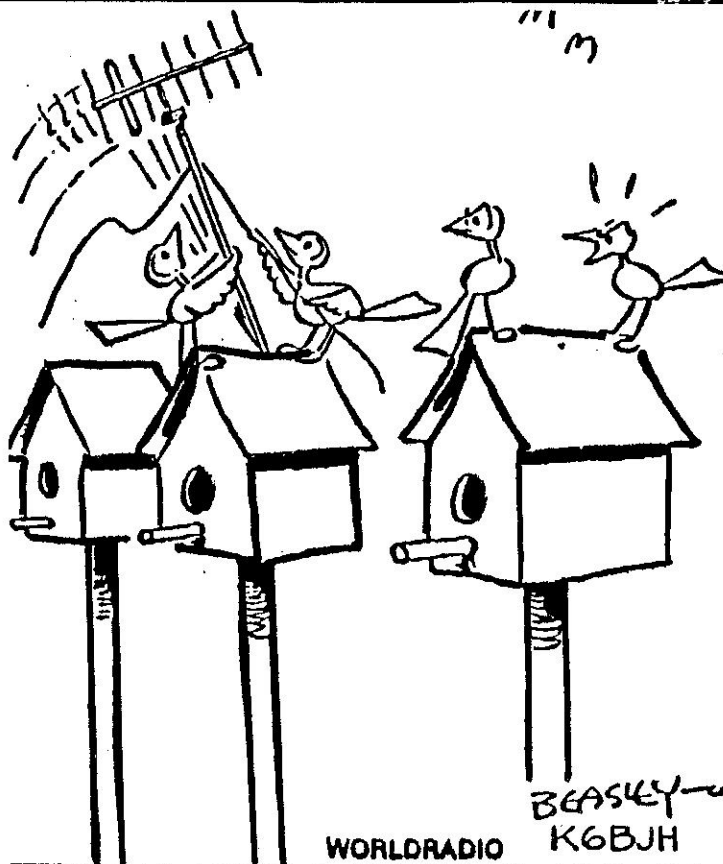


The READOUT

YEAR 11 NUMBER 9 SEPTEMBER 1988



OH NO --- THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

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, W6ZLO 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. 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, W6EJF-1 also located on Mt. Oso 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 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.....W6OHF.....537-2785

SECRETARY

Dottie Duncan.....K16YQ.....537-2785

TREASURER

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

HAPPENINGS

Next SARA Meeting

September 20, 1988
Program

Railroading
Jim Johnston

Raffle: Win Money
730 pm

WE MAKE COPIES

YOUR AUTHORIZED

XEROX & TOSHIBA
COPY CENTER

★ FAST SERVICE

SAME DAY SERVICE IN MOST CASES

★ LOW PRICES

- ENLARGEMENTS
- REDUCTIONS
- COLLATING
- COLORED PAPER

BUDGET COPY CENTER

OPEN MON-FRI 8:30 TO 5:30
1325 "I" AT 14TH ST. DOWNTOWN MODESTO

529-5395



FULL & SELF SERVICE
COPYING AVAILABLE

EDITOR'S NOTES

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

Our membership has increased to 162 for the year with the addition of Gordon Olsson, WA6AFR; Randy Francis, KB6-ANA and Hart Bush, (call pending). Gordon lives in Modesto and is a elementary school teacher in Modesto. Randy is a VCR technician and retired Deputy Sheriff. Hart is a new Novice and an attorney in Oakdale. He is a graduate of our current license class and earned a free membership to SARA for the rest of the year in addition to his Novice license. Welcome aboard, we're happy to have you. Also, welcome back to Jerry and Flo Nichols, KL7GHT and KL7-GHV of Modesto. Both were former members before moving to Concord a year or so ago. They back now, and we are glad to have them back as members. Jerry is the Director of Engineer for Channel 19 in Modesto. +++ Congratulations to Bill, WB6-SHE, who got married on August 13, 1988. The new wife is Loretta and she works at a bank. +++ A nice letter was received from Paralee Graham, the mother of Lavonne Scanlon, wife of silent key Jack, W60IN. She

thanked The READOUT for the memorial on Jack and pointed out that Jack loved all of his ham radio friends. She encouraged members of the club to give Lavonne a call once in awhile and cheer her up. (577-0926). Also, a very nice "Thank You" card was received from Lavonne thanking the club for the nice flowers and it's remembrances. +++ Got a post card from Joe, W06W, and his family on vacation in Yellowstone National Park. +++ Best "Bumper Sticker" of the month reads... "Get in. Shut up. Hold on." +++ Our local VE team has taken a name. Henceforth, they will be know as the Tri-County VE team reflecting their services to Stanislaus, Merced and Tuolumne Counties. They will be giving tests in Merced on September 24th at Merced College. Tuolumne City at the Vet's Hall on November 19th and December 8th and 10th in Modesto at County Center # 3. +++ Congratulations to Jim, KB6DJ, who retired from his job after many years of service. Best wishes Jim! +++ W6VY,

(Continued on page 13)

FIELD DAY , 1988

By Dave Bullard, KD6DL

Field Day! Let's see....what's the definition of Field Day? An ARRL sponsored contest? Yes, and No! How about a chance to get out of the shack and into the outdoors? Mostly, it's emergency preparedness, setting up a station in a pinch and making it work. It takes some planning and practice to make it work, but that's part of the exercise. How simple or elaborate the station can get is not as important as getting out there and doing it and enjoying the fun and experience of doing it.

The first thing needed is a site. Then you need the equipment and the operators to work the equipment. This year we selected a site at the rear of the Niles Garden School (where I work) between Ripon and Manteca. It's a nice shady area with big trees to string up antennas. The first job was to contact the Principal, Mr. Cook. Permission was granted and we filled out the necessary paperwork and provided proof of liability insurance to the school district.

Three days before the designated weekend I started getting the trailer packed. It was a little difficult for me because I had just moved and I wasn't sure in which box I would find the items I needed. By Friday afternoon I had loaded most of what I needed and started out for the site. Dann, N6SGT, came over to pull my trailer to the site and we arrived around 6 pm on Friday night. We parked the trailer under some nice shade trees and started to set up the 30' mast for the Cushcraft rotatable dipole and the 80 meter dipole.

Shortly, Bud, N6OCV, showed up with another generator and gave me a hand with the antennas. The weather was not the best to be putting up antennas as thunder and lightning crashes lit up the sky to the East and North but we managed to get the antennas up about 830 pm. Charlie, KJ6GE and his wife Joanne, N6SAH, came by and delivered another generator and stuck around to chew the fat and talk about the upcoming event.

(Continued on Page 5)

FIELD DAY, 1988 (Continued from Page 4)

We set up the Kenwood 430 and the KW amp and we were ready to fire it up and run a test. I checked the SWR on the antennas and everything looked good. I made a quick contact with a station in Ohio with 599+10 signal report. I thought everything was in order as the lightning increased in the distance. So I shut down for a while disconnecting the antennas from the rigs. Around midnight, the lightning started to die down which prompted me to fire up again to see what she would do. I checked into a net without too much trouble but the incoming signals left a lot to be desired. I suspect Murphy had paid me a visit. So, I checked the SWR again and it was in the RED.

I began to suspect the I had fried the balun on the Cushcraft but it was getting very late (130 am) and I decided to hit the sack. I was awakened at 6 am when the two meter talkie sprang to life with the voices of KB6BJH and WB6SHE. Instead of trying to get some more sleep, I decided to take a look at the antennas. Expecting the worst, I lowered the antennas and inspected the balun. I found the balun was OK, but the 14 ga. wire pigtails between the balun and the elements had burned in two.

Around 7 am (Saturday morning) Joe, KB6YTT, dropped by and gave me a hand and to see what Field Day was all about. Together we got the antennas back in the air. Bob, N60CS, showed up with his trailer and then Bud, N60CV and Phil, WD0FFX arrived with more equipment. WG6P, Denny and Tom, N6LSF, called on two meters wanting directions to the site. After they arrived, Denny cooked breakfast (bacon & eggs) while the rest of us strung more antennas.

By the time we finished, it was almost time for the contesting to begin. Denny was already tuned up on 20 meters with his hand on the key and ready for action. At 11 am sharp, we all fired up and we were officially participating in Field Day, 1988. Bud and Joe BBQ'ed lunch (burgers and

(Continued on Page 6)

FIELD DAY, 1988 (Continued from Page 5)

chicken patties and we all took turns operating the equipment. Then we were not operating, we told lots of stories and enjoyed each others company. By midnight the crowd had dwindled to a few, but the bands were still in fair shape. I decided to stay up and try to make a few more points on 80 meters.

Propagation was good only to the Western USA. Checking 40 meters it was so packed you couldn't find a spot or pick out a single station. About 145 am (Sunday morning) I went back to 20 meters and it was still on a roll. At 230 am I was getting rummy and I decided to hit the sack after a pleasant QSO with VK6LC, Mel, in Australia.

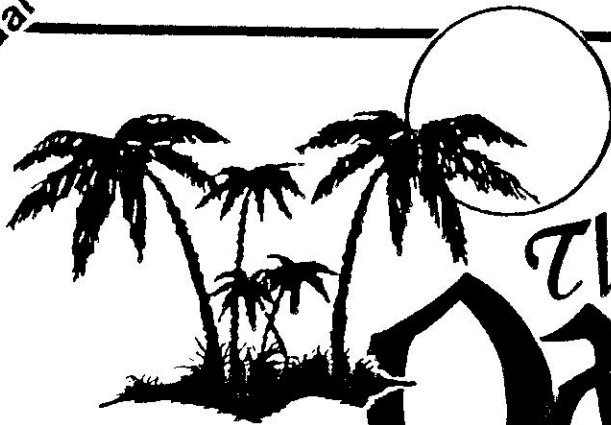
I was so beat that I slept through the rest of Field Day waking up in time to help take it all down. So much for Field Day 88! It was a lot easier to take it all down than it was to put up I can assure you. Thanks to all who came out and I hope you all had fun. I did! Hope to do it again next year.

WB6V-2 BBS SYSTEM ON THE AIR FROM CERES

Stanislaus County's first Packet Bulletin Board (BBS) is on the air 24 hours a day from Ceres. WB6V-2 is operated by Ed Watson, WB6V, on 145.07 Mhz and is part of the Westnet BBS System. This means messages to and from Packeteers throughout the world can be sent and received through WB6V-2. The complete SARA roster is now available from this BBS in the "W" files. To retrieve it, type the letter "W" (without the quotations)

from the command prompt. A list of "W" files will appear. You want the file called "WE" for SARA. So, type "WE" to get the list of what's in the file. Then type DE SARA.ROS. Remember, to have your printer or your disk on to record the roster. It is a 15K file and should take about 5 minutes to download. WB6V-2 is easily accessible locally or through the SARA digipeater on Mt. Dico.

11th Annual



The Oasis

SARA DINNER DANCE

Saturday October 15th

Oasis Restaurant 5001 McHenry
Modesto

Social Hour 630 pm Dinner 730 pm

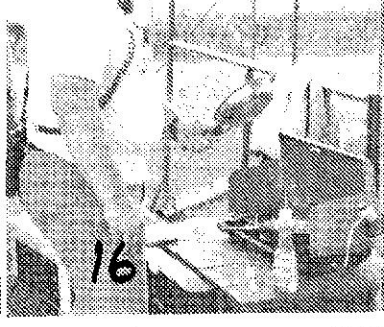
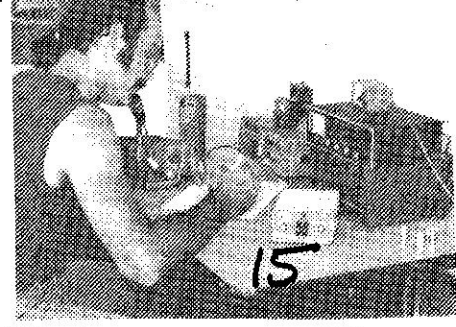
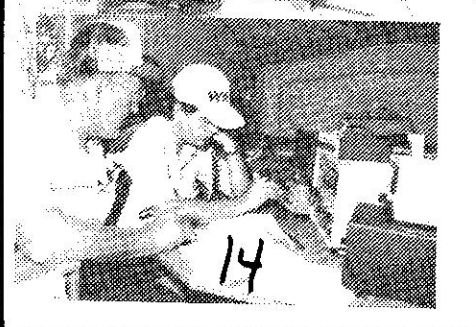
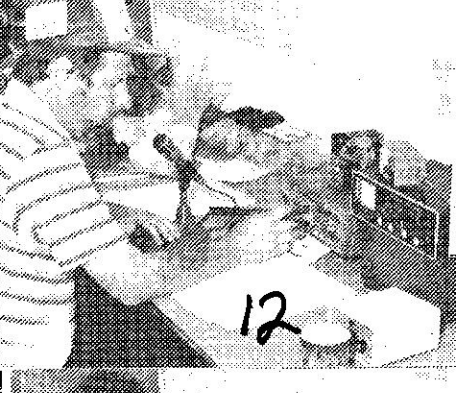
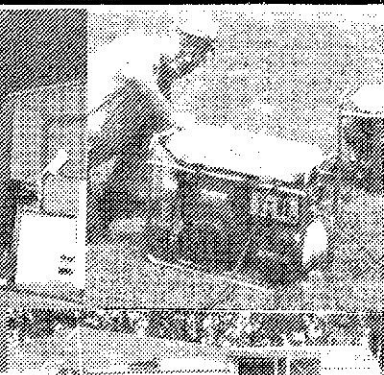
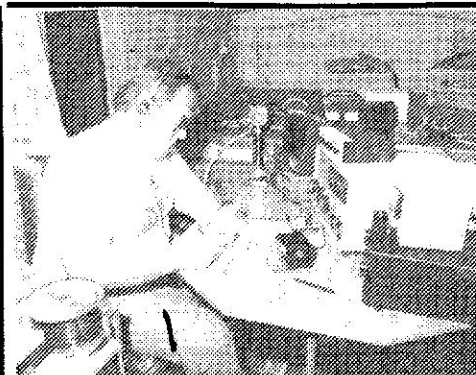
FOR TICKETS CONTACT LORI FARIES, N6JTD, AT 521-7834

\$18 each

\$36 couple

You're Invited...

Dancing by
Skyline Band





FIELD DAY 1988

Niles Garden School, Manteca

1. Denny, WG6P
2. Chet, W6XK and son
3. Bob, N6OCV, checks out the generators.
4. Field Day site.
5. Charlie, KB6GE and Joanne, N6SAH.
6. Dave, KJ6DL with sling shot while N6OCV and WD0FFX see how good his shot is.
7. Marilyn, NQ6H and Bob, OCV.
8. Story telling time.
9. Phil, KB6BJH.
10. Longview shot of FD site.
11. Don, N6SGT and WG6P.
12. KI6DC, Gene.
13. Bob, N6OCS.
14. Glen, KA6WBY and Chet, W6XK
15. KJ6DL, Dave.
16. Denny, WG6P, cooking breakfast.

DX NOTEBOOK

By Tom Farr, WJ60 & Denny Dugal, WG6P

Hello again Big guns and little pistols. Welcome to another edition of the exciting DX news! Lots of new activity this month as the solar cycle continues to build and bring us good conditions. On the top of the list, a couple of Italian operators are visiting their friend Guliano in Somalia. His call is T5GG, and the italians operated very well on cw. They were very good copy on the west coast, and a lot of the deserving made good qso's. Guliano will be a permanent resident of Somalia, so ssb operations will continue for some time. He likes list operations on 20 meters the best. Look for him on 14.183 at 1800Z and 14.236 at 2330Z. The INDEXA group at 14.236.0 has been bringing up some very good dx daily at 0300Z. Stations there during this week were FR4FA/J (Juan de Nova Is.) D6BMB (Comoros Is.) 5R8JD (Malagasy Republic) and C9MKT (Mozambique). Watch this frequency, as they do get some exciting DX! C9MKT has permission to operate from Mozambique, but only for 2 days a month from now until June of 1989. Watch

the bulletins for the expected times of operation. Another good net frequency is on 14.165 at 1300Z each morning. A group of Asian stations congregate there, and you might find XU1SS (Kampuchea), FT5ZB (Amsterdam Is.) or 3B9FR (Rodriquez Is.) on the net. It will be old news by the time you read this, but a group of Canadians along with WSKNE, Bob Winn, who is editor of QRZ DX, are on from CY9DXX, which is ST. Paul Island, off the coast of Nova Scotia. It counts as a separate country, and has not been on the air for about 4 years, so is a nice catch. The usual DX frequencies will get them. EA9IE and company are still planning the much awaited expedition to 4W0EA (Yemen). Problems with visas and getting equipment into the country have caused delays in this one, but as soon as other personal family commitments are over, Juan and the Lynx DX group still plan on making this one a reality. An interest--

(Continued on next page)

-ing side note is that there has been a station on signing 4W0CRC and the rumor mill has it that this is a national who may just be good!! So, WFWL (work first, worry later.!!) There has been a lot of activity lately out of EP (Iran). This may be good because with the onset of the cease fire, the country just may come back on the air as a legal operation. Certainly, there is a good chance that the UN peace forces may be able to operate from there as they do from the Golan Heights area of Syria. If you here a station signing /4U, you can bet its the peace forces somewhere. All in all, if you hear an EP,WFWL. The solar flux levels continue to be high with levels reaching 183 last month. Too bad that along with this, there have been several days where the A (absorption) index has also been high. When the A index is above 10, the bands tend to go flat, as signals are absorbed by the atmosphere, and so not much is reflected back to earth. The WWV forecast is a pretty good indicator of how the bands are going to be. Like the

weatherman though, it doesn't always hold true. Best indicator is to tune up and see for yourself. The latest news from France for QSLing purposes is that green stamps may not be the best way to secure cards from French managers anymore. F6FNU, perhaps the most famous manager in the world, and certainly in France tells us that with the weight of the dollar against the franc, one green stamp is no longer enough for return postage to the USA. He suggests using 2 green stamps or 2 IRC's. You can get IRC's for \$.95 each from the post office, or some managers sell them for \$.50 each. So you may try that method for future cards from France. Also, it is supposed to be forbidden to receive foreign money in the Soviet Union, so be careful when QSLing direct into the USSR. Word has it that the penalties for being caught there with foreign monies are very severe. Ok gang, that about wraps it up for this edition. Take care and we will see you in the pile-ups!

SARA DIGI OFF THE AIR PENDING IMPROVEMENTS

The SARA digipeater, WD6EJF-1, (145.07), as of this report, is out of service. It failed in early August. The club authorized \$150.00 to improve the system which has been marginal in service. A 45 watt Motorola Micor mobile unit has been purchased along with new coax. As soon as the crystals arrive and the Micor is tuned up on 145.07, a crew will go to the hill and make the improvements. The improvements also include changing the current 1/2 vertical antenna to a Ringo Ranger which the club already owns. With the improvements, the digi is expected to provide solid coverage from Sacramento to Fresno and the Central Sierra. Because the digi is located on the high-

est point of Mt. Oso, it also looks at Contra Costa and portions of Alameda Counties (Livermore Area) and portions of the South Bay (San Jose). The digi will provide dependable access to the following BBS systems. WB6V-2 Ceres; W6FGC-2 Twain Harte and WD6Y, Fairfield. In addition, (when conditions are good) the following BBS's may be reached through WD6EJF-1. KE6LW-1, Yuba City; WA4PHY, Fairfield; N6QGS-1, Vacaville and KG6XX-1 Sacramento. The path to these systems has not been tested yet, but they are certainly possibilities. The digi improvements should be finished by late this month or early September.

FCC LICENSING FIGURES

FCC licensing figures as of the end of May show that more new amateur licenses were issued during the first five months of this year than in any other recent year except 1987 (which had an unusually large number during May, the result of people slipping under the wire before the Novice Enhancement rules took effect). We've welcomed 10,743 newcomers to our ranks in the first five months of this year. Even more impressive, there were 11,941 upgrades during the same five-month period. This is more than twice the number just four years ago, and is an 18% increase over the same period last year.

FCC DECIDES TO TAKE BOTTOM PORTION OF 220 BAND

On August 4, 1988, the FCC adopted a report and order in General Docket 87-14, the proposal to reallocate the 220-222 MHz band to the land mobile service. In balancing the impact on existing users, emergency communications, and future amateur growth against land mobile requirements, the commissioners concluded that the reallocation was in the public interest despite overwhelming opposition. Wishing to reassure amateurs of its strong sup-

port for the service, FCC emphasized that the remaining 3 MHz of the band, 222-225 MHz, would be available to amateurs on an exclusive basis, thus removing the cloud that has hung over the status of the band for many years. The effective date of the reallocation will be announced later. ARRL continues to oppose the reallocation and will pursue all available means to reverse the commission action. -ARRL Bulletin

EDITOR'S NOTES (Continued from page 3)

Mike, has moved back to Modesto from New Jersey. Mike took a position with the AT&T office in Pleasanton and commutes back and forth each day. +++ The Fresno Packet EBS system has moved to Fresno. N6HAV gave up the box after 3 and 1/2 years of operation. It's now in Merced operated by K6RAU and is accessed as K6RAU-1 on 145.-09. Don't forget the SARA dinner-dance is coming up next month (October 15th).

It's the club's social function of the year and you don't want to miss it. Tickets are available from Lori, N6JTD, at 571-7834. If she's not home, leave a message on her answering machine and she will mail you the tickets. A great time was had by all last year, so make your plans now to be there at the Oasis Restaurant. That's it for this month. 73. Bob.

SIGN IN A MOTEL: Inn Mates Wanted!"

ON THE AGENDA

The July 19, 1988 meeting of SARA was called to order at 7:35 pm by VP Bill, WA6DHP. Introduction of visitors and members followed. The secretary's minutes were approved as read. The treasurer's report was read. The beginning balance was \$1,363.07 and after bills were paid we had a balance of \$1,061.61. Phil, WD0FFX, gave a report on our current Novice class. 4 of the currently enrolled students were at the meeting. One of the students, George Enos, of Lathrop, has already passed his Novice test and is studying for his Technician license. Dave, KJ6DL, gave a report on Field Day and reported that a good time was had by all. About 1,000 contacts were made and the food was great. VP DHP reported that all plans are go for the picnic on August 6th starting at 3 pm at the Tuolumne River Regional Park. The Incident Command class has been postponed until fall. There was great difficulty for the team to find a good time. DHP also reported on Jack Scanlon who was holding his own. Bob, N60CS, reported that he received a letter from the bank advising that due to

inactivity with our fund-raising account, the bank will close it. FFX moved that we use the account for monies received for the club station. Bob, ZLO, seconded and the motion was unanimously accepted. DHP reported for NV68 that funds were needed to improve the club's digipeater on Mt. Oso. Needed was 50 feet of coax and a battery for power backup. ZLO explained the operation of the digi and it's recent move from 145.01 to 145.07 MHz. FFX moved that the club authorize up to \$150 for the needed parts and Lilli, KB6CCL, seconded. Motion carried. DHP asked for a volunteer to chair the club's communications effort for the upcoming Bike-a-thon on September 25th. FFX accepted with help from KJ6DL. ZLO requested the club reconsider the matter of the club's ad in WorldRadio. The matter was voted down at the June meeting. At that time the club felt that the cost was not worth it. ZLO pointed out the value of the ad and the fact that the club receives 9 subscription forms to WorldRadio valued at \$108 for the cost of the

ad, which is \$60.00. The subscriptions, as in the past, could be sold at club meetings and the full cost recouped with some left over for the treasury. KI6DC, Gene, moved, FFX seconded to renew and passed unanimously. FFX mentioned that several former members have not renewed their membership and should be contacted. ZLO explained that we shouldn't be alarmed as some have left for valid reasons. Many had moved from the area. Dave, KJ6DL, was asked to be Field Day Chairman for 1989 and accepted. Chet, W6XK, reported on the VE test session coming up in August. Merced have their VE session on September 24th. We adjourned at 825 pm singing happy birthday to Bob, N60CS.

Stanislaus County's first Packet Bulletin Board (BBS) is on the air 24 hours a day from Ceres. WB6V-2 is operated by Ed Watson, WB6V, on 145.07 Mhz and is part of the Westnet BBS System. This means messages to and from Packeteers throughout the world can be sent and received through WB6V-2. The complete SARA roster is now available from this BBS in the "W" files. To retrieve it type the letter "W" (without the quotations) from the command prompt. A list of "W" files will appear. You want the file called "WE" for SARA. So, type "WE" to get the list of what's in the file. Then type DE SARA.ROS. Remember, to have your printer or your disk on to record the roster.

AMATEUR LICENSE RENEWAL

LICENSE ISSUED	TERM	GRACE PERIOD	RENEWAL IN FIRST 2 YRS. AFTER EXPIRATION	RENEWAL AFTER 2 YEARS
Prior 1984	5yrs.	5 yrs.	Keep same call	FCC issues new call.
1984 & After	10yrs	2 yrs	Keep same call	Lose license

To renew your license, complete a FCC form 610 and mail it to: FCC P.O. Box 1020 Gettysburg, PA. 17326. 610 forms are available from the SARA Secretary for an SASE.



CALENDAR



- Sept. 9-11, 1988.....ARRL National Convention
Portland, Oregon.....3 days
- Sept. 20, 1988.....SARA Monthly meeting.....730 pm
Program: Railroading with
Jim Johnson.
- Sept. 24, 1988.....VE Exams at Merced College 900 am
- Oct. 14-15 & 1988.....Pacificon'88 Pacific Division Con-
16 vention 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
- Dec. 20, 1988.....SARA Monthly meeting.....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 at 730 pm. Visitors and interested parties are welcome .

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

<p>Bulk Rate USPOSTAGE PAID Permit No. 5 Modesto, Calif</p>
--

~~1500~~
~~ERRILL COTTAGE~~
~~NAME~~
~~PO BOX 50~~
~~CELESTIA CA 95307~~

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