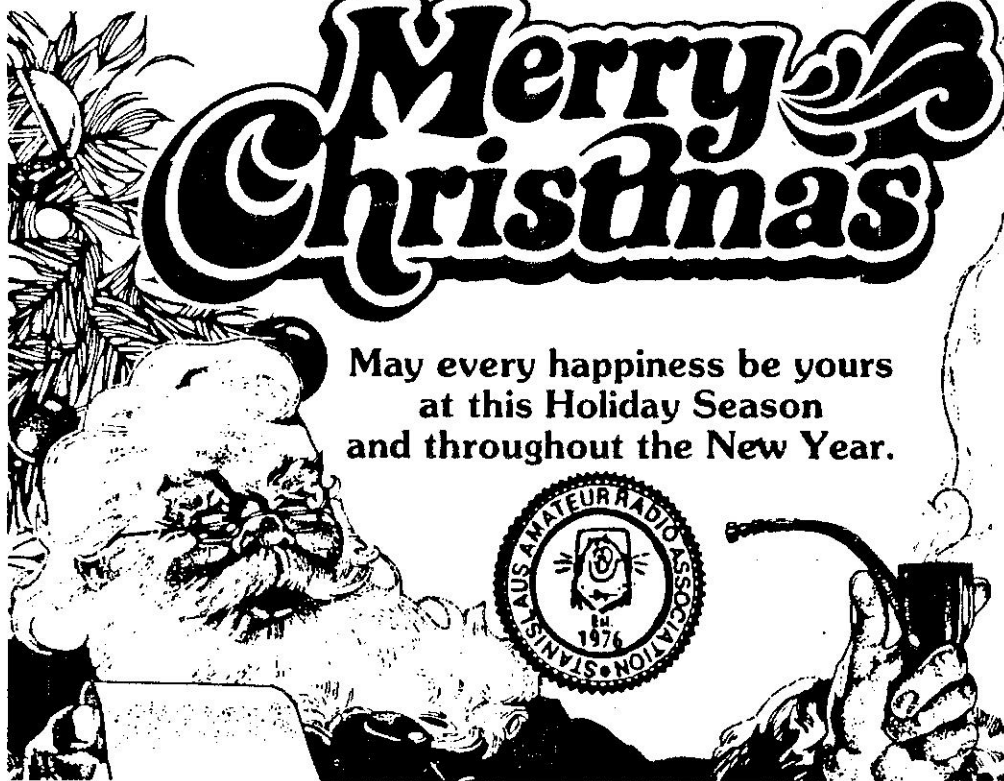


The READOUT

YEAR 11 NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 1988

Merry Christmas

May every happiness be yours
at this Holiday Season
and throughout the New Year.



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

...THE READOUT FACTS...

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, or by Packet at WB6V-2. 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 annua and \$10.00 for students up to sophomores in college. Dues are pro-rated 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

Bud Pelletier.....N6OCV.....823-0877

VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Duncan.....WA6OHP.....537-2785

SECRETARY

Dottie Duncan.....KI6YQ.....537-2785

TREASURER

Bob Vreugdenhil.....N6OCS.....522-6127

READOUT EDITOR

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

HAPPENINGS

Next SARA Meeting

December 20, 1988
Program

Election of Officers

Raffle: Win Money

730 pm

BUDGET COPY CENTER

1325 J STREET
MODESTO, CA 95354
TELEPHONE 529-5395

A Packet Christmas Card

Twas the holiday season
The packets were busy
The family's out shopping
You're home and in a tizzy

See what's on the monitor
Connect to W6FGC-2
Now make the keyboard chatter
Upload-download-list too

Disconnect and wait a few minutes
Oh look-there's, someone you know
Listen-can you hear those packets?
Thanks engineers-they do flow

Now he's disconnected from Burt
Connect- he can hear his alarm
He's alarmed-but far from hurt
Who's that? Oh heck-oh darn

After the QSO-take a break
From the other room you hear
Yapp files-bells for God sake
Sounds a little like Christmas cheer

Now the family's back from the store
They all have a smile on their face
For you it's been all but a bore
Looks like the season has set the
pace

During this-the christmas season
may your packets be without retries
May you be merry within reason
May your family be happy-especially
the small fries

Merry Christmas! de John, N6JSN

PHONE RIPOFF

The breakup of the Bell system had it's good and it's bad points. One of the latest bad points is something called AOS. AOS stands for "alternative operator service" and involves long-distance calls placed from hotels, motels, hospitals and privately owned pay-phones. The key words here are "privately owned". It's not highly publicized and it costs considerably more than conventional service and you may not know that you have used it until you get the bill. AOS companies lease phone lines from national carriers such as AT&T, MCI, SPRINT, etc., then resell the service to hotels and other establishments that then route customer calls to the AOS company in return for a commission. You, picking up the phone in your hotel room, may not know about this cozy arrangement because AOS operators are not required to identify themselves. Even if you're using, say, an AT&T credit card, you'll still be routed to the AOS company, often at a cost many times higher than the AT&T rate. You may even pay for uncompleted calls. Consumers groups are lobbying the FCC to regulate AOS companies, but don't look for any action soon.

(See Page 11)

REPORTING EMERGENCIES USING THE AUTOPATCH

The SARA autopatch is used often to report accidents and other types of emergencies. From time to time we like to review a few important points as a refresher for older members and instructional information for new members. The club leases a phone line from the phone company to facilitate the connection to the telephone system. The phone is in the Ceres exchange and it, along with the necessary interface equipment is located at the home of Ray, WA6OQF. Toll free calls can be made to Ceres, Modesto, Salida, Riverbank and Hughson. Calls to Turlock, Oakdale, Patterson, Crows Landing and Newman are toll calls as are calls outside Stanislaus County. The decoder hooked between the phone and our equipment at Ray's house is designed to prevent unauthorized long distant calls without the proper codes. This is done primarily by disabling the number "1". So, if you try dialing a number with a one in the prefix you will be automatically terminated by the decoder and you will hear a series of rapid beeps telling you that your call has been terminated. Because of this feature, it also prevents you from dialing 911 without using the override codes. Unfortunately, our decoder was designed before 911 came into existence. So, you must remember to dial the override code

(3 digits) to enable you to make a long distance or 911 call. It is recommended that you write down the entire code and place it on your radio so you can refer to it in the case of an emergency. It therefore takes 6 tones to get to 911. The three override tones, then the three dial tone access tones, then dial 911. It's important to remember that the 911 system in Modesto goes into the Communication Center in downtown Modesto. It would help to know a little bit about jurisdictions. The CHP handles all traffic accidents and emergencies involving roadways outside the city limits. All freeways, Interstates, so-called back roads and those streets in the unincorporated islands within various cities are under their jurisdiction. The various city police departments are responsible for all streets inside their respective city limits. This is important to know because when the dispatcher answers 911 the first thing that they want to know is the location of the emergency. So, be prepared! If it's outside the city limits, then when the dispatcher answers tell them that you need the CHP to report an accident. They will then speed dial (transfer) your call to the CHP in Stockton which dispatches for Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and portions Contra Costa

Counties. If the emergency is in the city limits, then just give it to the 911 dispatcher who will handle anything inside the various cities in Stanislaus County. Another thing to keep in mind is that the line level to the CHP from Modesto is very low and hard to hear. So, be prepared crank up your volume after the connection is made to the CHP. This problem has been reported and they are working on it at this time. Keep in mind that when you come across an accident or some type of an emergency that you will tend to become excited. So, take a moment to collect your thoughts before you get on the patch. If you can, pull over in a safe area and stop before making the call. It's too easy to become involved in an accident yourself when you are not paying attention to your driving. Try to remember the basics. The first thing that they are going to want to know is WHERE'S the accident. Example... Northbound I-5 about 2 miles north of Westley. Next question, "are there any injuries?" followed by whether or not the roadway is blocked. If you don't know the answer to the last two questions, don't be afraid to say so. Don't guess! Another thing, when you first hook up to 911 or the CHP tell them that you are a Ham Radio operator and you are reporting from your mobile. The dispatcher may ask you for your telephone number, if they do, you can tell them you are in the car and that you would be willing to give your home phone number.

NO FCC ACTION ON PRB-3

HQ continues to receive many inquiries from the membership about the status of PRB-3, the FCC notice regarding issuance of specific amateur call signs. In July 1987, the ARRL had filed comments urging the Commission to retain the assignment of call signs. If the Commission would not conduct such a program however, then the ARRL could do so under certain conditions: (a) only a single entity could administer the program, and (b) there could be no liability to the ARRL or anyone else arising from the denial of a particular call sign. It has been more than a year since the comment period ended on this Notice, and no word has been received about its fate from the FCC. Watch League Lines, the Happenings column and the ARRL Letter for fun when it is released by the FCC.

...de ARRL Newsletter via packet.

FCC FORM 610-B EXTENDED

The present FCC Form 610-B, the form used to renew or modify existing amateur club station licenses, has been extended through August 31, 1991. This means that although the forms carry an expiration date of August 31, 1988, they will continue to be valid for another three years.

....de ARRL Newsletter via packet.

A FAMILY HOBBY?

By W.B. "Whit" Woodard, KI6WB

"Honey, I have the answer!" "What? What answer?" "Amateur radio! Isn't that a stroke of genius?" "What are you talking about?" I can remember how excited I was that day on the telephone. Driving to San Jose from our home near Yosemite National Park, I had been thinking about family rather than Amateur Radio. I was looking for some wholesome interest for the family that would give us something to do together. You know how it is these days. Everyone seems to have their own interest and the fellowship of family activities has dwindled. We had been married a short time and were trying to bring two families together. My step-son and I were on different wave lengths and I wanted something to help bring us together. Those were my thoughts when I remembered how excited I was as a youngster in Florida when I was first introduced to Ham radio. "Eureka!" I said out loud in the car and stopped at the next phone to call home. "Honey, I have the answer!" "What?" Well, you can imagine the rest. Happily, I was in Manteca and remembered my old friends Bill and Dotti (WA6OHP and KI6YQ). My next frenzied call was to their home and with great enthusiasm I asked for directions on getting my license. For over thirty years I had dreamed of becoming a "Ham," but there was always something in the way. Now,

the incentive was there and seemed so obvious. The biggest hinderance over the years was the trek to San Francisco to take an FCC administered exam, but happily that was no longer necessary. Dotti calmly informed me that I could take the Novice exam at her house any time. Well, that was wonderful news to me and I hurried off to Oakdale to purchase Tune In The World With Ham Radio. My wife thought I was a bit "teched," I'm sure, but she was patient as my enthusiasm spilled over into nearly every conversation. "This is just the thing for the family," I insisted. My friend Bill phoned to invite us to dinner the next week and teased me about taking the test then. And I did. And I passed! And after thirty-five years I was a real ham. The best part was that my wife, Nancy, got enthused with me and our son began to take an interest and the grand plan began to take shape. Nancy got her license and we were one step closer to our goal. Joel dropped out when faced with the code requirement, but I reasoned, exposure to the radio would rekindle his interest. The next step was hooking up a speaker to our newly acquired Yaesu 2 meter transceiver so we could monitor through the house. Surely the kids will enjoy listening with us. And they do, but one distressing day, the grand adventure turned a bit

sour. Did I really hear what I thought I heard? Was that fellow ham on the radio cursing? I listened further and sure enough, the language was so crude and vulgar that I had to turn it off. This was no longer fit for family consumption. In the months to follow, the dream has faded somewhat. I went on to get my Extra Class and become a VE. Nancy upgraded to General. Amateur radio became a major part of our life, but some of the luster went out when the foul language continued on H.F. and a local repeater. One afternoon, we were listening to an "old timer" who suddenly spiced up the airwaves with "I blame the teacher for not knowing his b --- from a knothole." Now there is a fine lesson for our children, I thought as I raced to shut down our station. Before I could reach the switch, he continued. "H---, the Battle of Bunker Hill was over by then." Was that some sort of patriotic wisdom? I wondered. On another occasion, I was stunned to hear someone say, "Why in the h---- do you have to pay so G-- d----- much for Cheerios?" Now my dander was up good. Was my Lord really upset about the price of breakfast cereal? "Well, " I thought, "perhaps its better that we monitor H.F." Soon, however, some brother of the airwaves became irritated at another ham and called him a "p----" on 10 meters. I reviewed the FCC regulation and sure enough such language is prohibited. (Section 97.119) I had always taken pride in the courtesy and manners of hams. I have often boasted of the difference between

Amateur radio and similar (remotely similar) radio enthusiasts. "You can get your family involved in Amateur radio," I insisted. And for the most part, that is true. I think, however, that some of us overlook the family values in our pursuit of radio fellowship. We spend a lot of time recruiting youngsters to Amateur radio. We belong to a club that puts ham equipment into local high schools. But, I couldn't recommend that those young people (or their parents for that matter) listen in on some local repeaters. They certainly wouldn't get a very good impression of Amateur radio morality or courtesy. I hope that other hams feel as I do. I try to teach my family that profanity is a sign of a weak mind trying to express itself forcefully. Gutter talk may be entertaining to some, but it has no place on the Amateur radio airwaves. Its discourteous, unlawful and unappreciated. Some of us are particularly offended by the common use of God's Name as an expletive. Perhaps, some think of this language as harmless. Words like d---- and h--- just naturally creep into the conversation. Please be more thoughtful of those who are offended and of the children listening. We wouldn't want them to repeat that kind of conversation. And they will if we give them such an example! That was brought home to me rather forcefully recently while giving my daughter a driving lesson. We were in the parking lot of a nearby junior college and a woman began to walk across the

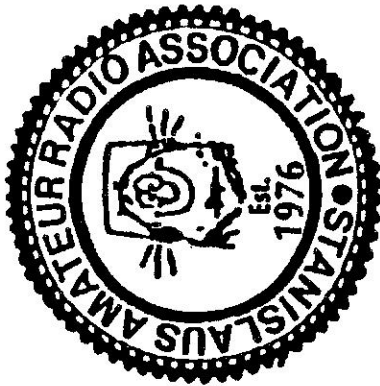
(See Page 14)

YES!

It's that time of the year again. TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES AND RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. We hope you will continue to support SARA by sending in your check or money order today. Please complete the application form at the next page and send it in with your check making your check payable to "SARA". Renewal time also affords us the opportunity to find out how we are doing. Please write down your comments, pro or con, and send them in with your dues. Maybe you can't make the meetings and express them in person, or for whatever reason you haven't made your feelings known. Well, here's your chance to be heard. Your input is welcome. Also, please take a moment to indicate your feeling about "The READOUT". As you know, the printing and mailing of the newsletter is our single biggest expense each year. It takes more than a third of our budget (approximately \$1,100) each year. How do you feel about this? Do you want us to continue the way it is? Should we cut back and print only six times a year? Should we limit it to just a page or two and have only club news? In last year's survey, you overwhelmingly approved of the present setup. How do you feel this year?

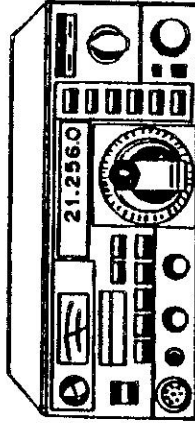
Your answers to these important questions will be very important in making our plans for 1989. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO WRITE US A NOTE AND LET US KNOW. IT'S IMPORTANT!

Everyone's membership expires on December 31, 1988 (unless you paid for 1989 in advance). If you received a free membership in 1988 as a result of completing a SARA license class, it expires on December 31, 1988. The SARA membership rate is:



On the Air!

As of Jan. 1, 1989



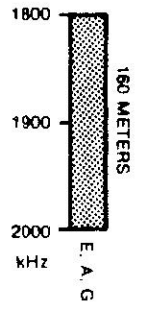
U.S. Amateur Frequency Allocations

BND	NOVICE		TECHNICIAN		GENERAL		ADVANCED		EXTRA	
	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE
160	NO	NO	NO	NO	1.8-2	1.8-2	1.8-2	1.8-2	1.8-2	1.8-2
80	3.7- 3.75	NO	3.7- 3.75	NO	3.525- 3.750	3.850- 4.000	3.525- 3.750	3.775- 4.000	3.500- 3.750	3.750 4.000
40	7.1- 7.15	NO	7.1- 7.15	NO	7.025- 7.150	7.225- 7.300	7.025- 7.150	7.150- 7.300	7.000- 7.150	7.150 7.300
30	NO	NO	NO	NO	10.100- 10.150	NO	10.100- 10.150	NO	10.100- 10.150	NO
20	NO	NO	NO	NO	14.025- 14.150	14.225- 14.350	14.025- 14.150	14.175- 14.350	14.000- 14.150	14.150 14.350
17	NO	NO	NO	NO	18.068- 18.110	18.110- 18.168	18.068- 18.110	18.100- 18.168	18.068- 18.110	18.110 18.168

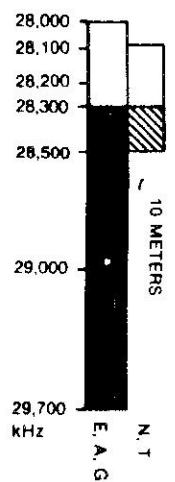
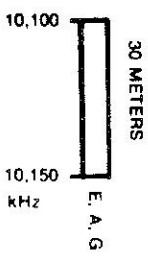
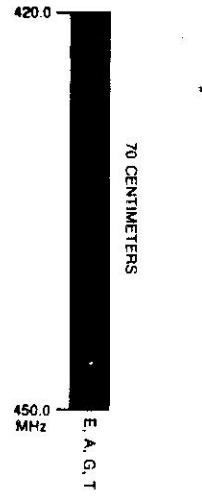
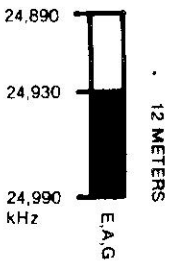
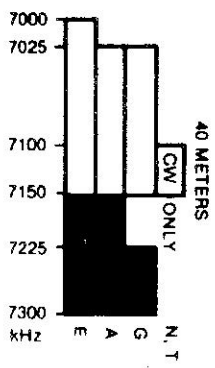
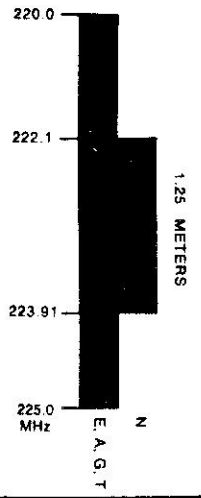
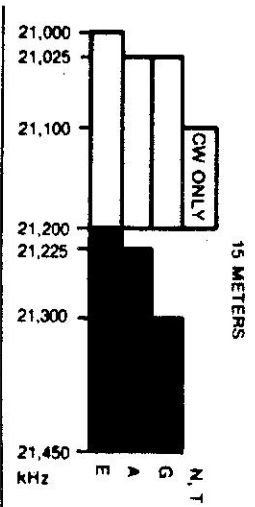
	NOVICE		TECHNICIAN		GENERAL		ADVANCED		EXTRA	
	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE	CW	PHONE
BND										
17	NO	NO	NO	NO	18.068- 18.110	18.110- 18.168	18.068- 18.110	18.100- 18.168	18.068- 18.110	18.110 18.168
15	21.1- 21.2	NO	21.1- 21.2	NO	21.025- 21.200	21.300- 21.450	21.025- 21.200	21.225- 21.450	21.000- 21.200	21.200 21.450
12	NO	NO	NO	NO	24.890- 24.930	24.930- 24.990	24.890- 24.930	24.930- 24.990	24.890- 24.930	24.930 24.990
10	28.1- 28.3	28.3- 28.5	28.1- 28.3	28.3- 28.5	28.000- 28.300	28.300- 29.700	28.000- 28.300	28.300- 29.700	28.000- 28.300	28.300 29.700
6	NO	NO	50.0- 50.1	50.1- 54.0	50.0- 50.1	50.1- 54.0	50.0- 50.1	50.1- 54.0	50.0- 50.1	50.1- 54.0
2	NO	NO	144.0- 144.1	144.1- 148.0	144.0- 144.1	144.1- 148.0	144.0- 144.1	144.1- 148.0	144.0- 144.1	144.1 148.0
220	222.10 223.91	222.10 223.91	220- 225	220- 225	220- 225	220- 225	220- 225	220- 225	220- 225	220- 225
420	NO	NO	420- 450	420- 450	420- 450	420- 450	420- 450	420- 450	420- 450	420- 450
902	NO	NO	902- 928	902- 928	902- 928	902- 928	902- 928	902- 928	902- 928	902- 928
1.2	1.27- 1.295	1.27- 1.295	1.24- 1.300	1.24- 1.300	1.24- 1.300	1.24- 1.300	1.24- 1.300	1.24- 1.300	1.24- 1.300	1.24- 1.300

(U.S. AMATEUR POWER LIMITS:) At all times, transmitter power should be limited to that necessary to carry out the desired communications. Power is rated in watts PEP output. Unless necessary to carry out the desired communications, maximum power output is 1500 watts. Power for all license classes is

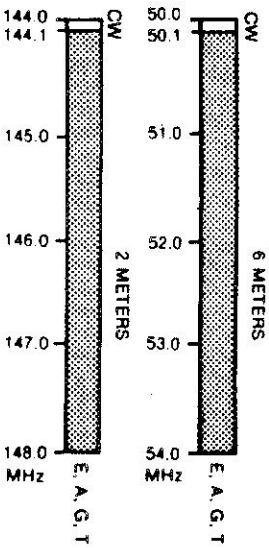
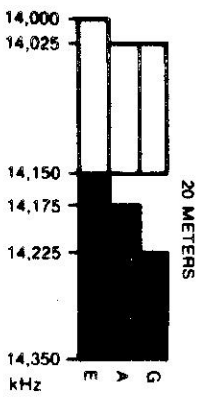
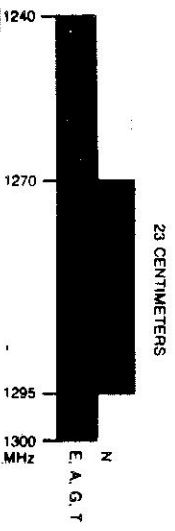
Mode Allocations



- KEY**
- = CW AND RTTY
 - ▨ = CW, VOICE, SSTV, FAX AND RTTY
 - = CW, VOICE, SSTV AND FAX
 - ▩ = CW AND SSB
 - E = EXTRA
 - A = ADVANCED
 - G = GENERAL
 - T = TECHNICIAN
 - N = NOVICE



33 CENTIMETERS



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Full membership:.....\$20.00

Students: (up to Sophomore in college).... \$10.00

Family: \$20.00 for the head of the household and \$10 for each of the next two members. (Total of \$40). The fourth or more members living in the same home are free.

1989 SARA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION: Date _____

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ Member ARRL? _____

City _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Bus. Address _____ Bus. Phone _____

Occupation _____ Date of Birth _____

Class of License _____ Year first licensed? _____



EDITOR'S NOTES

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

The December meeting of SARA is always an important one because we elect our new officers for 1989. Strong leadership is very important to any organization no matter how small. So, please try to make this meeting. You might also consider running for office. The VE EXAM LOCATION HAS BEEN MOVED from County Center # 3 to the Chrysler School, 2818 Conant Ave. in Modesto. The next sessions are on December 8th and 10th at the usual times. The Chrysler school is located behind Heritage Ford on Sisk Rd. Take Sisk Rd from the Briggsmore\ 99 overpass and turn right on Conant Ave about 1/2 mile to the school. If you have any questions contact Chet, W6KK, 883-2968. I BLEW IT LAST MONTH regarding the story on the Enterprize written by Don, N6GGB. I inadvertently left out one page of the story. It was quickly called to my attention by several members who enjoyed the story. In changing printers, I had to redo the story on my new printer and didn't realize that I had missed one page. My apologies to one and all. OUR DIGI has been was down for about three weeks. The problem was traced by NV6S to RF getting into the TNC. The digi went back in Service on November 27th. Doug, WB6MFV has moved his Bear Mtn.(near Angeles Camp) to 145.07 which provide added coverage of the Sierra. I understand that a

group in Fresno is going to put up a digi on 145.07 in the Fresno area. This will give us a direct connect to the Fresno area which will no doubt cover the Southern San Joaquin. A NEW LOW LEVEL .39 REPEATER has been put on the air in Reno. The machine is owned by Dave, WA6MNM who advises that he plans to move the machine to a different frequency in the future. WELCOME TO GREGORY BILLIKOPF, KA6VVV of Modesto who is the latest member of SARA. Gregory is a General first licensed in 1982. He is a Farm Advisor for the University of California Ag Extension Service specializing in personnel management. Welcome aboard! PLEASE REMEMBER that everyone's (unless you paid for 1989 in advance) membership expires on December 31, 1988. Please use the renewal form in this newsletter to renew your membership and send it along with your check or money order to the club's post office box. Please don't forget the renewal form because we need the information for our data base. THE QUOTE OF THE MONTH AWARD goes to Steve, N6QOH. When asked how his CW was, responded by saying... "It's just fine if you have a machine that can take out the extra dits and dahs!" DAN, W6SBE, GAVE BIRTH this month to a kidney stone. The critter had to be removed by doctors at Memorial North and laid Dan low for several days.

Once Dan was able to get back on the air and talk about it, the subject made for a most interesting roundtable. When asked how it (the stone) felt, he said it was like a baseball with a million spikes in it. A REMINDER REGARDING emergencies and the repeater. Ron, KA6ILO, of Manteca came upon an accident near Manteca recently and tried repeatedly to break our machine. After several tries, he was able to do so losing valuable time in getting emergency personnel to the scene. He couldn't break because those in the QSO were not leaving a pause between exchanges. We are all guilty of this from time to time and must remind ourselves not to do this. This is especially important in emergencies. It could be that the person trying to break may only have a talkie and unless he has a clear break to get in, more likely than not, he is covered

by the other stronger signals on the air. We have resisted putting a "courtesy tone" on the repeater in the past, but, if becomes necessary, we may have to do it. A BARGAIN can be yours if you would like a subscription to WorldRadio magazine. This fine Amateur radio publication is published monthly in Sacramento. The yearly subscription rate is \$12 but, you can purchase a subscription thorough SARA for just \$10 and we get to keep the entire \$10. We purchase an ad in WorldRadio each year and as part of the agreement we get 9 membership subscriptions to sell. So, if you don't take WorldRadio, or, you do and it's time for renewal, you can save yourself \$2.00 by going through the club. Contact Bob, N6-OCS, at 522-6127. That's it for this month, best 73 and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

PHONE RIPOFF

(From Page 3)

Here's how to protect yourself from AOS charges. When you place a long-distance call from a hotel, motel, etc. or a pay-phone not owned by a major carrier, call the operator and ask who he or she represents. If it's not one of the national carriers, ask what the rates and surcharges will be for your call. If they're too high,

ask to be connected with your regular long-distance carrier. Some AOS companies block access to national carriers. If this happens you have the choice of not making the call, searching for a phone not hooked up to AOS, or going ahead with the call.

-de Modern Maturity

Please Pay Your 1989 Dues!!

DX NOTEBOOK

By Tom Farr, WJ6O & Denny Dugal, WG6P

Greetings to all DX aficionados (guys who like DX). We continue to enjoy increased DX activity favored by solar activity of a positive nature. 10, 15, & 20 meters still consistent in quantity and quality of DX from 1330Z to about 0400Z. Some later openings on 20 into VK/ZL's and occasionally Europe, but the trend is toward 40 and 80 meters being the band of choice during the dark hours. Fairly consistent nightly openings to Africa and then northward to Europe have been noted. SSB QSO's being difficult because of split operation and heavy broadcast interference in the U.S. phone portion (7.150 to 7.300 Mhz.). Look for DX from 7.040 to 7.100 LSB calling CQ and announcing their listening frequency in the American phone band. Remember they are hearing those 100 KW commercial giants louder than you, and long, slow calls, using standard phonetics are what get through. A directional antenna doesn't hurt either HI HI! Good luck. Contests are the best time to increase your 40 meters phone totals. More active stations, higher power levels and excellent operators increase your success rate during these times. By press time the CQWW CW test will be history. Many local stations participated and more interest in DX contesting is noted in the area than in previous tests. Lots of fun really! Several area hams petitioned the Northern California DX

Club and were voted in as full members. If you have the 100 countries required for DXCC, think about joining this fine group of DXing hams. In tuning around the bands, be aware of "skewed" or crooked path propagation. These paths are at variance with the short path, the straightest and most common bearings to the DX in question, and the long path, the 180 degree reciprocal of the short path beam heading. Crooked path signals are often quite weak and take skill and patience to hear and work. However, such QSO's are very gratifying indeed. Case in point, on 11/14/88, Z21CR was heard talking to a "G" station on 28.527 Mhz. My antenna was on 10 degrees. The English station was quite strong, but as expected at that beam heading, the Zimbabwe chap was rather light copy. As the chap from England signed, I asked him to please have the Z21 listen for the west coast. Both Denny and I had turned our antennas to the long and short paths with less favorable signal strength noted for the Z21. He peaked at S-2 to 3 at the northern bearing. We both got a contact. The guy in Africa was amazed and we were thrilled to get into Africa not having to fight the "East coast curtain". This was at 1615Z. A little late for long path, nil for short path, but an example of the wonders of propagation for the attentive DX'er. Don't overlook these rarities. They probably oc-

cur much more frequently than we realize. We continue to notice an increase in the use of the DX-Packet cluster. 144.950 and 146.580 are accessible nodes for this fun use of packet radio. W6GO, and right here in Modesto, W6LEH, are nodes for this activity. The connecting path for the 220 part of the network is very marginal for W6LEH, so a site on Mt. Bullion is being investigated. The real need is for a donation of funds to purchase a good 220 transceiver to go with the equipment already on hand for the link to go on Bullion. As area 2 meter buffs know, Mt. Bullion gives good cover south to Fresno and is a low power "chip shot" to hit from most points in the valley. If you are interested in making a contribution to this effort, contact me or WB7UGZ in Merced with a check in your hand HI

HI. The Packet cluster has a plethora of DX information. Please join me in supporting this much needed 220 link. Denny and I join in wishing you all a Happy Holiday Season. If you missed the 3W boys on SSB/CW, you weren't trying very hard. Many 100 watt stations got through. As of this writing the Hungarian lads have 60,000 QSO's in their logs. The joint operation of the Finns and Ruskies, 4J, was approved for new country status. The Colvins continue their world hopping DX adventures and a Lacadives operation has a firm chance of going per DX rags. Don't miss this one. The propagation should favor us. 73 DE Tommy, WJ6O and Denny, WG6P. (Please report any QSL successes with F6FNU to Denny or me. Thanks and good hunting!!)

(Via Packet and the WB6V-2 BBS)

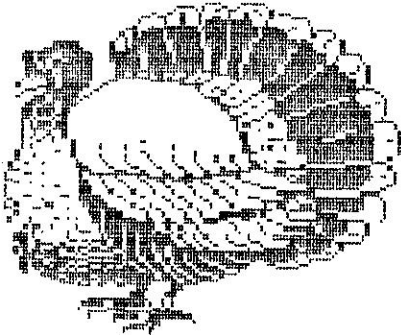
RADIO SHACK BACK IN HAM EQUIPMENT

In what was one of the industry's worst kept secrets, Radio Shack has confirmed that it is indeed going back into the ham radio equipment business. Although never denying the allegation, Tandy's Consumer Marketing VP, Bob Miller/AA5FL, said it was standard Radio Shack policy never to release information on new products until they were available. Miller has now confirmed that the transceiver will be available about December 15. Full page ads are planned for the December issues of CQ, Ham Radio and QST. The ad text reads: "Radio Shack Presents Its All-New 10-Meter Mobile SSB/CW Transceiver - the perfect first radio for Novices ...just in time for Christmas" Price is \$279.95. Radio covers 28.0 to 29.6999 MHz SSB or CW with built-in sidetone and semi-breakin keying. It runs 5-watts or 25-watts output. - W5YI Report

CHRISTMAS GOODIES will be served at our December 20th meeting. Each family is asked to bring a dish of their favorite snacks (cookies or whatever). The Club will provide the punch. It's also an important meeting as the new officers for 1989 will be elected.

Plan now to make this meeting and bring along a friend.

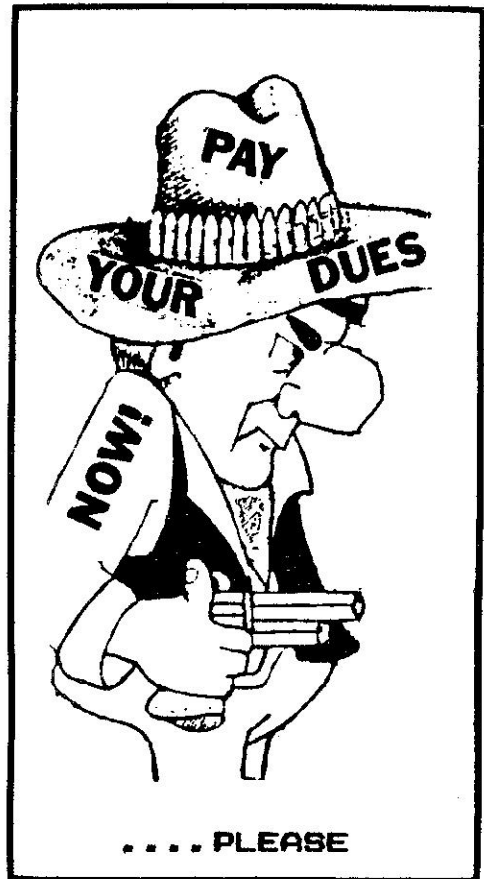
TIME: 730 PM



Holiday



GREETINGS



A FAMILY HOBBY?

(From Page 7)

parking lot in front of us. Calmly and naturally, my 16 year old daughter said "Watch out honey!" Now, I wonder where she had heard that before? The next time you hear someone rudely insist "it buzzes my b--- how these couples keep track of each other on the radio," remember, it's a family hobby to many of us. Let's keep it clean and courteous.

S . A . R . A . D I N N E R D A N C E

By Lori, N6JTD

October 15th has come and gone, but oh the memories.... friendship, good food, great time. SARA's 11th Annual Dinner Dance was a smashing success! As the Oasis Restaurant staff elegantly served us our four course meal, warm conversation flowed throughout. While we savored over our dessert and coffee, the raffle began. Club members were tempted by wonderful donations furnished by local merchants and fellow members. An eye-catching lead crystal bowl, a B-B-Q set, exquisite wines, beautiful plants, and a bus trip for two to Lake Tahoe plus many more. But the party didn't stop there. Toes started tapping, fingers snapping and before you knew it the dance floor was hopping to the tunes of the 50's through the 80's. No matter what your request was - from Country to Contemporary - Skyline (a five piece band) never missed a beat. As the last tune was being played we realized that the club dinner-dance was over - but the memories had just started. "Eye-balling" each other for the first time, meeting the "XYL or YL", renewing old friendships. A great time was had by all. Just ask anyone who was there, I know they would be happy to share their memories!

Please Pay Your 1989 Dues!!

NEXT HAM IN SPACE IS DELAYED

NASA announced recently that the shuttle launch of the Hubble Space Telescope will be pushed back eight months from June, 1989 to February 1990. Additionally, the ASTRO-1 mission, on which Ron Parise, WA4-SIR, is scheduled to be on board, is now slated for March, 1990. NASA attributed the delays to a shortage of rocket fuel caused by the explosion of a rocket fuel factory in Nevada.

....de ARRL Newsletter via packet.

FCC INSTALLS CALL SEQUENCER AT GETTYSBURG

The FCC has installed a call sequencer at the Private Radio Bureau, Licensing Division, in the Consumer Assistance Branch at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The sequencer streamlines the incoming calls placing them in a queue. The system is designed to eliminate busy signals, long ring times, and unanswered calls. It is also programmed for off-hours answering. The FCC phone number in Gettysburg is (717) 337-1212.

....de ARRL Newsletter via packet.

CALENDAR

Dec. 8, 1988.....	VE Testing Modesto.....	630 pm
Dec. 10, 1988.....	VE Testing Modesto.....	900 am
Dec. 20, 1988.....	SARA Monthly meeting.....	730 pm
Dec. 25, 1988.....	Merry Christmas.....	
Jan. 1, 1989.....	Happy New Year.....	
Jan. 17, 1989.....	SARA Monthly meeting.....	730 pm
Feb. 21, 1989.....	SARA Monthly meeting.....	730 pm
Mar. 21, 1989.....	SARA Monthly meeting.....	730 pm
Apr. 18, 1989.....	SARA Monthly meeting.....	730 pm
May 16, 1989.....	SARA Monthly meeting.....	730 pm
June 20, 1989.....	SARA Monthly meeting.....	730 pm
Jun 23&24, 1989.....	Field Day 1989.....	24 Hrs
Jul 18, 1989.....	SARA Monthly meeting.....	730 pm
Aug. 15, 1989.....	SARA Monthly meeting.....	730 pm
Sept. 19, 1989.....	SARA Monthly meeting.....	730 pm

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

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