



Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

FEBRUARY 2010

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

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – John Otte K6JRO

I was born and raised in Memphis, TN and grew up with a family of Ham Radio operators. My father (WA4BOT), mother (KA4HYX), grandfather (WB4AMY) and grandmother (WD4KKL) were always very active. My childhood memories are sprinkled with club meeting, dinners, campouts and parades. I affectionately recall the cadence of my father's Teletype machine he operated for Army MARS. However, my fondest memories are of Field Day. I watched (and heard) with an amazed curiosity. The warm glow of the tubes at night far surpassed the campfire (my father still has his old Drake transmitter and receiver and pulls it out when I'm in town).

But my curiosity never developed beyond watching my parents and grandparents. I found Ham Radio to be intimidating and complicated and I had no interest in learning CW (that was the mid 1970s to early 1980s).

I moved to California in August of 1996 after some time in the Air Force and several uncommitted years at the University of Memphis. My journey to California was strictly for education. I established residency and enrolled at MJC and finished my AA in Social Science (1999). From there I obtained my BA in Cultural Anthropology/Archaeology at the University of California, Santa Barbara (2001) and my MA in anthropology from California State University, Northridge (2003). I am currently Associate Professor of Anthropology at West Valley College and Ohlone College (both in the Bay Area). I am also currently working on my Doctorate of Education (so if you don't hear or see me much, that's why).

My interest in Ham Radio was re-ignited by Dave Wallace (KA6GJN) in 2007 when he mentioned the no-code requirement. I bought the ARRL technician book, studied, and in June 2007 earned my Technician ticket. I upgraded to General in October of the same year much to the delight of my father. In 2008, I recruited Tom Mesta (K6THM) so I would have someone to talk to. Tom's companionship helped to increase my activity and desire for community service.

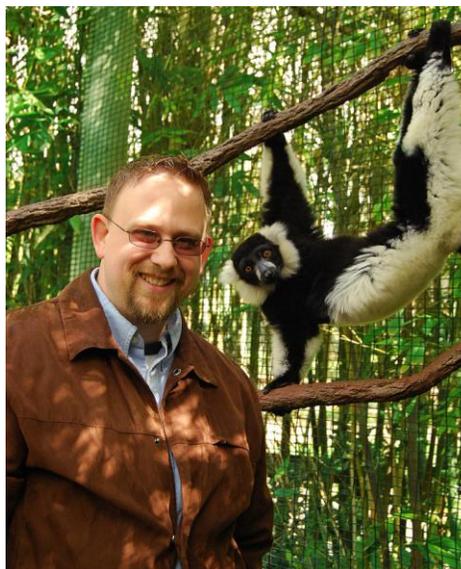


FIGURE 1: PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN CAVALHO

(cont K6JRO)... It has been an honor and privilege being involved with SARA and ARES. It has brought a sense of purpose to my life that my profession doesn't. It has, in many ways, allowed me to reconnect with that boy I left so long ago rekindling some of my fondest memories.

Of course none of this would be possible without the love and SUPPORT of my beautiful wife Clorinda who encourages me with cautious optimism. She indulges my every whim and even allows me to keep the radios in the house!

My home station consists of Yaesu FT-450AT w/a SignalLink external sound card for PSK31. For VHF/UHF I run FT-7800 for local repeaters and a FT-2800 for constant monitoring of the SARA repeater. I have a packet radio station consisting of a FT-90 and Kantronics KPC 3+ TNC. My mobile station consists of a FT-857D with a LDG AT-100Pro Auto tuner and FT-8800.

I am a member of the Loyal VE team Life-Member of ARRL and a member of the prestigious order of the Wouff-Hong.

73 de John K6JRO

Low-tech radios connect some Haitians

By *John D. Sutter, CNN*
January 20, 2010 8:27 a.m. EST

When cell phone coverage and Internet failed, some Haitians turned to amateur radio to communicate.

(CNN) -- In the brutal aftermath of Haiti's earthquake, Jean-Robert Gaillard turned to his low-tech radio for solace and for a lifeline. When the earthquake hit, the 57-year-old from Petionville, Haiti, found most of his normal lines of communication -- his cell phone, the Internet, even his ability to walk down the street and talk to someone -- severed by the disaster.

But Gaillard used a neighbor's generator to power up his radio and connects to a handful of amateur radio enthusiasts in the United States -- many of whom were eagerly listening to radio static for calls like his.

Unlike many other people in Haiti, Gaillard was able to contact family members in the United States soon after the January 12 earthquake hit to tell them he had survived.

In those first hellish moments, that connection seemed like a miracle...

"It relieved the tension of my family members," he said, speaking by Skype from Haiti on Tuesday, which he says wasn't possible until more recently. "They could hear my voice. They knew that I was OK."

Much has been made about the role flashier technologies like Twitter, Skype and text messaging have played in helping disaster victims find loved ones and communicate with international aid workers. But it is worth noting that, when all else fails, the low-tech hum of a radio frequency is sometimes the only line of communication that's open.

Enthusiasts of amateur radio -- or ham radio -- are quick to use this as evidence that international aid groups and governments should rely more heavily on radio in disaster situations. Ham radio signals bounce off of a layer of charged particles in Earth's atmosphere, called the ionosphere, and, depending on the conditions, can work at times when other modes of communication fail.

But amateur radio is best viewed as one of many communications options in the wake of a disaster, said Keith Robertory, manager of disaster services technology at the American Red Cross, who has been helping in Haiti relief efforts from Washington.

The best communication technology in a disaster, he said, is whatever happens to work at the time.

"Amateur radio is a very powerful tool if the amateur radio operators are in the area where the disaster occurs," he said. "There's a window of opportunity for amateur radio operators right at the beginning [of a disaster]. ... That's where they are extremely valuable."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting: February 16, 2010

Covered Bridge Classic Ride: March 13, 2010

Radiofest Monterey Bay |2010: March 20-21, 2010

Ham Cram license class and testing: April 17, 2010

International DX Convention: April 16-18, 2010

Modesto CROP Walk - April 24, 2010

EmComm West 2010, Reno, Nevada: April 30-May 2, 2010

- EMCOMMWEST 2010 news can be found [here](#).



Canyon Classic Ride

June 12, 2010 – Patterson, CA

Pacificon 2010:

October 15 - 17

THE ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION CONVENTION



PACIFICON 2010 - THE WEST COAST HAM RADIO CONVENTION IS COMING BACK!

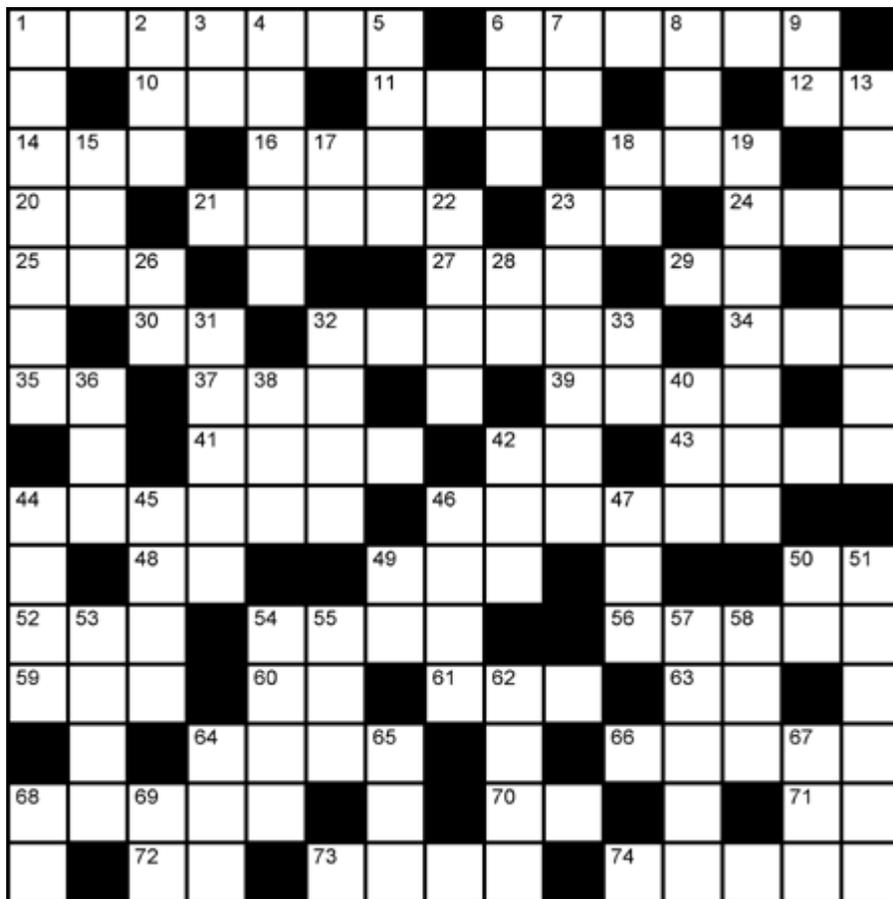
After a one year hiatus, **PACIFICON 2010**, the great west coast ham radio convention, returns to the San Francisco Bay Area and will again be sponsored by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club. **Pacificon 2010** will take place Friday, October 15th through Sunday, October 17th, at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel at 2600 Bishop Drive in San Ramon, California. Events and schedules listed here are in the planning stages. Links will become active as planning progresses. Check out: <http://www.pacificon.org/>

THE AMATEUR RADIO CROSSWORD PUZZLER

By H. Ward Silver, NOAX

"Scanning the Horizon"

Many hams also use scanners to listen to local public safety agencies, airport activity, at the race track, or even to ham channels. Like ham radio, scanning has a lingo all its own, some of which overlaps a bit with ours. This puzzle dabbles a bit in the scanning world - can you sync up and track the clues?



Across

- 1. Distance between channels
- 6. W7 state with a trail named after it
- 10. Certification for awards (abbr.)
- 11. Unruly groups, such as in a pileup
- 12. Electromagnetic (abbr.)
- 14. Standard time (abbr.)
- 16. Manufacturer of digital voice modem
- 18. System of traffic nets (abbr.)
- 20. Vertical angle (abbr.)
- 21. Subaudible tone system (abbr.)
- 23. Trademarked synonym for 21 Across (abbr.)
- 24. Makes a nice battery with Lithium
- 25. Type of display (abbr.)
- 27. User (abbr.)
- 29. Often confused with FM (abbr.)

30. Next to
32. Makes a ducky antenna
34. The switch that speaks (abbr.)
35. Shortwave band (abbr.)
37. Surprised laughter
39. Large inland sea between UN and UJ
41. FET control element
42. Add 'E' to get a big solar disturbance
43. Equipment
44. Operate while moving
46. Communicate on two frequencies
48. Largest land continent (abbr.)
49. First digital logic family (abbr.)
50. Greek letter meaning 'micro'
52. Digital squelch system (abbr.)
54. Opposite of WBFM (abbr.)
56. Collection or team
59. Add 'IO' to get Old Macdonald
60. Collector current (abbr.)
61. Radio regulators (abbr.)
63. CW prosign for 'and'
64. Leave out
66. Standard for digital characters (abbr.)
68. Narrow filter
70. The band below AM broadcast (abbr.)
71. Add 'U' to get a coffee pot
72. Often confused with NH (abbr.)
73. The set of test questions
74. Antennas aligned vertically

Down

1. Circuit that mutes receiver audio
2. Keeps volume constant (abbr.)
3. Unit of volume (abbr.)
4. Really mad
5. Big brother to FRS
6. Official station that relays bulletins
7. Russian satellite prefix

8. Older term for 14 Across
9. One of the compass points
13. Listen to
15. Gentle attention (abbr.)
17. The watery continent (abbr.)
18. Postal code for VO1
19. Communicate on one frequency
22. Replacements (abbr.)
23. Increases sensitivity of a receiver
26. Logarithmic ratio (abbr.)
28. These carry information in an AM signal (abbr.)
31. Parasitic beams
32. Speed of digital bit transmission
33. Repeated roger (abbr.)
36. Swings with 'to'
38. Intelligent computer in 2001
40. Length of life
42. See you again (CW abbr.)
44. Type of modulation
45. Fixed station
46. Two-tone signaling standard
47. Periodic type of antenna
49. Frequencies higher than audio (abbr.)
50. Metal that shields magnetic fields
51. Radio path to the satellite
53. Italian goodbye
54. Highest energy rechargeable battery
55. Interference from broadcast stations (abbr.)
57. Start again
58. Signal source (abbr.)
62. Your radio ID
64. Base-8 (abbr.)
65. Binary base
67. Postage coupon (abbr.)
68. Where Lewis and Clark spent the winter (abbr.)
69. Idiot box (abbr.)



The K7RA Solar Update (Jan 29, 2010) -- We've seen average daily sunspot numbers for this reporting week. Since last Thursday through Wednesday this week, the numbers rose more than 9 points to 28; the average solar flux slipped more than 2 points to 81.9. Geomagnetic indices were a tiny bit lower. Sunspot numbers for January 21-27 were 17, 30, 40, 32, 34, 28 and 15, with a mean of 28. The 10.7 cm flux was 82.6, 82.4, 84.6, 84.6, 81.2, 79.8 and 77.8, with a mean of 81.9. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 2, 4, 4, 3, 3 and 2, with a mean of 3.1. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 2, 4, 2, 3, 1 and 0, with a mean of 2.3. The predicted solar flux for January 29-31 is 76, 80 on February 1-2, 82 on February 3-5 and 88-89 for the following five days. We don't see any geomagnetic upset predicted until February 16, with the planetary A index only rising to 10, which is hardly an upset.

[Full Story](#)

Encourage Others to Become an Amateur Radio Operator (Ham)



Ham Radio has been around for decades as a hobby and as an emergency communication tool for government agencies during local disasters.

The Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association will be sponsoring training and testing session. Spend the day cramming for your test, at the end of the day you take your test!

Please email Dick Decker to sign up: dickdecker@hotmail.com

Ham Cram Information

When: April 17, 2010 From 8AM – 4:30 PM

**Where: Stanislaus 911 Center
3705 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA**

A nominal fee of \$30 for the ham cram covers your materials, refreshments, and if you pass a complimentary years membership in the SARACLUB.



Supported by Funding From
FY09 Homeland Security Grant



Stanislaus County OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

NIMS/SEMS/ICS COURSES

January ~ February ~ March 2010

Revised 12/21/2009

COURSE	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
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ICS 200 (CSA employees have priority. Some seats available for others.)	20 January 2010	0800-1700	251 East Hackett Road
ICS 200	26 January 2010	0800-1700	3705 Oakdale Rd.
NIMS Executive	11 February 2010	1300-1700	3705 Oakdale Rd.
ICS 300/400/EOC	17,18,24,25 February, 3 March 2010	0800-1700	3705 Oakdale Rd
ICS 200	9 March 2010	0800-1700	3705 Oakdale Rd
ICS 800B	23 March 2010	0800-1200	3800 Cornucopia Way Harvest Hall Rms D & E

ICS 200 COURSE (Basic NIMS Compliance)

An 8-hour course that meets the requirements of the Basic Incident Command System. This course is designed to go beyond the basics of NIMS/SEMS/ICS introduction courses and cover such topics as Leadership and Management, Delegation of Authority, Management by Objectives, Functional Areas and

Positions, Briefings, Organizational Flexibility, and Transfer of Command. **Target Audience:** First line supervisors, single resource leaders, or other emergency response/management personnel who require a higher level of NIMS/SEMS/ICS training. **Pre-requisite:** Completion of IS700/Introduction to NIMS and ICS100/Introduction to ICS.

ICS 300/400/EOC

A 40-hour combined Intermediate/Advanced Incident Command System course created for supervisory or management staff that would be assigned in a supervisory or leadership role in the Command or General Staff of an emergency response incident or major pre-planned event. This course meets NIMS/SEMS compliance and is a requirement to work in the Stanislaus Operational Area EOC. **Target Audience:** First line supervisors, middle managers. **Pre-requisite:** Completion of Introduction/Basic NIMS/SEMS/ICS course.

NIMS EXECUTIVE COURSE

A 4-hour course designed for local elected officials and chief executives. This course covers roles and responsibilities of the policy group, as well as the basics of the Incident Command System, an overview of the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), and Introduction to the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The course also covers the Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) involving interactions with other jurisdictions/agencies to support the management or command of emergency incidents or major pre-planned events. This specially designed course for Stanislaus County public officials meets the requirements of IS700/Introduction to NIMS, ICS100/Introduction to ICS, and ICS402/Executive Course. **Target Audience:** City Councils, Boards of Supervisors, Boards of Directors, Chief Executive Officers, Chief Administrative Officers, etc. **Pre-requisite:** None.

IS-800.B NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK, AN INTRODUCTION

A four-hour course (classroom version) that introduces participants to the concepts and principles of the National Response Framework (NRF). Course objectives include: purpose; response doctrine; roles and responsibilities of entities; actions that support national response; response organizations used for multi-agency coordination; and how planning relates to national preparedness.

Target Audience: Mid-level management, Command and General Staff, Emergency Operations Center staff (basically, anyone who may respond to and fill an Incident Command System position in the field or Emergency Operations Center. Note: These position descriptions are not defined from day to day operations, but for emergency, disaster, or major pre-planned activities). **Pre-requisite:** None.

Special Notice:

*Anyone with emergency management responsibilities, including planning, response, mitigation and or recovery from emergencies **is required to be NIMS compliant.** All public agencies, including schools, medical and other government organizations that have any role in emergency management need to meet or exceed all NIMS requirements. By attending the courses offered here in Stanislaus County, you will avoid the high registration cost associated with other training (generally \$600+) for registration alone. This training will provide you with the necessary skills to respond and be successful in emergency management regardless of your role in our next emergency/disaster response.*

REGISTRATION

Early registration is recommended. Classes fill quickly.

(Preference given to Stanislaus County Emergency Response and Management Personnel.)

To register for courses go to www.scoes.info, click on NIMS-SEMS-ICS Training Registration and select the class you wish to attend.

Sponsored by:
Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services
3705 Oakdale Road
Modesto, CA 95357
209.552.3600

Attention All Amateurs...



2010 Field Day Packets Now Available (Feb 2, 2010) -- It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 26-27, 2010! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. Field Day packets are now [available for download](#) and include the complete rules (including changes for 2010), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more. [Link to this item](#)



[Full Story](#)

MARS Unifies Operation in Support of Haiti Relief Effort (Feb 3, 2010) -
- To assist the MARS communications support effort in Haiti, the heads of the Army, Air Force, and Navy-Marine Corps MARS programs have agreed to divvy up responsibilities among the three Service MARS programs. According to Air Force MARS Public Information Officer David Trachtenberg, N4WWL/AFA3TR, this delegation of responsibility will facilitate more efficient utilization of MARS communications assets in the overall relief operation. On January 12, a 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti, killing thousands and wiped out the island nation's communication infrastructure.

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association 2010 Field Day Survey

FIELD DAY LOCATION:

Please indicate below the location that you prefer for field day. This assumes that since you prefer this site you would participate in field day. This is just a survey at this point; we are not looking for an actual commitment today. Just need an idea.

- 2 Close to home, in the SJV.
 - 18 Dorrington, Same as last year**
 - 2 Completely new location, but unsure of location
 - 4 Somewhere near the coast
 - Not interested in Field Day, if this is checked, please go no further, thank you.
 - Other, Please list below
 - 26 Responses
-

FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES:

Please indicate the activities you prefer to see at Field Day, check as many as you'd like.

- 9 T-Hunt
 - 13 Movie Night
 - 15 Bonfire/Prize Raffle
 - 4 Scavenger hunt
 - 11 Club Contests, Most Bands Worked, Most Contacts etc.
 - Other, Please list below:
 - 52 Responses
-

FIELD DAY FOOD:

This year we have a different take on food, the entrée will be prepared by club members in a cook –off, the entrée and drinks will be provided by the club and club members will be asked to bring side dishes. I would like to participate in this year's cook –off, this is not a commitment just an idea of who may be interested.

My dish of choice to prepare may be:

- Chicken
 - Beef
 - Pork
 - Sausage
 - Fish
 - Other, Please list below
-

FIELD DAY PARTICIPATION:

If I were to attend Field Day, I most likely would operate which band.

16 Yes 3 No 4 Neutral I would like to combine Field Day with the Turlock Club this year?