



“THE READOUT”

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

MAY 2009

Member Spotlight

LeRoy – NV6S



It all started in October of 1942. My father was a crane operator for Barium Products in Modesto and my mother was a housewife. Then I came along to change their life. I was schooled in Modesto and attended Modesto Junior College. I grew up loving fishing, hunting and firearms.

One of the young men that I paled with was the son of Bill Bates who was the owner of KTRB, a local broadcast station. Bill was a ham and I guess that is when I got my first interest in radio but it didn't take until several years later.

I met my wife to be while dragging Tenth Street (that was the popular teen pastime of those years). We married in 1962. I worked as an auto mechanic. The economy was on a down turn and I was not making enough to live on as a mechanic. I took a job with Stanislaus County as an Equipment Operator.

Viet Nam was beginning to grow into a major conflict and I figured I would soon be drafted. I took a military leave from the county and I opted to join the Navy where I wound up in the Sea Bees as a mechanic. I put two tours in Viet Nam. That was a time I do not regret but don't really care to talk much about. One thing that I do remember was getting the chance to talk to my wife on the radio through the courtesy of MARS.

I really appreciated that and that probably started the seed growing to become a ham. After three years and one month I was offered the opportunity to extend my enlistment and gain a promotion or to get an early separation from the Navy. That took very little effort to decide.

I returned to work for the county in January of 1969. After a few months the concept of being promoted hit me and I decided to go back to college. I attended MJC and Stanislaus State College while continuing my work for the county. I took classes in supervision, business administration, and electronics. I was soon promoted to Road Supervisor. I later became Traffic Supervisor and was the Assistant Superintendent Of Roads for several years.

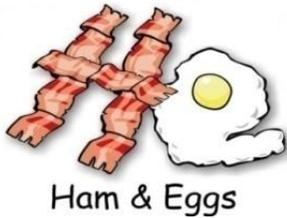
I got my first radio license a General Radio Telephone Operator License. At about the same time I got my Novice ticket call sign KA6OUR. About a year later I upgraded to Advanced Class with a new call sign of KE6QT. Several of us used to work CW late into the night and a couple years later I got my Extra with my current call sign.

Along the way I have been into raising a family, bass fishing, television repair, broadcast engineering, firearms and competition shooting. I've also become involved with my Church. I retired from Stanislaus County Roads in 1999. I did most all of the repeater chores for several years as well as did maintenance on the repeater buildings on MT Oso.

The pride of my life is my grandson who is now nearly three years old. Currently I am heavily into fishing and own a bass boat (an old one).

I still like my firearms and I still like radio. Age has taken a bit of a toll and I'm now more of an appliance operator than a radio tech. There are younger eyes out there that can see far better than I and I'm really not up with the latest technology.

I do appreciate the support SARA members have given me over the years as I attempted to keep up with the engineering chores.



Ham & Eggs

by Paul W6UHF

This month I report on a legacy of ham radio known as the Royal Order of Wouff Hong.

The Wouff Hong is a fearsome device designed to strike terror!



Recently several SARA Club members attended the EMCOMM West/ Pacificon 2009 Amateur Radio Convention in Reno, NV. On Saturday evening at the stroke of midnight the exemplification of Royal Order of Wolff Hong convened. Thereafter a wonderful memento to rich legacy of Hiram Percy Maxim, aka "The Old Man" began a ceremony of initiation.

Four SARA members as well as other amateurs, having never been inducted into the Royal Order of Wouff Hong, gathered and experienced one of radio's richest traditions. As far as explaining the details of the "Royal Order of Wouff Hong," I cannot for that's privileged information.

The history is included in the below article. You have to be a registered member of the R.O.of W-H . And once initiated, you will never forget the details, but divulging them to the heathen non-believers would have dire consequences.

.....And Lord knows, there is a LOT of operators out there that deserve an enthusiastic application of the Wolff Hong.



DATES AND EVENTS

May 2, 2009 Turlock Auction the Turlock Amateur Radio Club holds an Auction at the Turlock Youth Center, this Auction is for anyone to sell Ham Radio equipment and related Ham Radio accessories. For information please e-mail Grady Williams at gradyw@elite.net

Saturday May 16, 2009 meet at 0800

Modesto Criterium Downtown Modesto
Ham Operator contact: Paul W6UHF
Linda W6MUT
Alan KI6VJI
John K6JRO
Tom K6THM

Sunday May 17, 2009 meet at 0800

Salida Race near CHP Office Kiernan/Stoddard
Ham Operator contact: Paul W6UHF
Ed KF6FIR
Tom KI6KQR
Robin KG6ZYQ

OTHER: ARRL Field Day is June 27-28, 2009. The 66th Fresno Hamfest is October 17, 2009. Check www.w6to.com for information. (NOTE THE DATE CHANGE.) The California QSO Party (CQP) is October 3-4, 2009. Put your county on the air and have fun. Information is located at www.cqp.org. The New York State QSO Party is October 17, 2009 for 12 hours.

Canyon Classic Century - June 13, 2009 meet at 0600

Creekside Middle School
535 Peregrine Drive
Patterson, CA 95363

EMCOMM U San Joaquin County ARES

This is a recap of the day-long Emergency Communications Seminar, called Emcomm U (University) put on by Dave Coursey N5FDL,EC and his San Joaquin ARES group at the San Joaquin Ag Center in Stockton on Sat. Mar 13th, 2009.

It started off with registration and Hot Coffee and cookies at 8 am. The Agenda for the day was pretty full. Speakers were from the Bay Area and as far away as Susanville.

First was a two-way Skype presentation by Dennis K2DCD from the ARRL with information on the ARRL, he encouraged everyone to put in their ideas and opinions on the new ARRL Strategic Plan which is being updated. They are also going to be setting up a new and improved Web Site.

He told us the current Emergency Emcomm courses I, II, and III are being redone and in the future will be called the Basic and Advanced Courses.

We could see him pretty well, some jumps in the video and audio. he couldn't see us, no camera was set up on this end.

He said that the new MOU with the American Red Cross will be finalized in a week, or so.

Next was a very good presentation on "Outpost Packet Message Manager" by the developer himself, KN6PE from Cupertino. The first hour was on the basics and how it works, then at 1:00 pm he talked for another hour on the uses of it in emergency communications and OES environments.

At 10:30 Phil Cook KI6OAF, of the San Joaquin Co EMS Agency and Jim Fey KO6UW, Manteca ACS Officer, gave a talk on the use of the CAHAN (Calif. Health Alert Network) which is a phone call system to notify lots of people about an event in a short amount of time using Email and Telephones.

LUNCH AND SMALL TALK

After lunch and the afternoon Outpost presentation they went on to a short talk on APRS by David Harris N6UOW of Fremont.

Next was an interesting presentation on the actual use of Winlink2000 (called Airmail) by Shelly Kelley KS6Z and his wife from Susanville. They just got back from Honduras with the International Health Service where they were with a Medical/Dental group. They take these services to the small communities that had no service and set up Clinics and how they used Airmail to send and receive information to the US using HF Pactor on 40 and 20 meters. They said it was like a 2 week long field day.

The event was finished up with a rather heated discussion of Hams and CERT, pros and cons. ??

A very enjoyable mini EMCOMM and I believe they are planning more of them in the future.

Joe Park WB6AGR

The Wouff Hong



Every amateur should know and tremble at the history and origins of this fearsome instrument for the punishment of amateurs who cultivate bad operating habits and who nourish and culture their meaner instincts on the air.

It was invented--or at any rate, discovered-by "The Old Man" himself, just as amateurs were getting back on the air after World War One. "The Old Man" (who later turned out to be Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, co-founder and first president of ARRL) first heard the Wouff Hong described amid the howls and garble of QRM as he tuned across a band filled with signals which exemplified all the rotten operating practices then available to amateurs, considering the state of the art as they knew

it. As amateur technology and ingenuity have advanced, we have discovered many new and improved techniques of rotten operating, but we're ahead of our story.

As The Old Man heard it, the Wouff Hong was being used on some hapless offender so effectively that he investigated. After further effort, "T.O.M." was able to locate and identify a Wouff Hong. He wrote a number of QST articles about contemporary rotten operating practices and the use of the Wouff Hong to discipline the offenders.

Early in 1919, The Old Man wrote in QST "I am sending you a specimen of a real live Wouff Hong which came to light out here . . . Keep it in the editorial sanctum where you can lay hands on it quickly in an emergency." The "specimen of a real live Wouff Hong" was presented to a meeting of the ARRL Board and QST reported later that "each face noticeably blanched when the awful Wouff Hong was . . . laid upon the table." The Board voted that the Wouff Hong be framed and hung in the office of the Secretary of the League and there it remains to this day, a sobering influence on every visitor to League Headquarters who has ever swooshed a carrier across a crowded band.

The Old Man never prescribed the exact manner in which the Wouff Hong was to be used, but amateurs need only a little imagination to surmise how painful punishments were inflicted on those who stoop to liddish behavior on the air.

ANTENNA POLE RESCUE

With the wind having an undesirable effect on his main HF antenna support pole, like making it not straight, Gary Hubbard KI6CDY, asked at the February club meeting if a couple volunteers would help remove the bent support pole and put up a new one.

Saturday morning, February 28, Nathan Moore KI6JAS and John Collins KE6VET arrived and with Gary proceeded to appraise the situation. Gary had a new and stronger replacement pole already made up with the required eyebolts attached. Nathan and John gathered the necessary tools and took to the roof.

Within an hour the removal of the injured pole and installation of the new pole was made. With the adjustment of the guide wires the project was completed.

As you can see by the pictures everyone involved was happy with the outcome. Thanks to Gary's wife, Clara, as to top off the day she served a home baked pastry snack when the project was finished.



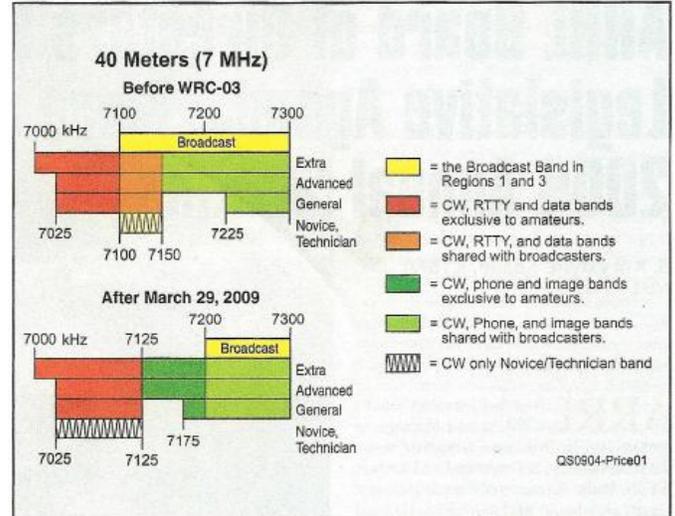


NEW 40 Meters (7 MHz) Privileges

For those who have yet to hear of the changes as of March 29, 2009 this article is for you. A short history as to what changes the 40 Meter 7000-7300 kHz segment has been through to date:

1. Before 1938 Amateurs worldwide enjoyed 7000-7300 kHz.
2. During 1938 it was decided that 7150-7300 kHz was to be reallocated to broadcasting outside of the Americas.
3. 1959 the 7100-7150 segment was given to Radio Free Europe, the BBG and others. Hams in the Americas were lucky enough to continue to use the full 300 kHz. But broadcasters from outside of the Americas were heard *24n*.
4. 1979 an effort was launched to relocate the broadcasters. Over the years this effort was not embraced by the other interests and as such the road to the March 29, 2009 change has been very bumpy and a very hot topic at times.

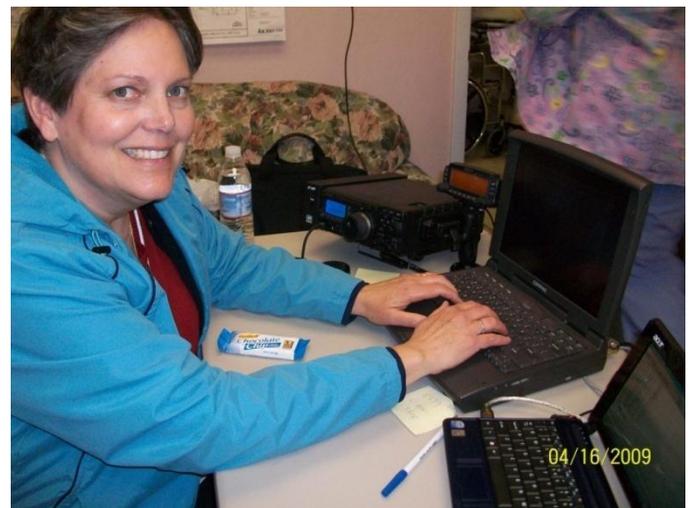
But the change has arrived. What does this mean to Region 2, the Americas? Take a look at the Before and After chart.



Amateurs in Region 2 will for the most part still hear some broadcasters. With the change not all broadcasters will follow the rules on day one. But it is felt that over a short period of time all broadcasters will be removed from 7125 to 7200 segment.

To the Amateurs whom use 40 Meters ENJOY!

Sandie at Oak Valley Hospital during the drill on April 16th.



HAMCRAM April 18, 2009

The VE team reports another successful HAMCRAM session on Saturday, April 18. There were 23 souls total.

Thirteen took the all day class. Eleven passed and two failed. That's an 85% pass rate. The all day class produced four generals and seven techs. Ten were walk-ins and took the test only. Nine passed and 1 failed. That's a 90% pass rate. The walk-ins produced four generals and six new techs.

Laurel VE released the new calls on Weds, three days after the results were mailed to them. The fastest processing yet. Amazing!

Thanks to everyone that helped. Especially Lucien who took a young boy that was unable to finish the class on his own personal tour of the 911 center and the ARES room. The boy certainly left excited enough to return for the next HAMCRAM. Linda was prepared to read a test to a blind fellow from Stockton but he apparently was unable to get to the session.

The next HAMCRAM is scheduled for July 18, 2009. Be there or be square! Dick – SUU

M Squared Open House Dick Decker K6SUU

Well, now I can say I have done it. I went to the M Squared open house with Mike, AA6MK, after hearing about it for the last five years.

Most hams rave about the M Squared open house mainly because of the barbeque and the free hamburgers. Most hams would spend untold sums of gas to get one item free or at a bargain price. Especially food. I don't mean to imply hams are notoriously cheap, everybody already knows that. Some of the cheapest bastards I know are hams! Including me.

I know you are not going to believe this, but Mike and I did not stick around for the free barbeque. We made three or four passes through the flea market and then ran out of things to do. We discovered the free donuts and coffee so that kept us busy until we started to get sick.

I met Dennis Motschenbacher, the Executive Vice President of Yaesu, and he has agreed to supply our HAMCRAM with some Yaesu "freebies" as give aways. I have my sights set on 60 Yaesu wallmaps. We will see what I can get. Oh, by the way he was giving away Yaesu hats, but after being at the Dayton Hamvention three times I have more Yaesu hats that I could ever wear in my lifetime. I give credit to Dennis for taking his time on a weekend to represent Yaesu at a small hamfest. The other manufacturer was Heil and I wish to give them credit for selling the most expensive audio gear God has ever seen. Heil does more to keep ham gear at outrageous than any other manufacturer.

You have to give it to M Squared. They put on a darn good hamfest/open house and they sure do make beams out of stout materials. I didn't realize they now also make HF monobanders. I thought they were still only UHF-VHF antennas for sideband freako's. I liked their antennas, I liked their open house but most of all I liked their free food. Let's see, I used approximately \$10 of gas and ate three donuts and two cups of coffee and one diet Dr. Pepper. That was a good deal right? I have always felt that only classy people have diet Dr. Pepper.

Back to the open house. I am guessing attendance at approx 75 cheap hams, 15 flea market sellers and a raft of pick ups that looked like porcupines. Both buildings of the M Squared shop were open for roaming around. I noticed they planned to give VE exams also.

I did "break down" and buy one 50 cent item and wouldn't you know it - it didn't fit where I planned to use it! In the flea market there was one guy selling Motorola commercial gear that would have made DKF foam in the mouth, a number of people with HF gear, very little computer crap and some obsolete receivers.

I saw a number of Fresno hams, one Grady, IXA, look alike and Chuckles, DPD, the ARRL regional whatch-a-ma-call it. I did not see one ham from Modesto. It is possible there were some there I did not notice. Take a look at the attached pictures to get a feel for the flea market.

Would I go again? Yes, especially if someone else paid for the gas!



