Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

OCTOBER 2010

2010 OFFICERS:

President:	Rick Lopez KF6TEZ
Vice President:	Alton Carpenter KD6YWO
Secretary:	Davona Miiller KF6TSY
Treasurer:	Bob Kimball KC6TVE

RMS Update

Cap and countless others...

Just to bring those of you interested (or not) in current progress of the Winlink RMS server here in Atwater... A special thanks to Vic Poor Winlink software developer for a software revision that made access to remote Mountain top nodes using a Lantronix remote serial server accessible with relative ease... To that end here is the current status of Local and Remote nodes available for direct connect the K6IXA Winlink RMS server in Atwater...

K6ixa-10 Atwater, CA
144.91, 1200 baud - 438.96 (until SARA moves to 433.51 or 433.53).

K6ixa-11 Bear Mountain, elevation 3200' located East of Fresno
145.01, 1200 baud - 438.57, 9600 baud

K6ixa-12 Mt Bullion, elevation 4100' five miles n/w Mariposa, CA
145.05, 1200 baud - 438.59, 9600 baud

K6ixa-13 Mt Oso, elevation 3200' west of Patterson, CA
145.63, 1200 baud... NO uhf due to Pave Paws... Internet established, antenna just arrived and final installation should complete next week...

K6ixa.14 Mt Toro, elevation 3170, Salinas, Monterey Area...
144.97, 1200 baud - 433.55, 9600 baud (still in the planning stage but NOT forgotten)...

When the system is complete we anticipate solid coverage from Bakersfield to Sacramento as well as a large portion of the Central Coast... Each of these nodes act as digi as well for local traffic in the given area... Please encourage utilization to insure a body of trained operators available in event of an emergency...

de Grady

Incident Command System (ICS)
300/400/EOC

Presented by Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services and the Stanislaus County Office of the Fire Warden

When: ***November 1 – 5, 2010***
0800 – 1700 hours daily

Where: ***Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services***
3705 Oakdale Road - Modesto, CA 95357

Fees: ***No charge -(Funded through FY09 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 40-hour combined Intermediate/Advanced Incident Command System (ICS) and Introduction to Emergency Operation Center (EOC) course created for supervisory or management staff that would be assigned in a supervisory or leadership role in the Command or General Staff of an emergency response incident or major pre-planned event. ***This course is not State Fire Marshal/CICCS Certified.*** *This class meets NIMS/SEMS/ICS compliance and is a requirement to work in the Stanislaus Operational Area EOC.*

Target Audience:

Stanislaus County mid-level management including strike team leaders, task force leaders, unit leaders, division/group supervisors, branch directors and emergency operations center staff. Stanislaus County command and general staff, select department heads with multi-agency coordination system responsibilities, area commanders, emergency managers and emergency operations center managers.

Pre-requisite:

Completion of: *IS - 700: Introduction to NIMS*
ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent
ICS-200: Basic ICS or equivalent

Space is limited, so early registration is recommended.

Upcoming Events!

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
Stanislaus County ARES

Stanislaus County Bicycle Club Ride 10/10/2010 0600-1800

► ***SARA Club Meeting: November 16, 2010***

► ***Turlock ARC Auction: October 23, 2010 @ 8:00 a.m. Check www .w6bxn.org for information.***

► ***EMCOMMWEST: May 6 to 8, 2011 – Reno NV. Check www.emcommwest.org for information.***

► ***HAMCON 2011 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention: September 9, 2011. Please check www.hamconinc.org for information.***

► ***ARRL National Convention and ARRL EXPO: October, 2012 at Pacificon in Santa Clara.***

ARRL VEC Volunteer Examiner Session Participation Web Page Returns

If you're an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE) who is interested in seeing how many ARRL exam sessions you've taken part in, you can find the answer on the VE Session counts Web page.

On this page, you'll be able to access a list that shows the total number exam sessions that each ARRL VE has conducted. The listings are listed first by state and then in alpha-numeric call sign order (call area number, then suffix letters). The state where an individual VE record is located is based on the VE's official address on file with the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. Only currently accredited ARRL VEs will be displayed on the Web page.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said she is "thrilled" that the enhanced page now includes the VEs name, as well as the call sign and session participation total: "Incorporating the name field in the lists added a higher level of authentication when determining a VEs accreditation status and participation. We applaud the volunteers whose dedication and service make the VE program successful. Your hard work and contribution of countless hours of your time helps ensure the future of Amateur Radio. Your efforts matter and we thank you. Our VEs should be very proud of their accomplishments."

Surfin': Finding Where the Hams Are

10/01/2010 *By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU*

Mark Petrovic, AE6RT, wanted to learn about the Google Maps Application Programming Interface (API). He thought that a good learning vehicle would be plotting where hams live in his hometown, Petaluma, California.

He used the FCC ham radio license database and the end result can be seen at the "Where the hams are" Web page. Mark's source code is also available on that Web page so that you can modify it for your hometown.

Mac Ham Radio

Talking about Mac computers in the previous installment of Surfin' garnered me some e-mails from hams using Macs. Some of the some were unaware of Mac Ham Radio, so I thought I would mention it here for any other Mac hams who need to know.

Mac Ham Radio is "devoted entirely to Amateur Radio operators using Macintosh" and is a very good source for information about what ham radio software is available for the Mac OS, as well as information about how to obtain the software.

By the way, I like my new MacBook Pro. It is much faster than my old one, the battery lasts longer and I really like its glossy display.

When I was considering buying the new computer, I was a little concerned about the glossy display because I was used to the matte displays on my previous Mac laptops. My concern was unwarranted and the glossy display is superb. The colors are more vibrant and I am now convinced that will never go back to matte.

Until next time, keep on surfin'!

Amateur Radio Quiz: In the Here and Now

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX
n0ax@arrl.net

The last quiz took a long look in the rear-view mirror. Let's turn around to the future and take a look out the windshield with this collection of new ham radio jargon!

1) What information is contained in a "spot"?
a. Time
b. Frequency
c. Call sign
d. All of the above

2) Which of the following components could be a "roofing" type?
a. Antenna
b. Connector
c. Filter
d. Cable

3) A buck-boost converter is a type of what?
a. Rectifier
b. Filter
c. Power supply
d. Mixer

4) What causes aliasing in a DSP system?
a. Under-sampling
b. Over-sampling
c. Dither
d. Noise

5) Which of the following is a type of spectrum display?
a. Dobsonian
b. Waterfall
c. Magic-eye tube
d. Delayed sweep

6) What does the SOHO satellite observe?
a. Ocean surface temperatures
b. Solar phenomena
c. Geomagnetic pole drift
d. Cosmic rays

7) What type of communication is the WSJT suite of software used for?
a. High-speed CW
b. Networking
c. Satellite
d. Weak signal

8) Rover stations constitute a category in what type of contest?
a. VHF/UHF
b. Field Day
c. Digital mode
d. Sprints

9) Through what platform does "bent-pipe" communication take place?
a. Digipeater
b. D-STAR
c. Satellite
d. Passive reflector

10) What does a "Skimmer" skim?
a. CW signals
b. Intruders
c. VLF "whistlers"
d. Meteor trails

***Bonus Question** -- How did the "screwdriver antenna" get its name?*

Answers

1) d -- Spotting networks distribute reception reports of stations for DXing and contesting.
2) c -- A roofing filter helps reject strong in-band signals.
3) c -- Buck-boost is a type of switchmode dc-to-dc converter.
4) a -- To avoid aliasing, sample at a minimum of twice the maximum signal frequency.
5) b -- A waterfall display shows a sequence of spectrum sweeps.
6) b -- The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) keeps an eye on our Sun.
7) d -- WSJT is written by Joe Taylor, K1JT, for EME and meteor scatter modes.
8) a -- Rover stations move from grid square to grid square during the contest.
9) c -- Signals are received by the satellite and transmitted back to the ground without processing.
10) a -- Alex Shovkoplyas, **VE3NEA,** *wrote this software to decode CW signals automaticall.*

***Bonus Answer** -- The original models used electric screwdriver motors to adjust the antenna's resonant frequency.*

Hello all. I'm Jason Peitz, KA6TIO. I was born and raised in Tracy, Ca. I have been a licensed amateur radio operator for over 28 of my 53 years on this planet. While growing up though, I really didn't have much interest in ham radio. My first experience with electronics that I remember was testing vacuum tubes. I thought that was really a lot of fun. My dad Bill, W6AFS, would bring home a Hickok tube tester from work occasionally, and I would help him test the tubes on our old black & white Zenith TV. About the time I was 10 or so, I had single channel CB walkie talkies that my friends and I would play with. That was about my interest in radios at that time. My dad tried to talk me into getting my license, but I wasn't interested.

In my sophomore year of high school, I took Electronics 1 and joined the radio club that Tracy High had. They had a radio room and an HF transceiver, but no one to operate it. The electronics instructor / radio club advisor at the time was more interested in stereo equipment ("radios") than ham radio, so I wasn't much interested in pursuing a license then. Besides, a person had to learn Morse code!

During my senior year of high school (1975), my dad was urging me to get my ham license again, but CB was easier, and my friends were on CB. I bought a Realistic 23 channel, bare bones, AM CB radio. I horsed around with that, until I bought an SBE Sidebander 2 CB after I graduated from high school. I had a job and I paid big money ($ 300.00) for that radio, but I had sideband, and I could "talk skip"! Well, that only lasted a few years. I was tired of CB and started thinking of ham radio. But, there was that pesky code thing again. Oh yeah, you had to know radio theory, WITH TUBES!! I knew I'd never get a license. I was also preoccupied with something else that had my attention, a girlfriend!

A few years later, after marrying Vicki, having 2 young boys, and one on the way, I thought about ham radio again. With more encouraging, diligent studying, and help from my Dad, I was finally ready to take my novice test. Bob Le Clert, K6KQE (SK), was the gentleman who gave me my novice elements test and code test. Even after studying and practicing code, I was still nervous. I passed easily, though, even the code! That was April 5th, 1982. This was also the same month and year I first joined SARA.

I worked CW mostly on 40 meters with a Drake TR4C HF transceiver. CW on HF was the only mode allowed for novices at that time. By now though, I was pretty well hooked and wanted more privileges. I studied the elements for the general test and tried to get my code speed up. I hit that ceiling of about 10 words a minute and just couldn't seem to break it. So, I went ahead and applied to take the test in San Francisco at the Federal Building on Battery Street. On November 16th, 1983, I took the test and passed getting my Technician license. I didn't even try the code test figuring I might try it at another time when I practiced more. Well, that day never came. FCC got out of testing amateurs at their offices not too long after that and went to the Volunteer Examiner Program. (A side note: Russ, N6JTA was there taking the test the same day I was. I believe a former club member Lori, N6JTD was there that day also.)

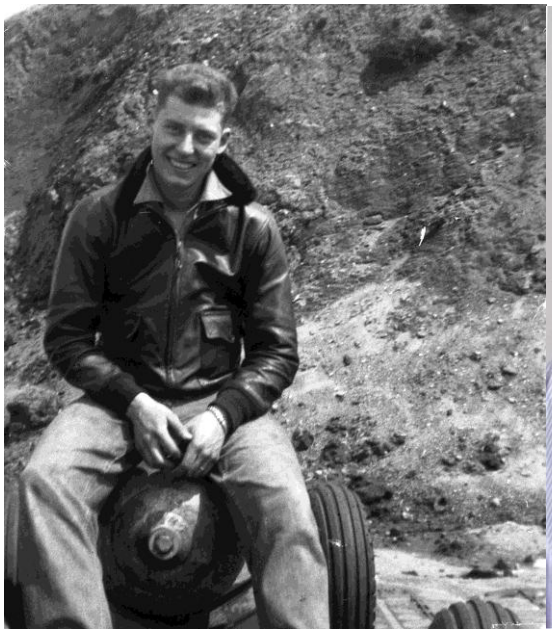
For most of the 80's I was a member of SARA, helping the club with activities like, the Modesto Relays, Modesto 4th of July parade, & work parties on Black Butte (old repeater site on Corral Hollow Road where 104.1, The Hawk's transmitter is) , and on Mount Oso. I picked up a Tempo 1 HF transceiver sometime in the mid 80's. By then, novices & techs were allowed voice privileges on 10 meters. That was a lot of fun, but with my 3 boys growing up, I put aside radios for most of the 90's. I would get on VHF once in a while, but was not very active.

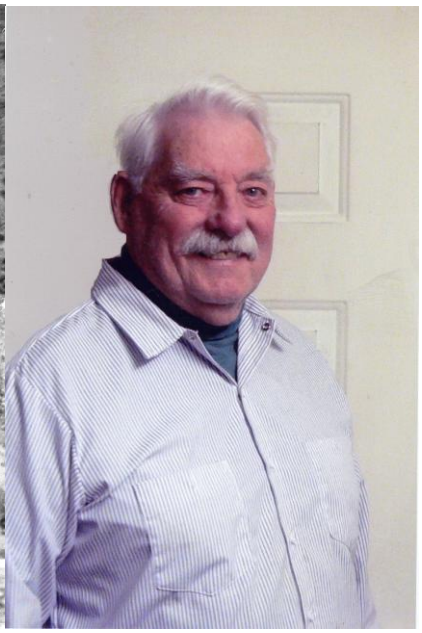
This was also a sigh of relief for my wife, Vicki, who didn't have to put up with me complaining every time I wanted to buy a radio and was told we couldn't afford it.

In 1998, I left my job as an electrician / machinist with M&ET Railroad, and went to work as an electrician for the Department of Transportation. I started getting interested in radio again and bought a 2m / 440 ht. It was nice to get back on the air again more often. Still, that code thing kept me from upgrading to general. Then in 2003, the requirement for 13wpm was dropped to 5. I was then grandfathered in as a General in 2003. Now I had my HF voice privileges for the rest of the bands I had wanted for so long.

In 2008, I was thinking of getting more involved in radio again, and checked out a different club to join. It only took one meeting of another club in the area to make up my mind on which club I was going to join. The SARA club was a fun organization to be in before and it still is now.

So, my story really doesn't end here. I have had quite a bit of fun since rejoining SARA, meeting new people, and making new friendships. In the last few years, I have been able to get my dad back on the air on VHF, and brought a friend, Dave AI6K (former N8RRV), over to SARA from the Livermore club. I'm hoping to be able to get others in my family interested in ham radio. My granddaughters will be ready in a few years to get their licenses, then, I just have to work on their parents! 73's, Jason





I'm Bill Peitz, W6AFS. My story starts 85 years ago in E'tampes, France Where I was born an American citizen abroad to a former US Army Soldier, and a French National. I moved to the United States with my father, mother and older sister in 1927 when I was 2 years old. We lived in New Jersey and New York during the 20's and 30's. Those were some pretty tough times then.

In December 1942 I joined the United States Navy. Following boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, which I thought was the coldest place on earth, I went to Navy Pier in Chicago for training as an Aviation Machinist Mate/ Combat Air Crewman, then Airborne Radar School, Memphis TN, then on to Naval Air Gunnery School at Pensacola, Florida. There I learned how to shoot a moving target from a moving target (air to air combat). I was then sent west to Alameda, CA. where I joined up with VPB-198 bomber squadron. In February we were then sent to Vernalis NAAS and Crows Landing NAAS for further training.

While at Crows Landing, I met a young lady at the old ice skating rink on Tully road in Modesto. (It's where the big MJC parking lot on Tully/Stoddard is now). She had a broken foot at the time and couldn't skate, but she liked to go and watch anyway. I started to date this young lady, and on June 30th, 1944, Joyce became my wife.

In July 1944 I was shipped out to Attu, Alaska where I was attached to Fleet Air wing 4, servicing PV2 Vega Ventura bombers. In September 1944, I was then transferred to SBD Dive bomber Squadron VS-48, Dutch Harbor. From this time until I transferred back to the lower 48 in January 1946, I served on Attu, Adak, Dutch Harbor, and Kodiak. I also found out that Alaska and the Aleutian chain WAS the coldest place on earth. (For me at least).

After returning to the Lower 48 after the war, Joyce and I were living in Modesto when our first son, David was born in August of 1946. I went to work for MID and became a lineman and worked for them until 1949 when we moved to Tracy and I went to work for PG&E as a lineman. During this time at PG&E, I met a gentleman named Bob Milligan. He was a ham radio operator. I found it fascinating and wanted to learn more. There was only one problem, the Navy was calling up reserves for the Korean conflict and they wanted me.

So, on December 30, 1950 I flew out of Treasure Island on a MARS seaplane bound for Honolulu, Hawaii. I was stationed at Barbers Point NAS where again I was an AAM/CAC. When I had time off duty, I would go to the radio room in the hanger where I would listen to the morse code and study the elements. In July 1951 I went to the FCC office in Honolulu and took the General class test, where I passed my 13wpm sending and receiving and the elements test. The FCC asked me if I wanted a KH6 call. I said since I was shipping out for home in a few months to give me a California call. That is how I got W6AFS.

After getting back to California, Bob Milligan took me to meet a gentleman in Manteca named Ray Fulton, K6BP (SK). Ray had a TV repair shop on the corner of Yosemite (old Hwy. 120) and Airport way. He would buy old surplus radios from the Depot in Lathrop. I picked up an old BC-348 receiver and an ARC-5 surplus transmitter from Ray, which I converted to 40 meters. I worked a lot of CW on that old ARC-5 during the 50's. Word got around the neighborhood that I was a ham, and before long a neighbor, Charlie Cipperly, who worked for Southern Pacific knocked on my door and wanted to learn to become a ham. He got his General and became K6LUJ. He told some of his railroad friends about ham radio and soon they wanted to get their licenses too. Two of them were K6SJV, Okie Clark (SK) and K6KQE, Bob Le Clert (SK). These two became SARA members in the 80's. Charlie passed away in 1978 and was never a member.

I went to work for the US Bureau of Reclamation in the spring of 1957 as a lineman. In September of that year, our second son, Jason was born. I stayed active in ham radio through most of the 50's and 60's. In the early 60's, I decided to take the commercial license test for First Class Radiotelephone Operator so I could promote in my career. Before taking the test though, I had to prove that I was a United States Citizen, which is a story in itself. (Ask me sometime, I'll tell you!) After passing the test, I became a Radio Technician for the USBR.

I worked as a technician testing, repairing, and installing electronic equipment and radio gear for the USBR until I retired in May of 1982.

I became a member of SARA in 1981. By this time, I was using a Drake TR4-C HF rig. My favorite mode of operation still being CW, I was having a blast. I had a Pace 2M radio in my car for VHF communications (no memories, no PL, dial each digit for your freq.).

During the early and mid 80's, the SARA Club had many activities going on. We had fundraisers for new equipment such as the 220 MHz repeater, visiting days at the Black Butte repeater site, annual dinner dances in October, even an entry in the 4th of July parade in 1982. I helped the club secure it's first 220 repeater site in the USBR radio vault on Mount Oso, and also was able to schedule tours of the newly constructed New Melones powerhouse for the club members. Unfortunately, homeland security issues would make tours like that nearly impossible now. The Lions club had a national net for corneal tissue transplants. Larry Neima, N6FMN (SK), Lynn Windus KB6DXX (SK), and I were part of that net helping arrange transfers of tissues in this area and around the nation.

I also served as club president for a couple of years in 1983 and 1984 and continued to be active in the club until around 1990. I sold my radio gear in the 90's and wasn't active for quite a while. Jason, KA6TIO, my youngest son, finally hounded me enough to get another radio (he loves to help me spent my money!) and rejoined SARA in 2008. It has been fun to get back into radio a little bit at a time. I got my old Vibroplex Bug out and cleaned it up and have been practicing and getting back my "fist"! It's almost time to get another HF radio and get on CW again.

Since coming back to SARA, I've met some great new people and seen some old friends too. I'm glad to see more young people getting involved in ham radio too. I just have one message I would like to pass on; give CW a try. It's really lots of fun and not as hard as you think it is. That's all folks, Bill