

The READOUT

Year 16 Number 8 August 1994

The official newsletter of the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

1994 SARA fund raising raffle begins

SARA's 1994 fund raising raffle begins today with each member receiving 10 tickets in this issue of **The READOUT**. You will find raffle details on page 3. Please look for them and read the information on page 3.

We hope you will help your club continued to grow and prosper by taking part in the raffle. Your help is vital. Please take time to help your club. Every dollar counts.

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Hams losing ground in fight to erect antenna structures

By Bruce Herder, KD6SKA

There is an eye-opening article in the June '94 issue "CQ" magazine titled — "Antennas and the law, 1994- where we stand today, a decade after PRB-1" by Wayne Overbeck, N6NB. Not only is it an eye-opener, but it's a very disturbing article in total.

According to the article, here are some events that have gone badly for hams recently.

—1991 Howard vs. Burlingame

The City of Burlingame, CA denied Vernon Howard, W6ERS, a permit for a 51 ft tower. Howard took the case as far as Federal court and won his permit. Then Mr. Howard sued to recover his attorney fee. The suit was denied by a federal judge. He then appealed to the 9th circuit court, which is one rung down from the U.S. Supreme Court.

The City then decided to appeal Howard's permit and the court decided that a city could deny an Amateur a permit completely, and PRB-1 does NOT guarantee an Amateur a right to erect any particular type of antenna structure. The court stated that the Amateur did not have a federally protected right to erect any antenna for that matter.

—1990 Williams vs. City of Columbia, SC

John Williams, KE4BR, was denied a permit for a 65 ft tower which exceeded the City of Columbia, SC, limit of 17 feet. He sued in federal court and the city offered a compromise which was

rejected by Williams. The case went before the 4th circuit Court of Appeals and the court agreed with the City that the 17 foot limit did not violate PRB-1.

—1993 Evans vs Boulder County

In Boulder, Colorado, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals rejected an appeal by David Evans, NQ0I for an antenna higher than 35 ft. The court decided that PRB-1 is a "vague federal regulation that shouldn't be given much weight against precise, specific local ordinances"

I'd say things don't look too well for us, wouldn't you? It's a fairly lengthy article, and there is much more to be said, but I did notice one thing— apparently the Amateurs involved in these actions had to foot their bills all by themselves without any assistance from other one else. All of this makes me very fearful that the days of antenna structures inside city limits may be numbered.

Via packet BBS network



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Thursdays @ 8 P.M.

(Except Holidays)

2 meters 145.39 MHz WD6EJF

220 Band 224.14 MHz WD6EJF

10 Meters 28,440 kHz USB

Tuesdays at 730 P.M.

ARES Net Wednesday 800 P.M.

Contributions to *The READOUT* are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor by mail or via packet at KD6JZZ-2 BBS on 144.97 MHz, or directly at my PBBS, WA6ZLO-1 on 144.97 MHz. The deadline for articles is the 15th of the preceding month. Articles regarding religion or politics are not accepted.

Editor

Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

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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.

How to sound like a "LID"



By Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

On two meters lately, I have noticed a tendency of people making a concerted effort to sound like a "LID". Since this appears to be the new style in Amateur Radio, I thought I would present this handy guide to radio nerddom. The following is what I call: "How to sound like a "LID" in one easy lesson".

Step One:

Use as many Q signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and are totally inappropriate for 2 meter FM, but they're fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really mean (i.e. "I'm going to QSY to the Phone"). Can you really change frequency to the phone? QSL used to mean "I am acknowledging receipt", but now it appears to mean "yes" or "OK". I guess I missed it when ARRL changed the meaning. Also, it's best to use OK and QSL together. Redundancy is the better part of "Liddom."

Step Two:

Never laugh, when you can say "hi hi". No one will ever know you aren't a long time CW ragchewer if you don't tell them. They'll think you've been on the air since the days of Marconi.

Step Three:

Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like "destinated" and "negatory". It's OK to make up your own words here. "Yeah, Bill, I pheelbart zaphnix occasionally myself".

Step Four:

Always say "XX4XXX" (insert your own call) "for I.D.". As mentioned in Step One, anything that creates redundancy is always strongly encouraged. That's why we have the De-

partment of Redundancy Department. (Please note that you can follow your call with "for identification purposes" instead of "for I.D.". While taking longer to say, it is worth more lid-points.)

Step Five:

The better the copy on 2 meter FM, the more you should phonetically spell your name, especially if it is a short and/or common one (i.e. "My name is Al...Alpha Lima" or "Jack...Juliette Alpha Charlie Kilo"). If at all possible, make up unintelligible phonetic. "My name is Bob...Billibong Oregon Bumperpool"

Step Six:

Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a wonderful memory test.

Step Seven:

Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use "modulation" when you mean "deviation" and vice-versa.

Step Eight:

If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, talking as long as possible before turning it over. Whenever possible, pass it around a few times first. This will discourage the breaker and, if it is an emergency, will encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.

Step Nine:

Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with a yes or no answer. Make it a question that will take a long time to answer.

Step Ten:

The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the air. The amount of time

(¹ LID- A term used by Amateur radio operators to designate a poor operator.)

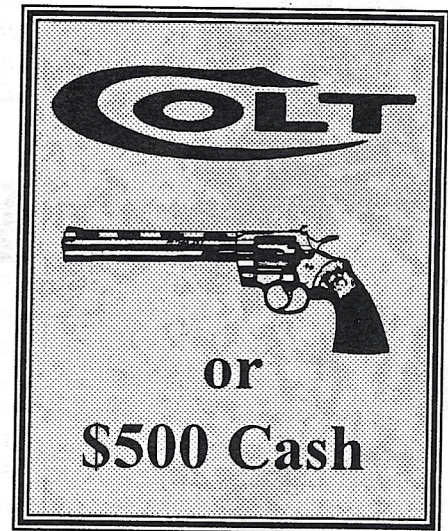
See "LID" page 8

1994 SARA Fund Raising Raffle

Dear SARA Member:

Operating a club like SARA is like operating a small business. Unfortunately our normal source of income, yearly dues, does not bring in enough money each year to keep the treasury afloat. The major expenses each year include printing and mailing costs associated with the newsletter, and the liability and equipment insurance the club carries. Other expenses include repeater maintenance and equipment purchases and the autopatch, to name a few.

Therefore, it is necessary each year to supplement the dues income with extra funds. We do this with a yearly raffle. We have learned from experience that a raffle is the easiest and fastest way to bring in funds with the least amount of inconvenience to our members. We have also learned that the prize being offered must have a broad appeal to enhance ticket sales. For this reason, the club voted to offer a Colt .357 Python handgun with a 6 inch barrel, or \$500 in cash for this years prize. We have offered the same prize for the past two years and found that it was very well received. Of course, if the winner elects to take the gun, he/she will have to clear all the State requirements for ownership. If they do not qualify, the cash prize will be awarded.



There are approximately 170 members in our club. Each of you will receive 10 tickets in this issue of the newsletter. If everyone returned their tickets the club would receive \$1700. The only only expenses involved are the printing of the tickets and the prize. Thanks to Jim Shea, KB5FB, we are able to get the tickets printed a very reasonable rate, and thanks to Ed Washington, a local gun dealer, we are able to purchase the gun at his cost.

We know that some of you may not what to participate in this fund raiser for whatever reason. We understand! However, PLEASE, the only thing we ask is that you mail the tickets back to the club's post office box so we can give them to someone else who may need them. No explanation is necessary. Just mail them back!

Of course we hope you will not mail them back and sell them instead. Remember, you can buy them yourself, or sell them to someone else. The price is \$1.00 per ticket. Please keep in mind that the \$1.00 is actually a donation. You are actually asking for a donation of \$1.00. This keeps the raffle legal. Be sure to complete the stub portion of each ticket after you make a sale and return all stubs and money to the club's post office box no later than October 15, 1994. The latest you can return them in person would be on October 18, 1994 at the SARA meeting. Please try not to send cash. If you can, keep the cash you receive and mail us your personal check (or a Money Order) for the amount.

The drawing will be held at the SARA meeting on October 18, 1994, and the winner does not need to be present to win. If you have any questions, or need more tickets, please contact Acting Secretary, Bob, WA6ZLO, at 523-5880. Thank You and good luck.

Do you have a "pistola" gringo?



By Stanislaus County
Deputy Sheriff Leo Gonzalez

*"great cheap food,
laid back living, warm
sunny beaches, friendly
señoritas, cheap
tequila and all night
discos is much more
than you'll find at a
Taco Bell!"*

(Ed. note- With many new members, and old ones with memories no better than mine, some old gems are as good as new after a few years. Here's one from the archives that originally appeared in The READOUT in December 1989.)

Yes there are many myths and misconceptions about traveling by car in Mexico. This may not alleviate your fears, but it may be of some use if you do decide to wander South into "Mañanaland." I recently spent about a month along the central Pacific coast of Mexico. My vehicle, then a new Ford Bronco II, was stopped and/or searched about 12 times. My feeling was that they wanted to check out the vehicle itself because Fords are popular and four wheel drives with big tires project the macho image which many of my Mexican brothers are already afflicted with.

First search

My first search was at Nogales, at the Arizona border. It was mostly visual. Your visa has a series of boxes where you check off the box that most closely matches your occupation. If you are truthful and check Law Enforcement/ Armed Services, the Mexican Customs automatically assume that you have a weapon in your possession. That is an automatic felony in Mexico. They may confiscate your gun, arrest you and take your vehicle, your wife and your dog. It doesn't matter how many police ID's you have.

They shade the "law" to suit the situation, but for the most part, if you don't come off as a trouble-maker, you may only have your gun confiscated. If you strike up a friendship with the local police chief, a box of quality US made ammunition goes a long way toward a more pleasant vacation, especially if you're a rowdy, señorita-chasing, cantina-closing type of guy.

My "pistola"

The Border Officer took me aside

and in a low voice he asked me if I was carrying my "pistola." I do believe he would probably have only charged me a "fee" and let me keep it. However, I never carry a gun in Mexico.

Second search

About 20 miles down the road, I noticed a car behind me a little too close and not passing when I slowed down. They would sound their horn, but I thought "why should I stop for two guys in an un-marked "Starsky & Hutch" type Ford sedan?" Finally, they put a red light on the roof and I pulled to the side of the road.

The driver approached wearing a pistol and clutching an AK-47. His sidekick had some kind of automatic rifle which looked like it was Israeli. At this point, I was becoming more and more convinced that these guys were bandits. When I was asked for my driver's license, I made sure that they knew it was under the seat. I was told to get it out, slowly, as

**"You are a fool if you
travel Mexico at
night!"**

they watched intently.

When they were satisfied I was the owner of the vehicle and on vacation, they spun their big-engine Ford around and roared off in a cloud of dust with no apology for such show of weaponry. They had only stated they were state undercover agents looking for a stolen white vehicle.

In my further contacts with different agencies, I was told that bootleggers and drug dealers had out-gunned the police so many times that the cops were allowed to carry as much firepower as practical.

Driving at night

You are a fool if you travel Mexi-

See "Gringo" page 5



"Gringo"

from page 4

co by night! The lack of fences allows an assortment of large animals and wild burros to wander the roads. There are big chuck holes, bridges out and detours, the pavements ends abruptly and there are no signs or markers you "gringos" can read.

If you drive at night, you deserve what you get. Ignorance is indeed bliss. My friend and I drove the toll freeway, Highway 1, into Culiacan, an area known for poppy fields, bandits and corrupt officials. The remoteness of this 75 mile stretch of road makes it the place to avoid, even in daylight (Check your AAA books).

Armed troops

Armed troops at the Toll Sheds and frequent patrols still cannot stop the hold-ups and assaults that take place regularly on that road. Too bad, I didn't learn this until my friend and I had travelled it—at night, with just enough gas to make it to the next major town. Smart Mexicans take Toll Highway 15 like everyone else, uninformed tourists set themselves up for tragedy. We were lucky!

Pulled over again

Leaving the Culiacan, I noticed a black and white Highway Patrol car sitting at an intersection and they flashed their spotlight at me. This, I was to learn later, always means pull over. But at that time it meant nothing to me, so off through the cool dark countryside I sped with the stars shining so bright. Within seconds, in the rear view mirror, here came the bright lights with flashes of blue and red. I could feel anger coming on, expecting some kind of shake-down for some unknown reason. After two days and nights of driving, I didn't need this harassment.

Both officers were polite. The one with the shotgun inspected my ID, while his partner, the one with the MAC-10 machine gun, questioned me about how I came to possess this nice vehicle with US plates.

Very few people, even trucks and buses, travel late at night. Any movement, especially a new truck with US plates, this late and this far south, will be stopped! The two officers politely refused my offer

to buy them coffee. They did warn me of the perils of night travel, then said good bye.

I learned later that the Federal Highway Patrol earns a wage of about \$250 to \$300 a month, compared to a national average of \$5.00 a day, their pay is outstanding. The Mexican Highway Patrol is regarded as better trained, more responsible and less inclined to corruption and my experiences seemed to verify this.

More federal troops

The farther south we travelled, the more we were aware of federal troops. My first direct encounter was just south of Ixtapa, near our destination. Young, peach-fuzzed boys in new camouflage fatigues with big shiny automatic rifles were stopping all traffic for a surprise search for contraband, weapons and drugs.

The undisciplined manner in which they handle their weapons makes one expect an accidental discharge any moment. Follow their instructions! Turn off your engine, open all the doors and the trunk, hand the keys to the sergeant and step aside. Things like a canteen in an army-green canvas pouch will cause them to search harder and quiz you more about such military gear. Don't back-talk or get smart. If they insist on taking it, smile and let it go. You don't want to be the one to make their day.

We finally made it.

Zihuatanejo is a great little seaport village to walk around. But if the sign says "No Estacionamiento" means "No Parking" on this new street. It only complicated things when I parked halfway up on the sidewalk. When I came back to my truck, I found a ticket on the windshield.

I had heard that they will take your license plate to insure that you pay your fine before you leave town. So, I quickly checked the front plate and found it in place. But they had taken the rear one. I went to the police station to pay the fine and saw stacks of license plates. I paid the fine, about \$1.50 US, and they returned my plate. Missing back plates are a signal to police that you skipped out on a fine somewhere in Mexico. It could prove to be a long and costly delay, trying to figure out where you lost your plate, if you don't notice it until you have long left a town

Watch your speed

On another occasion as we near Mazatlan, we were cruising down a well maintained four-lane divided highway. These are a rarity in Mexico so you tend to take advantage by increasing speed. An ambulance went by, with lights flashing, at about 65 mph.

Allowing about 150 yards distance, I kept pace thinking the speed limit was about 65 anyway. I noticed a black and white cruising in the opposite direction but thought nothing of it. Within seconds, they were in the rear view mirror, lights flashing. Again, was it my new truck, or was I speeding enough to warrant a stop?

The officer with the machine gun informed me of the proper speed limit and said we should follow him to the local courthouse. I had visions of a \$50 fine. After some further explanation, the officers courteously allowed us to go on our way.

Stopped again

Another time on a highway going through a jungle in the middle of the night (again?), I saw a flash of light. After awhile you become aware that this is probably the army and you had better stop. You, of course, hope it is indeed the Army this time.

It felt strange. We were ordered to turn off all of our lights and exit the vehicle. I really thought these guys were bandits dressed as federal troops; I could almost feel the hot lead piercing my back as I stepped out. As your eyes get accustomed to the darkness you can just make out the young faces behind those big automatic rifles angled slightly overhead. At this point you feel a rush of relief as you realize that it is the real army on official business.

I'd go back regardless

None of this deters me in the slightest from returning to my homeland. This story is not intended to make you uptight about travelling in Mexico either. Just don't travel at night.

Remember, great cheap food, laid back living, warm sunny beaches, friendly señoritas, cheap tequila and all night discos is much more than you'll find at a Taco Bell!

Courtesy of the DSA Newsline, the official publication of the Deputy Sheriff's Assoc. of Stanislaus County. Sgt. Ed Washington, Editor and Deputy Rick Heckathorn, art director.



Editor's Notes

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

Welcome to new members Michael Ward, AB6WN, an Extra who lives in Tracy. John and Patty Bohling, KE6IVV and KE6IVU, of Modesto. John is Advanced and Patty a Tech-Plus. Also welcome to Jerry Jackson, KE6HVA, a new Tech-Plus. This brings our membership to 163 for the year.

—Speaking of licenses, I have received several calls lately asking for 610 forms in order to renew. The easiest way to get a 610 is to send an SASE with 29 cents postage to Chet Jensen, W6XK, 3124 Pioneer Ave. Hughson, CA. 95326. Please don't forget the SASE. Chet is the local VE team leader and keeps an up to date supply of the forms. Generally, anything address to the FCC in Gettysburg, PA would get there. They are probably the biggest entity in town. However, if you want to be precise, their address is FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245.

—While we are on the subject of addresses, I had the occasion to write to Radio Shack last month concerning a technical question on a piece of equipment I recently purchased from my local store. The local store gave me an address in Ft. Worth, TX. However, it was the Tandy National Parts Headquarters on Northridge Drive in Ft. Worth, TX. Not the right place! However, they did write back about 10 days later and told me my letter went to the wrong part of the company and that they were forwarding it to their Product Support Center, also in Ft. Worth. I got the answer from them by letter a week later. The correct address to write regarding technical questions is, Radio Shack, Product Support Center, 400 Atrium-One Tandy Center, Fort Worth, TX 76102.

—On July 18, 1994, the FCC reimplemented a fee schedule (See story on page 9). The thing to remember is that Amateur radio licenses are exempt from the fees. However, when the new Vanity Calls are offered by the FCC later this year, there will be a \$7.00 per year fee.

Because licenses are now issued for 10 year periods, you will be charged on a Vanity Call for the entire 10 years. That means you will have to mail in a check for \$70.00 with your application (form 610-V). One thing that is not clear to me, is whether or not we would have to pay a fee for a duplicate or replacement license, which would be \$45.00 should you need one. According to the information on page 9 of this newsletter under the heading "All duplicate and replacement license processing:", it would appear that we could fall under that section for duplicates and replacements.

—As reported two months ago, *SARA* was having problems with a local Modesto ham who is a manic depressant and was using the *SARA* 2M machine to vent his anger and frustrations. He was using vulgar language and making nasty remarks. *SARA* notified the offender in writing that his privilege to use any of *SARA*'s machines had been revoked and the letter was delivered to him by certified mail. Since that time we have not heard the person on the repeaters. We may have had some unidentified carriers from him, but no voice transmission. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

—In this issue of the newsletter, you will find 10 raffle tickets for the club's 1994 fund raiser. The story with all the details are on page 3. Please, try and sell the tickets, or you may buy them for yourself. I know there are some of you that have moral reservation about the club offering a gun as a prize, especially in view of the violent society we live in.

In defense of this choice let me point out a few things. We have learned from experience that you make more money on a raffle if you offer something with broad appeal to the general public. After all, it's the general public that buys the majority of the tickets. This gun is not a Saturday night special, it is a much admired collector's type gun. Granted, it is still a gun and the argument is that it could be used in the wrong way and the club could be liable should the gun be used in such a way. That

is simply not true. It is a prize that has been won in a raffle. We have no liability! Is a car dealer responsible if the car he sold to someone was wrongfully used to kill someone? Some members suggested that we just offer the \$500.00 instead of the gun. What's to keep the winner of the \$500.00 from going down and buying a gun with it? Would we be liable if he/she did? The analogies are endless. The point is that it's a fund raiser. That's all! The worst money maker we ever had in terms of funds collected, was when we offered ham radio equipment as the prize.

We always have a few people who do not want to participate in raffles for whatever reason. We understand and respect your position. The only thing we ask is that you return the 10 tickets we sent you so that someone else who can sell them.

—Now for some lighter news. A young couple who had a terrific argument one morning before leaving for work. The wife couldn't get her dress zipped up in back, so she asked her husband to help. He was in a hurry to leave for work and briskly whipped the zipper up and down until it broke. The only way he could get her out of it was to cut the dress off. The wife was furious as it was one of her favorite dresses. She boiled over the incident all day while at work.

When she got home that evening, she walked through the garage on the way into the house. She saw her husband under a car fixing something with his legs sticking out. She decided her moment for revenge had come and leaned over, grabbed his pants zipper and whipped it up and down several times. She then walked into the house only to find her husband standing in the kitchen.

Sheepishly, she asked him who was under the car. He said it was the next door neighbor who had come over to

See "Notes" page 10

FROM THE DESK OF

Tim Low, N6ZUC

After last month when I told you about the less than a "hunert" dollar computer I put together for packet, its smooth assembly, and flawless operation, here is the rest of the tale.

One day while chatting with a friend on a local repeater, he told me of a nice color monitor he had for sale, and here I am staring into my mono monitor. Yep, I bought it. Now I'm a little over a hundred dollars, but what the heck, not by much.

Swap meet shopping

All went well for quite a while until one day while walking through a swap meet, there is was, an old Zenith 386-16 Mhz. This would be just the ticket, so much faster. It had a processor board, 4 megs of memory, a math coprocessor, a nice solid case, and a high density drive in it. All I had to do was move the hard drive from my 286, move the video card and monitor, and I would be in "bizniz". I bought it! The deed was done and the skeletal remains of the old 286 went in the surplus pile, the 386 was up and running.

This was enough to satisfy my puter needs, right? Well, yes, for a while. About this time, I started to bring home work with me—CAD work. The old CGA monitor worked, but, I sure could use a nice super VGA monitor. That sure would relieve the eye strain, and oh, while I'm thinking of it, that 20 meg hard drive just isn't going to be big enough for the task.

A new VGA monitor and video card were installed. I found a 40 meg hard drive at the swap meet, and it was soon installed. Glancing back, that hundred dollar mark was lookin' mighty small.

Murphy strikes

Again running smoothly for a while, that is until the 40 meg hard drive went belly up. I'm back to just the 20 meg drive, and that won't cut it. So, off to the

puter store, I'm not fooling this time, I'm doing lots of work at home, and I need reliability. It's a new large hard drive for me. Trouble is, the Zenith bios just doesn't give much flexibility when trying to set up a hard drive. Bottom line, I couldn't find one that would work for me. Disgusted, I pointed to that shiny new 486 sitting on the dealers shelf, and said "wrap it up".

486 for work stuff

Now I figure I would have a nice new 486 for work related stuff, and put together another 286 out of the scrap pile for packet. The Zenith I decided to sell to recoup some of the considerable units of "hunert" dollars I had spent so far.

I took the hard drive out of the Zenith, put it in the 286, put the old mono monitor on it, and I was back on packet with the 286.

I guess I'd been spoiled by the color monitor, because I was looking through a local puter rag, and there was an advertisement for some surplus True Blue VGA monitors. Of course to go along with that, I needed a new video card.

A few weeks later

I saw another ad for an inexpensive 386SX board a few weeks later. You know, if I had that, I could run Windows, multi-task my packet and my FAX card all at the same time. Oh, I hadn't told you about the FAX modem I bought? Well geez, I saw it at the swap meet, and it was only \$35 dollars. Had to have it. I needed it for the biz.

When I bought the new 386 board, of course I need memory for it, so I bought a couple megs, \$72 dollars worth. Got the old 286 board pulled out, put in the new mom board, and had it up and running in no time. The problem was, 2 meg of memory just would not allow me to run two programs at once. Not enough memory. Two more meg of memory ought

to do it.

Then I decided the modem wasn't fast enough so I bought a new US Robotics 14.4. That was only \$160 bucks and tax. I needed a track ball, didn't like the mouse, \$50 dollars, got a good deal on it. Had to have a printer, found a good deal on a couple of them.

And on, and on

Well the story goes on and on. I now have a Notebook, an XT, 286, 386, and a 486. I'm afraid to count up how many "hunert" X ten dollars I have involved in my "puters". Oh, and hey, I'm thinking that the prices on those Pentiums are coming down, hmmm.

The point to this whole mess is, if you're going to put together a simple packet computer, just go down to your local computer store, plop down your plastic, and say "give me one of every thing", and get it over with. Computers are addicting and consumes your bank account fast. I hate computers!

Questions? Answers? Comments? Write to me in care of **The READOUT**, or send me a packet at: N6ZUC @ KJ6VC.# SOCA. CA. USA. NA 73 -Tim.

Printed Circuit Board Design

J.T. (Tim) Low
N6ZUC

Phone or FAX (619) 735-9125

**2936 Amanecer Place
Escondido, CA 92027**

AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

As of the first of June 1994:

Radio District	Gp.'A Extra	Gp.'B Advan	Gp.'C Tech/Gen	Gp.'D' Novice
0.....	AA0RB..	KG0NH..	(***)..	KB0MX
1.....	AA1JE..	KD1VA..	N1RYS..	KB1BIA
2.....	AA2SH..	KF2VK..	N2YYZ..	KB2QZD
3.....	AA3HV..	KE3NE..	N3SBK..	KB38CD
4.....	AD4SJ..	KR4ST..	(***)..	KE4MHX
5.....	A85UM..	KJ5XX..	(***)..	KC5GWN
6.....	AC6CM..	K06CP..	(***)..	KE6HQM
7.....	AB7CN..	KI7YS..	(***)..	KC7CQR
8.....	AA80X..	KG8JB..	(***)..	KB8STD
9.....	AA9KX..	KF9VT..	N9XAD..	K89IVE
N.Mariana Is.	KH0D...	AH0AS..	KH0CR..	WH0AAY
Guam.....	WH2D...	AH2CU..	KH2JL..	WH2ANK
Johnston Is..	AH3D...	AH3AD..	KH3AG..	WH3AAG
Midway Is....	AH4AB..	KH4AG..	WH4AAH..	
Hawaii.....	(**)...	AH6NG..	WH6UQ..	WH6CRG
Kure Is.....			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa..	AH8J...	AH8AG..	KH8BF..	WH8ABB
Wake W.Peale.	AH9C...	AH9AD..	KH9AE..	WH9AAI
Alaska.....	(**)...	AL7PQ..	WL7SN..	WL7CHQ
Virgin Is....	WP2N...	KP2CC..	NP2HM..	WP2AHU
Puerto Rico..	(**)...	KP4WU..	(**)...	WP4MPE

(*)= All 2-by-1 "W" prefixed call signs have been assigned in all radio districts.
 (**) =All Group A (2-by-1) format call signs have been assigned in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico.
 (***) =Group "C" (N-by-3) call signs formats have now run out in all but the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 9th call sign areas.

[Source- FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]
 via W5YI Report

"LID"

From page 2

spent on your speculations should be inversely proportional to your knowledge of the subject. Step Eleven: If someone on the repeater is causing interference, you should talk about that person at great length, making sure to comment on at least 4 out of 6 of the following:

(1) His mental state (2) His family (3) His intelligence, or lack of same (4) His sexual preference (5) His relationship to small animals (6) His other methods of self entertainment

Step Twelve: If you hear two amateurs start a conversation on the repeater, wait until they are 20 seconds into their contact, and then break-in to use the patch. Make sure that it's only a simple routine phone call. It's also very important that you run the autopatch for the full three minutes. This way, once the two reestablish contact, they won't even remember what they were talking about.

Step Thirteen: You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the directions are good, make sure you break-in with your own "alternate route but better way to get there" version. By the time the amateur

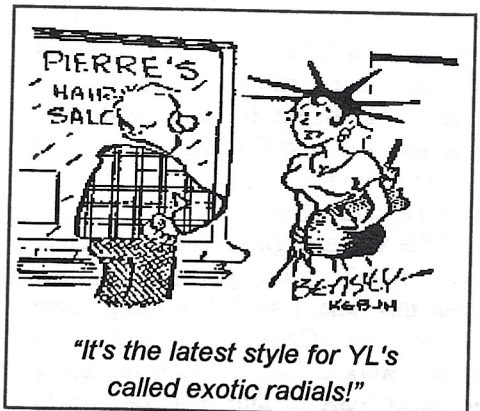
Look at that license

Amateurs receiving new or modified FCC licenses after June 8, 1994, should carefully note their expiration date. Only new, first licenses or specific renewals have a full 10-year term. Amateur license upgrades, changes of address, call sign, or name, are processed with the original expiration date intact. That is, they are not automatically extended for 10 years.

The FCC, using new computer software recently installed, is processing amateur licenses in this manner to conform with to the way in which it processes all other Private Radio Service licenses.

The FCC currently recommends that amateurs submit license renewal applications 60 to 90 days before their expiration date. The Commission said it intends eventually to mail license expiration notices to amateurs.

In the meantime, the ARRL is sending license expiration notices to ARRL members, along with an FCC Form 610 and a return envelope to the FCC's licensing division in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. *ARRL Bulletin*



wanting directions unscrambles all the street names whizzing around in his head, he should have been led out of range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around and help the guy get backout of town later.

These thirteen easy steps should put you well on the way to Lid-Hood. I hope these helpful hints will save you some time in your quest to sound like the perfect LID.

Thanks RaRa Rag, newsletter of the Rochester, N.Y. ARC, Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP, Editor.

FCC imposing Regulatory and Processing fees as of July 18, 1994

The FCC issued their long-awaited Report & Order covering Regulatory and Application Fees on June 8th. Basically the FCC pretty much followed their earlier proposals - but there were some surprises! For one thing, it doesn't look like the FCC will be implementing their \$105.00 Regulatory Fee on lifetime term Commercial Radio Operator Licenses (GROL) anytime soon! They declined to adopt the proposals of their own staff!

The R&O implements a new Section 9 of the Communications Act which provides for the annual assessment and collection of regulatory fees. These fees are designed to recover the annual cost of FCC enforcement, policy, rulemaking and international activities as well as user information services. This section was ordered by the so-called Deficit Reduction Plan signed into law by President Clinton last August 10th. The Communications Act requires the FCC to adjust its application fees every two years.

Basically the objective of the Section 8 and 9 fees is to have spectrum and wireline telecommunications users pay for the cost of regulation and processing licenses rather than having the cost borne by all taxpayers. This concept is part of the Clinton administration scheme of "reinventing government" by requiring beneficiaries of government services to pay the costs associated with their activities.

The FCC proposed to exempt government, non-profit, amateur radio licenses (except Vanity Calls), non-commercial educational broadcasters and public safety services from any fees.

An annual regulatory fee of \$7.00 will be charged for commercial radio operators, Amateur "vanity" call signs, General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) and aircraft and ship stations.

Recreational boaters need a license!

Even recreational boaters who voluntarily install and use radio equipment aboard their small vessels will be subject to both Regulatory and Processing Fees.

A person operating a 2-way radio aboard a pleasure craft - even one with just emergency VHF Channel 16 (156.8 MHz) capability - must pay a \$115.00 license fee. (\$70.00 for the 10-year term license plus \$45.00 for processing the license.) The same fee applies to an aircraft station.

Radio Operator Licenses

The following fees are due on all license and permit applications received by the Commission after July 18, 1994. The key word is "received!" Even if applicant passed an examination prior to this date. If the FCC receives the application after July 18, 1994, it will be subject to a fee. Applications received without fees after that date will be returned without action.

Note that each license application carrying a Regulatory or Processing Fee MUST be sent to a specific post office box located at the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, PA. It is very important that the appropriate "Fee Type Code" be entered on the application.

A check, bank draft or money order payable to the FCC must be attached to the application. The Commission also said it would accept payment by Visa or MasterCard credit card which also requires completion of FCC Form 159.) Until further notice, GROL applications will continue to be sent to the FCC in Gettysburg, PA.

Restricted Permit:

License Term: Lifetime of the Holder
Regulatory Fee: None (See Note 1)
Processing Fee: \$45.00
Examination Fee: None
FCC Form: 753
Fee Type Code: PARR
Attach \$45.00 check to the application and send to: Federal Communications Commission, RP, P.O. Box 358295, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5295.
(Note 1: The Regulatory Fee is waived pending Congressional and FCC approval of appropriate Regulatory Fee for a lifetime license.)

Marine Radio Operator Permit: (New)
3rd/2nd/1st Class Radio Telegraph: (New)
GMDSS Operator and Maintainer: (New)
License Term: 5 Years
Regulatory Fee: \$35.00 (See Note 2)
Examination Fee: (See Note 3)
Processing Fee: None

FCC Form: 756
Fee Type Code: PACR
Attach \$35.00 check to the application and send to: Federal Communications Commission (FOB) P.O. Box 358800, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5800
(Note 2: The \$35.00 Regulatory Fee is paid by separate check made out to the FCC and attached to the application.
(Note 3: The examination fee is assessed by and paid to the examiners. New licensees do NOT pay both an examination and a license processing fee.)

Marine Radio Operator Permit: (Renewal) 3rd/2nd/1st Class Radiotelegraph: (Renewal)
GMDSS Operator and Maintainer: (Renewal)
License Term: 5 Years
Regulatory Fee: \$35.00
Processing Fee: \$45.00
Total License Fee: \$80.00 (Single check) FCC Form: 756
Fee Type Code: PACS
Attach \$80.00 check to application and send to: Federal Communications Commission (FOB) P.O. Box 358805, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5805.

General Radiotelephone (GROL)

Operator License: (New)
License Term: Lifetime of the Holder
Regulatory Fee: None (See Note 1)
Examination Fee: (See Note 3)
Processing Fee: None
FCC Form: 756
Fee Type Code: PACQ
Send application without any fee to: Federal Communications Commission 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245.

All Duplicate and Replacement Licenses Processing

Fee: \$45.00
FCC Form: Letter from applicant
Fee Type Code: PADM
Attach \$45.00 check to correspondence and send to: Federal Communications Commission (Duplicate) P.O. Box 358305 Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5305

Amateur Vanity Call Signs: (See Note 4)

The FCC said they were exempting amateur radio operators licensed under Part 97 from Regulatory Fees. However, Congress included in the Schedule of Fees an annual regulatory fee covering vanity call signs.

If proposal (NPRM, PR Docket 93-105) to issue vanity call signs is adopted, the FCC will assess a (\$70.00) Regulatory Fee in 1994 upon persons filing applications. The first 10-year fee must be paid at the time a request for a vanity call sign is made. If a requested vanity call-sign is not available or otherwise cannot be issued to the requestor,

See "FCC fees" page 11



SARA Minutes

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO , Acting Secretary

The July 19, 1994 meeting of SARA was called to order at exactly 730 PM by VP, Mark, WB6BJN. 24 members and guests introduced themselves.

Acting Secretary, Bob, WA6ZLO, reported that the 1994 fund raising raffle tickets are being printed and each member will receive 10 tickets in the August issue of **The READOUT**. He said this would save us considerable postage. He also asked those who decide not to participate, for whatever reason, to mail the tickets back to the club's post office box so they could be given to someone who needed them.

A motion was made, seconded and approved, that the minutes of the June meeting stand approved as printed in **The READOUT**.

Ernie, K6UVI, reported on the Communication trailer. He said the Eagle Scout who was working on it now has an extra incentive to get the job done. He just got his drivers license and his folks said he could not drive until he finishes the trailer. It's expected he would complete the job in another month. Ernie reported that Field Day was a big success. Around 40 members and guests participated. A video tape of the event will be shown at the August meeting of SARA. Ernie read a nice letter

and displayed a beautiful plaque sent to SARA by the American Diabetes Association in appreciation of the communications provided by SARA members over the last several years. Their next event will be on October 2, 1994 and we will again provide communications according to Ernie.

LeRoy, NV6S, reported lots of interference on the 2M machine. He feels it was mostly do to conditions, although some packet bursts have been heard which may be coming from the Livermore Valley. Apparently, someone is not aware of the input frequency of the repeater. LeRoy reports that SARA's new low-level machine should be operational with three weeks if a site becomes available. Don, AB6AE, has requested permission from Pacific Bell to use one of their sites at the corner of Morgan Rd and South 7th street. If we get this site, it will be convenient for LeRoy to work on it because it's immediately adjacent to his office at the Stanislaus County Road Dept.

BJN reported on possible sites and costs for the mini hamfest. After discussion, a motion and second to table the matter was approved.

Bob, ZLO, reported on the upcoming Police Olympics to be held in Modesto (and surrounding counties) in July of next

year. He said it was going to require a lot of man power for communications and the headquarters of the event will be at the Red Lion Inn in Modesto. More as the date gets closer.


Treasurer Bob Kimball, KC6TVE, reported as of 7-19-94 our expenses for the year to date were \$2,705.25. Our income was \$2,000.75. Our balance \$1,442.42.

Dave, WA6GUO, reported that fire situation in the hills was very critical and recommended participation in the local AREA group in preparation for providing communications should the need arise.

Break for refreshments was followed by our guest speaker, Denny, WG6P, who talked on his favorite subject, DX! Meeting adjourned at 930 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Bob, WA6ZLO, Acting-Secretary.

Don't make us coming looking for you! If you move, please notify SARA before you do it. The post office will not forward **The READOUT** — even if you leave a forwarding address.



Editor's Notes

from page 6

next door neighbor who had come over to help him work on the car. The totally embarrassed wife asked her husband to explain to the neighbor what happened.

They returned to the garage and asked the neighbor to come out from under the car. He did not respond. They finally had to pull him out and found him unconscious and bleeding from slamming his head into the underside of the car when he got zipped by surprise. There were concerned for him until they noticed the smile on his face.

And then there is the story about the fellow that could not give a convincing explanation about how he broke his arm. He kept muttering something about trying to stick his arm through a car window that he thought was down. That was the public story.

In private, he confessed that it happened at home when his wife brought some potted plants inside that had been out on the patio all day. A garter snake had hidden in one of the pots and later slithered out across the floor where the wife spotted it.

"I was in the bathtub when I heard her scream," he related. "I thought she was being murdered, so I jumped out to go

help her— I didn't even grab a towel!

When I ran into the living room she yelled that the snake was under the couch. I got down on my hand and knees to look for it when my dog came up behind me and "cold-nosed" me. I thought it was the snake and fainted. My wife thought I had a heart attack and called for an ambulance.

I was still groggy when it arrived. The medics lifted me onto a stretcher and as they were carrying me out, the snake came out from under the couch and frightened one of the medics. He dropped his end of the stretcher, and that's how I broke my arm."

—Don't forget the raffle tickets. We need everyone's help. 73, Bob



Technical Report

By LeRoy Campbell, NV6S

The technical tasks last month have been largely unseen, although work has been going on behind the scene.

Crystals have been ordered for our low level repeater and steps have been taken to secure a site for that. The site that is looking most likely at this time is a telephone building near my office in south east Modesto. Don, AB6AE, is attempting to secure this site for us. I cannot disclose the frequency until I have the repeater up and operating for obvious reasons but this information will be made available to the membership as soon as possible.

We have been experiencing unusual band conditions on two meters in the past few days. If you like DX this was great, but it is a pain for repeater operators. The squelch setting on our repeater is intentionally left looser than is needed by these conditions. The purpose of this is to allow

hand held radios to get in more easily.

The down side is that when ambient noise gets high, it can open the repeater. I have had to put the repeater in tone access mode during times of high noise levels. This is currently a control operator function and those codes cannot be given out to the general membership. We put the repeater back in carrier access mode as soon as possible after the noise lets up.

I have no doubt that as the two meter band continues to become more crowded the sub-audible tone access will have to be left on all the time. Until that time, I would like to only use the mode as needed.

I'm still attempting to find time to work on the linking of the repeaters. Also needed is some work on the antenna and grounding system at the site. As it cools down this fall I hope to put a couple work

parties together to take care of the antenna and grounding.

Meanwhile, I will attempt to locate the gremlin in the links that likes to eat audio. Thanks again to all who have helped with technical chores and to the membership for continued patience and for their support. 73, LeRoy

Broadcasters and cable operators are furious with new fees

Broadcasters and cable operators are furious with the Clinton administration for proposing to increase user and other regulatory-related fees by more than \$2 million per year and to impose a new tax to be known as a "spectrum royalty fee." They say that proposal could cost spectrum users almost \$51 billion. (Being non-pecuniary, amateur radio is excluded from these fees.)

Senator Ernest Hollings (D-SC) charged that "—the administration is trying to make the information super-highway into a toll road when it should be a freeway."

According to the 1995 budget proposal released April 22, the White House plans to use the money freed by a self-funded FCC to cover the costs of jailing illegal aliens who commit felonies in the U.S.

The FCC already raises enough revenue through user fees and application processing to pay for more than 80 % of its budget. The FCC's budget for 1995 is \$167.4 million. *W5YI Report*

FCC fees

from page 9

the regulatory fee will be refunded since amateurs are expressly exempt under the statute from regulatory fees, unless they have received their vanity call-sign.

The American Radio Relay League, Inc., asserts that it has requested Congress to change the vanity call sign annual regulatory fee to a one time application fee. The FCC said they would modify their fee schedule to be consistent with any congressional amendment of the fees.

Amateur Vanity Calls

Regulatory Fee: \$70.00 (for 10 years)
FCC Form: 610-V
Fee Type Code: PBAR
Attach \$70.00 check to application and send to: Federal Communications Commission (Amateur) P.O. Box 358830 Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5830.
(Note 4- Fees for Vanity Call Signs will be assessed if proposed rules to establish vanity call signs become effective. FCC currently considering PR Docket 93-105. FCC Form 610-V is not yet available.)

SHARED USE SERVICES:

General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)

Regulatory Fee: \$35.00

Processing Fee: \$45.00
Total Fee: \$80.00 (Single check)
FCC Form: 574
Fee Type Code: PALR
Attach \$80.00 check to application and send to: Federal Communications Commission (GMRS) P.O. Box 358230 Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5230.

Aviation Radio Service

(Aircraft Station):

Regulatory Fee: \$70.00
Processing Fee: \$45.00
Total Fee: \$115.00
FCC Form: 404
Fee Type Code: PAAR
Attach \$115 check to application and send to: Federal Communications Commission (Aircraft) P.O. Box 358280 Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5280.

Maritime Radio Service

(Ship Stations)

Regulatory Fee: \$70.00
Processing Fee: \$45.00
Total Fee: \$115.00
FCC Form: 506
Fee Type Code: PASRI
Attach a check for \$115.00 to application and send to: Federal Communications Commission (Ship) P.O. Box 358275 Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5275.

W5YI Report





Calendar

August 7 Livermore Swap Meet 7 AM - Noon
 August 13 Foothills College Swap Meet All Day
 August 16 SARA Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM
 Sept 10 VE Testing In Modesto 9 AM
 Contact W6XK 883-2968
 Sept. 20 SARA Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM
 Oct. 7-9 1st National Hamfest 3 days
 Bakersfield, CA.
 Oct. 8 VE Testing In Merced 9 AM
 Contact KI6PR 383-2166
 Oct. 21-23 PACIFICON94 3 days
 Hilton Hotel, Concord, CA

SARA meets the third Tuesday of each month (except holidays) at the Stanislaus County Administration Building 11th and H Streets in downtown Modesto. The meetings are held in the lower-level conference room at 730 pm. Visitors and interested persons are most welcome to attend. SARA is an ARRL affiliated club and is also affiliated with the Stanislaus County and City of Modesto RACES\ARES programs.

The READOUT is mailed with a bulk mailing permit. Please notify us if you move as the Post Office will not forward bulk mail regardless if you left a forwarding address.



SARA Membership Application

Call _____ Date _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Are you a member of the ARRL? (Yes) (No)
 Home Phone _____
 Business Phone _____
 Occupation _____
 Date of Birth _____
 Class of license _____
 Year first licensed _____

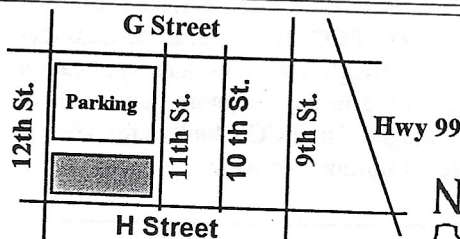
Dues: Renewal \$23.00 per year. Out of area more than 150 miles from Modesto is \$11.00. New first time applicants dues are pro-rated from the month you join the club. Use \$1.91 times the number of months remaining in the year. ie.- You join in July- $6 \times \$1.91 = \11.46

SARA repeaters on Mt. Oso at 3,300 feet- 145.39(-) MHz PL 136.5 Hz or * 5 to override the PL. 224.14 (-) MHz. 440.225 (+) MHz PL 136.5 Hz. KA-Node Digipeater (SARA) 144.91 MHz.

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

Address Correction Requested

Bulk Rate
 U. S. Postage
 Paid
 Permit 5
 Modesto, CA.



SARA Meeting Location
 1100 H Street, Modesto, CA
 Lower Level Conference Room.
 730 pm third Tuesday of each month.

TO:

1934
 DERRILL COFFMAN
 W4GFB
 P. O. BOX 54
 CERES, CA 95307

Next SARA Meeting is August 16, 1994 at 730PM & You're Invited!