

The READOUT

YEAR 11 NUMBER 10 OCTOBER 1988

77th Annual

Modesto

DINNER DANCE

Saturday



October
15,
1988

Oasis

Restaurant

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, W6GZLD at 1221 Mist Flower Ct. Modesto, CA. 95355. Permission is granted to reprint articles appearing in The READOUT with appropriate credit. SARA owns and operates two F.M. repeaters. 145.39 MHz (-) located on Mt. Dso, 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. Dso 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. Dso at 3,500 feet. Frequency is 145.07 MHz. SARA conducts an informational net on both repeaters each Thursday evening at 800 pm with the exception of holidays. SARA meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Stanislaus County Administration building at the corner of 12th and H streets in downtown Modesto. Meetings begin at 730 pm. SARA is incorporated in the State of California, is an affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and Stanislaus County RACES. Dues are \$15.00 per annum and \$7.50 for students up to sophomores in college. Dues are pro-rated for newly joining members from the date they join. ARRL memberships and GST 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.....W6GHP.....537-2785

SECRETARY

Dottie Duncan.....K1GYD.....537-2785

TREASURER

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

HAPPENINGS

Next SARA Meeting

October 18, 1988
Program

>>> Open <<<

Raffle: Win Money
730 pm

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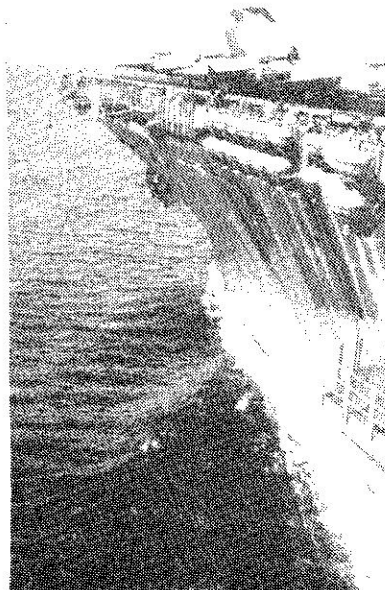
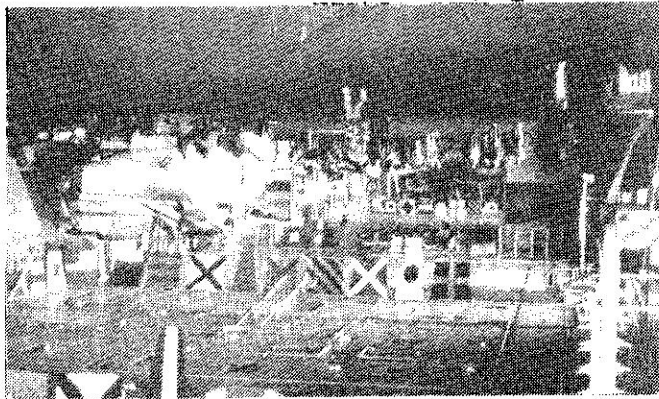
529-5395

The USS Enterprize

By Don Fink, N6GGB

What do you call an airport that can travel at 35 MPH, support a city of nearly 6,000 people, and accomplish more takeoffs and landings per hour than San Francisco International? I call it the USS Enterprize; The world's first Nuclear powered aircraft carrier. I boarded the USS Enterprize on June 27th in Seattle to journey with this ship and her crew along their last leg of a six month cruise to Alameda Naval Air Station. What I witnessed was possibly the finest display of team work and professionalism I have ever seen, and I'm going to attempt to describe it. The keel of the Enterprize was laid on February 4th, 1958. It was launched on September 24th, 1960, and finally commissioned on November 25th, 1961. The Enterprize is the

HANGER DECK where aircraft are stored and maintained. While the hangar deck extends most of the length of the ship, hugh doors can close to section it off in case of fire. Four aircraft elevators move aircraft from the hanger deck to the flight deck.



PORT SIDE forward of the USS Enterprize. The pods located below the catwalk are life rafts.

eighth ship to share its name; the first dating back to May, 1775, when Benedict Arnold captured a 70 ton sloop from the British.

(Cont. on page 13)

DX NOTEBOOK

By Tom Farr, WJ60 & Denny Dugal, WG6P

Here we go again with the next issue of the DX column. Well gang, with the bands in good shape, DX is hardly a scoop anymore. A total of 254 countries have been called out on the DX packet cluster in the past three months, per W6GD, the node at Rio Linda. This confirms on the air observations by area hams that the DX is not only there, but very workable. Some very nice openings noted on 10 meters, with FT5ZB worked on low power by many "6 landers". That station active on phone and CW at 0400z on several nights this month. You can't get much farther around the globe than Amsterdam Island. Fifteen meters showing more consistency while the aforementioned 10 meters reserves it's offerings for the patient and persistent. Things will continue to pick up as we move through and past the autumnal equinox. 20 meters still offering up good stuff via nets and free style. A lucky catch by a few in the area was 7Q7DK, Rolf. Malawi is in the top ten most needed countries want list for most active DX'ers. Heartily congrats to those who made it through on the long path.

The Sovereign Knights of Malta station, 1A0KM, made an all mode, all band appearance to close out September in fine fashion for those needing this equally rare country. Very little talk regarding the much "ballyhooed" Yemen operation by the Lynx group from Spain. All needing it are still crossing their digits, but it is beginning to look bleak. Little possibility of JF1IST going back to Ethiopia as he expected. Instead, he will likely be QRV from TA1E, in Turkey. Considerable effort being mounted for the CQ World Wide contests, phone and CW. Many rarer areas have hams who intend DXpeditions to help the needy fill in band countries or all time new ones. Too numerous to mention here, but the band will be jumping with anticipation as those "tests" draw near. Not too early to reserve a room or two at the Visalia Holiday Inn for the DX convention in April. It is a blast and a must for all DX'ers. We are so close it is a shame to pass this one up. Join the fun! Lots more area DX chatter as the sun-

spots increase. Towers going up and many Butternut Butterflies starting to be ordered and hoisted skyward. QSL'S coming forward from NP1/KH5K/KH5 Palmyra /T31JS /TN4NW, and TU4BR/SU7 to name a few. Don't despair 40 meters SSB DX'ers! A popular net at 7.163 KHZ. is attracting loads of good activity for those who can work split from that portion of the band. A real incentive for the old upgrade. Take care troops and keep looking for continued promise on the bands for great D X. We will hope your signals get through the pileups and that all your green stamps make it safely where they are going! 73 DE Tommy, WJ6D and Denny, W66P

SUNSPOT CYCLE

Scientists are keeping a keen watch on Sunspot Cycle 22 which began less than two years ago. If it continues on its apparent course, it could easily rival the record cycle of the late 1950's in number of spots. Astrophysicists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) say that the number of sunspots is rising at an unusually rapid rate. Some scientists are predicting that this may be one of the largest solar cycles on record, with activity hitting

an all time high. All indicators suggest it may be as large as Cycle 19, the largest one on record, which occurred during the late 1950's. Solar cycles take 4.3 years to hit a peak and then roughly 6.6 years to settle down to a minimum again.

Their total duration can range from 10 to 12 years. While a strong Sunspot Cycle 22 is of particular interest to ham operators since they will be able to work DX around the clock on the higher HF frequencies, it does have it's drawbacks. It could disturb electric power systems, telephone cable networks and certain bands of radio and television broadcast. Particularly vulnerable are the shortwave radio bands used for international broadcasting, airline signals, ship-to-shore communications and some radio surveillance systems. One thing seems certain at this point. Sunspot Cycle 22 could "run anywhere between a larger than average one and a humongous one."
- W5YI and Insight Magazine.



EDITOR'S NOTES

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

The wildland fire that erupted near Vacaville in September burned over 27,000 acres before being brought under control on September 24, 1988. But, not until it had ravaged the top of Mt. Vaca and many of the repeater sites located there. We have not been able to get a precise report, but we do know that several Amateur and commercial sites were damaged. This is just one of the reasons SARA carries complete insurance on our repeater sites on Mt. Dso. +++ It is with regret we note the deaths in September of Joan Clark, WA6ZFH, of Sugar Pine and Steve Eichman, WA6IVN, of Manteca. Joan died of a heart attack and Steve, 42, lost a long battle with Cancer. Joan was the wife of SARA member Jim Clark, WA6NSK. +++ Congratulations to Hartley Bush, KB6ZSV and George Enos, KB6ZPH, both of whom upgraded to Technicians at the Aug 25th VE test in Modesto. There were 18 applicants at the Thursday night session and 7 at the Saturday morning session. Successful on Saturday were Chris Lonsberry, KB6YZZ to

Technician and Doug Wilson, KB6VAG and Bob Hoskins, N6RSS to Generals. The next session to be sponsored by SARA and conducted by the Tri-County VE Team will be December 8th and 10th in Modesto. Prior to that on November 19, 1988 at the Tuolumne Vet's Hall in Tuolumne City. +++ There is going to be a "Silent Key" auction held in Turlock on Saturday, October 22, 1988. The auction is scheduled to be held at the Turlock High School Cafeteria. As of press time, the final plans were being made, so I was not able to get the time and other particulars. Listen to the Thursday night SARA net and the every other Tuesday TARC nets (147.03) for more details. +++ The Northern California DX Foundation's W6WX beacon was stolen on July 22, 1988 from a locked trailer on the campus of Stanford University at Palo Alto. Only the Kenwood TS-130 and its power supply were taken, leaving behind other expensive tools located in the trailer. The beacon had been on the air for over 10 years. I wonder if the thieves may be the

same that burglarized the 146.64 vault on Mt. Loma Prieta in San Jose and stole all of their equipment? +++ Have you ever wondered about the origin of some of the well known Japanese brand names we are familiar with? If you look at the brand names on the equipment in your shack, most of them come from Japan. ICOM got its name from its founding company, Inoue Communication Company. KENWOOD is part of a large hi-fi concern and has no particular Japanese origin to its name. However, YASEU is actually the reverse pronunciation of USA in Japanese. By the way, HONDA gets its name from its President Sochiro Honda. +++ THANK YOU, all of the SARA packet members who donated to the club treasury to offset the costs of improving the SARA 145.07 digipeater on Mt. Dso. The new equipment was installed early in September. That's it for this month. Don't forget the SARA dinner-dance on the 15th. Get your tickets now.

IMPROVED SARA DIGI ON AIR

The improvements to the SARA digipeater, WD6EJF-1, have been completed. The newly acquired Motorola Micor mobile unit, new Ringo Ranger antenna and coax cable were put into service on September 3, 1988. Some minor problems with the system were quickly rectified and the system has been working flawlessly since. The digi is now operating on 145.07 MHz and connects easily to KE6LW-2 digi at 2,000 feet in the Sutter Buttes near Yuba City, KD6XZ-1 BBS Sacramento; W06Y BBS, Fairfield; N60GS-1, Vacaville; W6FGC-2, Twain Harte; and W6EV-2 at Ceres. There appears to be a path to N6IIU-1 in Palo Alto but it appears to be somewhat marginal. The coverage of the digi appears to be from Yuba City to Fresno and portions of the Bay Area. The club authorized \$150.00 for the improvements with approximately \$80.00 defrayed by contributions from SARA members on Packet.

Dictionary of Terms- School of Engineering

- COLOR BURST- Result of shooting a peacock with a shotgun.
- CROSSTALK- A wife's comments at 2 am home coming.
- YOKE- Funny story in Sweden.

SARA's biggest social event of the year - the 11th ANNUAL DINNER DANCE is just around the corner - Saturday, October 15th at the Oasis Restaurant.

We've expanded the menu to three delicious dishes for you to choose from:

- * a mouth-watering Top Sirloin
- * Lemon Chicken - a succulent boneless chicken breast broiled with a light lemon sauce
- * tender Veal Parmesan

All the entrees include: bread, soup, salad, vegetable, potato or rice pilaf and dessert! Fine wine by Delicato will be served to compliment your dining experience.

To round out the evening, the band SKYLINE will help you work off the wonderful meal by playing your favorite hits from the 50's to the present.

You don't want to miss this night! Here is your chance to eyeball the people you talk to everyday on the air.

Last year was the first time at the Oasis Restaurant. It proved to be a smashing success!! Those of you who were unable to make it last year need only to ask those who were there about the exciting evening that was had by all.

To be apart of this years social extravaganza
Call me or send your check for \$18.00 per person/\$36.00 a couple and include your choice of entree.

My telephone number: 521-7834
My Address: Lori Faries N6JTD
1126 Durant Street
Modesto, CA 95350

**** DON'T DELAY -- DO IT TODAY ****

73'S - BON APPETITE!!

11th Annual



SARA DINNER DANCE

Saturday October 15th

Oasis Restaurant 5001 McHenry
Modesto

Social Hour 630 pm Dinner 730 pm

FOR TICKETS CONTACT LORI FARRIS, N6JTD, AT 521-7834

*18 each

*36 couple

You're Invited..

Dancing by
Skyline Band

ON THE AGENDA

The August 16, 1988 meeting of SARA was called to order at 7:30 pm by President, Bud, N6OCV. The Treasurer's and Secretary reports were read and approved. The beginning balance was \$1,061.61. After deposits and bills were paid, the new balance was \$910.76. Under old business the dinner-dance was discussed. Lori, N6JTD, reports that things are pretty much wrapped up. The menu this year will include steak, chicken and/or fish. Leroy, N6VS, reported on the repeater saying he's trying to get the bugs out. The digipeater is dead. He said we are waiting on crystals. Bill, WA6OHP is helping. Dottie, KI6YQ, reported on the picnic held August 6th.

Only 12 people showed up. Whit, KI6WB and wife Nancy, N6QEG, won the prize for coming the greatest distance. Dave, WB6VBH with James and Chris won the prize from coming the latest arriving around 5 pm. The Duncan family won the prize for bringing the most people. (HI). A volunteer is needed sometime around the first of the year to head up a fund raising raffle. Break at 8:05 pm followed by a super video presentation by Paul Metcalf and Allen Johnson of the Division of Forestry at Groveland. They talked about the Stanislaus Forest fires last year. The meeting was adjourned at 10 pm. Respectfully submitted by Secretary, KI6YQ.

BOOTLEGGER EXPOSED BY ARRL OFFICIAL OBSERVERS

On August 8, 1988 an ARRL official observer (OO) notified SARA that an unlicensed individual had been monitored operating on our machine and the Stockton 146.88 repeater. We were told that the imposter was using the call N8DNL and the handle of Rick with a QTH in Stockton. The "OO" said that they had located and spoken to the call holder in Redfield Township, Ohio and confirmed that his call was being bootlegged. The "OO" advised that they had recorded the imposter and were going to forward the tapes to the FCC at Livermore. We were asked not to divulge this information until the FCC could take action. However, the information, -->

MERCED COUNTY HAM ATTACK BY ZONING BOARD

Jim Leeds, N6CXR, has become another victim of yet another senseless attack on Amateur radio antennas. Jim, a life-long ham and resident of Merced County, recently moved into a new house and erected his 60-ft. antenna only to be informed shortly thereafter that an anonymous complaint of a public eyesore had been filed against him with the Merced County Zoning Board. Jim has never been officially consulted nor asked to comment to the zoning board about this, yet he has been served with a Notice to Comply with a 35-ft. height restriction. The Compliance Order is supposedly based on "health, safety and aesthetic values" of the neighborhood. There are, however, several oddities about this order that should be noted by all for future reference.

First, Jim lives just outside the city limits of Merced, which in fact declares by ordinance a policy of non-interference with Amateur antennas. Jim lives close enough, however, to be considered within the "sphere of influence" of the city. There appears to be no prejudice at all towards TV antennas, nor against any other type of antenna including satellite dishes, commercial towers, etc. It does, however, present quite a precedent for the more rural counties in California...and elsewhere. Regardless of how illegal such zoning decisions are, there is a tremendous potential nuisance and expense to the individual Amateur to be endured. Jim is looking for assistance to nip this problem in the bud. Contact Jim, N6CXR, at 383-0661 or via packet at the K6RAU-1 BBS in Merced.

-Excerpted from W5YI Report

(BOOTLEGGER CONT.) which had been given to the Stockton club also, was leaked on the air on .88 and the culprit became aware of the fact that he had been identified. He immediately shut down and has not been heard of since. It is unknown if the FCC will take action. They were provided with the home QTH of the violator.

DIVERSITY OF OCCUPATIONS

A ravishingly lovely 21 year old young lady married a 70 year old millionaire financier/broker. Their marriage lasted nine years until the husband died. The lady inherited her husband's business and wealth and after a one year mourning period married a well-known Hollywood motion picture producer. This marriage lasted ten years.

When her producer husband died, she married a charismatic minister who was about her own age and was thoroughly happy during their twenty-five year marriage. When he was unexpectedly struck down by a heart attack, she mourned for two years.

Finally, at the age of 70, she made headlines by marrying a man who was fifteen years her junior. He owned a chain of mortuaries.

A reporter asked her why she had selected husbands with such a wide diversity of occupations and she answered, "One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and four to go."

-River City A. R. C. S. Sacramento

Come back, repeater

One of our club members told a funny story about an event which occurred in Texas some years back. It seems one of the local hams had been licensed for many years but had never made any contacts on a 2M repeater.


After some encouragement over a long period of time (and the gift of an old but fully functional radio), the local hams finally heard the old-timer on the repeater one day. He was really "into it" and having a great time. Suddenly the repeater identified, as repeaters do. The old-timer said "The CW station, I missed your call, please come back."

No one had the heart to tell him on the air what it was (and besides they were probably all laughing too hard).

-Antelope Valley ARC, Lancaster, CA

WORLD RADIO, October 1988

VE Test
Sponsored by



Contact Person
KI6YQ 537-2788
Walkin's OK

County Center 3

))) December 8, 1988 (((
(Thursday Night)

630 pm 20 WPM Code
700 pm 13 WPM Code
730 am 5 WPM Code
800 pm Written Tests.

))) December 10, 1988 (((
(Saturday)

900 am 20 WPM Code
930 am 13 WPM Code
1000 am 5 WPM Code
1030 am Written Tests.

Modesto



THE CREW of Enterprise show pride in their work, their ship, and the Navy. This sign proclaiming was designed and painted by the crew, on their own time following duty in the straits of Hormuz.

Enterprise was the first nuclear powered ship to engage in combat on December 2nd, 1965, when she launched 125 combat sorties, delivering 165 tons of ordinance on North Viet Nam. After completing her first combat tour in 1966, Enterprise had flown 13,020 combat missions and delivered 8,000 tons of bombs and rockets to the Viet Cong. Enterprise contains nearly 4.5 acres of flight deck, with 4 steam powered catapults capable of launching a 55,000 pound aircraft from 0 to 160 MPH in 2.5 seconds. Because of the angled deck design, she can launch from two catapults while retrieving aircraft on another runway simultaneously. There is always an H3 helicopter in the air during flight operations for possible rescue operations, and there is often an A7 Corsair airborne that is capable of refueling

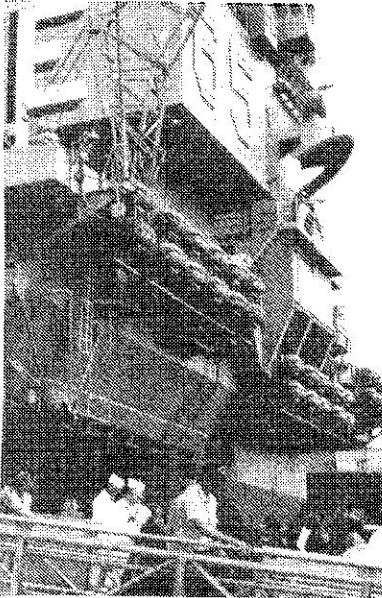
USS Enterprise

(Continued from page 3)

should an aircraft need it. To describe the Enterprise and her crew is difficult. The most powerful word that comes to mind is awesome, but this seems somehow inadequate. After all, nothing I can imagine can match the power and capabilities of Enterprise and her crew. I joined the Enterprise on the last leg of a six month cruise, yet I found morale to be quite high. I stayed in one of the many enlisted berthings where I shared a sleeping space about the size of my living room with 50 crewmen. The "rack", or bed as some might call it, occupied a space approximately two feet wide by two feet high and seven feet long. Reveille was at 6:00 AM each morning. We would go to one of the several mess halls around the ship and participate in one of the 15,000 meals that would be served each day. The food was almost

(Continued from page 14)

good. From morning Mess, we proceeded to the flight deck to observe flight operations. On Friday, July 1, we found ourselves positioned on top of Cat #3 as F14 Tomcats and A7 Corsairs were launched from Cats 1, 2, and 4. Needless to say, the Enterprise and her crew know the meaning of the word precision. The people that work on the flight deck are said to have the most dangerous jobs in the world, and I believe it. With adequate ear protection, you cannot



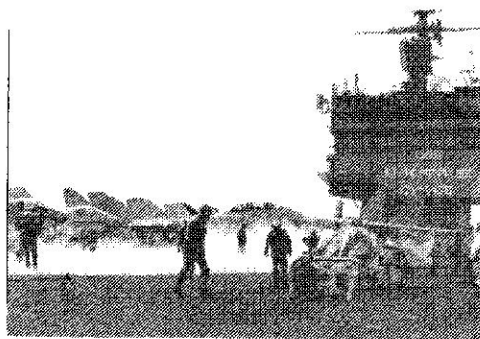
hear a person next to you no matter how loud he talks, so every input must be by sight. The launch crew has developed a sophisticated set of hand signals used to communicate among themselves and flight crews. I didn't understand any of it, so I quickly learned not to move once I was positioned by the crew. Ten feet one way or the other could have ruined my

The USS Enterprise

whole day. Launching an aircraft from the Enterprise works like this: As an aircraft taxis to the catapult, launch crew members direct the pilot and position the aircraft precisely to hook the nose wheel into a launching cradle. Other crew members relay information concerning the type aircraft to be launched and its take-off weight to the catapult crew below. They adjust the catapult to deliver the correct thrust for the aircraft being launched. Aircraft can vary in weight depending on type aircraft, amount of fuel, and type and quantity of ordinance on board prior to takeoff. Obviously, it's important to deliver enough thrust to guarantee the aircraft will get airborne, but not so much as to damage the aircraft. As hookup continues, the catapult "shooter" readies himself to fire the catapult by insuring the runway is free of personnel, equipment, and debris. Once secured into the catapult, a blast shield is raised behind the aircraft to

protect other aircraft and personnel from the extreme jet blast and heat of the departing aircraft. Blast shield in place, the pilot is directed to bring the aircraft to full power, including afterburners. The pilot and shooter have one last look around to be sure everything is ready, exchange salutes and "thumbs up", and 2.5 seconds later the aircraft is off the Enterprise and airborne. The experience of witnessing an F14 Tomcat locked into a Catapult only a few feet away, Blast shield repelling afterburner thrust of more than 30,000 pounds per engine at 1,800 degrees; to feel the power of the catapult under your feet as it slams the pilot against his seat and literally throws 40,000 pounds of metal and men 250 feet off the end of a ship and accelerates them to nearly 160 MPH. Then to feel the radiant heat from the F14's afterburners as it rushes by, the sound penetrating your skull, was beyond comprehension. I asked an F14 pilot what it felt like to be launched from the ship. He simply replied, "I like it. It's a rush". I guess so! We did not witness aircraft landings on this cruise since aircraft were engaged in flying off to their land bases, but I suspect it would be every bit as

fascinating as the launch. Pilots have a visual aid called "the ball", that helps them fly an approach to a 250 foot runway moving at 25 to 35 MPH. In addition, the runway is not aligned exactly along the axis of the ship's direction of travel. It is offset slightly to the left (from the pilot's perspective).



LAUNCH CREW moves an F14 Tomcat into position at Cat #4. A job on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier is the most dangerous work in the world.

(--- THE BIG E, in port at Seattle used eight gangway to accommodate foot traffic to and from the ship.

Next month, our journey aboard the Big E will continue.

USS Enterprize

CALENDAR

Oct. 14-15 & 16	1988	Pacificon'88 Pacific Division Convention at LeBaron Hotel, San Jose
Oct. 15	1988	11th Annual SARA Dinner-Dance Oasis Restaurant, Modesto...630 pm
Oct. 18	1988	SARA Monthly meeting.....730 pm
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.....

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 pm. Visitors and interested parties are welcome .

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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