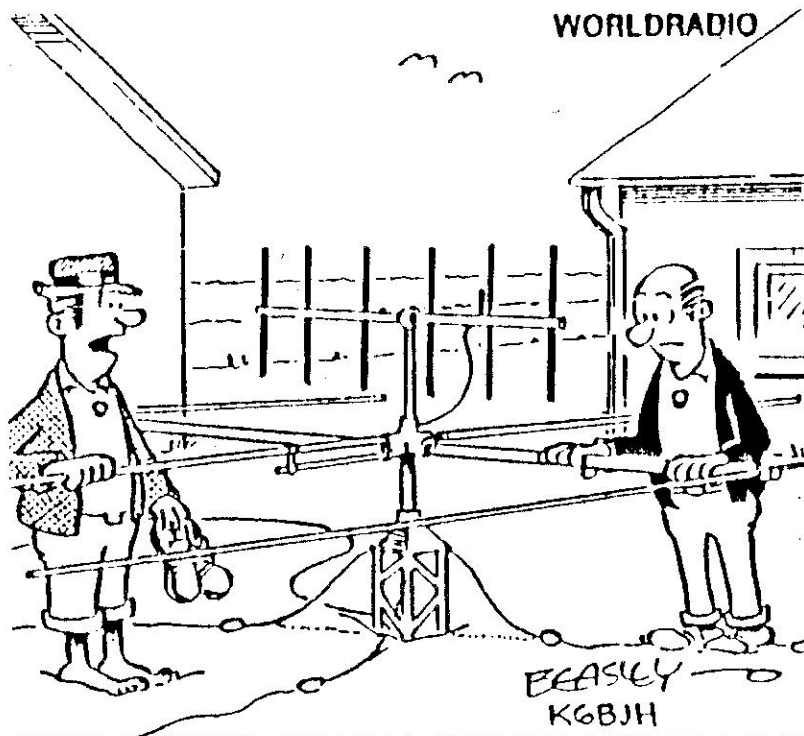


# The READOUT

Year 12

Number 8

August 1990



I TOLD YOU YOUR GROUND WASN'T SOLID  
ENOUGH TO SUPPORT A 60 FOOT TOWER!

*Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association*

P. O. Box 4601 Modesto, Ca. 95352

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### 1990 SARA Officers

#### President

Phil Hartz.....WD0FFX.....544-8515

#### Vice President

Oliver Borns.....KJ6YZ.....576-7718

#### Secretary

Linda Franklin.....N6REB.....

#### Treasurer

Al Dionizio.....N6SAE.....523-4485

#### SARA VHF Net

Thursdays @ 8 p.m. (Except Holidays)

2 meters 145.39 MHz WD6EJF

220 Band 223.68 MHz WD6EJF

Contributions to *The READOUT* are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor by mail or via packet at N6REB- BBS on 145.79 MHz. The deadline for articles is the 15th of the preceding month.

#### Editor

Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

1221 Mist Flower Ct. Modesto, CA. 95355

209-523-5880

*An ARRL affiliated club*

### Next SARA Meeting

August 21, 1990

730 pm

Stanislaus County  
Administration Building

12th & H Streets

Modesto, CA.

Lower Level Conference Room

Salli's

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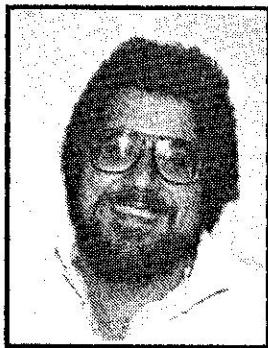
912 13th Street

Modesto, CA.

Sallie Tullos, Owner

# Why Did I Become A Ham?

By Frank Massa, N6YHY



Frank N6YHY

**My career in RFI had began with a bang, after only one week as a ham.**

*This Part 2 in a series of stories involving the author's RFI problems which eventually led to open hostilities with his neighbor who turned him into the City and the FCC. We left you last month with Frank feeling comfortable that he could solve his neighbor's RFI complaints. Frank soon found out that was a major mistake. Here's part two.*

**T**he massive war against RFI had begun. To begin with, I started to scan the ham magazines for RFI filters and other solutions. Additionally, I got on two meters and HF and discussed the situation with fellow hams. I also asked the engineers at work for RFI and technical advice. I'm fortunate that the company that I work for is in the communications field.

I ended up with lots of advice, but what I didn't know was that I had neglected to determine the exact areas of the RFI problems. I had a hundred solutions for fifty different problems.

The first thing I did was to pound in another 8 ft. ground rod and optimize the ground connections. All equipment grounds were clamped to a 12

inch section of 1 inch diameter copper pipe with a large gauge wire used from the pipe to the ground rods. The net result was a more efficient station with much better signal reports and the noise in the system decreased.

Much to my chagrin, when I checked with my neighbor the RFI was still there. The in-line phone filter solution seemed like the next way to go.

The first thing I found out was that the filters I purchased from the AT&T phone store did not work on 10 meters. The best filters I found were from Richard Measures, AG6K, 6455 La Cumbre Rd. in Somis, CA. 93066 (805 482-3034) who sells five complete sets of fil-

See 'RFI' Next Page

## 'RFI'

### From Page 3

ters (capacitors and inductors) for around \$7.00. These filters used alone, or with toroid beads and other measures will take care of almost any telephone RFI. However, cheap inexpensive telephones are simply impossible to fix which is exactly what my neighbor has. These cheap phones are devastated by only 5 watts at any frequency below 50 MHz. and my neighbor has four them on two separate lines. Each telephone is worth less than \$10.00.

"Boy, did I have my work cut out for me!" During a later visit to the local flea market, I bought an old 1970 vintage touch dial phone and gave it to my neighbor to use until the RFI problems were cleaned up but he refused to plug it in.

All the filters that I had installed on my neighbors phones solved the problem on some of the phones but not all. The next step was to implement some of the advice that I got from other hams. 90 percent of the hams and technical people at work that I spoke to felt that the vertical antenna I was using was the main problem. I knew, and I think those that I talked to knew, that antennas don't create RFI problems. However, I decided to call Cushcraft Antenna Company and

talked to them about my model R-5. They recommended that I hoist the antenna to at least fifty feet or as high as possible. With the help of Dave, N6YHZ and Merle, N6YLN, we mounted a 30 foot pole on top of my roof at the 20 foot level of the house. Again the reception and signal strength from my station improved.

## NOTICE

Time: 3:20

Date: 5-9-90

Name:

*Frank Massa*

Location:

*928 Yellow Brick Rd*

Violation of Zoning Ordinance of City of Ceres

*18.38.060  
18.12.120 B  
15.16.050 F*

To Whom:

*Your Ham Radio antenna  
require a permit.*

If violation cannot be corrected immediately without undue hardship, please contact this office not later than *7 Days*

Signed:

*S. B. Bias*  
Zoning Enforcement Officer

CITY OF CERES  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
2220 Magnolia Avenue -- Ceres, Calif. 95307

We quickly found out that the additional height did help the telephone RFI situation with my neighbor. The net results of all three measures (grounding, RFI filters and increasing the height of the antenna) was

See 'RFI' Page 16

# SARA Minutes

By Linda Franklin, N6REB  
Club Secretary

---

The July 17, 1990 meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Phil, WD0FFX. Introductions were made by 18 members and guests. Phil also introduced two members of the current ham class, Doug and Delma Strauch of Volta. Bob, WA6ZLO made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as printed in The READOUT. Joe, KB6YYT seconded the motion and it carried.

Treasurer Al, N6SAE gave the following report. Beginning balance of the General Account as of 6/19/90 was \$1,429.38. Three deposits totaling \$83.00 were made bringing the total to \$1,512.38. Eight checks were written for a total of \$475.36 for the usual expenses, (printing, postage, phone, etc.) bringing the General Account balance to \$1,037.02 as of 7/17/90.

The Fund Raiser Account balance as of 6/19/90 was \$1,247.55 with 4 deposits totaling \$910.00 bringing the balance to \$2,157.55. One check for the amount of \$500 was written to the winner of the club raffle and a .50 deduction for a bank check charge brought the balance to \$1,657.05. Another partial deposit (funds from the fireworks booth activities) of \$191.18 was made 7/17/90, bringing the balance of the Fund Raiser Account to \$1,848.23 as of 7/17/90. The yearly rental fee of \$50.00 for the Mt. Oso 220 site was also paid along with the previously mentioned expen-

ses. To date the club has no outstanding bills. A motion was made to accept the Treasurers report, seconded and carried. A letter of congratulations was written to the Carolnell Majors of Turlock, who was the winner of the club raffle by Al, N6SAE and read to the assembly by Phil, WD0FFX.

N6SAE reported he received a phone call from one of the members, who had sold a considerable amount of raffle tickets, requesting some kind of correspondence from the club noting the winner of the raffle. The purpose was to post it at the location where most of the tickets were sold. After discussion, Bob, WA6ZLO made a motion to compose a letter of thanks for their help and support in the raffle and direct it to the member to fit the circumstances in regards to the winner of the raffle. The motion was seconded and carried.

WD0FFX read a letter from the Modesto City Schools regarding the approval of a modified permit for SARA to operate a club station at Downey High School in room 51. He also expressed thanks to all those instrumental in this achievement and suggested the August meeting be held at the Downey site. Bob, WA6ZLO said that waiting until the September meeting might be more advantageous, since more members would be back from vacations and a better attendance could be had. Also the extra time to prepare and get the station site set up would be good. It was agreed by the assembly that the September 18, 1990 meeting would be held at Downey High School in room 51. Dave, N6YHZ and

See 'Minutes' Page 6

*'Minutes*  
*From Page 5*

Merle, N6YLN said they would see that a map showing access to parking and room 51 would get to WA6ZLO to be put in The READOUT before the September meeting.

A break was taken at 8:05 pm and the meeting resumed at 8:20 pm with Phil, WDOFFX thanking all those whose participation in the fireworks booths has increased the Fund Raiser Account for the repeater equipment. He reported SARA put in close to 75% of the work at the Turlock booth, and we will know later exactly what the clubs portion would be.

Under new business Bob, WA6ZLO announced that SARA member Skip, N6ZAA has offered to stand the expense of installing an autopatch terminal in Tracy if SARA would allow it to be tied-in our existing system. Phil noted that to expand this feature would provide those members in the Tracy area the advantage of toll free calls.

Concerns that unauthorized and some illegal autopatch calls might increase as a

result were expressed. It was decided to reprint the DO's and DON'T's of using the autopatch in The READOUT in hopes that this would remind members about the proper use of the system.

Ways to gain more control over the repeater with a new controller as well as muting the autopatch touch tones will also be looked at. LeRoy, NV6S made a motion that we permit N6ZAA to pursue an autopatch terminal for Tracy (as a full duplex, not a simplex operation) open to all SARA members, with all engineering coordinated through Leroy, NV6S. The motion was seconded and carried.

WA6ZLO motioned that the club's digipeater on Mt. Oso be moved to 145.79 MHz so members in the outlying areas would have access to the N6REB Modesto BBS. The motion was seconded and approved.

The evenings raffle was won by Al, N6SAE. The silver plated candle holder centerpiece, was donated back for the next raffle. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. Respectfully submitted by Secretary N6REB.

**September 18th Meeting**

**M**ark September 18, 1990 on your calendars. That is the date of the SARA club meeting which will be held at our new club station in room 51 at Downey High School. You will have an opportunity to inspect the station and do some operating if you want. There will be plenty of parking at the school and next month we will print a map of the school and where to park.

Plan to be on hand and help us get the club station off to a good start.

# Introduction To Packet Radio

By Ernie Rader, K6UVI Part 2

---



Ernie Rader, K6UVI

**Packet is for  
rag chewers,  
the traffic  
handler, the  
experimenter  
and the casual  
operator.**

Last month, in part one, I introduced you to some of the things that can be done with packet radio. This month we'll take our discussion a bit further with a talk about the Terminal Node Controller (TNC), that little black box that does its magic so well.

Data to be transmitted over the air is collected in this little black box and is sent in bursts or packets of information; hence the name. As you type your message into your computer, the TNC stores your characters in its memory. When the TNC receives a predetermined amount of information, up to 256 characters, it spits out a packet in about a second or two. The rest of the time your station is silent as is the frequency that you are operating on.

One can see that several people can use the frequency at the same time and never know that others are there. The TNC makes this happen as it knows not to transmit its bursts

of information when someone else is using the frequency. Also, you don't know that there are others on the channel because you only see messages from the one, or several stations, that you are connected to unless you are just copying the mail.

Here's something that might surprise you. When you are on a regular FM repeater frequency ready to make a transmission, it is considered courteous to monitor for a moment or two to see if the channel is in use. Not on packet. Just tune to your desired frequency, make your call, or connection as it's called, and know that you will never interfere with another QSO. Our magic black box, the TNC, makes certain that doesn't happen.

Another nice thing about packet communication is that all information is received error free. (That is as error free as the person at the keyboard

*See Packet Page 13*

# Fund Raiser Successful

Gross \$1701.00

---

The 1990 SARA club raffle was another very successful event thanks to you. According to the club's treasurer, the club received a total \$1,701 in donations. The winner of the grand prize was Carolnell Majors of Turlock.

After being contacted, Carolnell opted for the \$500 cash prize instead of the gun. The winning ticket was sold by Tony Rose, WA6KOI, of Turlock. Several SARA members sold over 20 tickets apiece and two members, N6EKV and KA6WBY sold 90 tickets apiece.

Here's the breakdown.

N6EKV . . . . .	90	KA6WBY . . . . .	90	WB6WQL . . . . .	80
N6LSA . . . . .	80	KB6RHD . . . . .	70	N6JSN . . . . .	60
N6SAE . . . . .	55	WA6KOI . . . . .	50	KJ6YZ . . . . .	50
WD0FFX . . . . .	30	NQ6H . . . . .	30	N6LRB . . . . .	30
WB6SHE . . . . .	30	N6TIV . . . . .	30	N6YHZ . . . . .	30
N6LHL . . . . .	30	N6YJR . . . . .	20	KB6VI . . . . .	20
N6TTR . . . . .	20	KA6TIO . . . . .	20	N6OCS . . . . .	20
N6KDJ . . . . .	20				

In addition, many members sold at least 10 tickets. Together with \$191.18 in fireworks sales this brings our equipment fund to total to \$1,848.23.

Additionally, more money is yet to be received from our share of the manpower provided for the fireworks booths. It's expected that our equipment fund will be well over \$2,000 by the time all funds have been tabulated. Thank you for your support! We couldn't have done it without your help.

---

## SARA Digi To 145.79 MHz

At the July meeting of SARA, the club approved the moving of the club's digipeater, WD6EJF-1, from 145.07 to 145.97 MHz.

The move is being made to enable members and visitors outside the Modesto area an

avenue to get to the Modesto packet BBS (N6REB-1). The only expense will be the purchase of a new crystals and some retuning. It's expected that the change will occur within the next 45 days.



## Give Your Floppy A Bath!

If you spill some liquid (like water or coffee) onto your floppy diskette don't despair-you can give your floppy a bath!

Wash your hands to rid them of as much body oil as possible. Then insert your finger into the spindle hole and move the diskette in the sleeve away from the edge so you don't cut it. Carefully cut the edge off of the sleeve as you might cut open an envelope with scissors. Do the same thing with another edge.

Take out the diskette, being very careful not to crease it by bending it too much.

Wash the diskette in luke warm water and mild soap (dish soap is good). Rinse and clean. Don't use paper towels, but use a soft cloth to pat (not rub) it dry. Let it air-dry until it is perfectly dry.

Cut open a new diskette, but this time only cut one edge off. Throw away the diskette, you'll only use the new sleeve. Carefully insert the washed diskette into the new sleeve and put a write protect tab on it.

Insert the diskette into the drive and copy the contents to your hard disk or onto a fresh floppy. You have just saved the data. Then discard the old floppy that you just gave a bath.

**When Does Your License Expire ?**

## TVI Prompts Rock Throwing

**Watsonville-** A dispute over ham radio transmissions that interfere with telephones in a Watsonville neighborhood escalated into rock throwing deputies said.

Residents who live near the ham radio operator in the 100 block of Carnation Avenue have complained to the Federal Communications Commission, Pacific Bell and the Monterey County Sheriff's Dept., about the interference to their telephones according to deputies.

The 34-year old ham operator has said he does not know why his set-up interferes with the phones, but maintains he is operating legally.

Around 10 pm Friday night, a deputy was called to the ham's home to investigate reports of someone was throwing rocks at his home. While the deputy was talking to the ham, they both heard the sound of rocks hitting the house. The deputy went into the back bedroom and saw a neighbor throwing rocks at the home. The ham radio operator told deputies his neighbor challenged him to a fight earlier in the day. The neighbor admitted throwing rocks, telling the deputy he hoped it would make him stop using his radio. Deputies made no arrests.

- Thanks NPS Amateur Radio Club Newsletter, Monterey as reprinted from a Santa Cruz newspaper story.

# FCC Wavies Code For Handicapped Operators

*King Hussein & President Bush Intercede*

**W**ith the help of Jordan's King Hussein, JY1, and President George Bush, the FCC has made a dramatic policy reversal towards the handicapped. Effective immediately, Amateurs with mental or physical handicaps can qualify for a complete wavier of the 13 and 20 wpm Morse code examination required to upgrade to General, Advanced and Extra Class. Disabled applicants are still required to pass the 5 wpm Novice code test, but now, need only identify certain phrases or characters.

All of this a result of a letter mailed to King Hussein by handicapped Johnstown, Pa. Amateur Tom McMillen, WB3HGW. McMillen a Technician class licensee for 15 years, has epilepsy and is paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair.

Though he is an active DXer and net control operator, he has been unable to achieve an upgraded license because of his handicap. According to his doctor, McMillen's disability combined with the medication that he takes, prevents him from increasing his code speed even after extended study and practice.

The FCC originally denied McMillen's request in keeping with its long-time traditional policy that the requirement for code proficiency be the same for everyone. McMillen wrote, "For an epileptic, it doesn't matter how the code test is given. There may be epileptics

who have passed 20 wpm but it (the code) doesn't affect everyone the same. It is affected by the speed that the brain will process the information and where the damage to the brain is."

The FCC originally suggested to McMillen that he contact the Handi-Hams group, which assists handicapped applicants, for help. Instead he wrote about his situation to King Hussein. The King contacted President Bush and asked his help. Bush referred the request to the State Department who reviewed the request. Hussein was advised that the U.S. government would try to help McMillen.

It is not clear who exactly contacted the FCC, but someone did, and it was suggested that they change their policy immediately.

On June 13, McMillen received a phone call from the FCC to advise him his request for a wavier of the 13 wpm requirement was granted. A letter of confirmation was received shortly thereafter.

V.E.'s around the country have been asked by the FCC to implement immediately, two new procedures. The first to make additional accommodations for handicapped examinees who have a special problem in proving that they have mastered the required code speed. Where it is warranted, handicapped ex-

*See Next Page*

# First 'SOS' Via CW

**A**pril 15, 1912 is a date that has gone down in radio history. That was the date that Marconi Wireless operator Jack Phillips radioed the first SOS via Morse code that the Titanic had struck an iceberg and was sinking fast in the North Atlantic.

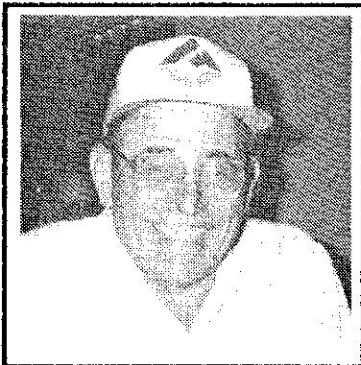
Previously, the letters...CQD... were used as the international distress call. The SOS from the Titanic was first heard by a 17 year old in Newfoundland. The radio operator of

the nearest ship (the Californian, only 10 miles away) was not on duty and did not hear the SOS.

Another liner, the Carpathia, was able to save 712 persons, but over 1,500 lives were lost including Radioman Phillips. Incidentally, after all these years, Morse code signs off at sea in 1993 when the satellite-based Global Maritime Distress and Safety System takes over.

## Did You Know

**T**he name of the person for whom the basic unit of electrical current, the ampere, is named is Andre Marie Ampere (1775-1836). He was the person who first applied the action of electric current on a magnet that was first applied to telegraphy in 1820. Thus the basic unit of electrical current, the ampere, derives it's name from Mr. Ampere.



Tony Rose, WA6KOI

---

### *Handicapped Wavier From Page 10*

aminees will be given the choice of taking the code exam one sentence, or one phrase, or one word, or even one character at a time. Where warranted, a sending test should be substituted for the receiving test.

Second, adopt the following new FCC policy regarding request for these type of waivers. ]

1. The examinee now holds a least a Novice class operator license; and;
2. The examinee requests a waivers of Section 97.511 for element 1 (B) (13 wpm) or 1 (C) 20 wpm and;
3. The examinee submits a physician's certificate stating that, due to a severe handicap under the 1988 Developmental Disabilities Act, the examinee is unable to meet the 13 or 20 wpm requirement. The FCC plans to change 97.505 to reflect this new policy.

*-Excerpted from W5YI Report*

# Better Known Hams Around The World

---

HS1A	Bhumibol Adulyade	King of Thailand
5YC	Howard Hughes	Late millionaire
EA0JC	Juan Carlos	King of Spain
HI8MMJ	Manny Mota	Ex baseball player
JY1	King Hussein	King of Jordan
IOFCG	Francesco Cossiga	President, Italy
W2NSD	Wayne Green	Publisher of 73 Magazine
K2ORS	Jean Shepherd	Author and humorist
WB4KCG	Ronnie Millsap	Country Music singer
WA4CZD	Chet Atkins	Famous Nashville guitarist
K4LIB	Arthur Godfrey	Late Radio-TV personality
W5LFL	Owen Garriot	NASA Astronaut
WA6BGA	Ray Noble	Big Band Leader
K6DUE	Roy Neal	Retired NBC Newsman
KB2GSD	Walter Cronkite	Retired CBS Newsman
W6EZV	Curtis LeMay	Retired 4 star General
Ex-KA7EVD	Donny Osmond	Singer-Entertainer
WAGIOG	Vernon Orr	Former Sec. of Air Force
NK7U	Joe Rudi	Former baseball player
WB6RER	Andy Devine	Late actor
FO8GQ	Marlon Brando	Movie Star
W6UK	Alvino Ray	Big Band Leader
K7UGA	Barry Goldwater	Former U.S. Senator
WA7WYN	Andy Griffith	T.V. and Movie actor
YN1AS	Anastasio Somoza	Late Dictator Nicaragua

The son of the late Shah of Iran was once EP1MP. The Callbook does not show that call issued at this time. However, the King of Jordan, JY1, King Hussein, apparently also holds an Iranian call, EP1JY.

*Ed's Note: If you know of a better known ham that's not on this list, please let me know.*

# New 'White Pages' Packet Server

AD8I & K6IYK

---

For those of you on packet, inquiries to the White Pages are now made to AD8I in Ohio. White Pages inquiries are sent to determine the home BBS of packet stations and were formally sent to WD6CMU in Richmond.

Although CMU still maintains the server, the service is very sporadic at best. With the change to AD8I comes a slightly different format for obtaining information. The new format is:

Send command:

*SP WP @ AD8I.OH.USA.NA (enter)*

*Title of message: Query (enter)*

*Text of message: Callsign ? (enter)*

*Ctrl-Z (enter)*

An inquiry can include more than one callsign in the message text, but unlike before, each call must be on a separate line.

For example:

*W6XK ?*

*WA6ZLO ?*

*WB6UJD ?*

*-Thanks Fred, K6RAU.*

---

## Packet

*From Page 7*

your call, or connection as it's called, and know that you will never interfere with another QSO. Our magic black box, the TNC, makes certain that doesn't happen.

Another nice thing about packet communication is that all information is received error free. (That is as error free as the person at the keyboard types it!) As the data is received it's continuously checked for errors, and it isn't accepted unless it's correct. You don't miss the information if it has errors though, because if it isn't accepted, the receiving station instructs the sending station to send it again and again until it's correct. However, the theory involved in that operation

is a subject for further consideration at a later time. Yes, Nellie, there are repeaters in packet. Only on packet they're called digipeaters. They are simplex operations and occupy a single frequency, as opposed to the common two-frequency repeaters used for voice communications. One can link from digipeater to digipeater to extend one's range tremendously. It takes a little longer to carry on a QSO this way because of the time involved digipeating information, but it can be done. Most of my packet communication is by way of Bulletin Board Systems, BBSs for short. We can talk about them next time. 73's for now. Ernie

# MorseMan Plus

*Product Review - By, K6UVI , Springfield, Or .*

---

## **By far this is the best CW Tutor you can buy!**

**H**aving trouble copying CW and your better half doesn't know any more about it than you? Tired of the QRM on 20 meters and still you want to upgrade your license? Or do you just like to copy error free code at "your" speed? Here's a solution that only involves access to an IBM computer or a clone.

There is a CW program available that only costs \$24.95 plus S&H and is by far the very best CW tutor I've found. It's called Morseman Plus (MM+). It's even pretty if you have a color monitor. CQ, QST, and 73 are currently advertising this program.

I've had mine for about a month and feel confident with the extra code already. MM+ lets you choose your own method of practice. You can pick from random characters, random words, or realistic random callsigns - you can even select the option that allows the callsigns to vary in speed and frequency so that it sounds like a real pileup.

The program has the capability of sending a self created ASCII text file. You can place script commands within a text file so that you can control certain aspects of the transmission, drop to a text editor, drop to DOS or just simply enter characters on the keyboard

and have them translated into Morse and sent via the speaker.

The QSO monitor feature sends realistic sounding QSOs with random stations calling each other carrying on realistic conversations. Here, there are over 20 TRILLION possible different QSOs that can be generated. The chances of running over the same conversation are very remote--not like listening to and memorizing a tape.

An "Effective Speed" parameter has been implemented in the program that allows very straightforward Farnsworth implementation. This means that the characters themselves can be set for a certain speed while the spacing between them can be lengthened. Instead of learning the code by the number of dots and dashes, a quick sound is created and the letter recognition is from that sound.

If, while you are learning Morse Code, you run across several letters that are particularly difficult, the program will send only those letters until you have them down pat.

The TEACH mode is particularly helpful for those just learning as the easiest letters are learned first. It's actually a course on disk. After the code is learned, random VEC/FCC tests can be generated and graded to make certain that you are ready for the actual examination.

Again, I highly recommend this program and suggest it for the new student as well as the accomplished operator. 73's, Ernie--K6UVI.

## 'Get Me Off In Richmond!'

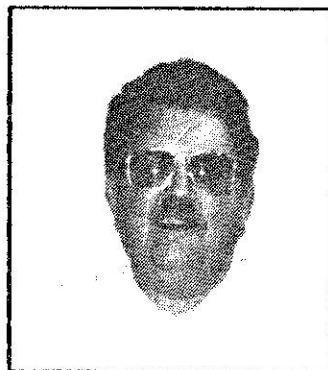
**A** traveling salesman boarded an Amtrak train in Miami, Florida in route to New York City. He promptly contacted the porter and advised him that he was going to get some sleep, and that he wanted to get off in Richmond, Va .

He told the porter that he was a very heavy sleeper and that he would probably resist his efforts to arouse him and get him off in Richmond. He instructed the porter to be persistent and make sure he got off in Richmond. He then gave the porter \$20.00 for his trouble.

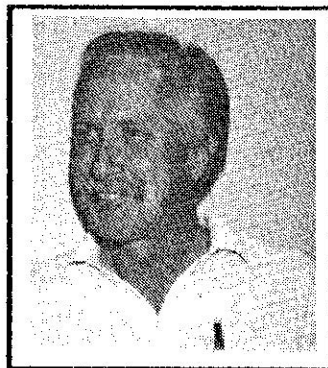
The porter assured him that he would fulfill his wishes. As it turned out, the salesman slept through and did not wake up until the train was pulling into New York City.

He got off the train looking for the porter. When he found him, he berated him something awful in the presence of many bystanders. After the salesman walked off one of the bystanders tried to console the porter.

The bystander said... "Boy, he was sure mad and carrying on!" The porter replied, "If you think he was mad , you should have heard the guy I put off in Richmond."



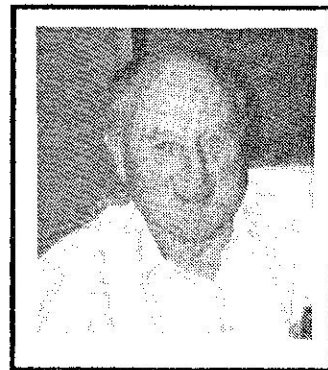
Tim Bosma, WB6UJD



Merl Maxwell, N6YLN

## Big Ships

*Big ships always have three letters in front of their names. The United States has USS for United States Ship. England has HMS for Her Majesty's Ship and Italy has AMB for 'Atsa My Boat'.*



Sherrill, WB6WHK

# Mental Midget Invades Area Repeaters

**F**or the past few weeks a deranged individual has been harassing area repeaters including the SARA repeaters with foul language. Judging from the sound of voice, he appears to be a young male. His signal into the repeater is fairly weak and sounds like a walkie talkie. His foul language has been heard on 145.21 and some Sacramento area machines. He appears to be familiar with repeater protocol and likes to insert his foul remarks during QSO's on the hang tail and our Thursday night net. His remarks have been particularly offensive towards women. He doesn't stay around very long or respond to remarks about him.

As a reminder, the best way to handle these situations is to ignore the individual and NOT ACKNOWLEDGE the fact that you heard him. Making comments to, or about, such a person only adds fuel to his fire. Because his signal is so weak, it can be easily wiped out with a stronger signal.

So, the minute you hear him, key down on him and wipe out his signal and let's try to prevent his remarks from getting on the air. Don't mention what you're doing! Let's not encourage him to increase his power. Also, listen on the 2M Input and let's see if we can get a heading on him. Report any information to NV6S.

## TNC Needed

**T**he club is looking for a TNC for use with the new club station at Downey High School. As part of our contract with the school, the club has promised to set up classes for students who are interested in Amateur Radio. The club has already received a donated computer which will be used in the packet station, the only thing that is needed now is a TNC. If anyone has a TNC they would like to donate or sell to the club at a good price, contact Leroy, NV6S at 523-4727.

**'RFI' From Page 4** ...almost total elimination of all telephone RFI problems. The neighbor and I felt at this point that the problem was manageable.

I had worked on the RFI problem for 3 weeks and felt good about the situation when I hit the road on company business which took me out of state. The day I arrived home, an official from the City of Ceres was parked in front of my house writing me a citation for violating city ordinances with my antenna.

*Next month...what can you do when local government officials try to impose unreasonable restrictions on Amateur antennas.*



# Phone Patch Rules

The ability to Interconnect our equipment with public telephone systems is a great privilege we as Radio Amateurs in the United States enjoy. The public interest has been well served by Amateurs with such facilities. However, it is a privilege that is often abused. The Amateur radio service is not a common carrier and its primary purpose is not the handling of and routing messages on behalf of non-amateurs.

However, third-party communications as an incidental part of Amateur radio adds an important dimension to our public service capabilities. We must remember that international phone patches are only permitted where there are third-party agreements in place with the governments of those foreign governments.

Phone patches or autopatches involving the business affairs of any party are prohibited. Particular caution must be exercised in calling any business telephones. Calls placed to order a commercial product or to ascertain its availability is prohibited as are calls to one's office to leave or receive business related messages. Patches should be kept as brief as possible, as a courtesy to other Amateurs.

It is sometimes confusing, especially to new members, as to what is permitted and what is not. Autopatches and phone patches in general, have long been a source of irritation to the FCC because of violations of the

rules specifically as they apply to forbidden business communications. The list below represents excerpts from a letter written by the FCC in reply to a letter received inquiring about third party traffic and business calls.

The FCC answered the following questions as YES or NO!

1. Can you use an autopatch to secure a grocery list for home needs? **YES**

2. Can you use an autopatch to secure a personal appointment? **YES** (Qualified as being yes only so long as the appointment is with a spouse or friends and not of a business nature, i.e. making a dentist appointment would be prohibited.

3. May the autopatch be used to report an emergency such as a fire or accident? **YES**

4. May other criminal, civil, or traffic offenses, (i.e. robberies, fights, drunk drivers, etc.) be reported? **YES**

5. Assuming that a telephone line is tied up (party lines, etc.) can the Autopatch be used to contact a plumber or electrician in case of a plumbing or electrical emergency? **YES**

6. Can you use the autopatch to help benevolent, non-profit organizations such as the Lions Clubs, Heart Fund, Boy Scouts, etc.? **YES**

7. Can the autopatch be used to call in an order to a cafe or pizza shop? **NO**

8. Can the autopatch be used to call an electronics store to inquire about electronic

See 'Patches' Next Page

# A 'Sparkling' Success

By Steve Faries, N6EKV

**H**ot on the heels of our successful raffle, the joint effort of SARA and the Central Valley Youth Services (i.e. The Sea Scouts) in the sale of fireworks, has resulted in the deposit of \$1,045.84 to the SARA treasury. While Milt McKeun of C.V.Y.S. was pleased with the total sales, a new Turlock location is already in the planning stage for next year. This new location will be much higher sale area.

Our volunteers earned \$7.39 per hour (total of 136 hours) for the booth time they donated. Something that we should stress for next year is the presale of fireworks assortments. It is interesting to note that on presales of \$191.00, out cut was \$57.30.

My special thanks to Jo, N6SAH and Charlie, KJ6GE, for the phone hours they spent filling-up the time slots. without their efforts this fundraiser would not have succeeded!!

Milt has already invited SARA to work with them next season and our expectations for next year are "skyrocketing". Thanks to the following members who volunteered their time:

W6DSM, AA6TQ, N6SZZ, N6SAH, N6JID, N6YHM, NQ6H, WA6OHP, KA6WBY, N6YHZ, KB6CCL, KI6YQ, WD0FFX, N6LSA, N6OCS, N6SAE, KC6CJX, WB6PJY, N6TIV, KJ6GE, N6YHY.

My sincere thanks! 73, Steve.

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## 'Patches'

From Page 17

needs for an Amateur station? **NO**

9. Can an autopatch be used to relay scores and descriptions of plays at a sporting event? **NO**

10. Can the autopatch be used to make airline, bus or train reservations? **NO**

11. Can the autopatch be used to cancel an appointment with a dentist, doctor or attorney? (Personal appointment) **NO**

12. Can the autopatch be used to contact a licensed health care provider in an emergency? **NO**

13. Can you use the autopatch to call a tow truck for yourself or someone that broken down along the road? **NO** (Qualified to non-emergency situation). It's OK if its an emergency i.e. removal from a hazardous location such as in the roadway.

14. Can an autopatch be used to call the weather station for a weather report. **YES** (Qualified for use by the Amateur only and not to be rebroadcast for the general public. Remember patches can not be used for broadcasting.

# Editor's Notes

*By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO*

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This has been an exciting summer for SARA. Several successful fund raisers have filled the equipment coffer for much needed new equipment and our membership continues to grow with the addition of several new and renewing members. Welcome to Doug and Delma Strauch of Los Banos. Both are currently enrolled in the SARA license class and will be getting their Novice licenses shortly.

Welcome to Frederick Robbins, KK6FH of Modesto and Edward McCabe, N6ZWR of Turlock. Fred is retired and recently earned his Advanced class license. Edward is a new Technician and a student. Welcome back Bruce Johnston, NK6C of Oakdale; Randy Anderson, KI8AG, a convenience store supervisor in Modesto; William Luebke, KA6DJR, astronomy professor at Modesto Junior College; Ed Lacy, KA6CXR, a highway transportologist (truck driver) and Mary Loveland, KC6JYD, of Groveland. Mary is the wife of Chuck, NW6G and a retired bookkeeper. Our membership now stands at 170 and climbing.

• We are grateful to Stan Harter, KH6GBX, of the State Office of Emergency Services in Sacramento who generously donated to the fund to replace the stolen talkie of Mark, WB6BJN.

Stan's only connection to SARA is through

The READOUT. This is not the first time that Stan has pitched in and helped the cause. Thank You Stan!

• Legislation is being introduced in Washington, D.C. to make it a Federal offense to make a false distress calls to the Coast Guard. The proposed penalty would be five years in prison and a \$20,000 fine. Last month, a false distress call led Coast Guard officials to discount a real distress call from a father and son aboard a sinking boat. Both are missing and presumed dead.

• The professor in a foreign studies class got more than she bargained for during a recent final exam session. After giving out the test papers the professor settled back in her chair and slipped the headphones of her FM receiver on her head for some soothing music.

Suddenly, a voice overrode the sweet music and said, "The number 2 subjective question is E-X-C-I-T-E-D." The shocked professor contacted university officials who quickly learned the identity of the offenders.

It was later learned that the students had an FM receiver and miniature earphone with which they were copying the signals. Mini-sized transmitters capable of short distances are readily available from Korea and a small price. They operate in the 76-108 MHz FM band.

• Don't forget our special September 18, 1990 club meeting we be held at our new club station at Downey High School, room 51. Plan to be there and help us celebrate the opening of the station. 73, Bob.

# -- Calendar --

Aug. 21, 1990 . . . . . SARA Monthly Meeting . . . . . 730 pm  
Sept. 18, 1990 . . . . . SARA Monthly Meeting . . . . . 730 pm  
Club Station Room 51 Downey High School  
Oct. 12-14, 1990 . . . . . Pacific Division Convention . . . . . 3 days  
LeBaron Hotel , San Jose  
Nov. 20, 1990 . . . . . SARA Monthly Meeting . . . . . 730 pm  
Dec. 18, 1990 . . . . . 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 streets in downtown Modesto. The meetings are held in the lower-level conference room starting at 730 pm. Visitors and interested parties are welcome.*

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association  
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