



Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

DECEMBER 2009

2009 OFFICERS: President: Rick Lopez KF6TEZ
 Vice President: Alton Carpenter KD6YWO
 Secretary: Davona Miiller KF6TSY
 Treasurer: Bob Kimball KC6TVE

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KG6JXZ - PAT MANDAS

Born and raised in the Midwest (Chicago area), I was always fascinated with radio equipment as long as I can remember. Growing up I remember tearing apart old walkie talkies to see how they worked and spent hours playing with radios of all kinds, AM/FM, CB and shortwave. A friend of mine got me into CB radio in the early 70's I remember using his Johnson Viking. I bought my first CB in 1975 a Realistic Navaho, and talked my Mother into letting me put a base antenna on the chimney and used that radio for years.



My obsession progressed as I discovered scanners, shortwave rigs and yes Motorola public service radios. I mainly used public service radios for years and enjoyed some of the old Motorola radios like the HT-220. I have held a GMRS license longer than I have had my ham license.

I moved to Southern California in 1985 where I began my career in hotel management, during which my radio hobby dwindle down to an occasional obsession. I joined a Ham Club in the San Diego area in 1999 before I got my license just to see what Ham was all about. This once again fueled my obsession.

I moved to Turlock in the year 2000 and married my **BEAUTIFUL AND WONDERFUL WIFE** Sheryl and very much enjoy, the valley and all of the folks I have met here. I joined the Turlock Amateur Radio club in 2001, and in Feb of 2002 I got my ticket from none other than Chuck McConnell down in Fresno. I took my general class test the minute they dropped the Morse requirement and upgraded to Extra in January of 2009.

I plan on learning and using Morse as I can work it into my schedule. I have worked for Choice Hotels International for the last 11 years where I am a Regional Vice President and oversee almost 1000 of our franchised hotels in sixteen states.

I am a member of the Turlock Amateur Radio Club, SARA Club, and ARES; I thank Ed, KF6FIR for teaching me many aspects of the Ham Radio Hobby, as well as Al, KD6YWO. I enjoy ARES most of all, and helping other Hams learn new things and upgrade their skills.

My shack consists of a Kenwood TS-2000, FT-7100M & KPC 3 Plus Packet Station, Alinco Dr-235t 220-MHZ radio, Grundig Satellite 800 Shortwave, Davis Vantage Pro 2 Weather Station, Several Scanners and a Yaesu FT-101E. I'm currently developing a new antenna system for the shack, and hope to erect a tower after the first of the year.

HAM TOONS

SINCE YOU DO NOT
HAVE A SOCIAL SECURITY
NUMBER, YOUR CALL
WILL BE THE FOLLOWING
BAR CODE .



MT. BAKER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB.

[EmComm West 2010, Reno, Nevada: April 30-May 2, 2010](#)

The 2010 edition of EMCOMMWEST will be held the first weekend in May 2010, starting on Friday, April 30, and running through Sunday, May 2, in Reno, Nevada. EMCOMMWEST 2010 news can be found [here](#). If you are interested in presenting at this upcoming event, please go to the Web site and send a note to info@emcommwest.org.

Turlock Amateur Radio Club
Christmas Dinner

Social Hall
First Methodist Church
1600 Arbor
Turlock

Saturday, December 12th, 2009

Doors Open 6:00
Dinner 6:30
Entertainment 7:30

Menu:

BBQ Tri Tip, chicken, salad, beans, garlic bread, dessert, beverages

Entertainment:

Golden Valley Chorus

Cost:

\$10.00 per person

Please send check no later than *December 4th* to:

Turlock Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 2821
Turlock, CA 95381
(The First Methodist Church is located at the intersection of
East Main, Berkeley, and Arbor Streets)

DECEMBER SARA CLUB MEETING

DESSERT POTLUCK!

BRING A SMALL PLATE OF YOUR FAVORITE DESSERT



DECEMBER 15, 2009

7:30 P.M.

County Emergency Communications Center
Logistics Room
3705 Oakdale Rd. - Modesto, CA 95357



This past month my XYL and I had the opportunity to visit the Macaroni Grill in Stockton, Ca. for dinner and I can tell you that the food was excellent. My passion is Italian food as you may know, and I have reported on various Italian food spots in the greater Modesto area. Looking for even better Italian cuisine led us to Stockton. We arrived early thus bypassing the wait for a table not having reservations. We were greeted by a very friendly waitress who introduced herself by spelling her first name upside down with a crayon on the white butcher paper table covering.

She had a long name and I found it amusing that she was able to do so with little effort. The Macaroni Grill advertised several specials besides what could be found on the open menu. These were selections made by the chef; however I found a rather interesting feature not described in the menu. I asked our waitress if there was something special tonight and she told me about the "secrete menu" item, a rigatoni with baby back spareribs pasta dish. We decided to try it on the recommendation of our waitress. After an appetizer of warm sweet bread dipped in olive oil and balsamic vinegar our dinner arrived and it looked excellent. I was very happy with the portions and true to our waitresses' description the rigatoni and spareribs was deliciously Italian and excellent. If you like Italian food, you'll like The Macaroni Grill on Pacific Ave and Robinhood in the Lincoln Shopping Center, Stockton. *73's Paul W6UHF*



NCVEC to Release New Technician Question Pool to Public in January 2010

The Question Pool Committee ([QPC](#)) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ([NCVEC](#)) is due to release the [new Technician class \(Element 2\) question pool](#) to the 14 VECs on December 1, 2009; it will be released to the public in January 2010. Each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- is reviewed on a four-year rotation. This new Technician class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010.

According ARRL Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O, the QPC reviews the three question pools every four years to ensure that the questions are kept current with the latest amateur practice and technology, as well as addresses information relevant to that particular license class. "In the case of the Technician pool, the question set should provide for the new Technician licensee to be able to establish his station and operate it legally, courteously and safely. The Technician question pool and exam are intended to be the beginning of the journey into the Amateur Radio Service. It prepares the person for the enjoyment of operating, and that of preparing to learn electronics, the cornerstone of the education needed to obtain the further enjoyment that can come with the higher license classes." Green is a member of the NCVEC's Question Pool Committee. Other members of the QPC include Chairman Roland Anders, K3RA (Laurel VEC), Larry Pollock, NB5X (W5YI VEC), Jim Wiley, KL7CC (Anchorage VEC) and Tom Fuszard, KF9PU (Milwaukee VEC).

Green said that earlier this year, the QPC solicited input from Amateur Radio operators concerning the new question pool, accepting input for new question topics and new questions, as well as suggestions for changes or deletions: "The QPC must rely on members of the Amateur Radio community to suggest questions and answers in a responsible manner to preserve a high level of legitimacy for our radio service, so the NCVEC QPC seeks input from the amateur community concerning a revision."



Good Operating Practices

Do

- ✚ Always be polite regardless of the circumstances. If not, avoid transmitting.
- ✚ Set a good example especially for short wave listeners who may be thinking about becoming a ham.
- ✚ Be a good listener. It will help you better organize your thoughts before transmitting.
- ✚ Reply to a CQ, or call CQ yourself. It helps keep alive the magic of ham radio.
- ✚ Speak clearly and slowly, especially when giving your call sign to someone you have never worked before.
- ✚ Promote friendship and goodwill to DX contacts. Look for ways to get to know each other rather than simply exchanging signal reports and 73s!
- ✚ Try to keep track of everyone in the QSO. Hopefully someone has assumed the role of "traffic director" to make sure everyone has a chance to contribute to the discussion. If not, don't hesitate to do it yourself.

Don't

- ✚ Act like some sort of Broadcast Radio station. Your fellow Amateurs will most likely not appreciate such a blatant display of personal ego.
- ✚ Acknowledge the presence of deliberate interference. After all, that's most likely the overall objective of the person doing the interfering.
- ✚ Be excessively long winded especially when in a round-table discussion and during times when band conditions are changing.
- ✚ Just talk about ham radio. Most hams have many more interests.
- ✚ Operate when you are in a bad mood. You will be that much more vulnerable to losing your temper.
- ✚ Overuse Q-codes and other ham jargon on the phone bands.
- ✚ Claim or homestead any particular frequency for nets, schedules, etc. If your designated frequency is already in use, simply move up or down as necessary.
- ✚ Transmit before first determining that the frequency is clear. This includes transmitting within 3 KHz of other known QSOs.
- ✚ Break into an ongoing QSO unless you can hear the majority of the participants.

- ✚ Make it clear at the end of each transmission which station is expected to transmit next. Try to do this even when operating VOX.
- ✚ Operate on frequencies that are in whole Khz (e.g. 18.130 KHz). This alleviates ambiguity and makes it easier for everyone to be on the same frequency.
- ✚ Openly praise other hams when you observe them doing something that you feel is especially deserving. e.g., helping demonstrate ham radio to a group of scouts.
- ✚ Always be ready to quickly and calmly respond to emergency situations. Rehearse what you would do if presented with various scenarios.
- ✚ Pause between transmissions. "Quick keying" gives the appearance that other hams are unwelcome in your QSO.
- ✚ Consider using the Internet to enrich your QSO. Many hams have developed their own comprehensive websites which you can usually find through QRZ.COM.
- ✚ Respect the privileges of hams operating in other modes on the HF bands including those who enjoy AM.
- ✚ Ignore someone new to a round table QSO. We should all do our part to make everyone feel welcome. Avoid making the discussion appear exclusive to your particular circle of friends.
- ✚ Test your transmitter over the air. It is far better to use a dummy load.
- ✚ Cough, sneeze or clear your throat into your microphone.
- ✚ Operate VOX except when in a QSO with three or less participants. It tends to foster "quick keying" which may give the appearance that you don't welcome breakers.
- ✚ Become a "Band Policeman" quick to tell others what you feel they are doing wrong. In instances where it may be called for, always be polite and constructive.
- ✚ Turn up your microphone gain or resort to excessive speech processing in order to be heard. Such practices will most likely result in diminished audio quality and increased likelihood of interference to nearby QSOs.
- ✚ Use the word "break" when wanting to join an on-going QSO. Simply give your call sign between transmissions and reserve the use of the word "break" for more urgent situations.
- ✚ Join an ongoing QSO unless you have something to contribute to the discussion. It is especially rude to interrupt other hams with a request for audio checks, signal reports, etc.

- ✚ Make a point to try 17 and 60 meters. Good operating practices are especially prevalent on these bands.
- ✚ Look for opportunities to "Elmer" newly licensed hams when you hear them on the HF bands. Welcome them solicit their questions and give them pointers on good operating practices.
- ✚ Remember that no one country can proclaim to be the leader of the Amateur Radio world. Likewise, no one country's foreign policy is any more right or wrong than that of another country.
- ✚ Develop good operating practices. You will be doing your part in helping insure the continuance of our long and proud tradition of self-regulation.
- ✚ Operate in any fashion that is not in keeping with good amateur practice. Be certain to always comply with the provisions of Part 97 of the rules.
- ✚ Knowingly interfere with an ongoing QSO just because you are working DX, especially split frequency.
- ✚ Say that the frequency "is not" in use when you hear someone inquire. Refrain from responding at all except unless you know for certain that the frequency or one nearby "is" in use.
- ✚ Ridicule other hams or express any negative views of the overall state of Amateur Radio. If you don't have something positive and constructive to say, avoid saying anything at all.