

The READOUT

YEAR 12

NUMBER 7

JULY 1989

WORLDRADIO



Sir, may I temporarily set my mag-mount on your helmet? I can't seem to reach the repeater from here.

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

The READOUT is the official publication of the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association Inc. SARA P.O. Box 4601, Modesto, CA. 95352. Entered as third class mail at the U.S. Post Office Modesto, CA. 95352. Contributions to *The READOUT* are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor, Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO at 1221 Mist Flower Ct. Modesto, CA. 95355. Permission is granted to reprint articles appearing in *The READOUT* with appropriate credit. SARA owns and operates two F.M. repeaters. 145.39 MHz (-) located on Mt. Oso, 22 miles SW of Modesto at an elevation of 3,370 feet. Our 220 MHz repeater operates on 223.68 MHz (-) and is also located on Mt. Oso at an elevation of 3,500 feet. Both repeaters are equipped with an autopatch for the use of SARA members. SARA owns and operates a Packet Digipeater, WD6EJF-1 also located on Mt. Oso at 3,500 feet. Frequency is 145.07 MHz. SARA conducts an informational net on both repeaters each Thursday evening at 800 pm with the exception of holidays. SARA meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Stanislaus County Administration building at the corner of 12th and H streets in downtown Modesto. Meetings begin at 730 pm. SARA is incorporated in the State of California, is an affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and Stanislaus County RACES. Dues are \$20.00 per annum and \$10 for students up to sophomores in college. Dues are prorated for newly joining members from the date they join. ARRL memberships and QST renewals may be made through the club with a \$2.00 commission retained by SARA.

PRESIDENT

WD0FFX.....Phil Hart.....523-9081

VICE PRESIDENT

N6SAH.....Joanne Shaffer.....537-5205

SECRETARY

N6REB.....Linda Franklin.....537-1123

TREASURER

KB6ECF.....Laverne Landeros.....578-5554

The READOUT EDITOR

WA6ZLO.....Bob Pinheiro.....523-5880

**NEXT SARA
MEETING**

July 18, 1989

730 PM

**County Administration
Building.**

**12TH & H Streets
Modesto, CA.**

Lower Level Conference Room

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FCC TAKES 220-222 MHZ

The FCC announced on June 15, 1989, that it had reaffirmed its decision to reallocate the 220 to 222 MHz portion of the 220 Amateur band from the Amateur Radio Service to commercial land-mobile interests.

In so doing, the FCC rejected arguments presented in some 700 petitions for reconsideration that its original decision had failed to adequately consider the impact of the reallocation on radio Amateur volunteers who supply public-service and disaster communications services to government agencies and to the general public. The ARRL was among the parties requesting reconsideration.

Now it will be up the Federal Court of Appeals to determine whether, by so doing, the Commission overstepped its bounds. The ARRL Executive Committee had already decided to ask the Court to review the decision.

Just last month, a Congressional subcommittee chaired by West Virginia Congressman Bob Wise, conducted an oversight hearing into the FCC's decision making process on the issue.

During that hearing, there were a number of occasions

where the FCC testimony overlooked evidence on the record, or contradicted earlier statements made by the Commission. On June 7, Rep. Wise wrote to the then FCC Chairman Patrick urging consideration of four compromise scenarios in which the essential interest of all parties to the dispute would be preserved.

Despite Commission statements to the contrary, it was apparent that no substantive consideration was given to the alternatives suggested. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has repeatedly held that an agency's stating a matter has been considered, is no substitute for considering it.

In the course of discussion, the FCC did indicate that they would be willing to entertain in the future, the possibility of some shared use by Amateurs of the 216-220 MHz band. I think you can probably guess what will freeze over before that happens.

No date has been set by the FCC to terminate Amateur use of 220 to 222 MHz.

Here are some excerpts from the text of the FCC news

release of June 15, 1989. - The Commission today reaffirmed an August 4, 1988, action in which it: 1.) maintained the maritime mobile allocation in the 216-220 MHz band. 2.) allocated the 220-222 MHz band on an exclusive basis to the land mobile service for both government and nongovernment operations; and 3.) allocated the 222-225 MHz band on an exclusive basis to the Amateur service.

Petitions for reconsideration were filed by the ARRL, the National Communications Systems (NCS), TV Answer, Inc. (TVA) and about 700 Amateur radio organizations and individual Amateur radio licensees.

In affirming its previous action, the Commission stated that it was particularly sensitive to the needs and concerns expressed by the Amateurs. It also noted the Amateurs contribution to public service and emergency communications.

The FCC emphasized the decision was driven by the need to provide spectrum for development of spectrum efficient land

(Continued on Page 13)

DISNEYLAND MACHINE

If you're planning a trip to Disneyland in the near future, take along your two meter talkie and have some additional fun working the Disneyland repeater on 146.94 MHz. The machine is operated by the Disneyland Amateur Radio Club and is a split site system. The receiver is located on top of the Matterhorn and the transmitter is located behind It's A Small World.

The repeater is open 24 hours a day and is usually carrier operated. However, due to occasional co-channel interference, a P.L. tone of 1-Z (100 hz) may be required for access.

While in the park please adhere to these general rules. 1. Refrain from using telescopic antennas in the park. Rubber Duck antennas are less cumbersome and safer around people. 2. When working other members of your party, use simplex if possible. 3. If you need to report a lost child or have some type of an emergency don't relay it by way of the repeater. The park prefers you contact one of the park hosts or hostesses for assistance. 4. Do not distract other people in the park with your operations by calling undue attention to yourself and your radio. One more thing, have a good time!

VE TEST RESULTS

The Tri-County VE Team held two successful test sessions in Modesto on June 1 and 3 at Chrysler School in Modesto. A total of 19 applicants were tested for 40 elements. 13 applicants were successful in upgrading to a new class of license.

The "upgrade" rate on 6/1/89 was 78.5% and on 6/3/89 was 40%. Several applicants traveled from a long distance to attend one of our sessions. We had candidates from Angles Camp, Stockton, and Modesto.

Congratulations to SARA members Gregory Billikopf, KA6VVV (EXTRA); and Karrick Collins, N6UCL (ADVANCED). The team also wishes to thank the Education Committee for their invitation to conduct exams in Modesto.

We will return on Thursday, September 7 and Saturday, September 9, 1989 at Chrysler School in Modesto. If you have any questions regarding future test sessions or about the VE program, please contact Chet, W6XK, via the WB6V-2 BBS or (209) 883-2968. VE's for these sessions included: W6XK, NV6S, WB6V, KJ6CH, K6RAU, KI6PR, WA6OHP, KJ6DL, WG6P, and WJ6O. -W6XK via Packet

FCC NEWS

The Federal Communications Commission released the report and order completing the reorganization of Part 97 of the FCC rules governing the Amateur Radio and Amateur satellite services. The new rules will be effective September, 1989. Copies of the report and order are available. Call the Regulatory Information Department at HQ for more information. *-ARRL Bulletins via Packet.*

**SARA GARAGE SALE SATURDAY JULY 15, 1989
ALL DAY
2509 KILKENNY DRIVE , MODESTO, CA.**

ON THE AGENDA

The June 20, 1989 meeting was called to order by the President, WD0FFX at 730 pm. Introductions were made by 20 members and guests. A motion was made to accept the minutes as printed in The READOUT, the motion was seconded and approved.

The treasurer's report is as follows: Deposits made in May total, \$190.30. Bills paid totaled, \$294.51. Balance as of May 31, \$1,051.34. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made seconded and approved.

Vice President Jo, N6SAH, presented maps showing the way to the Nile Garden School in Manteca for Field Day and Dave, KJ6DL said he would be at the school Friday evening around 530 pm to open the gates.

N6SAH also announced a Bar-B-Q would be held Saturday around 5 or 6 pm. It was noted that the repeater was working OK, and WD0FFX asked that members look for some changes that Leroy, NV6S, will be making to the repeater. NV6S plans to install a courtesy tone and some type of indicator so operators can tell when they are on 2 meters or 220.

KJ6DL reported the CW contest for Novice and Technician class members is nearing the end of the planning stage, and hopes to get things going on July 1st.

Announcements of the Club's garage sale scheduled for Saturday July 15th at the home of WD0FFX, between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm. Donations and help are needed and proceeds go to the Club station fund.

Also the Stanislaus County Bicycle Club Bike-A-Thon will be on July 23rd and volunteers are needed for the communications. The club has also

been asked to assist in communications for the Balloons Over the Valley event coming up this fall. All inquiries about these events may be directed to WD0FFX or N6SAH.

There was a break in the meeting at 845 pm and the meeting resumed at 900 pm with the drawing for the evening door prize. Laverne, KB6ECF, won the SWR meter and guest, Lin Morrison, won the repeater directory.

The meeting was adjourned at 930 pm. Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Linda, N6REB.

--Via Packet and WB6V BBS

Meet SARA Members

Randy Francis
KB6ANA, Turlock



Don Lousberry
KC6CSP, Empire



N6LRB DECEASED?

At the June meeting of the club, those present were stunned to hear the news that the newsletter sent to member Lou Southerland in Oakley had come back from the Post Office with the handwritten note across the address area, "DECEASED"! It was truly a shock. We wondered what had happened to this faithful member. We had no reports of him being ill. He was too young to be suffering from any life threatening malady. So, what was it? Maybe some kind of bad accident?

In any event, it sure was a shame to lose such a good member. The following day, I placed a call to his employer to get the sad facts. When I explained to his boss about the return of the newsletter, he laughed and said "he too ornery to be dead!" He's out there working right now raising hell with the public!" Whew! What a relief! A few days later I talked to Lou on the repeater and told him what happened. He said he had checked with the Post Office and found out that they had made a mistake and had become confused with someone else. Lou said he was going to frame the newsletter as a reminder of the day that he was reported "DECEASED". -WA6ZLO

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N6LRB
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DECEASED
JUN 30 1989

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

HI HO HORACE

It seems that a farm woman called a Veterinarian concerning her ailing mule, Horace. "Doctor," she said, "Horace is sick and I wish you would come out and take a look at him." The doctor was busy so he said, "Give him a dose of mineral oil and if he isn't all right in the morning, I'll come out. The woman asked how she should give Horace the mineral oil and the doctor said to give it to him through a funnel.

She said she was afraid Horace might bite her. "Give it to him through the other end!" said the Vet. The woman thanked the Vet and said she would try. She went to the barn and looked for a funnel but the nearest thing she could find was her Uncle Bill's fox-hunting horn, a beautiful, gold plated thing with gold tassels.

She took the horn and nervously affixed it to the proper portion of Horace's anatomy. Horace was unperturbed. Still eyeing the mule, she reached behind her for the mineral oil.

Unknowingly, she picked up a bottle of turpentine by mistake and gave Horace a liberal dose. Horace's drooping ears jerked upright. His eyes widened and he screamed like a panther. He kick-

**"Every time
he jumped
the horn
would blow!"**

ed down one side of the barn and took off down the road at a mad gallop. Every time he jumped, the horn would blow. All the dogs in the neighborhood knew what that meant. The horn was blowing, so Uncle Bill was going fox hunting.

Soon, Horace had a pack of hounds in full cry behind him. Those who witnessed the chase said it was an unforgettable sight. There was Horace, running at top speed with the hunting horn appended. Mellow notes were emitted from the instrument as the gold tassels fluttered in the breeze with the dogs barking joyously. It was good and dark when Horace and the dogs reached the county line and the Intracoastal Waterway.

There, the bridge tender, who was also running for Sheriff, heard the horn and thought a boat was coming. He hurriedly raised the bridge. Horace galloped right onto the span and sailed off the end into the water and drown.

The pack of dogs went right in behind him but they all swam to safety. The hunting horn went down with Horace and was never recovered. Stories spread fast in that part of the country and by the next morning, which was local election day, everyone knew what had happened.

The bridge tender received exactly seven votes, one from himself and the other six from close relatives. Political analysts interpreted the reason the bridge tender lost the election was because the people figured that any man who didn't know the difference between a boat coming up the waterway and a passing mule with a horn wasn't fit to hold public office.

-Thanks Palm Beach, Florida Post Times

SARA CW AWARD

Novice and Technician members of SARA attention! You can win a nice plaque and certificate to hang on the wall of your shack by participating in the SARA CW contest. The object is to encourage all Novice and Technicians to be active on CW with the eventual goal to upgrade your license. The rules are as follows:

- 1. Must be a SARA member.**
- 2. Novice and Technicians only.**
- 3. Use Novice CW portions of 10 through 80 meter bands.**
- 4. You may submit copies of logs from other contests, i.e.**
Novice Roundup, WPX, CQ Worldwide etc. in addition to any individual contacts.
- 5. Copies of logs with QSL cards to verify must be submitted to the contest coordinator, Dave, KJ6DL, at P.O. Box 691, Ripon, CA. 95366 by the 10th of the new quarter.**
- 6. Scoring: 1 pt for stateside contacts.
3 pts. for DX other than the 48 contiguous states.
(Alaska and Hawaii count as 3 pts)**

The award will be issued on a quarterly basis as follows: July 1 to September 30, submit logs by October 10. October 1 to December 31, submit logs by January 10. January 1 to March 31, submit logs by April 10. April 1 to June 30, submit logs by July 10. *The winner each quarter will win the plaque to keep until he/she is dethroned. The plaque then goes to the new winner and is replaced with a nice certificate for the previous winners. You can participate as many times as you like.*

This is an excellent way to get your code speed up and get yourself ready to upgrade. If you have any questions contact Dave, KJ6DL, at 521-8281.

TAKING CARE OF YOUR PRINTER

Taking care of modern day printers can provide many years of trouble free operation. Cleaning, lubrication and re-inking ribbons are the main items in prolonged life. If you are thinking about re-inking ribbons, DON'T use stamp pad ink. It is not filtered and contains lead which causes wear on the wires in the print head (dot matrix type) and the head mechanism itself.

Use specially formulated ribbon ink made for re-inking ribbons. It contain special silicone lubricants to lubricate the ribbon and the head at the same time. Ribbons may be re-inked as often as you like until holes are worn in the ribbon at which time they MUST be discarded to prevent damage to the head.

In the area of the head of most dot matrix is a felt type pad that the print head wires pass through. This must be kept lubricated to reduce wear. It is suggested that you use Singer Sewing Machine oil. Tests have shown that Singer oil is better than 3 In 1 oil which has been found to soften the nylon parts, especially gears, making them spongy and reducing their life.

Keeping the printer clean is an important part of maintenance. Denatured Alcohol and a clean cloth is best for this job. A small paint brush with soft bristles is best for cleaning interior areas. A small paint brush is also handy to brush away paper lint that collects inside the machine. You can also purchased pressurized air canisters with a special dispenser nozzle to blow away such debris. A solution of warm sudsy water and a soft cloth is recommended for exterior surfaces.

After the job is over, cleaning ribbon ink off your hands can be very difficult. There are all kinds of commercially made products on the market that will do a fair job with a lot of elbow grease. However, one of the best for this messy job is a not a cleaner at all, it's the lubricant, WD-40. Don't laugh! It really works ! You see, the main product in WD-40 is kerosene, and it is a solvent. It works better than any commercial cleaner. Spray a generous amount of your hands and watch it go to work on those stubborn ink stains.

However, do not use WD-40 or any similar product to clean your printer. The kerosene is particular detrimental to plastic parts (like gears) in your printer. Speaking of gears, they can present a big problem if not lubricated properly. A good silicone grease should be used. Do not use it for the shaft on which the printer head slides. Use Singer sewing machine oil instead. Reserve the grease for the gears only.

Remember, a modern day printer is like a fine women (man), take good care of it, and it will take care of you.

-WA6ZLO & N6LAB

EDITOR'S NOTES

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

Well another Field Day has come and gone and to those who participated let's give them a hand. But it continues to trouble me why more Amateurs don't take part in Field Day activities each year. It seems the interest continues to wane not only in our club, but in many clubs big and small in all parts of the county.

So, what's the problem? I'm sure there are many reasons, but there seems to be more negative reasons than positive. Why? Is it because it's a hassle to get the necessary equipment together and trudge out to some remote location where conditions are less than ideal? Beside that, you don't want to subject your nice equipment to such a harsh environment and possible damage. You probably don't have a camp trailer, so you have to sleep out under the stars. You say sleeping on a cot or in a sleeping bag is no where near as comfortable as your bed at home and besides that, you have a bad back!

The temperature is usually hot during the day and quite often downright chilly at night and sometimes it rains. The bugs, particularly the mosquitos, are big enough to carry your mother-in-law off and when they bite it feels like you've been drilled by the green hornet. And if the bugs don't get you then the poison ivy usually does.

After several hours you long for a nice hot shower but there none in sight and your starting to smell like your socks. The thought of having to operate all night conflicts with your biological clock that tells you when it's time to go to bed. Restroom calls are unpleasant and a chore in usually strange and odorous outhouses.

Maybe there a personality conflict with one or more of those who plan to be there. You don't

relish the thought of hearing a certain member brag about how good he is on CW, or his contesting ability. Maybe your embarrassed about your own operating skills and don't want anybody to know. By the same token, maybe your tired of winning the best operator trophy each year, so you stay away so that someone else can have a shot at it.

Surely some people stay away because they don't particularly care for the people that are planning to be there. On the other hand, some will attend because they feel comfortable with those that are. Some may stay away because of health problems and many because they have to work. And still others simply because they have never been to one before and don't know what to expect.

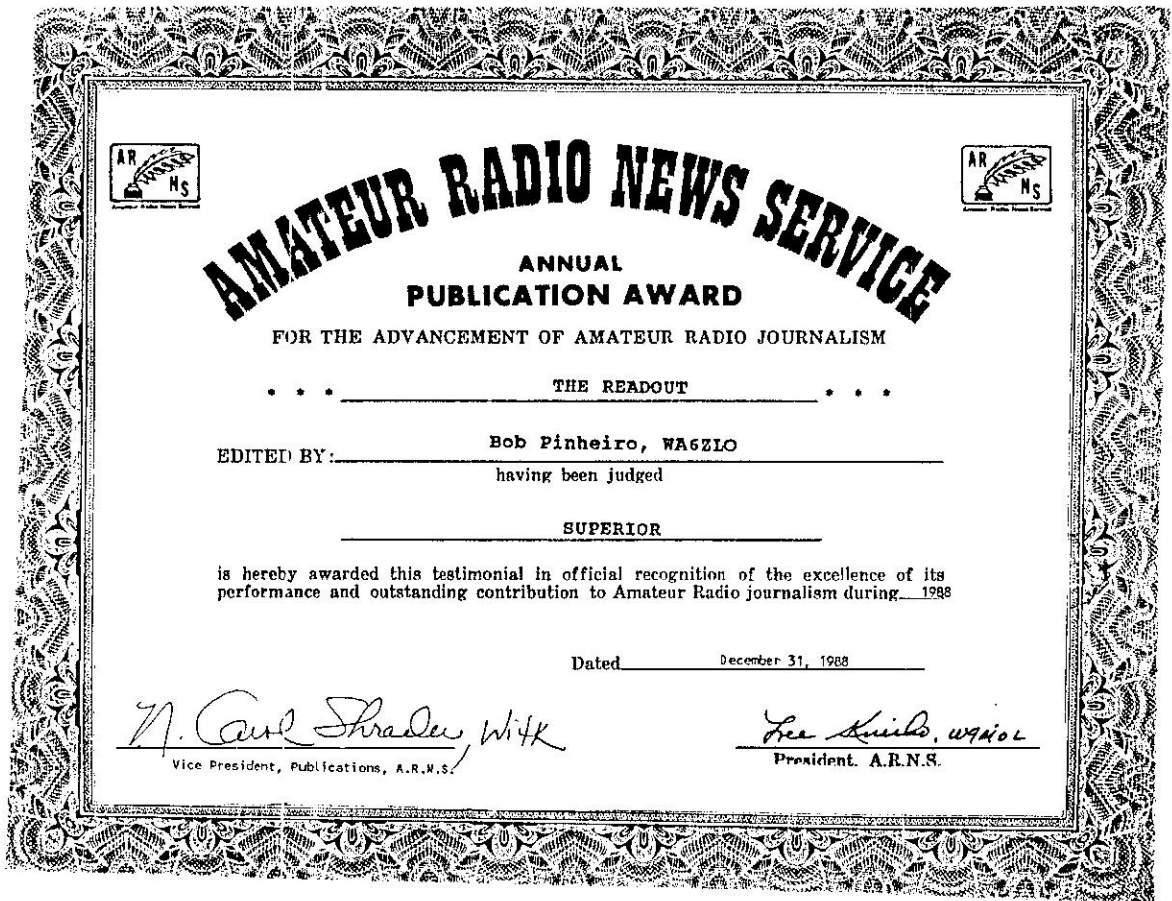
They may not even know what a Field Day is. Sadly, a few may simply not be able to afford the expense. Many ask themselves, is this really necessary? The whole idea about Field Day was conceived 100 years ago or so when communications were nowhere near as sophisticated and efficient as they are today.

Today we have batteries that last for days, weeks or even months. Walkie Talkies, solid state transceivers small enough to put in a shoe box, satellites to talk to the world, packet radio, repeaters on almost every mountaintop and portable generators that can be carried by one person and provide all the power needed to run a complete station. And there are mobiles in cars that can work every band.

So why do we need Field Day? To find that answer we need only to examine the original purpose of Field Day...*to work as many stations as possible on any Amateur Bands and in doing so, learn to operate in abnormal situations under less*

than optimum conditions to develop skills and equipment to meet the challenge of emergency preparedness and to acquaint the public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio. And that's it in a nutshell. So the object is admirable, the concept

sound, but I'm afraid to say, only a disaster would quiet our human frailties, silence our varied excuses and bring us together to do what we do best... communicate! The only question is...will we be ready for it?



I mentioned last month that The READOUT had received a Superior Award from the Amateur Radio News Service. The certificate gives me the credit, but, I would like to share it with the people who helped me win this award. Thanks to Denny, WG6P and Tom, WJ6O, for their outstanding contribution, DxNotes. To Linda, N6REB, for the fine job she does with the club minutes and her special feature stories and pictures. My gratitude also to all of you who have submitted stories, photographs and cartoons. To Gary, KJ6Q in Vacaville, who half-tones all of our pictures so they reproduce so nicely in the newsletter. Also thanks to Chet, W6XK for the VE reports and Ed, WB6V for operating a first class BBS.

RFI HANDOUT REQUESTS

About a year ago, we published a story on how to use Ferrite Beads for reducing RFI (radio frequency interference) to home electronics equipment. The information was gleaned from a handout prepared by Palomar Engineering of Escondido, CA. and reprinted with their permission. A subsequent story about the handout appearing in The READOUT was printed in WorldRadio magazine which resulted in well over 500 letters being received by SARA for copies of the handout.

The requests almost overwhelmed us, but we managed to get the extra copies of the handout printed at very little cost to the club (a lot of donations and green stamps (money) from the requesters) and mailed out in the provided SASE's. The initial requests came from all over the U.S.A and some from Canada. We thought that we had them all when the Canadian Amateur Radio Magazine picked up the story in WorldRadio and ran it in their June issue.

You guess it, the flood of requests are now coming in from Canadian hams. In fact, we even got one from ZL in New Zealand. The club certainly got some worldwide attention as result of all this, but again, the credit for the article goes to Palomar Engineers. We gave them credit for it when we published it, but we didn't think that it would gather the attention it did. Hind-sight tells us that we should have included in the article that if any one wanted a copy of the handout to send an SASE directly to Palomar.

So, just in case this story gets picked up by the national and International magazines, if you want the handout the address is: Palomar Engineers, PO Box 455, Escondido, CA. 92025. Ask for the handout on Using Ferrite Beads and Toroid Cores for RFI problems. The bottom line is that RFI problems to modern day electronics equip-

ment is a serious problem, particularly to VCR's and telephone answering machines. Garage door openers, thermostats, electronic organs and hi-fi sets are also high on the list.

Sources of RFI are not limited to ham radio operators. There are a myriad of possible sources including, but not limited to electric razors, computers, CB radios, hair dryers, egg beaters, electric rodent repellents, lamp dimmers, electric transformers, high tension electric wires, street lamps or many other electric or electronic devices. In addition to Palomar's handout, there are other sources of information available including the ARRL Handbook, the U.S. Government Printing Office, Amidon Engineers and AT&T.

The Government handout is called, How to Identify and Resolve Radio/TV Interference Problems. Stock No. 004-000-00345-4. Amidon Associates, 12033 Otsego St. N. Hollywood, CA. 91607 has a handout on how to use their products to reduce interference. And a call to AT&T at 1-800-222-3111 will get you information on their nearest store where you can buy there RFI filter Model Z-100A to reduce or eliminate interference to phones.

Remember that SARA has an RFI committee headed by Dan, W6SBE, who has solved many RFI problems. If you need their help, just give them a call at 521-2032.

Palomar Engineers
PO Box 455,
Escondido, CA. 92025.

FCC TAKES 220-222

MHZ

(From Page 3)

mobile technology. The Commission feels that it will be possible to reaccommodate the operations from 220-222 MHz to the 222-225 MHz portion of the band.

However, it recognized that in some areas, particularly Southern California, the reaccommodation will be more involved. The ARRL has suggested that the FCC consider secondary allocation in the 216-220 MHz portion for those displaced from 220-222 MHz. The Commission stated the ARRL may make such a proposal, however, it has concerns about such use by the Amateur Service.

The FCC also received a request for oral arguments from the ARRL. The Commission noted that it is NOT its policy to grant routinely, oral arguments in rulemaking proceedings, particularly in proceedings that have a full written record as in this case. Further, the FCC noted that oral ex parte (one side of the argument) presentations may be made to the Commissioners during the course of rulemaking proceeding. In this proceeding a number of such

oral ex parte presentations were made to each of the Commissioners, including several from the

ARRL. - In a late development reported by 220 Notes Newsletter, it has been learned that on June 19, 1989, Ms. Sharree Marshall was nominated to fill one of the current vacancies at FCC. Marshall is now an employee of the law firm which represented UPS (United Parcel Service) in the so-far successful attempt to reallocate 220-222 MHz. As such, Ms. Marshall is seen to be very prejudiced in her views for the land mobile service, to the exclusion of all other services which can't 'pay their way', especially the Amateur Service.

If Ms. Marshall is confirmed by Senate, it can be well assured that Amateur Radio will have a very powerful enemy in its rule-making agency at a time when we least can afford it. This is not the last grab to be attempted by the spectrum thieves against Amateur frequencies.

As of Friday, June 16, we understand that there are two more Petitions poised to take away Amateur bands, one against 902-928 MHz, the other against 420-450 MHz. And look for some of the low bands to be struck after that!

- Excerpted from Pacific Division Director's Report by Rod Stafford, KB6ZV and 220 Notes Newsletter via Packet.

BEEP BEEP

If you haven't already noticed, there is now a courtesy tone on the SARA two meter repeater. The device was built by Leroy, NV6S, who installed it on June 24. The tone is there simply to remind us to pause of couple of seconds between transmissions to allow stations wishing to break an opportunity to do so.

Leroy also reports that he plans to install another tone device on the two meter machine to indicate when the 220 link is up. When it's installed, you will hear two beeps when the link is up. There will be no beeps on the 220 machine. Leroy asked for any input on these changes from the membership.

THUMP THUMP

You may cuss them every time you drive over them, but they have been proven to prevent accidents and save lives and keep mobilizing ham's on their side of the road. What are they?

"Botts Dots" "What's that you say?" Officially they are called "RPM's" (Raised Pavement Markers), and are those little round markers you see marking the streets and highways. They were invented by Dr. Elbert Botts in the 1950's when he was head of the Caltrans Chemical Laboratory in Sacramento.

The "dots" started appearing on California freeways in the late 1960's when their life saving value was realized. However, a major problem was how to fasten them to the pavement. Originally, spikes and nails were tried but soon gave way to an epoxy type glue which held the dots securely.

The rumbling THUMP, THUMP, THUMP, associated with driving over the dots has awakened many a sleepy driver, helped keep cars in their lanes and warned drivers of impending intersection stops. The dots also make it easier to see lane

marking at night. Two types of the dots are used, reflective and non-reflective. The latter are 4 inches in diameter and made of ceramic material. The yellow dots are used to mark the center line while white ones mark bike lanes and miscellaneous markings on the pavement.

Reflective dots come in blue and red with the blue ones used by many city fire departments to mark fire hydrant locations. The red ones are used to warn drivers they are going the wrong way. Today over 30 million dots are in use on California highways alone.

It costs Caltrans \$4 million a year to install new ones and replace old and damaged ones. The dots have a life expectancy of from one and half to ten years depending on the amount of traffic on the roadway and weather conditions. They cost around \$4.00 each which includes the labor to install them, not to mention the savings on many gallons of paint that would otherwise be used.

Raised Pavement Markers

SUPER MORSE DISK

The National Amateur Radio Association is distributing a shareware program called "Super Morse" written by Lee Murrah, WD5CID. The program can be used with any IBM or compatible computer.

Super Morse is organized into four phases of the Morse code learn process (1.) learning the characters, (2.) building speed, (3.) enhancing skills, and (4.) measuring progress. An on-screen display permits configuring the sending and word speed.

Files are included on disk which simulate actual radio transmissions between Amateurs. Cost is FREE, but there is a \$3.00 postage/handling charge write- NARA, 16541 Redmond Way #232, Redmond, WA 98052. -W5Y1 Report

PARDON ME MAM!

During the SARA picnic in July (1985) at the Tuolumne River Regional Park an exceedingly good time was had by all those members who participated in the transmitter hunt.

The hunt provided some humorous moments when the search focused on a young couple enjoying the pleasure of each others arms under a cooling shade tree on the banks of the river not far from the starting point.

N6LSB, Joe, (now WQ6W) was the first hunter to suspect possibly that the transmitter might be somewhere near the couple. But, he was not about to disturb them while they were amorously involved. Joe was heard to say, "my moma didn't raise any fool!"

Jim, KB6DJ, with his gentlemanly smile wasn't adverse to a least causing a short interruption in the proceedings.

As the rest of the hunters looked on, Jim said politely, "pardon me folks, would you mind if we looked for a hidden transmitter?"

Professing not to know the least bit about what he was talking about while feigning mild indignation, permission was granted as the lady straightened

her coiffure. Jim explained that the assembled multitude, with their funny looking little radios, were looking for a hidden transmitter and they had narrowed their search to their immediately area judging from all the signals.

The couple uprighted themselves from the lawn revealing nothing but their wrinkled blanket. Denny, WG6P, quickly asked if they could look under the blanket?



Request granted! Zap! No Luck! As speculation increased, 40 over S-9 signals continued to intermittently pegged meters and quite squelches.

The hunters knew that they were close enough to be able to

feel the heat off the heat sinks of the hidden transmitter. The couple waited patiently as the hunters contemplated their next move. It was noted that the man was wearing cut-offs while the lady was wearing a roomy dress.

Suspicious immediately focused on the young lady's dress but no one was willing to physically to put their thoughts into actions.

In as much as WA6ZLO knew where the transmitter was and was disqualified, he suggested that the hunters might ask the lady questions in an attempt to probe forbidden areas.

DJ and WG6P quickly asked her if their were any foreign item in or about her bosom. "No," said the lady. "I don't need such items!"

Expectations were then lowered as the next question asked if she had anything foreign under her dress.

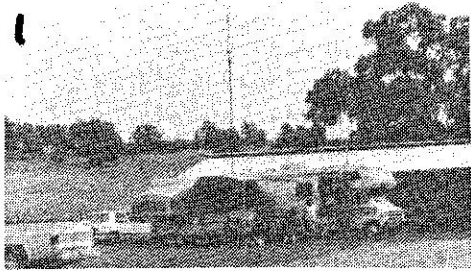
"Well I declare!" said the lady. Following the laughter, she was asked to raise her dress a "just a wee bit".

She agreed and much to the enjoyment of all present the top end of a rubber duck was seen protruding alongside her left thigh. A few more carefully

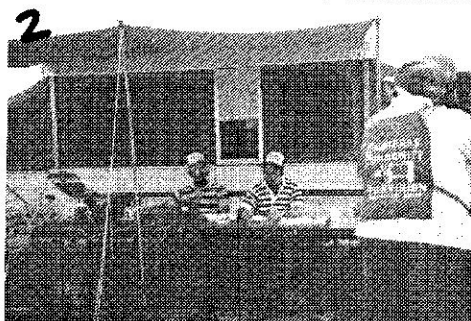
(Continued on Page 19)

SUCCESSFUL POW-WOW

By Linda Franklin, N6REB



The first weekend in May found rock hounds (the geological kind) swarming to the Snyder Ranch at Valley Springs, CA. from all over the USA and elsewhere including many Amateur Radio operators.



The occasion was the 15th annual POW-WOW, a gathering of approximately 200 "tailgaters" displaying and selling arts and crafts, gems and minerals as well as gifts and jewelry from throughout the world. Also, featured was a chicken in the barrel dinner and a steak barbecue. There were working antique gasoline engines on display with demonstrations, a treasure hunt with metal detectors and field trips.



Toward sundown, the "down home" sounds of old time fiddlers, along with blue grass and country and western music, could be heard as it was carried along by the gentle evening breezes. Square dancers dosy doed to the rhythmic voice of the caller, while bystanders stood by tapping their toes to the music.

Phil, KB6BJH and Neal, N6LAB, organized our ham station (Photo 1) involvement in this event which presented a great opportunity for the club to demonstrate ham radio as well as pass traffic for some of those attending the event.



The day before the festivities began, Dave, KJ6DL, put up his rotatable dipole antenna in the spot that was chosen for the station. With the antenna in place, Dave and Jim, N6KMR, arrived at the POW-WOW Friday evening around 8 pm and set up the station with KJ6DL's HF and 2-meter equipment.

Saturday morning found Charlie, KJ6GE and his wife Jo, N6SAH (Photo 4) arriving around 8 am in their motor home along with Phil, KB6BJH and his wife Linda. Phil and Charlie operated the station all day Saturday taking messages from those who were curious and anxious to say hello

say hello to family and friends from the POW-WOW in California. There was a variety of destinations for some of the messages including Japan, Africa, a sailboat near San Diego and several states. One lady requested a message to be sent to Barry Goldwater in Arizona. When asked if she knew him and did she have an address or telephone number, she replied, "Oh no, I heard he was a ham and I just wanted to tell him hi from the POW-WOW in California."

The Calaveras Community television crew arrived around 11 am Saturday morning (photo 2). Although our guys were a bit nervous at being videoed, they handled the situation extremely well. Plans are being made to acquire a copy of the video so it may be viewed by the club at a future meeting.

In addition to those already mentioned, other members and friends who helped out included my daughter Sharron, KB6ZZD and son Jeff (not a ham yet) and his fiancée.

Later Chas, KJ6CH, took a brief turn at the radio to see if he could get traffic passed to Southern California, Oregon and Vancouver, B.C.

The owners of the ranch stopped by several times during the event to check on how things were going and invited us back again next year.

For those members who didn't make it to the POW-WOW this year, you should consider putting it down on your calendars for next year. P.S., that's me in photo 3 checking over some of the tailgate items for sale.

EARPHONES IN VEHICLES

Lightweight stereo earphones are just what the doctor ordered for use with your rigs in the mobile. They're light and comfortable and have excellent quality.

A word of caution though, if you are the driver, the law says you can cover only *ONE* ear. Section 27400 of the California Vehicle-Code prohibits covering both ears with "headsets" or any "earplugs". Note that the law says "both ears."

So, have at it! If you have a set of these lightweight headphones, give them a try. They're neat for mobile operation. But don't cover *BOTH* ears while driving.

Certain emergency vehicles, such as fire trucks and ambulances, are exempted from this law.

SARA DINNER-DANCE October 7TH, 1989 Oasis Restaurant Modesto

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE READOUT

Contributions to The READOUT can be made through my Packet Mailbox on the WB6V-2 BBS at Ceres. Column width and length are not critical. I download all contributions into the word processor and get them ready for the newsletter. Frequency is 145.07. All contributions are welcome and carefully considered.

PROGRESS OF THE V.E. PROGRAM

By Chet, W6XK

The FCC created the VEC (Volunteer Examination Coordinator) program in 1984 in order to provide increased opportunities for candidates to qualify to be amateur radio operators. In addition, the government saved hundreds of thousands of dollars by re-directing staff to other activities.

The VEC system has grown over the past five years into a successful program of amateur radio testing. Much of the credit goes to the thousands of VE's (Volunteer Examiners) who devote countless hours preparing, conducting, and supervising radio operator testing around the nation and overseas. These men and women work very hard to

**"Credit goes to the
thousands of VE's who
devote countless hours"**

conduct efficient and honest examinations. It is truly a labor of love!

A typical session begins when a date is chosen and location is secured in advance. Schools, county offices, and service group facilities are popular choices.

Test sessions are announced approximately six weeks prior to the session. Nets, repeaters, packet bulletin boards, newsletters, and word-of-mouth are common ways to "spread-the-word".

A "contact" VE is generally in charge of the session. He/she is responsible for coordinating the session with the VEC and securing a team of VE's. The contact VE oversees the paperwork before, during, and after the session. This person also maintains communication with the VEC in order to assure that all procedures are followed and the 610 forms have been properly completed and submitted to the FCC.

Each team divides the duties during the session. For example, two VE's may grade papers, one will oversee the paperwork and 610's, several VE's monitor the candidates, and one will be in charge of the CW tests. We try to alternate the chores so that everyone has an opportunity to perform different functions. It is also vital that each team have several volunteers (they do not have to be VE's) operate the "waiting room". They help candidates fill out the forms, collect test fees, provide coffee and doughnuts, and generally provide a relaxing atmosphere prior to the testing. The entire session normally takes three hours from start to finish.

The final paperwork session takes approximately two hours. In the final analysis, the team devotes five hours for each test session that is held. The Tri-County VE Team takes this work seriously. We are proud to be a part of a system that will insure the future growth of the Amateur Radio Service in this country.

If you would like to be part of the "team", please contact Chet, W6XK on the WB6V-2 BBS or phone 883-2968. You must hold an Amateur Extra Class license (or an Advanced Class license in the ARRL/VEC program).

- Via Packet

Vision Teaser



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Sweater is missing. 2. Lady is missing. 3. Head is turned. 4. Basket is empty. 5. Arm is moved. 6. Purse is moved.

FCC AFTER K6DYD'S LICENSES

The FCC has decided they have had enough and have begun proceedings to strip Jerry E. Gastil, K6DYD, of all of his radio licenses. In addition to his own Extra Class ham ticket, he holds two commercial licenses and is the licensee of two Amateur club stations. Gastil was fined \$50 in 1985 for operating an unidentified repeater station, and \$750 in 1986 for running an HF pirate broadcast station on 7434 kHz as "Doctor Demento, Voice of the Pacific Northwest" using the unauthorized call sign, KIWI.

Last year he was fined \$1,000, placed on three years (FCC supervised) probation and ordered to perform five years community service when he pleaded guilty to intentionally jamming the San Diego FBI radio network. A radio technician by trade, Gastil had been caught in early 1987 by the FBI and FCC.

PARDON ME MAM

(From Page 15)

measured inches and the Icom 2-AT was fully visible. It was attached to her thigh near the knee with an Ace bandage. A remote keying line and microphone ran from the talkie up under her arm and was keyed when she placed pressure on her arm.

After the excitement died down, it was learned that the couple were actually man and wife and personal friends of WA6MIZ who had solicited their help. They were thanked for their splendid job and appeared to enjoy it as much as the hunters. They were heard to say as they were leaving that they had not "made out" like that since they were teenagers.

CALENDAR

July 15, 1989	SARA Garage Sale	All Day
July 18, 1989	SARA Monthly Meeting	730 pm
Aug. 13, 1989	Chico Hamfest	All Day
.....	Chico Elks Lodge (Talk-In 146.85 Mhz)	
Sept. 7, 1989	VE Tests in Modesto	630 pm
.....	Contact W6XK 883-2968	
Sept. 9, 1989	VE Test in Modesto	900 am
Oct. 7, 1989	SARA 12th Annual Dinner-Dance	630 pm
.....	Oasis Restaurant, Modesto	
Oct. 17, 1989	SARA Monthly Meeting	730 pm
Nov. 21, 1989	SARA Monthly Meeting	730 pm
Dec. 19, 1989	SARA Monthly Meeting	730 pm

SARA meets the third Tuesday of each month (except holidays) at the Stanislaus County Administration Building, 12th and H streets in Modesto. The meetings are held in the lower level conference room starting at 730 pm. Visitors and interested parties are welcome.

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

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