



The READOUT

Year 16 Number 6 June 1994

The official newsletter of the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

A No-code fable

The story of Digipeter Rabbit

By Frank Terranella, N2IGO

Once upon a time, in the far-away kingdom of Radio, there was a peaceful valley called Hamville, inhabited by a group of rabbits. Hamville was originally settled by the Whiskey Family and the patriarch of that family was an old hare called Charlie Whiskey.

Charlie Whiskey was a farmer by trade. He came to the beautiful valley of Hamville when it was all open meadows. He saw the potential for farming the vacant land and over time he developed a thriving carrot plantation. Charlie Whiskey's carrot plantation was the envy of all the inhabitants of the kingdom of Radio. He succeeded year after year in producing a bumper crop of carrots. All the other residents of the kingdom came to Charlie for advice on planting carrots. Charlie would always tell them, "The secret's in developing a good ear." No, Charlie didn't have superior hearing but he had developed a very special skill. You see, Charlie picked his carrots with his ears.

20 carrots per minute

In fact, Charlie had worked hard at perfecting this skill and was able to harvest at better than 20 carrots a minute. All of Charlie's family learned to pick carrots with their ears. Soon they were all picking at better than 20 carrots a minute. Charlie was so proud of his special skill that he insisted that everyone who came to work at Hamville first show that he

could pick carrots with his ears. Charlie would not give new settlers any land unless they could demonstrate to his foreman, Victor Echo, that they could pick at least 5 carrots a minute with their ears. When they could pick 13 carrots a minute, Charlie gave them more land to work. When they were able to pick carrots by ear at the rate of 20 a minute, Charlie made them full citizens of Hamville.

Quackers

This process of learning to pick carrots with their ears went on for some time. In other parts of the kingdom of Radio other rabbits began to pick carrots by ear. However, there were some noisy ducks, known as the Quackers, who lived in the community of Good Buddy. They used their mouths to pick their crops instead of their ears. They had much larger

See "Rabbits" page 10

**SARA Field Day
June 25 & 26, 1994**

**Big Meadow State Park, Aprox. 20 miles NE of Arnold on Hwy 4.
Contact Ernie, K6UVI, 838-2921 for more info. You're Invited!**

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SARA VHF Net

Thursdays @ 8 P.M.
(Except Holidays)

2 meters 145.39 MHz WD6EJF

220 Band 224.14 MHz WD6EJF

10 Meters 28,440 kHz USB

Tuesdays at 730 P.M.

ARES Net Wednesday 800 P.M.

Contributions to The READOUT are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor by mail or via packet at KD6JZZ-2 BBS on 144.97 MHz, or directly at my PBBS, WA6ZLO-1 on 144.91 MHz. If you can't reach my PBBS direct on 144.91, use the SARA Node. Type "C SARA" then "C WA6ZLO-1." The deadline for articles is the 15th of the preceding month. Articles regarding religion or politics are not accepted.

Editor

Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO
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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.

Amateur Radio Call Signs

As of April 1994:

Radio District	Grp. A Extra	Grp. B Advanced	Grp C Tech/Gen	Grp D Novice
0	AA0QI	KGBLO	(***)	KB8LYV
1	AA1IV	KD1TZ	NIRMF	KB1BGS
2	AA2RH	KF2UA	N2YBR	KB2QXD
3	AA3HG	KE3MC	N3RPA	KB3BBC
4	AD4QG	KR4NY	(***)	KE4KAL
5	AB5TB	KJSVI	(***)	KC5FON
6	AC6AP	KN6YT	(***)	KE6FTE
7	AB7BL	KI6NH	(***)	KC7BDO
8	AA8OI	KG8HH	(***)	KB8RSM
9	AA9KI	KF9UM	N9EHC	KB9IXF
N.Mariana Is.	AH8W	AH8AQ	KH8CK	WH8AA
Guam	WH2D	AH2CU	KH2JB	WH2ANK
Johnston Is.	AH3D	AH3AD	KH3AG	WH3AAG
Midway Island		AH4AA	KH4AG	WH4AAH
Hawaii	(**)	AH6NF	WH6SV	WH6CRD
Kure Island			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH81	AH8AG	KH8BB	WH8ABB
Wake W. Peale	AH9C	AH9AD	KH9AE	WH9AAI
Alaska	(**)	AL7PO	WL7QW	WL7CHL
Virgin Islands	WP2G	KP2CC	NP2HGW	N2AHU
Puerto Rico	(**)	KP4WM	(***)	WP4MNW

(***)= All group "C" calls have been issued. Group "D" calls will be issued for this class.

ARRL makes suggestions to FCC regarding Vanity callsigns

The American Radio Relay League Committee on developing a response to the FCC's Vanity Callsign proposal made the following recommendations:

- (1.)— All amateurs be eligible for participation in the program after an initial phase in period.
- (2.)— The \$70.00 Regulatory fee set by congress (\$7.00 a year for 10 years) should be charged to one time administrative processing fee.
- (3.)— Any callsign held prior to the start of this program shall be considered a sequential callsign and exempt from any fee.
- (4.)— A phase-in period should be adopted to allow the Commission a chance to process the expected heavy

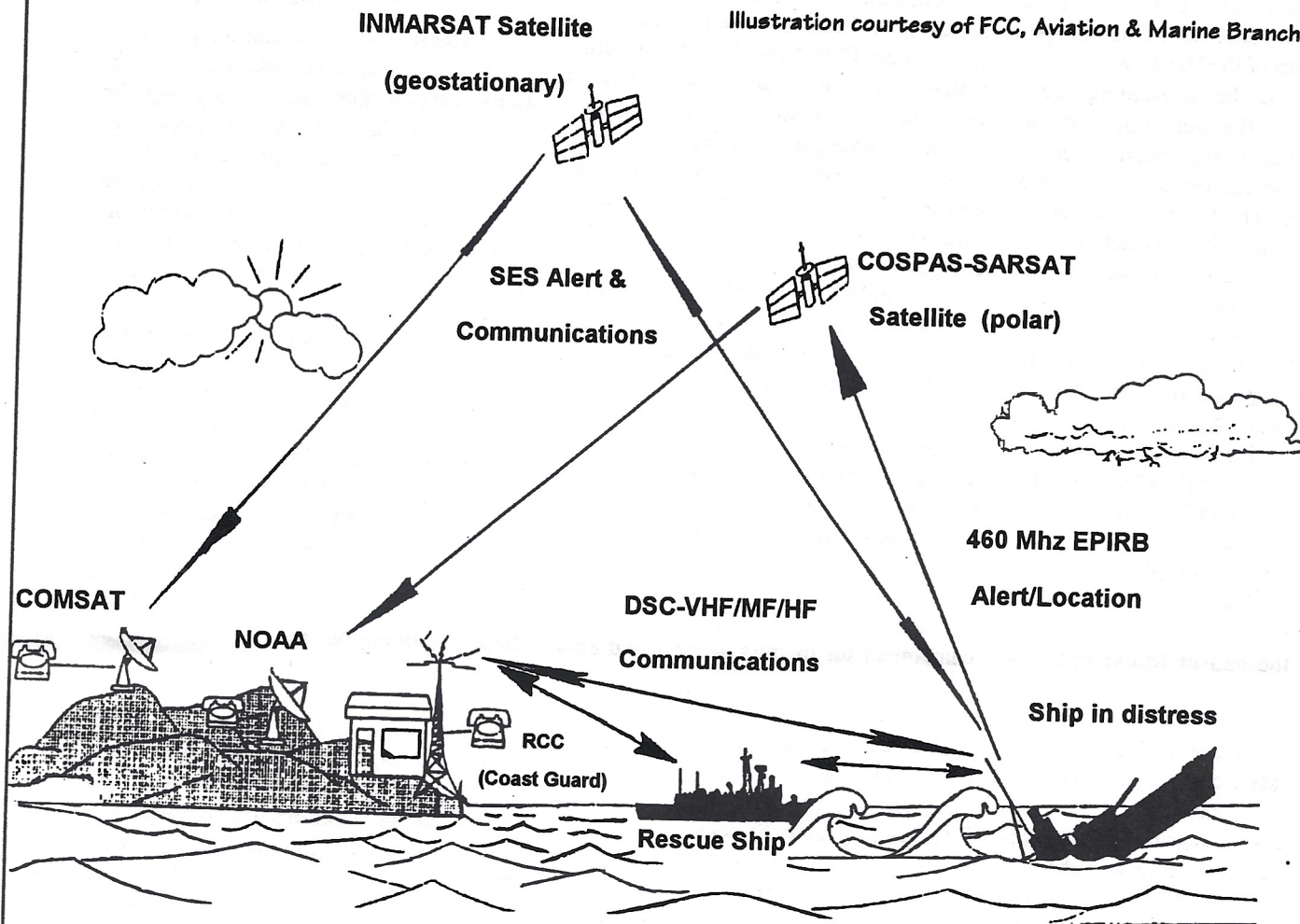
initial submission of vanity callsign applications since no additional FCC application processing manpower will be available.

- (5.)— Phase-in periods may be perceived as "gates". As each succeeding gate opens it will admit applications from a new group as well as any group allowed by a previous gate. Gate one— would allow applications from holders of previous callsigns who have lost their original call through failure to renew at the proper time or having moved from one location to another mandating a change of callsign. A callsign could be recovered even a it did not match the applicants current permanent address, included in this group

See "Vanity Calls" page 11

Satellites replace Morse code at sea

Illustration courtesy of FCC, Aviation & Marine Branch



An Example of GMDSS Communications

A "float-free" 406 MHz Emergency Position-Indicating Radio beacon (EPIRB) will automatically transmit a distress signal from a sinking ship through the COSPAS-SARSAT geostationary satellite. Direct ship-to-shore communications is also available through the INMARSAT geostationary satellite. New direct ship-to-ship or ship-to-shore communications using HF/MF or VHF digital selective calling (DSC) to the Rescue Coordination Center. In the United States, the designed RCC is the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System—known primarily by the acronym GMDSS—represents the biggest improvement in marine safety since the first maritime regulations were enacted following the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

It is an automated ship-to-shore distress alerting system that relies on satellite and advanced land-based communications. By incorporating these in-

novative techniques into the safety system and using ship-to-shore communications links, the GMDSS will significantly improve safety of life and property at sea throughout the world.

The current distress and safety plan at sea is primarily a manual, ship-to-ship system that relies on Morse code radio telegraphy on 500 kHz and voice telephony on 2182 kHz and 156.8 MHz (VHF Channel 16). Its effectiveness depends on the location of the nearest vessel, radio wave

propagation conditions, and the technical proficiency of the radio officer.

Under the GMDSS, licensed radio operators on board GMDSS equipped ships, will use modern equipment to send distress alerts over long distances with assurance that they will be received on shore.

The GMDSS represents more than a decade of work by the London-based

See "GMDSS" page 4

GMDSS

from page 4

International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) headquartered in Geneva. Both the IMO and ITU are specialized agencies of the United Nations.

The IMO is the international governing body for the maritime service. Among its duties is the specification of equipment to be carried aboard certain classes of ships. The IMO is made up of representatives from sixty-six nations that account for more than 97 percent of the world's ocean shipping.

Nearly 200 nations strong, the ITU meets regularly to agree on radio operating procedures and on the allocation of radio frequencies. At the 1987 World Administrative Radio Conference for Mobile Services (MOB-87), the ITU adopted GMDSS associated revisions to the Radio Regulations.

A year later, world shipping leaders gave the go-ahead for the introduction of new automatic communications that would mean the end of Morse code for ships at sea. The IMO amended the 1974 SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) Convention to implement the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System internationally. They called the decision "...one of the biggest advances in maritime communications since the introduction of radio."

In an October 1990 proceeding, the Federal Communications Commission said they would adopt the international GMDSS provisions for U.S. "compulsory" vessels. A compulsory ship is defined as a large cargo ship of 300 tons gross tonnage and over, and all passenger vessels that carry more than twelve passengers regardless of their size. Compulsory ships are required by law to carry certain radio equipment and personnel for safety purposes.

The FCC telecommunications regulations are contained in Title 47 of the Communications Act. Part 13 of Title 47 covers commercial radio operator qualifications, licenses and examinations. The Part 80 Maritime Service rules specify the radio operator, practices and equipment carriage requirements aboard U.S. vessels. These regulations are based on the international and domestic requirements

of the 1974 SOLAS Convention and the U.S. Communications Act.

Just what is the GMDSS?

Basically it is a sophisticated ship-to-shore alerting system with ship-to-ship capability. Actually it is made up of several communications systems, some of which have been in operation for many years. The COSPAS-SARSAT satellite system, which has been in operation since 1982, provides distress alerting using a 406 MHz emergency position indicating radio beacon (commonly referred to as an EPIRB.) This radio beacon automatically gives the ship's position and must be able to float free if the ship sinks.

COSPAS-SARSAT is a joint international satellite-based search and rescue (SAR) system established in Canada, France, USSR and the United States to locate emergency radio beacons transmitting on 121.5 and 406 MHz. The U.S. satellites in this system also receive on 243 MHz.

The International Maritime Satellite Organization's (INMARSAT) maritime mobile satellite system has also been in operation since 1982 and forms a major component for distress alerting and communications. In addition to the satellites, new automated terrestrial data systems and existing systems are combined into one overall communications system which together make up the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System.

The GMDSS will provide for new digital selective calling (DSC) services on the high frequency (HF), medium frequency (MF) or very high frequency (VHF) bands depending upon the ship in distress. These new DSC services will be used for ship-to-ship, ship-to-shore, and shore-to-ship automatic alerting, while existing terrestrial HF, MF and VHF radiotelephony equipment provide distress, urgent and safety related communications.

The GMDSS will enhance search and rescue operations at sea through the use of the new 9 GHz search and rescue transponder (SART). Finally it will create a global network for the dissemination of maritime safety information (MSI) using three systems: NAVTEX, INMARSAT enhanced group calling (EGC), and HF narrow-band direct-printing (NBDP) radiotelegraphy. Manual Morse code is not part of GMDSS at all.

The two most notable features of the

system are that it is based on sea areas of operation and that it offers multiple communications options. These areas will be established by individual countries, which equip their shore stations with appropriate VHF, MF, HF or satellite facilities to "cover" particular segments of ocean.

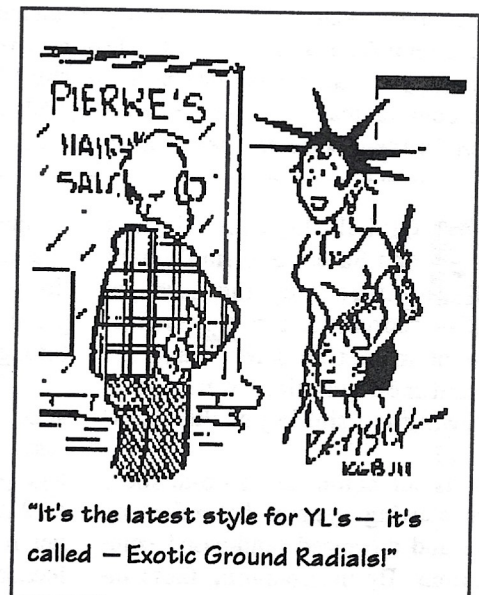
Multiple communications options

The second significant feature of the GMDSS, multiple communications options, ensures that each ship using the GMDSS will have at least two options of distress alerting appropriate to its sea area. This redundancy will minimize the chance that a ship in distress will be unable to communicate because of a significant improvement over the current distress system.

The basic concept of the GMDSS is that SAR authorities on shore, as well as shipping in the immediate vicinity of the ship in distress, can be rapidly alerted to a distress incident. The shore-based authorities designated as a Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) can then assist in coordinating rescue operations with minimal delay. In the United States, the Coast Guard is the designated maritime SAR organization and will operate the necessary RCCs.

GMDSS ships must carry two GMDSS qualified radio operators for distress and safety radio communications purposes. These personnel should be holders of the GMDSS Radio Operator's License. (GMDSS/O). One shall be designated to have primary responsibility for radio communications during distress incidents.

WSYI Report



Orange County Superior Court issues restraining orders against two more hams

Two more southern California hams accused by the Claremont Amateur Repeater Association (CLARA) of harassing the club's two meter repeater have been ordered by a state civil court to stay away.

The latest ruling comes only a month after CLARA successfully obtaining a restraining order against Tim Seawolf, KJ5KE, that bars his operation on or near frequencies maintained for use by the CLARA.

On March 24, 1994, the club was

in court again seeking a similar ruling against Drew Feldman, N3KSO, and Anthony Cardenes, WA6IGJ. The restraining orders were granted and the defendants were ordered not to use the CLARA repeaters, nor its assigned frequencies, and to keep one hundred yards away from the meeting site of CLARA. The club was also awarded attorneys costs and fees in the amount of \$3000 to be paid by the defendants at a rate \$30 a piece on the first and fifteenth of each month until their debt is paid off.

Gary Krist, KI6FG, President of the Claremont Repeater group, said their court actions are not over yet. He said CLARA still has several other legal actions pending or planned. This, to insure that those it deemed to be "undesirable" are kept off the clubs repeaters and away from harassing its members. Cardenes did not indicate whether or not they plan to file an appeal.

Judge Robert Hutson, who commented in his ruling that state courts, in his opinion, have jurisdiction over the on-the-air activities of ham radio operators, cited §97.205 (e) of the FCC rules in making his decision.

The latest revision of §97.205, (e) of the Amateur Radio rules and regulations states in part that repeater owners can limit the use of their repeater(s) to certain individuals. It was only after talking to Sidney Radus, N6OMS, the attorney for CLARA, that the scope of Judge Hutson's decision became evident.

The argument that the other side was making was that only a federal court had jurisdiction and that the federal government had preempted all of these areas. Judge Hutson agreed that federal law applied, but state and local law also applied, therefore there is no preemption and the states are free to act.

Attorney Radus added that it was his view that this loophole in federal regulation applies only to the on the air operation of a radio amateur in cases where his or her operation may cause harm to other hams. He doubts that it could be construed as giving states and municipalities total control over Amateur Radio operations because this appears to be the only place in Part 97 where the FCC gives any authority to other jurisdictions.

Most other experts in ham radio legal issues seem to agree with Mr. Radus. The restraining orders against Cardenes and Feldman came a little more than a month after another Orange County Superior Court judge granted the clubs request for a similar order against Tim W. Seawolf, KJ5KE. Its reported that Feldman has announced, on the air, that he will be filing an appeal.

Thanks Amateur Radio Newslite

Repeater privileges revoked

As reported last month, a mentally handicapped Modesto ham operator had been deliberately using foul and obscene language and jamming the SARA two meter machine. Last month a certified letter was sent to the responsible individual advising him that his privilege to use any of SARA's repeaters had been permanently revoked. The letter was received and signed for by the responsible.

SARA acted under the authority of section 97.205 (e) which gives repeater owners the right to limit use of their repeater to certain individuals. This rule has been on the books for years but not used until a recent interpretation of it was given by FCC Private Radio Branch Chief, John Johnston, W3BE.

Johnston responded to a letter he received from a southern California repeater group, (CLARA), asking for an interpretation of the rule. In response, Johnston wrote— "without qualification, rule §97.205 (e) permits the individual responsible for proper operation of a repeater to limit the use of the repeater to certain stations."

As of this date, the individual causing the problems on the SARA repeater has not been heard since he received our letter. A few unidentified jamming type carriers may have come from him and are being checked out.

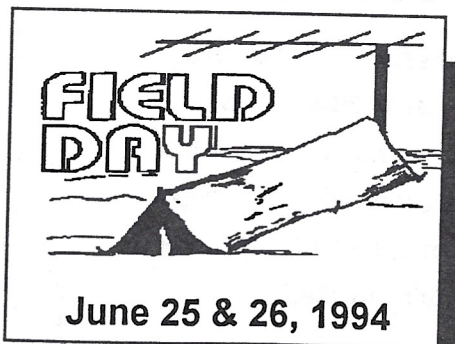
RF harmonics traced to unlikely source

A local Amateur radio operator notified a nearby AM broadcast station of harmonic radiation he was receiving at his home. The station Chief Engineer (CE) measured his harmonics at the station and found none to exceed FCC limits. The frustrated HAM called the FCC, which sent an inspector to his home.

Sure enough, excessive harmonic radiation from the AM station was measured. The inspector then went to the station. where the surprised CE asked to see the harmonic measurement demonstrated in his presence. Guess what... no excessive harmonics! Again, there were plenty of measurable harmonics on the second visit to the HAM's residence.

In the end, the problem was found to be caused by a neighbor's loose rain gutter. The spout was acting like an antenna. making intermittent contact— (diode effect) and reradiating the signal.

Thanks RadioWorld and N6ZUC



Cheap phones invite RFI and hostile neighbors

By Ron Moorefield, W8ILC

An annoying type of interference experienced at residences and businesses involves telephones. This type of interference is not new, but has increased due to the kinds of equipment being used.

Background

Older rotary dial telephones are the least affected by powerful radio transmissions. When rotary dial type telephones are located near high power radio broadcast transmitters, they rarely suffered interference. However, telephone companies developed easy, economical solutions to interference for telephones of this type.

Just a few years ago, the giant telecommunications firm, American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T), was broken up by a judicial decision which ruled that the firm was a monopoly which violated anti-trust laws. This break-up opened the door for competition in all aspects of the telephone business.

As a result of the break-up, American consumers were faced with several choices in long-distance telephone service, as well as the types of telephones they could use. Local telephone companies were required to allow customers to buy their own telephones from a variety of sources, and plug them into the tele-

phone lines. Most people selected inexpensive telephones which were not designed in the same way as the older dial-type telephones. Although the new telephones have many desirable new features, the design changes made nearly every single new telephone far more susceptible to interference.

Understandably, local telephone companies now refuse to fix any problems with consumer-owned telephones. However, if you lease or rent your telephone directly from the telephone company, they will help resolve interference problems. Fortunately, there are several methods which help suppress telephone interference. Among these methods are

telephone line filters and "chokes" which can be purchased from private vendors. These filters are also available from a variety of sources, such as local telephone company stores and electronics dealers. These filters can be

plugged into your telephone system as shown in figure 1.

The FCC has made a recent study on many varieties of telephones and finds there is a serious problem. The ARRL has copies of this study which anyone can obtain by sending an SASE with two units of postage to ARRL, requesting it.

Thanks RF-Carrier Dayton, Ohio ARC

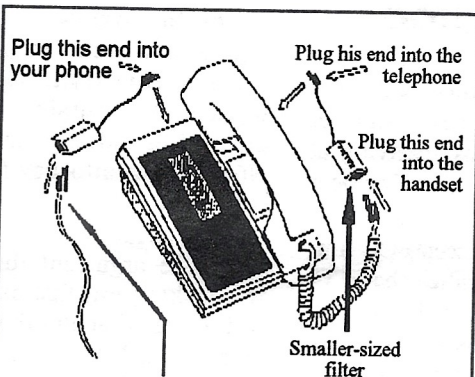


Figure 1

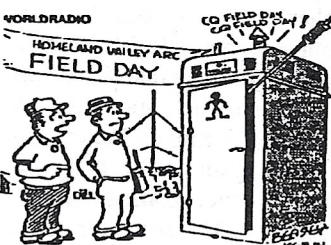
What to do if you are sued over RFI

By Ron Moorefield, W8ILC

In rare instances, neighbors take Amateurs to court over RFI matters. If this happens to you, call ARRL HQ immediately and obtain the name of an ARRL Volunteer Counsel (VC) in your area. A VC is a lawyer who is familiar with Amateur Radio. Since law is their livelihood, they are not expected to always give free advice.

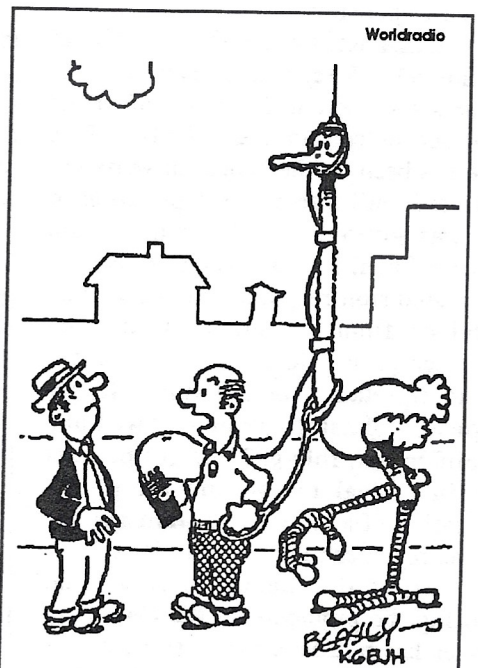
VC's have indicated that the initial consultation is always without charge, and they often give reduced rates to fellow amateurs. Never try to defuse the situation without the aid of a lawyer, even when the law is on the side of Amateur radio.

While the courts clearly do not have jurisdiction over RFI matters, preparing to appear before a judge is potentially expensive. A VC can often resolve the matter before the Amateur is taken to court. A neighbor may call the police and try to have an amateur declared a "public nuisance" for causing interference. Only the FCC has jurisdiction over RFI cases!



"Boy, you sure have to hand it to ol' Les-- he doesn't waste a valuable minute!"

1994 SARA Field Day
 Big Meadow State Park
 Hwy 4 approx 20 NE of Arnold
 Sat. & Sun June 25 & 26, 1994
 Chariman Ernie, K6UVI, 838-2921
 You're Invited!



"I should get out like gangbusters, but I guess I don't have a good ground plane effect!"



Editor's Notes

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

Thanks to Jim Shea, KB5FB, we have found someone to print our newsletter at a much better price. After reading about the demise of Budget Copy and the increased of approximately \$60.00 being charged by the new printer, Jim offered to print the newsletter for \$106.22 a month. This is a saving of almost \$42.00 a month in the amount (\$148.00) being charged by our last printer. Jim's proposal was presented to the April meeting of *SARA* and accepted. The first printing by Jim was the May, 1994, issue.

Jim owns and operates the Mail Boxes, Etc. store at 729 N. Golden State Blvd. in Turlock and uses the copy machines in his lobby to run off the newsletter. Jim also offered to give all members of *SARA* a 10% discount of all products and services, except fixed cost items such as stamps, meter mail, Western Union, Money Orders and consignment items. All you have to do is drop by the store and mention you are member of *SARA*. Jim will check your name against the roster and if your name is there, you get the 10% discount. While you are there, be sure and thank Jim for doing the newsletter at a price we can live with.

—My wife Donna and I spent the last two weeks of April in the midwest on vacation. We spent the first couple of days in New Orleans enjoying the French Quarter and the bayou country. We then rented a car and drove upstate through Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and into Branson, Missouri. We were lucky and had perfect weather all the way. The thing that struck us most was the beautiful countryside in those states and the friendly people.

With an ample amount of rain year round, the grass along the freeways is always green and well manicured. California complains it can't afford to mow the grass along its freeways, but the poorest states in the union find the time and money to keep theirs looking beautiful.

We stopped in Vicksburg, Mississippi and visited the Civil War Memorial on the banks of the great Mississippi River. If you are ever in that part of the county you must stop and visit this site. The

lush green rolling hills are lined with monuments to the people and sites of this great civil war battle. One of the ironside warships used in the Civil War is on display here. It was sunk by Union forces during the fight at Vicksburg and dredged up from the muddy bottom of the Mississippi River about 30 years ago and partially restored. The tour of the memorial takes visitors along a 16 mile route with an audio cassette you can purchase at the visitors center to point out all the sites as you pass by.

From Vicksburg, we drove through Arkansas and into the Ozark mountains above Conway, Arkansas. This is beautiful country, and again, the thing that struck Donna and I most was the care of the freeways and highways taken by the state. It appeared every homeowner had their own riding mower and they used them to keep things clean and well manicured.

With the exception of the Ozarks, the country back there is flat and lush because of the plentiful rainfall. The number of tall communications towers were too numerous to count. Most of them, I'm sure, were put up to provide cellular telephone service to this part of the county.

When we arrived at Branson we were amazed at the amount of traffic in this small part of SW Missouri. In case you haven't heard, Branson has become the Las Vegas of the middle west with several large theaters built there in the last several years. Big name stars like Bobby Vinton, Andy Williams, Ray Stevens, Barbara Mandrell, Roy Clark and others, perform there regularly. The amount of building going on there is commensurate with the price of real estate, which has gone out of site.

It was at Branson that I heard my very first real EBS (Emergency Broadcast System) alert. It was an eerie feeling. The alert tone was sounded by a local radio station who announced the U.S. Weather Service had issued a tornado warning for several counties in the immediate area. We were just going into a restaurant for dinner when we heard the announcement and the

weather at the time was overcast and looked threatening. As we entered the restaurant, we found a group of people waiting in the lobby to be seated, so we put our name on the list and waited also. We struck up a conversation with a couple of local residents who had seen their share of tornados in the past. We learned the last time one hit Branson was about twenty years ago—as a matter of fact, its path carried it right over the spot where we were standing, according to the locals.

They asked where we were from. I said, "California— and we would take an earthquake over a tornado anytime." They laughed and said that there was nothing to worry about. I asked how you knew if one was going to hit where you are. They said you could usually see them coming, but in any case watch the wind. "What about the wind?" I asked. They said when it gets quiet and real still, watch out! We spent dinner looking out the window at a nearby tree and its leaves rustling in the breeze.

As it turned out, no tornados touched down in our area and the next day we left for Springfield, Missouri where we boarded a United flight for home. I now have a much better understanding of what causes Tornados. While in New Orleans and the Louisiana bayou country, we notice the high humidity. Many times the humidity was the same as the temperature. The farther inland (north) you go you get away from the humidity and get into cooler air. It's the clash of the cooler air and the warm humid air from the Gulf of Mexico that cause the violent storms that spawn tornados.

You can appreciate the hams who live in these areas of the midwest, many of whom provide valuable communications before, during and after, these devastating storms hit their areas. We were glad that was our last day in the area. In any event, we enjoyed the trip and are glad to be home. 73, Bob



SARA Minutes

By Ernie Rader, K6UVI, Acting Secretary

The regular monthly SARA meeting was called to order by President Liz, KD6GIW at 7:32 PM on May 17, 1994. Members and guests introduced themselves as 33 people signed in. Neither the club president or vice president had anything to present to the group. The minutes were approved as printed in the previous **READOUT**, and it was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the treasurer's report as follows:

Month of April 1994:

Expenses: \$29.00
Income: \$113.85
Balance: \$2,251.17

Chief Engineer LeRoy, NV6S, reported that everything on the hill is working other than some of the levels are set a bit hot. He won't be able to work on it for awhile due to other commitments, but he and Alex will want to spend some time with the controller in the near future.

Under Old Business, Ernie, K6UVI, reported that preparations for Field Day are

well in hand, and showed a 7 minute video taken at the FD site. Rita showed a stuffed pig to be used as one of the prizes for the "Left Foot and Fanny" CW contest to be held then.

Ernie reported that there was nothing further on the restoration of the communications trailer.

Mark reported that the Mini-HamFest preparations are ongoing and he recommends the Sun Dial Lodge to be used for the event. Steve, KD6YCB, suggested another place featuring a buffet, and he's to get with Mark with all the information.

The chairperson of the yearly fundraiser wasn't present, so there was no report there.

Ernie read a nice "thank you" letter from Debra Hammon of The American Diabetes Association thanking us for our communication assistance during their Tour de Cure. He also passed around some pictures taken during the event.

Under New Business, June 11th is to be the Graffiti bike ride and fund raiser for The Rotary Club. They will be using the same

route into Del Puerto Canyon. Skip volunteered a remote base to be used on a previously found site which will cover the canyon road very well. There were enough radio operators that volunteered to take care of the slots needed for the bike-a-thon.

NV6S proposed the purchase of a Phelps-Dodge Stationmaster vertical antenna for the low level repeater and was authorized to spend no more than \$200.00 for it. KD6YCB, proposed a life-time membership for LeRoy in thanks for all the work he's done on the repeater and associated equipment, but was told that other things were in the mill.

The evening's speaker was Brenda Combs, an Explorer Scout executive. She told about the program and who was eligible to join. She also laid out the sponsorship requirements saying new programs are best started in the fall. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM followed by coffee and donuts. Respectfully submitted, Ernie Rader, K6UVI, Acting Secretary.



Technical Report

By LeRoy Campbell, NV6S

The technical front has been pretty quiet this month. I've had many family chores that simply cannot be put off and the technical duties will have to wait.

I am hoping to get caught up enough to do more work on the links and also I have an additional control operator device to install to improve the system security. The modulation is too high for the ACC controller and is creating a square wave there on signals that are driven near the limit. The transmitter is not over modulated but it can sound pretty bad. Until I can make adjustments there I hope people will remember to back away from the microphone a bit.

Aside from modulation problem the Micor repeater is performing nicely. The packet interference has not been heard although a packet signal was deliberately used to jam the repeater at one time. The low level machine sits herein my garage awaiting a frequency and new crystals. I hope to get that going this summer.

Thanks to all who have helped me with the technical chores. 73 LeRoy

June 25 & 26

SARA Field Day plans set

By Ernie Rader, K6UVI

AI the arrangements have been made for this years SARA Field Day at Big Meadow state park on Hwy. 4 above Arnold, CA. There is plenty of parking for RVs and cars as well, and the area is large enough to install a Rhombic antenna if we want. Big Meadow is just 22 minutes further east of Calavares Big Trees on Hwy 4 at an elevation of 6350 feet. Bring lots of warm clothes and hot food. It gets pretty cold up there at night.

The itinerary for both Lake Alpine and Big Tree hasn't been posted as yet, but it should be soon. My wife Rita, will make another trip up before Field Day so activities for those who aren't going to operate on the air will be available. Rita is making some stuffed pigs (Ham operators? Pigs? Get it?) for prizes for the

"Left Foot and Fanny" CW contest to be held that weekend, and several others are going to make additional prizes as well.

We tentatively have a transceiver and accompanying antenna for each of the five HF bands, so there will be plenty of opportunity for everyone to get on the air. We would particularly invite those without HF privileges to come and have fun. The club's extra class station license will allow everyone to work those in the lowest portions of each of the bands even if you're not personally licensed to do so. There will be plenty of us old timers to help you with your first HF contacts. After the first two or three, the rest are a piece of cake.

So plan to come to the premier event of the year, and join us during the last weekend in June. It's the nationwide event where we test our abilities to operate under emergency conditions, and have a good time also.

FROM THE DESK OF

Tim Low, N6ZUC

In the May 1994 issue of **The READOUT**, I reviewed one of the packet programs I like to use. Just to recap, in order for a packet program to sit atop my list, it must have several distinguishing features. The most important of which, is that it must be cheap, or better yet, free. As such, we delve further into the world of Freeware and Shareware.

The program I use most is the 17th beta, or test version of the popular Packet Gold program. The newest version is a full blown, full featured program that is sold by most Ham Radio stores. It's not shareware, and is rather expensive. The original software was shareware, and you can still find it on Amateur Bulletin Boards, and at swap meets. The author, Lynn W. Taylor, WB6UUT, requests the donation of \$20 for continued use of this program, and that's a bargain for a program of this type.

This program utilizes the PK-87, PK-88 or PK-232 host mode. Splits all the 10 available packet channels, and allows a separate monitor. This channelization allows you to easily juggle 10 different packet connects at once, all while keeping track of the traffic on the frequency in use. Many times I will be chatting with one of the locals on ch. 1, checking into the PBBS for my mail, and working the worm hole to England on another, all at the same time.

Before running this program for the first time, you need to run a utility called Pinstall, which comes in the software package. This will allow you to tell the program what type of monitor you have, what com port on your computer the TNC is attached to, the baud rate, screen colors and a whole host of other setups.

By using the Edituser utility, you can automate connects, which is a great time saver. If you have a long path thru several nodes to get to the station you want to work, these can all be entered and the

program will send out all the connects for you. Simply pull down the F7 menu, select the station, and hit enter, easy.

For setting TNC commands, the program features a dumb terminal mode too. This emulates your standard modem type programs. In order to set up your mail drop, you need the dumb terminal mode.

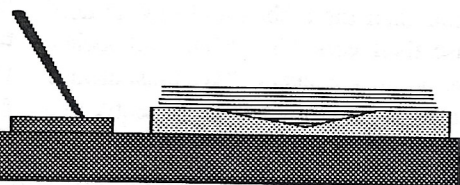
The program also has most of the Standard word processor features such as cut and paste. For instance let's say you have a connect on ch. 1, and you receive something you want to pass on to the person on ch. 2. You can lift out that portion of the received text, and copy it to ch. 2 and send it. You can pull up text files from your hard drive or floppies, and pass them on too. If you want to save something, you can save it to your disk drive, or you can print it.

With it, you can also pass programs via packet, just as you would with a telephone modem. It will also pass the complete ASCII set, which allows you to send and receive some limited graphics.

There is a particular lazy mans feature that I like, and that's line wrap, and left and right justification. I don't have to worry about hitting the return key at the end of a line, the program will do it for me. All I do is type. For someone with limited skills in that area, it's a good feature to have.

The program comes with some pretty good documentation in the form of a text file, which of course you can print out if you wish. It has a pretty good on line help screen too, toggled by the F1 key. It gives you all the F key and alt F key functions, and what they do for you.

The full blown program has some improved features over my beta version, but as I said before it's rather high in price. If you aren't scarred away by that, I'd say go for the full, latest version. There is a test drive version of the latest addition available for you to try out. You might consid-



er downloading it and giving it a try before you send in your money for the beta model. For you Kantronics owners, there is also a test drive version called KA gold. Reports I get from its users, tell me it's also a great program.

There are many other packet programs to be found on your BBS. So many in fact, that I'm not sure I could find time to try them all out. Some of them I have tried, and aren't really worth the mention, but I'm equally sure there are many others that would work quite nicely. You might consider trying a few, and let us know via **The READOUT**. Don't forget that most of these are shareware, and means if you intend to use them for more than just a test period, the author deserves some monetary recognition.

Questions? Answers? Suggestions? Comments? Send them to me via packet at: N6ZUC @ KJ6VC .#SOCA. CA. USA.NA, or write me in care of **The READOUT**.



Rabbits

From front page

mouths than the rabbits and saw no need to use their ears. The rabbits all looked down on the Quackers. "We must always require ear harvesting skills for entry into Hamville," they said. "That way we will keep out those noisy Quackers."

So everyone who came to Hamville had to learn how to pick carrots by ear if they wanted to stay. Charlie Whiskey was adamant about that. "If you don't want to learn the skill of ear harvesting then go work in Good Buddy with the Quackers!" he would say.

As the years passed

And so the years passed and new methods of farming were developed. These new methods were easier to learn than ear harvesting, especially for the animals who didn't have the big ears that the rabbits had. What's more, the new methods were just as efficient as ear harvesting. As time went by, fewer and fewer of the young animals were willing to learn the skill of ear harvesting.

The population of Hamville began to dwindle and all the residents of Hamville were getting on in years. To make matters worse, there were new neighbors nearby who coveted the beautiful open farmland of Hamville. They wanted to come in and turn it into commercial uses like shopping centers. And worst of all, the pollution from the Quackers, the other Rabbits, and the Mice (known in Hamville as the QRM group) was having an adverse effect on farming in Hamville. The future looked bleak indeed.

Digipeter Rabbit came to town

Then one day, a stranger called Digipeter Rabbit came to Hamville. He was an educated rabbit who had studied at the School for Scientific Bunnies (SSB). He had majored in Farm Mechanics and knew all of the latest scientific agricultural methods. But for all his education and know-how, there was one thing that Digipeter could not do. He could not master the skill of picking carrots with his ears. And since he already knew how to pick carrots more efficiently with new scientific methods, he was not interested in learning.

Charlie Whiskey was outraged.

"What do you mean you won't learn to pick carrots with your ears? Why, we in Hamville have been picking carrots that way for 75 years. It's a tradition here. It shows that we are special and that we're better than the Quackers. If you don't have the desire to develop a good ear, then we don't want you here in Hamville."

But Digipeter was adamant. He saw no reason to learn an obsolete skill just to stay in Hamville and he refused to even try. Charlie Whiskey took the matter to the Ancient Royal Rabbit League, which he had founded. The ARRL decreed that everyone in Hamville must learn to pick carrots with his ears or be banished. And so Digipeter Rabbit left Hamville and founded his own village called Techietown.

The village of Techietown

Soon, all the young animals in the land of Radio were flocking to Techietown. But Digipeter had his own entrance requirement. A good ear and a good memory were not enough for him. Noone would stay in Techietown unless he could demonstrate technical knowledge, understanding and ability, and the desire to contribute to the advancement of Techietown.

Digipeter encouraged all the residents of Techietown to experiment in the cultivation of new unexplored lands, never before farmed. Digipeter showed them how to overcome pollution problems. He showed them how to use the land they had more efficiently. Digipeter even perfected a method of farming which allowed a number of rabbits to farm the same land at the same time. And while the residents of Hamville were picking 30 carrots a minute on a good day, in Techietown, harvests of 300 carrots a minute were possible.

Using Digipeter's methods, and those developed by the other bright young residents, Techietown soon became the most prosperous village in the kingdom of Radio. This did not escape the notice of the Field Carrot Council (FCC), which governed the kingdom of Radio. To reward the residents of Techietown for their contributions to the kingdom, the Field Carrot Council gave Techietown more and more land to work, until its borders touched those of Hamville.

Meanwhile, Hamville was still plod-

ding along as it always had, oblivious to the revolution in farming occurring around it. The old hares still picked carrots by ear.

The ARRL complained

The Ancient Royal Rabbit League (ARRL) complained bitterly to the Field Carrot Council about all the new land it was giving to Techietown, but the population of Hamville continued to drop. When the Field Carrot Council gave 2 acres of Hamville property to Techietown, the residents of Hamville began, for the first time, to be genuinely concerned about their plight. Some even dared to ask the Ancient Royal Rabbit League to change its mind about the need to pick carrots by ear to live in Hamville. "We need new blood here to fight off the Field Carrot Council," they said.

Charlie was furious

Charlie Whiskey, now in his nineties, was furious. "We have to maintain our standards. We don't need those smart young bunnies, we need rabbits skilled in our time-honored harvesting techniques. We need rabbits who are dedicated enough to the principles of Hamville to want to learn our methods. If a rabbit really wants to live here, he'll learn our ways. If he doesn't, we don't want him. You don't want those Quackers to move here do you?"

Writing on the wall

But by now the residents of Hamville had seen the writing on the wall. Although they genuinely enjoyed picking carrots with their ears, they realized that there were now other ways which yielded just as many carrots and though they would probably continue to pick carrots by ear as they always had, they could no longer shun those bright young rabbits who chose a more modern method. A group of rabbits led by an elder statesman rabbit named Elmer, who had once served in the government of the kingdom of Radio asked the Ancient Royal Rabbit League to change its policy. The League agreed and issued a decree that henceforth ear harvesting skills would not be required to become a resident of Hamville.

Envoys sent

When Digipeter Rabbit heard of the

See "Rabbits" page 11



ARRL Pacific Division Director's Report

By, Brad Wyatt, K6WR

Congressional Legislative Report:-

HJR 199 has 225 co-sponsors in the House for a majority of members. There are no new co-sponsors from the Pacific Division. With a majority we can now plan to bring up the resolution for consideration. The identical resolution in the Senate (SJR 90) now has 42 co-sponsors. We need 6 more for a majority in the Senate. In the Pacific Division, we still need to convince 11 California Congressmen. HR 2623 (Amateur Radio Volunteer Protection Act) has 73 co-sponsors in the House - not yet introduced in the Senate.

Rabbit

From page 10

he shared freely with the residents. The residents of Hamville seized upon the new knowledge and soon Hamville became revitalized. Its population began to increase as young rabbits were attracted to its bountiful open farmland. The Field Carrot Council, impressed by the renaissance in Hamville did not take away any more of its land, but actually gave same new territory to Hamville.

Everyone was amazed at the new vibrancy of Hamville. Charlie Whiskey, though sad that his beloved harvesting method was no longer in vogue, saw that his people were prospering and was glad. And to show that were no hard feelings, Charlie Whiskey sent Digipeter Rabbit a packet of 73 carrots which he had picked himself with his ears.

Residents rejoiced

The residents of Hamville rejoiced and declared a festival to celebrate their new prosperity. And over the front door of the Hamville Festival they put a banner, which read: "A bunny's worth is measured not by the skill of his ears, but by what lies between them." The residents of Hamville had learned an important lesson.

There are no co-sponsors yet from the Pacific Division for this bill. Keep writing letters to your congressional delegation with copies to Steve Mansfield, Legislative Mgr. in ARRL HQ so he can use them when visiting your congressional delegation in Washington.

Strategic Plan for ARRL to be Developed

Members of the ARRL Board of Directors gathered in Savannah, Georgia, on May 6 and 7 to begin developing a strategic plan to guide the ARRL in preparing for the opportunities and challenges of the twenty-first century. The ARRL Long Range Planning Committee had recommended that because of the importance of strategic planning, the effort should be initiated separate from the regular business of a Board meeting. The process that was begun in Savannah will be continued with the objective of completing a draft plan by the end of 1994.

Vanity Calls

from page 2

would be those who wish to obtain the callsign of a direct family member. Clubs with lapsed club licenses should also be allowed to recoup those callsigns in the first group.

Gate two... would include all Extra Class licensees and those allowed by gate one. Clubs wishing to obtain the call-sign of a deceased member could do so in the second gate if the trustee were an Extra Class licensee.

Gate three... would include all Advanced Class licensees and those included in gates one and two.

Gate four... At this point the system would be thrown open to anyone else wishing a vanity callsign.

(6.) Family members should have first choice of a silent key's call. Should no family member desire the call, the club should have next choice. The number of members of a club should be raised to at least 4 to be considered a "radio club".

(7.) A call is considered "vacated" when its previous owner has been as-

Coming Events:-

—Livermore Swap Meet - 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, CA, 7AM to Noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from west, 145.35 from the east.

—Foothill Swap Meet - 2nd Saturday, thru September. Foothill College, Los Altos, CA.

—Hamswap '94, Sacramento, CA, Saturday, May 21. QTH: Carmichael Elk's Lodge, Cypress at Hackberry. Talk in 145.19 minus, 224.4 minus.

—Northwestern Division Convention, Seaside, OR, June 3 - 5.

—ARRL Field Day, June 25-26, 1994.

—Southwestern Division Convention, Aug. 26 - 28, 1994, San Diego Town & Country Hotel/ Convention Center

—1st National Hamfest, Oct. 7 - 9, Costerisan Lake, Bakersfield, CA.

—Pacifcon94, Hilton Hotel at Concord CA, Oct. 21 - 23, 1994.

signed a new vanity callsign. The vacated callsign should not be reassigned for a two year period.

(8.) The number of vanity callsign choices should be increased to 25 to reduce processing and correspondence time if the 10 requested callsigns are all unavailable. (9.) The reissuance of callsigns of silent keys would not be disrespectful. The callsign is really the "property" of the Commission and is "loaned" to the licensee for the term of the license. It should become eligible for reissuance once the renewal grace period had expired.

(10.) The FCC should continue issuing callsigns to amateurs within the continental 48 states with the number in the callsign appropriate to the mailing address.

(11.) Outside the continental 48 states applicants should be required to furnish the Commission with some form of documentation indicating permanent residency. (12.) The Committee recommends that 1 x 1 callsigns, such as K2A, be made available for limited duration special events of national significance.

W5YI Report

Reprinted from Ham on Disk - March '94 via the ARRC/Over, newsletter of the Austin, Texas ARC.



Calendar

- June 5 Livermore Swap Meet..... 7 AM-Noon
Talkin on 145.35 MHz.
- June 21 SARA Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM
- June 25-26 ARRL Field Day 24 hours
SARA Field at Big Meadow State Park Hwy 4 above Arnold.
- July 3 Livermore Swap Meet..... 7 AM-Noon
- July 19 SARA Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM
- August 16 SARA Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM
- Sept. 20 SARA Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM
- Oct. 7-9 1st National Hamfest 3 days
Bakersfield, CA.
- Oct. 21-23 PACIFICON94 3 days
Hilton Hotel, Concord, CA

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

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



SARA Membership Application

Call _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Are you a member of the ARRL? (Yes) (No)

Home Phone _____

Business Phone _____

Occupation _____

Date of Birth _____

Class of license _____

Year first licensed _____

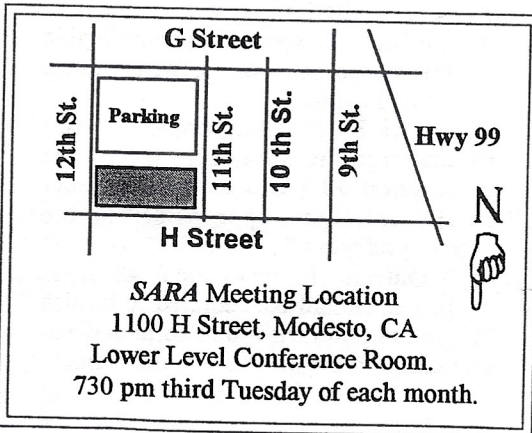
Dues: Renewal \$23.00 per year. Out of area more than 150 miles from Modesto is \$11.00. New first time applicants dues are pro-rated from the month you join the club. Use \$1.91 times the number of months remaining in the year. ie.- You join in July- 6 x \$1.91= \$11.46

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

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

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TO:

1994

Next SARA Meeting is June 21, 1994 at 730PM & You're Invited!