



# The READOUT

YEAR 12

NUMBER 8

AUG. 1989



YEAH O.M., THAT FIVE THIRTEEN REALLY  
SOUNDS GREAT, BUT DON'T BUY IT THERE!  
YOU CAN GET IT AT CUTTHROAT SAM'S FOR  
FIFTY BUCKS LESS!

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



*The 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 *The READOUT* are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor, Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO 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, WD6EJF-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 \$20.00 per annum and \$10 for students up to sophomores in college. Dues are prorated 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**

WD0FFX ..... Phil Hart ..... 523-9018

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

N6SAH ..... Joanne Shaffer ..... 537-5205

#### **SECRETARY**

N6REB ..... Linda Franklin ..... 537-1123

#### **TREASURER**

KB6ECF ..... Laverne Landeros ..... 578-5554

#### **The READOUT EDITOR**

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

## **NEXT SARA MEETING AUG.15, 1989**

**730 PM**

**County Administration  
Building.**

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Modesto, CA.**

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# FCC RELEASES REWRITTEN AMATEUR RULES

The new Part 97 (rewrite) of ham radio rules has been released by the FCC. The rewritten rules are now more meaningful, easier to use and contains about 25 % less wording.

The FCC addressed many issues that came up during the rewrite including Quiet Hours, On the Air Swap Nets, Emergency Communications and Commercial News Gathering to name a few.

The Commission considered many comments regarding prohibiting Amateur Radio communications ...including communications in logistical support of public gatherings, Amateurs selling personally owned equipment on the air, broadcast related activities, retransmitted signals and programming of stations in other radio services, etc.

The FCC did not agree with the ARRL's contention that the FCC's originally proposed quiet hours rule violated the principle of due process of law. Despite very widespread opposition, the FCC refused to change its position which provides for certain specific time periods for the imposition of restrictions against Amateur radio station transmissions interfering with stations in other services and that unspecified steps may be taken as

necessary to minimize interference following an FCC investigation.

The Commission ruled that Non-Commercial "swap nets" will be permitted on Amateur frequencies provided the goods are offered on an irregular basis without profit motives.

The FCC let stand their rule that retransmitting signals from other services, i.e. weather, propagation and time bulletins, will remain prohibited. Although Amateurs temporarily bridge the gap when disaster strikes and normal communications systems are overloaded, damaged or disrupted, the FCC ruled that Amateur stations should not be used, however, as an alternative to other authorized radio services.

The FCC said they would allow Amateur communications that relate to the public's safe observation and participation in a parade, marathon or similar public event if the principal beneficiary is the public and any benefit to the sponsor is incidental. "...avoiding the cost of obtaining communications in the proper radio service is not a valid basis for using Amateur service facilities," the FCC said.

On the issue of limited cir-

cumstances when a ham station might transmit communications for news journalists, the FCC ruled that news gathering/reporting transmissions directed to foreign countries can not be permitted because the international regulations limit communications to unimportant remarks of a personal character and aiding worldwide relief efforts in natural disasters.

The transmission of reports for journalists must not detract from the emergency communications of other amateur stations. An Amateur station may only transmit news information for dissemination to the public when all of the following conditions are present. (1.) The information involves the immediate safety of life or individuals or the immediate protection of property. (2.) The information is directly related to the event; (3.) The information cannot be transmitted by any other means because normal communications systems have been disrupted, or because there are no other communications systems available at the place where the information is originated; and (4.) Other means of communications could not be reasonably provided before or at the time of the event.

-Excerpted from W5YI Report.



# EDITOR'S NOTES

By Bob Pinheiro, W6ZLO

Microsoft Corp. DOS (Disk operating system) has become the most widely used operating system for personal computers, running on over 30 million machines. The company recently announced that another new microprocessor chip, the 80586, is now under development by Intel Corp with input from Microsoft.

This chip will be blindingly fast. By way of comparison, the current generation 80386 running at a clock speed of 33 MHz is capable of 8 million instructions per second (MIPS). This chip is now standard equipment in many PC's. The just-introduced 80486 with more than one million transistors on its small surface, operates at more than 16 MIPS.

The forthcoming 80586 will be 3 to 4 times faster. An important point here is that the new chip will be totally compatible with current diskettes and software. Industry insiders say that over the next 5 years we will be able to take PC's up to 100 MIPS, far faster than any mainframe computer runs today. So, what are we going to do with all this speed?

According to Microsoft's Bill Gates, the answer will only come as the software industry takes this speed and turns it into interesting applications.

If you have bought any ham equipment lately you may have been surprised at the *hefty increases*. Dealers were forced to pass along factor increases of from 10 to 15% on most Amateur equipment.

*Welcome to two new associate members* this month. Lin Morrison and Manuel Gonsalves both of Modesto. Both are interested in Amateur radio. Lin is self employed and works with the Association of the Blind. She lists her occupation as a Holistic Health

Practitioner. Manuel is a teacher at Modesto High School. These additions bring our membership to 164 for the year. The club roster is printed twice a year in April and September. If you have moved or changed your phone number or call, anything, please let me know right away so that I may correct the roster before next month. You can leave a message on my answering machine at anytime.

Regarding the *SARA CW Contest*, Dave KJ6DL, advised me that you do not have to submit QSL cards for contact verification. Just your logs. But send along one of YOUR QSL cards so that Dave will know for sure who you are and get your call and name straight on the Certificate.

The family of *silent key Ray*, WA6OQF has delivered to the club two 440 MHz radios that Ray willed to the club. Ray also willed several other pieces of equipment to Steve, N6EKV; Bill, WB6SHE; Dan, WA6KDC and Bill, W6AFS. Ray passed away last December.

*CONGRATULATIONS TO AL, N6SAE*, who upgraded last month in Jackson to EXTRA.

Alvin Glaze, a Louisiana Forestry ranger recently *survived a 180-foot fall* from a radio tower in Baton Rouge. Glaze was dismantling an antenna when he slipped from the top of the tower. He fell backward onto one of seven sets of guy wires and rode the cable for 40 feet before letting go due to pain. He landed on another set of guy wires and managed to slide to the ground. He was cut about his arms, hands and leg, but no broken bones. He had his safety belt around something that was not secure. 73, Bob.

-The W5YI Report contributed this column.



## **THIS IS SHOCKING**

A telephone repairman in England was involved in a rather unusual service call when he was called to repair an out of order phone. It is common practice in England to signal a telephone subscriber by putting 90 volts down one side of the two wire conversation circuit. This method allows two parties on the same line to be signaled without disturbing each other.

This particular service call involved an elderly lady with several pets. She said her telephone failed to ring when her friends called and, when it did manage to ring...her dog would always bark most loudly just prior to the phone ringing. The repairman climbed a nearby pole and used his test set to call the subscriber...the phone did not ring. He tried again...the dog started barking and howling...followed by the phone ringing! After some checking the repairman came to the following conclusions.

1. The dog was tied up to the telephones system ground post with an iron chain and collar.
2. The dog was being introduced to 90 volts of signal current anytime someone called.
3. After a few jolts, the dog would start barking and urinate.
4. The wet ground now conducted and the phone would ring. Case solved! -SBE Newsletter

## **PLASTIC DRIVERS LICENSE**

Sometime early next year you will have another piece of plastic to add to the collection in your wallet. It will be your California Drivers License.

According to the DMV, the new plastic license will come with a magnetic strip (just like the credit cards) which will help businesses process checks, police to write tickets faster and will be easier to replace.

Supposedly, police will be able to run the cards through their patrol computers and print out the citation ready for your signature.

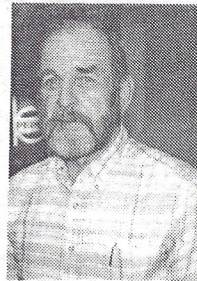
## **NEW TRENDS TO WATCH FOR**

Just around the corner are telephone booths that spray perfume into the air near shopping areas; fax machines for cars; portable PC's with their own phone number; theft proof briefcases; windows that close automatically in the rain; high-tech cloth eyeglass cleaners and paper wrist watches.

## **BEEP BEEP**

Don't forget that the 2 meter machine is now equipped with a courtesy tone to remind you to pause between transmissions to allow other stations to break in.

## **Meet SARA Member**



**Ralph Swenson  
Modesto  
(Associate Member)**



# ON THE AGENDA

The July 18, 1989 meeting was called to order by the President Phil, WD0FFX at 7:30 p.m. Introductions were made by 21 members and guests.

An amendment to the June 20, 1989 meeting was suggested in regards to the evenings program and speaker, Chuck Lettin, KJ6CK. It seems that when the secretary, N6REB sent the minutes by packet to WA6ZLO for The READOUT, the portion describing KJ6CK's fine presentation on Boating Safety was somehow lost in the transfer.

A motion was made to accept the minutes as printed in the READOUT with the addition of the amendment, it was seconded and approved. The Treasurers report for the month of June is as follows: paid to Ray Thompson, \$50 for use of the repeater site, a deposit of \$55, a reversal of \$65, and the balance in the general club account was \$969.60.

The motion to accept the treasurers report was made and seconded and approved. Vice President Jo, N6SAH reported that the Field Day went well, and the winner of the contest between Charlie, KJ6GE and Dave, KJ6DL was KJ6DL. Also, all those who operated on Field Day at the site would receive a certificate for participation.

Doug Hanson, WB6MFV of

Manteca, operated the CW station at the site and there were several SARA members as well as non members who dropped by. There were 490 contacts made under the club call, WD6EJF.

WD0FFX reported that the club garage sale was a tremendous success and expressed a great appreciation to all those who donated goods and their time and vehicles toward this endeavor.

The total proceeds at the end of the day was \$504.04, and with the addition of \$53 from the club meeting raffles, there was \$557.04 to add to the club station fund. The final balance in the Club Station fund was \$1179. Phil also extended the clubs appreciation to Luther, WB6PKR for allowing the club to store the overflow of goods not sold at his place.

Leroy, NV6S reported that everything is still working at the repeater site and he is working on a courtesy tone for the 220. He mentioned he would like more input from the members as to whether any of them are using the PL on the output of the two meter repeater.

The need for a folding table to use as a workbench at the 220 site was also mentioned. WD0FFX called for at least two

more volunteers to help with the Bikeathon on Sunday, July 25. There was a break at 8:15 during which raffle tickets were sold with a Micranta Multi-Tester as the door prize.

The meeting resumed at 8:30 and it was discussed whether or not to have the big raffle held at the club dinner dance, or around Christmas time again. Among the members present, it was decided to hold the big raffle separate from the dinner dance.

Under new business President WD0FFX reported on some radio equipment he had been inquiring about to purchase for the club station with the current funds available.

A motion was made to authorize Phil to purchase club station equipment from the club station fund within its limits. The motion was seconded and approved.

Another motion was made to authorize Phil to purchase a used Yaesu 757-GX in good to excellent condition for \$699, an RS-35 power supply for \$135, an MFJ 949 deluxe antenna tuner for \$135. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Teal Middle School is still the choice for the physical site for the club station. Bob, WA6ZLO suggested a contract be written



suggested a contract be written up with the school in regards to the station and that it should be an annual renewable contract.

It was also suggested that the club station committee work out the contract with the school. Due to the length of the meeting, the program to show a 30 min. video of the SARA Field Day site and activities was postponed until a later date.

The drawing was held for the Multi-Tester and Walt, KJ6IC was the winner. He kindly donated it to be used in the club station.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Secretary, N6REB. Via WB6V Packet BBS.

**AMENDMENT:** The secretary wishes to write an amendment to the minutes of the June 20, 1989 meeting as follows. - Chuck Lettin, KJ6CK was introduced as the evenings speaker. A very enlightening presentation on boating safety was the topic for the program. Chuck explained certain safety factors and boating rules and regulations, that if followed would insure an enjoyable time on the water. Also what you can and cannot expect from the CoastGuard if you are navigating in the deep sea waters.

All in all it was a most interesting, informative, and instructional program. Thanks Chuck!

## N6LSA INJURED

The SARA motorcycle fun run on July 15th ended abruptly when Tom, N6LSA and his girlfriend were thrown from their motorcycle following a collision with a brown BEAR in Yosemite Park.

According to reports, Tom and his girlfriend had been wearing protective leather gear until they got to the park. Because it was such a nice day and warm, they took them off.

Minutes later as they rounded a curve on Tioga Pass Road, a bear ran into their path and collided with Tom. The collision caused Tom to lose control and both he and his girlfriend were thrown from the motor. They received numerous road burns along with scratches and bruises but, thankfully, no broken bones.

There was minor damage to his cycle and presumably to the bear who was knocked to the pavement by the impact. According to Tom, the bear got up and trotted off into the woods.

Tom credits the minor injuries to the fact that they were only going 35 to 40 mph at the time of the collision.

In an unrelated accident the same weekend, a motorcyclist was killed in Calaveras County near Cooperopolis when he struck a deer. His speed, however, was estimated at 85 to 90 mph.

## 220 VOTE AT AUGUST MEETING

Whether or not to continuing linking the two meter and 220 machines will be voted on at the August meeting.

The machines have been continually linked over the last three months on a trial basis to increase usage of the 220 machine, particularly in view of the loss of the bottom 2 MHz of the band.

Whether or not to continue will be decided at this meeting. So, if you have a position on this, be at the meeting and make your voice and vote heard.

**WHEN DOES YOUR LICENSE  
EXPIRE?  
BETTER CHECK IT!**



# CB FEUD LEADS TO FIREWORKS

Dale "Slowpoke" Brown 46, of Modesto was arrested by Stanislaus County Sheriff's Detectives on July 11th charged with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon and one count of shooting into an occupied vehicle.

The shooting culminated an on the air feud between "Slowpoke" and 58 year Inez Estep who used the CB handle "Trouble Maker". Estep enlisted the help of 28 year old Chester Jackson to find and challenge Brown to a fight.

With the assistance of other CB operators they were able to find Brown's trailer home on South Conejo in Modesto shortly after midnight. They parked near it and called him on their car CB to come out and fight. Brown slipped into a dark area behind his trailer from where he fired several rounds from a hunting rifle at Estep's car. Both Estep and Jackson were struck with Jackson suffering the most serious wound with a slug in his shoulder.

There were two other adults and an infant in the car who were not injured. According to the police report, the belligerents had been exchanging insults on the air for several weeks prior to the shooting. "Slowpoke's" bail was set at \$20,000.

*( Maybe Brown and Estep should consider exchanging handles as it appears that Brown is the trouble maker, while Estep is the slow to get out of the way.)*

## HAM TO FLY ON SHUTTLE

An Amateur radio station is scheduled to fly aboard the Space Shuttle in March, 1990.

Ron Parise WA4SIR, a payload specialist, will communicate with Amateurs worldwide using voice and video communications as well as packet.

The orbit of the shuttle will allow hams located between approximately 46 degrees north and 46 degrees south latitudes to communicate directly with the shuttle from homes and schools.

The signals should be strong enough to be picked up by standard scanners.

## SWR REPORT

Did you hear about the ham who was upset because the fancy repeater controller could talk and give signals reports, but couldn't give him a report on his SWR? Or how about the ham with a new HT who boasted that the batteries lasted longer when he listened on low power? -KB6ZV

## PACIFICON 89'

The Pacific Division Convention, 'Pacificon 89', will be hosted by the Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association on October 6, 7 & 8, 1989 at the LeBaron Hotel in San Jose.



# NO-CODE VIEWPOINT

I have read several bulletins that have stated views of the proposed no-code license. I would like to mention some things I have seen, some of which disturb me. I have only been a ham for 7 years now.

When I got into the hobby, there was no voice privileges for novices, exams were being given by the FCC. Now we have the volunteer examiners. The problem with the VE program is the fact that the questions and answers are published for everyone to see. All a person has to do is memorize the answers to questions and they have their license.

At present, code is the only thing required for a license that a person must KNOW to obtain the license. If the no-code proposal passes as is, then a major filtering component of our hobby is lost. I feel that code is not as relevant as before, but it still has its importance.

I understand the argument of those that say that CW really is not a filter. If it's not, then why do we need to do away with it for an entry level class? It does filter out people—both those who honestly have trouble learning the code, and those who aren't willing to put forth a little time to learn it.

To those who say that our hobby should be easier to get into, I disagree with them wholeheartedly. Our hobby is a privilege, not a gift. You should earn the right of having an Amateur license. You shouldn't

have to just memorize some questions, but you should have a knowledge of what you are being tested on. Here are some ideas. First, the exams should NOT be published.

I know that books will be written to help people study, and some will even have the question answer format. That's fine, as

**"Code is the only thing required for a license that a person must know to obtain the license."**

**-N8EGA**

long as they do not give verbatim question/answers to the test. This would make people learn some rules and formulas, showing that they are willing to put forth some effort to learn what they're studying.

They may never use what they've learned, but how many people use CW after they've learned it?

I know that some of you will disagree with me on this point, but then how many of you have used what you learned in European History in your jobs?

Now I would like to address the current no-code proposal. I am against it, but not totally. I do feel that no-code does have merits. It would give people an opportunity to experience our hobby a little.

As for testing, I like the ARRL'S plan, sort of. I do feel, however, that a little more theory should be stressed, since these people are supposed to be fairly intelligent anyway.

As for band spectrum, let's go with a novice-like system, where the people would be limited to 3 or 4 bands, and allowed to run a limited amount of power.

In conclusion, the main crux of what I'm saying is for both sides to stop trying to say "I'm right and you're wrong", and listen to the other side's ideas.

I used to be strongly against a no-code license, but after having heard some of the arguments for it, I don't feel as strongly against it as I used to.

I hate to say it, but CW WILL eventually no longer be a requirement for our hobby. That's not what concerns me. What does concern me is WHAT do we do to offset that requirement?

Just my thoughts. 73, Kevin, N8EGA Lexington, KY

*(Edited due to space limitations)*

*Via Packet WB6V-BBS.*



## ARRL TO PROPOSE NO-CODE LICENSE TO FCC

The ARRL Board of Directors met Friday and Saturday, July 21 and 22, in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. After extensive discussion, by a vote of nine directors in favor to six opposed, it was agreed that a proposal recommending a codeless class of Amateur license will be presented to FCC in the form of a petition for rulemaking incorporating the following elements.

The examination will consist of element 2 and an expanded element 3a having additional questions, including ones related to morse code. License examinations will be given through the VEC examination system. To upgrade to technician, the new licensee will pass a five word per minute morse code test administered through the VEC system. Call signs shall be assigned from the group D call sign block.

Frequency privileges shall be 220 mhz and above, with output power limited to 250 watts. The licensee shall not be the control operator of a

repeater or auxiliary station. While there was concern that there might be confusion with an unpopular FCC proposal in 1974 to create a new class of license called Communicator, the board felt this was the most descriptive name for the new license class. The ARRL proposal is similar to the abandoned FCC concept in name only. In another important action, the board adopted a policy to oppose any fees for Amateur radio station and operator licenses that exceed either the actual cost of administration, or the fees charged for any other licenses used for non profit purposes.

It pledged to oppose any fees for license modifications or upgrades, except those used to reimburse VE's and VEC's for their expenses, and to oppose fees for reciprocal permits or for RACES, military recreation, or school club licenses. In the fight, the League will be using the capitol hill resources it developed in the effort to defend 220 to 222 mhz. *ARRL Bulletin via Packet*

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## Thank You!

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*Thank You SARA members for all the great donations you made to the SARA garage sale held last month. Because of all the donations, and the hard work of those members who organized the sale it was an outstanding success.*

*We made over \$500 from the event and still had some stuff left over after it was done. Special thanks goes to club officers Phil, WD0FFX and his wife Bonnie, N6PDW; Charlie, KJ6GE and his wife and VP Jo, N6SAH and Linda, N6REB, club Secretary and her husband Chas, KJ6CH all of whom spent many days getting all the items together and conducting the sale itself. Truly, an outstanding job!*





12 TH ANNUAL

The Oasis

# SARA DINNER DANCE

Saturday, October 7, 1989

Oasis Restaurant, 5001 McHenry Ave.

Modesto, CA.

Social Hour 630 pm    Dinner 730 pm

\$20.00 Per Person

\$18.00 (Senior Citizens 62 and older)

*You're Invited...*



# PACKET "WHITE PAGES"

By Chet Jensen, W6XK

Two services are available to amateurs who have Packet radio capability. They are the "white pages" and a callbook-type database. Both programs can be accessed via your local BBS. The "white pages" program lists the "home BBS" of Amateurs who have registered as a user of a BBS. This initial registration is automatically forwarded to WD6CMU who maintains the database.

If you wanted to forward a message to your ham friend but did not know his/her home BBS, you could request this information directly from WD6CMU. The server would search the database and return the information to you in less than 12 hours.

For example, if I was looking for the home BBS for K7MQ, I would use the procedure listed in

Table 1 to access the "white pages": If the information is not stored in the database, the server would send a response to the originating station indicating that the information is not known.

W9ZRX also maintains an extensive database for the entire country. If the information is not available on WD6CMU it may be obtained on W9ZRX.

You can also access W9ZRX using the same procedure and substituting W9ZRX for WD6CMU. I recently requested a "home BBS" from ZRX and received a response in 5 hours! Callbook-type information is provided by WA4ONG. His database is obtained from the Buckmaster Publishing Company. A request for information will yield a name, address, and license class. All you need to

provide is the call sign. For example, if I was looking for the addresses of WA6ZLO, WA6HRC, and WD0FFX, I would use the procedure listed in Table 2. Commas are optional and the server picks your call and home BBS from the header.

Any number of call signs can be entered, but ONG suggests a limit of six. A Canadian service is also available from VE3JF. Use the same procedure and substitute VE3JF for WA4ONG.VA.USA.NA.

I received a response from ONG in 15 hours. There is a great deal of information available 24 hours a day at the touch of a key. The "white pages" and the callbook program are two examples of the power and versatility of Packet radio. Good luck! *Via Packet Radio and WB6V -BBS.*

Table 1

-SP WP @ WD6CMU  
-BBS Prompt: Send title of your message.  
QUERY  
-BBS Prompt: Enter message:  
K7MQ QTH?  
-De W6XK @ WB6V

Table 2

-SP REQQTH @ WA4ONG.VA.USA.NA  
-BBS prompt: Send title for your message:  
WA6ZLO,WA6HRC,WD0FFX  
- BBS prompt: Enter message:  
(No message)  
-CTL Z



# HOW TO ENJOY HAMFESTS

Hamfests are one of the most fantastic things that have ever been invented. You can have a great time. Here's some advice that can enhance your enjoyment of this aspect of our hobby.

First, you have to acquire the correct attitude. If you are looking for free equipment or to have fun crammed down your throat, forget it. The hamfest sets the mood for a "happy day" and the rest is up to you.

Try to arrive early and attack the flea market first. The best bargains go fast. Some flea market vendors want to get rid of their unused gear at a reasonable price, and some are out to make a profit. If you arrive too late you will only get to meet the second group.

The way you walk through the flea market is important. Upon arriving, a fast walk-

through is a good idea. While pondering too long over an infinite supply of ceramic capacitors, a bargain handheld may be waiting a short distance away.

After your first run-through you can do it again, looking for the less obvious bargains. Notice we said "bargains".

If someone in a flea market calls you cheap because you haggle over his price, you are not the one who is naive; he is! It's a flea market, not a retail store. Then again, sometimes it does not pay to shop around too much.

If you see something unusual that you really want, keep in mind that if you walk away you may never see it again. Perhaps you should buy it.

However, if it's in the "nice to own but I really don't need it"

category, offer only what it's worth to you even though it may be only 20% of the asking price.

Now and then you will be surprised away walk away with a terrific bargain. The key idea is to look at an item and decide quickly what it is worth to you, and what is the most you are willing to pay.

So, when it comes to dicker-ing for price at the flea market, be friendly, honest and sincere and there will be no hard feelings.

Weeks before the hamfest, make a shopping list. It gives you a purpose. Then as you walk the aisles of the flea market, have a flight plan. Don't wander aimlessly. Try to walk along one side of one aisle to the end. Then turn around and walk the other side.

-Thanks The Mike & Key via  
RaRaRag.

## LICENSE RENEWAL

Many questions are asked re-garding license renewal, and the "grace period" involved. For all FCC licenses issued with a 10-year term, there is a 2-year grace period for renewal. The question comes in regard to the older licenses issued with 5-year terms. If you still have such a license, you have an FCC-granted 5-year renewal grace period; the only "hitch" is that if you renew after 2 years (but before 5 years) you will be issued a different call sign by the FCC. In order to renew your license, simply fill out the FCC Form 610 with your current information, and mail it to the FCC, PO Box 1020, Gettysburg, PA 17326. ARRL HQ has the Form 610 available for a SASE with one unit of postage with your request.

- ARRL Letter



# EMERGENCY PACKET COMMUNICATIONS

From California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

When you are asked to set up a temporary packet station to provide communications for an emergency or drill, two computers should be used. If you don't, you will probably be caught in the middle of a message flow log jam that can be almost as bad as no communications at all.

The reason is that you can't write messages to disc and receive traffic at the same time. Example: Amateur Radio station N6ZZZ-1 may be your regular packet radio terminal at your EOC. When incident communications are initiated, set up your second packet terminal as, say, N6ZZZ-2. In this way, N6ZZZ-1 is used only to receive traffic; it should go to both the computer's log and its associated printer.

Meanwhile, terminal #2 is transmitting traffic from ZZZ-2. Another computer should be used for writing the outgoing traffic to discs "off line." This can be done by any employee or volunteer with fast typing skills. No radio license is required. The discs are then given to the Amateur radio operator for transmission. All of the received mes-

sages have to go to a printer of course. Never send messages from a keyboard in real time. This can hold up the entire system by preventing other stations from moving traffic in the shortest possible time.

Accuracy and speed are the attributes the elevated Amateur radio from a nice-to-have emergency communications resource to must-have in many jurisdictions.

The goal in state level RACES for example is to maintain an exchange of the maximum amount of letter perfect traffic in the least transmission time per message. Until the advent of packet in California no Amateur Radio mode met this need.

State and County emergency operating centers everywhere should install one or more packet radio terminals. It is recommended that a voice frequency be established between the various packet radio terminals for coordination or an "order wire" channel. This can be most useful in solving technical problems quickly and for giving quick replies by packet messages.

Just because a message

## Emergency Packet Operations

1. Use a minimum of two packet station.
  - a. One for receiving messages.
  - b. One for sending messages.
2. Maintain a voice channel to complement packet operations.
3. Never send message in real time.
4. State and local jurisdictions should equip their command centers with packet terminals.

was received by packet does not mean that it is chiseled in stone and that a reply must also be by packet. Whereas, it may be deemed appropriate that a written (packet) reply be made for the record, a voice radio reply will be faster and more appreciated. The written reply, if necessary, can follow later.

-WA6EQQ and KH6GBX.



# Your Invitation to Membership in the



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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

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# CALENDAR



Aug. ....	15, 1989.....	SARA Monthly Meeting .....	730 pm
Sept.. ....	7, 1989.....	VE Tests in Modesto .....	800 pm
Sept. ....	9, 1989.....	VE Tests in Modesto .....	900am
Sept . ....	19,1989.....	SARA Monthly Meeting .....	730pm
Oct . ....	7, 1989.....	SARA 12th Annual Dinner-Dance .....	630 pm
.....Oasis Restaurant , Modesto			
Oct. ....	17, 1989.....	SARA Monthly Meeting .....	730 pm
Nov. ....	21, 1989.....	SARA Monthly Meeting .....	730 pm
Dec ....	19 ,1989.....	SARA Monthly Meeting .....	730 pm
Jan.....	16, 1990.....	SARA Monthly Meeting .....	730pm

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 welcome.

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

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