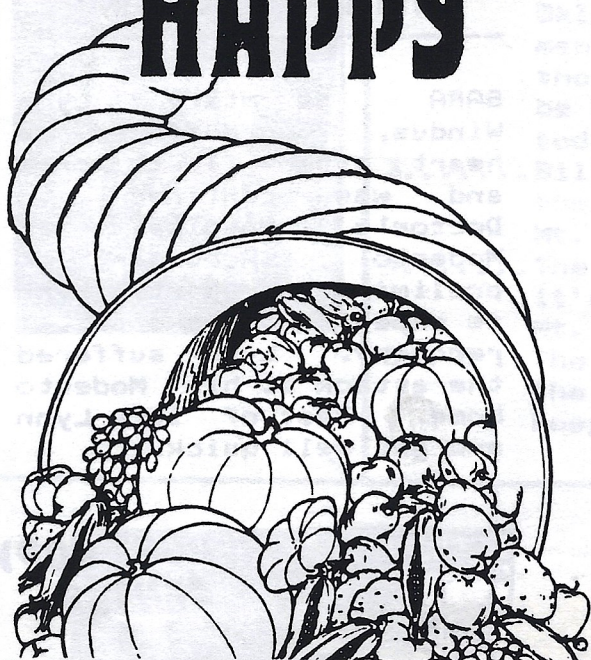


# - The - READOUT

Vol. 9 No. 10

Nov 1986

## HAPPY



### DIRECTOR TO SPEAK

ARRL Pacific Division Director, Rod Stafford, KB6ZV, will be the guest speaker for this month's SARA meeting on November 18th. Those that have heard Rod speak have enjoyed his presentation. Rod is an attorney in San Jose. 730 pm.

## THANKSGIVING



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



# R

EADOUT is the official publication of the STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INC. "SARA"

P. O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA. 95352.

Entered as bulk mail at the post office Modesto, CA. Contributions

may be submitted to the editor, Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLD at 1221 Mist Flower Ct. Modesto, CA. 95355. SARA owns and operates two F.M. repeaters. 145.39 MHz (-) located on Mt. Oso 18 miles SW of Modesto at an elevation of 3,370 feet. Our 220 MHz repeater operates of 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 also located on Mt. Oso at 3500 feet. The frequency is 145.01 MHz. SARA conducts an informational net on both repeaters each Thursday evening at 730 pm with the exception of holidays. SARA meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Stanislaus County Administration building at the 12th and H streets in downtown Modesto. Meetings begin at 730 pm. SARA is incorporated with the State of California and is an affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and Stanislaus County RACES. Dues are \$15.00 per annum, \$7.50 for students up to sophomore in college and \$7.50 per year for Associate membership. Dues are pro-rated for newly joining members from the date they join. ARRL membership and QST renewals may be made through SARA with a 2.00 commission retained by SARA.

#### PRESIDENT

Gene Rong.....KI6DC.....239-9236

#### VICE PRESIDENT

John Cowman.....KB6DU.....527-7258

#### SECRETARY

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

#### TREASURER

Lynn Windus.....KB6DXX.....523-0141

## SARA MEETING

--Guest Speaker--

ARRL

Pacific Division

Director

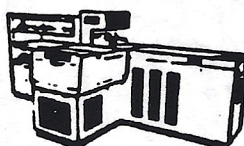
Rod Stafford,

KB6ZV

730 p.m.

## KB6DXX SUFFERS HEART ATTACK OCT. 22ND

SARA Secretary Lynn Windus, 70, suffered a heart attack last month and was confined to Doctor's Hospital in Modesto. According to preliminary reports, Lynn is expected to make a full recovery. Lynn suffered the attack at his Modesto home. Best of luck Lynn and get well quick.



## BUDGET COPY CENTER

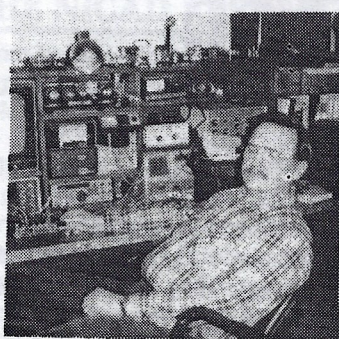
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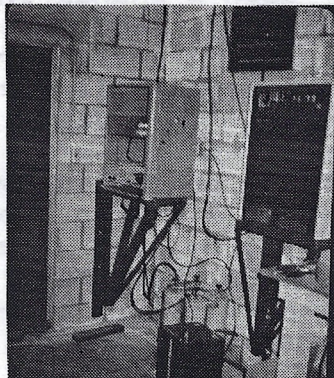


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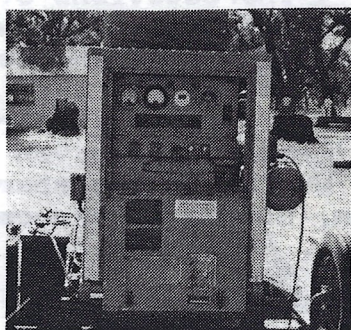
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## SARA PHOTO GALLERY

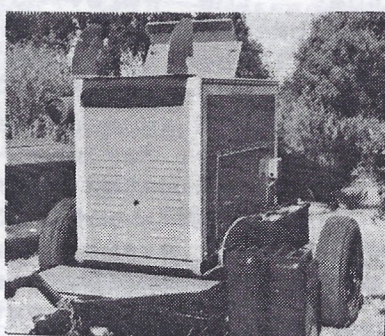


4

- 1- 2....KNSELI 30 plus years ago at an Oklahoma Field Day. The equipment was a lot heavier in those days, but, the same can be said for the operator who today is W6SBE in photo two.
- 3.....Bill Peitz, W6AFS, working on the SARA 220 mhz repeater on Mt. Oso.
- 4.....The 220 repeater sitting on it's pedestal in the vault on Mt. Oso.
- 5 & 6 ..The SARA generator in use for the first time at the SARA Deep-Pit BBQ in Tracy.



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6



# STATION LOG

ARRL  
affiliated club

SARA MEETING OF 9-16-86!  
The meeting was called to order at 733 p.m. by Gene, KI6DC, followed by introductions of 23 members in attendance. Minutes were not available for reading and will be read at the next SARA meeting. Treasurers report was read by Treasurer Lynn, KB6DXX. Balance as of 8-29-86 \$1,456.26. Expense to date \$132.46. Income \$237.39. Net balance \$1,693.65. It was moved and seconded that the treasurers report be approved as read. Under old business, it was reported that 26 tickets had been sold for the SARA dinner-dance on Oct. 11. Gene, KI6DC reported that help is still needed for the clean-up crew. Also, some help needed with door prizes. Bud, N6OCV wanted to know if the club has liability insurance. He was told that the previous policy had been dropped when the premium leaped to \$1,000 per year. Under new business, Bill, W6AFS agreed to head a committee for nominations of candidates for office for 1987. KI6DC reported that VE exams are set for Nov. 1. Anyone wishing to take the test

should be there by 830 am. Tests will be given at County Center 3 as before. KI6DC reported that we need an Education Coordinator. Bill, WA6DHP volunteered to assist the coordinator and Phil, WD0FXX volunteered to take the job as coordinator. It was announced that there has been a change in regulations. The FCC will no longer provide tests for VE exams. The tests will be made up by the VEC's. Recess at 805 pm briefly. The program was presented by WJ60, slides on his trip to Japan. Enjoyed by all! The raffle was won by ME!!! \$7.00. Respectfully submitted by LaVerne, KB6ECF, SARA Secretary.

## -SARA MEETING OCTOBER- 21, 1986

Meeting called to order at 730 pm by President Gene, KI6DC. Introductions of 24 attending members followed. Minutes of August and September meetings read and approved as read. The treasurers report was given by Bill, W6AFS in the absence of Lynn, KB6DXX. Balance as of Sept. 22 was \$1,546.72.

----- See page 8 -----



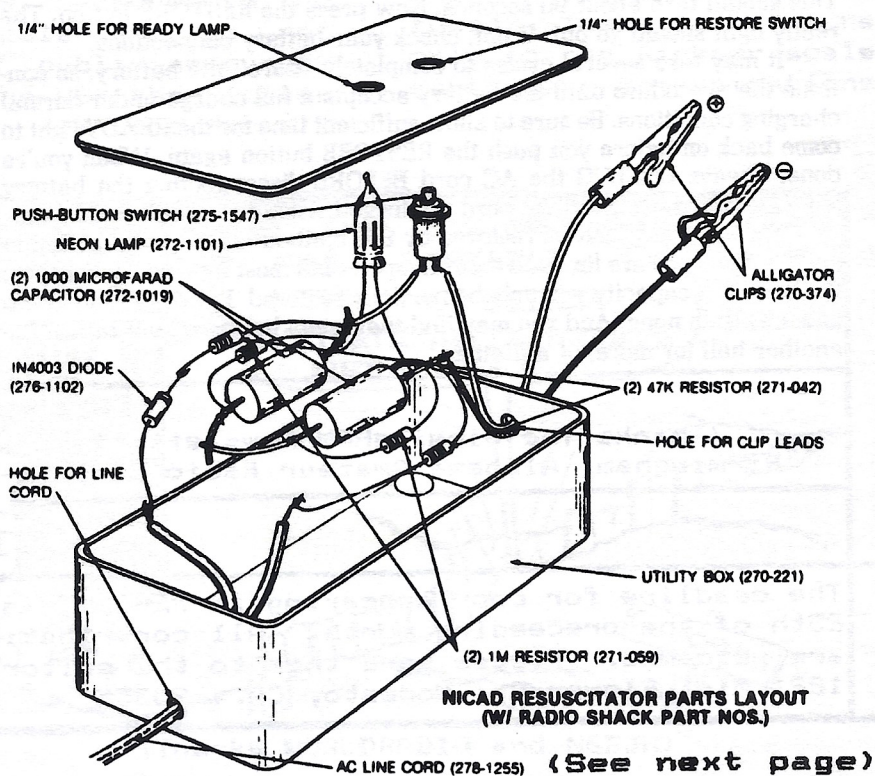
## THE NICAD RESUSCITATOR

Nickel-cadmium batteries can be an economical (and environmentally beneficial) alternative to conventional cells appeared in the June issue of Mother Earth News.)

In ten short years, rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries have become commonplace conveniences. They now power everything from razors to radios, and when one goes dead you simply plug it in for a recharging. A time comes, however, when the battery won't hold a charge any longer and presumably must be replaced.

Unfortunately, many nicads get deep-sixed before their time. In most cases, more than one cell is needed to power a device, and one bad cell can drag the rest of a perfectly good battery down. Most often, the problem is an internal short, which bypasses current around the affected cell. The other cells are actually fine, but there's not enough capacity for the job, so the battery gets thrown away.

Fortunately, on the other hand, an ailing cell can often be shocked back to life if you force enough current through it to cause the short to burn away. Once that electroshock therapy is finished, the battery can be recharged for normal operation.





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## **-THE NICAD RESUSCITATOR-**

(continued from previous page)

To assemble a low-cost "nicad nudger," start by drilling holes in the plastic case and mounting the switch and neon lamp, as indicated on the parts layout. Use rubber cement to secure the lamp. Then solder the components together, being careful to observe the polarity of the capacitors and the diode. Tie knots in the AC line cord and the clip leads inside the case, so that the wires won't pull on the components inside. This is particularly important with the line cord. If the uninsulated leads were to come out of the side of the case, you could get a life-threatening shock! For safety's sake, please follow the directions carefully, and use only a plastic case.

The nicad resuscitator can be used to resurrect batteries up to 22 volts in capacity. With the line cord UNPLUGGED, connect the red and black clip leads, respectively, to the positive and negative terminals of the faulty battery. (You may need a specific type of connector, such as a battery holder, to attach some batteries.)

Insert the plug into an outlet and wait until the READY lamp lights. This should take about 90 seconds. Now press the RESTORE button. The ready light should go out. If not, check your battery connections.

It may take several cycles to completely "cure" the battery, so continue the procedure until the battery accepts a full charge under normal charging conditions. Be sure to allow sufficient time for the READY light to come back on before you push the RESTORE button again. When you're done, always UNPLUG the AC cord BEFORE disconnecting the battery leads, and always leave the cord unplugged when the unit is not in use.

Not all nicads can be restored by this method - even under optimum conditions, there are limits to their lifespan - but most can. In a few cases, the battery's capacity will only be partially restored. But even then, some is better than none. And you may find that many batteries will return for another half (or more) of a lifetime.

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(Thanks The Birmingham Newsletter)  
Birmingham, Alabama Amateur Radio Club

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The deadline for copy appearing in READOUT is the 25th of the preceeding month. All contributions are welcomed. Please send them to the editor at 1221 Mist Flower Ct. Modesto, CA. 95355



## OES RACES BULLETIN de KH6GBX

It is not hard to become confused about the Richter scale. Perhaps this will help a little. The Richter Scale is used to report units of earthquake ENERGY and not INTENSITY. More on that later. The Richter scale is "log 10". For example, Richter 4 is ten times greater than Richter 3, and Richter 5 is 100 times greater energy than Richter 3 and so forth. Shaking INTENSITY is measured in the Mercalli scale and is not used for public announcements in the US--the Richter scale is. In the Mercalli

scale an intensity of 4 is 30 times greater than 3, and Mercalli 5 is 900 times greater than a 3. The Southern California Earthquake Preparedness Project Office says there is no linear or log relationship between the two measurements because the INTENSITY and the ENERGY can vary with each and every earthquake. A tenfold increase in energy is not necessarily a 30-fold increase in intensity. Confused? That is why we refer only to the Richter scale in earthquake communications.



(Thanks WORLD RADIO and N6BJH)



STATION LOG (continued from page 4)

Balance as of October 21 was \$1,138.42. Expenses were \$26.09. Under old business, a request from John, KG6DU, that special thanks should be given to the dinner-dance committee for a job well done. All in attendance seemed to enjoy. Gene, KI6DC reminded everyone about the VE exams coming up at County Center 3 on Nov. 1. Anyone wishing to take the test should be there by 830 am. Bill, W6AFS, announced the following as candidates for office for 1987. We need at least one more candidate for President and one more for treasurer. President- WG6P, Denny. VP- N6EKV Steve; N6JTD, Lori. Secretary KB6ECF, LaVerne; N6NUD, Wes. Treasurer, N6OCV, Bob. AFS also announced that the new battery for the two meter repeater is here and has been installed. Phil, FFX, reported on the Boy Scout Jamboree held on Oct. 19. Phil also reported on the meeting of the education committee held in Manteca. Novice, Technician and General classes will be held. In attendance at the meeting were WJ6D, WQ6W, WA6OHP and N6LRZ. One of the requirements for passing the Novice, Tech-General classes will be that the

student be able to send as well as received CW. WG6P announced that the club has a library of code tapes and these tapes will be available to any club member for study. FFX announced that he would like to see the establishment of a club station for SARA. This station would be available to all club members for their use. This subject drew discussion. Short break at 8 pm. Under new business WG6P made a motion to send a questionnaire to all members to find out what SARA members want from their club. W6AFS seconded the motion and it was carried. It is hoped this questionnaire can be formulated and sent to all members before the end of the year. AFS made a motion to appoint a committee to organize the dinner-dance for 1987. The motion was seconded by WG6P and carried. N6JTD and N6EKV volunteered to work on organizing the event. Some thought will be given to utilizing a public restaurant. FFX made a motion that a committee be formed to work on establishing fund raising ideas. The

-----See page 15-----



???WHAT'S UP IN TRAINING???  
WDOFFX

The last class that this club saw was last Spring When Lynn, KB6DXX and I sat down and worked with some very interested and motivated people. As with all classes, these folks were from all walks of life and age. They were a wonderful crew to work with. A great deal of credit and thanks go out to Lynn for his sincere and terrific contributions in running the program.

A new and different direction is taking place. A lot of questions will arise with it that will be answered and addressed as time goes along. Please be patient since this is new also for us.

To give you a brief picture of what is in the works with the education program, I'd like to start out by saying that it is envisioned to be all encompassing. That is to say that if all goes well we will see an on-going program that will cover all levels of licensing in the amateur arena in one class. What one can expect to find in the program, is a curriculum that will be somewhat modeled after the "One Room School House". The beginning

stage will include the Novice and Tech/General classes. As this works out, and time is given for it to meld with all of us, The Advanced and Extra levels will be added. A core of instructors will rotate lessons or shifts to serve a dual purpose. First is to not end up having any one person tied up for more than a few weeks at a time. The second is simply that each has their own particular skills and/or areas of expertise that they will be able to contribute. All-in-all, we think it has promise and hope. As time goes on I hope your confidence will grow with the program.

The learning of CW will be taking on an old direction. The students will be required to learn to send, as well as receive the code. Sending will not be needed for the test. More time and energy will be spent on learning the Morse Code and increasing ones speed. You can enter a class simply to work on this if you wish. Working at your own speed is a major part of the "One Room School House" system we will use. If

---See Page 15---



## BALLOONING

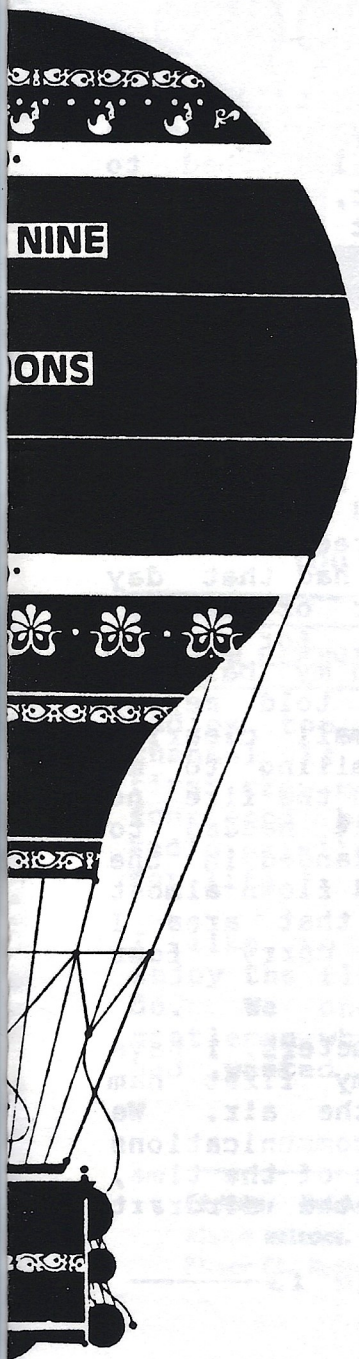
By  
Harley Lee WA6GKS

One person's description of a hot air balloon ride was "an hour of peaceful bliss, followed by thirty seconds of sheer terror." A few years ago I had the occasion to ride in a hot air balloon as a part of my job. It was an experience I will never forget, as evidenced by the fact that my second balloon ride was in my own balloon. My son Dwight and I became commercial pilots, and have been flying most weekends ever since.

Few people realize that a hot air balloon was the vehicle to first lift man from the earth. Two hundred and three years ago the Montgolfier brothers, noticing that smoke always rises, built a balloon of cloth lined with paper to capture the smoke and lift people into the air. It was a success, but the first free balloonists (not on a tether line) were plagued by farmers and land owners who would think they were some strange devils, and would destroy their balloons with pitchforks and hoes. (These days a few use shotguns.) Balloonists, to show that







they were friendly and as a peace offering, carried champagne to give upon landing: a tradition that we still carry on today. (Actually I have never had trouble with a land owner.)

To closely examine the principle of lift for a hot air balloon is rather interesting. Since the bottom of the balloon is open, it is not under much more pressure than that needed to keep it in shape. After filling it with cold air by use of a strong fan, the burner is lighted and the air inside is heated. Air molecules expand in size as they are heated, forcing some of the air out the open mouth. Since there are actually fewer air molecules inside the balloon now, it weighs less than the air it displaces, causing it to rise. By turning on the burner from time to time, any altitude (up to 10,000 feet in my balloon) can be maintained. With practice, one has very good control over the vertical position of the balloon. (We sometimes pull leaves from the tops of trees.)

Steering is another matter. We only go with the wind, at the speed of the wind.

-----See page 12-----



(people are surprised that they feel no breeze as they fly.) However, the wind can blow in different directions at different altitudes. (sometimes only slightly, sometimes 180 degrees difference.) By learning, on the way up, what the directions are, one can sometimes return to a known altitude to control direction. If you find the wind has changed, other plans must be made,... quickly. To show how closely one can control direction at times, during the balloon event in Modesto in September, 1985, there was a red cross placed on the ground about a mile away from the lift off point of 38 balloons. I dropped a bean bag within 6 feet of the center of the cross, but did not win the toss.

I recall one flight when I had selected my landing sight about a mile away. The wind at 400 feet altitude would get me in good position for landing. I had not flown many times in that area, and suddenly found myself approaching a turkey ranch.

(With a balloon at 400 feet altitude, turkeys will commit mass suicide.) I climbed to about 1000 feet, and missed my landing sight completely. I found no wind anywhere to help me leave the peach tree country I was now in. I learned that day just how far I could fly with passengers, on three tanks of fuel. As my fuel became low I stayed close to the tops of the trees. I could easily land between the trees in the light breeze we had that day with no danger or damage, except perhaps for about \$2000 damage to my balloon. My ground crew told me by radio of a small clearing ahead, and, smiling to my passengers, with the fire no hotter than that needed to cook bacon, we landed in the clearing. I had flown almost two hours. In that area I now sometimes carry four tanks of fuel.

Being new to 2 meters, I have yet to make my first ham contact from the air. We carry aviation communications radios, but most of the time, to avoid using the aircraft

-----See page 13-----



# YES!



## RENEW!

Your SARA membership expires next month!

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**BALLOONING** by Harley Lee (from page 12)

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radios too much, we use channel 14 on CB. (The first crew member to say "ten four good buddy" gets their radio privileges taken away for life.)

I like to fly people who enjoy the flight as much as I do. We once flew an old gentleman who for many years had wanted to go up in a

balloon. We noticed that he thoroughly enjoyed the trip. We learned recently that he has since died, and has a small hot air balloon engraved on his tombstone. To have flown someone who appreciated it as he did makes it all worth-while.

.....de WA6GKS, Harley Lee

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Ed Note: Thanks Harley for your interesting story. Contributions to READOUT are always welcome. Do you have a story you can share? Send them to WA6ZLD at 1221 Mist Flower Ct. Modesto, CA. 95355. Thanks!



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# W5YI REPORT....

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>>> Fiber optic cabling is much more economical than wire cabling and many signals can be multiplexed on one glass fiber. And now fiber optics has found its way into the home. Susan Suster, an enterprising young lady, is now making expensive carpets out of the fibers. A rug designer for 17 years, Suster has developed a way to weave optical fibers—fine glass wires that transmit light—into a regular carpet to create patterns that glow, twinkle or change color! An electronic lighting device controls the color and movement of as many as 2,000 "foot-lights." Her carpets start at \$1,500 and she sold \$200,000 worth last year.

>>> The days of cheap IBM clones may be coming to an end. International Business Machines has commissioned Intel Corporation (in which it has a sizeable ownership stake) to develop proprietary chip versions for them. The customized microprocessors appear destined for a new generation of personal computers. The deal between Intel and IBM give each

access to the others technology. Rumor has it the IBM will unveil a version of Intel's new 80386 chip which can't be legally copied.

>>> The American Woodpeckers are coming! OTH/B (over the horizon backscatter) radar—high-frequency radar beams bounced off of the ionosphere are due for completion in the early 1990's in the USA. While aircraft can't underfly OTH radar, you can't tell the height of the object detected. You can however, tell the speed.

Transmitting antennas are 4,000 feet long and vary from 35 to 135 feet high. Various sections transmit different frequencies from 5 to 28 MHz. Transmitting and receiving antennas must be at least 100 miles apart. The network is expected to cost \$1.2 billion.

>>> While no one is talking, rumor has it the IBM will unveil a low-priced laser printer by year-end to compete with Hewlett-Packard's LaserJet and Apple's LaserWriter, but at one third their cost! The printer reportedly will use a Ricoh print engine.



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## SARA LICENSE CLASSES

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Education Committee head, Phil, WD0FFX, has announced that the club will sponsor license classes starting Saturday November 14th, 1986. The course will be for Novice, Technician and General classes and will be held for two hours each Saturday morning. Classes will be from 9 am to 11 am in the Sierra Room of the County Schools office at Scenic and Oakdale Rd. in Modesto. Advance and Extra classes are being planned for next year. To register, contact

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## JUST BROWSIN' AROUND

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(From page 9)

you are interested in being involved, or have a certain something you would like to contribute, be sure to get ahold of one of us. If you know of someone thinking about trying to get a ticket let us know soon so we can get them started. The only cost will be for the texts and possible test fees. The present staff is: Phil WD0FFX, Dottie/N6LRZ, Bill WA6OHP, Dennis/WG6P, Bud N6OCV, Larry/WD6CMI, Gene KI6DC, and assistance from Lynn/KB6DXX.

Phil at 523-9018 evenings. Other members of the teaching team include Dottie, N6LRZ. Bill, WA6OHP. Denny, WG6P. Bud, N6OCV, and Larry, WD6CMI. Assisted by Lynn, KB6DXX and Gene, KI6DC.

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## RIVERBANK BROADCASTER

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A new 50,000 watt (1 kw at night) radio station is going on the air in Riverbank. KPLA, plans to begin operations next month on 770 kHz from their transmitter and studios on Cleveland Rd outside Oakdale. The station plans to identify as Riverbank/San Francisco.

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## STATION LOG

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(From page 8)

motion was seconded by AFS. FFX volunteered to head this committee. Terry, KB6NZ and Steve, N6EKA volunteered to work with him and WG6P volunteered for back seat assistance. AFS mentioned he would like to see the club have another CW contest. KI6DC asked NV6S to work on an idea for a CW contest. There was no raffle. AFS motioned the meeting be adjourned at 856 pm. Seconded by NV6S. Respectfully submitted by LaVern, KB6ECF, SARA Secretary.



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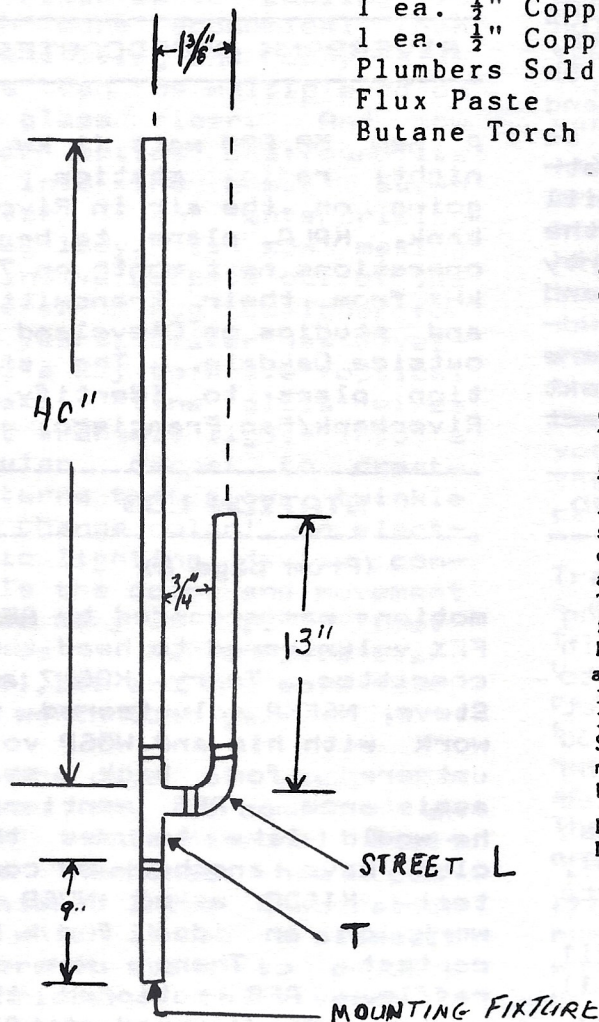
## You Will Like 220, Too

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### A J-POLE FOR 220MHz:

#### Material List

6ft. of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Copper Piping  
1 ea.  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Copper T fitting  
1 ea.  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Copper Street L  
Plumbers Solder  
Flux Paste  
Butane Torch



#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Cut one piece tubing 40" long  
Cut one piece tubing 13" long  
Cut one piece tubing 9" long (approx)  
Insert 40" and 9" pieces into T fitting and solder.  
Insert street L and 13" piece of piping, then check measurement, center to center should be  $1 \frac{3}{8}$ ". Then solder. Make sure elements are parallel.

#### TUNE UP:

Attach center conductor of coax to short element and shield to long element or visa versa and slide up and down till best SWR is achieved. Two small hose clamps can be used for connecting coax to elements.

NOTE: To keep your antenna new in appearance clean with steel wool, let dry, then spray with clear lacquer.

SOLDERING HINT: Use flux paste, it makes an easier job and solder holds better.

BROOKS, K6GGS  
DAN PURDY, KB6BX

#### FOR 2MTR.

59  $\frac{1}{8}$  long element  
20  $\frac{1}{8}$  short element  
spacing 2" center to center  
feed point  $4 \frac{3}{8}$ "

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(Thanks The N6ENV Repeater Group, Los Angeles)

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## WHAT IS PACKET RADIO, ANYWAY?

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Packet radio is a two-way digital protocol that is like the X.25 protocol of packet-switching networks like Telenet. For radio purposes, each packet (normally 128 data bytes) begins with an address that tells all stations that hear the packet which one of them is supposed to error-check it and either forward it or acknowledge it. If an error is detected, the packet is resent until received correctly. The purpose of packet radio is to enable essentially error-free digital transmissions, to permit time-sharing of a single channel, and to allow for store-and-forward messaging systems. VHF packet radio uses the 30-300 MHz frequency bands with 1200 baud ASCII encoded digital transmissions. Bandwidths of about 12 kHz, typical for VHF-FM deviations, are required. The protocol is AX.25, a version of X.25 adapted for radio. Equipment In addition to the use of two-way radio equipment at both ends of the

link, a terminal node controller (TNC) is necessary at both ends. The TNC acts as the interface between the radio and the digital data; it contains a modem to convert ASCII to AFSK (1200-2200 Hz tones are common) or vice versa, and the microprocessor and buffers to do the formatting, error-checking, etc. A typical TNC has a microphone connector on one end and an RS232 connector on the other; the price range is \$200 for the TNC. Frequencies In the amateur radio bands, VHF packet radio is common around 145 and 221 MHz. It is not yet used in any commercial bands, but maritime mobile usage would be likely in the ship-to-ship allocations in the 156 MHz VHF marine band (e.g., channels 68-72,78). Licensing in the amateur radio bands, and Technician or higher class for VHF packet radio. Since it is an unused mode on the commercial bands, no requirements have been discussed or set.

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NEXT SARA MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 1986 730 PM

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Guest Speaker: ARRL Pacific Div. Director

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## Editor's WA6ZLO Notes

I'm pleased to report that Lynn, KB6DXX is recovering nicely from his heart attack last month. He spent nine days in Doctor's hospital before returning home. Best wishes Lynn! Condolences to Allen Woods, WA6DYF on the passing of his father last month. Mr. A.J. Woods died of a stroke at his office in Modesto. He was the owner of Al's Safe and Lock for many years. +++ Welcome to a new SARA member, Dave Moser, WU6I of Dos Palos. Dave is an Extra Class, licensed since 1985. He enjoys chasing DX and is a 2-way radio technician. Welcome aboard Dave! That brings our 1986 membership to 183 including three silent keys. +++ Bill, W6AFS, was appointed to scrounge the membership for a slate of officers for the new year. As of this writing the following members have agreed to throw

their hats in the ring for consideration. President, WG6P, Denny. VP, Steve Faries, N6EKV; Lori Faries, (Steve's wife) N6JTD and Bud Pelletier, N6OCV. For Secretary, Laverne, KB6ECF and Wes, N6NUO. For Treasurer, Bob Vreugdenhill, N6OCS. Nominations from the floor of course will be accepted. The election of the new officers occurs at the December meeting. That's all the more reason for you to be there. +++ Tennis star Martina Navratilova checked into a posh New York City hotel recently. She was exhausted from several hours of play on the courts. So, she told the registration desk clerk to get her name off her luggage to fill out the registration card. She went right up to her room and went to bed. She spent a very quiet weekend at the hotel with no phone calls or people calling on her. She thought that was very odd and upon checking out she learned the reason why. The clerk had registered her as "Ms. Genuine Cowhide!" +++ There is a new sit-com on NBC TV on Monday nights at 8 pm. It's called "Alf". Alf is an alien who has taken up residence with an American family. He also likes to play with his hosts' ham radio equipment. Good laughs!



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# THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.

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## SECTION MANAGER

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY  
Charles P. McConnell W6DPD

FCC has permanently authorized automatic control for packet stations transmitting third party traffic on VHF using AX.25 protocol. Although FCC acknowledged assurance of safeguards by the ARRL for the AX.25 protocol, they noted that control operators capable of monitoring such transmissions must alert the control operators of any intermediate retransmitting station under automatic control of any station misuse so that corrective action can be taken. FCC deferred action on requests for automatic control for digital communications on HF until its feasibility can be determined.

Congress finished work on the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 and sent to the White House. On October 2, 1986, the House concurred with the Senate text and adopted the bill, HR 4952. The President is expected to sign the bill. The final version is said to be solidly supported by the Justice Department. The Bill still creates an unwarranted expectation of privacy on the part of, for instance, cellular radio users, but penalties for a first offense of intentionally listening to that service have been dropped to a \$500 fine only. Scanner operators who hear a protected communication and tune away from it without acquiring its contents will not have violated the new law. Sections of the bill about which Amateurs were most concerned at the outset have been modified and it does not appear to inhibit Amateur operation as such.

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Reconsideration with FCC requesting the Commission reverse its decision delegating to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC) the responsibility for maintaining the question pools for Amateur Written Examination Elements. The ARRL comments state that it was the intent of Congress that the FCC supervise the examination process through the maintenance of question pools, and that the Commission maintenance of them is the only way to insure standardization among the 25 VECs. At least 2 other Petitions for Reconsideration have also been filed.





# CALENDAR



Nov.	18,	1986...	SARA Monthly meeting 730 p.m. Program: Rod Stafford, KB6ZV Pacific Division ARRL Director.
Dec.	16,	1986...	SARA Monthly meeting 730 p.m. Election of 1987 club officers.
Jan.	20,	1987...	SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.
Feb.	17,	1987...	SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.
Mar.	17,	1987...	SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.
April	21,	1987...	SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.
May	19,	1987...	SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.
June	16,	1987...	SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.
July	21,	1987...	SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.
Aug.	18,	1987...	SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.
Sept.	15,	1987...	SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.
Oct.	20,	1987...	SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.
Nov.	17,	1987...	SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.
Dec.	15,	1987...	SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.

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 at 730 p.m. Visitors are welcome.



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