

The READOUT

Year 13

Number 5

May 1991

Secretary Steps Down K6UVI Appointed

Regretfully we announce the resignation of our club Secretary, Linda Franklin, N6REB, who stepped down on April 18th. Linda's mother has been very ill and requires continuous care which is being provided around the clock by Linda and her sister.

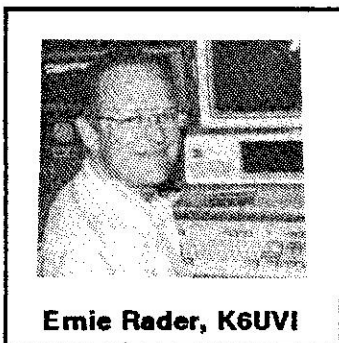


Linda Franklin, N6REB

Linda has faithfully and professionally served the club for almost two and a half years. She was the first, and only member to be elected three times to any office, which is a record that will

surely stand for years to come. In addition to her family responsibilities and the pressures of the club secretary, Linda has also operated a first class packet bulletin board from her home in Ceres. Linda's services will be greatly missed and we all wish her the best. Her loss is tempered only by the fact that an able and willing replacement has been appointed to take over the duties of the office.

President Oliver, KJ6YZ, announced the appointment of Ernie, K6UVI, as the club's secretary effective April 19, 1991. Ernie is well qualified for the job and you can be assured he will maintain the high standards of the office set by Linda. Please take a moment thank these fine members for their contributions to SARA. It's people like these that make a club strong and continue to succeed.



Ernie Rader, K6UVI

Observations From A New Ham

By Tim Low, N6ZUC

The editor of this great newsletter, asked me to write some technical pieces for The READOUT. Good idea I thought. I have several ideas for the project, but first I thought I would like to make some observations about the hobby now that I nearing my first year as a licensed ham.

So here we go. I was one of those guys who for years said, "if they would only drop that stupid code requirement." I finally decided, with the encouragement of WA6ZLO--Bob, W96Q-Lee and Marion-KB6NMF, that I would go for it, CW and all. Now that it's over, Extra Class license in hand, I can truthfully say, I had a blast. Yeh, CW was fun. Can you believe it, I'm now a CW fanatic. Indeed, given the choice of only one mode to operate, it would be without hesitation, CW.

I have a feeling that you are already guessing my first observation. Yep, no code was a mistake. I think it is an extension of the "gimme" society we've become. Seems that working toward and achieving a goal is no longer valued. Will the no-code technicians ever have the satisfaction that I got by working for and earning my first ticket? I doubt it!

Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that no-coders should be welcomed with anything

See "Observations" page 3

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1991 SARA Officers

President

Oliver Borns KJ6YZ 551-5855

Vice President

David Grout, N6YHZ 576-8730

Secretary

Ernie Rader, K6UVI 527-1489

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

10 Meter 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 N6REB-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.

No-Code Technician License

The testing requirements for the code-free Technician class license consists of two examination elements. The current 30 question Element 2 and the current 25 question Element 3(A). The total of 55 multiple choice questions are selected from a bank of approximately 550 possible questions.

All of the verbatim questions and multiple choice answers are known and widely published. The two examinations may be taken at one sitting, or broken down into two smaller segments. You do not have to pass both test elements at the same time. You will receive a credit certificate for the portion passed.

Study material is available nearly everywhere, including from our educational committee. Contact Phil Hartz, WDOFFX at 544-8515. For testing procedures and information regarding the no-code Technician, contact Chet Jensen, W6XK at 883-2968.

The ARRL/VEC allows its VE teams to accept test credit from Novice Testing Teams. For example, an applicant may take the Novice written exam (Element 2) from a 2-member Novice test team and then take the Technician written exam (Element 3A)

from a VEC-sponsored team. The applicant will receive a new Technician license. The applicant will be required to bring the original and a photocopy of the completed 610 form showing credit for Element 2 to the VEC-sponsored team administering Element 3A

An exception to this rule is the Sunnyvale VEC. If an applicant attends a test session sponsored by the Sunnyvale VEC (for example, Stockton or Fresno), you may request Novice test team credit ONLY if one of the Novice test team examiners is accredited by the Sunnyvale VEC.

This procedure DOES NOT apply to ARRL/VEC sponsored sessions (such as Modesto, Merced, Turlock, or Sonora).

Finally, if a no-code Technician licensee wishes to obtain HF privileges, he or she must take the 5 wpm code test from a VEC-sponsored test team NOT a Novice test team.

The rationale for this FCC requirement is because a VEC-sponsored team is the only entity that can issue a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) proving the additional operating privileges.

Good Luck, de Chet, W6XK.

Next SARA Meeting

May 21, 1991

730 pm

Stanislaus County Administration Bldg.

12 & H Streets, Modesto, Ca.

....Observations

Continued from Page 1

other than open arms. They are more than welcome, but let's encourage them to get that 5wpm. I think they will appreciate Amateur radio more and be much better operators for it. We tend to value what we must work for more than what is given to us. I know it's already becoming a tired argument, but I do fear that the bands above 30mhz will become CB like. I'll take no pride in being correct on that one. I am now a member of three ham radio clubs, SARA of course, and two here in Southern California where I now live. It is my opinion that clubs do a very poor job on average of making new or potential members feel welcome. Clubs constantly are crying that new blood is needed but do little to seize the opportunity to make new faces at meetings feel at

home. There is one club here in my area that I have now attended the last two meetings and will not return. I introduced myself to members and officers and was treated with indifference. During the meeting the President stressed how the club needed desperately to increase membership. It's lucky for Amateur radio that most people get the license before going to club meetings. Otherwise the first club experience might turn them off to becoming a ham. Just a few simple little things would go a long way toward making the new or prospective member feel comfortable. Why not have an official club greeter? It would be someone to say hello to all the new faces as they come through the door. That greeter could assign the visitor to a long time member who would introduce them around and answer any questions they might have. One of the most

frustrating things about being the new guy is remembering all the faces and putting name and call with it. Simple solution. All club members should wear badges with name and call. Visitors could be given a badge with their name and call, if any, by the club greeter. Why not get the visitors name and address so the club can send a little note thanking them for attending and inviting them to join the club? This doesn't have to be anything other than a form letter with an application enclosed. Membership would increase and probably club attendance too! Remember when you were a new ham and you just got that new rig? You were nervous about talking for the first time. You keyed up and announced you were monitoring and...nothing. 30 Seconds later two guys strike up a conversation never acknow-

See 'Observations' page 7

New 1.2 GHz Repeater In Valley

A new 1200 MHz repeater is on air from Fowler Peak, just above Angels Camp, CA. at altitude of about 3000 feet. N6ZAA/R has excellent coverage into Stockton, Tracy, Modesto, Merced, Gustine, Turlock and many other places. It's an open repeater operating on 1282.30 MHz (-). The input frequency is 12 MHz down at 1270.30 MHz. Stop by and say hello. -Skip, N6ZAA, Tracy

Turlock ARC Auction May 11

The Turlock Amateur Radio Club will hold their annual equipment auction May 11, 1991 at the Turlock High School Cafeteria on Canal Drive in Turlock. Doors open at 8 am to inspect the equipment. The bidding begins at 10 am. If you are planning to sell items, get there early so you can get checked in.

Talk-in on 147.03 (+) W6BXN.

Bike-a-thon Thanks

A sincere "thank you" to the following members and helped provide communications for the American Diabetic Society sponsored bike-a-thon held Saturday April 13, 1991. Chuck, KA6AAE; Larry, WB6GJT; Nick, KC6QNU and his wife Penny; Dave, N6YHZ; Oliver, KJ6YZ; Ernie, K6UVI; Phil, WD0FFX and Chris, KC6PDD.

Extra Newsletters Mailed

Some of you may have received more than one copy of The READOUT each month. It's not a mistake. We do have extra's each month and this is one way that we can enhance our chances to recruit new members. We hope you will take any extra copies you may receive and pass them on to prospective new members, licensed or not. All of us know hams who are not members of our club and this is a good way to introduce them to SARA. So, please pass them along and help your club.

SARA Fund Raising Project

*****Grand Prize*****

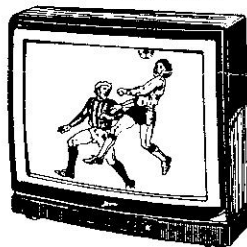
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Drawing June 30, 1991

Tickets available from SARA Members

\$1.00 Donation

-Thanks, Jim Shea, KB5FB, and his wife Vicky, owners of Mail Boxes Etc., 729 N. Golden State Blvd. Turlock, who printed the raffle tickets at no cost to SARA and donated his time, labor and expense to the club. Thanks Jim & Vicky!

1991 SARA Fund Raiser

The club's main fund raiser for the year is underway. By now, each SARA member should have received a packet of 10 raffle tickets. As with previous fund raisers, you can sell them (ask for donations) or you can keep them for yourself and take your chances on winning the grand prize.

This year we are offering a Zenith System 3 stereo television or \$500.00 in cash. All our fund raisers have been outstanding successes thanks to your help. So, please take time to help.

If you need more tickets, or if you have any questions, contact the club treasurer, Al, N6SAE, at 523-4485. If you would prefer not to participate, you may return the tickets to Al. Please remember you can only ask for a donation of \$1.00. The tickets are free and you cannot insist on a \$1.00. This way you comply with the law.

Please make sure you fill out the stubs with the name, address and telephone number of the person who made the donation. Then return them to the club's post office box 4601, Modesto, CA. 95352.

All stubs and money must be received by June 29, 1991. The drawing will be held during Field Day exercises at the Nile Garden School Sunday June 30, 1991. The winner does not need to be present to win. He/she will be notified by phone or mail.

We would like to thank Jack Lee T.V. for making the television available to us at a substantial savings over retail. Also a big, thank you, to Jim, KB5FB and his wife Vicky for designing and printing the raffle tickets at their expense and donating them to the club. This was a substantial contribution for which we are very appreciative. Thank you for your support!

Remember to return your completed stubs and check or money for the amount made payable to SARA no later than June 29, 1991. The address is: SARA P.O. Box 4601, Modesto, Ca. 95352. Thank You!

Editor's Notes

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

Our major fund raiser for this year is off and running. See page 4 for all the information. We saved over a hundred bucks right at outset when new SARA member Jim Shea, KB6FB, and his wife Vicky produced and printed the raffle tickets and donated them to the club. Several of our members and a few guests, showed up early at the April meeting to sort and staple the tickets into packets of ten. Thanks to the Sheas for their outstanding contribution to the club. Jim and Vicky have just opened a new business in Turlock. Mail Boxes Etc. is at 729 Golden State Blvd. next to Albertsons. Stop by and say hello and do some business with Jim if you can. It's people like this that make a club go.

- Amateur call signs issued by the FCC as of March 1, 1991 in the sixth call district; Extra's- AB6BI; Advanced- KK6XE; Generals, Technicians and Novices- KC6SFQ.

- Welcome to new SARA member Loren Cannon, K7LC, of Manteca. Loren is an Extra and a road driver for Roadway Express in Sacramento.

- The 80 meter Novice portion of the ban officially moved to 3.675-3.725 Mhz on March 16, 1991. The 3.725-3.750 MHz segment continues to be available to Generals and above for CW, RTTY and digital modes only. Phone operation is prohibited in the 3.725-3.750 MHz segment.

- Speaking of things to do this summer, the Reno Hamfest is August 3, 1991 and the SIERA ARC hamfest and computer fair will be held Oct. 12, 1991 in Minden, Nv. The Foothills College swap-meet is held every Saturday through September at the college in Los Altos. The Livermore Swap-meet is the first Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore from 7 am to 12 noon.

- Next time you fly be careful with any electronic toys you decide to take along. A portable cellular phone in luggage aboard a jetliner tripped the aircraft's smoke alarm, which caused the pilot to land at the nearest airport. The phone was found in the on position and it was some how activated in flight. When packing portable electronic gear to take along, make sure the on/off switch is securely in the off position. Detaching the battery packs would be a sure fire way to prevent accidents

Don't try to use any device that transmits a signal on board. The FAA has strict rules against that and you

may find yourself in a world of hurt if you don't follow the rules. Possible interference to the plane's navigational equipment is the reason. In addition, you will no doubt get the once over from the metal detectors at the gate and a probable delay while you get pulled off to the side for a search of your luggage.

- Remember WB2PT1? Michael Harrison was the ham radio operator who scammed many fellow hams throughout the county and abroad. He placed ads in various Amateur publications offering Amateur equipment at unbelievable prices. Harrison put the money in his pocket and never delivered any of the promised equipment. He was arrested by Federal Postal Inspectors and convicted in Federal Court in New York State. He was sentenced to 21 months in prison and fined \$125,000 and ordered to make restitution. Because of this felony conviction, the FCC has revoked his Amateur license. The rules make felons unqualified for an FCC license.

- Another SARA member has joined the Packet ranks. Welcome to Marilyn, NQ6H, of Ripon. She has an MFJ TNC.

- It looks like the last day that Amateurs can operate in the 220-222 MHz section of the 220 band will be July 31, 1991. This is not definite, but it appears that the FCC would like to have us out of there effective August 1, 1991. 222 to 225 MHz will be the new exclusively Amateur portion of the band.

- Sandwiched between rain clouds, the Transmitter-Hunt held on April 20, 1991 was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately, only a handful of hunters turned out. The "rabbit" was hid by Jim, N6KMR and Dave, KJ6DL, both of whom had more fun watching the hunter's look for it than the hunters had looking. The hunt started at 3 pm and the "rabbit" finally corralled shortly after 5 pm. The winners, Phil, WD0FFX and his partner, Judy, KC6MEI, who found the talkie (rabbit) hidden in the ceiling of an abandoned house in West Modesto. It was good to see a lot of first timers involved with a sprinkling of old timers. Plans are being made for another hunt soon. If you have never been on one, take the time and have some fun.

- On a personal note, my best wishes to Linda, N6REB, who was forced to step down as club secretary

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SARA April Minutes

By Ernie Rader, K6UVI, Club Secretary

The April 16, 1991 meeting of SARA was called to order by President, Oliver Borns, KJ6YZ, at 7:33 pm. Thirty-four regular members and visitors were present. Oliver introduced Mr. Jim Martin, Deputy Director of The Office of Emergency Services for Stanislaus County. He spoke of the practice drill scheduled for April 25th, 1991, at 1:30 P.M.

He mentioned the importance of Amateur radio in augmenting government facilities during emergencies. Because, Amateur radio is an integral part of the service provided to the community by The OES. He said seven of the nine cities in the County will participate in this exercise that is the first in five years. It should be concluded by 3:30 or 4:00 PM after which a critique will take place.

Stanislaus County ARRL Emergency Coordinator, Allen Woods, WA6OYF, was introduced and gave a short presentation describing some specific activities Amateurs will be involved in. Ernie, K6UVI volunteered to coordinate drill assignments for members of SARA.

The treasurer's report was given by Al, N6SAE. The General Fund shows a present balance of \$1,375.61 after 8 debits of \$1,103.11 and 3 credits of \$392.25. The Fund Raiser Account shows a balance of \$471.07 after 1 debit to the General Fund for \$285.50 and 1 credit for \$27.00. The Education Account shows a balance of \$739.13 after no debits and 1 credit of \$67.36. The report was accepted.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in The READOUT. Vice President, Dave, N6YHZ, asked for Field Day volunteers. So far only Technician class operators had expressed an interest. Higher license classes are needed. Field Day is to take place on June 29th and 30th. The fund raiser raffle winner will be drawn during Field Day.

The new Spectrum repeater is up on the hill and operating. The ten meter digi replacement antenna was purchased and will be installed shortly. The new 440 duplexers and machine are up and working. Within 2-3 weeks the autopatch should be repaired as should the rest of the equipment.

Jim Shea, KB5FB, presented the club's raffle tickets that he designed and printed. He donated his labor and printing costs to the club. Raffle tickets were available to members attending the meeting with the balance of members receiving their's by mail. Sales will begin immediately with Al, N6SAE in charge of the raffle tickets. Under old business, verbal thanks was expressed to those members who participated in and provided communication for the bike-a-thon held on April 13th.

Following the break at 8:27 PM, there was a short discussion of the club station and the contract with Downey High School that comes up for renewal shortly. Since Phil, WD0FFX negotiated the original contact and it was suggested that he do so again. Under new business, a letter of thanks was read from the staff chaplain of Desert Storm thanking club members for their support for the troops during their recent Iraqi war.

Jim, N6KMR, mentioned the upcoming transmitter hunt to take place on April 20th. Participation in manning the firework's stands again this year as a fund raiser was mentioned. Steve, N6EKV, is to help coordinate the manpower requirements. Linda, N6REB has asked to be relieved of her duties as club Secretary because of illness in her family. Ernie, K6UVI volunteered to complete her term and was appointed by the President to do so. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectively submitted, Ernie, K6UVI.

Chief Engineer's Report

I've made several trips to the mountain during the past month and old Murphy rode along for company. The autopatch is now operational using the same codes as we used in the past. The ACC controller is back on line. The linking will come soon.

I have spent much time attempting to locate a hum that has been plaguing the autopatch when it's connected to the ACC controller. I still haven't located the source.

The patch levels still need to be set and I think the PL on the down link

must be increased as it can be talked off. A new antenna has arrived for the ten meter digi and a mount has to be built for it. It should be back on the air soon. Again, my thanks to those who have accompanied me up the hill and to those who have helped.
73, LeRoy.

Observations

From page 3

ledging you're there. Another new ham feels unwelcome. Why not say hi? Invite them to the next club meeting. You don't have to exchange life stories, just say hi. Chances are that new ham is nervous and doesn't want to talk too long anyway. Now for my big pet peeve. Closed repeaters. Here in Southern California it is very difficult to find an open repeater. Almost impossible to find one that has wide area coverage.

I'm getting extremely tired of people telling me I can't use a particular frequency. "Sorry members only." "Well how do I become a member?" "You contact WX6XXX, and if he approves of you he can nominate you for membership." "And if he doesn't like me?" "Then you can't use this repeater." This is very close to the conversation I had with another ham on a 440 system here locally. Is this right? Isn't my Extra Class license good for all frequencies in the Amateur service?

The point is made that if you use a repeater than you should support it. I agree. But to exclude certain people? Only allow the select few the privilege? This isn't right. By doing this they have in effect torn off a little spectrum meant for all Amateurs and made it their own exclusively.

This is as I understand it, with the full approval of the coordinating committee. If this is not in violation of FCC rules, certainly it is a violation of the spirit of Amateur radio. Maybe a solution is to allow closed systems as long as no one wants the frequency for an open repeater. At that time the closed system would open, or they would loose the sanction. It's only fair. Can you imagine what all the new Amateurs who come to us through no-code are going to think when they're run off repeater after repeater because it's "closed"?

They'll think they could have stayed with CB and gotten that kind of abuse. I don't want you to think that I don't enjoy ham radio, because I certainly do. I've met some very fine people through the hobby and had some great QSO's. I get more enthusiastic about it every day. I want Amateur radio to grow. Not so the Japanese can sell more radios, but to have more people to share this great hobby with.

Next time I want to talk about ground systems. Seems there is a lot of confusion on this subject. Maybe I can answer some questions you've always had on this topic. I'll try.

Comments are appreciated and can be directed to the editor of this newsletter or to me at my packet address: N6ZUC @ AA6QU.#SOCA.CA.USA.NA. I'll also be happy to take a shot at any questions you might have of a technical nature and could devote future articles to them.
.....73 Tim, N6ZUC, Escondido, CA.

Editor's Notes

From page 5

due to the protracted illness of her mother. I have worked with Linda the nearly two and half years that she has been our Secretary and I have enjoyed ever minute of it. She was a hard working, capable and dependable secretary. Her proficiency with computers and packet allowed her to prepare the minutes for the newsletter quickly and accurately and transmit them quickly to me via packet. I never had to worry about the minutes being on time or having to type them up because of Linda. It was a distinct pleasure working with her and I will miss her. My sadness is tempered only by the knowledge that the newly appointed Secretary will do an equally good job. We are fortunate to have Ernie, K6UVI, to step into the office. He also possesses those qualities needed to do the job. However, he's not as good looking as Linda. HI HI.

- SARA member Tesibell, KC6LVT, is looking for a good buy on a two meter rig. If you have one at a good price, give her a call at 823-2041 in Manteca.

- Coming up this summer in *The READOUT* will be technical articles from certified engineer Tim Low, N6ZUC; a story of the voice of the Grand Ole Opry, WSM, in Nashville, Tn. and all you wanted to know about cellular phones.

- This is the last call for Field Day. If we don't get some more volunteers for the last weekend in June, the event will have to be canceled. Contact Dave, N6YHZ, at 576-8730. If we get enough volunteers, the event will be held at the Nile Garden school in Ripon.

- Welcome back old members Tom Farr, WJ6O, formerly of Turlock. Tom has moved to the outskirts of Denair where, among other things, he has more room for his antennas. Charlie and Jo Anne Shaffer, KJ8GE & N6SAH. Welcome back Ken Pinnon, WD6EOO. Welcome new members Jim Masiclat, KC6TFC of Merced. William W. Borba, (call pending) of Modesto and Rob Carlson, KC6TFG. Both earned a free membership in SARA for 1991 as graduates of the SARA license class currently underway at Downey High.

- Hoping to capitalize on the anticipated infusion of new hams, 73 magazine publisher Wayne Green, W2NSD/1, plans to debut a new publication called "Radio Fun". It will be initially distributed free to 20,000 newly licensed Novices and Techs.

- The FCC in Gettysburg, PA now has a new computer type telephone answering system. You can call after hours get information on various matters. The number is (717) 337-1212. That's it for this month! 73, Bob

Calendar

May 11, 1991TARC Auction 10 am
May 18, 1991VE Testing Turlock 9 am
May 21, 1991SARA Monthly Meeting 730 pm
June 1, 1991VE Testing Modesto 9 am
June 18, 1991SARA Monthly Meeting 730 pm
June 29 -30, 1991Field Day 24 Hrs
July 16, 1991SARA Monthly Meeting 730 pm
Sept 7, 1991VE Testing Modesto 9 am
Nov. 16, 1991VE Testing Sonora 9 am
Nov 19, 1991SARA Monthly Meeting 730 pm
Dec. 7, 1991VE Testing Modesto 9 am

SARA meets the thrid Tuesday of each month (except holidays) at the Stanislaus County Administration Building at 12th and H streets in downtown Modesto. The meetings are held in the lower-level conference room starting at 730 pm. Visitors and interested parties are most welcome. SARA is an ARRL Affiliated Club and is affiliated with Stanislaus County and City of Modesto RACES. Repeaters WD6EJF operated on 145.39, 223.68 & 440.225 MHz. Informational nets are held each Thursday evening at 800 pm.

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The Next SARA Meeting is May 21, 1991 at 730 pm.