

# The READOUT

Year 14

Number 4

April 1992

## SARA 10 Meter Digi Repaired & Improved

By Jim, N6KMR

The 10 meter digi is up and running again. The power is up and the new antenna is in a better location which allows us to work the Bay Area and the valley. Signals from Fresno to Sacramento have been heard and worked, also the Santa Rosa area and South Bay communities which makes WD6EJF-2 on Mt. Oso a new and wide coverage machine.

The digi is the product of the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association and answers to the short alias call of "Oso". Remember, it is not a node at this time, just a digi. But if you want to connect and see if you can work the machine type... "Cmd: C WD6EJF-2 (enter)". You might be surprised to find that 10 meters

is not dead after the sun goes down and find several friends on the frequency. Many of them have gateways to and from the site forwarding out on to other bands.

So, if your tired of the humdrum of VHF packet, try to working the digi in the quiet of the ten meter band. By the way, you might be interested to know this is the first dedicated digi on HF in the country. So, try calling CQ. You might be surprised who's listening? The frequency of the digi is 28.103 MHz lower sideband. VK's, ZL's and JA's have worked it, and so can you. So, what are you waiting for. Brad, KC6TDH, Skip, N6ZAA and all of the rest us are eager for you to join us.

## KB6DJ Recuperating From Open Heart Surgery

SARA member Jim Smith, KB6DJ, is recovering from open heart surgery at his home in Grants Pass, Oregon. Jim had double bypasses installed in around Christmas after it was determined two arteries were 95% plugged.

After the surgery Jim was recuperating in the hospital when a second problem developed 10 days later. An aneurism developed in his head which required additional emergency surgery. Jim reports the surgery was risky as the doctors shut off the blood supply to the brain for short period of time. However, Jim is happy to report there was no brain damage, but he did had a lung collapse which later filled with fluid. This happened after he returned home so he had to return to the hospital.

And if that was not enough, Jim's wife Jaudon fell asleep on the way home from the hospital one night and ran off on the shoulder of the road. She over-corrected and rolled the car three or four times, totaling out the vehicle. She wasn't hurt badly, thanks to the seat belt she was wearing. Other than bumps, bruises and aches and pain, she is getting along fine.

Good luck to both of them and hopes for a speedy recovery.

-Thanks NQ6H and WB6SHE

### Inside This Issue

Product Review New Collinear Antenna .....	Page 2
KJ6Q Personal Profile .....	Page 3
Chief Engineer's Reports .....	3-9-11
Coalinga Earthquake Revisited .....	Page 4
From The Desk of N6ZUC .....	Page 5
Editor's Notes .....	Page 6
PacSat News .....	Page 7
SARA Minutes .....	Page 8

*The READOUT* is published monthly by the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association. COPYRIGHT 1992 by the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association, (*sara*), Modesto, CA. All Rights reserved. Permission is granted for reproduction in whole or in part provided that credit is given to *The READOUT* and to the authors of the reproduced material.

#### 1992 SARA Officers

##### President

Jim Hertel, N6KMR, 531-1157

##### Vice President

Sandra Ingram, KC6TBK, 526-6277

##### Secretary

Ernie Rader, K6UVI, 522-5303

##### Treasurer

Rita Palacios-Rader, KD6BVN  
522-5303

#### SARA VHF Net

Thursdays @ 8 p.m.

(Except Holidays)

2 meters 145.39 MHz WD6EJF

220 Band 224.14 MHz WD6EJF

10 Meter 28,440 kHz USB

Tuesdays at 800 pm.

Contributions to *The READOUT* are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor by mail or via packet at N6REB-BBS on 145.79 MHz. The deadline for articles is the 15th of the preceding month. Articles regarding religion or politics are not accepted.

#### Editor

Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

1221 Mist Flower Ct.

Modesto, CA. 95355

209-523-5880

An **ARRL** affiliated club !

**ARRL** membership may be paid through **SARA** with the club retaining a \$2.00 commission. Please send your **ARRL** membership form along with your check made payable to "**SARA**". We will deduct the \$2.00 and send a check to the **ARRL**.

# New Product Review

## Collinear Antenna

The NEW HVF98 eight band collinear antenna from Butternutt will be available sometime this summer according to reports from the factory in Texas.

The new uniquely designed bipolarly reverse phased antenna operates on all VHF and UHF bands with better than 1.75:1 VSWR on all bands. It can even be tuned to 33 and 23 Centimeters with Butternutt's entirely new adjustable vertical and horizontal radiators.

The entire 25' (7.6m) height produces a highly efficient vertical and horizontally polarized pattern that can be set up for non-directional or highly direction operation depending on your particular situation and configuration.

The unique adjustable elements are made of 12 gauge stainless steel rods for years of carefree service. A base

loaded High Voltage variable capacitor is automatically adjusted to the frequency in use and is rated at 750 watts. Extremely low SWR is accomplished by an on board VSWR sensing IC cleverly concealed in the horizontal radiator near the base and shielded in a one inch lead housing unit. The chip is powered by a small solar panel attached to the horizontal radiator.

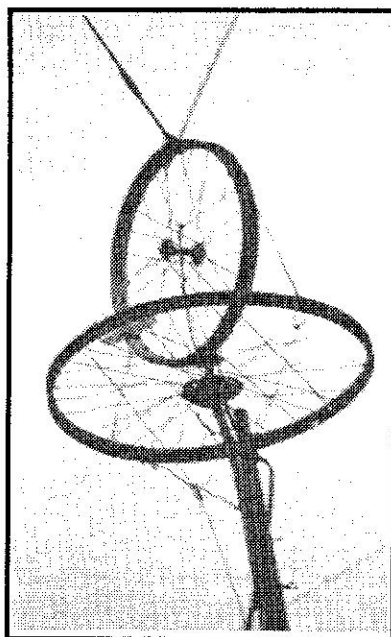
The HVF98 is rated for winds of up to 80 mph (128km/hr) without guying and requires only a small area for efficient operation. The 8 db gain unit can be center mounted and easily rotated with a small TV type rotor like the Alliance U100. No heavy duty rotor is needed.

The antenna is completely self-supporting, easy to assemble and completely factory pre-tuned for high performance. It comes with a fold-over feature with spring loaded hinge for easy access. Boom length is 8 feet.

Butternutt's use of high-Q tuning circuits is expected to make this the hottest multiband available on the market. The first shipment of the HVF98 is scheduled for April first. The suggested retail price is only \$18.95.

-April Fool-

For the true story behind this modern day poor man's antenna turn to page 10. This home brew antenna was observed on a home in Ceres.



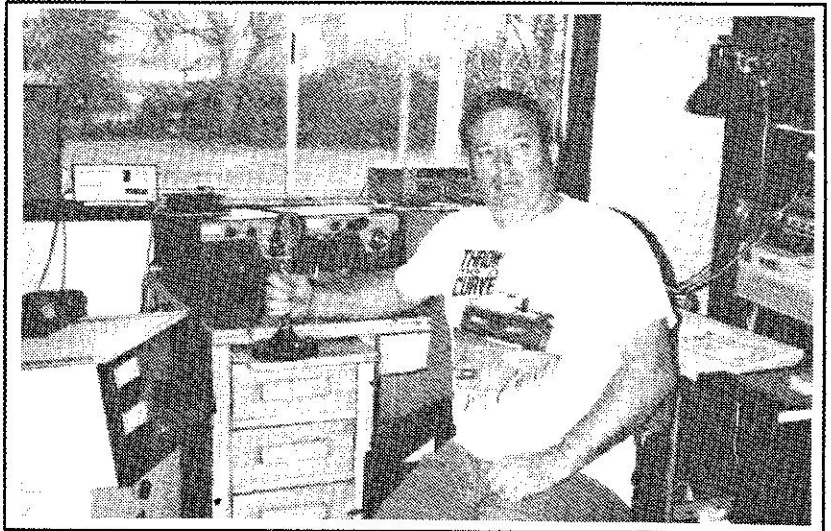
# Personal Profile of Gary Davidson KJ6Q, Vacaville, CA.

This glorious photo reveals the operating position of KJ6Q, Gary Davidson of Vacaville. Gary spent most of his tender years in the Oakdale-Modesto area, graduation from Modesto Union Academy in 1954.

After a 2 year stint in the Army, Gary was hired by the Manteca Bulletin newspaper as all around printer's devil and acting upon a long-time interest in electronics, obtained a Novice class license with the call, WV6KDK. After 3 months, he upgraded to General class and traded the "V" for an "A".

After nearly 14 years with the Bulletin, Gary left Manteca and joined the Vacaville Reporter in 1970 which was just prior to Gary upgrading to Extra Class. He retained WA6KDK until 1985 when he requested a 2 by 1 call and was issued the current KJ6Q. Gary progressed in the printing trade and has been the production manager of the daily Reporter for the last 10 years or so.

For the last couple of years, Gary has been responsible for computer operations at the Reporter, consisting of about 50 networked PC's.



Gary's home station consists of a Kenwood TS-440, a set of Drake C-line twins, a Henry 3K Premier and Dentron 2500B amps. A Kenwood TS-780 all mode 2 meter-440 MHz rig handle VHF duties. A PK232MBX and 486-33 MHz class computer round out the shack. Outside equipment includes a 70 ft. tower with a 17 element 2 meter beam, Mosely classic tribander and 160-40 meter inverted V's handle the radiation chores.

---

## Chief Engineer's Report By LeRoy Campbell, NV6S

The engineering department has been busy with non-engineering related chores for most of the past month. Family matters have taken most of my time. I did manage to repair the ten meter digi transceiver and thanks to N6KMR making a trip up the hill it is back on the air. Jim also checked at the two meter site for the source of the kerchunking on the 2 meter machine. He found two coaxes that were touching about a quarter wave from the repeater. When they were isolated the problem went away.

Hopefully that has solved the problem there. Those problems can be difficult to track down and it is not uncommon for coax problems to be the source. The touch tone access mode has been in use for about a month now and seems to be giving an added benefit of reducing the problems with jamming and playing with the touch tone pad on the air. I have also had the repeater shut down at times be-

cause of unidentified and obscene language. This will continue to be the practice when illegal operation over the repeater is occurring. We are working on locating the source of the interference and have it isolated to an area. It should be pretty easy to track the rest of the way assuming it continues and we are available to track it at the same time.

Also on the case of malicious interference, high technology may be helping us by taking real pictures of the radio waves. I know nothing of the system but am told that it is done from an airplane and can actually photograph the radio waves and track them exactly to the source. That would be interesting evidence in court.

I do have trips planned in the future for many different chores that need to be taken care of at the repeater site. We have been experiencing many forms of interference and I'm hoping to track down and eliminate as many of those as possible.

Thanks for your patience as I try to find enough time to do work on the repeater. 73, LeRoy.



# Massive Earthquake Devastates Coalinga

*(Revisited)*

*(Ed. Note- On May 2, 1983 a massive earthquake struck the small Fresno County town of Coalinga, CA. What follows is a story written by WA6DDR which appeared in The READOUT in August of 1983. As we approach the 9th anniversary of the 6.5 earthquake, we hope revisiting this story will emphasize that it will happen again and the need to be prepared.)*

The Coalinga earthquake hit at 442 pm May 2, 1983. At that moment I was sitting at Clovis and 5th avenue in Clovis waiting for a red light. I was talking with K6VWF in Coalinga through the 147.33 Coalinga repeater on Joaquin Ridge located just NW of downtown Coalinga. The repeater suddenly went dead. The repeater had been experiencing some power failures at times, so I waited about 30 seconds and activated the controls codes restoring it to service.

K6VWF came on and said, "I wonder why the re...re... re... repeater.... ah.. hey, we're having an earthquake and boy it's a big one! There goes my dishes and my front window, and the bricks on the front of the house!" Then, Jack, W6IYY, also in Coalinga, broke in and reported his antiques and dishes had crashed to the floor. Immediately, KV6W, Ken, in Hanford, assumed net control of the repeater and began mustering available "hams" for emergency service. I arrived home and immediately called the Sheriff's Department, the hospitals and the news agencies to make them aware of the

disaster. I also called the F.A.A. I then received a call to go to work (I work for Pacific Telephone Microwave Division). I had been elected to go to Joaquin Ridge along with Chuck, KA6ZDE.

Joaquin Ridge, we found out later, was the epicenter of the quake. We had about an hours drive before we got to the first road block at Hwy's 198 and 33. We showed our telephone company I.D.'s and proceeded on. The road had several buckles in the blacktop and a lot of waving sags in it. We got to the oil fields and there was an eerie quiet because none of the wells were pumping when the power went out.

## 'At the top we saw signs of earth movement with fissures in the parking lot.'

As we headed up the road to the top of Joaquin Ridge we encountered the first pile of rocks, which turned out to be an endless battle all the way up the hill (8 miles) to the top. Most of the rocks were about the size of basketballs and watermelons. Occasionally, we would stop and clear the road, get back in the truck and report to W6POU with the County who was waiting to see if we could make it so he could send his people up to try and get their system up and running again. We encountered one rock approximately three feet in diameter, but somehow we managed to move it. The road was split in numerous places and slipped down the mountain as much as three feet, but we managed to get to the top.

At the top we saw signs of earth movement. In the parking lot there were fissures from two to three inches wide all around the building.

Inside the microwave building it was a mess! All the cabinets that were anchored to the walls were now on the floor, along with everything in them. After climbing over the debris, we found everything still working. Not one circuit was out of service. The batteries really took a beating. The lead straps were twisted and bent and the acid spilled on the floor, but nothing was broken.

We began the cleaning up process and then prepared to leave. As we were leaving, we checked the emergency generator which was OK. We found the exhaust manifold was broken with a slight gap in it. We also check the air conditioner and discovered a 4 inch gap between the building foundation and the earth as far as we could see.

The next stop was the building housing the ham repeaters where we found both relay racks twisted from there foundations, bolts broken off and cavities hanging by their cables, but they were working so we left them alone. The 220 machine power supply was on the floor but appeared to be OK. We picked it up, put it back in the cabinet and plugged it back in and it took right off. Thank goodness! We now had both the two meter and 220 repeaters working.

By this time, it was 230 am the following morning. We had a precarious drive down the mountain back to Fresno where we arrived at 345 am. It sure felt good going up and down that rocky canyon road to know that there were hundreds of "ham operators" listening to your every move. While were there, we felt a couple of heavy after-shocks that reminded us of the seriousness of the situation.

*(Thanks WA6DDR, Mac, & the Kings Amateur Radio Club, Hanford, CA.)*



## FROM THE DESK OF

**N 6 Z U C**

**Tim Low, Escondido, CA.**

I've been on a quest. Somewhere I reason, is a good antenna for my HT. One that provides acceptable performance, atsomewhere near a proper match. Something less than a 3 to 1 ratio would be nice. Could I find one that would give decent results on two bands for my dual band 2 meter/440? What about a monobander?

What I really wanted was a duck. Now I realize some of the telescopic HT antennas provide superior performance, I checked out a few, but I find them clumsy and awkward to carry. They're a hazard to any eyeball in the area, and can be broken easily. Besides, they're very hard on the HT's connector, as I found out. I had a bit of surgery to do on mine caused by the weight of the extendible binding on the connector. I do think the extendibles have their place. If you're out in the boonies with just an HT, they'd be great, but not for carrying on the belt.

Just for a point of information, here is what I found with regard to the extendible's. I only found one extendible made for dual band operation. I understand there are others, but I didn't run into them. The one I did find only performed slightly better than the best ducks I tried. I did find one close to reasonable performance and SWR on both bands. Actually it wasn't made for the use I was putting it to. It was a scanner antenna I

found at Radio Shack, (part# 20-006, \$9.99). Fully extended it was 2.5 to 1 on both the 2 meter and 440 bands. It's also made of light weight aluminum, which is easier on the HT's connector.

I tried several other non-loaded whip styles, trying to adjust for the lowest reflected power. As the old saying goes, you just can't get there from here. They don't work, despite the makers claim.

There was one real bright spot for extendible's, and that was with a monobander. The "HOT ROD" from AEA that I tried worked beautifully. No reflected power could be observed on either of the SWR/Power meters I was using for the tests. It's half wave design is a real performer. It is a bit heavy, but if you need a top performer, look at the "HOT ROD".

Now for the ducks. Good thing they're made of rubber, or my tears would've ruined them for sure. What a disappointment. I begged and borrowed every one I could, and even bought a couple on dealer recommendation. No need to publish brand names here, as none of them I tried worked very well. A few worked ok, but just ok, on one band or the other. None was acceptable on both bands. SWR was awful on most. Transmission range was naturally better on the longe

Granted, my access to all available models out there was limited, but I did try a broad range of them over the last year. While I'm not saying there are no ducks or extendible's that meet my requirements, I just haven't run into them if there is. I'm still open to suggestions, and still looking.

If you have comments or suggestions, drop a packet to N6ZUC @ KB6GVT.#SOCAL. CA. or care of *The READOUT*.

## The Bulk Mailing System and *The READOUT*

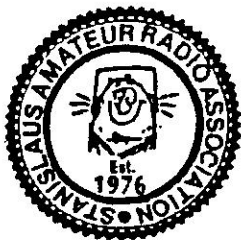
From time to time we receive reports of members not receiving or delayed receipt of *The READOUT*. Every effort is made to make sure every member receives their copy in a timely fashion. However, there are some factors that are beyond our control, and others that can contribute to the problem.

Members, especially those over 50 miles from Modesto, must expect their newsletters to take longer than local Modesto area delivery. In order to save money on postage, the club purchases a bulk mailing permit each year. Bulk mail is 3rd class mail and is the lowest priority with the Post Office. We have used bulk mail for the last four years and I have noticed the Post Office, on an average, will deliver the newsletters to the local area addresses usually within a week of the time they are dropped off at the bulk mailing center at the main Post Office on Kearney Ave. in Modesto.

However, delivery to distant locations like Sacramento, San Diego, Fresno etc. can take as long as three weeks. Newsletters going out of state can take even longer.

The way it's been explained to me, the Post Office will process the bulk mail only after first and second class mail has been done. So, if they are busy, the bulk mail waits. If not, it can get processed almost as fast as first class mail. It's more or less the luck of the draw. In any event, the savings are substantial. For example, we mail 200 copies of the newsletter each month, even though our membership is less than 200, because one of the

*See "Bulk Mail page 10*



# Editor's Notes

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

Welcome to the following new members of **SARA**. George Roderick, KD6FGD, of Modesto who holds a Technician Class license. Mel Brown, NF7U, of Manteca, an Extra. Jack Steinert, WB6IDT, of Modesto, an Advanced. Judy Hahan, KD6GJF, of Modesto, a Technician. Glen Cunningham, N6RHC, of Sacramento a new General and Chuck Brashear, KC6YCD, of Modesto, a Technician. Also welcome back Hugh Bryant, W6TWU of Ripon. These new members bring our 1992 roster to 156 as of March 21, 1992. We are doing very well thanks to you, the members of **SARA**. If you know someone who might be interested in joining us, please let the Secretary, K6UVI, know either by radio, packet or leave a message on his phone recorder at 522-5303.

• The club roster is printed twice yearly, in April and September. We make every effort to make sure it's accurate. However, that's almost impossible given circumstances that are beyond our control. The biggest problem comes from members moving or changing their telephone numbers and not notifying us. So, if you find any error, please leave the Secretary a message on packet or his recorder, 522-5303. Speaking of the roster, please do not use the roster to solicit for whatever reason. We have had reports of members receiving solicitations for various endeavors which are

commercial in nature. Thank you for your cooperation.

• I'm sorry to belatedly report the death of one of our members. Thomas Walker, N7EDZ, of Hilmar became a "silent key" on September 30, 1991. We did not learn of his death until this month when we received a nice letter from his widow. Our condolences to the family. Thomas was not active on the air, but maintained his membership in **SARA** for many years.

• The WARC '92 conference in Spain is history. Amateur radio did not gain any frequencies and we did not lose any. There will be no change in the 40 meter band for now. HF Broadcasting was not expanded as much as had been proposed, hence there was not sufficient support for the realignment of the 40 meter band. However, the conference did adopt a recommendation that a future conference should consider the possibility of aligning the allocations to the Amateur Service around 7 MHz with due regard to the requirements of the other services.

• The ARRL and the W5YI VEC have each filed requests for rule-making that would require that Novice Exams be given under the VEC program. No dates for comments or RM (Rule Making) numbers have been released as of March 15. The Novice exam program is the only one not included under the VEC program.

• Canada is proposing new

environmental policies for radio licensees requiring public protection from non-ionizing radiation. Affected are Amateurs radiating over 200 watts when their antenna (not their tower) is within 6 meters (about 20 feet) of public locations.

• A three count indictment document has been handed down against Herb Schoenbohm, KV4FZ, of St Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands charging in 1987 he used one or more access codes belonging to Caribbean Automated Long Line Services, Inc. (CALLS) defrauding CALLS of \$1,000 or more and possessed fifteen or more counterfeit and unauthorized telephone access codes. The District Court of the Virgin Islands indictment was dated January 16, 1992.

• Start gearing up for Field Day. This year **SARA** will be participating in the event which will be held on the ranch of Jim, N6UGH, on Sycamore Ave. in Patterson. Contact Jim if you can help or would like to operate. The dates this year are June 27 and 28, 1992.

• The fund raiser for this year will get underway this month. We will be offering a Zenith Camcorder or \$500.00 cash to the winner. The winning ticket will be pulled from the barrel during Field Day activities.

• Don't forget the Transmitter Hunt coming up on May 23, 1992. Get your equipment ready. 73, Bob

# SARA Silent Keys

W6YIN .....	Charles Barnes .....	November 5, 1978	
NV6Z.....	Henry Deeter .....	July 7, 1979	
K6JFS.....	Charlie Mendoz.....	November 13, 1979	69
WB6VUS .....	Richard Jensen.....	January 21, 1981	
W6GCL.....	Will McAlpine .....	February, 1982	73
KA6GVR.....	Norman Goodwin .....	October 2, 1982	61
W6FIQ .....	Bill Dalton.....	December 20, 1982	76
N6BGA .....	Quentin Goodrich.....	March 18, 1983	64
K6AYL .....	Leo Nepote .....	July 12, 1983	60
W6ERE.....	Cliff Price.....	October 2, 1983	69
W6QH.....	Tony White .....	November 28, 1983	78
KB6DVQ.....	Stephen Pereira.....	April 2, 1984	66
WB6TUV .....	Bill Ponkow.....	July 19, 1984	69
N6HFU .....	Edgar Martin.....	May 14, 1985	69
WB6LSC .....	Glen Andrews.....	May 29, 1985	43
N6DXB.....	Joe Parker, Sr .....	January 14, 1986	61
K6PDE.....	Chuck Strobel .....	May 29, 1986	65
K6KQE.....	Bob Le Clert .....	July 19, 1986	71
KB6UAW .....	Luverne Donker.....	August 29, 1987	67
WA6APF.....	Larry Merritt .....	May 27, 1988	80
W6OIN .....	Jack Scanlon.....	July 19, 1988	58
WA6OQF.....	Ray Olive .....	December 20, 1988	74
N7EDZ.....	Thomas Walker .....	September 30, 1991	

## New Address for FCC in Gettysburg

The FCC has a new mailing address for Amateur applications including new, renewals, or modifications.

**Federal Communications Commission**  
1270 Fairfield Rd.  
Gettysburg, PA 17235-7245

With the budget crunch in Washington, the issue of spectrum fees, which could include Amateur Radio, is expected to be considered by Congress. For the last several years, Amateur Radio has been exempted from fees.

## Undetectable Radar OKed By FCC

On March 5, the FCC gave the green light to development of "undetectable" police radars. Applied Concepts Inc. has developed a radar which uses a wideband spread-spectrum modulation technique known as frequency-hopping, and requires more than the 50 MHz bandwidth currently permitted. The company has petitioned the FCC to widen the authorized bandwidths in the 24.05-24.25 and 33.4 to 36.0 GHz bands used by the Radiolocation Service.

Whistler Corp. makers of radar detection devices told the FCC that the representations are wishful thinking. -W5YI Report

## Turlock Club Auction Set May 9th

The annual Turlock Amateur Radio Club Auction will be held on Saturday May 9, 1992 at the Turlock High School Cafeteria, 1600 Canal Drive in Turlock. The doors will open at 9 am and the auction starts at 10 am.

To reach the site from Modesto go South on Hwy 99 to Fulkerth Rd. off ramp. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp and go East on Fulkerth to the first signal light which is Golden State Blvd. Turn right on Golden State and go to Canal Drive. Turn left of Canal Drive and continued until you get to Berkeley Ave where you turn right and then left on Campus Way and you there. If you get lost, you can get help on 147.03 MHZ.

## No PacSat News

PacSat News will not appear this month. It will return next month. The editor, Tim, AB6FL, has been snowed under with budget matters at work.

## Swap 220 For Two Meter Gear

Kenwood TH-31 220 MHz HT  
HB 12 element 220 Beam  
DC-DC converter  
Extra battery

CES SSI-68  
Simplex Patch  
As New, w/manual

Would like to swap above stuff for 2 meter gear.

Call Chuck Bowers, KJ6DO,  
209-847-5491 in Oakdale.





# SARA Minutes

By Ernie Rader, K6UVI, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of SARA was called to order by President Jim, N6KMR at 7:35 PM on March 17, 1992. Thirty-one members and visitors acknowledged their presence. VP Sandy, KC6TBK, introduced Mr. Lance Silva of the local chapter of The Red Cross. Lance spoke to us about the mission of The Red Cross, showed a short video of some of the activities and answered questions.

The secretary and asked the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as presented in *The READOUT*. They were Next, he reported that he had seen Allen Woods, owner of Al's Safe and Lock, and Allen had offered to donate a fire resistant lock box for the storage of **SARA's** important documents. This unit is to be stored at the club station. This gift is to be accepted contingent on the volume of material to be stored there in. Next, he asked if the accounting of **SARA's** funds as presented in *The READOUT* was adequate, and everyone said it was fine.

"Sunshine Activities" were tabled until later in the meeting, and the secretary presented the results of a meeting he attended at the The American Diabetes Association. ADA asked for at least ten club members and their equipment to provide communication for their upcoming Ride and Stride on April 11th. Several members volunteered to participate, but there are still several positions that need to be filled.

Treasurer's report followed:

## GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Beginning Balance .....	\$2,538.05
3 deposits.....	773.09
disbursements.....	(535.57)
Ending balance.....	\$2,775.48
Disbursement as follows:	
Auto patch.....	\$ 15.79
READOUT related.....	75.29
Misc.....	444.49
Total.....	\$535.57

One deposit involved voiding a former check to purchase call books and a portion of the miscellaneous entry involved reissuing of checks to cover the expense of Jim, N6UGH, for the purchase of call books locally.

Phil, WD0FFX, was not present, so a report from the education chairman was not available. KC6YSI requested a repeater and digipeater listing, and Jim, N6UGH quickly brought up a minor mistake in the frequency allocation chart as printed in *The READOUT*.

UGH reported on Field Day included four stations (RVs) that had been committed to the event. Everyone attending was to bring his own meat and one additional dish to be included in a pot luck. He also needs commitments for barbecues. The raffle drawing will held during Field Day on June 28.

The upcoming Fox Hunt is scheduled for this May, and Brad, KC6TDH, is to gather the information for that event for publication in *The READOUT*.

Under old business, the club's hamfest preparations were tabled until next meeting. Jim, UGH,

showed the members a brochure on the prize being offered for the fund raiser raffle. Jim was to get with the printer to have the raffle tickets printed. They will be stapled into books at that time. UGH further proposed that the member who sold the most tickets should be given an extra book of tickets to be added to the drawing free of charge. Moved and seconded to accept the idea. He also proposed a membership drive, and procedures for this are to be worked out at a later date.

Advertisement in the media for club activities was proposed, and Sandy said that being in the media arena already gave her the best chance at working there. She to follow through. KC6QMU suggested we put in a small booth in one of the malls periodically as a way to publicize **SARA**. Discussion centered around a banner for the club, and Jim, KMR is to check into that.

Sandy brought green cookies for all the members to taste just as the meeting broke for 10 minutes. After returning at 8:50, the "Sunshine Club" activities were discussed. It was pointed out that definite parameters needed to be established regarding sending flowers and/or cards to members at times of illness or accident. It was decided that for a hospital stay of three or more days, a card would be sent. Should there be a death in the family, flowers not to total an expenditure of more than \$40.00 was in order. This activity was to be trusted to the club

See "Minutes page 9

## **SARA**

1992 Fund Raiser

**\*\*\*Grand Prize\*\*\***

**Zenith VHS-C  
Camcorder**

**Model VM6700**

**or**

**\$500.00 CASH**

**Grand Prize provided  
by**

**Jack Lee'sTV**

**2030 Yosemite Blvd.  
Modesto, CA**

**---O---**

**Drawing June 28, 1992**

**2 pm**

**At Field Day Site**

***Tickets available from  
SARA Members  
\$1.00 Donation***

*Need Not Be Present to Win*

**'Minutes'** from page 8

secretary. Mark, WB6BJN, asked about the access tones on the repeater, and there was a short explanation as to their need and use. Jim said several in the club were pretty sure where the bulk of the interference on the repeater was coming from, and until it stops, the tones will remain. Also, some leaky coax is to be replaced, and hopefully that will cure some of the repeater problems.

KC6TDH said he is installing a modem to packet gateway for members to use, and the raffle was won by Sandy, KC6TBK. It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 PM. Respectfully submitted, Ernie, K6UVI.

## **Cable TV Began in 1948**

Without a doubt, one of the hottest thing going these days is Cable TV. Some call it the nation's only unregulated monopoly and it continues to grow.

Cable TV is nearly 44 years old, and started in 1948 by accident when a Pennsylvania appliance salesman by the name of John Walson strung 300 ohm twin lead from a mountaintop antenna to his store in the Appalachian coal-mining town of Mahanoy City.

What he really wanted to do was sell television sets, and that he did. His customers, however, wanted the clear TV signals from Philadelphia like he showed in his store.

Walson added his customers to his antenna system for a fee and the nation's first community antenna television (CATV) as they were called in those days was born. It existed primarily to provide rural viewers with higher quality broadcast channels.

Little did Walson know that one day his primitive lashup system would overtake broadcast television completely! More people now receive television over wires than over the air. It has been a long haul for cable television to get where it is today.

## **Order Your Club Badge Now**

If you are a new member of **SARA**, or a member who does not have one, you can order the official club badge for just \$6.00. The badges are made of high quality plastic in the club colors of black letters on a yellow background.

To place your order contact the treasurer in person or you may fill out the form below and mail it along with your check made payable to **SARA**. Allow 30 days for delivery.

(Example)

**Stanislaus  
Amateur Radio Assoc.  
Bob  
WA6ZLO  
Modesto**

### **SARA Club Badge Ordering Form**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Call \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_

## **Late Report From Chief Engineer**

(March 21, 1991)

I managed to make the trip up to Mt. Oso again today and installed the new coax lines between the repeater and the duplexer. I haven't heard any tail chasing since. I have taken the repeater out of the touch tone control mode for the time being as a test for the problem. With any luck we will be able to leave it that way unless we have other problems to address. So far so good. 73 LeRoy, NV6S

## Amateur Call Signs Issued As of March 1, 1992

EXTRA .....	ADVANCE .....	GEN/TECH.....	NOVICE
AA0HT.....	KF0XD.....	N0RHX .....	KB0JZI
AA1BB.....	KD1HI.....	N1LOT .....	KA1ZTA
AA2ID.....	KF2GS.....	N2PTP .....	KB2OKY
WW3B .....	KE3BO .....	N3LTG .....	KA3ZUM
AC4NZ .....	KO4SV .....	KD4KUU .....	KD4KUU
AB5EH .....	KI5YD.....	N5ZGA.....	KB5RDZ
AB6JK .....	KM6QY.....	KD6GNI .....	KD6GNI
AA7NO .....	KG7ZW.....	N7WRZ .....	KB7ORK
AA8GJ .....	KF8SS.....	N8SIM.....	KB8NOK
AA9DK .....	KF9IG .....	N9OLC.....	KB9HOZ

---

## ARRL Name Change Considered

The ARRL Long Range Planning Committee will seek member input on the possibility of changing the name of the American Radio Relay League to something more indicative to non-Amateurs of the League's makeup and purpose.

---

## April Fool Now For The True Story

*From Page 2*

If you were taken in by the April Fool's story on page two, you might be interested in the true story behind the antenna pictured with the story. This homebrew antenna was constructed of two bicycle rims, one mounted horizontally (for ground plane effect?) and one vertically to elevate the TV rabbit ears type antenna which sits proudly at the top of the creation.

The creator did not know anything about building antennas. But one thing he knew, he could not afford to buy a commercially made one. His lack of knowledge is perpetuated by the use of 75 ohm coax to connect the 300 ohm rabbit ears to his 300 ohm television set. The array sits about 10 feet off the peak of the roof supported by a piece of 2x4. The home is located on Laurel Ave just South of Don Pedro in Ceres.

## Bulk Mail

*Continued from page 5*

one of the requirements for bulk mail is you must mail a minimum of 200 pieces each time. 200 newsletters cost us around \$35.00. First class would cost \$58.00. There is a yearly permit cost of \$50.00 which much be factored into the \$35.00 which would add about \$4.00 a month more to the \$35.00. So, the total cost each month for bulk mail is \$39 to \$40.00. That's a savings of approximately \$18.00 a month in postage.

Now, about non-delivery, The mailing labels are generated from the club roster and the official roster is maintained by the Secretary. I keep an identical roster here on my computer which I constantly check against the official one. Every effort is made to make sure they correspond.

The biggest single factor contributing to non-delivery is members who have moved and not notified us ahead of time. One of the draw backs to bulk mail is that the Post Office will not forward bulk mail...PERIOD! Even if you notify the Post Office of a change of address, they still will not forward. They instead will return the newsletter to us and charge us 29 cents to give us you new address. If you will notice above your the mailing label on the back page of each newsletter are the words "Address Correction Requested". This tells the Post Office we will pay for them to return the newsletter with your new address. Without this, the Post Office would just discard the newsletter in the garbage and we would never know that you did not get it or more importantly, that you had moved.

Another non-delivery problem has been members who have temporarily stopped mail delivery while they are gone on vacation or gone to the desert in during the winter. Here again, the newsletter will be returned with the notation, "Box Temporarily Closed" or something to that effect. In this case, we have no way to communicate with the member and must stop all mail address to him/her. Then we have to wait until they contact us so we can resume delivery.

The third non-delivery problem occurs around renewal time. We hold off purging our membership list for at least two months. The cut off is usually the March newsletter. If you have not renewed by March 1, then your name is dropped from the roster. If you dues come in after March 1st, then your name will be returned to the roster and you will receive the next month's newsletter. Occasionally, we goof with the data base. So, please, if there is a problem call, write, send me a packet direct at WA6ZLO-1 or via N6REB. We can not correct a problem unless we know about it. 73, Bob, WA6ZLO



## VE Test Results Modesto March 14, 1992 Session

By Chet Jensen, W6XK

Total number of applicants: 28

New licenses earned: 11

New licenses earned by class:

Novice = 0

Technician (no code) = 7

Technician Plus = 1

General = 1

Advanced = 2

Extra = 0

Number of individual elements administered: 45

Pass rate for session: 57.7%

Pass rate by element:

Element 1A (5 w.p.m.) = none

Element 1B (13 w.p.m.) = 25%

Element 1C (20 w.p.m.) = 100%

Element 2 (Novice written) = 83.3%

Element 3A (Technician written) = 42.1%

Element 3B (General written) = 80%

Element 4A (Advanced written) = 50%

Element 4B (Extra written) = none

New Novice: None

New Technician Plus: Charler Brashear, (KC6YCH)

New Technician: Tim Fouts, Larry Hill, Brooks  
Rushing, Robert Villarrial, Theodore Rench,  
Tim Lopez, William Smith

New General: Glen Cunningham (N6RHC)

New Advanced: Robert Lorentz (WA6OCD),

Marcy Chapuis (K6YTK)

New Extra: none

Participating VEs: W6XK, K6RAU, KI6PR,  
KA6FTA, AA5TX, N6QIY, N6SAE, WD0FFX,  
K6UVI, KI6YQ

Next session -- Sonora 4/11/92 @ 9:00 am (El  
Capitan Bank, Sonora) contact person:  
WA6NSK (209) 586-4917 OR W6XK (209)  
883-2968

73, Chet W6XK

## Touch Tone Access Codes .39

1-2-3-0 Repeater Turned On

1-2-3-1 Repeater Turned Off

## NV6S Up The Hill Again March 14, 1992 Trip to Mt. Oso

Dennis, KC6WXX, and I made a trip to Oso on Saturday, 03-14-92. The day was not as fruitful as we had hoped but we did make some progress. I attempted to find the problem with the 220 link at which time it decided to fix itself so I really had nothing to trouble shoot.

We spent most of the day watching the spectrum analyzer trying to identify sources of interference. Aside from identifying some deliberate interference we were not successful. We are planning another trip in the near future and will take a preamplifier along to bring signals out of the noise so hopefully we can

look at them. we noted that we were not successful at seeing some signals that were still full quieting into the repeater so it is very possible that we would not be able to see the interference that we are looking for.

I have noted after returning this evening that the kerchunking is back and we must live with that until we can find the source and eliminate it.

Thanks for your tolerance while we continue looking for the problem. My thanks to Dennis for his assistance in chasing this problem.

73 to all. De LeRoy.

## What Happened To Channel 1 ?

Have you ever wonder why there isn't a channel 1 on your TV set? It seems that in 1946 the TV industry decided to reserve Channel 1 for use by local community television stations with a power limit of 1 KW.

In 1948, the FCC ruled that the fixed and mobile service could no longer occupy the 72 to 76 MHz band on a shared basis and they would have to move.

The ARRL suggested to the FCC that they move to 54-60 MHz which is channel 2 so that the

second harmonic of ten meter Amateur transmissions would not interfere with TV reception on channel 2.

Faced with the prospect of losing a channel, the TV industry elected to give up channel 1 instead since it would have the least effect on TV advertizing.

Thus channel 1 (44-50 MHz) went to the fixed and mobile service and channel 2 viewers had Amateur TV to contend with when ten meters is open.



# Calendar



Apr. 11, 1992 .....VE Test Sonora .....900 am  
 Apr. 10-12 .....Int. DX Convention in Visalia .....2 days  
 Apr. 21, 1992 .....SARA Monthly Meeting .....730 pm  
 May 1-2-3, 1992 .....Fresno Hamfest .....3 Days  
 May 19, 1992 .....SARA Monthly Meeting .....730 pm  
 Jun 16, 1992 .....SARA Monthly Meeting .....730 pm  
 Aug. 20-23 .....ARRL National Convention L.A. 3 Days

**SARA** meets the third Tuesday of each month (except holidays) at the Stanislaus County Administration Building at 12th and H Streets in downtown Modesto. The meetings are held in the lower-level conference room starting at 730 pm. Visitors and interested parties are most welcome. **SARA** is an **ARRL** Affiliated Club and is affiliated with Stanislaus County and the City of Modesto **RACES**.

The club owns and operates three FM repeaters using the club station call of WD6EJF. Frequencies are 145.39 MHz, 224.14 MHz & 440.225 MHz. The club's digipeaters, WD6EJF-1, operates on 145.79 MHz and WD6EJF-2 operates of 28.103 MHz. All repeaters and the digipeaters are located on Mt. Oso, 18 miles SW of Modesto at an elevation of 3400 feet in the Coast Range mountains. **SARA** conducts informational nets each Thursday evening at 8 pm on the 2M and 220 repeaters.

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

**Address Correction Requested**

**To:**

**Next SARA Meeting is April 21, 1992  
 at 730 pm & You're Invited!**

## Salli's Budget Copy Center

- High Speed Copying
- Public FAX Machine
- Laminating
- Spiral & Velo Binding
- Business Cards
- Resumes
- Typesetting

Tel- 529-5395

FAX- 529-6366

912 13th Street

*Between I & J Streets*

**Downtown  
Modesto, CA.**

**Salli & Gordon Tullos  
Owners**

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit 5  
Modesto, CA.