



SIERRA STATIC



WWW.K6ARC.ORG

Club Repeaters	146.835; -600khz; PL 100	441.525; +6.0Mhz; PL 100
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August, 2010

Next Club Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the club this month, Thursday, August 5th, will feature a presentation by our ARRL Section Manager, Ron Murdock. He will talk about current and pending issues in amateur radio and is a noted speaker in amateur radio circles. The meeting will be at the Volcano Communications Tech Center in Pine Grove (behind the Pine Grove Park, 1 block off Highway 88). The meeting starts at 7:00 P.M. and visitors and guests are welcome.

The next regular club breakfast will be Sunday, August 15, at 9:00AM at the Waffle Shop, 543 S. Highway 49, in Jackson.

President's Message

I'm really looking forward to our August meeting. Our ARRL Section Manager, Ron Murdock, W6KJ, will be speaking about what the ARRL is and what they do for us.

I can answer part of that.....they are our collective voice of advocacy, not only on the national stage, but around the world. They represent us to the International Amateur Radio Union, and the other international agencies with whom we share radio spectrum. This function alone is so crucial, and they do so much more.

Membership starts at \$39 per year, putting at your disposal a wealth of information in print and on the web, and your dues support our hobby through the ARRL. Visit their web site, www.ARRL.org and see for yourself. We will see you at our next meeting.

Chuck

Editor's Note

This is a combined July and August issue. There was no newsletter in July due to a variety of circumstances, not the least of which was a very successful Field Day event. In addition, this editor moved to a new QTH during the time when the newsletter should

have been published and the moving process took total time and energy for most of the month. Apologies are offered to all for the failure to publish on the regular schedule.

From the Sacramento Valley Section of ARRL

Nothing to report from this source.

Public Information Activities

Routine meeting notices were submitted to the newspaper. Several email notices of “items of interest” were sent via the club web site. An item was sent to SV Section manager for publication in SV News. President Chuck and PIO John were on TSPN after Field Day on their morning program to give an “after action report” and featured Dave’s (KB6PNT) tennis ball launcher as part of our presentation on “communication in the field.

Weekly Net Activity

The net meets on the club repeaters on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM. The activity report for since the last newsletter shows the following number of check-ins:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Visitors</u>
May 25	32	8
June 1	34	7
June 8	31	9
June 15	34	7
June 22	32	8
June 29	23	13
July 6	23	8
July 13	23	8
July 20	24	5
July 27	26	6

10 Meter Net

An informal net meets on 10m (28.475) immediately after the close of the regular net. Don (WD6GYJ) coordinates it and all are invited to participate. The Lodi club is running a 10-meter net after their regular Wednesday night 2-meter net. Check them out on 147.090, PL 114.8 at 7:30 local for the 2-meter net. The 10-meter net is next on 28.400, USB, Vertical polarization. This means you can find a 10-meter net on Monday (TCARES out of Groveland), Tuesday (ACARC), and Wednesday (LARC).

6 Meter Net

The Lodi club is running a 6-meter net following their 10-meter net on 50.135 USB Vertical polarization. They are also getting very active on ATV, for those interested in

that aspect of the hobby. The Stockton/Delta club has an unofficial get together on Thursday evenings (except meeting nights) at 7:30pm on 28.457.

Testing Opportunities

According to the ARRL web site, there are testing sessions scheduled for:

08/21/2010 Carmichael CA, Sponsor: River City ARCS

Location: Carmichael Elks Lodge-Use East Entrance

Time: 7:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

08/21/2010 | Stockton CA, Sponsor: Stockton ARRL VE Test Group

Location: Stockton Fire Station Company 14

Time: 10:00 AM (No walk-ins)

09/18/2010 Carmichael CA, Sponsor: River City ARCS

Location: Carmichael Elks Lodge-Use East Entrance

Time: 7:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

09/18/2010 | Stockton CA, Sponsor: Stockton ARRL VE Test Group

Location: Stockton Fire Station Company 14

Time: 10:00 AM (No walk-ins)

09/25/2010 Sonora CA, Sponsor: TCARES

Location: Tuolumne County Library

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

10/23/2010 Arnold CA, Sponsor: Calaveras ARS, Inc.

Location: Ebbetts Pass Fire District Station 1 Classroom

Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) (Pre-registration preferred)

11/20/2010 Sonora CA, Sponsor: TCARES

Location: Tuolumne County Library

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Information on times and locations are available on the ARRL home page, which is the source of this information.

Recent Articles of Interest –

ARRL Web Site –

Radio Foxhunters Find Their Champions in Ohio

They came from 15 states and four foreign countries. In their suitcases were radio sets, antennas, sun block and running shoes, but they left some room in hopes of taking home a medal or two. They were the hams and future hams -- ranging from age 12 to older than 70 -- who went to Southwest Ohio in the third week of May for the 10th Annual USA Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding.

The best performers in each category of the championships in Ohio and the championships last year near Boston have been invited to join ARDF Team USA and travel at their own expense to the 15th ARDF World Championships in Opatija, Croatia in mid-September.

ARRL Argues that Oklahoma Town's RFI Ordinance is "Null and Void"

Saying that only the Federal Communications Commission is empowered to regulate radio frequency interference (RFI), the ARRL has notified Midwest City, Oklahoma, that its local ordinance 27-3(9), seeking to regulate radio transmissions and RFI, is "null and void." Midwest City is in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area.

Midwest City's Ordinance 27-3(9) reads: "In addition to other public nuisances declared by other sections of this Code or law, the following [is] hereby declared to be [a] public nuisance: Operating or using any electrical apparatus or machine which materially and unduly interferes with radio or television reception by others."

Section 27-2 of the nuisance ordinance states the penalty for non-compliance: "It shall be unlawful for any person to create or maintain a public nuisance within the or [sic] to permit a public nuisance to remain on premises under his control within the city" and that "the punishment for a violation of this chapter shall be a minimum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or fifteen (15) days imprisonment or both such fine and imprisonment and shall not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or thirty (30) days imprisonment or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day a violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense."

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, wrote to Midwest City officials. The letter explained to the Midwest City officials that as the FCC is the only entity empowered to regulate RFI, that this matter "is not a proper subject for municipal regulation by Midwest City, and your ordinance 27-3(9), which purports to regulate RFI is preempted on its face, and is therefore null and void. The City in fact has absolutely no jurisdiction whatsoever over radio frequency interference.

From the pages of QST –

2 Finger Key – This is an article on how to build a two finger key as an alternative to (expensive) paddles. It is useful for the QRP operator and is trail friendly. It gives good performance plus the pride in making it yourself.

Stealth 160m antenna – Living in an antenna-restricted location did not deter the author from working 160m and gaining his “Worked All States” in 117 days. He built a telescoping vertical, which is 30’ when up and collapses to 54”. It goes up at night, and comes down during the day or during inclement weather.

Steve Ford, WB8IMY has written a good article on dummy loads. He talks about the types and the “why and how” of using them in a variety of settings. This is a good basic primer for those of us who put dummy loads at the bottom of the shopping list.

Arecibo EME event – The authors all work at the Arecibo Radio Telescope Observatory and give a detailed description of how that event happened and they talk about many of the contacts they made. It is very interesting reading with good pictures of that stunning facility.

Maybe you didn’t hear about it, but hams were called into action during the recent flood in Arkansas for search and rescue as well as communication assistance; as they were during a recent tornado in Ohio. Hams in Florida preparing for a disaster practice ended up working a severe weather event, which really made their practice even more realistic.

World Radio Online – This publication is available on the CQ magazine web site.

Randall Noon, KC0CCR has written a great article on CW entitled “A Primer on why CW is so Great”. It gives some history as well as practical information about the value and use of CW. It also talks about the comparative advantage of CW over digital modes. Being very readable, it is perfect for new amateurs who have not yet ventured in the world of CW.

In the section on Amateur Satellites by Terry Douds, N8KI, he gives a report on the April EME event sponsored by the Arecibo Amateur Radio Club using the Arecibo Observatory Radio Telescope. The event was a big success and perhaps indicates that “size does matter”, the dish being 1,000 feet across. If you have ever been there, it is truly an impressive sight.

From the pages of CQ –

Over Coffee and Cognac

Robert Brown, a recent Silent Key and long time writer on propagation, muses on the “great” solar cycle a half century ago and how it shaped his long time hobby and interests. He wrote it while bedridden and it makes very interesting reading.

Radio Friends for 49 years

An interesting article about how DL7JK and W4YO met on the radio, later became close friends while they both lived in Germany, and how that friendship has survived over time

and distance. Another great article on how radio builds friendships, often in ways never suspected by the participants.

ARRL Letter –

FCC Modifies Rules to Allow Limited Employee Participation in Disaster and Emergency Drills

In a Report and Order (R&O) released Wednesday, July 14, the FCC amended Part 97.113 to allow amateurs to participate without an FCC waiver in government-sponsored disaster preparedness drills on behalf of their employers participating in the exercise. The FCC also has amended the rules to allow employees to participate in non-government drills and exercises up to one hour per week and up to two 72 hour periods during the year.

Connect with the National Scout Jamboree via Amateur Radio

The National Scout Jamboree takes place July 26-August 4 at Fort AP Hill, Caroline County, Virginia. A myriad of exhibits and activities await the close to 40,000 Scouts, leaders and staff. Coming from all 50 states -- and even territories and foreign countries -- they will have the opportunity to live, work and play together in an atmosphere of Scouting fellowship.

ARES E-Letter –

Web Site of the Month: StormPulse

“With the onset of the first storm of the year, I would like to recommend an excellent Web site for tracking purposes: www.stormpulse.com. This is the best site of its kind I've seen. Please pass this along to anyone you think would be interested. -- John Reynolds, W4IJJ, Regional/State Communications Officer, American Red Cross, Florida”

Special Events -

Rookie Roundup

The Rookie Roundup is a contest aimed at Amateurs licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August and December). Rookies can contact anybody, while "Old Timers" make contact only with Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event! The August event will be held on August 15th, from 1800 to 2359 UTC on SSB Phone. See the ARRL website for more information on how you can help new amateurs gain valuable experience and good operating habits.

Contests

CQ WW RTTY DX Contest – 0000GMT Sat, Sept 25 to 24000GMT Sunday, Sept 26.

Refer to the July issue of CQ for details; questions may be directed to W0KY@cqww.com

VHF QSO Party – 1800UTC Sept 11 – 0259UTC Sep 13. More information is available at arrl.org/contests.

Guest Column

None this month

Upcoming Events

The CARS/TCARES/ACARC joint picnic is scheduled for September 9th from 12:00pm-5:00pm at Utica Park, in Angels Camp. According to the announcement in the CARS newsletter it will be a BBQ (bring a side dish), Swap Meet, and T-Hunt.

Get Your Feet Wet CW event – FISTS is sponsoring this annual contest to get new CW amateurs involved. The contest runs from 0000UTC on September 10th until 0000UTC on September 13th. No special equipment is allowed; just human powered CW. For more information, forms and rules see the FISTS website at www.fists.org/getfeetwet.html.

Odds and Ends

Two members of the Paso Robles ARC are in Oshkosh, WI, having flown there in a WWII vintage C-47. They operated Aeronautical Amateur on the way over using 40m 7200 kHz +/- and 17m 18.120- 18.130 +/- . They are scheduled to return this weekend but exact flight schedule and frequencies are not available at press time. If you get a chance, try their outgoing frequencies and listen for W6LKF.

Fun Zone

Each issue of the newsletter will have something of general interest. It may be a trivia question, an interesting quotation, or a puzzle. This month we have another Ward Silver Quiz.

Amateur Radio Quiz: The Band Is Hot! By H. Ward Silver, N0AX
ARRL Contributing Editor, n0ax@arrl.net

Summer time brings out the 6 meter “Magic Band” aficionados as action via sporadic-E (Es) propagation heats up. The annual Perseids meteor shower brings additional excitement during mid-August as the Earth sweeps through the debris of the comet Swift-Tuttle. With so many new radios offering all-mode operation on 6 meters, why not press that “50” button and join the fun?

Questions

- 1) Which non-amateur allocation was eventually re-allocated to Amateur Radio?
 - a. Low-band VHF mobile radio
 - b. Broadcast TV channel 1
 - c. Radiolocation
 - d. Early weather radar

- 2) 50 MHz is the best band for which of these propagation modes?
 - a. Meteor scatter
 - b. EME
 - c. Double-hop F2
 - d. NVIS

- 3) Along with the summer's enhanced sporadic-E season, what other time of the year is good for this type of propagation?
 - a. Spring equinox
 - b. Fall equinox
 - c. Winter solstice
 - d. Enhancement only occurs in summer

- 4) What was the model number of the Heathkit 6 Meter CW/SSB transceiver kit?
 - a. SB-110
 - b. SB-610
 - c. SB-660
 - d. SB-666

- 5) Which antenna would work the best for making CW and SSB contacts on 6 meters?
 - a. quarter-wave vertical whip
 - b. half-wave vertical dipole
 - c. half-wave horizontal dipole
 - d. full-wave horizontal loop

- 6) Which of the following band-plan segments is used for radio control transmissions?
 - a. 51-54.0 MHz
 - b. 50.8-50.98 MHz
 - c. 50.1-50.11 MHz
 - d. 50.0-50.1 MHz

- 7) What are the 6 meter privileges for Technician class licensees?
 - a. 50.125-50.200 MHz, USB
 - b. 50.100-53.900 MHz, USB and FM
 - c. 51.12-54.0 MHz, FM
 - d. All amateur privileges

- 8) What amateur allocation was the predecessor of 6 meters?
 - a. 1.25 meters

- b. 2.5 meters
- c. 5 meters
- d. 11 meters

9) What is the calling frequency for DX stations on 6 meters?

- a. 50.010 MHz
- b. 50.100 MHz
- c. 50.110 MHz
- d. 50.125 MHz

10) Where can you find beacon stations operating on 6 meters?

- a. There are no restrictions on beacon stations above 30 MHz.
- b. 50.06-50.08 MHz
- c. 50.100-50.110 MHz
- d. 53.9-54.0 MHz

Bonus -- What does a “ping jockey” ping?

Answers

- 1) b
- 2) a
- 3) c -- This is why the ARRL 10 Meter Contest is scheduled in December
- 4) a -- The SB-500 was the 2 meter transverter
- 5) c -- Horizontal polarization is the norm for CW/SSB “weak signal” operation on VHF+ bands; the dipole’s radiation pattern will offer plenty of low-angle signal even if just a few feet off the ground.
- 6) b
- 7) d -- That’s right -- any ham can fully utilize the 6 meter band!
- 8) c -- Before World War II, hams had access to 50-56 Mc and 112 Mc.
- 9) c -- 50.10-50.125 MHz is the “DX window” on 6 meters where stations outside the US and Canada can be found when the band is open.
- 10) b -- Listen for the stations with “/B” after their call signs. They often send their grid square, too, so you can tell where they are located.

Bonus -- A “ping” is a signal received via meteor scatter propagation and gets its name from the characteristic sound of these short bursts of signal.

73, John Stettler, Newsletter Editor
Send comments to: ki6dwp@yahoo.com

