



# The READOUT

Year 15 Number 11 November 1993

*The Official Newsletter of the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association*

## Radio Prank at Golden Arches costly for Dallas, Texas Amateur

**W**hat Terry Van Sickle, WB5WXI of Dallas, TX, may have thought was a funny joke - could cost him his ham ticket - or worse! It has already apparently cost him his job.

Van Sickle and possibly a friend supposedly talked to customers ordering food at a local McDonald's drive-up menu board. They wanted burgers, but got an earful of what a Dallas newspaper called "...rude and racially offensive remarks" instead. The restaurant manager told complaining customers he had no idea what was going on and that his employees were certainly not responsible for the offensive remarks. He also called the FBI.

It all came to a climax on August 22nd at 1:00 a.m. in the wee hours of the morning when the FBI found Van Sickle parked near the restaurant surrounded by a car full of sophisticated radio equip-

ment. Van Sickle works at night as a video photographer for the local ABC television outlet, WFAA-TV Channel 8. Or least he did.

He is known in professional journalism circles as "Dr. Death" because of his years of success prowling Dallas streets in search of news ...much of it very gruesome and dangerous. Van Sickle covers the "(murder and mayhem" shift between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. He films fires, car wrecks, shootings, disturbances, homicides... anything of news value that takes place on Dallas streets after dark. Thanks to a host of pre-set radio scanners, he usually is on scene interviewing witnesses before the police.

The FBI released him after about three hours of questioning on the most recent incident at McDonald's. Undoubtedly identified by his seven car antennas, the FBI found him parked across the street at another fast food restaurant parking lot. No charges have yet been filed against Van Sickle, but the TV station ordered him to turn in his video equipment.

A Dallas newspaper article quoted Van Sickle as denying that he did anything wrong. He did say, however, talking to fast food restaurants is "...a common little fun thing of electronic enthusiasts." He told how electronics buffs regularly post the frequencies and PL access tones of fast-food restaurant radio systems to computer users' bulletin boards - and that the McDonald's 154.6 MHz frequency (located right above the two meter ham band) is readily accessible to anyone. McDonald's reportedly uses two PL tones on a single frequency: one to talk employee-to-employee, another to talk employee-to-the-menu. "If you wanted to talk to McDonald's, you could go out tomorrow and spend \$300, buy an amateur radio, clip two wires, dial up a McDonald's, and talk to them. I would dare say that 50 percent of the ham radio operators out there have made a comment to McDonald's," the newspaper article quoted Van Sickle as saying.

We spoke to Van Sickle a few days ago. He told us that the FBI was particu-

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**1993 SARA Officers**

**President**

Sandra Ingram, KC6TBK, 575.4765

**Vice President**

Elizabeth Eyre, KD6GIW  
667-5299

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Ernie Rader, K6UVI 838-2921

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Bob Kimball, KC6TVE  
892-8664

**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 P.M.

ARES Net Wednesday 800 P.M.

Contributions to *The READOUT* are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor by mail or via packet at KD6JZZ-BBS on 144.79 MHz, or directly at my PBBS, WA6ZLO-1 on 144.97 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.

**Radio Tips:**

**Using an Autopatch to Report an Accident**

Repeater autopatches allow hams to use their radios to place telephone calls from virtually any location. Autopatches are common throughout the US and they are extremely valuable in cases where there is an immediate threat to life or property. If you come upon the scene of an accident, by all means use the autopatch.

Remain calm and get as much information as you can prior to placing your call. When it's time to use the patch, don't worry about breaking into someone's conversation. You have priority! Here's a typical emergency autopatch procedure:

- Give your call sign and say "emergency patch."
- Dial the access code followed by 911.
- When the dispatcher answers, say that you are an Amateur Radio operator reporting an accident.
- Give the highway number and direction of travel. If the accident site is near a mile marker or exit, provide this information.
- State whether traffic is blocked, or if the accident is out of traffic.
- List any apparent injuries along with the number of persons involved.
- If a fuel or chemical spill has occurred, say so. If there is a fire, let the dispatcher know.

For example, "This is Kris. I am an Amateur Radio operator reporting a two-car accident on I-94 northbound, about 1 mile south of exit 24. The right hand lane is blocked. Property damage only."

Keep your details very brief and to the point. Don't waste time adding superfluous information such as the makes and models of the vehicles. If the dispatcher needs to know, he or she will ask. When you've finished your call, deactivate the autopatch and remain on the frequency. If you've stopped at the accident scene, try to stay until help arrives. -Richard Regent. K9GDF.

Courtesy QST Magazine

**Country music singer also Amateur Radio operator**

Country music star Patty Loveless, is not only a chart topper, but she is also a newly licensed ham radio operator. Her call is KD4WUJ, and she is a dedicated CW fan. She lives in Dallas, Georgia, and shares the shack with her husband Emory Gordy Jr, W4WRO. The Kentucky-born singer, whose cousin is Loretta Lynn, was active in this year's ARRL Field Day, and the group used Patty's call sign for its Novice station. Perhaps if you're lucky, you'll catch her for a QSO.

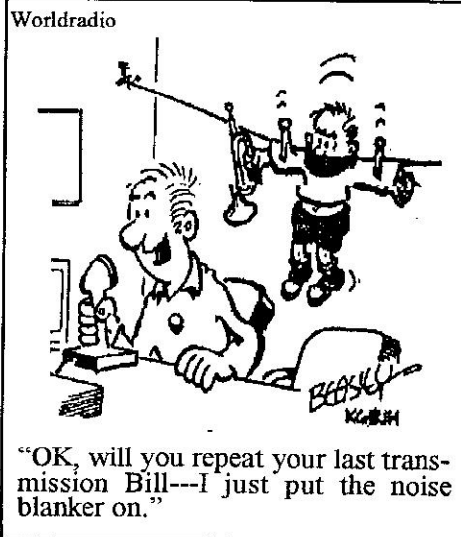
Courtesy QST

**New FCC Head Nominated**

Anti-trust lawyer Reed Hundt, 45, the new FCC Chairman nominated by President Clinton appears headed for a speedy Senate confirmation. The cable industry is already wary of Hundt because of his close personal ties to Al Gore, who recommended Hundt for the FCC job. During his years in Congress, Gore, too, was hostile to cable.

Bill and Hillary Clinton graduated a class ahead of Hundt at Yale Law School. Hundt will take a considerable pay cut when he moves into FCC headquarters. According to his financial disclosure, he earned about \$430,000 a year from his Lathaln & Watkins telecommunications law practice. An FCC Chairman earns \$123,100 a year.

Broadcasting and Cable via WSYI Report



"OK, will you repeat your last transmission Bill---I just put the noise blanker on."

# Build this “stop” and your crankup tower won't drop!

By Ken Fisher, WA6CSC

I have owned at least five different towers during my twenty five years as a ham. To my surprise when I purchased my latest one the design had changed from the old style. I was used to the crank up style tower that started by raising the first section completely before allowing the next section to begin its rise. With this design it's quite easy to place the tower safety stops in place at the twenty foot level and then continue raising the tower and placing the stops while never having to climb above the twenty foot position.

Unfortunately this new (to me) used tower has the cable arrangement in place so all of the sections go up at the same time and speed. Well, this is great for strength while cranking up the tower but it definitely creates a problem when trying to use tower stops. I just don't feel comfortable leaving a crank up tower supported by its cable for years at a time.

However, I feel even less comfortable climbing a four section crankup to the fifty six foot level to place a stop between the sections while it's supported only by its cable.

I am assuming if one purchases a high quality commercial tower that they have somehow figured this problem out, however this tower of mine was very affordable and had been re-cabled to take advantage of raising all of the sections together. I believe the previous owner had a small array and didn't guy the tower and motored it up and down quite frequently so stops were not an issue with him. Myself, I have guyed the tower and have mounted an extensive array so I definitely felt the need for stops.

I decided since the stops can't go in place until the tower is completely up, I would build stops that could be bolted in place while the tower is retracted and then activated from the ground after it is fully cranked up. No climbing required!

Initially I designed stops on paper with solenoids and springs and sensors etc. but then I remembered Murphy and his law! I could see it now, the spring would break or the solenoid would fill with water and wouldn't activate. Of course only the top section stop would fail! I decided to keep it simple and not use any fancy technology that could pos-

sibly fail, like a spring breaking at sixty feet and then not allowing the tower to be lowered without a trip to the top with a complete tool belt and three margaritas for the shakes!

It was probably more important to me to guarantee that I could deactivate the stops than activate them since I could always crank down the tower to fix something easier than climbing it to fix something. This was the reason I chose to run two cables to each stop. One to activate it and one to deactivate it. This may not have been as efficient as one cable and a spring but I was out to defeat Murphy!

I began with a standard brass door hinge (won't rust I hope!) and used this as a pivot point. I purchased some 1/8 inch steel at a local store and doubled it for strength. I was cutting this with a hacksaw and bending it with a vice in my garage (nothing fancy) so I opted for thinner material to ease the cutting and bending.

The pulley I mounted above the stop is home made. I purchased a sleeve and built the housing for it and welded sides on it. This pulley could be purchased, I just fabricated it, since I had the time and material.

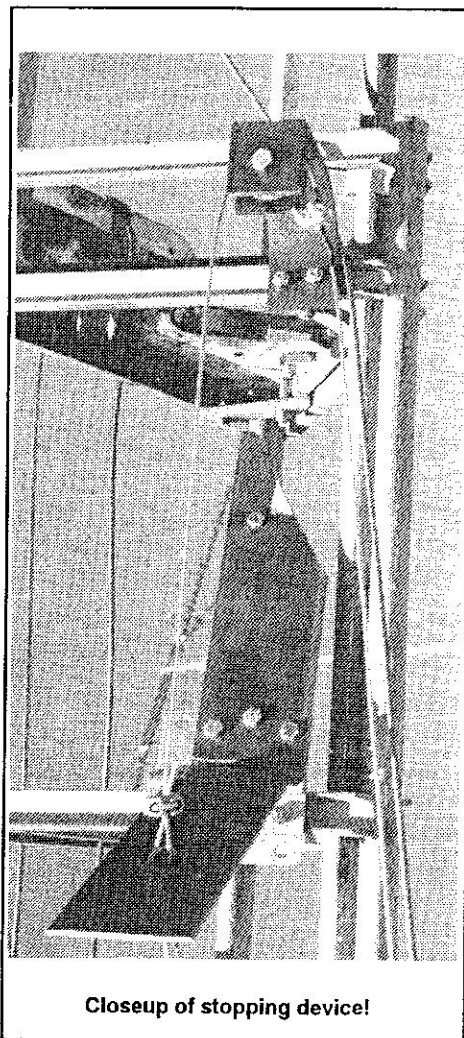
The cable that I used to activate and deactivate is 3/32 galvanized. I chose that over rope or line because I didn't want it to rot after a few years causing a malfunction when I wanted to lower the tower, meaning another trip to the top. I set the balance point up on the stops so the default would be off. The tower would be free to go up and down and when I determined the height I wanted, I could then activate the stop.

You will notice that I placed the stops at the top of each section so I could crank the tower down as low as possible without having to remove them. I can get the tower to descend to about 24 feet which isn't bad for a four section tower. With the stops placed at the tops of sections this allows me to activate them without the tower being fully extended if I wish, of course this would be like driving your car on the freeway in second gear. (If you've got it... crank it up!)

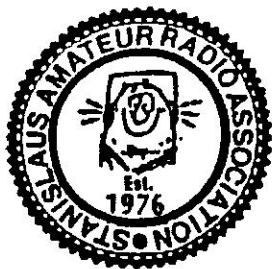
To activate or deactivate the stops only requires about 10 inches of movement of the cable. Since the cables are steel another good idea would be to insulate the center and use them as inverted vees off the tower if you choose not to just tie them off along the tower as I have.

The trial run, or the “smoke test”, of the stops was a success! I cranked the tower fully, pulled on the two cables at the same time to activate both stops and....the top stop wouldn't activate!. All of a sudden I had this inventors failure feeling in my stomach and thought, #@/~-%\$\*&@!!!! back to the drawing board!

I then stepped back and looked up slowly, fearing my entire mechanism that was as simple as a child's toy was somehow irreversibly jammed and the tower would be stuck in the up position! You know what that means! I then realized if I lowered the tower about 3 inches the stop could pivot without hitting the section it was going to be stopping. Success! The complete material cost of building the two stops is approximately \$30 including the cable. You can save some labor if you purchase the pulleys instead of building them. Remember, give all of the steel a good coat of rust preventive paint. 73, Ken



Closeup of stopping device!



# SARA Minutes

By Ernie Rader, K6UVI, Secretary

The regular monthly *SARA* meeting was called to order by Sandy Ingram, KC6TBK at 7:30 PM on October 19th, 1993. As the sign-in sheet was passed around, members and visitors introduced themselves. Seventeen people attended the meeting. Secretary Ernie acknowledged an error in the minutes taken at the previous meeting where he stated Debbie Hanson's call as KC6YTI. It should have been KC6YTE. My apologies to both. Treasurer's report follows:

At month ending September:

Expenses — \$ 247.82  
 Deposits — \$ 102.14  
 Balance — \$1,624.52

As of meeting date, October 19th, 1993:

Expenses — \$230.26  
 Deposits — \$ 62.50  
 Balance — \$1,456.76

Ernie continued by reading correspondence from The American Diabetes Association thanking us for our participation in their latest fund raiser called "Walktoberfest." He also presented registration forms to those who might be interested in presenting programs to Boy Scouts as they earn merit badges in communication.

Under Old Business, Ernie reported that the Walktoberfest ran smoothly with Mark, WB6BJN as net control. Bob, KC6TVE reported that the Riverbank Wine and Cheese Bike-a-thon went just as smoothly with Mark again at the helm.

As chair of the nominating committee, Ernie reported the following members who were willing to serve next year as its officers. They were: Liz, KD6GIW, as President; Mark, WB6BJN, as Vice President and Bob, KC6TVE, as Treasurer. As of this date, he has been unable to find a candidate to fill the Secretary's job, but he did ask for help from the membership in

locating a candidate.

Under new business, we were told that ARRL members would soon be asked to vote for our Director's position, and a letter to Tom Hora was read asking him to be our guest speaker at one of the next meetings. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM. Respectfully submitted, Ernie, K6UVI, Club Secretary.

New members:

Dennis Lorang KD6REW  
 326 Alturas Ave.  
 Modesto, CA., 95351  
 526-6788 and he's a general

Steven Burleson KD6YCB  
 3625 Toomes Road  
 Modesto, CA., 95358  
 545-1364 and he's a tech.



## SARA Membership Application

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Member of ARRL ? (Y) (N)

City \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Class of License \_\_\_\_\_ Year first licensed \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are prorated from the month you join the club. Use the schedule below.

Join in:	Pay	Join in	Pay	Join in	Pay	Join in	Pay
January .....	\$23.00	April .....	\$17.25	July .....	\$11.45	October .....	\$5.75
February .....	\$21.00	May .....	\$15.25	August .....	\$10.00	November .....	\$3.80
March .....	\$19.00	June .....	\$13.25	Sept. ....	\$7.65	December .....	\$1.90

# King-Kong 6--- Calling CQ and listening

## The perfect QSO

By KE6BL, Bill Maron

*This story originally appeared in CQ Magazine in May, 1987. It was reprinted in the Amateur Radio Horizons, newsletter of the Lockheed Employees Recreation Association, Sunnyvale, CA. where KE6BL is a member.*

**T**he five of us were sitting around the WD6— repeater installation on top of Mt. T—. We had just finished running hard line up the tower to reduce the line losses. Since the temperature was over 90 degrees, it was a hot, sweaty job and we were relaxing with a couple of cold six-packs that had been brought along for the occasion.

My name is Al (which is not my real name, nor are any of the other names real. You will soon appreciate why I won't give real names, actual call letters, or locations). The other guys in the group are Tony, Paul, Sam, and Dan.

Conversation had been desultory at best and had died down. We were thinking of the long, trying drive down the narrow, twisting mountain road. Sam gulped down the rest of his beer and said, "Have you guys heard KK6—?" "On what band?" I asked. "On all bands," Sam replied. There was a chorus of "Nopes." "Well, give a listen. That guy is on all the time," Sam continued, reaching for another beer. "Must be someone who's retired or has lots of money," Tony commented nonchalantly. There were a few more remarks and the subject was dropped.

I forgot about that conversation until a week or so later when I was on 15. I had just finished a QSO and was tuning across the band when I heard a station calling CQ. The needle of the S-meter was against the pin on the right side—60 dB over S9! The voice was cultured like some announcers you hear on the FM broadcast band. Perfect diction, precise enunciation, faultless pronunciation, no accent, no noticeable inflection. I flipped on the tape recorder and here is a transcript of a portion of the tape:

*Calling CQ. Calling CQ. Calling CQ. This is KK6— calling CQ. Calling CQ. Calling CQ, CQ, CQ. This is KK6— King Kong 6— Calling CQ and listening.*

Pandemonium broke out on the frequency. There must have been at least 30 stations calling him. It was the granddaddy of all DX pileups. ZL1—, this is KK6—. Good evening, old man, many thanks for the call. Your signal in California is Q5 and S9 plus 10. Please give me your name and location on your next transmission. ZL1—, this is KK6—.

I have a damn good receiver and a beam atop an 80 foot tower, but I never heard that ZL. While KK6— was transmitting, I swung my antenna a full 360 degrees and couldn't determine from which direction the signal was coming. After listening to King Kong make a few more contacts, I turned off everything and joined the XYL in the family room. We watched the TV until bedtime, but my mind was not on the program.

Sam, Dan and I happen to work for the same company. Next day during lunch I told them about King Kong. We kicked it around for awhile and they said they would listen and see if they could make any sense out of it. Dan said he would call Tony and Paul and ask them to listen, too. Several times during the week I heard King Kong on other bands. I called him time and again, but he never came back to me. Maybe he didn't waste time talking to locals.

As time went by I became aware that all of King Kong's QSOs were the same. He never called anyone—only CQ. The QSO consisted of the same phraseology. He never volunteered his name and after getting the other fellow's name and location, he signed with the station.

A few weeks later the five of us met at a local pizza parlor to pool our information about King Kong. He was not in the latest call book. None of us could determine which direction his signal came from. Tony came up with an interesting observation. Since he has a separate general-coverage receiver, he found that King Kong operated on at least two bands simultaneously. "You mean," Sam asked, "you heard him on both bands at the same time?" "Yep! I was listening to

him on 15. For the hell of it, I fired up the R70 and switched to 40. He was on there, too." We sat up at attention. "Go on," I said. "He called CQ, and then he talked to two different stations at the same time. He was talking to a 4 on 14 and a 7 on 40." Paul shook his head. "If I were you, Tony, I'd stop drinking that rot-gut wine every night."

Tony bristled. "I'm telling you what I heard, believe it or not!" Soothingly, I said, "I'll take my rig to Tony's house and we'll be able to listen on three bands." "Count me in," Dan said. "Then we can listen on four bands." "Me, too," Sam added. That Saturday we took our rigs and went over to Tony's house. It took a while to connect the antenna to all the rigs. Dan went to the local amateur radio emporium and picked up several coax T-connectors and soon we were in business.

With eager anticipation we fired up the rigs on 75, 40, 20, 15, and 10. I know you won't believe this and I'd never tell anyone about this for fear they would call the closest funny farm and have us committed. Anyway, King Kong was on all five bands and to our amazement was working five different stations at the same time. When the shock wore off, we all began talking at once, interrupting each other like kids.

During the course of the afternoon Sam mentioned that one of his friends had a twin-engine Beech Baron. He said he'd ask him to take a couple of guys and radio equipment so we could do some DFing from the air.

Some of the other fellows were not too keen on flying, especially in small planes. So Sam and I said we would go for the good of the cause. We rigged up a couple of DF antennas and checked them out. I wouldn't want to navigate across the ocean with those antennas, but they did point in the general direction from which the signal was coming.

Saturday morning we met the pilot Harve at the San Jose Airport. We transferred the gear from the car to the plane, strapped ourselves in and took off. After Harve climbed to about 2500 feet, we fired up the transceivers and listened on 40 and 15.

See "King Kong" page 6

# "King-Kong 6"

## From page 5

King Kong was on the air and we tried Dfing. Harve flew a 10 mile square pattern. It was uncanny. The signal was coming from everywhere at the same time.

Harve suggested getting some distance away, perhaps 50 or 100 miles. That was fine with us and he turned the plane in a northerly direction. Over Santa Rosa we tried Dfing again. This time the signals were coming from a southerly direction, but the direction was poorly defined.

"How about flying down to San Luis Obispo?" I said. "San Luis is about 300 miles south of Santa Rosa and might give us some sort of clue. Harve enjoys flying and he was also intrigued by the mystery of King Kong.

He did a 180 and headed the Barron south. About an hour and a half later we were approaching San Luis.

Sure enough, the signals were now coming from a northerly direction. Based on this flimsy information we deduced the signals must be originating somewhere in the San Francisco Bay Area. We had been airborne for over four hours and Harve said, "I don't know about you guys, but I'm getting hungry.

"I've been hungry for hours" Sam said. He's a big eater and it shows on him. "I'll land at San Luis airport and we'll have lunch."

I admired the way Harve handled the plane. He touched down so smoothly that I didn't know when the wheels contacted the runway. Learning to fly was something I'd always wanted to do. I just never got around to doing it. It was late afternoon when we got back to San Jose. Sam and I offered to pay for the gas. Harve graciously weighed the offer aside and said he was glad to help. Unfortunately, we still did not know much more than we did before.

From time to time we talked about King Kong, and that's where the matter rested until one morning several weeks later.

The five of us were going to a hamfest in Reno. Sam was driving his van and we were on 680 heading north out of town. As we were motoring along Tony noticed a group of houses atop a high ridge on a series of rolling hills in the Silicon Valley. "Looks like a good location to put an antenna" he said. "Yeah."

Paul agreed.

"There's an exit ahead" I said to Sam. "Turn off and let's drive up there and look around." In a few minutes we were on a winding road climbing the steep grade to the top. As we rounded a sharp curve we came to a closed gate across the road. A sign on the gate proclaimed that beyond the gate was private property and trespassers were prohibited. Dan was for turning around and continuing to Reno. Tony and Paul wanted to climb the fence. I was neutral. In the end, Sam parked the van and we climbed the fence and started walking.

When we reached the summit we saw seven large two-story houses. The road ended in a circular drive and the houses were situated around the circle. The middle house was the largest, and as we got closer I saw several microwave antennas on the roof pointing in different directions.

There were no cars in any of the driveways. There was no sign of life—not even a dog or a cat. If not for the carefully trimmed lawns, one would think that all the houses were unoccupied.

The microwave dishes on the roof of the one house intrigued us. We walked up to the solid double front door and rang the bell. A chime sounded faintly within the house. We rang it several more times, but still no answer. There was an eerie silence. Then for a few seconds the silence was broken by the sound of a jet heading toward the Oakland airport. "Let's see what's around back," Tony said. Behind the house was a large swimming pool. On the roof were more microwave dishes pointing in different directions. "What would anyone want all those dishes for?" Dan asked.

We peered in the windows. The house was expensively furnished, but there was no signs of life. "Let's go," I said. "We're not going to learn anything and it's getting hot." Tony walked to the fence around the swimming pool and picked up a brick. "I'm going to see what's inside," he said, grimly.

Sam grabbed his arm. "That's breaking and entering, you'll go to jail.

Tony pulled his arm free. "If you're afraid, don't go in." He stepped up to the French door and smashed the glass near the lock. I held my breath waiting for an alarm to go off. After the sound of tinkling glass stopped, all was quiet again. Without hesitation Tony reached in, turned the handle, and slid the door open. "Who's coming in with me?" Oh, what

the hell, I thought. Why not "I'll go," I said. Sam stayed outside as a lookout, while Dan and Paul followed Tony and me into the house.

We checked the downstairs. There was nothing out of ordinary there. The furniture was conservative and massive. Works of art hung on the walls. Everything had the look of good taste and elegance. Then we made our way to the second floor. The thick carpet muffled our footsteps as we climbed the stairs. There are times I believe RF affects the brain, or we wouldn't have been there facing a criminal charge of breaking and entering.

We opened several doors that were bedrooms. Then we came to a door in the corner of the house that was wider than the others. Without hesitation Tony pushed the door open. The familiar voice of King Kong calling CQ assailed our ears. I didn't know whether to go in or to run. My knees were shaking from fear and excitement as I followed the others into the room.

The ceiling and walls were covered with acoustic material. Three large racks filled with equipment stood along the far wall. In the center of the room was a large executive desk and a huge swivel chair. On the desk was a CRT monitor and a printer. A broadcast microphone hung from a boom over the desk. Suspended from the ceiling were several large speaker enclosures. Aside from the equipment, there was nothing else in the room. The printer came to life and we looked at the printout. Yes. It was printing the call letters of the station being worked and other information.

As the shock wore off, we looked at the equipment in the racks. There were UHF receivers and transmitters, several reel-to-reel tape recorders, and sophisticated test equipment. After studying the display on the monitor for a few minutes, I had an idea why we couldn't locate the station by DF. On the screen was an outline of the Santa Clara Valley. Each prominent mountain peak periodically had a bright spot appear. The appearances of the spots were random, or so it seemed. Having already gone this far, there was no point in being squeamish.

We looked through the desk drawers and found a thick loose-leaf notebook containing a manual that explained the operation of the station. The introduction supplied the general idea of how King Kong was set up. Each mountain peak

See "King Kong" page 7



# ARRL Pacific Division Director's Report

By, Charles McConnell, W6DPD

*ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION UPDATE, November 1993 by Charles P. McConnell, W6DPD, Director ARRL Pacific Division. 1658 W. Mesa Ave. Fresno, CA 93711-1944. 209-431-2038. Packet W6DPD @N6ZGY.# CENCA. CA. USA. NA*

Do you want to become a Ham? Call 1-800-32NEWHAM (1-800-326-3942). You will get how to information, a list of clubs, a list of instructors, and a list of volunteer examiners in your zip code area.

Do you want to take an Amateur Exam? Call the ARRL VEC hotline, 408-984-8353 for exam information.

Station Location Dropped From Amateur License. Effective November 15, 1993, the FCC will no longer require that an applicant for an Amateur license indicate the station location on the application form or on a reciprocal operating permit form. However, the mailing address must be where the applicant can receive mail delivery by the U. S. Postal Service.

Legislative Update. S.J. 90/H.J. 199. As of October 4, 1993, 96 Representatives are cosponsors of H.J. 199 and 16 Senators are cosponsors of S.J. 90. Congratulations to the Amateurs in Hawaii on having 100% of their Senators and Representatives as cosponsors. If you have not written your Senators and Representatives, please do so now. Urge them to support S.J. 90 or H.J. 199. Please send copies of your letters to Perry Williams at ARRL HQ, H.R. 2623. There are 12 Representatives signed as cosponsors of H. R. 2623, The Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act of 1993, with none from the Pacific Division.

This act would protect Volunteer Examiners and Amateur Auxiliary members from personal financial responsibility for doing their jobs according to the guidelines of the position. Please send letters to your Representative urging support and cosponsorship. Remember to send copies to Perry Williams at ARRL HQ.

Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award. The ARRL sponsors the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award (HPM) which is given to an Amateur under the age of 21 whose accomplishments and contributions are of most exemplary nature within the framework of Amateur Radio Activities, including but not limited to the following: 1) Participation or leadership in organizational affairs at the local or national level; 2) Technical achievement; 3) Operating record; 4) Recruitment and training of new Amateurs; and 5) Public relations activities.

Nominations are made by the Section Manager. Nominations and supporting information, including endorsement of ARRL affiliated clubs and elected or appointed League Officials should be submitted to the Section Manager. Nominations should document as thoroughly as possible the Amateur Radio achievements and contributions of the nominee during the previous calendar year. Additional information concerning the character of the nominee should be as complete as possible.

The HPM Memorial Award is intended to provide encouragement and a tangible award for an outstanding young Amateur. It should also bring Amateur Radio, and its many benefits to young

people to the attention of the public. The winner receives a cash award of \$1,000, a plaque, and expenses to attend an ARRL Convention at which a formal presentation of the award is made. There are many young Amateurs who meet the criteria for the HPM Award, yet few are nominated. If you know a young Amateur who qualifies, please send a nomination.

### COMING EVENTS.

1. LIVERMORE SWAP MEET. 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, CA. 7 AM to Noon, all year. Contact KC6QZK for information.
2. FOOTHILL SWAP MEET. 2nd Saturday, March-September. Foothill College, Los Altos CA.
3. ARRL November Sweepstakes CW Nov. 6-8, 1993. ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone Nov. 20-22, 1993
5. ARRL 160 Meter Contest December 3-5, 1993
6. ARRL 10 Meter Contest December 11-12, 1993
7. WINTERFEST. January 15, 1994. National Guard Armory on the campus of Monterey Peninsula College. Monterey CA. For information contact Doug McKinney, KC3RL, 408-663-6117.
8. ARRL International DX Contest CW February 19-20, 1994.
9. ARRL International DX Contest Phone March 5-6, 1994
10. INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION. April 15-17, 1994. Holiday Inn at Visalia CA.
11. Fresno Hamfest. May 7-8, 1994 Riverland Park at Kingsburg CA. Contact Pat Fennacy, W6YEP, at 209-222-3105 for information.
12. ARRL Field Day June 25-26, 1994.

## "King-Kong 6"

from page 6

had a receiver, transmitter and antenna for each band. These were linked to the house by microwave. One computer checked receiving conditions and switched to the mountain receiver having the best signal. During transmission another computer randomly switched from transmitter to transmitter, operating

on the same frequency, which explained why we couldn't determine where the signals were coming. Simple-enough when we knew the answer.

Here was the epitome in amateur radio stations. King Kong was a computer. It was the ultimate sick joke on the stations who answered the CQ's!

There was more, but we had seen enough. We left the house and hurried back down the road to the gate. The gate, we discovered, could be opened from the

inside, which did away with climbing the fence again. We piled back in the van, turned around, and continued on to Reno.

Surely you now understand why I won't give names, call letters or locations.

**Next SARA  
Meeting  
November 16, 1993  
730 PM**



**L**ittle mystery: Early on Sunday morning, October 3rd, I found myself in the Hi-Tech room playing SimCity @, trying to figure out how to get this month's column started, listening to something mildly extraordinary on the scanner, and monitoring our repeater with my ancient Drake TR22C. Over about a three hour period, in my self assigned role of shopkeeper, I saw exactly two customers, Charlie, KJ6GE, and Skip, N6ZAA. Charlie was testing a quad at his mountain cabin in Greeley Hill, rotating it by hand and getting signal reports from me. With a strong grip and a rigid mast, like the irrigation pipe that Charlie was using, hand, or "Armstrong" rotation is quite possible. Skip was out in search of materials for an antenna system he's planned for his home.

Sunday mornings do tend to be quiet on our system, but two stations and two QSOs is virtually an all time low! It would have been puzzling, were it not for the activity on the scanner. I am quite at liberty to describe it, for amateur radio is conspicuously exempt from the secrecy/non-disclosure requirements that protect almost every other radio service. Earlier, I knew something was up. Mark's stentorian voice was the first sound I heard that Sunday, and as the fog cleared, I realized that he was involved in some sort of radio exercise. Several of the SARA regulars were using the WA6OYF repeater. Alan, whose call is also WA6OYF, graciously loaned us his system, Modesto's low level repeater which is on the tower on Memorial North, so that our group could operate a protection and support net for a Walk-A-Thon event.

Mark, WB6BJN, was doing a most

capable job of Net Control, managing his net much more successfully than the mayor of SimCity Fleur, (myself) was administering his city. The mayor opted out, loaded his favorite text editor into his computer, and began a rough draft of "The Party Line." Simply by paying attention to what was going on around me, I found the launch point for "The Party Line."

The Walk-A-Thon's course was a 20 kilometer (roughly 12 miles) square circuit around central Modesto, the real center of Modesto bounded roughly by Scenic, Coffee, College, and Orangeburg. Most SARA regulars know that Mark is almost completely sightless, and he certainly won't mind having the rest of the club find out via "The Party Line." "Everyone's left rest stop one. I saw'em," he said to Ernie, K6UVI, early in the net, and see them he did, in some sense. He was keeping track of the walkers' progress with a cleverly devised tactile map, created by Armand, KD6MGV. That temporary public service net was a complete success, with Mark in charge and a well trained team out in the streets.

About the net: Mark's performance considerably out classed mine on last Thursday's (the 7th) Net. I was enduring one of those low grade colds that is a real teaser, the sort of cold that doesn't drive one into bed, and which, most of the time, can be masked with cheap over-the-counter remedies. One of those times was not the evening of the 7th! I was fine until just about net time. It was quite dark outside, yet, even with the heat off, the Hi-Tech room was getting warmer!

I have my own map. It's in the computer and I was probably relying on it more than ever that night and needing it far more than Mark was needing his tactile map. Except for the actual roll call itself, I could probably wing the net without a script, but I really wouldn't want to. I know my limitations, and performing before an audience is not one of my major talents. Both Mark and I have considerable prior experience at controlling nets. We have our disabilities, minor microphone fright and my stutter, to mention two of mine, but we have our tools that let us transcend those limits.

In public service or service to amateur radio, the issues are not abilities or

disabilities alone, but rather preparedness, creating the tools and using them. This is what ARES and RACES are about and the reason that anyone who hosts the Thursday night over the air club meeting will have a complete script that he/she may follow to the letter, or, within reason, ad lib. Personally, I enjoy a bit of spontaneity, and all I ask is that the information in the opening and closing scripts be accurately transmitted. Oh yes, and call the roll, too!

There will be other net controls. Every net relies on team work in some way. SARA Net would not be what it is without Chuck, W6DPD, and his ARRL bulletins, the club officers and their reports, NEWSLINE, and most importantly, everyone who participates by checking in, including visitors. I'm acting as net control on a weekly basis now, because I am fine tuning the net. I have a few incidental, yet meaningful changes I want to make, including the creation of some method of recognizing regular visitors to the net. Liz, KD6GIW, gave me some direction and an idea. The Assistant Net Manager is going to be trained to keep track of visitors, and I will probably institute a very short visitors' roll call right after NEWSLINE.

39 is the friendliest repeater in central California, at least that's what I think, and several people I've heard on the air say, including Bob, N6OCS, and Dave, WA6GUO, whom I heard discussing this phenomenon at length. I'm only trying to supplement our image.

I'm not terrifically gregarious, but on that Sunday morning, I felt like keeping an ear on 39 just to see who would come by. Just minding the store? Well, perhaps, but there must be a lot of people who do what I was doing, for I hear and QSO with new people that seem to call SARA home. People tend only to stay where they feel appreciated. I don't feel much like putting on my mayoral robes just yet, for the twenty thousand some odd citizens of the SimCity Fleur don't seem to appreciate me just now, but with ingenuity and a bit of luck that may change.

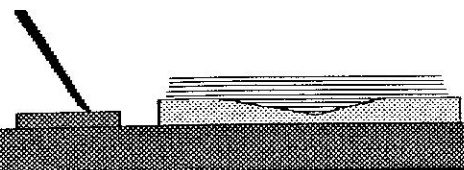
Postscript: I finally ran DBLSPACE and I'm glad I did. Contact me for details. I can squeeze almost 2MB worth of SimCities onto a 720K floppy.

73, Bart.



# FROM THE DESK OF

**Tim Low, N6ZUC**



**T**his day and age finds most of us spending a tremendous amount of time in our chosen mode of transportation. Whether you chose to drive a compact, or a luxury automobile, or even the ole pickup truck, it's hard to imagine life today without your "wheels". Of course for we Amateurs it's just another chance to pursue our hobby while on those endless commutes, or just running errands around town. For those of our brethren who are cave dwellers (live in apartments), this may be the only operating time they get. It's pretty hard to get the apartment manager to agree to a tribander lashed to the roof air conditioner. What do you expect from a Neanderthal?

Successful mobile operation can sometimes be a challenge. There are many pitfalls awaiting the would be mobile Ham. This includes not only the HF types, but the UHF/VHF'ers as well. Murphy is always there, waiting. Noise has always been a major thorn for the mobile operator, and we'll get into that in a bit.

For an Amateur, selection of a new car, as with everyone else in the general population, has many aspects to it. Style, color, power, handling, comfort, and the list goes on. We as mobile operators with the advent of computer command, and increased electronics in cars, have another consideration when selecting a vehicle. Will the darn thing die when we key up the rig? Yes, it's getting quite common. Key your 2 meter, and the car ceases to function. Maybe it's not quite that serious, maybe it just makes your windshield wipers swing into action. Regardless of the anomaly, it's not something we want to have to live with.

When you're looking at new vehicles, don't be afraid to ask the dealer about this

concern. Seek out the Service Manager and ask him if there has been any service bulletins about the problem on the vehicle you're interested in. If this is the case, many times there are modifications that can be made to remove the problem. Tell your dealer that this "fix" must be part of any deal. Ask for a guaranty that the problem will be taken care of. Check the cars owners manual. It is my understanding that some manufacturers have a disclaimer that the car may not operate properly when subject to rf levels above 25 watts. Check into it. If you intend to operate higher power than that, maybe you need to reconsider your purchase. If you do decide against the purchase based on that, make sure your dealer knows that is the reason. Feedback of this nature can sometimes be helpful in forcing the builder to make a design change.

Even if you don't plan on running a higher power level, think in terms of safety. What will prevent your car from dying when the guy next to you on the freeway keys his transmitter? It does happen. I've set off many a car alarm with my mobile operation. Manufacturers need to realize that the products they sell must work in the real world. Mobile transmitters are, and are becoming more, a part of the real world.

Now let's make some noise about noise problems. There are a couple of common types most of us are aware of. These include ignition noise, that which is caused by the firing of the sparkplugs, and the other type of common noise, alternator whine. Both of these types of noise can be a problem on new as well as old vehicles, and usually are easy to take care of.

If ignition noise begins gradually,

suspect that the insulation on your spark-plug wires are breaking down. If the noise is intense, and happened after a tune up including new wires, suspect that the replacements are not of the "resistor" type. Some of the street corner cut rate tune up shops use very low quality parts. Insist that your mechanic only use name brand high quality replacements. Alternator noise can be diagnosed by the whining sound it makes in your speaker when you accelerate and decelerate the engine. Unlike the rough frying sound of ignition noise, alternator whine has a more musical quality to it. Not only does this type of noise effect reception, but also may tag along on your transmissions too. When this happens, there will be no lack of Hams willing to alert you to the problem. Fortunately, Alternator whine is easy to cure.

First determine the amount of current your rig draws at maximum power. You can find this in the manual for your radio. Next, take a trip to Radio Shack and purchase a filter. The two Shack filters I recommend are the 10 amp, part #270-051 at \$13.95, and the 20 amp version part #270-055, \$18.95. I use one in my car, and it completely wiped out a serious alternator noise problem.

Next month I'll continue this as we discover other sources of aggravation. Seems there are almost endless noise generators waiting in the engine compartment and under the dash. Sometimes all it takes is a simple search and destroy mission. Comments, questions, suggestions, answers.

Write me in care of **The READOUT**, or via packet to N6ZUC @ KC6NZN.#SOCA.CA.USA.NA. 73, and have a Happy Thanksgiving. TIM.....SK

# VE Test Results Merced Session

By Chet Jensen, W6XK

The results of the ARRL/VEC session held in Merced on October 9, 1993:

Number of applicants: 35

Number of new licenses: 12

New Novice: 1

New Technician: 4

New Technician-Plus: 4

New General: 1

New Advanced: 1

New Extra: 1

Pass rate (total elements administered): 52%

**New Novice:** Andrea Billikopf

**New Technician:** Philip Atchley, Marie Slocum, William Ward, and Luke Slivkoff

**New Technician-Plus:** Victoria Silveira (KD6ZRS), Richard Albright (KD6DKC), Steve Burlison (KD6YCB), and Jim Moore (KD6TAX)

**New General:** David Grout (N6YHZ)

**New Advanced:** Dennis Fleming (KC6TUR)

**New Extra:** Miles Carter (KC6SEL) Participating

**VEs:** W6XK, N6SAE, AA5TX, AB6TA, K6RAU, KA6FTA, KK6IU, WA6PIC, AB6KF, KI6PR, N6WTL

Total number of applicants served by the Tri-County VE Team:

1986: 15

1987: 104

1988: 187

1989: 123

1990: 107

1991: 221

1992: 224

1993: 171

Total: 1,152

Next test session: December 11,

1993 - Modesto contact: W6XK @ KD6JZZ or (209) 883-2968



# “Jamming at McDonalds”

from front page

-ticularly concerned about his frequency lists which included all municipal and FBI channels. Although the FBI has not charged him with a crime, they did seize his car and radio equipment. “They allowed me to only take the TV camera and that was it.”

Initially Van Sickle was to have been charged with obscenity involving telecommunications,” a felony since one of McDonald’s employees reportedly heard the “f-word” used. The charge may now be reduced to...malicious interference.”

In any event, the FBI found radio equipment - both commercial and amateur - in his car that was capable of transmitting on 154.6 MHz. In addition to the car, they confiscated his radio arsenal consisting of three hand-held trunking radios, a four band hand-held amateur radio, a pocket scanner, a Motorola VHF Spectra, a Motorola 800-MHz Spectra, a Motorola MaxTrax, a Radio Shack scanner, a CB radio and a Mid-land VHF 2-way commercial transceiver. The FCC was also called in and has inspected the car. Although the FBI had an electronic technician with them, there is no indication that any federal official has actually monitored the transmissions.

“It has cost me my career. I have essentially been shunned by the station that I work for. They are up for license

renewal this year and I have been suspended without pay,” he said. “My little world has pretty much come to an end,” Van Sickle said sadly. The most damaging evidence against him is that Terry had a ham friend with him. “The FBI separated us and kept us out there for three hours, ...hot, windows rolled up, no air conditioning.... My buddy (whom Van Sickle would not identify) was double-teamed by two agents and he eventually ‘rolled over and gave them an incriminating written statement admitting that we had made a couple of ‘no big deal’ transmissions to McDonald’s. He implicated himself as well as me. His job situation is such that a phone call from the FBI could end his career in a heartbeat. He has a clearance.”

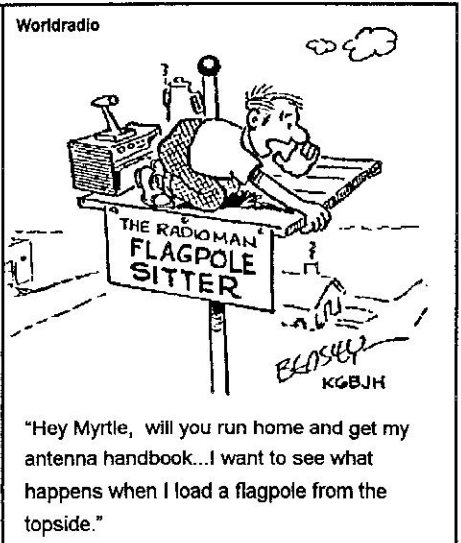
“I am going to end up ‘going down’ for something over the situation ...probably malicious interference. They want forfeiture of all my radio equipment ...and my laptop. I could lose \$12,000 to \$15,000 worth of radio equipment and all the tools of my trade.”

Feeling remorseful, Terry told us “Just looking at it overall, a few moments of fun out there can be disastrous. Nobody thinks about the FBI coming along and just cleaning you out. If I was absolved of everything tomorrow, it would still probably cost me my career because of the publicity it has received.” **W5YI Report**

## Newspaper Headlines

Collected by Jay Leno

- Teacher Dies: Board Accepts His Resignation
- Blind Workers Eye Better Wages
- White Flower Two Day Sale-Friday Only
- Slow Driver Arrested After Four County Chase
- Braille Dictionary For Sale, Must See to Appreciate
- One Legged Man Competent To Stand Trial
- Living Together Linked To Divorce





# Technical Report

By LeRoy Campbell, NV6S

It seems that I just put together the tech report for last month and here it is time again. The system is unchanged since last report. I have done some tightening of security on the phone patch to allow more decisive control operator control. That consisted of adding a new receiver, on loan to the club from myself, on the auto patch and connected to the tone decoder. It works fine! It also appears the levels on the patch need just a bit of touch up and I will work on that next trip up the hill.

We have had the PL® on the repeater for a month now and I've heard few complaints. I have heard a few misconceptions about the PL and how it works. The first seems that although some operators have PL on their rig they still feel compelled to hit \*5 to use the repeater. If you have PL, you do not have to also send the \*5 to override the PL on the repeater.

The second misconception that I have heard on the air is "the PL is on and intermod is still taking out weak signals and it can be heard on the end of the transmissions. Let us examine how the PL, sub-audible tone decode, works. The signal level that you are familiar with and its ability to open the squelch on the re-

peater mean nothing now. So long as signal is sufficient to be decoded it will open the receiver. The receiver only opens when it hears a 136.5 Hz tone.

Once open, any signal that is there is heard so long as the proper tone is also heard. There is a slight delay before the PL drops, and therefore signals will be heard during the hang time. If a hand held opens the receiver with a PL, a stronger signal may capture the front end and cause it to drop out or both signals may be heard.

The bottom line is that the PL will only silence your receivers of the intermod problems until the repeater is opened by a user. If it is there, it will still be there once the repeater is opened. The PL should stop the continuous kerchunking caused by intermod and make listening more pleasant. It will not stop the intermod from interfering with transmissions or from being heard on the squelch tail.

Until I can find and cure the problem you can expect some problems when using hand held radios or otherwise working in marginal conditions.

Thanks for your patience and to those who have helped with the technical chores. Have a nice Thanksgiving!

## Economical Instant Replay Chip from Radio Shack

By Pat, AA6EG

I recently saw an item at the local Radio Shack store that may be of interest to hams. You might build it into a contest instant replay system to replay the just missed call-sign, like they include as an expensive accessory on some of the modern high end rigs. Or use it as a customized repeater I.D.'er or status reporter.

It is a Single Chip Digital Sound Voice recorder with playback. It is the most complete recorder on a chip that I have ever seen. It will sample, store and playback a total of 20 seconds of audio. It is complete with microphone preamp, firmware, memory storage and audio power playback amp. Just add a battery, microphone, speaker and a few other components and you have a complete system!

The firmware allows flexible partitioning of multiple records. Any number of any length independent messages can be recorded, and recalled, up to a total of 20 seconds elapsed time. All this for only \$17.99 including a how to build it schematic diagram.

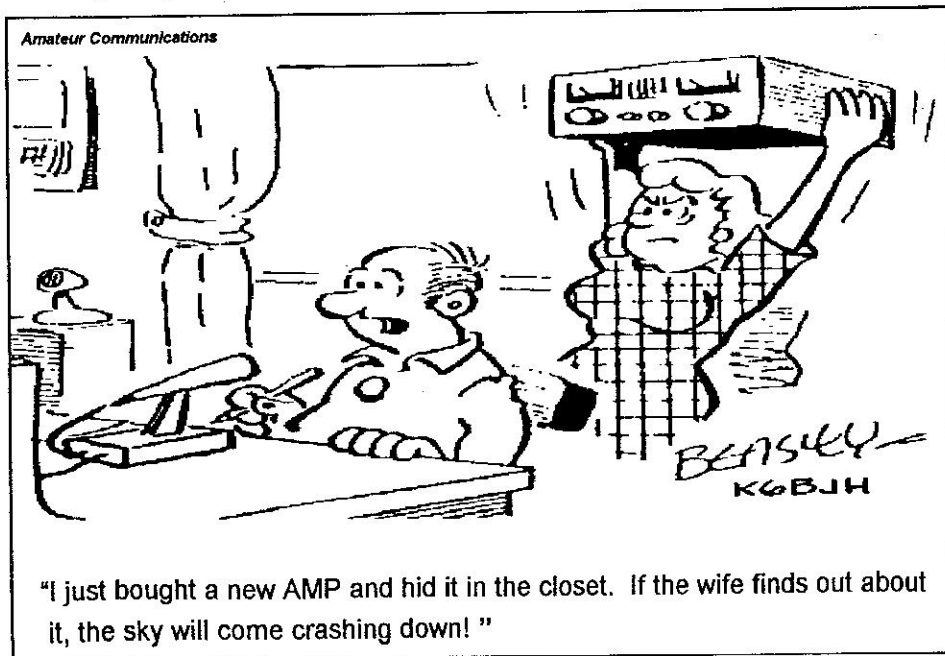
Check your local Radio Shack. Part number 276-1325. The chip is marked ISD-1000A. Check it out!

Courtesy of the Scuttlebutt, NPSARC, Monterey, CA.

## New Computer Chip with 400,000 tiny mirrors

Texas Instruments has a new silicon DMD chip, just a bit larger than 1/3-inch square, that has more than 400,000 tiny imbedded mirrors. Each mirror is only 17 millionths of an inch on a side. The mirrors can be directed to reflect light (and images) onto a projection screen.

The quality of the picture is said to be superior to that of cathode ray and liquid crystal. The digital micro-mirror device (DMD) system provides excellent resolution, brightness, contrast and color fidelity. A single chip can create a full NTSC TV picture (Broadcasting and Cable via WSYI report).





# Calendar

Nov 16 ..... SARA Monthly Meeting ..... 730 PM  
 Dec 7 ..... Livermore Swap Meet ..... 7- Noon  
 Dec 11 ..... VE Test in Modesto ..... 900 AM  
 Dec 21 ..... SARA Monthly Meeting ..... 730 PM  
 ..... Election of 1994 officers  
 Jan 15 ..... WINTERFEST ..... All Day  
 ..... Monterey National Guard Armory  
 May 7-8 ..... Fresno Hamfest ..... All Day  
 ..... Riverland Park at Kingsburg  
 June 25-26 .... ARRL Field Day ..... 24 hours

SARA meets the third Tuesday of each month (except holidays) at the Stanislaus County Administration Building 11th and H Streets in downtown Modesto. The meetings are held in the lower-level conference room at 730 pm. Visitors and interested persons are most welcome to attend. SARA is an ARRL affiliated club and is also affiliated with the Stanislaus County and City of Modesto RACES/VARES programs.

The READOUT is mailed with a bulk mailing permit. Please notify us if you move as the Post Office will not forward bulk mail regardless if you left a forwarding address.

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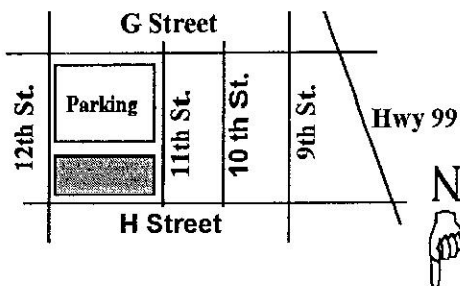
SARA repeaters on Mt. Oso at 3,300 feet- 145.39(-) MHz PL 136.5 Hz or \* 5 to override the PL. 224.14 (-) MHz, 440.225 (+) MHz PL 136.5 Hz . KA-Node Digipeater 144.91 MHz. Ten Meter Digipetar 28,440 kHz

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TO:

SARA Meeting Location  
 1100 H Street, Modesto, CA  
 Lower Level Conference Room.  
 730 pm third Tuesday of each month.



**Next SARA Meeting is November 16, 1993 at 730 pm & You're Invited!**