



Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

Quarterly Newsletter

MAY 2012

2011 OFFICERS:

President: Rick Lopez KF6TEZ
Vice President: Linda Ridenour, W6MUT
Secretary: Davona Miiller KF6TSY
Treasurer: Bob Kimball KC6TVE

SARA Club Board of Directors

Engineer: LeRoy Campbell NV6S
Assistant Engineer: Patrick Dunbar KG6AZZ
Training: Ed Hanna KF6FIR
Event Coordinator: Lucian Thomas KF6NPG
Programs Coordinator: Paul Owen W6UHF
Webmaster: Patrick Dunbar KG6AZZ

UPDATE ON AL - KD6YWO.....



I finally got my Ham plates! In Oklahoma you only get a rear plate but the Hams get both. Notice one is marked front plate. I have to carry the regular plate with me in the car. I do have to pay registration on both separately each year - it was \$47.00 for my regular plate and \$8.50 for the ham plate.

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

Monthly Meeting

May 15, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

Modesto Regional Fire Authority (OES)

3705 Oakdale Road

Modesto, CA 95357

Green Eggs and Ham



Famous Dave's Smokehouse Brisket Burger!

The juiciest, beefiest burger under the Bun! Dave's a legend in the BBQ world, and now he's sending shockwaves throughout the burger world. Blending 100% ground beef with juicy cuts of his slow-smoked Texas Brisket, he's created burgers that literally sizzle with flavor!

<http://www.famousdaves.com/Tracy>

73's de W6UHF, Paul O



Upcoming Events!

- BIKE RIDE FOR MOM: MAY 12, 2012
 - CROP WALK TENTATIVE: MAY 12, 2012
 - HAM CRAM: MAY 19, 2012
 - MODESTO CRITERIUM: MAY 19, 2012
 - MODESTO ROAD RACE: MAY 20, 2012
 - CANYON CLASSIC BIKE RIDE: JUNE 9, 2012
 - WARNERVILLE TIME TRIAL KNIGHT'S FERRY: AUGUST 4, 2012
 - HAM CRAM : AUGUST 18, 2012
 - CANCER AWARENESS BIKE RIDE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2012
 - WINE AND CHEESE BIKE RIDE: OCTOBER 14, 2012
 - HAM CRAM: NOVEMBER 17, 2012
-

S.A.R.A. Mt. Oso Repeater System

Located on Mt. Oso at an elevation of 3400 ft. with reliable coverage from Fresno to Woodland.

- 145.390 MHz Negative Offset
- 224.140 MHz Negative Offset
- 51.800 MHz Negative Offset
- 440.225 MHz Positive Offset (1/2 Watt very low power)

All repeaters require 136.5 Hz PL tone for access.

All Mt. Oso repeaters can be linked to each other in any combination by authorized control operators.

440.225 repeater is back on the air after reducing transmitter power to 1/2 watt due to Pave Paws interference complaints.

S.A.R.A. Low Level Repeater

Located atop the Doubletree hotel in downtown Modesto on 145.110 MHz Negative offset PL 136.5 Hz

S.A.R.A. Packet Node

Located on Mt. Oso, It's identifier is "SARA" 144.910 MHz 1200 Baud, 438.960 MHz 9600 Baud

Nets and More Nets.....

Traffic and Information Net

Monday through Friday starting at 7:00 AM on the S.A.R.A. two-meter repeater 145.390 MHz. Traffic updates along with the weather conditions, Hosted by Mark WB6BJN.

S.A.R.A Weekly Net

Every first, second and fourth Tuesday at 7:30 PM on our club two-meter repeater 145.390 MHz. Covers the latest information on club activities.

Stanislaus County ARES® Weekly Net

Every Wednesday at 8:00 PM on our club two-meter repeater 145.390 MHz. Training and information for those interested in amateur radio emergency communications. The only requirements are being a licensed amateur radio operator and have an interest in emergency operations. Visitors to the net are always welcome to check in, after the membership roll-call. On the air training is provided and people of all license classes are welcome to join.

Tech Net

Thursday nights at 7:00 PM on our club two-meter repeater 145.390 MHz. Dedicated to helping all hams increase their skills, an ideal forum for all hams to share their knowledge. Topics may include simple construction projects, answering your questions, training for license upgrades, and general skills needed by any ham.

SpaceNet

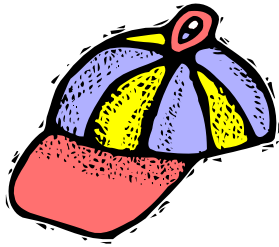
Friday nights at 8:00 PM on our club two-meter repeater 145.390 MHz. Those interested in the very latest news and information related to air and space are invited to join us on SARA SpaceNet. This is an open net held on SARA's 145.390 repeater and can be reached throughout the Central Valley of California. Topics include the latest news in the worlds manned and unmanned space programs, aeronautics, astronomy events and new discoveries. We also cover Amateur Astronomy, Model, Mid and High Powered Rocketry, as well as Amateur Radio activities related to space such as monitoring meteor activity, contacting the International Space Station, using Amateur Radio Satellites, EME (Moonbounce) and how to use Orbital Plotting software.

Getting your license

Getting your license is very straightforward. S.A.R.A. holds one day HAMCRAM licensing classes several times a year. During these classes, students study for the Technician class exam, and then take the exam at the end of the day. Morse code is now an optional part of amateur radio, no morse code tests are required for any class of amateur radio licence these days. For more information on the HAMCRAM classes, contact Dick Decker (K6SUU) dickdecker@hotmail.com.

Additional study resources are available online.

- Downloadable [question pools](#) containing every question that may be used on the official tests are available from the [ARRL](#).
- Free online [practice tests](#) are available from the [qrz.com](#) web site.
- The [eham.net](#) web site also offers free [practice tests](#).
- Downloadable HAMCRAM [Application](#).



ORDER YOUR 'HAM HATS'

\$15

I need your desired Name, Call Sign & Town that you want on the hat. You can contact me, Stan Williams, at kj6bkz@yahoo.com or call 669-6569 to arrange payment. Please include your telephone number or your preferred email address in your correspondence. I will collect payment and pass this on to Grady Williams K6IXA, our Ham Guru that actually orders the hats.

Thank you.

73
Stan KJ6BKZ



ADVANCED EOC COURSE

THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR SIXTEEN (16) HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION BY AN APPROVED CALIFORNIA EMS CE PROVIDER AND IS INSTRUCTOR BASED. CALIFORNIA EMS CE PROVIDER #60-0250. NO BRN/CE WILL BE ISSUED.

Presented by Modesto Regional Fire

- When: June 6 & 7, 2012
0800 – 1700 8 hours both days
- Where: Modesto Regional Fire Authority
3705 Oakdale Rd.
Modesto, CA 95357
- Fees: No charge (Funded through FY10 Homeland Security Grant)
- Contact: Carol Sullivan 209-552-3600
csullivan@stanoes.com
- Dave Funk 209-552-3600
dfunk@stanoes.com

Registration Online: <http://www.stanoes.com>

A sixteen hour course designed for selected students who have completed the 40 hour Stanislaus County ICS 300/400/EOC course. This course expands upon Emergency Operation Center functions, roles and responsibilities. It is tailored specifically for EOC operations in Stanislaus County. It will involve numerous break out scenarios designed to expose participants deeper into their roles and responsibilities in managing/supporting field incidents or large scale events from the EOC. It focuses on the four phases of emergency/disaster management of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. It emphasizes EOC primary functions of policy direction, jurisdictional management/inter-agency coordination, information gathering/sharing, and resource management.

Pre-requisite: Completion of Stanislaus County's ICS 300/400/EOC course.

Space is limited, so early registration is recommended.

BASIC INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS) 200

THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR TWELVE AND ONE HALF HOURS (12.5) OF CONTINUING EDUCATION BY AN APPROVED CALIFORNIA EMS CE PROVIDER AND IS INSTRUCTOR BASED. CALIFORNIA EMS CE PROVIDER #60-0250. NO BRN/CE WILL BE ISSUED.

Presented by Modesto Regional Fire Authority and Stanislaus County Operational Area

When: June 19 & 20, 2012
0800 – 1700 8 hours (0800 – 1700 on June 19)
4.5 hours (0800 – 12:30 June 20)

Where: Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services
3705 Oakdale Rd.
Modesto, CA 95357

Fees: No charge (Funded through FY10 Homeland Security Grant)

Contact: Carol Sullivan 209-552-3600
csullivan@stanoes.com

Dave Funk 209-552-3600
dfunk@stanoes.com

Registration Online: <http://www.stanoes.com>

A twelve and one half (12.5) hour course that meets the requirements of the National Incident Management System for the Basic Incident Command Course. This course is designed to go beyond the basics of NIMS/SEMS/ICS introduction courses and cover such topics as Leadership and Management, Delegation of Authority, Management by Objectives, Functional Areas and Positions, Briefings, Organizational Flexibility, and Transfer of Command.

Target Audience: First line supervisors, single resource leaders, or other emergency response/management personnel who require a higher level of NIMS/SEMS/ICS training.

Pre-requisite: Completion of: IS - 700: Introduction to NIMS
ICS-100: Introduction to ICS

Space is limited, so early registration is recommended

FCC SEEKS HIGHER VANITY CALL SIGN FEE

05/07/2012

The FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* ([NPRM](#)) on May 4, seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$14.20 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$15 for 10 years, an increase of 80 cents. The FCC is authorized by the *Communications Act of 1934 (as amended)* to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 14 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 *Report and Order*). The FCC said it anticipates some 14,300 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units," or applications, during the next fiscal year, collecting \$214,500 in fees from the program.

Vanity Fee Due for New, Renewal Applications

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal six years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1993 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, as Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1996. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the [ULS](#) and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

ARRL Processes License Renewals, Including Vanities

The [ARRL VEC](#) will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

The ARRL VEC will handle vanity license renewals for ARRL members for a small fee (license renewals for members with non-vanity call signs are free). Visit the [Call Sign Renewals or Changes](#) web page for complete instructions on how to have the ARRL renew your license for you or for how to do it yourself. License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the [ARRL Amateur Radio License Renewal web page](#). The [FCC's forms page](#) also offers the required forms.

ARRL EXPO 2012 – Save the Dates!

**ARRL has joined forces with two great hamfests —
making these conventions the places to be!**

Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R

Plans are underway to bring ARRL EXPO (www.arrl.org/expo), our popular show-within-a-show, to two major conventions this year.

The first event, in May, is Dayton Hamvention® at “the crossroads of America” (I-75 north/south meets I-70 east-west in Dayton). Hamvention has been sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association since 1952 and attracts some 20,000 attendees annually.

The second event, in October, is the 2012 ARRL National

Convention hosted this year by Pacificon in Santa Clara, California. Pacificon is the well-established West Coast convention sponsored by members of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club.

Hamvention and Pacificon will both feature a full slate of forums, presentations, training sessions, equipment manufacturers and sellers, radio club booths, and flea market. ARRL’s large exhibition area at both events, ARRL EXPO, will be occupied by many program representatives and officials — an opportunity for

members and volunteers to interact with ARRL and with each other. There are also plans for live presentations and demonstrations on the ARRL Stage.

Having the ARRL National Convention in the heart of Silicon Valley will give the event a high-tech flavor. Santa Clara is home to many of the world’s largest technology corporations, including Intel, Yahoo, Cisco and McAfee. At Pacificon 2011, attendees were treated to innovative exhibits including live video and telemetry from a nearby parachute mobile team with Amateur Radio-equipped skydivers, and real-time demonstrations of amateur satellite communications. Pacificon also boasts an all-day antenna seminar on Friday (an additional registration fee is collected and includes substantial handouts). Think about extending your trip to Santa Clara (and nearby San Francisco) to enjoy the region’s historic sites and attractions.

Whether you plan on attending Hamvention or Pacificon (or both!), each event promises to deliver the very best of our Amateur Radio Service!

Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, is the ARRL Marketing Manager. He can be reached at nq1r@arrl.org.



Santa Clara

When: October 12-14, 2012

Where: Santa Clara Marriott, Santa Clara, California

Program Highlights:

- Pacificon (www.pacificon.org) is a premier Amateur Radio event on the West Coast. The convention features 100 world class presenters in over 80 forums. Exhibits will include programs for QRP, DX, youth education and scouting, kit building, and demonstrations of Amateur Television (ATV/DATV), satellite and International Space Station operating. Dozens of commercial vendors and a large flea market help round out this annual hamfest.

- Kick-off Breakfast with Gordon West, WB6NOA
- Saturday Banquet and Keynote Presentation
- ARRL EXPO (www.arrl.org/expo)
- ARRL VEC-sponsored license exam sessions
- ARRL-sponsored forums and presentations
- W1AW/6 Special Event Station, sponsored by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
- ARRL Wouff Hong Ceremony

While you're there:

- California’s Great America theme park (next door!)
- Intel Museum
- The Tech Museum of Innovation
- Winchester Mystery House
- Triton Museum of Art
- Computer History Museum
- NASA Ames Exploration Center
- Children’s Discovery Museum in San Jose
- Shopping and restaurants galore. San Francisco and wineries are just a short drive away.
- Santa Clara Visitors Bureau (www.santaclara.org/thingstodo)

See www.pacificon.org for more information, including lodging options and travel information

Dayton

When: May 18-20, 2012

Where: Hara Complex in Trotwood, Ohio

Program Highlights:

- Hamvention® (www.hamvention.org) has been sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association since 1952. The convention includes a full slate of forums, presentations, training sessions, manufacturer exhibits, radio club booths and the world-renowned huge outdoor flea market.
- ARRL EXPO (www.arrl.org/expo)
- ARRL-sponsored forums and presentations
- Special Guest and Speaker John Amodeo, NN6JA, well-known TV producer.
- International exhibits (ARRL EXPO area).

See www.hamvention.org for more information including lodging options and travel information. While you’re there, explore some of the other Dayton Montgomery County area activities and attractions (www.daytoncvb.com).



ARRL Special Guest, John Amodeo, NN6JA, to Attend Hamvention

Those following Amateur Radio in the media and popular culture will want to catch special guest John Amodeo, NN6JA, at Hamvention. Amodeo is a working TV producer living in Los Angeles. He has produced such hits as *Arrested Development*, *Sports Night* and the hit ABC comedy *Last Man Standing* starring actor Tim Allen as Mike Baxter, KA0XTT.



At ARRL’s invitation, famed TV producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, will give a Hamvention presentation sharing his perspective on the media’s portrayal of ham radio and ham radio operators. [COURTESY NN6JA]