizona and Harlan McKosato of Native America Calling, a call-in Radio Show that focuses on Native American issues. Within days both Harvey and McKosato called Mark at home. He did a video interview with the Phoenix station and appeared as the featured guest on the radio show on January 14, 2009.

Charles, a member of the Window Rock CRC in Window Rock Arizona, said that he was surprised at the response. But he was grateful for the exposure and the opportunity to explain himself. It has provided an opportunity to keep the dialogue going regarding Mark’s idea for a 51st Native American State, which would provide representation in the US Congress for Native Americans, regardless of their home states. In the radio show appearance, Mark was given the opportunity to explain how he and his family had lived for a period of time in a Navajo home, called a hogan, off a dirt road, without running water. He undertook the experience to get in touch with the way many Navajos lived in the past and continue to live today. During that experience, he felt the isolation that many Native Americans experience due to geography and lack of technology. The caller on Native America Calling that stands out for Mark was a Native man from Alaska who said “if you want to really experience isolation we

invite you to come up and visit us.”

The phone lines were pretty busy for Mark’s appearance and there were several calls and some e-mails. Mark was a little disappointed that many of the responses really didn’t focus much on the points in his article, with callers going off on their own tangents. But Mark has been continuing the discussion on-line through his blogspot at <http://wirelesshogan.blogspot.com>. You can also find his original article at www.IndianZ.com and find the archive to his radio appearance at www.nativeamericacalling.com/.

Mark is the son of Ted and Evie Charles who are leaders of the Ft. Wingate CRC in Ft. Wingate New Mexico. He’s the grandson of John and Mae Charles, who worked alongside several Anglo Missionaries as Navajo interpreters. Mark is married to Rachel and they have two young children.



Mark Charles skypeing from his home.