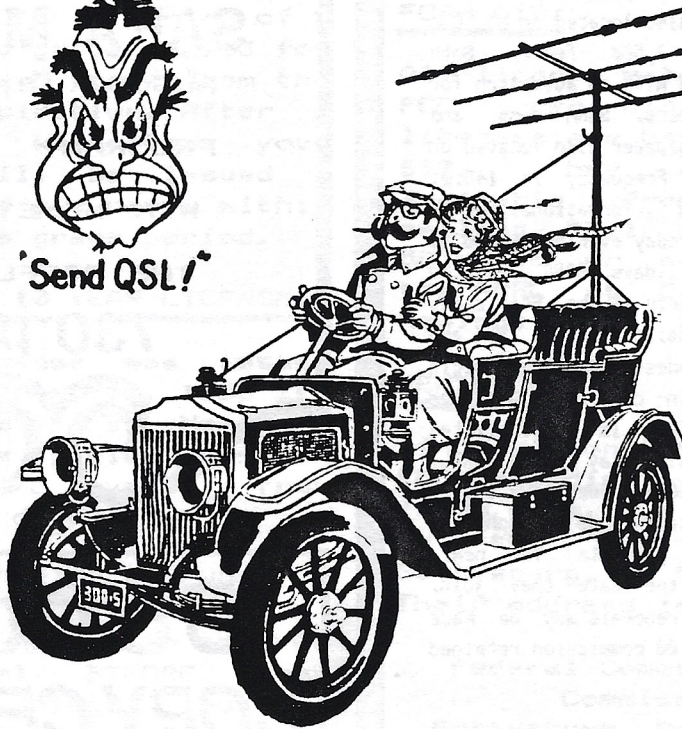


# The READOUT

Vol. 10 No. 8 Aug 1987

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DXpedition Aug 22 & 23

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



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READOUT is the official publication of the STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INC. "SARA" P.O. Box 4681 Modesto, CA. 95352. Entered as bulk 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, W6GZLO at 1221 Mist Flower Ct. Modesto, CA. 95355. 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 of 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 also located on Mt. Dso at 3500 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 12th and H streets in downtown Modesto. Meetings begin at 730 pm. SARA is incorporated with the State of California. SARA is an affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and Stanislaus County RACES. Dues are \$15.00 per annum, \$7.50 for students up to sophomore in college. Dues are pro-rated for newly joining members from the date they join. ARRL membership and QST renewals may be made through SARA with a \$2.00 commission retained by SARA.

#### PRESIDENT

Denny Dugal.....W66P.....571-9846

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Bud Pelletier.....N6OCV.....823-8877

#### SECRETARY

Laverne Landeros.....K6GECF.....578-5554

#### TREASURER

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

## HAPPENINGS

### Next SARA Meeting

AUGUST 18, 1987

PROGRAM— OPEN

WIN MONEY IN

THE RAFFLE

730 pm

## BUDGET COPY CENTER

1325 J STREET  
MODESTO, CA 95354  
TELEPHONE 529-5395



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## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW RENEWING YOUR LICENSE

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There have been many changes in FCC rules during the last few years, several of which impact on your Amateur license. Here's a list of the rules as of July, 1987.

### RENEWAL 5 YEAR LICENSE:

If your license was issued before December 16, 1983 it was issued for a period of 5 years. The grace period for renewal is 5 years from the date of expiration. After 2 years you will lose your call and will be issued a new call if you renew within the 5 years grace period.

### RENEWAL OF 10 YEAR LICENSE:

If your license was issued AFTER December 16, 1983 its good for 10 years. However, your grace period to renew is only 2 years from expiration date.

### OPERATING DURING RENEWAL:

If you send in to the FCC for renewal BEFORE your license expires, you may continue to operate your station past the expiration date of your license. If you send in for renewal AFTER the expiration date

and during the grace period, you CANNOT operate until your renewed license comes in.

### FEE:

There is no charge for Amateur licenses.

### FORM 610:

All license matters with the FCC regarding Amateur licenses are handled on form 610. They are readily available from SARA by calling Phil, WD0FFX, at 523-9018 or by writing to the ARRL at 225 Main St. Newington, CT. 06111.

### REMINDER:

If you don't hear from the FCC regarding your license in 90 days, you should write to the FCC at their Gettysburg, PA office. Their address is simply,

Federal Communications  
Commission  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
17235



# THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.

## SECTION MANAGER

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Charles P. McConnell W6DPD

The ARRL Board met for its second meeting of 1987 in Atlanta, Georgia, July 9-10, 1987.

In consideration of the proposal to allow the private sector to be involved in callsign assignment the ARRL strongly supported the idea that the assignment and issuance of callsigns is a governmental function and should be carried out by the FCC. However, if the FCC chooses to delegate a part of its function, the ARRL would seek to undertake it under certain conditions. Among these are: there being only one organization doing this, the FCC continuing to issue licenses and initial callsigns, the FCC continuing to maintain its own database, and a reasonable fee system is present so the system is self supporting.

The Board authorized the refurbishing of the Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, and the raising of the necessary funds. The building of the visitors center at Headquarters will be put in abeyance until a more fortuitous time. Funds will be sought for a possible new ARRL Station to serve the West Coast, Alaska, and Hawaii.

The Diamond Jubilee ARRL National Convention will be in Dallas, Texas, on June 2-4, 1989. A Diamond Jubilee Worked All States (WAS) featuring the 12 meter band was authorized. Plaques will be provided to the first 10 amateurs to make DXCC on 6 meters and to the first 10 to make DXCC on 2 meters.

An interim band plan for packet radio on frequencies up to 225 MHz was adopted.

The complete minutes of the Board meeting will be in the September issue of QST.

The ARRL has requested the FCC allow special commemorative call signs in celebration of the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution from September 17, 1987 to December 31, 1988. The proposal asks that Amateurs operating in their traditional callsign districts be allowed to replace the numeral in their callsign with a two digit numeral corresponding to the order of entry into the Union.



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## AMATEUR CALL SIGNS

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As of June 1, 1987 the FCC issued the following Amateur radio call signs in the sixth call district. The calls are issued by computer in sequential order.

EXTRA-- AA6CP.

ADVANCED--KI6TM.

GENERAL/TECHNICIAN--N6PNJ.

NOVICE--KB6SYY.

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## NEW VOA RELAY STATION

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Israel will be the site of a massive radio relay station for the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty broadcasts to the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa. The USSR is now beaming Radio Moscow on weekends to the U.S. from Cuba on 1040 kHz.



THE GUY WHO WRITES ALL THOSE COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS CAME OVER TO LOOK AT MY NEW "UNDERGROUND ANTENNA" AND ACCIDENTALLY FELL IN!

WORLD RADIO, August 1987

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## THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.

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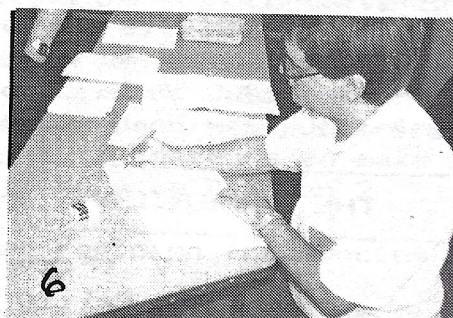
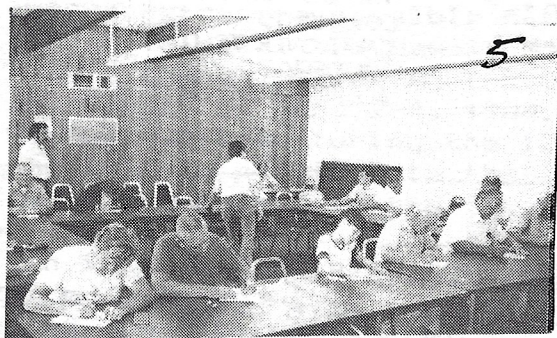
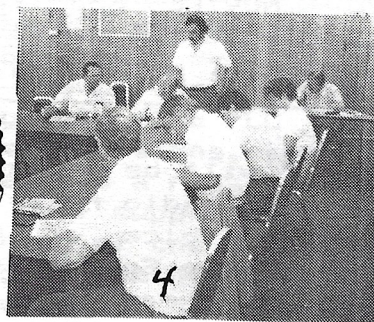
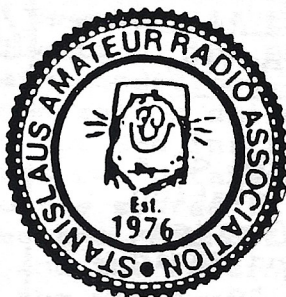
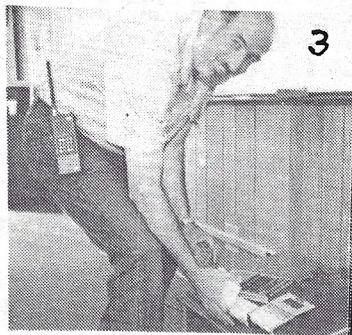
(From previous page)

For example, in California KB6ZV would become KB31ZV. W7POR operating in California would *NOT* be allowed to use 31 because he is not operating in the 7th call district.

Pre-registered radio clubs could replace the numeral in their club callsign with 200 for a 1 week period corresponding to that states entry into the Union. For example, W1AW would become W200AW for 1 week in January. An answer from the FCC is expected soon. *ARRL LETTER* V6N13.

The ARRL Pacific Division is October 2-4, 1987 at the LeBaron Hotel in San Jose.





**SARA JUNE 6TH V.E. EXAM!**  
 (1) The examiners from left to right. Joe, WQ6W. Fred, K6-RAU and Chet, W6XK. (2) Applicants waiting to enter testing room. (3) Phil, WD0FXX getting the code tapes ready. (4) Applicants getting ready while Joe, WQ6W assists. (5) Tests begin. (6) Chet, W6XK, grades tests.

**ARRL affiliated club**



**VE Test  
Sponsored by**



**Aug. 15, 1987  
County Center 3  
Modesto**

**Contact Person**

**N6LRZ 537-2785**

**Walkin's OK**

**TEST SCHEDULE**

900 AM...20 WPM CODE  
930 AM...13 WPM CODE  
1000 AM... 5 WPM CODE  
1030 AM.. ALL WRITTEN  
ELEMENTS



**"Agnesi It's that heavy, chewing sound  
again!"**

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**POSTAL RATE INCREASE DUE NEXT YEAR**

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Apparently, all is not as well with the U.S. Postal Service as believed. There is a move underway within the Reagan administration to remove the first class letter delivery monopoly that the USPS currently enjoys. FTC Chairman, Daniel Oliver proposes to repeal the Private Express Statutes passed by Congress in 1872 to protect USPS revenues. In the interim, you can expect a 13.6% increase in the first class postal rates next year to 25 cents. Magazines will pay 9 to 19% more for second class rates, and third class mailers will increase up to 32%. Rates for overnight mail, however, where the USPS has big competition from Federal Ex-

**... See page 11**



# Alpine Co. DXpedition Aug 22 & 23

"CQ CQ CQ de WD6EJF Alpine Co. CA. QRZ?"....

"I#\$%&(>+)(P('&\$#... "OK, the station with Papa in the call go," "Victor Papa, Victor Papa" "GPJ, Golf Papa Juliet"...

"Roger Victor Papa go" "Roger WD6EJF this is AD3VP, Alpha Oscar Three Victor Papa, name here is Seve, you are 5 and 8 in Rota Spain" "Roger Seve you're 5-7, 5-7 in California, QSL via the call book, go"

"Roger thank you for the contact" "GPJ go" "WD6EJF this is UA2GPJ you are 5 and 4, 5-4 in the Soviet Union" "Roger UA2GPJ you're 5-8, 5-8 in Alpine County" "Thank you" "you're welcome. This is WD6EJF Alpine County Europe only please

QRZ?"... "#&(<(\$'' '&%)@'@%\$#+(<+% \$P&\$&FBD(<'&)\$#"... "OK FBD go ahead" "Roger WD6EJF this is GA2FBD, Golf Alpha Two Fox Bravo Dog" "Fine GA2FBD go ahead" "OK you are >>WHISKEY ALPHA TWO LOUSY INCONSIDERATE DERELICT".... "Please stand by, GA2FBD try again please".

This is just an example of what you may hear on the air. If it doesn't make any sense to you don't feel alone. I try to think of it as creative puzzle solving.

The Alpine County trip is just around the corner and the logistics are falling into place, however some of the excitement seems to be wearing off. Only about six people have signed up to operate. There is room for everyone so don't be bashful. Remember this is a Club project. It would be nice to see everyone get fifteen to thirty minutes of operating time instead of some of us spending eight to ten hours. Don't feel insecure, few have experienced this kind of situation before so we're all novices. Myself included. So plan on coming up to beautiful Alpine County and spending the day and help out so we can all spend a little time bothering the fish.

Speaking of bothering the fish, some of the other things you may want to think about doing while you're up there are: hiking, swimming, photography, and general sight seeing, just to name a few.

If you want an operating time contact Denny W6SP. First come, first served. Sign up as soon as possible so we can get a count for dinner Saturday night. We need to know as soon as possible



The exact site has not been pinned down yet partly because we don't know how many are coming. We have two sites picked out that are only a few miles from each other. The one that will be best for propagation will only handle about five RV's. The alternate, however, has plenty of room for everyone. Site A is just off Hwy 4 about 5 miles above (east of) Lake Alpine. Site B is at Hermit Valley, a few miles farther. Talk in will be on 146.52 simplex and/or the club repeater if we can reach it. Simplex coverage should be down to Bear Valley from site A. You will not be able to reach site B until you start the down grade about six or seven miles above Lake Alpine. Driving time from Modesto will be about two hours. From Modesto take Hwy 108 to Sonora, turn left on 49 to Angels Camp, then right on Hwy 4 to the site. Alternately, take McHenry North to Farmington, then turn right on Hwy 4 to the site. From Stockton / Manteca pickup Hwy 4 just south of Stockton. From north of there take Hwy 12 east from Lodi to San Andreas, then south on 49 to Angels Camp, then east on Hwy 4. We're in pretty good shape as far as antennas and stations

but we could use some support in the way of masts and rotators. Contact Phil, WD0-FFX. We could also use tents and tarps for shade and in case of rain. We plan to have three stations on the air. One for Novices, one for CW and one for Phone. We have the equipment, all we need are the operators. You will need to bring your own food except for Saturday night when we will have a community feed. Contact Jim, N6KMR for details. If you plan to stay overnight and haven't made plans to stay with someone you will need, at the very least, a warm sleeping bag and an air mattress.

A word of CAUTION. If we are at Hermit Valley the last couple of miles is steep downhill. If you are driving an RV use low gears and save your brakes. the rest of the roads are no problem.

Hope to see you there.

-Alpine frequencies-

CW- 3535, 7035, 14035,  
21035.  
Phone- 3850, 7250, 14250,  
21250.  
Novice-7112, 21112  
28112, 28312

All frequencies plus or  
minus the QRM.



## RADIO SHACK PACKAGE

The Tandy Co. of Fort Worth, Texas has contracted with W5YI, Fred Maia, and Bordan West, WB6NOA, to produce and sell a self-study Novice License package which should be available in all 8,500 Radio Shack stores worldwide within days. The retail price will be \$19.95 for a fully illustrated 112 page textbook and two code cassette tapes. The decision by Radio Shack to offer the package was brought about by the new Novice Enhancement program and the interest in Amateur radio of Radio Shack's VP of Consumer Products Merchandising, Robert Miller, N5KLR, who recently acquired his license. FCC statistics show that for the 60 day period March 21, 1987 (Novice Enhancement began) to May 31, 1987 ham radio applications seeking to enter the hobby skyrocketed to 10,314 compared to 3,418 for the same period in 1985 and 4,893 in 1986. Radio Shack plans to advertise the Amateur Novice Voice Class package in their fall 1987 circular in full color. Some 15 million copies of the circular will be circulated. In addition, the package will be included in their 1988 catalog of which 40 million will be printed and distributed worldwide.

## PIRATE CB NET SMASHED

The FCC has shut down the Pirate Radio Network, a club of some 300 outlaw CB operators who have interfered with radio and TV reception in the Los Angeles area for more than five years. Kingpin of the illegal network reportedly was Laszlo Hirsh, who also holds the amateur radio callsign, WA5SWB. Hirsh, an electronics expert reportedly holding degrees from UCLA and a technical institute in his native Hungary, was known in the club as "Pirate Zero." He has been fined \$1,300 and additional action is contemplated. The network used a sophisticated touch-tone accessed repeater to boost their 27.275 MHz (CB channel 27) signals, a mode not authorized for the CB band. The network also had cross-band links to 49 MHz cordless telephone frequencies and General Mobile Radio Service channels in the 467 MHz range.

### ... de W5YI Report

MINUTES: The minutes of the July meeting were not received in time to be included this month. They will be included in the September issue.



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**SEX LIFE IS SHOT !    OLD AGE IS HELL!**

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The body gets stiff--you get cramps in your legs--  
Corns on your feet as big as hen's eggs.  
Gas in stomach- elimination poor and sudden.  
Take Exlax at night- sometimes mess your pants.  
You soak in tub, or your body will smell--  
Like I said, OLD AGE is HELL.

Teeth start decaying, eye sight poor--  
Hair falling out- all over the floor.  
Sex life is shot- it's a thing of the past--  
Don't kid yourself, friend- even that doesn't last.  
Can't go to parties, don't dance anymore--  
Just putting it mildly, you're one helluva bore.

Liquor is out- can't take a chance.  
Bladder is weak- might pee in your pants.  
Nothing to plan for, nothing to expect--  
Just the mailman with your disability check.  
So if this season- you feel fairly well--  
Thank God you're alive, although OLD AGE is HELL!

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**POSTAL INCREASE**


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...From page 7

press, United Parcel and many others, will be re-structured to make them more competitive. If these figures hold true and the increase in 3rd class mail goes up 32%, that would mean an increase of \$8.00 a month to mail the newsletters. The current cost is \$25.00 a month for two hundred copies.

Page 11

10th Annual



**The Oasis**  
**SARA DINNER DANCE**  
Saturday October 3rd  
Oasis Restaurant 5001 McHenry  
Modesto  
Social Hour 630pm Dinner 730pm

*You're Invited...*

Dancing by  
Skyline Band



---

## THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE GLOBAL RADIO NETWORK

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Ed. Note...A little over a year ago, SARA had the opportunity to tour the Voice of America Relay station at Delano. The tour was enjoyed by all including Bruce, NK6C, who sent in the following story which shows that the Voice of America is indeed a global radio network. Thanks Bruce!

The Voice of America (VOA) is the global radio network of the United States Information Agency (USIA), which seeks to promote understanding abroad for the United States, its people, culture and policies. The VOA broadcasts in 42 regularly scheduled languages with other languages specially programmed. 1,221 1/4 hours of direct broadcasts per week include the VOA's Radio Marti and the VOA in Europe. By comparison, the USSR broadcasts 2,259 hours per week, the Peoples' Republic of China, 1,411. Arab Republic of Egypt, 820; Federal Republic of Germany, 821 and the United Kingdom 737 hours. In addition, indirect broadcasts of VOA programs are made by local station in other countries. Over 266,000 letters were received from overseas listeners in 1984. In 1985 the amount increased to 375,192 and 522,029 in 1986. The VOA operates from their

master control room located in Washington, D.C. and maintains 38 studios throughout the country. 33 studios alone in the nation's capital, two in New York City and one each in Chicago, Los Angeles and Miami. The VOA transmits from four transmitting sites across the country with a total of 33 domestic transmitters which are located at Delano, CA.; Greenville, North Carolina and Bethany, Ohio. There are 79 overseas transmitters located in Antigua, Belize, Botswana, Costa Rica, England, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Liberia and Morocco. If combined, the total power of all 112 transmitters would be a whopping 25,515 KILOWATTS. Signals are beamed on medium and shortwave frequencies to listeners in Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and Pacific areas. To supply programming to these transmitters, 22 commercial satellite circuits are used. There are nearly 3,000 (2975) authorized positions within the VOA. 2,126 positions in the U.S. and 849 abroad which include foreign nationals.



The most recent addition to the VOA has been Radio Marti which came on the air in 1986 to beam spanish language programs to Cuba and the Carribean. Radio Marti broadcasts 12 1/2 hours a week from two studios in Washington, D.C. and one in Miami, Florida. Their transmitter is located in Marathon, Florida. 187 people are assigned to Radio Marti with a budget of over \$11 million for 1987. The VOA's total proposed operating budget for 1987 is \$169 million. If you find yourself in Washington D.C. someday, take advantage of the free tours given by the USIA at the headquarters of the VOA which are located on the second floor at 330 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20547. The tours are 30 minutes long and are given at 845, 945, and 1045 am and 145 and 245 pm Mondays-Fridays except holidays. Reservations are preferred. You can write to the address above or call the VOA's office of Public Affairs, at area code 202-485-6231 to make reservations for the tour.

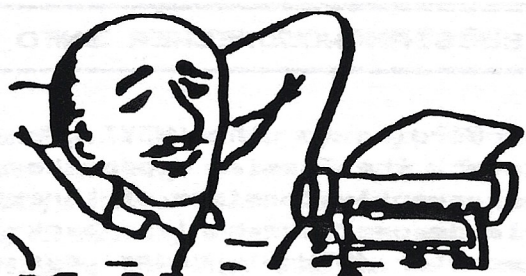
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U.S. Information Agency

#### RUSSIAN WOODPECKER INFO

According to the W3YI Report, the Russian Woodpecker apparently consists of three large over-the-horizon backscatter (OTH-B) radar systems. One near Nikolayevsk-na-Amure in the extreme eastern Soviet Union, another near Gomel, about 175 miles southeast of Minsk and a third near Nikolayevsk in the Caucasus Mountains. The first two are directed at U.S. ICBM fields and could provide 30 minutes warning of an attack. They also can detect planes. The third OTH-B radar is directed southeast to provide warning of a Chinese ICBM strike. The transmissions are extremely powerful, 20 to 40 megawatts or more and range across the HF band from 4 to 27 MHz, depending upon ionospheric conditions. At dawn they generally occur at about 14 MHz or below. They appear to center around 14.215 MHz in the Amateur band. The signals move up and down the 4 to 27 spectrum in 10 KHz steps at intervals of 30 seconds to 10 minutes. The bandwidth varies from 30 kHz to more than 300 KHz. The "Woodpecker" has a basic pulse repetition frequency of 10 per second.





## Editor's WA6ZLO Notes

A warm SARA welcome to Charles Franklin and Shirley Armentrout both of Modesto who are the latest members of the Club. Both are new Novices and are awaiting their calls. Both graduated from the current SARA License class. Also, welcome to Rudolfo Rulloda, KB6NSE of Fresno. Rudy is a clerical worker for the Internal Revenue Service in Fresno. He was first licensed at KH6IHO in 1971 and also held the call KX6RR. Rudy is an Advanced class operator. Welcome Rudy! Congratulations to Nancy Woodard, wife of Whit, KB6SEZ, on obtaining her Novice license. She is KB6TGD. By the way, Whit and Nancy have moved to Citrus Heights where Whit has accepted a new job. +++ I happen to have some figures on

where the READOUT goes each month. Last month 8 copies went to Manteca, 10 to Oakdale, 8 to Stockton, 15 to Ceres, 19 to the 95351 Modesto Zip Code area, 25 to the 95350 Modesto Zip Code area, 23 to the 95355 Modesto Zip Code area, 11 to Turlock, 72 to various locations in the State of California and 9 out of state including, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Connecticut and Indiana. That's a total of 200 copies each month. +++ The Mt. Diablo 145.41 and Mt. Beacon 145.49 repeaters owned by WA6EUZ are in serious financial trouble according to a plea for funds request placed on various Packet BBS systems in Northern California by KK-1A. The request stated that their rent and power bills were coming due and there was insufficient funds to pay the bills. We also learned that plans to move the 41 machine from Diablo to Pollack Pines and link it with the 49 machine in Marin County have been put on hold because of the funds emergency. +++ Speaking of repeaters, Burt, W6FBC, of Twain Harte has sold his 224.04 machine to Bob, KA6LSL of Livermore. Bob has plans of linking it with other systems as far South



as the Grapevine (South of Bakersfield) and possibly to the North. The machine continues to operate from Fowler Peak in Calaveras County. +++ According to the Sonora Pass Amateur Radio Klub newsletter, SPARK-BAP, the annual picnic of the Tuolumne County Repeater Association, Tuolumne Amateur Radio Society and the Sonora Pass Amateur Radio Klub will be held on August 16th at the Pioneer Trail Campground # 3 near Pinecrest. The picnic begins at noon and you can get more info on either 146.11 or 146.945. +++ Condolences to John, N6JSN of Ceres on the death of his father Ted De Roos. Mr. De Roos was 85 and a retired merchant. He was born in Tyndall, South Dakota in 1902. +++ Congratulations to Harry Lafferty upon his retirement from State employment in Sacramento. Harry and wife Olive are into raising cactus and, among other things, that's keeping them busy. Good Luck Harry. +++ Bob, W6KU, and wife Helen are getting ready to travel some more. This time to Scandinavia. They will be making the trip with friends from New Zealand. +++ Don't forget to look for the DXpeditioners from Alpine County on August 22 or 23. That's it for this month. 73, Bob.

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#### ADVERTIZING IN READOUT

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Yes, we do accept ad's for publication in READOUT. Our rates are:

Business Card- 2" X 3"  
 \$10.00 per month.  
 Half Page- 3 3/4" X 6"  
 \$17.50 per month.  
 Full Page- 7 1/2" X 6"  
 \$30.00 per month.

Ad's must be camera ready and submitted directly to the editor at 1221 Mist Flower Ct. Modesto, CA. 95355 prior to the third Tuesday of preceeding month in which it is to appear.



Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Rader.  
 Ernie, K6UVI & Rita at  
 their May wedding in  
 Modesto.



# CALENDAR

Aug. 15, 1987...SARA VE Test 900 a.m.  
Aug. 18, 1987...SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.  
Aug. 22-23, 1987...DXpedition to Alpine County  
Sept. 15, 1987...SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.  
Oct. 3, 1987...SARA 10th annual dinner-dance  
Oasis Restaurant on McHenry.  
Oct. 20, 1987...SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.  
KB6DIV Boating in the Sea of  
Cortez.  
Nov. 17, 1987...SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.  
Nomination of 1988 officers.  
Dec. 15, 1987...SARA Monthly Meeting 730 p.m.  
Election of 1988 officers.

SARA meets the third Tuesday of each month (except holidays) at the Stanislaus County Administration Building at 12th and H streets in Modesto. The meetings are held in the lower-level conference room starting at 730 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

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Modesto, Calif.

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