The READOUT

Year 14 Number 10 October 1992

The Newsletter of the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

In This Issue

CQD De MGY.....2
Amateur Microwaves.....3
SARA T-Hunt.....4
RF-Bulb Concerns.....5
SARA Minutes.....6
N6SAH Silent Key.....7
Two Meter Bootleggers...7
VE Test Results.....7
First *SARA* Newsletter.....8
TV Via Phone Lines.....9
Ham Store Opens.....10
Editor's Note.....11

Ham Radio Consignment Shop Opens In Modesto

A consignment shop specializing in ham gear, computers and electronic equipment has opened in Modesto. The business is owned and operated by George Ledoux, K1TKJ, and is located at 1046 Reno Ave, Unit 'E' in Modesto. See the ad on page 10 for more information.

SARA Technical Report

By LeRoy, NV6S

Murphy struck this month at the repeater site. The air conditioner lost a motor and much equipment overheated before the problem was found. The air conditioner unit is at KJ6GE's now waiting for a new motor.

Currently I have installed an attic vent in the place of the air-conditioning unit and cut a vent hole in the floor and installed a foundation vent there. A box fan is driving the hot air out of the building and drawing fresh air from under the building. The heat caused an audio amplifier on the transmitter to go into thermal runaway and that has been replaced.

Naturally, when I took the main line repeater out of line and attempted to bring up the backup repeater, the back up was dead. The problem there was nothing but an intermittent COR disable switch which has been repaired, but not until both machines were brought down the hill. A relay was giving trouble intermittently when I attempted to reinstall the repeaters, so we ran for a week without the ACC Controller until I could get a new relay and replace the old one.

Andy, WB6GUM, has been helping out with the repairs and has been very helpful. He also worked on the ***SARA*** KA-Node and Digi and has that running on a temporary transceiver. The Micor has a crystal stability problem and he is working on that.

We also looked at the 440 repeater and have decided that it is not going to be practical to make it work from that site because of several mixes that are destroying the sensitivity or the receiver. Andy has come up with an idea that sounds pretty good

See 'Tech Report' page 9

The READOUT is published monthly by the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association.

***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 WA6KTK-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***.

CQD CQD De MGY

By Bob, AA8FK

CW... The classic language of radio. What adventure might the next twist of the dial bring? What tales of disaster await somewhere on the band? What country under siege? What old friend's "fist" to be recognized? The signal strong at first then fading ... a ship in distress?

On a Sunday evening in April, John Phillips, chief radioman of shipboard radio station MGY, is attempting to work his way through a thick back log of messages to and from MCE (Cape Race, Newfoundland.) At 2140 hours, Phillips' Cape Race contact is interrupted by a message from another ship, warning of ice in the area. For some reason, Phillips chooses to "spike" the message. He has already carried several general ice warning to the bridge. (Perhaps later he will take the report to the bridge.)

At 2300 hours, as Phillips strains to hear Cape Race, his ears are suddenly filled with pain caused by the loud CW signal of a freighter only 20 miles away. "MGY DE . . ." Phillips reaches for his key and interrupts the loud intruder .... "QRT DE MGY QRL QRL."

The only radioman aboard the nearby freighter, Cyril Evans, exhausted after his long work shift and now angry at being rebuffed by MGY, secures his equipment. Evans places the undelivered message on the console and turns in for the night. The message is an attempt to warn Phillips that the freighter is stopped and surround by ice.

At approximately 2340 hours, the coffee in Phillips' mug ripples slightly as the ship strikes the ice. Within thirty minutes the surface of the coffee in the mug is uneven, tilted to one side. His ship is listing to starboard and down by the bow.

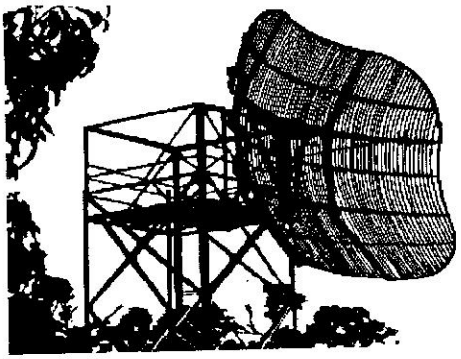
At the direction of the ship's captain, Phillips begins to send the old distress signal "CQD CQD CQD DE MGY MGY MGY..." Later the Captain tells Phillips to use the new distress signal "SOS SOS SOS." Phillips continues to send distress signals long after the 'abandon ship' order is given.

At 0220 hours on April 15, 1912, radio station "MGY" slips beneath the cold dark sea. Radioman Phillips perishes with one thousand five hundred and twenty two others. The huge ship that carries the radio call letters MGY also bears the nameplate... "Titanic."

TITANIC DISASTER-

The Royal Mail steamship Titanic of the White Star Line, sailing on her maiden voyage from Southampton, England to New York with 2223 passengers and crew, was sunk at sea by collision with a submerged iceberg during the night of Sunday, April 14, 1912. 832 passengers and 685 members of the crew perished.

Tnx RF Carrier, Dayton, Ohio ARC



The Amateur Microwave Region
Part 2
By Tim Low, N6ZUC

Last month we began studying operation in the Amateur microwave region. We looked at the characteristics of the emissions at these extreme frequencies, and some of the safety considerations involved when operating the microwave bands.

Getting On The Air

Now, how do you get up and on the air? Well, traditionally most of the equipment used has been surplus military and commercial gear, adapted to use by industrious Hams. Many of the amateurs involved in microwave operation are themselves in the the business of microwave operation and maintenance at a commercial level.

One of the best sources of information if you are considering getting up and on the air, is to put the arm on one of these guys to give you a hand, and to give you the benefit of their experience. There are usually one or two of these guys in any given area. Ask around at the next club meeting, and see if you can locate one of them.

Transverters Are Available

The good news is that in the past few years some relatively inexpensive transverters have become available. Driving one of these no tune transverters can be accomplished with an all mode 1.2 Ghz rig, now being made for satellite work. The problem there is, the 1.2 gig rigs are on the costly side. Don't despair, there is a cheaper way to go.

A 1296 transverter can also be had for a reasonable cost. They can be driven by an inexpensive used 2 meter all mode rig. I see those for sale on the packet BBS's all the time, and they can be picked up for two or three hundred sometimes. The all mode 2 meter can be used for other uses too, like tropo and working meteor trails.

Antennas

The antennas used are normally no more than your standard garden variety parabolic dish, the kind you might see sitting in your neighbors back yard. The same one they use to pull in all those Italian soap operas, and evangelists seeking donations. These are great if you like to work moonbounce, otherwise known as EME (earth moon earth).

Of course for simple hill topping, or point to point, that big dish isn't needed. A small 2 foot dish does a bang up job for line of site, or working tropospheric ducting. You can get a portable 2 footer up and running for less than a hundred dollar bill.

For fixed use, being highly directional, you need to be able to position the dish. Rotators for both azimuth and elevation are necessary in some cases. After all, the idea is to communicate, which you can't do if you can't point your dish at the person your trying to communicate with, or to point it at the moon, or in the direction of the ducting.

Transmission Line Problems

One of the big problems when operating in this region is that of transmission line loss. It doesn't take many feet of standard type coax, before the losses are intolerable. This is why a specialized transmission line called wave guide is used at these frequencies. Simplistically, a wave guide is a hollow tube that the high frequency signal is shot through. This tube is put together in sections, using as many as you need to get from transmitter to antenna.

The problem with using wave guide is its cost. It is very, very expensive. But there is an answer for this too. The transverter doesn't need to be in the shack. If used, both the 1296, and the higher frequency transverter can be mounted at the antenna. The transverter can be fed from the 2 meter rig using any suitable transmission line for that frequency. Simple solution isn't it?

More Activity On The Band

We are starting to see more activity in the regions above the 1296 band now, and this is a good thing. If we don't use our spectrum, we shall surely lose it. Like the lower bands, there are many activities to get involved in when operating microwave.

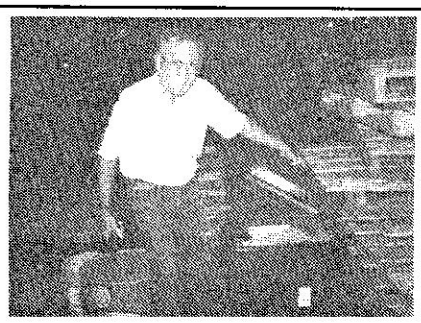
Probably the most popular here in southern California where I live, is in hill top grid hunting. This involves taking your portable station to the nearest mountain top, and seeing how many grids you can work. Kind of like county hunting on the low bands, except over a smaller area. Moonbounce is the area I think would be fun, but that takes some investment mostly in real estate. Like on the VHF bands, tropo ducting can be very good too. The basic system mentioned above is all that's needed. That's the basic system.

See 'Microwave' page 7

KC6TVE 'Sniffs' Out *SARA* Hidden Transmitter

Claiming beginners luck, Bob Kimball, KC6TVE, was the first ***SARA*** members to find the hidden transmitter following the club meeting in July. Bob had never been on a T-Hunt before and teamed up with Bob, WA6ZLO, a novice T-hunter also, at the starting point.

It was a warm and pleasant evening for the club's first ever night time hunt. Brad, KC6TDH, had hidden the transmitter with care within two blocks of the starting point, and then sat back and relaxed in the courtyard outside the County Administration building where the hunt began.

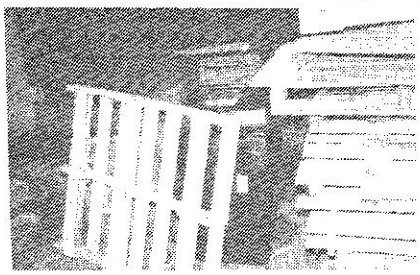


Bob, KC6TVE, finds transmitter in garbage container.

No professional T-hunting equipment was used and most everyone used handy-talkies and their best instincts to try and find the transmitter. It took about 30 minutes for the majority of the hunters to pinpoint the spot where the signal was the strongest and another few minutes for TVE to find it.

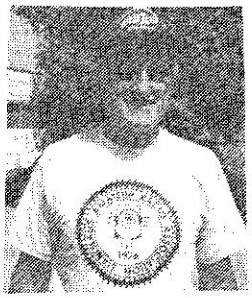
Bob's attention was draw to a brand new plastic garbage can which seamed out of place partially concealed by several wooden pallets behind the Dept. of Human Services building at 12th and G. Moving the pallets out of the way, Bob then removed the lid from the container and located the transmitter and the antenna inside.

It was encouraging to see several of our sightless members participate in the hunt with minimal assistance. The hunt lasted a little over an hour and drew approximately 20 hunters. It was designed for first time hunters with the hopes of piquing interest in the art of direction finding.

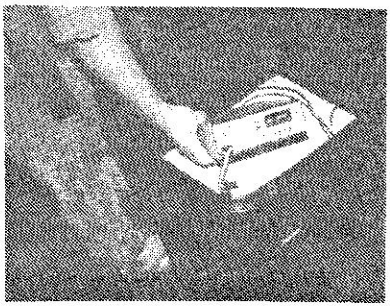


Pallets help conceal garbage container with the transmitter.

VP Sandy, explains to MPD officers what's going on during the hunt.



Winner!
Bob Kimball, KC6TVE



Hidden transmitter. A Heatkit 2036 powered by a battery connected to a quarter wave antenna .

The Hunters!

Next SARA Meeting
October 20, 1992 730 pm

Interference Concerns Voiced Over New RF-Bulb

With the recent publicity over a new energy-saving light bulb that could last as long as 14 years, the broadcast industry is seeking assurance that the radio frequency-based product will not interfere with AM and FM radios.

Rumors have been flying around the industry that the bulb, known as the E-Lamp, could interfere with AM radio as do some fluorescent lights. The E-Lamp uses high radio frequency (RF) energy instead of the old-fashioned filaments and elements.

The bulb is being developed by Intersource Technologies in Sunnyvale, Calif. and is slated to hit the market in 1993. The company said the bulb will meet FCC interference requirements, but no independent tests confirming those claims have been released yet. Despite the rumors, the National Association of Broadcasters, NAB, said there is no proof the bulb causes any interference.

"It appears to be a promising piece of technology that could save Americans billions of dollars in energy costs. "Our only concern is that the new technology not interfere with radio broadcasts, and we have seen no evidence to suggest the new bulb does cause interference." said the NAB.

The NAB is reserving specific comment on interference potential until it actually obtains a sample bulb to test, according to John Marino, NAB manager for technical regulatory affairs. Marino said the NAB has not received a sample of the bulb to test. "We have requested it,'he

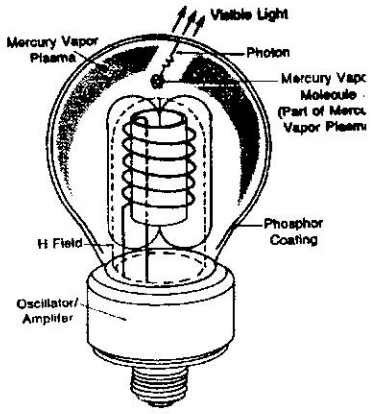


Diagram of the RF Bulb

said. "Until you do some tests on them, there's no way to tell what kind of potential interference there could be with these things.

According to the E-lamp's developers, illumination results from high RF signals, which react with gasses and a phosphor coating in a sealed bulb is said to last longer because there are no filaments or electrodes, which eventually burn out in ordinary bulbs. The RF emitted by the bulb is 13.56 MHz and falls under the Industrial, Scientific and Medical Equipment Section of the FCC Rules.

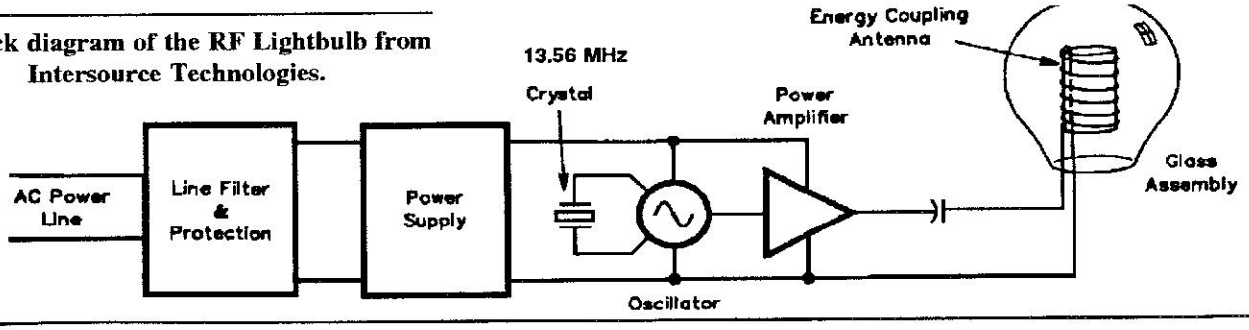
Karl Johnson, a research manager for the Electrical Power Research Institute in Palo Alto, Calif., said that RF interference has been an obstacle for this type of bulb since it was first developed in the mid-1970s as a U.S. Department of Energy project. "They say they have solved it:' Johnson said. "They say it meets Part 15 and Part 18 of the FCC Rules."

According to Intersource Technologies' press kit on the E-lamp, "specifications available from the base technology" include meeting FCC requirements for Parts 15 and 18, which require tight RF tolerances in order to minimize interference to other electronics such as computers, TVs and radios.

The FCC Office's of Engineering Technology (OET) said the bulb has not yet been approved, but approval is not necessary until the product actually hits market.

If the E-lamp meets the FCC requirements, there is little chance that the bulb would interfere with radios, an OET spokesman said.

A block diagram of the RF Lightbulb from Intersource Technologies.



SARA Minutes

By Ernie Rader, K6UVI, Secretary

SARA's regular monthly meeting was called to order by President Jim Hertel, N6KMR, at 7:36 pm on September 15th, 1992. Introductions followed as the sign-in sheet was passed around.

The guest speaker was Steve Andriese, Deputy Director for Alpine, Mother Lode, San Joaquin Emergency Medical Services Agency located in Modesto. He is in charge of regulating paramedic services and among the topics discussed was their Incident Command system. He also spoke about the communication system presently in use and how Amateur radio could augment that system.

After Mr. Andriese's presentation, it was moved and seconded to accept the minutes as printed in ***The READOUT***. Secretary Ernie asked if the club had any problem with members speaking in Spanish over the autopatch, and no one expressed any descent.

Vice President Sandy reported on the upcoming speakers at future meetings. There was no treasurer's report due to Rita's absence. Her brief report follows:

General Fund

Beginning Balance:	$1,491.73
Deposits:	0
Expenses:	0
Ending Balance:	$1,491.73

Educational Fund

Beginning Balance:	$254.35
Deposits:	0
Expenses:	65.00
(To Reimburse General Fund)	
Ending Balance:	$189.35

LeRoy, NV6S, reported the air conditioner in our two meter equipment vault on Mt. Oso had malfunctioned causing a thermal runaway and a relay to malfunction. The equipment has been repaired, but the air conditioner is still being worked on by Charlie, KJ6GE. In its place, two vents and a fan have been installed. A question was raised about an alarm system for runaway temperatures like this event.

The club digipeater is being powered by Andy's (WB6GUM) 5 Watt HT while Andy repairs the Micor which failed. Our 440 repeater looks almost hopeless in its present configuration. LeRoy and Andy had discussed placing the 440 receiver on Fowler Peak and remoting it to Mt. Oso in order to get away from all the intermod on Mt. Oso. Also, soon there will be a 6 meter club repeater available for use.

A discussion of a formal affiliation of ***SARA*** and the Manteca Amateur Radio Club followed. One benefit would be SARA being added to the BBS sign on. Possible financial support for the BBS was discussed as part of the affiliation, but wasn't a necessary item for this to take place. Andy also said the BBS is going to be moved from it's present location to firehouse #1 in Manteca. It will also have a telephone port for unlicensed users as well. Bob, WA6ZLO informed the club that Phil, WD0FFX had moved to Mono County and the need to close out the education account and recover the checkbook used by Phil. ZLO also pointed out that we would have to take a look at the club station situation at Downey High School in view of the fact that FFX is gone.

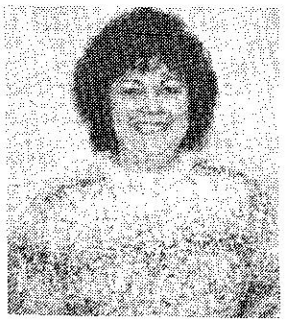
Tim Johnson, N8QXL, presented an update on the fight with Post Newsweek Cable Company and the interference being experienced on channel 18. He said he has been in touch with The National Cable Association in Washington, D.C. and the ***ARRL***.

Break at 8:31 and return at 8:43. Formal affiliation with Manteca Amateur Radio Club was again discussed, and Bob, ZLO spoke highly of both the club and its President. Discussion was presented about what this affiliation would involve, and ***SARA*** is to receive something in writing soon with details disclosed.

There was a short discussion of a "LID" on our repeater. Members were cautioned not to acknowledge his presence.

Next we talked about a 420 downlink pair for our autopatch. ZLO volunteered to contact some of the commercial companies with facilities on Mt. Oso to see if we might be able to rent a commercial microwave link for the autopatch.

The Riverbank Wine and Cheese Festival is to take place on October 11th at 8 AM, and the American Diabetes Association



Jo Anne Shaffer
N6SAH
Silent Key
Sept. 19, 1992

With regret and sorrow we record the passing of former SARA Vice President, Jo Anne Shaffer, N6SAH, of Ceres. Jo Anne passed away at home on September 19, 1992 following a long illness. She was 50 years old. Jo Anne was Vice President of SARA in 1989 and donated much of her time and energies to the club. She leaves her husband, Charlie, KJ6GE, of Ceres, a son and daughter by a previous marriage and two sisters. Final arrangements were handled by the Neptune Society. Our heartfelt condolences to the family.

Amateur Radio Stats Show Steady Increase

FCC statistics released on June 30, 1992, show a total of 571,280 Amateur licenses in the United States. This figure includes 28,278 new licensees between January 1 and June 30, 1992.

New Technicians at 20,822 is the entry license of choice with 7,046 Novices and 410 other.

'Minutes'

From page 6

Walktoberfest will be on the 4th also. Membership is being asked to help provide communication for both events. Brad asked if there was going to be a 6 meter net, and Sandy talked about a future T-Hunt. Andy (GUM) told about his recent experience with a particularly elusive fox in the San Joaquin Valley. The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM. Respectfully submitted, Ernie, K6UVI, Club Secretary.

VE Test Results

By Chet, W6XK
Tri Valley VE Team

The results of the test session in Modesto on September 12, 1992.

Number of applicants: 18
Number of new licenses: 7
New Novice: none
New Technician: 5
New Technician-Plus: 2
New General: none
New Advanced: none
New Extra: none
Pass rate (total elements): 64.5%
Pass rate - Element 1A (5 wpm code): 50%
Pass rate - Element 1B (13 wpm code): 0%
Pass rate - Element 1C (20 wpm code): 100%
Pass rate - Element 2 (Novice written): 91%
Pass rate - Element 3A (Technician written): 64%
Pass rate - Element 3B (General written): 66%
Pass rate - Element 4A (Advanced written): 0%

Microwave

From page 3

Costs

The costs related to this mode of operation isn't any more expensive than operating on the lower bands. In many cases less. Using the available transverters, you don't need any great amount of expertise or technical knowledge. It's simple enough for any interested Ham to get involved with.

Get Some Experienced Help

If you've become interested in this mode of operation, I once again suggest you seek out the help of an experienced microwave operator. There are also some good books available on the subject available through HRO.

Questions or Comments?

Any questions, answers, or comments? Direct them to me through the packet system: N6ZUC @ KC6NZN. #SOCA. CA. USA.NA, or write me in care of ***The READOUT***.73 -Tim.

Shrimp Boats Illegally Using Two Meters

Shrimp boats operating off the Texas gulf coast are illegally using two meter repeater input frequencies for their logistical communications. One South Center Texas repeater had to be shut down for a week to avoid constant interference. The chatter appears to be Vietnamese. Many other commercial and law enforcement VHF repeater input frequencies are being blocked.

Tnx: W5FAH Bill Porter & W5YI Report

The First *SARA* Newsletter.....1977

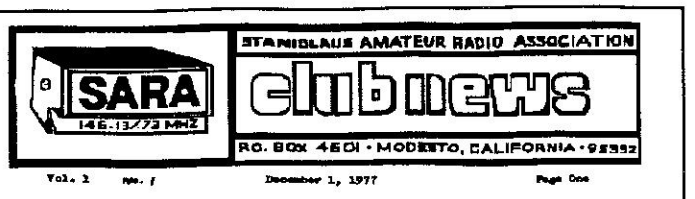
By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

My how time flies. In just two months our newsletter will be 15 years old and the club will be 16 years old. The first newsletter was edited by me and published in December of 1977 and consisted of two 8 1/2 by 11 inch pages stapled together. It was produced on a standard typewriter at the studios of the old KBEE AM and FM in downtown Modesto and run off on a copy machine by our Treasurer Jim Cupp, WD6CYZ, at the Waterford Elementary School where Jim was a teacher. If my memory serves me correctly, I think we mailed out 35 copies.

Going back over the first newsletter certainly brought back to some fond memories of those early years when the club was struggling to exist. It also saddened my heart when I saw the calls of those members who are now silent keys. Jack Scanlon, W6OIN, was our first Chief Engineer. Charlie Mendoza, K6JFS, our first Sgt. At Arms. Mac MacKenzie, W6QDL, was one of our earliest members who helped us move the repeater to Black Butte Mountain near Tracy.

An amusing thing happen while I was scanning the text from the original newsletter to recreate it here. I used my hand scanner with text reader to scan the text in the original newsletter which saves me the chore of having to retype each word verbatim. Now, text readers are nice, but they will not copy 100 of the text perfectly. In fact, old type created by an old standard typewriter plus the age of the document, made it a bit difficult for the scanner to recognize some of the letters and numbers correctly.

After scanning the original text, I was going through the copy correcting recognition errors. In the very first story about K6AYA operating bed pan mobile, I got down to the next to last line and here is what the scanner picked up. *"into Japan by connecting our repeater into his low band rig. Pat is horny now, and getting along just fine." No more motorcycles for awhile."* Now, I've know Pat for many years, and he may have been horny in 1977, but that's not what I wrote. The line should have read ... *"Pat is home now,* etc. Sorry, Pat! I hope you enjoy this look back at the way it was. 73, Bob



STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

SARA 146.13/73 MHz

clubnews

P.O. Box 4501 • MODESTO, CALIFORNIA • 95352

Vol. 1 No. 1 December 1, 1977 Page One

K6AYA OPERATES "BED PAN MOBILE": One of our club members chalked up a first for SARA during a recent stay in Doctor's Hospital. Pat, K6AYA, operated "Bed Pan Mobile" from his hospital bed at Doctor's following surgery for a broken hip sustained in an accident while riding his motorcycle. Pat also did a bit of DX'ing with the help of Denny, WA60EC, who patched Pat into Japan by connecting our repeater into his low band rig. Pat is home now, and getting along just fine. No more motorcycles for awhile.

IMMINENT COMMUNICATOR LICENSE action is being rumored by several industry sources. Departing Chairman Dick Wiley's support of the Communicator concept and his reported desire to see it realized before he steps down is one very strong argument.

WA60EC LOSES TOWER IN STORM: Denny's 70 foot (more or less) tower came tumbling down in the first good storm of the season two weeks ago. According to Denny, one of the middle guy wires broke. No one was hurt.

SARA I.D.er REPAIRED: If you've been listening lately, you will have noticed that our IDer is back on the job. Our chief, Jack, W6OIN, found a bad capacitor to be the culprit.

FIRST WORK DONE AT BLACK BUTTE: Six members of the club got together Friday, November 25th, and journeyed to Black Butte. With the help of Mac, W6QDL, and his power gun drill, we drilled an inch and one half hole through the 8 inch concrete wall behind our repeater location to feed our cables through. Denny, WA60EC, couldn't resist climbing the tower to about the 80 ft, level. and running some tests with his 2 watt Wilson talkie feeding a single 4 element beam. Reception reports were very good.

1977-78 OFFICERS ELECTED during SARA's October meeting. Current officers are: President-Bob, WA6ZLO...Vice President- Chet, W6XK.....Secretary Gil, W6SQR...and Treasurer- Jim, WD6CYZ. Charlie K6JFS, was appointed Sergeant At Arms.

Technical Report

From page front page

to me. He suggests that we move the receiver to Fowler Peak near Angeles Camp and remote the signal from there to Mt Oso to our 440 transmitter. The transmitter wouldn't work from Fowler because we would have problems with a bay area repeater, but in the proposed configuration, we believe it would. We plan to do some experimenting along these lines.

I now have the cavities for the six meter repeater sitting in my garage and we should get the repeater fairly soon and put it up on the hill. I will publish the frequencies later.

Andy and I also discussed a strong alliance between ***SARA*** and the Manteca group. I think both clubs would benefit from such an alliance and I would favor it. We already share the BBS at WA6KTK which is maintained by the Manteca club and our KA-Node supports that BBS.

I thank everyone for their patience during the recent repairs. I would also like to thank those who have accompanied me on the recent trips and helped out in various ways. My particular thanks goes to WB6GUM, President of the Manteca club, for his help and the use of his service monitor. It has really been helpful and is continuing to help. 73, LeRoy

Area VE Tests Coming Up

Oct. 10	Merced	9 am	383-2165
Nov 14	Sonora	9 am	586-4917
Dec 12	Modesto	9 am	883-2968

Sponsored by the Tri-Valley VE Team. If you hold an Advanced or Extra class license and would like to be a volunteer examiner, contact Chet, W6XK, at 883-2968.

FCC OK's Cable Television Over Phone Lines

The FCC also unanimously voted on July 16 to permit individual telephone companies to use their lines to carry cable television programming into consumer's homes starting immediately on a common carrier basis. This is a final order, not a proposal. Thus, telephone carriers are now able to deliver cable programming into the home. They may not be a cable operators, however, there is a difference.

One objective of the decision, which could affect virtually every household in the country, is to foster powerful new competition to existing cable operators - most of whom have effective monopolies in the areas they serve. Competition generally brings prices down. Telcos do not have to obtain a municipal cable franchise to offer "video dial tone."

Phone companies would also be allowed to own up to 5 % of the programs they deliver- a percentage telcos feel inadequate. They want the right to totally own and package programming which is prohibited by the Cable Act of 1984. One telephone executive said the FCC decision does not offer enough to cover the cost of building switched broadband networks.

Telcos would be permitted to provide full cable service only to small communities of up to 10,000 population where it is not now available. (This figure was upped from the previous cutoff of 2,500.) They are already permitted to offer full cable service in areas where they do not offer phone service. At least one programmer (Turner Broadcasting) said they will sell programming to anyone who comes to them with a proposal to do so.

Broadcast and cable groups are not happy with the Commission and has vowed to fight the new FCC rules! Some consumer advocates believe the measure encourages phone companies to build new and expensive TV plants with the telephone customer footing the bill. All feel the FCC has overstepped its authority and they are now turning to Congress and the courts for relief.

Phone companies also can offer such enhancements as "search capabilities," video mail (televised voice mail), video processing (user manipulation of camera angles and replays), video-on-demand (programming that you choose, such as movies), network based VCR capabilities (to allow time shifting) and services to allow parents to tailor the viewing choices for their children. They also may do their own billing and provide inside wiring and other needed equipment.

The video dial tone would resemble a menu of choices that would appear on a TV screen. Phone companies could provide their own text and other non-programming services. For the most part, other firms would originate the programming that lies behind the menu choices.

But don't look for television services over the phone any time soon. It will probably take years before local carriers have networks in place capable of distributing video to millions of customers.

W5YI Report

GRAND OPENING

OPENING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1992

A CONSIGNMENT SHOP SPECIALIZING IN HAM GEAR, COMPUTERS, AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT.

The store will sell on a consignment basis the following: Ham Gear of all types, Computer hardware and software of all types, Electronic test equipment, other Electronic Equipment of interest.

STORE HOURS will be 9 AM to 6 PM SATURDAYS ONLY.....

Here is how it works:

- **You set the price on your gear.**
- **When it sells you get your price minus a 15% commission.**
- **We have a minimum $1.00 commission per piece, sold or not.**
- **You may take your gear back at any time.**

Bring in that rig laying around collecting dust and get some extra cash. Perhaps you will see some treasure here that you can't live without. Equipment can turn over very fast, you need to check it out often so you don't miss those great deals.

Astre Systems Inc. manufactures a line of full power, 10 kW to 280 kW UHF TV Transmitters. While things are slow, George, K1TKJ, has decided to see if there is any interest in a HAM CONSIGNMENT STORE. We all know that you can get very rich selling to hams, Hi Hi. If it works and it is fun, we'll keep it. If it isn't, we'll go back to making UHF cloud warmers full time.

ASTRE SYSTEMS INC.
1046 RENO AVENUE, UNIT 'E'
MODESTO, CA 95351

Reno avenue is parallel to Carpenter Rd. and runs between Kansas and Woodland. Take Kansas Ave off ramp from 99, head west, take 4th right (Franzia Ct.), it turns into Reno. We are on the right, #1046.

Editor's Notes

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

An attempt at bringing some form of a ham radio store to Modesto was cautiously launched September 26, 1992 by George Ledoux, K1TKJ. (See ad on page 10). George owns and operates Astre Systems, Inc., which manufactures a line of UHF TV transmitter from 10 to 280 kW at a plant located at 1046 Reno Ave.

George is testing the market with a "consignment shop" specializing in ham gear, computers and electronics equipment. The store will sell on a consignment basis ham gear of all types, computer hardware and software, electronic test equipment and other electronic equipment of interest. George is well aware the venture is a risky one given the propensity of ham radio operator to less than generous with their money.

Accordingly, he is only going to be open one day a week, Saturdays, from 9 am to 6 pm. As George put it, "We know that you can get very rich selling to hams, Hi Hi. If it works and it is fun, we'll keep it. If it isn't, we'll go back to making UHF cloud warmers full time." Good luck to George and thanks for giving it a try and for your full page paid ad in ***The READOUT***.

Our membership is up to 178 thanks to the following new members. Welcome back Tim Johnson, N8QXL, of Modesto and George Ledoux, K1TKJ. Welcome new member Bill Borba, KC6WGM, of Modesto. Tim is the ham that has been fighting Post Newsweek Cable in Modesto over interference problems on 145.25 mHz. I have asked him to write about his experiences in this fight and to share them with our readers. His first installment will begin next month.

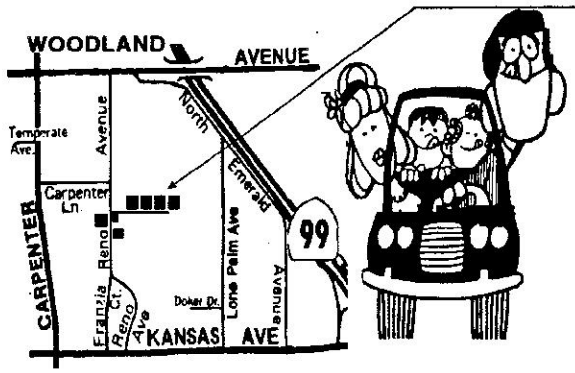
The newsletter for Charlie Harding, K6SWW, was returned to us undelivered last month. The post office indicated that Charlie is "Temporarily Away". Again, please remember we use the bulk mailing system to mail this newsletter which saves us a considerable amount on postage each year.

However, because of the cheaper rate, the post office will not forward the newsletter if you have moved or are "temporarily away'. It will be sent back to us and cost us 29 cents to find out why it could not be delivered. Steve Campbell, KM6DX, did not receive his newsletter because he moved to Lincoln, CA. and forgot to tell us. Again, if you are moving, or changing the status of your mail, please let us know in advance.

The Manteca BBS, WA6KTK-2, has moved from WB6GUM's home to the City of Manteca Fire Station # 2 on Powers Street. Andy will continue as the SYSOP and control the BBS by landline from his home. By the way, there is a 441.500 MHz user port on the KTK BBS in case you have 440 equipment.

There is an opening for an Educational Director as a result of Phil Hartz, WD0FXX, moving to Lone Pine, CA. If you are interested, let the club officers know. Good Luck to Phil who worked hard for the club and whose services will be missed.

The mysterious signal that wandered on and around 145.79 MHz and wiped out packet communications in a wide area, was tracked down by Tony, WA6KOI and Leroy NV6S. It was found to be a VHF radio at a Hughson elementary school that had developed a spike. Chet, W6XK, also helped pinpoint the errant rig. 73, Bob



How To Find Astre Systems Inc. 1046 Reno Ave. Suite 'E' Modesto,CA.

Calendar

Oct 10	VE Testing in Merced	930 am
Oct.16-18	Pacificon Hamfest Concord, CA. Hilton Hotel	3 days
Oct.17-18	Boyscout Jamobree on the Air	2 days
Oct.16-18	DX Convention Visalia	3 days
Oct. 20	*SARA* Monthly Meeting	730 pm
Nov. 17	*SARA* Monthly Meeting	730 pm
Dec. 15	*SARA* Monthly Meeting	730 pm
Jan. 19	*SARA* Monthly Meeting	730 pm

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

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P.O . Box 4601
Modesto, CA. 95352

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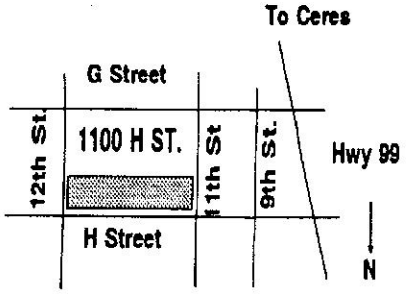

To:

SARA Meeting Location
1100 H Street, Downtown Modesto
Third Tuesday of Each Month

Next SARA Meeting is October 20, 1992 at 730 pm & You're Invited!