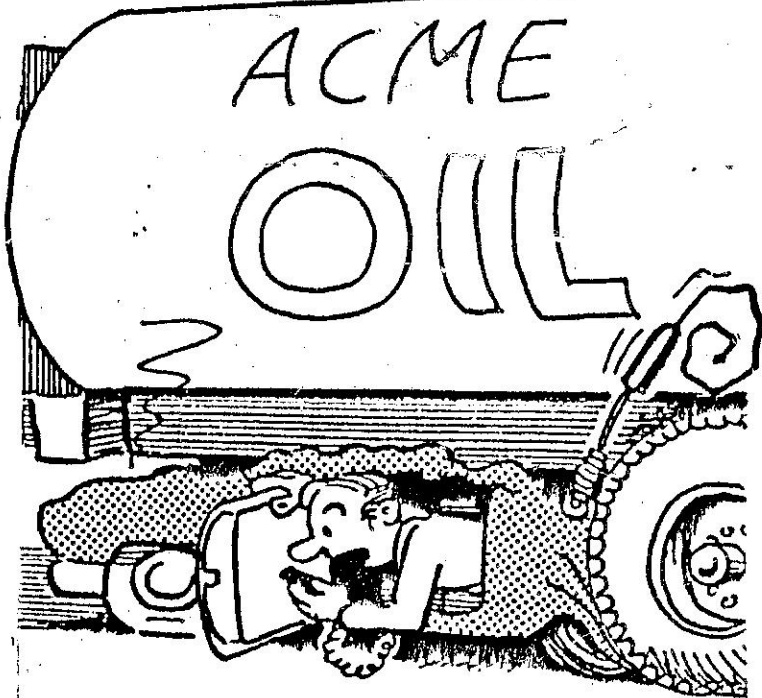


The READOUT

YEAR 11 NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER 1988

FREEWAY
FOLLIES



BEASLEY →
K6BJH

WORLDRADIO

I'LL GET WITH YOU LATER, BUD-
I THINK THIS TANKER TRUCK IS
DE-TUNING MY ANTENNA

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

...THE READOUT FACTS...

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 READOUT are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor, Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO at 1221 Mist Flower Ct. Modesto, CA. 95355. 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 145.01 MHz. SARA conducts an informational net on both repeaters each Thursday evening at 800 pm with the exception of holidays. SARA meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Stanislaus County Administration building at the corner of 12th and H streets in downtown Modesto. Meetings begin at 730 pm. SARA is incorporated in the State of California, is an affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and Stanislaus County RACES. Dues are \$20.00 per annum and \$10.00 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.....K16YQ.....537-2785

TREASURER

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

READOUT EDITOR

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

HAPPENINGS

Next SARA Meeting

November 15, 1988
Program

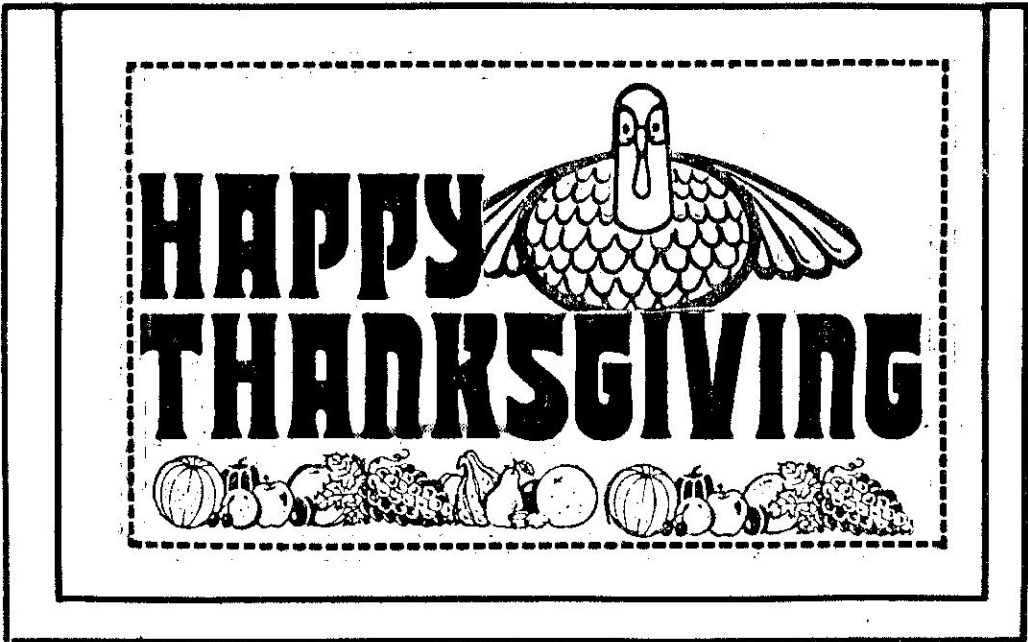
Open

Raffle: Win Money

730 pm

BUDGET COPY CENTER

1325 J STREET
MODESTO, CA 95354
TELEPHONE 529-5395



IS THAT YOU GOD?

It was a cold winter afternoon when Charlie and Elmer hooked up on the local repeater. After the usual exchange of pleasantries, the QSO turned to the subject of ice fishing. It wasn't long before Jeb joined the discussion and all agreed to get together and go ice fishing. Charlie said he would bring the saw to cut through the ice. Jeb said he knew of a great spot that no one knew about and where they wouldn't be bothered. Elmer agreed to provide the transportation. When they arrived at the pristine spot, Charlie drilled an access hole in the ice and inserted his saw. Suddenly, they heard a majestic voice say,

"There's no fish under the ice!" They looked at each other not believing what they thought they had heard. Each thought the other was playing games. Again Charlie started sawing on the ice. "There's no fish under the ice!" the deep majestic voice said. They again looked at each other wondering which one of them was playing games. They came to the conclusion it wasn't one of them. They began to shake thinking that possibly God was speaking to them. Charlie turned and looked skyward saying, "Is that you God?". "No, it's the rink operator!" said the voice.

SARA VCR RAFFLE ANNOUNCED

At the September 24, 1988 meeting of SARA, members voted to hold a raffle for a VHS Video Tape Player. A donation of \$1.00 per ticket will be asked. Each SARA member will receive by mail a package of 10 tickets with a request that they distribute them or they can keep them for themselves and send in the donations. 50% of the funds collected from the raffle will go to the SARA general fund to shore up the treasury and the remainder will be committed to the club station fund. Please send all donations and any left over tickets to the club's post office box (4601 Modesto, CA. 95252) or contact President Bud, N6OCV, and he will make other arrangements. Please remember that our liability insurance premium is coming up early next year and we need your support to meet this heavy expense (over \$600 last year).

WB6YAR BECOMES A SILENT KEY IN FRESNO OCT. 1ST.

With regret, we record the passing of Ray Reese, WB6YAR, of Fresno, who died on October 1 st. Ray was a former member of SARA and heard from time to time on our repeater. He would always introduce himself by associating his handle with his call saying that his name was Ray which YAR spelled backwards. One of his favorite Amateur radio activities was working distant repeaters from his home in Fresno.

ARRL FILES 220 RECONSIDERATION PETITION

The ARRL has filed its petition for reconsideration in docket 87 14, the FCC order which reallocates 220 to 222 mhz to the land mobile service. The strongly worded petition states that in order to justify what clearly was a predetermined outcome, the FCC ignored the comments of more than 5000 amateurs and numerous public service and relief agencies. Conversely, the FCC accepted comments from UPS more than six months late because the proposal lacked support for the already chosen FCC position. The ARRL said the FCC order deprived the amateur radio service of an important part of its most rapidly developing band and that the 220 to 222 mhz band is critical to the development of rapid, nationwide emergency communications networks using advanced packet radio techniques. There are no other bands available to reaccommodate this system. The ARRL concluded that the amateur radio service is for use by and to benefit the public. The frequency allocations used for public purposes should not be taken for commercial uses.

-ARRL via Packet Radio

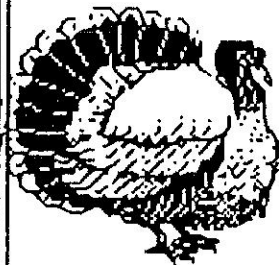
220 HT FOR SALE:

For Sale Icom 3AT 220 MHz handle talkie. Call Terry, N6KIG at 522-5069. Excellent condition.

CAUSE OF 20 METER BAND FIRE STILL A MYSTERY AFTER 8YRS.

This week marks the eighth anniversary of the freak fire that destroyed over 50 kilohertz of the 20 meter band, and forced the FCC to shut down most HF ham bands for over 24 hours. Apparently the fire originated on about 14.280 megahertz following an unusually long series of QSO's by an undetermined number of California stations running very high power and extreme modulation compression. At the time, Marvin Larpsnogg, an FCC Special Frequency Engineer, told reporters, " *We had a hell of a time putting the fire out. Shutting down the propagation generators did no good at all. The fires just spread up and down the band, so we had a to turn off all the HF ham bands from 40 through 10 meters to smother the flames.*" Finally, after three hours the FCC had the fire under control. Most HF bands were back in operation by the next day; however, 20 meters was closed for more than eight weeks while the charred frequencies were being refurbished. Since that time, many studies have been made of the fire and its possible causes. One such study, made by Dr. Eugene Peritonitis, Chairman of the Consultative Commit-

ted on Frequency Damage, indicated that the cause might have been due to thermo frequency heating (TFH). However, the study's results were inconclusive. Other studies have achieved similarly inconclusive results. Some weeks after the fire the FCC promised to install a sprinkler system on the band to prevent another disaster. With the advent of deregulation, however, the sprinkler system was never installed and 20 meters still has no protection. The League of Radio Relaying Americans (LRRRA) has expressed concern about this neglect of 20 meters and calls attention to the fact that the 5 meter band was completely wiped out for all time by the holocaust of the late 1930s. Unfortunately, the FCC no longer has the funds to make good on its promise to protect 20 meters. For that reason, all hams should use extreme care when using 20 meters and all other bands. They are a perishable resource. Don't use high power on ANY ham band or use any mode that might ignite a frequency, particularly during openings when the frequencies are especially dry. Remember, only YOU can prevent BAND fires. -N8JR via GEARVAKf.



CHRISTMAS GOODIES will be served at the December 20th meeting of SARA. Each family is asked to bring a dish of their favorite snacks (cookies or whatever). The club will provide the punch. 1989 Officers will be elected.

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.

SECTION MANAGER

San Joaquin Valley

Charles P. McConnell W6DPD

The sense of Congress resolution expressing support for Amateur Radio, S Con Res 127, was amended slightly and added to the FCC Authorization Bill, S 1048, as Section 10. This bill was adopted by the Senate on October 7 and by the House of Representatives on October 19. If the President signs the bill, the Amateur Radio Resolution will be a part of Public Law rather than simply a resolution. Information on these resolutions and the FCC Report and Order in General Docket 87 14 appears on page 60 of August QST and on pages 9, 45 and 46 of October QST. Monitor W1AW bulletins for more information.

The ARRL has requested the FCC issue an order permitting immediate interim use of 17 meters, 18.068 to 18.168 MHz, by Radio Amateurs on a secondary, no interference basis. The ARRL said that the large number of Radio Amateurs from other countries already operating on 17 meters has shown that immediate domestic Amateur operation would cause no significant additional interference to the few, if any, remaining government fixed stations still using the band. The ARRL request said that Amateurs would follow the FCC suggested band plan of 18.068 to 18.110 MHz for CW and digital emissions and 18.110 to 18.168 MHz for CW, phone, facsimile and television emissions and that Amateurs would not object to a 200 watt output power limitation in the interim until the final FCC rules for 17 meters are adopted.

Applications for the 200 endorsement sticker for the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution "Worked All States" certificate are available November 1, 1988. The endorsement will be offered at the conclusion of the calendar year, after each state has had an opportunity to sport their club 200 call signs. Working 50 of the 51 entities with the District of Columbia available as a "Wild Card," will qualify. Send application requests with a SASE and one unit of postage to: "We the People" 200 Endorsement, ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT. 06111.

THROUGH THE GLASS ANTENNA ADHESION IMPROVED

For sometime, the Larsen Antenna Company has been recommending thorough cleaning of auto windows before installing on glass antennas. The modern auto glass is getting better all the time and now the cleaning becomes even more critical. The new glass is getting smoother, with fewer pores in the surface. That means you can clean it easier, but it also makes it harder for the adhesives to do their job. The lack of pores in the glass offers very little surface for the adhesive to grip. So, new glass is more difficult than old glass that has small pits due to time and weathering. In addition, modern car washes add oil-based waxes to every car to allow the car to be air-dried without water spotting. This makes the water ball up and run off. Unfortunately, this also fills up the pores needed for adhesion. To complicate things, new products, such as RAIN-X, are designed to fill up those pores, allowing the rain to literally fall off the glass. Larson recommends that the window glass

be cleaned three times where the antenna is to be mounted. First, clean with a glass cleaner (like Windex) to remove loose particles. Then thoroughly scrub with a cleaner (Bon-Ami is one they recommend to avoid scratching!). This is to remove the chemically bonded waxes from the pores of the glass. Then, clean the area with the alcohol wipes supplied with the antenna. Finally, you must evaporate moisture which has condensed into the microscopic pores of the glass. It is suggested to use a hair dryer on the window immediately prior to installation, and install the antenna onto the glass in a minute or less or the moisture will recondense. Watch out and do not get the glass too hot! If you can't touch the glass without discomfort, you are getting it too hot and may be risking damage to the window glass. Larson recommends 70 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

-N3WS via NARC Radio Newsletter and RaRa Rag Rochester ARS New York.

MAKE YOUR ARRL RENEWALS THROUGH SARA

Please remember, SARA is an affiliated club of the ARRL and you can renew your ARRL membership through SARA. We make a \$2.00 commission for each renewal and \$5.00 for any new members joining the ARRL via SARA. Send your check for the full membership amount made payable to SARA. We will deduct our commission and send the ARRL our check for the difference. Please remember to make your check payable to "SARA" and not the ARRL. Thank you!

ON THE AGENDA

The SEPTEMBER 20TH meeting of SARA was called to order at 734 pm by President N6OCV followed by introductions of members and visitors. Minutes of the previous meeting were not available. They will be read at the next meeting. Treasurers report accepted as read. Starting balance was \$910.76 with the ending balance \$780.56 with \$106.00 in the club station account. Lori, N6JTD, was not present for details of the dinner-dance, but information will be forthcoming. Volunteers are need to help Leroy, NV6S, with the technical responsibilities. WA6OHP has been helping, but more help is needed. Leroy also needs help to move the new repeater box up the hill. KI6XV has volunteered a truck, but a flat-bed or tilt-bed trailer is needed. Election time is coming up. Think about serving as an officer. Phil, WDOFFX, has 12 people lined up to provide communications for a bike race coming up. Lillie, KB6CCL, volunteered to obtain the tickets for the upcoming raffle. It was decided that the funds collected from the raffle will be split evenly between the General Fund and the Club Station Fund. Ed, W6ACW, from Sunnyvale, brought some handouts for the club and some raffle prizes. He is retired from Quements Electronics. The program was on railroading presented by Jim Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 939 pm. Respectfully

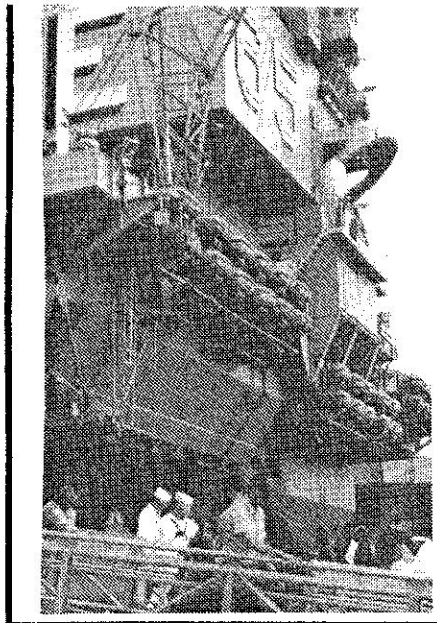
submitted by Christia, KB6GYM, for the Secretary. The OCTOBER 18, 1988 MEETING was called to order by President Bud, N6OCV, at 730 pm. There were seven members and one visitor present. (World Series Game). Treasurers report accepted as read. Beginning balance \$780.56 with an ending balance of \$596.17. Minutes of the September meeting were read by WA6OHP. A trailer was volunteered by Stan to take the repeater box up the hill. Bud reported 55 people enjoyed the dinner-dance. Bob, N6OCS, moved to send flowers to Lori for the great job she did on the dinner-dance. Seconded and passed unanimously. Bud reported on the bike race and announced that the Star Bike Club had donated \$100 to the club for the equipment fund. 1500 raffle tickets were ordered for the VHS recorder raffle which will be held on December 20th at the regular meeting. The need for a slate of officers for 1989 was discussed. OHP discussed classes currently underway. There are 7 students for novice. Phil needs 5 people to start the CW classes. OHP reported on the recent repairs to the two meter repeater. The transmit audio distorts on some signals, but the input and output audio levels are equal at 4.5 Khz. The 220 link is down for repairs. Respectfully submitted by Bill, WA6OHP, for the Secretary.

The USS Enterprize

By Don Fink, N6GGB

(Part Two)

I've landed small aircraft before, but I've never tried to hit a moving target while flying essentially an intercept to an imagined spot where the ship will be when I get there. There are three arresting gears to stop the aircraft once they touch down. Needless to say, there is no such thing as a "greased landing" aboard a carrier. The landing must be firm, and in a spot to allow the tail hook to engage one to the arresting gears. One pilot described a landing to me in this fashion, "On final approach, gear down, tail hook down, you continue to ease forward on the power, and follow the ball. Just prior to touchdown, you assume you'll miss the arresting gear, and go to full power. If you do in fact catch the cable, you'll quickly discover that the aircraft will not fly while engaged, and you're surely not going to pull the ship along, so you back off the power. Otherwise, you find yourself airborne again, and around for another try". Another useful device for landing is called the Automated Carrier Landing System (ACLS). This device is a computer controlled, ship to aircraft coupling system that allows the ship to take control of an aircraft on final, and bring it to a successful landing aboard the ship. Pilots do not norm-



ally use this system except for training and familiarization, but I understand that it is very useful for recovering aircraft if the weather is poor, or the pilot is injured and unable to fly the approach himself. The existence of this system emphasizes my overall impression that the Navy, while performing extremely dangerous tasks, makes every effort to preserve life and equipment, in that order. The Enterprize travels with an assortment of other ships used for supply and support, but mostly defense. Without these support ships her ability to launch aircraft equipped with various types

(Continued on page 7)

fascinating was the Mark 15 Weapons system, also known as the Phallanx gun, or CIWS (pronounced Sea Whiz, but meaning Close In Weapons System) This relatively inexpensive gun, costing about 3 million dollars a copy, is a radar guided gatling gun that delivers 3,600 rounds per minute of depleted uranium rounds to its target. That's right; I said the ammunition in this gun is constructed of depleted uranium. It is dense enough to penetrate more than fifteen inches of steel. The weapon is smart enough to track multiple incoming targets, deciding if they are a threat to ship, and then waiting



long enough before firing to guarantee a sure kill with minimum expenditure of ammunition. The average engagement against this gun is said to be about 2.5 seconds. This weapon has been tested against everything from incoming supersonic missiles to five inch artillery rounds, with complete success. So, if you're

contemplating attacking the Enterprise with an inflatable Zodiac speed boat powered by an Evinrude motor, you might want to think again because your logic is certainly flawed. There are many jobs and occupations aboard the Enterprise that make her the successful warship that she is. Everything from the crews that maintain and operate the reactors to the cooks that prepare the meals. The full medical and dental staff capable of complex surgery, the mail room, aircraft maintenance, ordinance handling, to boatswain's mates that keep the ship in shape. One radio broadcast station, and one television station running four full length movies daily. Anything that you'd find in a city with a major airport, you'll find aboard the Enterprise. The only exceptions, possibly, are laziness, incompetence, or waste. There didn't seem to be any room for these aboard this ship. If I sound a little pro Navy, it's because I am. I had an opportunity of a lifetime to be aboard one of the classiest ships in the Navy, and to watch them do their thing, and I left with the feeling that, if the rest of the US Navy is half as good as the Enterprise and her crew, we're in good hands.

USS Enterprise

Enterprise Statistics:

Navy Designation: CVN-65
Type of Ship: Nuclear Powered Air-
craft Carrier
Keel Laid: February 4, 1958
Launching: September 24, 1960
Commissioning: November 25, 1961

Dimensions

Length Overall: 1,123 feet
Width of Flight Deck: 257 feet
Width of Main Deck: 133 feet
Height (Keel to Mast): 250 feet
Displacement: 81,000,000 Kg (90,000
tons)

Anchors and Chains

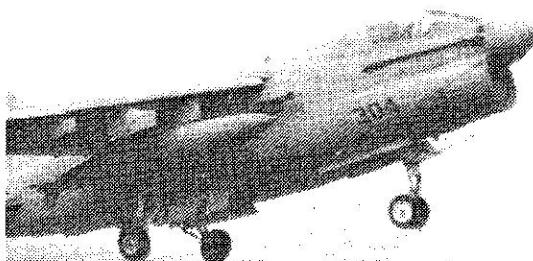
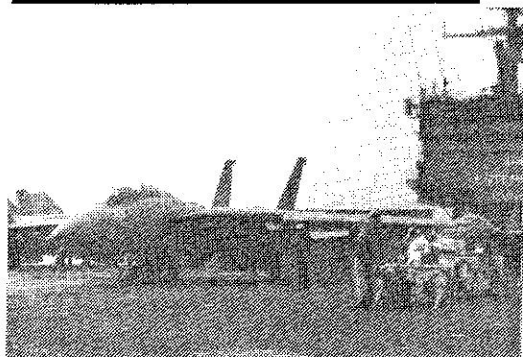
Number of Anchors: 2
Weight of Anchors: 27,000 Kg (30
tons) each.
Weight of each chain link: 360 lbs

Length of Anchor chains:
1,080 ft. each.

Propulsion System

Number of reactors: 8
Number of Main Engines: 4
Maximum Speed: More than
30 knots (34 MPH).
Number of Propellers: 4
Weight of each propeller: 32
tons
Blades on each propeller: 5
Diameter of propellers: 21
feet
Number of Rudders: 4
Weight of each Rudder: 35
tons
Crew (Including Air Wing):
More than 5,000.
Number of Compartments:
More than 3,000.
Meals Served: More than
15,000 per day.

USS Enterprise



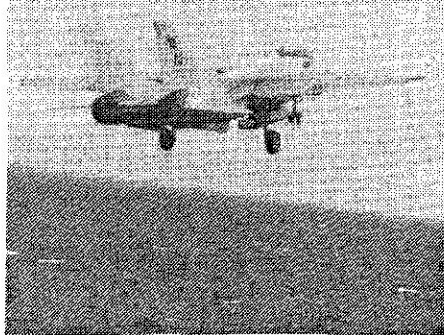
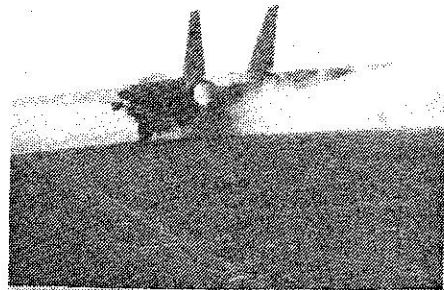
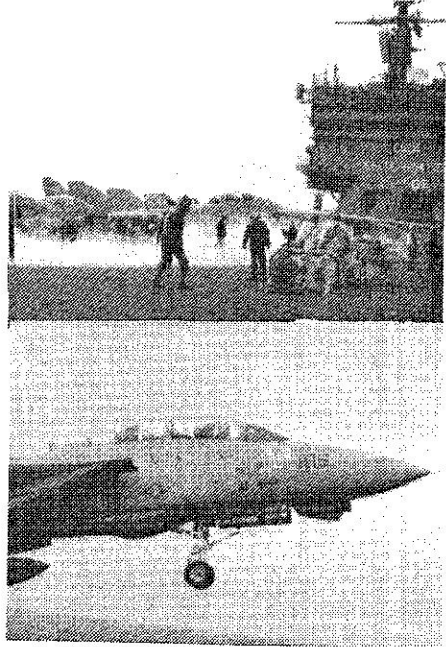
Amount of food Consumed: More than 15 tons per day.

Number of telephones: More than 1,100.

Enterprise Tid Bits

- Since being commissioned, Enterprise has steamed more than 500,000 nautical miles, or more than 20 times around the world.
- If taken out of the water and set horizontally, Enterprise would equal the height of a 25 story building. If set vertically, she would measure 200 feet taller than the Trans America Building in San Francisco, and more than 125 feet taller than the Eiffel Tower in Paris.
- The several million blueprints used in the construction of Enterprise would form a pathway 30 inches wide and extend for 2,400 miles.
- The Enterprise flight deck could accommodate 69 tennis courts or four football fields or five city blocks.
- The building materials used to construct Enterprise would fill 3,000 railroad cars making a train 30 miles long.
- Enterprise power plants could supply the electrical needs for a city the size of Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- The all aluminum aircraft elevators have enough room for 2,000 people to stand complete with homes and landscaping. They are also the largest all-welded aluminum structures ever built.

USS Enterprise



THE "Q" SIGNAL DILEMMA

The Novice or other aspiring Amateur radio operator will readily attest to the difficulty of remembering all those "Q" signals. Even many of the more seasoned hams are not likely to have full command of all of them. There is very little about the "Q" signals to facilitate association by memory. They are not like such abbreviations as, say, "SSB" for single sideband. Take the familiar QTH, how could anyone associate location with these letters? For the most part, you flatly and simply must memorize the "Q" signals. Fortunately, at least a few of them creep up so often that they get pounded into your head sooner or later, especially in CW work. It has occurred to me that the "Q" signals could be more readily used if they inherently suggest their meaning in the letters following the "Q". Thus some of the more familiar "Q" signals might be redefined to have more rememberable meanings.

For example:

QRN- Do you require a registered nurse?
QRT- Make a right turn where?
QRU- Where are you?
QRX- Where's the nearest pharmacy?
QSO- Do you like soap operas?
QSB- Who are you calling and SOB?

How about adding the following which would be easy to associate with their meaning. (Current counterpart shown in parenthesis.)

QCI- Will you cool it? (QRS)
QGS- Got something for me? (QRU)
QPW- Put that in writing! (QSL)
QSS- Shall we split? (QRT)
QWY- Where y'at. (QTH)
QMF- Let's move frequency.(QSY)
QSF- Your signal is fading.(QSB)
QBI- Bad interference (QRM)
QHO- Please hold on. (QRZ)

IMPORTANT FACTS AND TIPS ABOUT COAX

Many antenna installations quit working after about two years of use. Blame the coax?? More likely the problem is at the antenna connection point which deteriorates because it was left unprotected from the elements. The best coax sealant is called "Coax Seal" at about \$2.50 a roll, and available at all amateur radio stores. It goes on like silly putty and never hardens. It must be cool when applied or it will stick to your hands and make a real mess. Let's look at some coax specs:

(See COAX FACTS on Page 18)

EDITOR'S NOTES

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

In your mail soon you will find an envelope from your club. It will contain ten RAFFLE TICKETS for the VCR drawing to be held at the SARA meeting on December 20th. This is a fund raising effort by the club and your support is not only needed, but greatly appreciated. Please make every effort to sell the tickets at \$1.00 each. Or, if you would rather, you can keep the tickets for yourself and mail in the \$10.00. Please remember to fill out the stubs with name, address and telephone of the person making a donation. PLEASE REMEMBER, this is a raffle and we can only ASK FOR DONATIONS! In order for this event to be lawful, we cannot insist on a dollar for each ticket. For example, if you asked someone to make a donation and he/she said they would donate \$5.00 for five tickets but wanted 5 free tickets you would have to give them the tickets. It's not likely to happen, but, it's important to know in the remote chance that it does. Our first raffle was held about 5 years ago when we conducted a very successful fund raiser to get the money to purchase our 220 machine. So, please, support this effort and do your part. The funds gathered will be split equally between the General Fund and the Club station fund. The costs of operating a club continue to grow just as your own costs do. The two largest expenses are the annual liability insurance,

which was over \$600 last year and the cost of this newsletter. To give you an idea, it cost approximately \$60.00 a month to print it. That's \$720 per year. It costs \$33.40 a month to mail it. That's \$400.80 per year. Figure another \$40.00 a year for miscellaneous supplies and the total comes to \$1,160.80 a year. You can see that these two items along take \$1,880.80 out of the general fund. That does not include approximately \$2,500 worth of my computer equipment and printers which I donate to the club along with my time. We take in approximately \$3,000 a year on dues depending on the membership, which is normally our only source of funds. From these funds come the money to keep our equipment operating, pay for new equipment when needed, pay the autopatch phone bill, insure our equipment on the hill and support the annual dinner-dance just to name a few. So, as you can see, it takes MONEY to operate. So, please support YOUR CLUB by helping with this fund raising effort. We don't do it very often, but when we do, we need to! THANK YOU!! +++ A good time was had by all at the 11th annual SARA dinner-dance on Oct. 15th. 54 members and guest enjoyed the event. If you missed it, you missed a good one! +++ I recently observed this sign near the front door of a home in Riverbank.

"Lost Dog"

3 legs. Blind in left eye.

Missing right ear.

Tail broken.

Recently castrated.

Answers to the name of Lucky.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS John Clemens, N6SZZ of Modesto. John is a General and is a salesman at AgPro in Turlock. Oliver Borns, Jr., WA6-HHO, of Modesto. Oliver is a General and his occupation is landscape maintenance. Jim Fiesel, WA6CQL, of Modesto. Jim is an Advanced and works for Blue Diamond Almond Growers in Salida where he runs their computers, scales and automatic sorting equipment. Jim worked in research and development for Cushman Electronics San Jose for 11 years prior to coming to the valley. He enjoys hunting, fishing and motorcycle riding. (Maybe we can get him interested in riding with the SARA motorcyclists). These additions bring our total for the year to 166 members. +++ A NICE LETTER was received from Ed, W6ACW, of Books, Etc. Ed is retired from Quements Electronics in San Jose and attended our September meeting. He donated items to the raffle and offered his selection of electronics books for sale. He offered to make himself available an hour before meetings and an hour after to enable anyone looking for certain books to look over his selection. +++ Channel 19's Director of Engineering, Jerry, KL7GHT, is busy these days making plans for construction of channel 46 television station at Paradise. The 5 megawatt transmitter will be located on Co-

hasset Mtn. near Chico with a directional array favoring the North. The station's spanish and religious programming will be fed from channel 19 in Modesto by microwave as is done with KREN-TV, their station in Reno. SIGN AT THE GATE OF A NUDIST CAMP:

NO SHOES
NO SHIRT
NO SHORTS
NO PROBLEM

Here's a NEAT TIP from Jim, WA6-NSK, CHP officer in Tuolumne County. The law requires you to produce in writing, the name of your automobile insurance company and your policy number if you're stopped or involved in an accident. The little insurance cards that most insurance companies provide are fine, if you can find them. Jim suggest that you write the required information on the back of your drivers license and that way you are sure to have it whether you are driving your own car, a friends or a rented car. Good Idea!! NEW PRINTER AND WORDPROCESSOR! I hope you noticed the improvement in the type quality of this newsletter. Its the result of a new Star NX-2400 24 pin dot matrix printer I purchased last month. This, together with the new WORDPERFECT 5.0 word processor with enhanced graphics, is producing what you see. I hope you like it. That's it for this month. Stoke up the fireplace and clean out the rain gutters. 73 Bob.

DX NOTEBOOK

By Tom Farr, WJ6O & Denny Dugal, WG6P

Hello again fellow DX'ers, Big Guns and Little Pistols. This has indeed been a very good month for exciting DX. The biggest news of the month has been the activation of 3W8DX and 3W8CW, from Hanoi in North Vietnam. Now, for those of you who don't know it, Vietnam has not been active on the Ham Bands since sometime in the 70's, so you can see how rare this one is. The group are several operators from Hungary and they plan on being in 'Nam' for about a month. Their goal is 100K QSO's, so they plan on working about every DXer in the world! Look for them on SSB signing 3W8DX on 14.235, 21.235, and 28.535. No news on CW as of yet, as they do not have all of their equipment set up yet. Best of luck with this one. They are pretty easy to work right now. Don't forget, as with most DXpeditions, they work split. The station on the air right now is using 100 watts from a TS530 and a simple dipole. They don't have another vfo, so the only split they can work now is 2KC RIT split. By the time you read this, however, they should be full bore with beams, amps, and full rigs. Good luck! Another goodie on the air is the DXpedition to Rotuma Island, about 286 miles from Fiji. The application has been made to ARRL for separate country status from Fiji. Under rule 2 of the new DXCC rules, the island qualifies as a separate country because of distance. A vote is

expected in December by the DX Advisory Committee. Passage is expected. They are using the call 3D2XX, and can be found at the usual DX spots on all bands. Watch out though, because there are also two other operators on Fiji itself, signing 3D2VV, and 3D2RY. These stations are on the island of Fiji itself, so watch how the station signs before working the wrong one. A group of local DXer's from the NCDXC are on from P40V (ARUBA) and their plan is to operate multi-multi and smash the world record for the contest. So, work'em so locals can bring home the world record and trophy. They have their work cut out for them, as it will probably take close to 20 MILLION points to take the record. The best of luck to them. Band conditions have been just great lately 20 meters has been open here until almost midnight, with Europe and Asia coming in at the same time. 15 meters is opening earlier and earlier daily, and so is 10. You can have a lot of fun with 10 meters all day long, and you can do it with very little power and almost no antenna at all. I worked a station in England recently who was running 10 watts mobile, using an old CB rig and a small whip. He was a 5x7 copy on my beam! So, don't be afraid to get in there and try. It's a lot of fun, and there is plenty of band to spread out in now. The sunspot activity continues to be getting

CHUCKLES

better and better, and as we progress into the top of the cycle, we can expect some pretty dramatic openings and we should see bands open 24 hours a day soon. DX tip of the month. If you worry about sending cards overseas with stamps on them, try something I discovered. Take your envelopes to the post office and have them put metered postage on them. It looks ugly, but then they won't be ripped off either. If you want to get some pretty 25 cent stamps and put one in with your card. That way, if the DX collects stamps, he will have an uncirculated one, and if he or she doesn't collect them, they probably know someone who does. Ok gang, my fingers are worn out here on the old keyboard. Its an exciting time of the year. Next month is the CQ World Wide CW contest, so once again, blow the dust off those mic's and keys and get on the low bands. See you in the pile ups. Until next month, this is Denny, WG6P and Tommy, WJ6O, saying DAH DAH DIT/DIT DIT DAH/DAH DIT DIT /DAH DIT DIT /DAH DIT DIT DAH!! 73
-Received by Packet via WB6V-2

CHUCKLE: One big department store is starting it's Christmas sales so early this year that Santa Claus is wearing Bermuda shorts.

CHUCKLE AGAIN: A customer with an overdue electric bill received this notice form his utility company: " We would be delighted if you would pay your bill. You will be delighted if you don't."

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE READOUT

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

....de WA6ZLO.

Happy Thanksgiving

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

IMPORTANT FACTS AND TIPS ABOUT COAX
(Continued from Page 13)

Type	Jacket	dB loss
RG58/U	I	10.0
RG8X	I	8.0
RG8-MX	II	8.2
RG8/U	I	4.2
RG-213	II	4.7
9913	I	2.6

The dB loss (shown per 100 ft at 400 MHz) characteristics are important to insure that your transmitted power ultimately makes it to your antenna. That dB loss works in the other direction also! Although you may think you could live with a long run of coax and a half reduction (for each 3 dB) in output power, remember that all incoming weak signals will be similarly diminished. It works both ways.

The type of jacket, shown in the second column, is important in any exposed outdoor installations. The Type II is PVC and specifically suited for sunlight exposure without deteriorating. Type II also uses a solid dielectric that surrounds the center conductor, rather than foam. Foam dielectric is not acceptable in exposed environments because moisture quickly invades and ruins the otherwise excellent dry weather characteristics. The percentage of braid and center conductor size are also important. Cheap coax skimps on both counts. For short runs (under 30') RG8-MX is recommended. It is hard to find except at selected marine stores. Don't take the RG8X since it has a foam core. For longer runs RG-213 from Belden is the best choice. All the better ham stores carry this type.

Be especially wary of the hobby radio store's grade of RG8/U. For runs at 1296 MHz, go for the Belden 9913 which is easier to work than hard line, but still has decent characteristics. Good coax and proper feedpoint protection will insure a long-lasting installation. The trouble it takes to do the job twice is far greater than the extra cost of good materials. (adapted from WorldRadio)de LARK Newsletter Livermore Amateur Radio Klub.

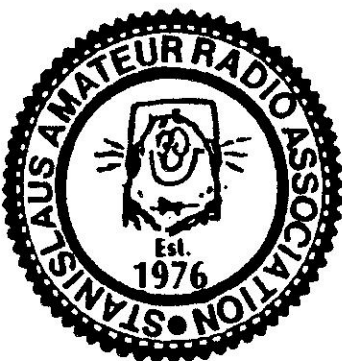
BELIEVE IT OR NOT? 600 VOLT ELECTRIC EELS!

(Ed. note...Supposedly, this story appeared on the Associated Press newswire on 6-29-88 allegedly written by Ira Dreyfuss. It was placed in the packet bulletin board circuit and has made the rounds. You can take this story for what it's worth. I got a chuckle out of it.)

When all the power goes out, instead of just sitting there in the dark, why not try what they do in Vancouver, British Columbia? They stick a couple of electrodes in the water, and draw power from electric eels. Ham radio operators did it recently, in a demonstration of inventive ways to get the signal out when no power is coming in. The two fat eels were taking part in a worldwide test of disaster preparedness. The eels

charged a special battery. Now, these creatures turn out up to 600 volts, so you have to be careful when you do this, or you'll create a new meaning for the term fish fry." But one of the hams says it beats what some folks had to do in California. He says they powered their radio by letting a van coast three miles down a hill. The problem, he says, is that they first had to push it three miles up the hill.

VE Test Sponsored by



County Center 3 Modesto

Test Schedule

December 8, 1988
Thursday night

630 pm.....	20 wpm Code
700 pm.....	13 wpm Code
730 pm.....	5 wpm Code
800 pm.....	All Written Elements.

December 10, 1988
Saturday morning

900 am.....	20 wpm Code
930 am.....	13 wpm Code
1000 am.....	5 wpm Code
1030 am.....	All Written Elements.

Test contact person- Dottie, KI6YQ, (209) 537-2785 **Walkin's OK**

CALENDAR

Nov.	15,	1988.....	SARA Monthly meeting.....	730 pm
Nov.	19,	1988.....	VE Testing Tuolumne City.....	900 am
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.....	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 .

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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