

# The READOUT

YEAR 14

NUMBER 7

JULY 1992



## Supreme Court Nixes Mail Order Sales Tax

### *Leaves Door Open for Congress To Act*

**R**uling 8-1 in a North Dakota case, the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, ruled individual states may not tax mail-order sales from vendors outside their state boundaries. However, the Court left the door open by saying "unless Congress grants such power." The decision impacts American businesses, state treasuries and millions of shop-at-home consumers.

The Court ruling barred states from imposing the tax-collecting

obligation now. However, the Justices ruled unanimously that states may, with congressional approval, force out-of-state catalog companies to collect taxes that in-state customers owe on purchases.

Any move by Congress to allow states to get the new tax money is sure to be met with stiff opposition, however. According to North Dakota Attorney General Nicholas Spaeth, "states and cities are strapped for revenue. A lot of main street businesses are suffering because they can't compete with

*See 'No Taxes' page 9*



**Sergeant First Class  
Dave Wallace, KA6GJN  
California National Guard**

This photo captures Dave in a more relaxed moment. It is not indictative of what Dave and his fellow California National Guardsmen went through on the streets of Los Angeles during the riots of April and May 1992. For the full story turn to page 10 and 11.

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#### 1991 SARA Officers

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Jim Hertel, N6KMR, 531-1157

##### Vice President

Sandra Ingram, KC6TBK, 575.4765

##### Secretary

Ernie Rader, K6UVI 838-2921

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#### SARA VHF Net

Thursdays @ 8 p.m.

(Except Holidays)

2 meters 145.39 MHz WD6EJF

220 Band 224.14 MHz WD6EJF

10 Meters 28,440 kHz USB

Tuesdays at 730 pm.

Contributions to *The READOUT* are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor by mail or via packet at WB6MFV-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

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Modesto, CA. 95355

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#### 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 Lightbulb Uses Radio Waves And Cost 10-20 Dollars

### *Expected to Last 15 to 20,000 Hours*

A small silicon valley company has developed a new light bulb that uses radio waves to power the bulb. President Pierre Villere of Intersource Technologies of Sunnyvale, is calling the development the biggest breakthrough since Thomas Edison got a filament to glow without interruption.

The new bulb is expected to last up to 20 years and will need only one-quarter the energy that today's standard bulbs require. The life expectancy of the new bulb is expected to be 15 to 20 thousand hours or 10 to 14 years compared to standard incandescent bulbs of today which last 750 to 1500 hours or six months. Villere said the biggest problem will be changing the minds of people who are used to replacing light bulbs and the projected cost of from \$10 to \$20 per the ordinary 150 watt bulb.

The new "electronic bulb" uses

a magnetic coil to generate a radio signal that mixes with the same gas used in conventional fluorescent lamps which produces a plasma which causes the phosphor coating on the inside of the glass to glow. Today's bulbs, invented by Thomas Edison in 1879, have a filament that glows when electricity passes through it while fluorescent bulbs use electrodes to make gases inside the tube glow.

The electronic bulb generates far less heat than incandescent bulbs which will save money on air conditioning and gives off as much light as an incandescent bulb. It fades when as it gets older instead of burning out and will fit most sockets. It can also be dimmed.

Villere said the biggest problem with marketing the bulb will be changing the minds of people who are used to replacing light bulbs when they burn out at a cost of one or two dollars and replacing them with a bulb that cost \$10 to \$20.

Tnx Associated Press

## Inferior Radio Shack Coax Connector

This warning applies to Radio Shack 90-degree (elbow) coax connectors, part number 278-199. Beware! This connector should not be used for any application that will carry transmitted RF, regardless of the frequency.

The construction of this connector is nothing more than a "spring" on the end of the male pin that "pushes" against the side of the female contact.

After fighting an intermittent condition for awhile, the culprit has been found to be the Radio Shack elbow connector.

After trying unsuccessfully to remove the pins by unscrewing on of them (the way quality connectors are made) I opened this one with my heavy duty hammer and was shocked at what I found.

*See 'Connectors' page 3*

# What Goes Up, Must Come Down & Engineering Report

By LeRoy Campbell, NV6S

**W**hat started as a day off to go to the dentist and install a whirly bird air vent fan over the garage, ended in a trip to the nearby emergency room. I decided to install the fan first and of course my first step was to locate the proper spot for it. I took a couple measurements and decided that I wanted to install it between a particular set of rafters in the garage.

The next step was to mark the location so I could find it from the roof. My plan was to drive a nail through the shingles from the inside to later be found from the outside. I carefully placed the ladder against the ceiling joist and proceeded to climb to the joist level. At this point I let go of the ladder and held in one hand the nail and in the other the hammer. It was at this point that something went wrong. The ladder slipped and went crashing to the concrete floor with me right behind. The hammer provided a very inadequate parachute so the forces of gravity prevailed.

I landed with stiff legs on my heels and transferred most of the impact to my rib cage. Nothing

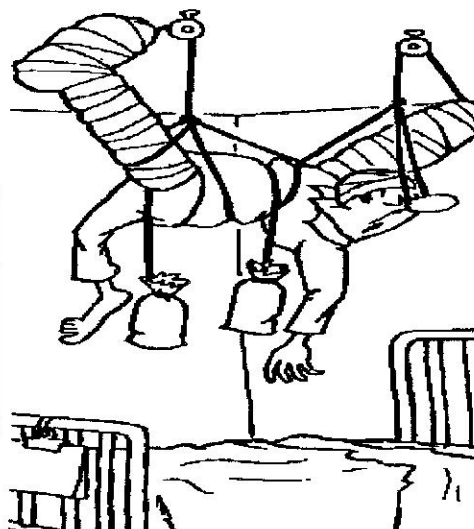
was broken except my pride but the cartilage was torn near my breast bone and something was injured near my back bone. Being stubborn, I proceeded to install the fan after a short bout of rolling around on the floor while calling for divine help.

After lunch I went to the emergency room and had exrays taken and later made my dental appointment. By the way the fan works great. I'll enjoy it a lot more when these ribs stop shooting fiery pains through my body.

## Technical Report

As to the technical report, I have the ten meter digi here and believe I have found the intermittent problem that we have been chasing in the PA amp. There is a removable card that serves as a buss when in normal operation and is removed for metering during tune up procedures. This card was making intermittent connection and causing the problem. I have polished it up and put Noalox on it to prevent further problems.

The Kantronics TNC that is used for our digi was sent to Kantronics



for upgrade to the current revisions. It's back and has 32K of RAM and is now capable of multi-connect node operation. This should really help now that N6REB-BBS isn't on the air and many of our users experience problems hitting WB6MFV-2 direct.

I'm still trying to find time to work on the 440 repeater and to repair the problem in the 220 link. Right now my ribs are too sore from my recent injury to stand the ride up the hill. I'm hoping they heal soon. Hopefully now that graduations are over, I will be able to find a bit more time to get things in shape on the mountain. I thank N6KMR and KC6TDH who have helped out by transporting some of the equipment up and down the hill. I also thank all who have helped with the technical chores. 73, LeRoy.

## Raffle Won By Oakdale Man Winning Ticket Sold By W6SBE

**T**he next time your fellow employee asks you to donate a buck or two to a raffle your club is having, do it! Just ask Ed Viohl,

of Oakdale, who won the Zenith Camcorder offered by **SARA** in our just concluded raffle. The winning ticket was drawn at the end of Field

Day activities in Patterson and was sold to Mr. Viohl by his fellow employee Dan, W6SBE at the Sheriff's Office. More details next month.

## 'Connectors' from page 2

RF burns, pitted and a piece of junk! I have replaced all my elbows with quality name connectors.

I would carefully check any Radio Shack adapter, tee's, N-type etc. prior to using.

Steve, W7AZF via packet.

# PACIFICON '92 Program Takes Shape In Concord

**P**ACIFICON '92, the Pacific Division Convention of the American Radio Relay League will be held October 16, 17 and 18 at the Concord Hilton Hotel. The theme of the event sponsored by the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC) is "Emergency Preparedness". According to Pete Tormey, N6OGN, President of the club, "This may well be one of the biggest and best ham radio events in Northern California in at least a decade. In a couple of years it may well rival Dayton."

The theme is significant because of the roles hams played in both the Loma Prieta Earthquake and the Oakland Hills firestorm. The third anniversary of Loma Prieta and the first anniversary of the Oakland Hills firestorm fall on the weekend of the event.

PACIFICON '92 steering committee has been working for more than a year to make the show a success. "We started out with the premise that this isn't, and can't be just a 'ham show', it has to be a community show," Tormey said. "We want to bring Amateur radio to the community. We want the community involved and we want them to know what amateur radio is all about, and that we are here to help."

The committee studied previous Pacific Division convention reports and concluded that the "only reasonable way" to include the community and the Amateur radio community was to make the event "affordable" for entire households.

With that, they drilled a hole in the barrel, and brought up a \$3

pre-registration ticket. "We know that if we sell plenty of pre-registration tickets (cutoff date is September 15, 1992) we can count on a good crowd." Tickets sold at the door will be \$5.00.

"The pre-registration price of \$3.00 is the lowest gate fee at a big hamvention in a long time," said Tormey. "And NOBODY gets in free," he chuckled.

"Next, we put together a gangbuster set of technical sessions



that cover the ham radio interest band. There is something for everybody who wants to learn, or have fun. We have a number of experts, including Gordon West, lined up to make you wake up, either because you are laughing, or because you are learning."

The MDARC crew put one ham's wife to work setting up a series of three tours expressly for non-hams and children. One tour will be a shopping trip to wholesale outlets near world famous Nut Tree Restaurant at Vacaville, with a stop at the Jelly Belly Factory enroute.

Another tour will be a unique trip to San Francisco, and still another will be reserved for adults who want to savor the color and spirit of the Napa Valley in fall.

"We have had a fantastic response from exhibitors," Tormey said. "I feel confident that everyone who comes to PACIFICON '92 is going to be satisfied with the technical aspects as well as the varied exhibits." He predicted that some exhibitors might not find space at PACIFICON '92 because they delayed reserving booth space.

The Concord Hilton Hotel has been entirely reserved for the convention and will be offering special room rates of \$65 per night double occupancy on 330 rooms. Clubs and organizations reserving 10 rooms in a block will be given one additional room without charge.

Opening the convention on Friday evening will be a community symposium on emergency preparedness sponsored by the Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services.

That symposium will feature talks on what to expect in an earthquake; protecting your family; civil response to disaster, hams in emergencies; motivating volunteers; volunteers in action; a case study of the Oakland Hills Firestorm and lessons learned from the Loma Prieta Earthquake.

The symposium will run from 6 until 10 pm with exhibits and vendors of special emergency preparedness equipment.

Tnx ARRL Pacific Division Report





# T-Hunt After The July 21st SARA Meeting

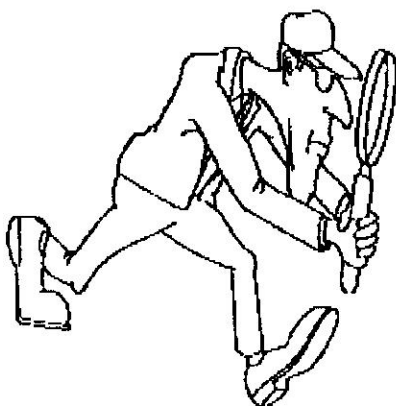
**W**hen the appointed time of 9 am arrived, only six members showed up for the **SARA** transmitter hunt held on May 23, 1992. It was a poor response to an event that is not only educational, but fun.

So, what's the problem? Why don't more members participate in these fun events. If we took a poll the number of excuses would run the gambit. At the top of the list no doubt would be 'prior commitments'. A few would probably say they simply 'forgot', and still others stayed away because they did not feel they had the proper equipment to participate properly.

We can go along with the 'prior commitment' and 'I forgot' excuses, but have to take issue with the not having the proper equipment excuse. Granted, some equipment is needed, but the point we are trying to get across is that you don't have to have hundreds of dollars worth of equipment to participate in a transmitter hunt. In fact you don't need any equipment at all.

You can team up with other hunters who do have equipment and go along for the fun and ex-

perience. After you've tried it, you will realize the fun and excitement you have been missing. With this in mind, **SARA** has decided to hold a T-hunt in conjunction with this month's meeting of **SARA** on July 21, 1992. There will be a short business meeting and then we move out to the parking lot behind



the meeting place which will be the starting point for the hunt.

This will be a walking hunt, which means the transmitter will be within walking distance from the starting point. It will not take long to find it. The whole idea of this hunt is to generate interest in these events and to have some fun.

For those of you who would like to prepare for the hunt all you will need is your two meter walkie-

talkie to receive the signal from the hidden transmitter. If you have a small three element beam or quad you can replace the rubble duck antenna with, you will get a better feel for the direction from which the signal is coming.

If you really want to get fancy a signal attenuation device would be very helpful when you get close to the transmitter. An attenuator will reduce the signal into your talkie and aid in getting your directional bearings.

Again, we want to emphasize that everyone is most welcome to participate with or without equipment. Hopefully you will enjoy yourself so much that you will want to do it again. Plan to be at the July meeting and bring a friend and a flashlight.

By the way, the hunt on May 23, 1992 was won by two new Technicians, KD6BNV, Rita, and Liz, KD6GIW, who had never been on a transmitter hunt in their young Amateur careers. We are working on a story to go along with the pictures we took. The story will hopefully appear in the August issue of **The REAOUT**.

## VE Tests in Stanislaus, Merced and Tuolumne Counties for 1992

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	CONTACT	PHONE
Sept 12.....	Modesto .....	9:00 am.....	W6XK.....	883-2968
Oct. 10 .....	Merced .....	9:00 am.....	KI6PR .....	383-2166
Nov. 14.....	Sonora.....	9:00 am.....	WA6NSK .....	586-4917
Dec 12 .....	Modesto .....	9:00 am.....	W6XK.....	883-2968

## FROM THE DESK OF

N6ZUC

Tim Low, Escondido, CA.

If you read last month's column, and of course you did, you'll recall I started a peek inside the *Radio Shack* catalog. Just to see what they have useful to the amateur. Useful if they have it in stock anyway. They have a bad habit of not having in stock, what I need, when I need it. Keeping sufficient stock on hand just isn't one of the Shack's strong points.

*Radio Shack* as a corporation, for all their faults, has done one thing incredibly right. They came up with the HTX-202, two meter HT. Quite simply it's the best value on the market for a 2 meter hand held. It's going to give the Japanese a real run for their money. That is if R.S. ever decides to make it available on anything other than an occasional basis. They have been, up to the writing of this article anyway, almost impossible to find.

Here are some of the features included with the HTX-202. True FM modulation, for extremely sharp audio. This should make it a great rig to use for packet operation. They even include in the instruction manual some information about packet operation. The power output with a 13.8 volt supply on the one I tried out was 7 watts. In my experience, that's been more than sufficient power for packet operation. The receive audio is pretty

good too, even through the tiny built in HT speaker. If you team it up in the shack or the mobile with the available speaker mic, and an external speaker such as the R.S. #21-549, it's a real winner. It has 16 total memories, 12 standard, 3 priority, and one call channel. Also 5 memories for installing autopatch sequences. Each will hold up to fifteen digits. Sending the sequence is very easy too.

Both PL encode and decode are standard features. If you've a mind to, you can make the transmit PL one frequency, and the receive another. These settings, along with a host of others, are available on the menu. This menu can set all the functions of the HT.

The feature I like best is the DTMF squelch. You can set up a code, and only those that have this code can access your HT. This is great when you need to monitor a busy repeater while waiting for a call, but don't want to listen to all the chatter. When the rig hears the proper sequence of touch tones, it will unsquelch, key itself up, and send a response to the caller that it has been unsquelched. This is in the form of the # symbol tone. In my mind a great feature.

If you're in need of a 2 meter HT, and you can find a R.S. that has one on the shelf, give serious thought to the HTX-202. I don't believe you'll be disappointed. Feature for feature, nothing else on the market touches it for the price.

*Radio Shack* has a whole host of accessories available for your rig too. They do have a 5/8 wave mag mount antenna available now for 2 meter operation, though I think the price is high at 38 dollars. I think I paid about \$25 for

my first 5/8 mag mount. It does have a healthy magnet on it, which is nice. As to how well it works in comparison to others? I don't know, I haven't tried one out.

The HTX-100 ten meter rig has been a popular rig for those limited to the novice bands. It is a good, sturdy, reliable rig. The problem is, it's way over priced for the features it has. It is only capable of upper side band and CW, and CW is only semi break keying. I much prefer full. The price is \$259.95, and is on sale a couple times a year for two hundred. You can buy a Uniden anytime for one thirty. The HTX-100 by the way, is made by Uniden. If you're in the market for a 10 meter only, I would suggest you pass up the HTX-100, and go for the Uniden, or better yet, get a Ranger.

The coaxial cable they've sold over the years has been the pits. Now they've discarded the old, and brought in the new. The 58U I like, as well as the 8X. The 8X is between the 58 and the 8. The real improvement is in the RG8U. It is a reasonable choice for short runs at HF frequencies. I find it a bit stiff for making pig tails though.

The Shacks standard PL-259 connectors on the other hand, are nothing I'd want to rely on. I have had extreme poor luck with all the R.S. coaxial connectors. This is one place they could use much improvement. If you need one in a pinch, OK, but try to find Amphenol.

Now, if what you're looking for are silver plated, high heat, teflon center, connectors, R.S. has them. The price is horrendous at \$3.59 each. I've picked up comparable at swap meets for a buck and a half a piece. In fact I think

See "N6ZUC" page 7

## From The Desk of N6ZUC

from page 6

I've seen gold plated teflon connectors around three and a half. So much for R.S. connectors.

If you need hardware for building or mounting antennas, the Shack has it. The 3 foot tripod is a good buy, and built sturdy. Antenna masts, guy wire, bolts, and ground rods as well as mounts for chimney and eaves are all available.

The Little R.S. rotator is a good bet if you have a small antenna such as a 2 meter beam to swing. The prices for all this stuff seems to be in the ball park too. Besides, where else you gonna' find it?

Just a couple last items I think are worth considering while killing some time meandering around your neighborhood Radio Shack. One is what they call mega-cable. While a bit on the pricey side at 99 cents a foot, it's a very good source of ground braid. You actually get two feet of strap, as you split it in half.

The other is the coax cable

surge absorber. Rated to 500 watts and frequency range from DC to 1.5 GHZ, it is something you should have to protect your rig from nature's light show. The internal gas discharge tube is replaceable. The replacement tubes are not a stock item, of course, and have to be special ordered.

Ah, just remembered something else. For those of you without DTMF touch tone capabilities on your rig, a simple dialer is available at \$15.95. Or you can get one with memories for twenty five. That's it

. If you've stuck with me these past couple months, you now know more about the shack's products than the average *Radio Shack* employee. Of course that shouldn't be reason to swell your head.

Questions? Answers? Comments? Direct them via packet to N6ZUC @ KB6GVT. #SOCA. CA. USA. NA, or write me in care of *The READOUT*. 73, Tim

## AT&T Terminates Telegraph Service After More Than 100 years

**T**he year was 1887. AT&T introduced their private-line telegraph service. Hailed as a technological breakthrough, the first customer was a brokerage business that used the service to communicate between its New York and Philadelphia offices.

AT&T telegraph service peaked in 1970, transmitting data at the then-incredible rate of 150 bits per second (1200 BPS is considered the lowest acceptable speed for desktop

computer users today.)

Displaced by computer-to-computer communications, facsimile and digitalization of AT&T's own network, the service is slated to close this year after 100-plus years.

According to AT&T, the last users of the telegraph were federal agencies, state governments and utility, broadcast and transportation companies.

*Tnx Monitoring Times.*

## SARA Newsletter Earns Top Award

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

**C**ompeting against Amateur Radio publications from across the country, *The READOUT* was judged "Superior" by the *Amateur Radio News Service (ARNS)* for the second year in a row. Out of 110 entries nationwide, *The READOUT*, and 23 other newsletters, were judged tops with 'Superior' ratings. 48 newsletters were judged as 'Excellent' and the remaining 27 as 'Good.'

According the *ARNS* judges, "We thought last year's 54 entries were a bumper crop. The growth to 110 newsletters seems to mirror growth in Amateur Radio since the arrival of the codeless Technician.

"Last year we thought club size affected newsletter quality, so we classified entries accordingly. But we saw no such correlation this year. Many small clubs had great papers. Clearly the enthusiasm and skill of editors and writers, and the time they devote to the task, has a greater effect.

"We stand in awe of the dedication and amount of work these 110 newsletters represent. It's clear from reading them that Amateur Radio is as strong and vital as ever. Individuals and clubs are active, involved, creating, experimenting. The level of commitment is just staggering."

The judges comments, good and bad, were greatly appreciated and will help to make our newsletter a better newsletter in the future. Being the editor of a newsletter is a big job, and being recognized for your efforts certainly make all your work worth while.



# SARA Minutes

By Ernie Rader, K6UVI, Secretary

The regular monthly SARA meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM by President Jim Hertel, N6KMR. Introductions were made as the sign-in sheet was passed around. Twenty-eight members and guests signed in.

Vice President Sandy, KC6TBK thanked all who participated in the Graffiti Fun Run. Treasurer Rita, KD6BNV did not have a treasurer's report due to her residence move, but it follows now:

Beginning Balance:	\$2,361.17
Six deposits:	\$ 921.85
Expenses:	\$705.97
Ending Balance:	\$2,577.05

#### EXPENSES:

Telephone:	\$31.20
May newsletter charges	\$76.25
May fund raiser letter	\$8.88
June newsletter charges	\$69.50

June membership applications printing	\$ 7.51
Equipment repair:	\$139.02

ARRL:	\$28.00
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Miscellaneous:	\$345.61
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(Misc expenses included T-shirts, Badges, and the Banner)

#### DEPOSITS:

Membership:	\$73.10
Fund Raiser:	\$635.00
Other:	\$213.76
Total:	\$921.85

Deposits and expenses, 5/12/92 through 6/20/92

Total funds raised from raffle tickets to date is \$932.00

Note: May's Fund Raiser amount was \$297.00 plus \$39.00 other.

Rita further reported that we need to have the raffle tickets or the money turned in as quickly as possible because it won't be long before

the drawing. She and Liz, KD6GIW are working on getting a company to make our banner. Further, two models of club badges were displayed and their prices were given. The same information was presented for T-Shirts and accessories. Bob, ZLO, asked if this company had any printed literature that could be used in The READOUT, and Liz said no. He wants to put in an ad. It was moved and seconded to table the treasurer's report.

LeRoy, NV6S, reported that he thinks the 10 meter digipeater is fixed. He located an intermittent problem. The two meter K-node is back from its upgrade and ready to be reinstalled on the hill, and the 440 repeater is still bad. LeRoy needs a spectrum analyzer to complete the repairs there. The 220 machine is still plagued with an intermittent problem, and repairs continue.

There will be another T-hunt after the next meeting and Brad, KC6TDH will hide the fox again. Members were informed of the results of the last hunt as the girls beat the guys big time.

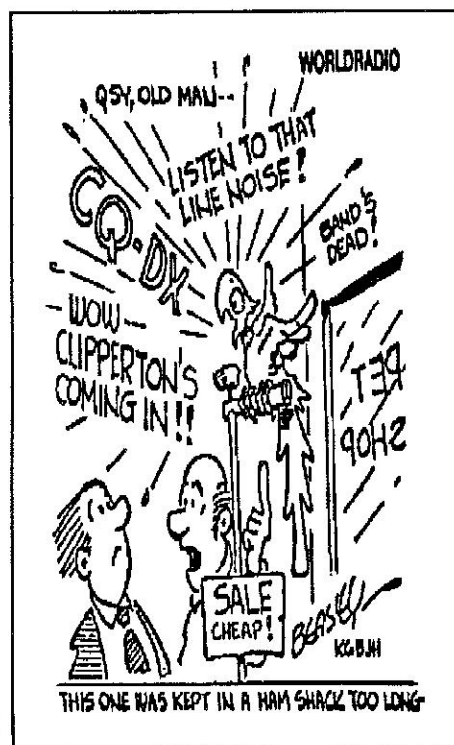
An offer was made for an 8 KW generator for field day. A flat bed truck would be needed to transport the unit. Field Day will be getting media coverage from the Patterson area and the mayor of Patterson is expected to observe some of the activity.

Steve, N6EKV had asked if SARA wanted to man the fireworks booths again this year and Liz volunteered to administer that activity.

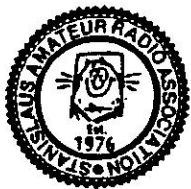
Recess between 8:19 and 8:30.

Under new business, Ernie, K6UVI read his letter of appointment as the Stanislaus County Emergency Coordinator, and everyone on the repeater was cautioned not to acknowledge jammers. "Break-Break" is an emergency break on the repeater, and the group was cautioned about the excessive use of the autopatch. Jim also asked that his personal telephone not be used as a crying towel by the members. If there are problems with the administration of the club, bring your complaints to the meeting where all can participate.

There continues to be jamming on the repeater, and Brad cautioned everyone not to acknowledge a jammer's presence. It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:48 PM. Respectfully submitted, Ernie, K6UVI, club Secretary.







# Editor's Notes

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

**S**ARA member Joe Fontes, WQ6W, continues to sail the waters off the coast of Portugal and the Azores Islands. In his latest postcard, Joe wrote he was in Vian do Castelo on the Northern Coast of Portugal. He reports the trip up the North coast was smooth sailing and he's having a ball. Thanks for keeping in touch Joe!

Two new postal ZIP codes have been added in Modesto. 95357 and 95358 joining 95350, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56. The old 95351 area, by far the largest, has been significantly reduced and the largest portion of it renumbered 95358. This area is generally west of Hwy 99 to the San Joaquin River.

The area around Empire becomes 95357. We would appreciate being notified if your ZIP code changes so we can bring our club roster up to date. You can simply call my home number, 523-5880 and leave a message on my recorder.

At the end of April, 1992, there were 563,628 Amateurs licensed in this country. 171,803 were Technicians. FCC statistics indicate over 3,000 Technician licenses were issued each month for February, March and April of 1992.

ARRL membership is at an all time high. At the end of May there were 158,242 full and associate members of the league. There were 2,091 applications for membership being processed which would make to overall total 160,333. That is about 5500 more than at the end of 1991.

The SARA 2M repeater has been

hit from time to time by intentional jamming. Now would be a good time to review the proper procedure to handle such lids. The cardinal rule is that you don't acknowledge the fact they are there. Making comments to, or about, such a person only adds fuel to the fire.

Many times I have heard members ignore the jammer by not making direct comments to him/her and then turn around and make an indirect comment about the fact he/she was heard. You must control the urge to tell the jammer to take a flying leap at the moon.

Test yourself to see how well you can carry on your QSO without giving the slightest hint that you heard the jammer. If you can not control your ire, then just make an excuse that you have to go and end the QSO.

As of June 1, 1992 the following calls had been issued by the FCC in the sixth and seventh call districts.

EXTRA-	AB6LK	AA7PF
ADVANCED-	KM6VJ	KI7DC
GEN-TECH'S-	KD6JYA	N7YRL
NOVICE-	KD6JYA	KB7PBY

Note all group C (1-by-3) call signs have now run out in the sixth call district and the seventh call district only has 898 1-by-3's left. Group D 2-by-3 calls are being issued for Novice, Technician and General class licensees.

Speaking of licenses, here is a test for you. Are you ready? OK.....When does your Amateur License expire? If you had to look, welcome to the club. Try to keep that date in mind. The FCC is out

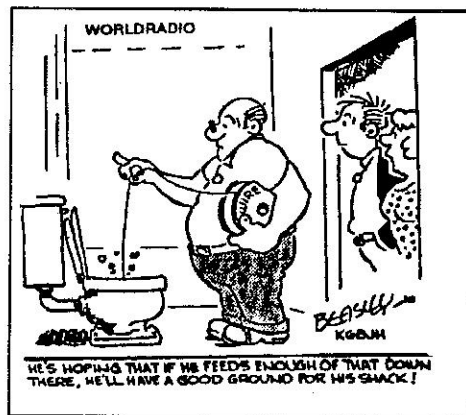
with a new Form 610. If you need one, send a SASE to the Secretary at the club post office box. 73, Bob

## 'No Taxes'

from front page

these out-of-state companies. I think we are going to find a sympathetic ear (in Congress)." Chet Daizell, a spokesman for the Direct Marketing Association views it differently. He said "Congress likely will be hesitant to enact a law that greatly burdens consumers and businesses in these recessionary times."

Rep. Byron Dorgan, Democrat of North Dakota, said congressional action this year is doubtful. "It's obviously a pretty big job to get legislation passed in this area because there are a whole lot of folks who don't want to do anything," Dorgan said. "The large catalog companies have the ability- and they've done it in the past-- to wallpaper the Congress with millions of postcards."



# The Los Angeles Riots

## The National Guard Responds to a City in Crisis

By Dave Wallace, KA6GJN, Turlock

**A**pril 30 was a warm pleasant Thursday and I was getting ready to call it a day. Just before 5:00 pm I received a phone call from my National Guard unit, informing me to pack my unit was being activated and report to the Turlock Armory immediately.

Governor Wilson had activated the California National Guard for duty controlling the Los Angeles riots which broke out on April 29, 1992 after 'not guilty' verdicts were returned in the Rodney King case.

One hour later I reached the armory and began loading my truck for the trip. This is no small feat. I'm in the Medical Platoon, and we have what amounts to a portable combination medical clinic and emergency room. 27 hours after the first call, our entire battalion, consisting of about 600 people, were on duty on the streets of L.A. That included a 12-hour ride in the backs of our own trucks.

### Deployed to Hollywood the "Walk of Stars"

Our medical unit was assigned with about 200 troops to patrolling several miles of Hollywood Boulevard, and a business area along Santa Monica Boulevard. Several stores along the "Walk of the Stars" had already been looted, and a few that were burned, while the area along Santa Monica Blvd. was heavily looted and burned.

When we arrived, the looting had stopped, but the buildings were still smoldering. Curiously, businesses in the second area had little or no damage. The largest was a Sears store, about three stories high, which had been thoroughly trashed, then flooded by the fire sprinklers. We wondered why one department, Sears Craftsman Tools, was left completely intact.

### Preliminary Los Angeles Riot related facts:

- 58 deaths
- 2,383 injuries
- 17,711 arrest in Los Angeles County
- 700 deliberately set fires
- \$750 million in property damage

### Maintain Dusk-To-Dawn Curfew

Our job was to maintain security in our assigned areas and to enforce the dusk - to - dawn curfew. The major streets were open to vehicles, but pedestrians were stopped using "high - risk" procedures, then searched and dealt with by an LAPD officer who was always with us.

Most people we stopped were released and told to get off the street. Most people who were arrested were found to be in possession, or under the influence of drugs, and a handful were carrying stolen property. We got about 4 hours sleep each day at the Hollywood Bowl where we established temporary quarters.

Our patrol activities would start about 6:00 pm each evening when we hit the streets until dawn. We kept this routine until about May 10, Mother's Day, when the curfew ended.

### Nobody Knew How to Deal With Us

Our presence was then made progressively less obvious, although we continued to be ready to move out on a moment's notice. We'll never know if the riots themselves stopped because of our presence, or if the events had run their course as we did not see looting in our areas. It became clear that nobody knew just how to deal with us. LAPD was a

known element. They knew that they far outnumbered the officers, and that they could give the officers a "ration" and get away with it.

We were challenged a few times by individuals who clearly wanted to play games, but the troops clearly were not in the mood and we quickly earned respect. Drive-by shootings were a big concern, so we carefully planned our positions to minimize our risk. In virtually every case, any hostile action against us would have brought a devastating response.

There were two shootings by Guardsmen, both during attempts to run down the soldiers and both were completely justified.

*See 'L.A. Riots' page 11*

## **L.A. Riots**

from page 10

Exhausted LAPD officers were very glad to see us. We were not prepared for the public's reaction to our presence and being treated like royalty.

I have received many a one - finger salute in my years in the National Guard but this time they were thumbs pointed upward.

### **Pizza and Coffee Bagels and Sweetbread**

The first night on the street, a Domino's Pizza truck drove around all night delivering pizzas to our guard posts. A restaurant owner, on closing one night, brought us two large shopping bags of bagels and sweetbreads. Another bag was full of milk, butter and other toppings for the bread. He also delivered a couple gallons of coffee. A storekeeper who lived in his store in the middle of one our areas kept a pot of fresh coffee outside his door for us all night.

### **No Social Concern- Only Greed**

I saw no evidence of any social concern -- only greed while we were there. If racism was a factor in any of it, then racism was celebrated, not decried. I harbor no illusions about news media being fair or accurate, but I am still astonished at how irresponsible they proved to be.

Even though we troops in the street refused to make any statement to reporters, a story quickly surfaced that our weapons were empty.

I can't believe the ignorance and irresponsibility displayed by some

politicians, particularly Mayor Bradley and Gov. Wilson, in some of their remarks. This country boy was shocked to see what abuse LAPD officers have to take on a daily basis. I don't think L.A. is really part of planet earth. Every officer I dealt with was dedicated and very professional.

I learned more about the King case that leads me to understand the verdicts, even if I don't agree with them. Once again, the media are not giving us the whole story -- just the sensational part. Still, I believe the King verdict was just a handy excuse for lawlessness and I expect us to have to return sometime this summer.

### **Amateur Radio Activity LA EOC Operations**

On the Amateur radio front, the only equipment I took was my trusty Icom IC-2AT. It rode on my web gear the whole time. I listened to several area repeaters, particularly one located on Mt. Disappointment, wherever that is.

The Los Angeles Emergency Operations Center used that machine. By the time I could do much talking, things had calmed down to the point where the EOC was only in a monitoring mode, and was eventually shut down. I heard little of a disaster operations nature.

Communications were a big problem overall. Our military radios are designed for use over distances of only a few miles. Telephone service was not good, and most contact with our higher headquarters had to be done through one cellular phone, the batteries for which died (legitimately) several times per day.

### **Final Report**

In my final report to my superiors, nearly twice as long as this article, I recommended using some other assets, like MARS and RACES/ARES.

I'm also strongly encouraging the three or four other hams in the battalion to bring their H.T.'s next time. As in nearly all large - scale emergencies, every normal communications system, wire and radio, was overloaded to the point of failure.

I am convinced that, in spite of the advances in the field of communications, Amateurs are becoming more important that ever to disaster management.

### **We'll Be Back**

I fear there will be a next time, probably soon. We will be better prepared for it. We returned home on May 13th and spent the next day cleaning equipment before being released.

**Next SARA  
Meeting  
July 21, 1992  
730 pm  
T-Hunt Follows  
Meeting  
Bring Your  
Walkie-Talkie  
Flashlight  
&  
A Friend  
&  
Have Fun  
You're Invited!**



# Calendar



July 11, 1992 .....Foothill Swap Meet.....All Day  
Los Altos College

July 21, 1992 .....SARA Monthly Meeting .....730 pm

Aug 1, 1992.....Livermore Swap Meet.....7a-12p

Aug. 8, 1992 .....Foothill Swap Meet.....All Day  
Los Altos College

Aug. 20-23 .....ARRL National Convention .....3 Days  
Los Angeles

Sept 12, 1992 .....VE Testing in Modesto.....930 am

Sept 15, 1992 .....SARA Monthly Meeting .....730 am

Oct. 3, 1992 .....Hams and Hackers Swap Meet... All Day  
Hanford, Ca.

Oct. 16-18.....Pacificon Hamfest.....3 days  
Concord Hilton

Oct. 10, 1992       VE Testing in Merced.....930 am

**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**.

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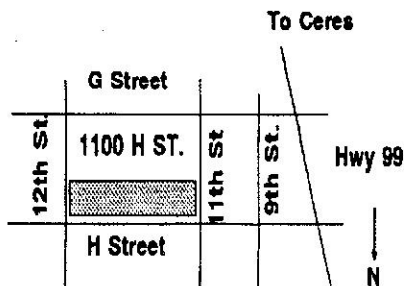
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**Third Tuesday of Each Month**

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