



SIERRA STATIC



WWW.K6ARC.ORG

Club Repeaters	146.835; -600khz; PL 100	441.525; +6.0Mhz; PL 100
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May, 2014

Next Club Meeting

The next regular meeting of the club will be June 5th 2014 at 7PM at Volcano Tech Center. The program will be final planning for Field Day. The next regular club breakfast would be May 18th, 8:30AM at the Waffle Shop, 543 S. Highway 49, in Jackson. However since that is Easter Sunday, the date may change. Listen to the Tuesday night nets to get the latest information. This is an excellent social gathering and very popular. Guests and visitors are welcome to attend.

President's Message

There is no Presidents Message this issue.

Emergency Coordinator's Report

No report this issue. However the preparations are underway for a local disaster drill on May 6th. Communications will be a component of the drill and the ACS members are going to participate. This is the first time that emergency communications has been tested in several years and this is a welcome opportunity. For more information contact Craig, AE6EL.

Treasurer's Report

The Monthly Report for the Month of March, 2014 is posted on the club website under "Repository of Information, Financial Documents". Access to this section is restricted to members. The proposed budget for 2014 has also been posted to the same site and section. The monthly report is posted after the month's bank statement is received; usually after the 10th of the month.

From the Sacramento Valley Section of ARRL

Yuba Sutter ARC hosts a hamfest in Marysville, June 7 (first Saturday in June) at the Feather River Center, Parking Lot, 6000 Lindhurst Rd., this is south of the Yuba River just off highway

70. More information is available by contacting Larry Witcher, KE6LAW at: lawitcher@att.net or www.ysarc.org for club activities.

Ron, KJ6XI, ham radio coordinator for the National Pony Express Association Re-ride needs some help.

“The National Pony Express Association puts on the annual Re-ride that commemorates the original Pony Express of 1860-1861. The riders ride day and night just like the original Pony Express in 1860. This year the Re-ride will begin in Old Sacramento at 10AM on June 11 and will arrive in St. Joseph Missouri on June 21st. California has approximately 43 exchange points (where rider and horse exchange the mail pouch, "mochila"). Right now I have the lower portion of the valley up to Camino filled with hams who will be stationed at the various exchanges. I could use more hams up in the mountains in El Dorado County. The exchanges up there will be in the late night of June 11th, and early morning of the 12th. So, if anyone is interested to help recreate history please have them email me. In a way it's funny that hams are helping because the original Pony Express was put out of business by Telegraph.” Contact Ron Norton at: svensk41@yahoo.com

Ralph, W6RWL, our District EC for the very active area east of Sacramento (District 5) points out: WSER is June 28–29, 2014 (Operators Needed) WESTERN STATES ENDURANCE RUN TEVIS is August 9–10, 2014 (Operators Needed) WESTERN STATES TRAIL RIDE, GCER is July 19, 2014 (Operators Needed)

I can use operators for all these events, let me know if your interested. 408-640-0963

Public Information Officer Report

The usual postings and submissions have been made. Submission to the Section News has been made and a notice of our upcoming meeting has been posted to the newspaper. An article on our participation in Party Pardee was submitted and is pending publication.

Net Coordinator Report Weekly Net Activity

The net meets on the club repeaters on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM. Here is a showing of recent participation in our nets:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Visitors</u>
Apr 1	No Report	
Apr 8	19	8
Apr 15	24	5
Apr 22	24	5
Apr 29	30	9

Emergency Simplex Net – Held on the Second Tuesday just after the Club Net. No information

is available for the number of check-ins for April.

OTHER LOCAL CLUB NETS

Calaveras ARS has their weekly net at 7:30pm, Monday, on 145.70 -, PL 100
Stockton-Delta has their weekly net at 8pm, Monday, on 147.165-, PL 107.2
The UC-Davis club has their weekly net at 12:30pm Mondays, on 145.450 -, PL 203.5
El Dorado County club has their weekly net at 8pm Tuesdays, on 147.825 -, PL 82.5
El Dorado ARES has their weekly net at 9pm Tuesdays on 147.825-, PL 82.5
El Dorado Skywarn has its weekly net at 7pm Thursdays on 147.825-, PL 82.5
Sacramento Skywarn has its weekly net at 8pm on Wednesday on 145.190-, PL 162.2
Berryessa Amateur Radio has its club net on Sunday at 7:30pm
Yolo ARES is Monday at 8PM; on 146.97, PL123.3
Yuba Sutter Radio Club has its club net on Monday at 7PM
Yuba Sutter AREA is on Thursday at 7PM; on 146.085, PL127.3
Western Placer ARC is Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on 146.640 (-) 156.7 Hz.

Testing Opportunities

Granite Bay VE sessions occur the first Saturday of the month. They are held at the Granite Bay Raley's at the corner of Auburn-Folsom Road and Douglas Boulevard at 8 AM to 10 AM, and walk-ins welcome. Contact Dave no6no@arrl.net

5/17/2014 Carmichael
Location: Carmichael Elks Lodge
Time: 7:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

5/17/2013 Stockton
Sponsor: Stockton ARRL VE Test Group
Location: Fire Station #14, McNabb St. off Thorton Rd.
Time: 10:00 AM (No Walk-ins)

5/17/2014 Stockton
Sponsor: SDARC/CEV
Location: Dameron Hospital
Time: 2:30 PM (No walk-ins allowed)

5/24/2014 Calaveras
Sponsor: CARS
Location: Fire Station in Murphys
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

5/17/2014 Carmichael
Location: Carmichael Elks Lodge
Time: 7:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

5/17/2013 Stockton
Sponsor: Stockton ARRL VE Test Group
Location: Fire Station #14, McNabb St. off Thorton Rd.
Time: 10:00 AM (No Walk-ins)

5/24/2014 Tracy
Sponsor: CEV/TracyARC
Location: Sutter Tracy Community Hospital
Time: 2:45 PM (No walk-ins)

06/14/2014 Stockton
Sponsor: Stockton-Delta ARC/CEV
Location: Dameron Hospital
Time: 2:30 PM (No walk-ins)

06/15/2014 Stockton
Sponsor: SCAN-I NOC Chapter, USA
Location: Chapel function Hall
Time: 1:30 PM (No walk-ins)

06/21/2014 Carmichael
Sponsor: Un-sponsored
Location: Carmichael Elks Lodge
Time: 7:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

06/21/2014 Stockton
Sponsor: Stockton ARRL VE Group
Location: Fire Company #14
Time: 10:00 AM (No walk-ins)

The Calaveras Amateur Radio Society has announced their VE sessions for the year to be:

May 24 th	9:30AM	Fire Station	Murphys
July 12 th	9:30AM	Ebetts Pass Fire District	Arnold
Aug 23 rd	9:30AM	To Be Announced	West Point
October 25 th	9:30AM	Fire Station	Murphys
Dec. 13 th	9:30AM	To Be Announced	San Andreas

(Thanks to Susan LaDuke, K6CDK for the announcement)

Recent Articles of Interest -

ARRL Web Site –

AM Broadcasters, Hams Have Common Interest in Cleaning Up Noise Sources

Radio amateurs and AM broadcasters have some common ground in wanting to clean up “a worsening RF noise environment in the AM broadcast band,” according to recent comments filed with the FCC by the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) on the issue of revitalizing AM

broadcasting. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, who is also general counsel for the SBE, drafted the remarks.

“There are numerous complaints from Amateur Radio operators of severe interference from power line noise annually,” said the SBE comments, filed earlier this year. “Power line radiation in the HF and MF Amateur allocations will in most cases directly translate to preclusive noise in the AM broadcast band. The Commission has relied completely on the good faith efforts of electric utilities to resolve these.”

While that approach has succeeded in “some cases,” Imlay wrote, “more often, utilities do not have available to them — and are not willing to retain — persons skilled in RF interference resolution, and the cases at FCC are allowed to languish unresolved for years...without any enforcement action at all.” The SBE noted that AM listeners often are in vehicles adjacent to power lines that “frequently radiate RF noise” at levels to make AM reception difficult or impossible.

The SBE comments also pointed to “substantial numbers of complaints of harmful interference to Amateur Radio stations” from LED lighting systems, noting that many RF light bulbs could be within range of a typical AM broadcast receiver in the typical residential neighborhood. Imlay used recent ARRL Laboratory RF lighting test results as one example to illustrate the problem.

The SBE comments cited an RF lighting ballast used for indoor gardening that generated excessive conducted emissions that could “preclude AM broadcast reception over entire residential subdivisions.” The ARRL formally complained about the device to the FCC last month. The SBE also pointed the finger at radiation from unintentional emitters, such as plasma TV sets, and conducted emissions from devices such as pulse-width motor controllers.

“The Commission does not now have, and in fact has never had, a complete understanding of ambient RF noise levels and trends thereof *over time*,” the SBE said. “Furthermore, the Commission has uneven regulations and policies governing noise-generating intentional, incidental, and unintentional radiators; and its enforcement efforts in this context have been and are both impractical and insufficient.”

“[T]he goal of AM revitalization will never be realized in the medium and long term in the face of the headwind of a worsening RF noise environment in the AM broadcast band,” the SBE said, noting that the same concerns apply to all bands between 9 kHz and 30 MHz. “Some regulatory relief is absolutely necessary,” the SBE concluded.

The SBE pointed out that consumers suffering from noise issues on AM radio broadcasts have “other media options” available that RF noise “will make them exercise.” The same argument does not necessarily apply to Amateur Radio operators, however. AM radio listeners “are not like some other interference victims, such as licensees in certain services,” the SBE said.

The situation may already be improving. This month the FCC cited a Washington resident for operating an “incidental radiator” — apparently some sort of lighting device — that has been causing harmful interference on Amateur Radio frequencies. The Commission has ordered the individual to stop using the device.

ARRL Letter –

Amateur Radio-Developed Software Assisting in Search for Missing Airliner

US Navy personnel helping to look for missing Malaysia Air Flight MH370 have used the signal-processing and analysis package *Spectrum Laboratory* by Wolf Buescher, DL4YHF, to analyze recently detected 37.5 kHz "pings" that may be from the missing plane's "black box." Some *Spectrum Laboratory* screen shots as seen aboard the Australian defense vessel *Ocean Shield* were shown on TV in Australia and in the UK. The US Navy personnel are guests aboard the Australian ship. VLF experimenter Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, said the software is the same package Amateur Radio experimenters used recently to detect transatlantic signals on 29 kHz.

Washington Aeronautic Safety Law Exempts Amateur Radio "Guyed Towers"

Washington Governor Jay Inslee has signed into law legislation aimed at providing a "safer flying environment" for pilots of aircraft engaged in "low-flying activities," such as crop dusting and search-and-rescue activity. The new law includes provisions to alert pilots to "guyed towers that may be erected at short notice" that might be hard to see and pose an air safety hazard, and it contains specific marking and lighting requirements. Specifically exempted from the new law is, "Any structure for which the primary purpose is to support telecommunications equipment, such as equipment for Amateur Radio and broadcast radio and television services regulated by the Federal Communications Commission."

WWV's 25 MHz Signal Back on the Air

WWV silenced its 25 MHz signal in 1977, but it's back on the air "for old times' sake" -- on an "experimental basis." Resurrecting the long-dormant standard time outlet operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was Matt Deutch, N0RGT, the lead electrical engineer at WWV.

It all came about after Dean Lewis, W9WGV, lamented the loss of the 25 MHz signal in an e-mail to Deutch, who surprised him by subsequently putting the signal back on the air on April 4 for about 3-1/2 hours. A listener in Scotland posted a reception report of the WWV 25 MHz signal on YouTube. WWV ran another 25 MHz test starting on April 7. Initially it was only to stay up for 24 hours or so, but Deutch told ARRL that WWV will remain on the air probably for the rest of the week. "So hopefully a few more people will hear it," he said.

ARRL Releases First Repeater Directory App for Android Devices

ARRL has introduced its first Android app for locating Amateur Radio repeater frequencies in the US and Canada -- *The ARRL Repeater Directory*®...Powered by *Travel Plus*™. Android phone and mobile device users can download the app at no cost from Google Play™ (an Apple iOS version is coming soon). The free app provides limited access to *The ARRL Repeater Directory* database. Users may purchase a subscription to the *complete* database of 23,000 repeaters, but the full version of the app is included in the price of *The ARRL Repeater Directory* print editions.

"You're probably more likely to have your smartphone at your fingertips when searching for a repeater while traveling," ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, pointed out. "The app can quickly locate you and deliver a list of nearby repeaters to tune in." Inderbitzen says users can browse the entire database by city and state too, even while offline.

ARES E-Letter –

REACT is Not Just CB Radio

While REACT has been associated primarily with Citizens Band in the past, the organization has widened its focus to embrace amateur and other services. ARRL and REACT share common goals in terms of emergency communication. The primary mission of REACT is "to provide public safety communications to individuals, organizations, and government agencies to save lives, prevent injuries, and give assistance wherever and whenever needed." The memorandum of understanding calls on the two organizations to "cooperate and utilize their resources from time to time to optimum mutual benefit to both parties." Among specific principles, the agreement involves cooperation during emergencies and disaster relief and the elimination of "duplicative or technically inferior service" during such responses. "The parties will generally encourage ongoing liaison with each other and urge members of both organizations to develop increasingly effective communications and cooperation," the agreement states.

REACT Training Course Offering

Parts of the *REACT* course are similar to the course developed for Amateur Radio operators by the ARRL (EC-001 Introduction to Emergency Communication); the *REACT* course includes material for radio operators in other radio services. Both courses teach the same procedures for emergency and public service communications. Radio operators who complete the program from either organization will have demonstrated the knowledge and skills needed to provide effective communications support to emergency service agencies. The *REACT* program covers Amateur Radio, Citizens Band, the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), the popular Family Radio Service (FRS), and the Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS). Download the REACT training course from the REACT website. -

Views and Reviews

From the pages of QST – April Issue

This month's issue is the "Microcomputers and Amateur Radio" issue. As such it has several articles on kits and scratch built projects incorporating microcomputers, including a data terminal for D-Star data messaging without a computer, and a digital panadapter. Other articles of interest include a description of a Moxon design two element 10M antenna by Jay Slough, K4ZLE.

H. Ward Silver, N0AX, in the column on "Hands-On Radio", talks about the use of crimp connectors. While they have been around for a long time, they have not been seen as satisfactory as soldered connectors. However, he notes that crimp connectors have some significant advantages to solder connectors and give detail on their advantages as well as their

shortcomings. He also talks about hints and tricks which make the use of crimp connectors more foolproof. For anyone who has struggled with solder connectors, this article is a “must read”.

For those of you who are just getting interested in contesting and feel somewhat daunted about computer logging programs, the “Log-less Logging” article by Steve Sant Andrea, AG1YK will prove to be very helpful. While he does not go into detail about logging programs, he does provide enough information to encourage the user to go ahead and find out how they can simplify the tasks that used to take inordinate time when done by hand.

For those who enjoy going “back in the way-back machine, the Vintage Radio column has an article by Steve Ford, WB8GCM on the Heathkit DX-60 Transmitter. He talks about the unit from the perspective of a Novice acquiring it just after getting his license as a youth. “I emptied my savings account and purchased the kit for \$94.95 (approximately \$450 today) at the local Heathkit store”. Read on for the full picture of how it worked and how it led him further into the hobby.

From the pages of CQ – March /April Issue

Publication problems must be the reason there was no February issue delivered to this editor, with the March/April issue just arriving. According to CQ, the February issue was produced only in a digital edition and provided on the same “reader” that this editor found to be problematic when their digital editions were first attempted.

If you are interested in exploring CW as an operating mode, the article by Mike, WB4ZKA is a good one. He talks about the sub-bands allocated to CW and the various uses and habits of them.

Hiroki Kato, AH6CY writes about Three Scientists and Their Radio Days. He features three scientists of differing fields but with a common interest in radio in their youth. This is a very interesting article and puts a picture of diverse personalities into the radio hobby.

In the public service column by Richard Fisher, KI6SN, is an article entitled: Planning and Coordination re Key in Establishing Your Place at the EmComm Table. In this article he features the work on the Lake County (FL) ARES group and toured “their place” in the county EOC. One feature of the EOC is a horizontal tower, designed to reduce the chance of destruction during high winds (check out the pictures).

Special Events –

1AW Centennial Operations Shift States on April 30 (UTC)

The ARRL Centennial W1AW WAS operations taking place throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states will relocate at 0000 UTC on Wednesday, April 30 (the evening of April 29 in US time zones), from New Jersey and New Hampshire to Connecticut (W1AW/1) and Nevada

(W1AW/7). During 2014 W1AW will be on the air from every state (at least twice) and most US territories, and it will be easy to work all states solely by contacting W1AW portable operations.

Guest Columns –

Due to technical difficulties, no Guest Column was available by press time.

Upcoming Events –

If you are into contesting the ARRL June VHF QSO party is coming up on June 14 - 16. This is a big contest for those who want to see what they can do above 50 MHz.

Field Day is the 4th weekend in June. This month it is in the parking lot across from Daffodil Hill. The Ryan family has allowed us to come back again this year to set up our stations. The Red Cross will again cooperate by bringing their food service trailer for us to use.

Odds and Ends – None at this time

Fun Zone - Due to a delay in producing this edition, there was no time to research an article for this column

That's all for this issue. 73, John Stettler, Newsletter Editor
Send comments to: ki6dwp@vahoo.com
Editors who reciprocate are appreciated

Editor's Note: This newsletter is intended for the encouragement of participation in the hobby in its many aspects as well as the participation in organized clubs and their activities. Excerpts and reviews of articles are used under the Fair Use Doctrine, with attribution to the authors, sources, or copyright holders.

