

The READOUT

Year 13

Number 6

June 1991

Fees On Track

The FCC has presented its appropriations for fiscal 1992 to the Senate Appropriations Committees. It contains user fee's from which they expect to collect \$65 million including \$2.91 million from Amateur radio licensees.

The ARRL, as in this case, has always opposed fees for Amateur radio saying it's inappropriate for non-commercial users such as amateurs and public service agencies to pay fees.

The FCC has virtually decided that no user, albeit commercial or non-commercial, should be exempt. If there request is approved, it will mean a fee of \$3.00 per year or \$30.00 for ten year term of your license. The \$30.00 would be collected at the time of the issuance of the license and upon renewal.

Amateurs are encouraged to write to members of the Senate Appropriations Committees expressing their position. A list of members on those committees can be found in April QST.

Next SARA Meeting
June 18, 1991

730 pm

Stanislaus Co.

Administration Building

Lower Level Conference Room

Field Day Participation Set



'OBJECT: To work as many stations as possible on any or all Amateur bands (except 10 MHz) and, in doing so, learn to operate in abnormal situations under less-than-optimum conditions.

A premium is placed on skills and equipment developed to meet the challenge of emergency preparedness and to acquaint the public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.'

That's what Field Day is all about, held the fourth weekend in June (June 22-23) each year. In addition, Field Day stations must

be operated from a source independent of commercial mains. (Generators, batteries or Solar etc.) It's an intense, but friendly, competition between Amateurs throughout the

U.S.A. and Canada which sharpens our skills to perform in the event of a disaster or emergencies.

SARA will be returning to the Nile Garden School on Nile Road outside Manteca for this year event and every

one is invited to participate or a least stop by for a visit

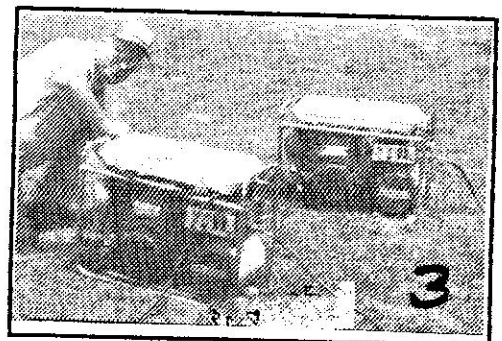
and see what its all about.

Setup will begin as early as Friday after

work with the bulk of the work to be done on Saturday morning June 22th. This includes setting up stations, putting up antennas and fine tuning the generators which will provide the juice.

Everybody hits the air at 11 am Saturday and then it's NON STOP from there on for 25 hours till 12 noon Sunday when it's over.

Points are garnered for each contact and the ARRL passes out awards for the most



points gathered in various categories.

Operators and

See 'Field Day'

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SARA VHF Net

Thursdays @ 8 p.m.

(Except Holidays)

2 meters 145.39 MHz WD6EJF

220 Band 223.68 MHz WD6EJF

10 Meter 28,440 kHz USB

Tuesdays at 730 pm.

Contributions to *The READOUT* are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor by mail or via packet at N6REB-BBS on 145.79 MHz. The deadline for articles is the 15th of the preceding month. Articles regarding religion or politics are not accepted.

Editor

Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

1221 Mist Flower Ct.

Modesto, CA. 95355

209-523-5880

An ARRL affiliated club !

ARRL membership may be paid through SARA with the club retaining a \$2.00 commission. Please send your ARRL membership form along with your check made payable to "SARA". We will deduct the \$2.00 and send a check to the ARRL.

Heathkit Calls It Quits

The Heath Company, a leader in high quality electronics for over forty years is quitting the Amateur radio marketplace and will no longer market most of the famous Heathkits. They have had a major restructuring inside Heath/Zenith and have drastically cut their advertising budget and laid off their entire marketing group.

Their new direction will be products aimed at the home and self-study education marketplace. The entire line of Amateur radio equipment has been offered at extremely low prices to move them out.

Heath's roots date back to just after World War 1 when Edward Heath, a young aviation fancier introduced an airplane kit known as the "Super Parasol."

In 1935 the company sold for a mere \$300 after Heath was killed in a plane crash. In 1946 Heath Co. developed its first do-it-yourself electronics kit, a five-inch oscilloscope for \$39.50. It was so successful that the company branched out into other fields, including Amateur radio.

In 1955 the company was sold to Daystrom, Inc and moved from Benton Harbor, MI to larger quarters in neighboring St. Joseph, MI. In 1962 Daystrom merged with Schlumberger and opened their first retail stores in Chicago and Denver. In 1974 Heath began offering home study courses and in 1979 electronic giant Zenith Corporation bought the company. A year later they established Zenith Data Systems. In 1989, Heath was sold again to a French computer company and moved back to Benton Harbor.

Technological advances combined with lower costs of assembled electronic products have reduced the kit-building market and apparently more and more of today's consumers have less time for kit projects and are more interested in the finished product.

As a result, Heath has turned its focus for the 90's to the development of home automation and home study materials. A "Home-Works" educational product catalog is planned. Heathkit Amateur Radio Equipment 1946-1991 R.I.P.

Correction!

Field Day is always the fourth weekend in June. Because there happens to be five weeks in June this year we were mistaken in announcing Field Day as June 29 and 30th. The correct dates are June 22 and 23, 1991. The drawing for the winning ticket for the SARA raffle will be held on June 30th as indicated on the tickets instead of the Field Day weekend as announced previously. Sorry for the confusion.

Earthquake Rocks Stanislaus County In OES Exercise

By Ernie Rader, K6UVI

At approximately 1:05 PM Thursday, April 25, 1991, Stanislaus County was rocked by an earthquake. It lasted 35 seconds. Seismologists report the magnitude was approximately 7.2 on the Richter Scale and the epicenter was on the Hayward Fault in the vicinity of Castro Valley.

The entire bay area has been affected by the earthquake and reports indicate that there is widespread damage. Fires are burning and there is speculation that hundreds of people are trapped and injured.

County communications reports there have been numerous sightings of damage in Stanislaus county. The western portions of the county have experienced the equivalent shaking of a 7 on the Mercalli scale. People in that area report they had difficulty walking; pictures fell and heavy items of furniture were overturned. People reported feeling a nausea-like feeling as the shock waves rolled through the area. There is debris

from unreinforced brick walls crumbling and older homes moving off their foundations.

The entire county was affected by the earthquake. There are reports confirming damage has extended to eastern portions of the county. There are numerous traffic accidents on Highway 99 and confirmed reports of power failures including gas and water line interruptions. Telephone service is sporadic - one out of three calls are getting a dial tone.

This was the scenario presented to county officials in the mock drill that took place Thursday, the 25th. Though only a tabletop exercise, it was intended to test the capabilities of the various city services in an emergency. In conjunction with the Office of Emergency Services, Amateur radio played a supporting role both by way of SARA's repeater and packet communication. Several test messages were handled between cities within the county and Amateur radio proved again that it can be counted on when telephone lines are down.

QST Profiles Yosemite Fires

Nearly 100 area Amateur radio operators volunteered over 2,000 hours providing emergency communications during the fires in Yosemite National Park last year. Their efforts are detailed in well done article, with photos, appearing in the May issued of QST starting on page 14.

The article was written by Lynne, N6ZLN and her husband

Rick Jerome, KB6UUI, of Tuolumne, Ca. QST expanded on the story by interviewing Gary Biehl, Stanislaus Forest assistant field supervisor, whose comments on the U.S. Forest Service reaction to Amateur radio, appear as a sidebar to the main story. A photo of SARA member Tim Bosma, WB6UJD, also appears in the story.

Now is the time to buy

A Visalia tower builder, US Towers, is out with a new line of radio towers featuring motor drives with limit switches and positive pull-down.

Two models are available, the 89 foot model which contains five sections. It is rated for 60 sq/ft antenna wind loading and 50 mile an hour winds. Retail price-- are you ready for this? -- \$16,999.95. That's right!!!

The 106 ft. tower is rated at 35 sq/ft antenna wind loading to 50 mile an hour winds. It's a bit more at \$18,499.95. It will interesting to see how many of these they sell.

What's Cooking for Field Day

Veteran Field Day cook John Nelson, W1GNC, of Bloomfield, Ct. has cooked dinner for Field Day participants on many occasions. Following is his recipes sure to silence growling tummies and ward off mosquitos. He calls it...

* Blazing Saddles "T1" Beans And Mosquito Repellent.*

2 lbs Navy beans
1 1/3 cups brown sugar
2 tsp dry mustard
1/2 cup molasses
1/2 lb salt pork
2 medium onions, sliced

Combine all ingredients and bake at 300 degrees for 5-7 hours. Serves 16. Serving suggestion: Stay downwind or bring along air freshener.

*That's "T1" as in "RST 591"

- Thanks QST, June 1991

Getting A Good Ground For Your Shack

By Tim Low, N6ZUC

Nearly every week, at some point, somewhere on the bands, I'll hear some frustrated ham talking about his grounding problems. Maybe it's getting a good ground plane for his vertical, or just trying to get the gear in his shack grounded. That's what this article's about, getting a good ground on your shack equipment.

There are several good reasons to get a good ground on your rig, safety being of prime consideration. It's not so common today with the new solid state rigs, but if you still run "glow in the dark" equipment, like a big linear etc., you need to be concerned with the possibility of a short to case. Believe me, there's enough juice in there to seriously light up your life. Specially if some idiot, (not you of course), clipped off the safety prong on the AC plug. Hey, it's there for a reason! Don't ever clip that little bugger off.

If you don't have 3-prong outlets, rewire your house. OK, you say it's not practical. At least get one of those adapters and don't cut off the wire ... hopefully it's grounded.

Another good reason is lightning. You want to make sure if you do get a strike, the energy has a good path to ground. Truthfully, if you get a direct hit, your rig's a goner. At least the energy will have a path to ground, rather than jumping from your rig to a water pipe in your wall and starting your house on fire. In a case of a nearby strike however, it might just save that shack full of gear.

Remember, that lightning doesn't have to be a direct hit. When it strikes, it sets up a huge electromagnetic field that can, and will, induce voltages in nearby conductors such as your antenna, feedline etc.. Even a strike a mile away can cause a voltage on your system. Give it a good way to discharge, rather than through your body when you grab the microphone.

Now, how do we get this perfect ground? Well, we don't get a "perfect" ground, but we can come close with a little planning and some, (here it comes), work. A lot depends on local soil conductivity, how far to the grounding point and cosmetics. After all you do have to live there too!

First off, it is important to make your grounding point as close to the shack as possible. To get a good bond with earth, you want to get the resistance of this connection as low as you can. Try to keep distance short, and the conductor as large as practical. Copper pipe works best. If not, at least use copper strap, 2 inch minimum.

You can get strap at most electrical supply houses.

To connect the equipment itself, use the braid from RG-8U coax. Again, keep it as short as possible. Make sure that each piece of equipment has its own connection to the pipe or strap. Don't daisy chain your ground connections. For rack mounted equipment, don't rely on the rack for your ground connection.

Now, for the grounding point itself. First let's define what is meant by "ground". It is the process of making an electrical connection with the earth. This involves the insertion of some form of electrode into the soil. The resistance of the soil that the electrode is placed in determines how effective that connection will be. Resistance must be minimum for efficient grounding.

What do we use for the electrode? Convention says we use a standard copper clad 3/4 inch by 10 foot steel rod, driven into the ground. This works but does have its limitations. If the soil conductivity is low, (high resistance), then we still don't have a good ground. 95% of the effectiveness of the electrode/earth connection is determined by the soil within a circle equal to one electrode length around the electrode.

One way to lower the resistance is by driving multiple rods in the ground. This can work, but to be effective they need to be spaced 1.5 Rod lengths apart. When your talking 10 foot rods, you can see to get the customary 3 rods in, takes some real estate. It's not practical! Even if you do use this method, you still have to deal with soil resistance that changes with moisture content.

Don't despair, there is an answer and it's called soil conditioning. The process involves "salting" the soil surrounding the electrode. This salting lowers the resistance of the soil and reduces the changes caused by varying moisture content.

The reduction of changes in soil resistance provides us with a proper electrical bond with earth. It also reduces the RF in the shack. RF floating around in the shack can cause all kinds of nasties. We'd like to keep it out of our connecting cables, TNC's, computer screen and not to mention the family TV. After all, prime time wrestling might be on. If you've never had an RF burn, let me assure they hurt and it doesn't take much to burn you either. The smell alone is enough to make you lose your dinner. Any resistance in your shack grounding can

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.....Grounding

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cause RF to radiate. That's another good reason to keep ground conductors as short and as large as possible. (The larger the conductor, the lower the resistance). When you're dealing with RF, an ohm or two can make a big difference.

Now the mechanics of this whole mess. Instead of driving a vertical rod into the ground, I prefer to use a horizontal rod. This requires the excavation of a 10 foot ditch, 1 foot wide and 3 feet deep.

Buy a few bags of peat moss and mix in a half dozen boxes of table salt. Pack in a foot of peat mix into the ditch. Make it fairly dense. Take a two inch OD piece of copper pipe 10 foot long and cap one end. Fill the pipe with rock salt and cap the other end.

Take your drill and drill holes up and down the full length of the pipe on 4 sides. These holes should be of smaller diameter than the grains of salt. Pack another foot of peat mix on top. Fill the remainder of the ditch with sand. The reason for the sand is to make it easier to dig up in a few years to replace the salt. Yep, that's the drawback to this system. It has to

be recharged every couple years.

The horizontal rod should be connected with 1 inch copper pipe to the surface. I stress that all connections be made with silver solder. I prefer to use 15% Silfoss. It comes in sticks and can be purchased by the pound at your local welders supply. It does require at least a gas torch to use.

The rule of thumb I use for the size of conductor from ground to equipment is, 1 inch for each 50 foot distance. In the case of copper strap, I start with 2 inch and add an inch for each 50 feet. Remember that these are minimum, and larger is always better.

A more practical approach for most people is to water drill a 10 foot piece of copper pipe into the ground vertically. Fittings to connect your garden hose to the pipe can be had at most hardware stores. The idea is to let the water drill a hole for you, rather than hammering the pipe in. Depending on your soil, it usually works well. As you drill the pipe in you need to drill holes in the pipe every few inches, just as in the case of the horizontal electrode. Do it as you go, otherwise your going to get mighty wet. When the pipe is in, leaving a few inches above ground to work with, fill the pipe with rock salt

and cap the pipe. Threaded works best as you can simply unscrew it to recharge the electrode. Again, silver solder your conductor to it.

There are other systems, some practical for the average ham, others not. I may even devote a future article to them. Anyway, I hope I have given you some ideas that may help you or at least cured your insomnia. In either case Ol' Doc Tim will have done his job.

Next time, I want to look at methods for protecting your valuable equipment from some of that garbage you receive on your power line. If you have any questions, ideas or just want to say howdy, send me a packet at: N6ZUC @ AA6QN.#SOCA.CA.USA.NA, or drop a letter to me via The READOUT at the club's post office box. Gotta run now as the legion of doom is taking on power and glory. Can't miss WWF wrestling.73. Tim.

About the Author: Tim Low is a certified electronics technician by the National Association of Radio and Telecommunications

Engineers. He holds a General Class Radiotelephone license and Amateur Extra class license,



N6ZUC. He started in the broadcasting business at the age of 16 and has been a fulltime broadcast engineer for the past 11 years and makes his home in Escondido, CA.



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How To Apply For California Ham Radio License Plates

If you haven't done it already, here's the information you will need to know in order to apply for and receive California license plates with your Amateur call on them.

Section 5005 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) says..." (a) Any person holding an unexpired Amateur radio station license issued by the FCC, may, after the requirements for the registration of the motor vehicle have been complied with, also apply directly to the department for special license plates in lieu of the regular license plates.

The special plates shall be affixed to the motor vehicle for which registration is sought and, in lieu of the numbers otherwise prescribed by law, shall display the official Amateur radio station call letters of the applicant as assigned by the FCC.

The applicant shall, by satisfactory proof, show that he or she is the holder of an unexpired license. (b) The department shall not issue more than one set of special plates for any licensed Amateur radio station. (c) In addition to the regular fees for an original registration or renewal of registration, the following special fees shall be paid: (1) Twenty dollars for the initial issuance of the special plate. (2) Twelve dollars for transfer of the special plate to another vehicle. (Effective January 1, 1983).

A note of caution, if you are applying for the first time, be prepared to refer the people at DMV to this section, 5005 CVC. Otherwise, they may (and often do) make the mistake that you are applying for a so-

called environmental or personalized plate which are \$35.00. So, remember, \$20.00 when you apply for the first time and get new plates, and \$12.00 to transfer the plates from the old car to the new car if you are changing vehicles.

If you applying for the first time, be sure to take your Amateur license with you to prove you hold a valid license.

It takes from 45 to 60 days to get the new plates if all goes well. It doesn't make any difference what class of license you hold, the only consideration is whether you planning to upgrade and/or change calls later.

The fancy looking plate with the rising sun in the center of the plate will cost you more than the generic blue and white plate.

Amateur Call Plates

Application- \$20.00

Renewal fee- None

Transfer fee from one vehicle to another- \$12.00

Environmental Plates

Application- \$35.00

Renewal fee- \$20 per year in addition to regular renewal fees.

Transfer fee from one vehicle to another- \$20.00

Want Your Ham Call On A Second Vehicle?

By Hart, N6TIV and N6TIV-2

It's kind of fun having your call sign on a license plate, and in my travels I find that I run into other hams who notice it. My wife kept telling me I should get my call sign on my pickup too.

I explained to her that the DMV only allows one set of plates with your call sign on it. After thinking about it for a while we figured out a way to do it. Apply for an En-

viornmental plate (Section 5105 of the California Vehicle Code) with a slightly modified call.

So, I went to the DMV and applied for N6TIV-2 and in no time I received my new plates for my pickup. It more expensive than the one time charge of \$20 for regular ham plates with no renewal fee. The cost of the Enviornmental plates is \$35 with a annual renewal fee of \$20

which is tacked onto your regular registration fee each year.

If you want to transfer the plates from one vehicle to another the cost is \$20 verus \$12.00 for ham plates.

Enviornmental plates are more expensive than the regular Amateur plates, but they are worth it. They look great!.

73, Hart

FBI Arrests Ohio Ham Operator

James A. Haas, WT8Q, of Athens, Ohio, was arrested by FBI agents in a Washington, DC suburb and charged with making contrived distress calls from his 1991 Dodge Caravan van. Haas was in Washington, DC to attend the Greater Baltimore Hambooree and computer fest. Haas is accused of transmitting fake police officer-in-trouble signals made more realistic by sound effects.

The FBI joined the FCC's investigation two days before his arrest. Most of his fake calls were made throughout northern Kentucky and Ohio some of which were traced to his home in Athens.

Haas, 39, is a teacher at Athens High School where he is the advisor to their ham club and holds an Extra

class Amateur license. The FBI apparently had been trailing Haas and monitored a bogus officer-in-distress call on April 5th at 930 pm on the frequency used by the Prince William Police Dept.

FCC engineers traced the transmission, which lasted for an hour, to Haas' van. He was arrested at 1035 pm and a subsequent search of his van located a cassette tape marked "siren" containing various emergency vehicle sounds and lists of police and fire dept. frequencies in the area.

Haas was released on \$100,000 bond after being booked on the felony charges.

Chief Engineer's Report

The 220 machine has been brought down for a frequency change. Since I lack the required equipment to make the necessary adjustments to the equipment, I am having to rely on others. Frank, N6YHY, has tuned up the duplexers for me and I'm attempting to find access to a service monitor to tune the repeater. Our old Cushman is not yet crystaled for the new frequency, so it is useless at this time. The new frequency will be 224.14 MHz which will allow Novice access.

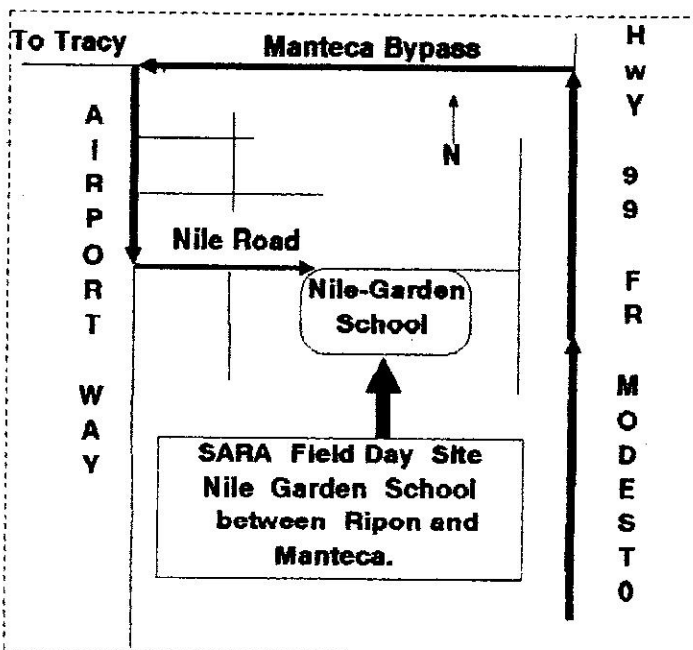
The ACC controller is down with a couple chips out that I have on order. While wiring up the new power supply the ACC was inadvertently connected to a constant current source with a voltage potential of 24 volts. That happened

when I disconnected the battery but failed to disconnect the constant current battery charger. The protective diodes did not blow the fuses because the current was regulated. The bottom line is that it would not pass audio when I attempted to put it in line.

We hope to also put the 220 back in operation as soon as possible. One of the crystal we ordered for the new frequency was bad and we had to send for another one.

The 220 linking should be easy once things are back in operation. The 440 link will take a bit more work as there are logic problems and inverters will have to be installed. I am still planning that out.

73, LeRoy, NV6S.



SARA Field Day From front page

equipment are needed, especially operators. So, if you can help, even if it's only for a couple of hours, please contact FD Chairman, Dave, N6YHZ, 576-8730. The site on the grounds behind the school provides plenty of room for campers.

So, pitch a tent, bring the trailer or the Motorhome and plan to have fun. Restroom facilities and water will be provided at the school. If you plan to spend sometime, bring your own food and drinks. Speaking of drinks, because this is school property, no alcoholic beverages are allowed.

To reach the site from Modesto take Hwy 99 north to the Manteca Bypass. West on the bypass to Airport Way. South on Airport way to Nile Road. East on Nile to the school on the southside of the road. (See Map)

SARA Minutes

By Ernie Rader, K6UVI, Secretary

The May 21st SARA meeting was called to order by President Oliver Bourns, KJ6YZ at 7:33 PM. Forty-three regular members and visitors were present.

The treasurer's report was given by Al, N6SAE. The General Fund shows a balance of \$1,101.29 after four credits of \$221.26 and nine debits of \$495.58. The fund Raiser account shows a balance of \$1,045.71 after four credits of \$630.00 and one debit of \$55.36.

The Education Account shows a balance of \$572.53 after two credits of \$225.64 and three debits of \$324.88. The report was accepted as were the previous meeting minutes as printed in The READOUT. Field Day is scheduled for the 22nd and 23rd of June at the Nile Garden School near Manteca. Vice President Dave, N6YHZ, is in charge of the event. Leroy, NV6S reported that our ACC Controller is down and parts are ordered. The autopatch is still down but should be repaired soon and the linking of all the repeaters done at the same time.

There is only one power supply for all the equipment on the hill now.

The 220 Mhz. repeater is down for retuning to the new frequency. The new frequency will be published soon.

The club station is still down for repairs also. Oliver suggested we have Yaesu repair the club station instead of Leroy and those attending passed the motion. Jim, KB5FB offered to package and send the unit for repair.

Under old business, Oliver reported that he'd declined to obligate the club's participation in "Graffiti '91" as a fund raiser. Phil, WD0FFX reported receiving a letter requesting communication for a Graffiti bike-a-thon. Oliver promised to get more information and report to us at our next meeting.

Oliver went on to praise the efforts of the editor of The READOUT Bob, WA6ZLO, who proposed a reduced membership rate to those living outside a 150 mile radius of Modesto. This will require an amendment to the bylaws and that procedure is to begin immediately.

Steve, N6EKV introduced the owner of the fireworks stands we are to help man this holiday to help raise

funds for the club. He described our duties and the profit structure therein. The stands are to be open from June 27th until July 4th.

A thirty minute break was taken at 8:30 PM. After our break, Phil reported on an additional fund raiser the club might want to consider but due to lack of interest it was not acted on.

Under new business, Leroy said that Frank, N6YHY wanted to donate a 6 meter repeater to the club along with his own technical help. Leroy was queried as to his thoughts and said he would like to accept. Paperwork is to be drawn up for the donation of that equipment as long as it doesn't cause any interference to existing equipment. If it does, it will come down.

Al, N6SAE informed the club that the club equipment insurance premium of \$150.00 is due on July 1st. The membership agreed that Leroy should re-value our existing equipment at which time we would renew the coverage based on that reevaluation. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM. Respectfully submitted, Ernie, K6UVI.



SARA members take it easy after providing communications for the American Cancer Society Bike-a-thon on April 13th. Members include K6UVI; KJ6YZ; Chuck, KA6AAE; Chirs, KC6PDD (and his wife Penny); Nick, KC6QMU; Dave, N6YHZ; Phil, WD0FFX and Larry, WB6GJT.



Editor's Notes

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

The 1991 Dayton HamVention is history. It was the 40th edition and bigger and better than ever with over 35,000 people attending. More than \$110,000 in prizes were donated by the Amateur industry and awarded to lucky ticket stub holders. The first HamVention was held in 1951 for which they expected 300 people to attend. Over 600 showed up and it's been going up ever since.

The R.L. Drake Company was a new HamVention exhibitor having returned to the ham radio market place with their new R8 communications receiver. Japan's Standard Radio, another new exhibitor, also had a large multi-booth display. They will now sell their radios through a distributor networks rather than through Heath Company which is going out of the Amateur equipment business.

FCC's Johnny Johnston discussed recent licensing statistics and trends that indicate that Amateur radio is growing thanks to the new code-less Technician license. The number of new Novice's has dropped some due in part to the no-code license.

An interesting HamVention happening occurred when a gentleman turned in \$1,700 that he found in a folder without any identification at all. The money had earlier been reported as lost by a person who had given up all hope of recovery. ICOM awarded the finder a new IC-24 radio for his honesty even though it was not their firm that lost the money. The dealer who lost the money had already left the area and had to be contacted in Indianapolis.

Next year's HamVention, the biggest in the world, will be held on April 24 through 26th.

- As of Monday, April 22, 1991, the FCC began issuing the new laser printed Amateur license to all applicants. It's actually two licenses printed on a single 8 1/2" x 11" piece of greenish banknote paper. One license is pretty much the same as the one we have now except that it's printed by laser instead of carbon paper inside an envelope. It would be suitable to carry around in your wallet or purse. The second license is 5"x7" and would be suitable for framing to hang in your shack.

- The FCC warned Amateurs not to send in for a duplicate license in order to get the new one. It will be issued to all new licensees and when there is a change in a call sign or address.

- Our membership now stands at 158 with the additions of these new members. Welcome to Brad Johnson, KC6TDH, of Modesto. Brad is a radio technician and works for KOSO Radio in Modesto. He holds a Technician license. Bart Atwood Ebi, KF6AX, is an Advanced class licensee and has been licensed since 1969. He is self-employed. Vernon Chase, WA4YYG, is a Novice and a local Minister. Frank Lucusky, WA6IXA, is a Sacramento CPA and an Advanced Class. And welcome back George Ledoux, K1TQJ. George is a self employed television transmitter builder and holds an Advanced class license.

- Ticket sales for our current raffle are moving along nicely. Please remember to get your stubs and money into the club's post office box before June 30, 1991. Please allow sufficient time for the mailman to get you envelope to the P.O. box no later than June 28th. The winner's name will be drawn from the barrel on June 30th. You need not be present to winner either the T.V. set or \$500 in cash.

- Steve, N6EKV, reports that SARA's help will be needed again this year in providing manpower to operate two fireworks booths in Turlock and Modesto. Last year was the first year we participated in this money making effort and it proved to be a very profitable venture for the club. Please sign up and donate a couple of hours (or more) of your time. The booths will be open from June 27th through July 4th.

- The FCC has made it official- all Amateur active between 220-222 MHz must stop effective at 5 pm August 27, 1991. That portion of the 220 band has been reallocated to the land-mobile service. As a result of this move, the SARA 220 machine was forced to move to 224.14 MHz from 223.68 MHz.

- Wolfman Jack would be jealous. A half a million watt radio station with almost worldwide coverage. It's on the air from Trim, Ireland. Their frequency is 252 kHz longwave. It's a joint effort of Radio Luxembourg and the Irish Republic's Radio Telefis Eireann. The station is known at Atlantic 252 and calls it's format "More Music Radio".

- Next month, our feature story will be a visit to the historic transmitting site of the WSM Radio outside Nashville, Tn.

Calendar

June 18, 1991SARA Monthly Meeting730 pm
 June 22-23, 1991Field Day25 Hrs
 July 16, 1991SARA Monthly Meeting730 pm
 Sept 7, 1991VE Testing Modesto900 am
 Nov. 16, 1991VE Testing Sonora900 am
 Nov 19, 1991SARA Monthly Meeting730 pm
 Dec. 7, 1991VE Testing Modesto900 am

SARA meets the third Tuesday of each month (except holidays) at the Stanislaus County Administration Building at 12th and H streets in downtown Modesto. The meetings are held in the lower-level conference room starting at 730 pm. Visitors and interested parties are most welcome. SARA is an ARRL Affiliated Club and is affiliated with Stanislaus County and City of Modesto RACES. Repeaters WD6EJF operated on 145.39, 224.14 & 440.225 MHz. Informational nets are held each Thursday evening at 800 pm.

VE tests are given regularly in Stanislaus, Merced and Tuolumne Counties by the Tri-County VE Team. For more information contact Chet Jensen, W6XK, at 209-883-2968 or via at N6REB in Modesto.

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The Next SARA Meeting is June 18, 1991 at 730 pm.