

The READOUT

Year 14

Number 6

June

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SARA Field Day June 27 & 28 In Patterson



See Page 4 For Details

N6REB-2 Packet BBS QRT's May 15th WB6MFV-2 To Serve Modesto



Linda Franklin, N6REB

After several years of faithful and reliable service to the Modesto area, Linda Franklin, N6REB, has closed down her N6REB-2 packet BBS. In her packet announcement circulated throughout Northern California Linda wrote . . . "I will be closing down N6REB BBS May 15 because of other things that require

my full attention. I have enjoyed being able to provide the services of the BBS to all and want to thank everyone for their good operating behavior and wish you all the best. WB6MFV-2 in Manteca will be taking my place on May 15, and I'm sure he will serve your needs for a BBS satis-

See "N6REB QRT's page 9

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1991 SARA Officers

President

Jim Hertel, N6KMR, 531-1157

Vice President

Sandra Ingram, KC6TBK, 575.4765

Secretary

Ernie Rader, K6UVI 522-5303

Treasurer

Rita Palacios-Rader, KD6BNV, 522-5303

SARA VHF Net

Thursdays @ 8 p.m.

(Except Holidays)

2 meters 145.39 MHz WD6EJF

220 Band 224.14 MHz WD6EJF

10 Meters 28,440 kHz USB

Tuesdays at 730 pm.

Contributions to *The READOUT* are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor by mail or via packet at WB6MFV-BBS on 145.79 MHz. The deadline for articles is the 15th of the preceding month. Articles regarding religion or politics are not accepted.

Editor

Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

1221 Mist Flower Ct.

Modesto, CA. 95355

209-523-5880

An ARRL affiliated club !

ARRL membership may be paid through **SARA** with the club retaining a \$2.00 commission. Please send your **ARRL** membership form along with your check made payable to "**SARA**". We will deduct the \$2.00 and send a check to the **ARRL**.

Beware Of Dinosaurs The Two-Legged Variety

A new book, 'All About Ham Radio' by Harry Helms, AA6FW, is aimed at newcomers to Amateur Radio with 300 plus pages covering what you need to know about Amateur Radio in a very easy-to-read, well-written, friendly, often humorous style. Unlike most ham manuals, this one is NOT a question and answer book. In fact, there are no questions in it at all! 'All About Ham Radio' simply tells what ham radio is, what hams do- and what you need to know to easily join in on the fun.

Although it does cover elementary circuits and electrical principals, it assumes no prior knowledge about ham radio or electronics. There is a particularly good chapter on packet radio.

Best of all, it recognizes that ham radio has changed over the last few years and covers Amateur practices, customs and folklore in a very entertaining, often irreverent fashion. In fact, some of the prose may offend the old timer. Here's a sample: 'Beware of Dinosaurs.'

"If you're going to go for a code-free Technician license, look out for the dinosaurs. You know what dinosaurs are don't you? They are large, stupid

beasts with small brains who couldn't adapt to changed circumstances and perished. We unfortunately have a few running loose on the ham bands who insist that ham radio is headed straight to hell because a code-free license is now available.

"If you run across one of these types, don't try to argue with them or even attempt to rationally discuss the issue with them. These people have the mindset of a religious fanatic and are impervious to logic and common sense. They "know" the CW test is all-important, and that it has the power to magically keep any troublemakers out of ham radio.

"If you get a code-free Tech ticket, just ignore such idiots... you can enjoy ham radio without having to deal with people who have week-old salad for brains. After all, the future of ham radio belongs to the code-free newcomers, and one day we can all go to a museum and see the dinosaur bones."

Well, that sure isn't the stuff you read in most ham books! On a scale of 1 to 10, I rate the book a 9- and I have never seen a 10. Get a copy from 'High Text Publications, Inc., 7128 Miramar Road, Suite 15, San Diego, CA. 92121. (619) 693-5900. Cost is \$19.95 plus \$3.00 shipping.

Next SARA Meeting
June 16, 1992 730 pm
Stanislaus Co. Administration Building
12th & H Streets
Downtown Modesto

Visting The Fresno Hamfest A New Experience

By Ernie Rader, K6UVI

The Fresno Amateur Radio Club held its 50th annual hamfest on May 1st through May 3rd at the Airport Holiday Inn in Fresno and Rita, KD6BNV, and I had the opportunity to attend our first ever hamfest. We received our badges at the sign in along with an information packet about the events taking place. First, we investigated the swap tables and exhibits. Space for exhibits was limited, but the quality of each display was high.

Since there were several seminars running at the same time, we attended those of interest to us individually. Those seminars ranged from packet forums and DX operation, CW operation and ATV demonstrations, left footed CW contest and finally current legislative issues affecting the ham populous at large.

Saturday evenings banquet featured a steak dinner and good conversation by the approximately 175 people who attended. The featured speaker was Bill Brown, WB8ELK, the managing editor of 73 magazine. Bill's speech centered around his ATV balloon flights. The slide show gave the prospective of the flights from the camera's point of view. Showing the ascent and descent, the pictures indicated the height, temperature, and time lapse.

The highlight of the hamfest came Sunday morning when Bill put together another ATV payload. On the ground at the launch site at the Fresno airport, were several monitoring stations including a cross band repeater and an amateur television receiver. The repeater sta-

tion took the two meter beacon and retransmitted it on 10 meters for those with HF gear. The parking lot near the launch site was full of vehicles with every kind of antenna you can imagine. Several even had beam antennas mounted for direction finding activities.

As the morning progressed, Bill was careful to insure the success of the mission beginning with the ATV equipment which was housed in a styrofoam package with all the antennas duct taped to the housing. Rita was commissioned to make the "Reward" sign attached to the package. This was necessary in case the recovery crew couldn't find the payload after it returned to earth. I stood out close to the runway relaying the progress of the mission to a group of hams over in Monterey via the 147.03 machine on Mt. Bullion.

When the launch time finally came, and the equipment had passed its final tests, only those directly involved with the launch were allowed out onto the runway. The rest of us stayed behind. It seemed forever, but finally we saw the balloon rise. Unfortunately something went wrong and there wasn't anything attached to it as it rose in the clear sky over the airport. Apparently, the radar reflector, required for identification by aircraft, began spinning during take off, and cut the rope that secured the payload to the balloon. One can only imagine the frustration during that split second when the payload was left on the tarmac and the balloon was rising just out of reach... ascending higher and higher.

The disappointment was nothing short of depressing. The \$500.00 balloon could be seen in the morning sky floating away uselessly, and nothing could be done about it. Several attempts were made to secure another balloon, but nothing could be found.

In spite of the disappointing anti climax of the balloon event, we really enjoyed ourselves. We met lots of nice people who shared a common interest, and we're looking forward to *PACIFICON 92* sponsored by The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club in Concord. It will be held at the Concord Hilton Hotel on October 16, 17, and 18th. From their brochure it looks like an exceptionally good event. I have all the information on it if anyone is interested.

KI600, John McLaughlin Silent Key April 20, 1992

It is with regret we record the passing of *SARA* member, John McLaughlin, KI600, of Modesto. John passed away on April 20, 1992 after a short illness at the age of 79. John was born in Mutual, Oklahoma and was a retired electrician for United Airlines. He



is survived by one daughter, Judith Newman, two step children, three brothers and seven grandchildren. The only photo we have of John was taken at a *SARA* meeting approximately five years ago and shows John in the act of expressing his opinion on the issue being discussed. Txn W6SBE

Serious Fun and Games it's ... Field Day

SARA Site Near Patterson

If a major disaster or other serious emergency hit our city, causing widespread destruction and loss of essential communications facilities, what would you, as an Amateur Radio Operator do to help out? Would you be able to uphold ham radio's long-standing tradition of public service? Would you have portable, emergency-powered equipment ready to go into the field when the lights are out? And, would you be able to erect an antenna in a flash to get things going at a hastily designated command post?

Perhaps your answer to all these questions is a resounding yes. More than likely, it's a hopeful maybe. For this reason, it's important that emergency plans and equipment be tested periodically to ensure that both will function smoothly when called on under real emergency conditions.

This is the primary purpose of Field Day; while it's billed as a "fun" contest, it's also very much a serious test of emergency preparations and equipments readiness. A contest it is. Sponsored annually by the American Radio Relay League, it is probably the biggest and most popular of the major contests- indeed, there is no other contest like it.

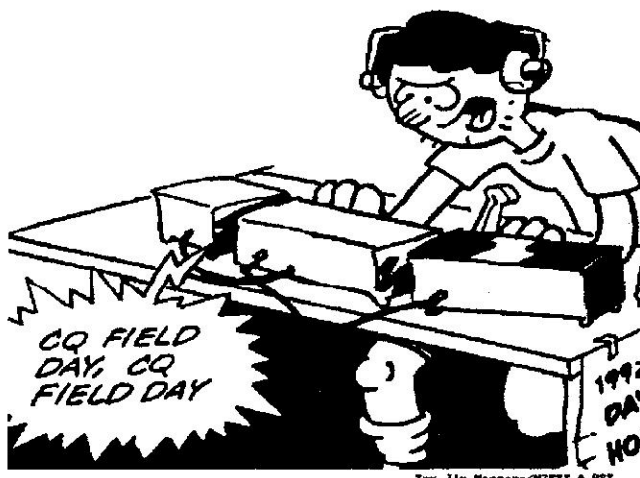
Usually held the fourth weekend in June (June 27-28, 1992) thousands of hams from all over the United States and Canada dismantle their home stations, abandon "creature comforts," and pack themselves off to the fields, streams, and mountains to rough it for a weekend of high-intensity, nonstop hamming in order to make as many contacts as possible, using a complex set of scoring rules that specify various entry classifications, power-source

multipliers, and special bonuses for message-handling, satellite contacts, and even publicity efforts.

As mentioned, the real purpose of Field Day is to promote and demonstrate the ability of Radio Amateurs to handle communications for a real-life disaster or other emergency, using hastily set up, low power equipment, operated independently of commercial power mains. It's primarily a group effort, tailor-made for club participation, though many individual hams participate every year under a separate scoring classification. And don't let anyone kid you- the competition is fierce!

The scoring rules get to be a bit tricky, but they are far from impossible. QST magazine gives the rules in the May issue, and results are normally in the November issue. Any Amateur can enter and any band, except 30 meters, can be used. The objective is to work as many stations as possible during a grueling 25 hours from Saturday at 11 am to Sunday at noon.

SARA will be participating in Field Day exercises this year from a site on the Patterson ranch of Jim Jones, N6UGH on Sycamore Ave approximately one mile south of Las Palmas. (See Map). Jim, Field Day chairman, invites everyone to participate or a least stop by for a visit and see what its all about. Setup will begin as early as Friday June 26th after work with the bulk of the work to be done Saturday morning June 27th. This includes setting up sta-



tions, putting up antennas, fine tuning generators and hooking up the equipment. Hopefully, everybody will be ready to hit the air at 11 am Saturday morning. If all goes well, and there is enough operators and equipment, operation will be NON STOP for 25 hours till 12 noon Sunday when it's over. Jim hopes to have enough operators and equipment to operate in all modes on all bands, but your help is vital.

Points are garnered for each contact with an extra one hundred bonus points each for five packet contacts, one solar power contact (alternate power), or one satellite contact. Copying the W1AW Field Day message (15 minutes of work) earns another 100 points.

The **ARRL** passes out awards for the most points gathered in various categories with results published in November QST. Operators and equipment are needed, especially operators. So, if you can help, even if's only for a couple of hours, please contact Jim, N6UGH, at 892-2484.

There will be plenty of room for campers to pitch tents, park trailers and/or RV's. Rest room facilities and

See 'Field Day' page 5

Stick Your Mitt Up! Volunteer

Does anyone really remember Field Day? The day that everyone was supposed to set up stations out in the weeds of a giant field, string antennas from sickly trees, fill the generator with gas and oil and start making contacts on the HF bands?

The day that was supposed to be a test of emergency preparedness for a natural disaster of some sort? The day that turned out to be an all out bloody contest battle to see who could make the most contacts in 24 hours time! The day when the hot dogs and hamburgers cooking on the grill could be smelled for miles! The day when one guy was an operator and another guy was the logger and not have names like IBM, Clone and Apple Macintosh! The day when a Field Day transmitter and receiver took 3 guys to setup!

The day when hams were friendly and helpful toward one another! The day that we set up tents instead of \$100,000 motor homes! The day the beer was ice cold! The day the XYL said "you guys are nuts!". The day the XYL and kids would come visit you in your tent and bring you some homemade cookies and other goodies.

The day "outsiders" would stop in to see what this "Field Day thing" was all about. The day "outsiders" were interested in what Field Day was! The day when outsiders would slow down and gawk at us and we would wave for them to come on in, and they would! The day that some novices would actually setup a station and make contacts on . . .gulp . . .CW! The day when 2 meters was just a link between Field Day stations. The day when the club had more than one Field Day station.

The day when all that could be seen over 10 acres was tents and wires! The day anyone cared about! The day when you made more contacts on 10 cw than your buddies on 40 and 75 phone! The day when bleed over was a real problem! The day of straight keys and 20 pound boom mic's! The day when you used a rock tied to a string to put a wire up in that tree! The day you got your car stuck in the mud and fellow hams helped to push you out! The day anyone could copy 20 words per minute!

The day when everyone liked CW over phone operating! The day when everyone at the club meeting volun-

teered to help or organize! The day when you picked up your buddy and his equipment and it took 2 trips to get all his stuff to the sight! The day the woods were the bathroom! The day the mosquitoes wont let you forget!

The day when qrp meant under 100 watts! The day of the big cookout provided by the XYL's of the guys they called "nuts!". The day when everyone had a story to tell! The day the generator was as big as your tent and had tires from a car on it! The day you had to bring a 55 gallon drum of gas to power the straight six cylinder generator! The day when gas was .25 A gallon! Yes, Field Day . . . the day when everyone cared about having fun! Think about this the next time your club officers ask if anyone would "like to volunteer to help with Field Day!"

Don't sit there like a lump on a log, stick your mitt in the air and volunteer, it ain't all that big of a deal . . . who knows, you might actually enjoy yourself. It beats sitting home in front of the boob tube all day!

Tnx Tim, WB8OGM

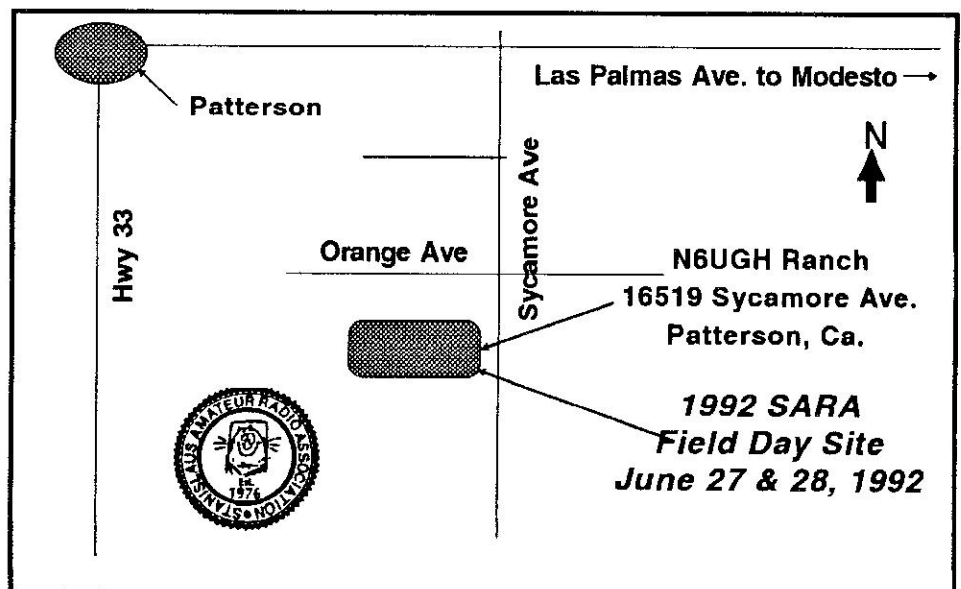
Field Day

From page 4

water are available. Bring your own food and drinks and don't forget the bug repellent. Field Day is an excellent opportunity to sharpen your operating skills and have a lot of fun at the same time.

If you plan to spend the night, be sure to bring warm clothing and be prepared for cooler night time temperatures.

If you need any information, please contact N6UGH.



FROM THE DESK OF

N6ZUC



Tim Low, Escondido, CA.

Radio Shack has taken a bad rap over the years, and much of it well deserved. What ever your opinion of Radio Shack is, sometimes when it comes to parts and supplies, it's the only game in town. For the heck of it I thought it would be fun to take a stroll through the pages of the 92 Shack catalog, and see what could be useful to an amateur, and what in my experience to stay away from.

To the more technically inclined, R.S. can be a source for electronic components when repairing a rig, or building a project. For many years the replacement parts sold by R.S. were, (to be kind), inferior. Mostly factory seconds, commonly called sweepings. That term indicated they were reject parts swept off the factory floor. You never knew when you bought them if they would be close enough in tolerance to fulfill the function you intended for them. This is no longer the case. Quality has increased to the point that I feel they are every bit as reliable as those from the major replacement parts suppliers such as ECG, SK, or NTE, (Sylvania, RCA, GE). You must realize of course, that all replacement parts are intended to replace a wide variety of manufactures parts, and therefore at best are only a reasonable compromise. In some critical applications, only exact factory parts will work.

The Shack does carry a fairly good selection of parts, and most

of the time I can find something to fit the need. Sometimes though, I can't. Most people don't know that SK parts are available through your local R.S. store. Unfortunately, most Shack Employees don't either, so be so kind as to refer them to page 140 of the 1992 catalog. Tubes, IC's, transistors, crystals, caps, diodes, etc., are all available. Of important note is that Sams Photofacts, VCRfacts and Computerfacts are all available by special order. Delivery must be by mule train however, as it can take up to several weeks for delivery. Then you can only hope that the

Radio Shack SINCE 1921
AMERICA'S TECHNOLOGY STORE

folks at your R.S. store remember to let you know they've arrived.

The Shack also carries a reasonable selection of other parts such as relays, wire, sockets, breadboard, tools, connectors, project boxes, and the list goes on. Don't forget to check out the closeout table for those bargains you can't live without.

I like the Shack's available selection of reading material too. In particular, I like the Engineer's mini-notebook series. They are full of useful Li'l' projects that almost anyone can assemble. Another I recommended a few months ago called "Building Power Supplies", is also worth picking up.

They also have the license manuals you may need to get you upgraded through General Class. These study guides are by the well known teacher and author Gordon West. The Novice and General editions contain the code practice

tapes for 5 and 13 wpm. Also on the shelf you'll find the ARRL publication called "Now Your Talking". I think it is without a doubt the best bet for the Prospective Amateur wishing to enter through the no-code door.

Test equipment is also important for the ham to have around the shack. R.S has a multitude of multi-testers to choose from. Too many to choose from actually. 17 of them in the "92" catalog. I have played with all of them and find them all useful and reliable. My particular favorites are the "Voice Meter", which actually talks to you. This is great when measuring a high voltage point. You want to keep your eye on your hand, as not to become part of the circuit under test. Push the button on the probe, and the little man in the meter tells you the exact reading. The price is steep at 100 bucks, but it's regularly on sale for \$70.

For a mid priced digital, take a look at the 23 range model, cat. #22.185. The price is \$59.95, and normally goes on sale for forty. The shirt pocket model with autoranging, (22.171), is my choice for a compact meter. It goes for \$25.

Sometimes I think you can tell more by the way the needle swings on an analog meter, than by the readout of the digital variety. If analog is what your after, the top of the line is a good bet. I'd take a Simpson 260 over the R.S. model any day, but the Shacks model is a whole lot less money.

When it comes to SWR/Watt-meters, those are available too. They have a small model VHF/UHF meter that seems to be a

See "From N6ZUC" page 7

A Source for Vacuum Tubes

With the vacuum tube era rapidly fading into history, replacement tubes for radio equipment are becoming harder to find. Several ham clubs have new and used tube reserves just for that purpose.

One of these organizations is the Idaho Amateur Radio Tubebank, sponsored by the Idaho Society of Radio Amateurs. SASE sent to trustee Lee Bunch, 1095 Plainview Drive, Twin Falls, Idaho, 83301 will bring an inventory printout.

The tubes cost only \$2.00 each (\$6.00 for CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) including shipping, and are for personal replacement purposes only; they must not be resold commercially. The tube bank appreciates tube donations as well to continue their service.

- Tnx Monitoring Times

It's Hard to Be A Cool Dude

A bunch of us tried to figure out how to curb loitering and drug dealing outside our stores" said Rock Ford, manager of a Hoagy sandwich shop in Washington State. "We thought of using high-intensity halogen lights the type that make people look awful and using garbage cans with pointed lids."

The answer, it turned out, was neither lighting or lids. We decided to pipe so-called "elevator music" outside the store on speakers. The easy-listening music had the same effect on drug-dealing youths as "a cross held in front of Dracula." Said one teen, "it's hard to be cool when violins are playing in the background."

Tnx Monitoring Times

VE Tests in Stanislaus, Merced and Tuolumne Counties for 1992

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	CONTACT	PHONE
Jun 13	.....Modesto	.....9:00 am	.....W6XK	.....883-2968
Sept 12	.....Modesto	.....9:00 am	.....W6XK	.....883-2968
Oct. 10	.....Merced	.....9:00 am	.....KI6PR	.....383-2166
Nov. 14	.....Sonora	.....9:00 am	.....WA6NSK	.....586-4917
Dec 12	.....Modesto	.....9:00 am	.....W6XK	.....883-2968

*** The TRI-County VE team is affiliated with the ARRL/VEC ***

From The Desk of N6ZUC

From Page 6

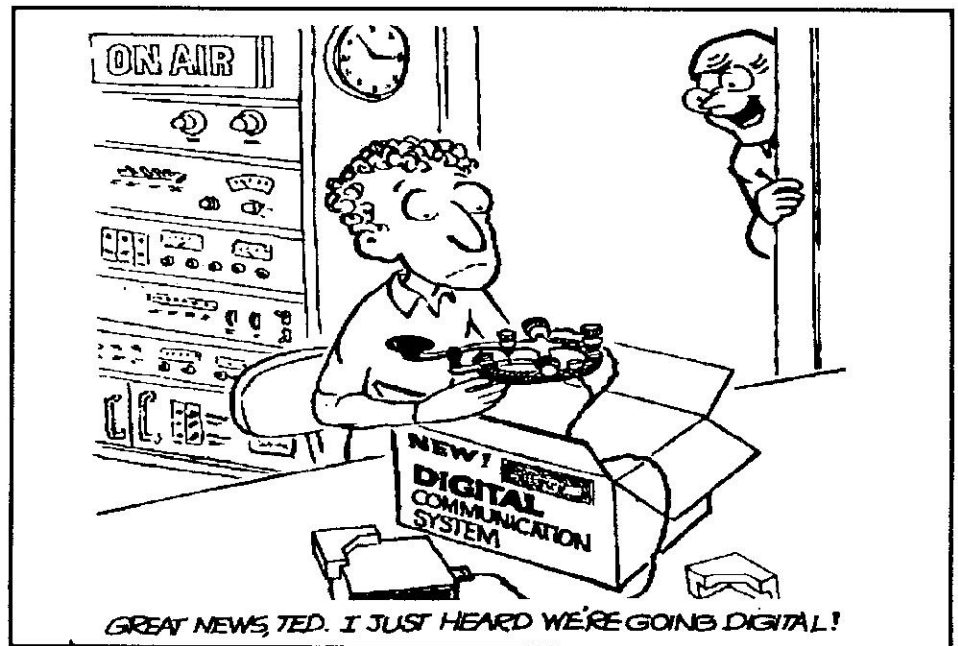
good value. The price is \$40, and compares with the same meter sold by HRO at a much higher price. The power measurement is fine on this meter, but I don't like having to use the scale on the back to calculate the SWR. If the forward power is under five watts, there is no calibration for it. So it's not too useful on an HT.

There are now two models of HF meters available in the product line. They both have the same styling. One model with SWR only and sells for twenty bucks. The next

step up will also read power to 2000 watts in three ranges. Both in average and peak values. It sells for 10 dollars more than the SWR only model. That's very reasonable for a meter with the features it has. In checking it against a Bird and a diamond SX-100, the readings were the same. A good buy.

Like most times when I get writing, (and talking), I run out of space, before running out of things to say. So, let's continue this exploration of the Shack next month.

Questions? Answers? Comments? Direct them via packet to, N6ZUC @ KB6GVT. #SOCA. CA. USA. NA, or write me in care of *The READOUT*.





SARA Minutes

By Ernie Rader, K6UVI, Secretary

The monthly meeting of **SARA** was called to order by President Jim, N6KMR at 7:34 PM on May 19th, 1992. As the sign-in sheet was passed around, those attending introduced themselves. Mr. Jim Martin was introduced by Vice President, Sandy. Jim is the Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Services, in Stanislaus County. He gave us an overview of his activities and how **SARA** and **TARC** can participate in them.

Treasurer's report followed:

Beginning Balance:.....	\$2,086.18
Two Deposits:.....	458.75
Ending Balance:.....	\$2,361.17
Expenses:	
Telephone:.....	\$29.91
The READOUT	88.80
Miscellaneous	45.05
NARCC.....	20.00
Total:.....	\$183.76
Deposits:	
Membership:.....	\$122.75
Fund Raiser:.....	\$336.00
Total:.....	\$458.75

Secretary's report: Minutes of previous meeting accepted as printed in **The READOUT**.

The Graffiti Run is set as 12 members committed to participate. T-shirts are to be provided by The Graffiti Fun Run Committee. The Secretary received a thank you letter from the American Diabetes Association for **SARA's** participation in their Spring Ride or Stride along with an invitation to attend their "Thank You" gathering the following Thursday. Secretary was also invited to ask **SARA** to participate in the Riverbank Wine and Cheese Festival by providing communication for that event.

Two other letters were read Rita, KD6BNV, reported that a club banner could be purchased for \$135.00 and buttons, vests, and caps could be ordered as well. LeRoy reported that he's chasing in intermittent problem within our repeater system.

The 2 meter and 220 machines are OK, but the 440 machine is still giving him fits. The Ten meter digipeater is down and at his home with

intermittent problems as well. The Education Committee Chairman wasn't present so, no committee report was available. The fox hunt was scheduled for May 23rd at 8 AM. A break was taken at 8:37 pm.

Meeting resumed at 8:47 and under Old Business, LeRoy made the motion that we approve the purchase of the banner for \$135.00 and it was approved. Ernie reported that Jim, UGH had told him that he's been preparing his ground for Field Day, and that all is set for that event. A question was raised about whether we were going to register our club for Field Day, and no one knew.

Under New Business, it was moved and seconded to upgrade our packet digipeater to a K-Node for \$30.00. Brad to bring the unit down within the next few days. Until then, those needing to digipeat to MFV could do so through KC6TDH. Meeting adjourned at 9:00. Respectfully submitted, Ernie, K6UVI, Club Secretary.

Handi-Talkie Coverage In Yosemite Park

Should you decide to visit Yosemite National Park in the future, keep in mind you can have 2M handi-talkie coverage from almost the entire valley floor through the W6BXN repeater access port located in the park it-

self, and operated since 1988 by the Turlock Amateur Radio Club (TARC).

The 2-meter access port is linked to the W6BXN high-level repeater located near Mariposa. The Yosemite access port operates on the output frequency of 147.000 MHz (input is 600 kHz up) and is

open carrier access. The station operates from Turtleback Dome in Yosemite and transceives directly into Yosemite valley via an 8db beam pointed directly into the Valley from above Inspiration Point. The site was selected for great coverage into Yosemite, but

See 'Yosemite' page 9

N6REB BBS QRT's

From front page

factorily. Again, thank you . . .
73, Linda Franklin, N6REB"

Linda took over the BBS from Ed Watson, WB6V, of Ceres, several years ago and has continuously provided the BBS service for this area at her own expense.

She earned a reputation for being an excellent BBS operator maintaining a near perfect record of being on the air and operational 24 hours a day.

She unselfishly donated her equipment and thousands of hours of her personal time to making N6REB-2 the respected BBS that it was. She will be surely missed.

Fortunately, another dedicated ham, Doug, WB6MFV, Manteca, has agreed to take over the BBS service for this area. Doug has been providing local BBS system for the Manteca area on 144.93. He has moved his system, WB6MFV-2, to 145.79 MHz and has been designated the official WestNet packet

BBS system for this area.

Doug has invested much time and money in improving his antenna system to put a better signal into Modesto in order to be able to provide reliable BBS service to this area. Doug is running an IBM 286 computer with a DRSI internal card and 1.2 megs of extended memory. He is running a Kenwood TM221A at 50 watts on the 2 meter port (145.79 MHz). The 220 forwarding port is a 35 watt Kenwood TM621A. The 2 meter antenna is a Hustler Dual Band (2 and 440) at 60 feet. The 220 antenna is a Cushcraft



Doug Hanson
WB6MFV

Ringo Ranger 2 at 40 feet. Both antennas are fed by half-inch Heliac. Most users should be able to access MFV-2 direct without too much trouble from the Modesto area.

If you can not reach the BBS from your QTH, you can digipete through W6FGC-6 on Fowler Peak or the SARA

digipeter, WD6EJF-1 on Mt. Oso.

Doug has graciously agreed to continue to provide a SARA Club Directory in the "W" file which will provide information on the club as well as the current roster. **SPECIAL NOTICE:** The SARA digipeater is temporarily out of service while the Chief Engineer updates the chips to make it into a full packet node. It should be back in service by July 1, 1992.

Yosemite *Continued from page 8*
is shaded from the San Joaquin Valley so as to keep co-channel interference with stations in the Central Valley to an absolute minimum.

The station was designed by K6IXA (Grady) and was installed by Grady and Ed, KB6DRN. The station consists of two VHF Engineering Transmitter/Receiver combinations along with a VHF 4-element KLM/Mirage beam and a UHF 6-element Scala beam with associated duplexer cavities. The Station radiates 200W ERP to the Valley Floor. Tnx KB6DRN

Return Your Raffle Ticket Stubs No Later than June 25 th

A reminder that the current SARA fund raising effort ends with the drawing for the winner during Field Day activities on June 28, 1992.

This means you must return your ticket stubs and the money no later than June 25, 1992. So, please allow some extra time for the mail to be delivered to the club's post office box. We would suggest you get them in the mail no later than Monday June 22, 1992 to insure they get to the SARA in time. Or, you can

give them to the treasurer at the club meeting on June 16th. Don't forget to write the name, address and telephone number of the person buying the ticket on each ticket. The winner does not have to be present to win. He or she will be notified by phone or by mail if no phone is listed.

If you need more tickets, contact Rita, KD6BNV, at 522-5303. During the day you will get the answering machine on which you can list your request and Rita will get them out to you right



away. Again, please allow time for them to get to you if you are not planning to pick them up in person.

The Grand Prize is the winner's choice of a Zenith Camcorder or \$500.00 cash.

Remember, this is our only fund raiser of the year and your support is important.

FCC Levels Hefty Fines \$8,000 to \$10,000

Field Offices Step Up Enforcement Actions

The FCC is stepping up their enforcement activities and finding it to be very profitable as a result of the increase in the amount of fines to as much as \$20,000. Several hundred cases involving mostly commercial users, are said to have been on hold while the Commission's various bureaus waited for authorization to directly levy higher monetary files. So far, only a handful of actions have involved Amateurs.

In action involving amateur radio, the FCC issued four Notices of Apparent Liability (NAL's). A Technician in Lewiston, Maine, was issued an NAL for \$10,000 for using non-type-accepted equipment to transmit in the Citizen's Band. An unlicensed operator in Tampa, Florida was issued an \$8,000 NAL for transmitting on the 40 meter Amateur band and Donald Bishop, N0EA, was issued an NAL for \$10,000 for transmitting clandestine radio voice tapes on 7420 and 15,050 kHz.

Mrs. Michael W. Schifsky, KA7ZVI, of Eastsound, Washington received an \$8,000 NAL. On Sep-



tember 4, 1991, the FCC monitoring station in Ferndale, Washington copied transmissions on marine channel 68, 156.425 MHz. which were traced to Schifsky's home. She was charged with operating a private coastal radio station without a license.

Finally, on April 24, the FCC's Private Radio Bureau's Special Services Division issued the first Order to Show Cause and Suspension Order to Amateurs in several years as the result of violations of the VE (Volunteer Examiners) program rules. Charles P. Pascal, WB6CIY, and Sandra V. Crane, N6FTO, both Extra Class operators, have been ordered to show cause why their licenses

should not be suspended and their station licenses revoked.

The FCC asserts the two operated an Amateur radio school in Los Angeles and appeared to have "information that they used to tailor the content of their instruction at the school to include answers to all or most of the questions that would later be part of the examinations administered, while excluding from instruction the answers to most questions that would not be part of the examinations." The FCC also charged Crane with administering three different examinations to her own daughter which is prohibited by the VE rules.

Tnx *ARRL*

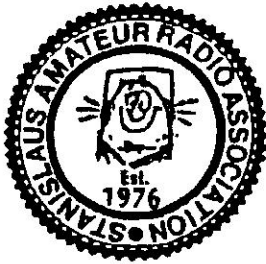
'Last Voice From Kuwait'

The TV documentary, "Last Voice From Kuwait" was recently selected as winner of journalism prestigious National Head-

liner Award. "Last Voice...." is the story of Amateur radio's important role in operation Desert Storm. Communications were mainly through a brave and daring Kuwaiti named Abduljabbar Marafie, 9K2DZ, who for

seven months radioed valuable information out of Kuwait. The 25 minute video is available from the *ARRL* and makes an excellent program for club meetings.

Tnx KA9LCF via Packet



Editor's Notes

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Dick, *KD6BOR*, of Sacramento who is recuperating at home following a stay in the hospital. Received a post card from *SARA* member Joe Fontes, *WQ6W*, who is sailing the waters off the coast of Portugal, including the Azores Islands. He said he is having the time of his life and expects to be at sea for several more weeks. Speaking of the sea, Tom Johnson, *N6LSF*, has finally put his boat in the water and was last heard on the low bands sailing south along the pacific coast toward San Diego.

- I hope many of you are planning to participate in Field Day activities on June 27 and 28. If you have never done so, here is your chance to do so. See the story on page 4 for all the details.

- Ever wonder where the term "Zulu Time" came from? It all started when the military decided to adopt the use of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time), based on the zero meridian location of Greenwich, England. Greenwich is where King Charles II built an astronomical observatory in 1675 to aid navigation. The military began calling GMT "Zero Time" which was later abbreviated to "Z-Time". In those days the phonetic for the letter "Z" was Zebra. Later, the phonetic alphabet changed the letter "Z" to "Zulu". Thus, the term "Zulu Time".

- The FCC has granted the Voice of America Amateur Radio Club station in Washington D.C. the

special call sign, *K3VOA*. Although specific callsigns have not been available for more than a decade, FCC Chairman Sikes made an exception for this club in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the VOA.

- Got a note from Tim Low, *N6ZUC*, inviting CW operators to check in to a 40 meter CW net every Saturday at 1400 hours. The group meets at 7.140 (+ or -) QRM. Tim shares the net control duties with *KC6PEN*, and says it's a good rag chew net with Novices welcome.

- "60 Minutes" newsman Ed Bradley may face wiretap charges after microphones were found on AIDS activists at a protest rally the CBS TV show was taping. According to the Atlanta Constitution NewsBrief, Westboro, Massachusetts, police said the "bugs" were found on the protestors when they were arrested. They claimed CBS had wired the activists with microphones to pick up sounds as it videotaped the rally and that is illegal in Massachusetts unless both parties have knowledge of the "bug".

- According to RadioWorld magazine, the bad economy has encouraged thefts of broadcast station equipment. According to Barry Mishkind, a broadcast engineer, "There are few experiences worse than driving up to a remote transmitter building and finding the door wide open and realizing you've been robbed." Mishkind said

one Michigan FM station had it's exciter stolen three times in six weeks.

Another favorite target is the ground systems at AM transmitter sites. "There's a lot of copper wire out there and thieves have discovered it's easy to pull some of it out of the ground and haul it down to the scrap yard for a quick buck." Sometimes the tower crews barely get the copper in before the thieves remove it. In Ypsilanti, Michigan, a station's ground system was stolen on the day it was installed. The ground system was the replacement for the original system which was installed just days earlier.

- As of March 1992, there are 13,227 Technician Plus licensees and an estimated 24,000 Codeless Techs. It's obvious that the Codeless Technician license is attracting large numbers of new hams to Amateur Radio. Calls signs issued by the FCC as of April 1992.... Extra=*AB6KG*; Advanced=*KM6SM*; General-Technician-Novice=*KD6HVC*. In the seventh district....Extra=*AA7OF*; Advanced=*KI7BC*; General & Technicians=*N7XFW* and Novice=*KB7OVE*. Note, in the sixth district, all group C (Tech/Gen) calls have been issued. So, the FCC is issuing group D (Novice) calls to new Techs and Generals.

That's it for this month. Have a nice summer and stay cool. 73, Bob



Calendar



Jun 13, 1992VE Testing In Modesto9 am
 Jun 16, 1992SARA Monthly Meeting730 pm
 Jun 27-28, 1992Field Day25 hrs.
 Jul 21, 1992.....SARA Monthly Meeting730 pm
 Aug. 20-23ARRL National Convention L.A. 3 Days
 Sept 12, 1992VE Testing In Modesto930 am
 Sept 15, 1992SARA Monthly Meeting730 pm
 Oct. 10, 1992VE Testing In Merced9 am

SARA meets the third Tuesday of each month (except holidays) at the Stanislaus County Administration Building at 12th and H Streets in downtown Modesto. The meetings are held in the lower-level conference room starting at 730 pm. Visitors and interested parties are most welcome. **SARA** is an ARRL Affiliated Club and is affiliated with Stanislaus County and the City of Modesto RACES.

The club owns and operates three FM repeaters using the club station call of WD6EJF. Frequencies are 145.39 MHz, 224.14 MHz & 440.225 MHz. The club's digipeaters, WD6EJF-1, operates on 145.79 MHz and WD6EJF-2 operates of 28.103 MHz. All repeaters and the digipeaters are located on Mt. Oso, 18 miles SW of Modesto at an elevation of 3400 feet in the Coast Range mountains. **SARA** conducts informational nets each Thursday evening at 8 pm on the 2M and 220 repeaters.

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**Next SARA Meeting is June 16,1992
 at 730 pm & You're Invited!**