



The READOUT

Year 17 Number 1 January 1995

The official newsletter of the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

Newsletter no longer affordable

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

I have known the time was coming that the costs of publishing a monthly newsletter would be more than we could afford — it appears the time has come.

As the editor for the last 17 years, I have agonized over this subject for several years, and many times suggested to the club we cut back. Each time the subject was brought up and discussed, it was decided to bite the bullet and continue to publish on a monthly basis despite the costs. We all chipped in and worked hard on the yearly raffle to garner the extra income to pay the bills.

It is well established that the newsletter is an important benefit of the club which most members look forward each month, especially those who live out of the area and cannot hear or use the repeaters. The newsletter provides their only contact with the club and many members pay their dues just to be

able to get the newsletter. I have strived to make the newsletter one of the best in the country, and with your support, we have done that. However, I don't think we can continue at this rate.

The key points that bring me to this conclusions are the increase in postage coming from the Post Office this month (January 1995), and more importantly, the increase in printing cost incurred with the demise in early 1994 of Budget Copy. I have also been concerned that the engineering department was not being funded sufficiently to keep our repeaters and related equipment in tip-top shape.

Recently, the club received a letter from one of our member's who expressed his concerns about club's priorities. He agreed that the newsletter was nice, but felt that the money spent on it could better be used in making our repeaters and related systems more reliable and the best they can be. He advocated more emphasis should be placed on the quality of the system and providing the engineering department with the support (equipment and funds) they need to keep the systems in top condition.

He wrote—"It seems to me that the main unifying feature of SARA is the repeater. I don't feel that "RACES", the club "net", the club "trailer", the great "newsletter", or any of the many worthwhile efforts of the club is the reason folks maintain their membership. I strongly feel it is the repeater. It ties us together, gives us our "voice", provides us communication."

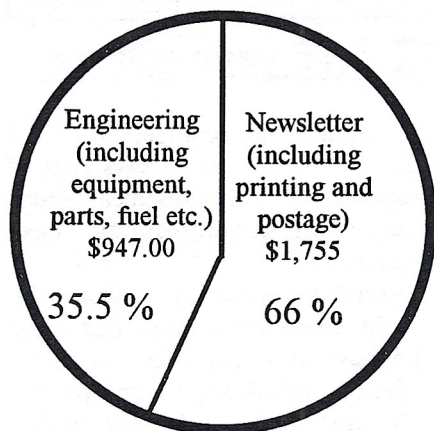
He's right! The repeaters should be our number one priority. Sure, it would be nice to have enough money buy all the equipment we want, including test equipment, and to publish a nice newsletter

each month. But we can't! Something has to give and I'm afraid it's got to be the newsletter.

I asked our treasurer to go over the books and provide me with the figures. I'm projecting the numbers for 1994 because all the figures for the year were not in as of this writing. These figures will be very close to the final tally. Postage was \$540 and printing was \$1,215. Total for 1994 is \$1,755. In contrast, the amount of money spent on equipment including new purchases, parts, fuel to go to Mt. Oso and miscellaneous expenses was \$947.00.

Adding the newsletter and engineering costs alone, they total \$2,702. The total amount of money collected from dues in 1994 was \$2,668, leaving a deficit of \$34.00. Our next largest expense is the yearly equipment and liability insurance at \$761.15 which takes the lions

See page "Newsletter" page 7



Spending based on 1994 income from dues of \$2,668.
(Not including raffle funds)

In this issue

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Using the phone during disasters | 2 |
| 800 number for FCC information | 2 |
| From the desk of N6ZUC | 3 |
| Amateur Radio Call Signs | 4 |
| 95 VE exam fees increased | 4 |
| Jammer active on repeaters | 4 |
| SARA Technical Report | 5 |
| More on PL encoders | 5 |
| Letters | 6 |
| Tri-County VE schedule | 6 |
| SARA Minutes | 7 |
| Editor's Notes | 8 |
| ARRL Pacific Update | 9 |
| Please execute him | 10 |
| New equipment manager | 10 |



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SARA VHF Net

Thursdays @ 8 p.m.

(Except Holidays)

2 meters 145.39 MHz WD6EJF

10 Meters 28,440 kHz USB

Tuesdays at 800 pm.

Contributions to The READOUT are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor by mail or via packet either at KD6JZZ-BBS on 144.97 MHz. or directly to my personal BBS, WA6ZLO-1 on 144.91 MHz. If you can't reach my PBBS direct, you can go through the SARA KA-node on Mt. Oso which is also on 144.91. Type C SARA then at the prompt C WA6ZLO-1. The deadline for articles is the 15th of the preceding month. Articles regarding religion or politics are not accepted.

Editor

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An ARRL affiliated club

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Using the phone during disasters

By Gary Morris, KK6YB

When a major disaster strikes, it seems that everyone tries to use their phone at the same time. This puts the phone system way over it's normal peak usage, over it's capacity, resulting in the absence of a dial tone on the phone. The common perception in this situation is that the local phone system is out of service due to the disaster, but usually the only problem is simply too many people trying to get a dial tone at one time. How does this effect us as emergency responders and how do we deal with it?

What about the situation where you need to use the phone, perhaps the repeaters are down or overloaded, and you can't get dial tone? First, don't hang up. When you pick up the phone you are put in a queue when a dial tone becomes available the next person in the queue gets it. Each time you pick up the phone you start over at the end of the queue depending on the load on the phone system it can take anywhere from 30 seconds to an hour to get a dial tone. If the wait for dial tone is too long you do have two alternatives.

The phone company designates certain phone lines as essential service lines'. These lines get priority for dial tone and always go the head of the

queue. The lines that usually have that feature are dial out lines for Emergency Operations Centers, Sheriff, police Departments, Fire Departments, etc. However, public pay phones are also designated as 'essential service lines'.

If you can't get dial tone at home, try a nearby public pay phone. If you expect to make a lot of phone calls in an emergency, such as to direct a strike team, activate an EOC or RACES station personnel, you might want to consider having your phone designated as an essential service line. There is no charge and under normal circumstances you can't tell the difference. However, in a disaster it could save you many minutes or hours in getting calls through to direct emergency personnel. If you have a phone in your RACES station in might be a good idea to ask and see if that phone line is designed as an essential service line.

As emergency communications providers to government agencies, we need to be prepared to use any circuit available to transfer information, whether it be amateur radio, OASIS satellite phones, or the plain old phone system.

From Tac-One, the newsletter of San Diego County RACES, John Pfingsten, KD6ACV, editor.

800 number for FCC information

The FCC has instituted a toll-free phone line at its Gettysburg, Pennsylvania licensing division for customer service inquiries. Amateurs may call 1 800- 322-1117 weekdays between 8 AM and 4:30 PM Eastern Time to access an automated informational system with recorded messages on interference complaints, form requests, records, and Amateur Radio call sign assignments.

Other messages regard fee information and processing times. A Touch

Tone telephone is required. The FCC said the new service was part of its response to a Presidential order that the federal government be "customer driven."

Within the next 11 months, the FCC said customer service standards will be developed for other areas of Commission operations to ensure that the FCC customers receive the highest quality of service possible. As these new standards become viable, the FCC with inform its customers.

ARRL Letter

From the desk of N6ZUC

J. T. "Tim" Low

How was your Christmas? Lot's of new toy's? Hope so. We're now into the rainy season, giving us ample opportunity to spend a weekend here and there in the shack playing Ham radio. Those rainy days are the perfect excuse for brushing up on the CW, work on your upgrade, or just get on the air for some long overdue ragchews.

The rainy season also brings its share of lightning activity, and a good reason to have planned ahead and made sure your grounding system is up to snuff. You, as we have chatted about in a past READOUT or two, should also have done some serious thinking about adding static/lightning protection to your antenna lead ins.

I have run across a series of articles from Polyphaser in their newsletter "STRIKING NEWS". It discusses in some detail the reasons for good lightning/static protection, and methods for installing good ground systems and lightning/static protectors. I have a couple of disagreements with them on a point or two, but overall, you won't go wrong following the advise contained therein. I highly recommend you send off for a copy of their February and May 1994 newsletters. Tell them you are an Amateur, and would like to read the articles on "Ham Radio Station Protection". They will send you a packet containing the newsletters, and some info on their product line.

Where I mainly disagree with them is on the use of copper ground strap. The article stresses the use of wide copper strap to connect your ground system together. In the piece they talk about a large portion of the energy in a lightning bolt being in the VHF frequency range, and is therefore subject to what's known as "Skin Effect". Skin effect refers to the tendency of current at radio frequencies to flow on the surface of the conductor, instead of throughout

the whole of the conductor. What they fail to take into account is the fact that when using copper strap, not only does current tend to flow on the surface, but is also pushed toward the edges of the strap, reducing the total effective surface area. This is why I recommend the use of copper pipe, rather than strap. Since pipe contains no edge, current will flow evenly around it. To request a copy of this article, contact Polyphaser at: Polyphaser Corp. P.O. Box 1237 Gardnerville, NV. 89410-9805

While looking through the newest Radio Shack catalog, I see "The Shack" continues into the Ham Radio market with the introduction of a new 2 meter power amplifier. This of course to team up with their 2 meter HT. The read on this one claims 30 watts out with a drive of .5 to 5 watts. I'm wondering what will happen on high power, since the Radio Shack HTX-202 I reviewed when they first hit the market, would put out 7 watts on 13.8 volts. Other specs claim, "a helical receive filter and compensating-receive preamplifier to help cut intermodulation interference". I did look at one, and it's a nice, well made package, though I haven't had the chance to try one out.

Another new Ham product announced in the new catalog is a quarter wave magmount antenna, not yet in stores. This now gives them two mobile 2 meter antennas in the lineup. The other is the magnet mount 5/8 wave, introduced even before the HTX-202 was available. I now count these among the Ham Radio offerings from "The Shack". HTX-202 2mtr rig, HTX-404 70cm rig, speaker mic, 2mtr power amplifier, digital noise reduction unit, 1/4 wave mag mount antenna, 5/8 wave mag mount antenna. They also have a 13.8 volt regulated power supply, and various external speakers, coax, connectors, ect. Wonder what

they'll come up with next year?

The new "Communicue" newsletter from AEA shows a couple of interesting new products. They are replacing the venerable PK-88 packet controller with a new slimmer, less power hungry model called the PK-12. It should already be in stores. The PCB-88, which is the PK-88 that fits an expansion slot in your puter, will still be available. They are showing a new 9600 baud packet controller also.

The product I'm most interested in is their new DM-1. It's a deviation meter, allowing checking of deviation on your packet rig, voice rig, as well as DTMF and subaudible (PL) tones. I plan to check into adding one of these to my personal arsenal of test equipment. It 's said to be good on the 2M, 1.25M and the 70cm bands.

That's it. All I have to say for this month. Looking for a productive "95", and wishing you a happy new year. As always, if you wish to make suggestions, take issue with something I've said, or just say howdy, drop me a line via packet at: N6ZUC @ KJ6VC. #SOCA .CA. USA.NOAM, or write me in care of "The READOUT". 73 - Tim, N6ZUC.

Printed Circuit Board Design

J. T. (Tim) Low, N6ZUC

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AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

Issued as of the first of November 1994

| Radio | Gp. 'A' | Gp. 'B' | Gp. 'C' | Gp. 'D' |
|----------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| District | Extra | Advan. | Tech/Gen | Novice |
| 0 | AA0UA | KG0RD | (***) | KB0PLX |
| 1 | AA1LH | KD1XS | N1TKM | KB1BLE |
| 2 | AA2UO | KF2YO | (***) | KB2SFP |
| 3 | AA3IY | KE3PW | N3TSG | KB3BFG |
| 4 | AD4ZD | KS4HB | (***) | KE4SMC |
| 5 | AB5YQ | KK5EK | (***) | KC5KPV |
| 6 | AC6GZ | KO6KX | (***) | KE6NVP |
| 7 | AA7FV | KJ7FF | (***) | KC7GMT |
| 8 | AA8QX | KG8MV | (***) | KB8VMB |
| 9 | AA9MW | KF9Q1 | N9YZZ | KB9JBE |
| N. Mariana Is. | KH0O | AH0AN | KH0DO | WH0AAX |
| Guam | WH2H | AH2CY | KH2LO | WH2ANG |
| Johnston Is. | AH3D | AH3AD | KH3AG | WH3AAG |
| Midway Is. | | AH4AA | KH4AG | WH4AAH |
| Hawaii | (**) | AH6NO | WH6ZC | WH6CRL |
| Kure Is. | | | KH7AA | |
| Amer. Samoa | AH8L | AH8AG | KH8BJ | WH8ABB |
| Wake W. Peale | AH9C | AH9AD | KH9AE | WH9AAL |
| Alaska | (**) | AL7PV | WL7YU | WL7CHV |
| Virgin Is. | WP2P | KP2CD | NP2HR | WP2AHU |
| Puerto Rico | (**) | KP4XS | (***) | WP4MUA |

CALL SIGN WATCH

*= 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" (1-by-3) call signs have now run out in radio districts except call area 1, 3 and 9.

[Source FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]

Jammer active on valley repeaters

If you have been listening to .39 (and other area machines) you have no doubt heard the idiots that have been jamming machines and using foul language.

We suspect that at least one of the individuals, and possibly the other, is in possession of several stolen radios taken the in Modesto area over the last several months. We are not at liberty to discuss our plans to catch these scofflaws, but rest assured that all efforts are being made.

In the interim, for the benefit of old and new members alike, now would be a good time to go over the accepted procedure to follow when the individuals are on the frequency. Please make sure you understand and follow these procedures. It's the best way to handle the situation and not perpetuate it.

1. **DO NOT** acknowledge any unidentified transmission unless it sounds like it could be a legitimate emergency situation.
2. **DO NOT** acknowledge that a jammer is being effective. Carry on your conversation as if he or she weren't there.
3. **DO NOT** talk to unidentified operators.
4. **DO NOT** talk about the subject of jamming, etc., on the air. If someone brings up the subject, change it. If they continue, sign off with them and do not allow yourself to become a party to it.

Like any thrill seeker, jammers want attention. If you give it to them, either directly or indirectly, you give them what they want and it inspires them to continue.

You also may be wondering why the repeater(s) is not immediately taken off the air each time a jammer comes on. Most often control operators will take the repeater(s) off, however, there are times when the repeater(s) are left on to facilitate apprehension efforts. Enough said on this subject!

Please be understanding as we work through this problem. Your cooperation is essential.

'95 VE examination fees increased

The Federal Communications Commission announced on October 31st, that effective January 1, 1995, the maximum allowable reimbursement fee for an amateur operator license examination will be \$5.92. This amount is based upon a 2.96% increase in the Department of Labor Consumer Price Index between Sept. 1993 and Sept. 1994.

Volunteer examiners (VEs) and volunteer-examiner coordinators (VECs) may charge examinees for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering or coordinating examinations for amateur operator licenses.

The amount of any such reimbursement fee from any one examinee for any

one examination session, regardless of the number of elements administered, must not exceed the maximum allowable fee. Where the VEs and the VEC both desire reimbursement, they jointly decide upon a fair distribution of the fee. Both the W5YI-VEC and ARRL-VEC will be charging a \$5.90 test fee in 1995.

If you need more information on the volunteer examination program locally, you can contact Chet Jensen, W6XK, at 209 883-2968 or by packet at KD6JZZ in Sonora. For the Merced area, contact Mike Siegal, KI6PR at 209-383-2166. Next VE tests in this area will be January 14th in Turlock; February 11th in Merced and March 11th in Modesto.



SARA Technical Report

By LeRoy Campbell, NV6S

A lot has been accomplished since the last report, although much still need attention. Alex, K6LPG, accompanied me on a couple recent trips up Mt. Oso to attend to chores on the repeaters. Alex located the audio problem on the two meter machine very quickly and repaired the same. His professional knowledge of the Micor radio was put to use, and much to my awe, he had the problem corrected quickly. That has been a nagging problem and he saved me hours of work.

Alex then tuned the 220 repeater up and made significant improvements there. The sensitivity was down and the output power had dropped off to about one watt. It is back performing properly now. We did manage to leave the audio on the 220 repeater courtesy tone a little too loud and since our LID was plaguing us while we were working on things, the level on the autopatch was also left too loud.

While Alex worked in the shack I worked on the guy anchor for the tower. I managed to get an anchor and a ground rod planted to about 38 inches before hitting what appears to be solid granite. Several minutes of pounding with a ten pound sledge hammer produced no further depth for the ground rod. At least the guy anchor has been installed to replace the dead tree that we were concerned about.

A week later Alex and I returned to the site when we adjusted all levels and everything seemed to be working properly. We were patting ourselves on the back for a couple days until the mix, or whatever it is, began causing desense on the two meter machine. I found that the 220 repeater was interfering with the two meter machine and it seemed that the two meter machine also interfered with the 220 machine. We have diagnosed the antenna on the 220 repeater, an old IsoPole, as being defective. A new four pole antenna has been purchased and is waiting to be mounted on the tower.

Since that trip, the interference has done some strange things and seems to change around from an unknown source and then back to the 220 repeater. This problem may be happening in the defective antenna or somewhere on our tower. Worse yet, it could be happening on someone else's tower where we do not have the ability to make repairs.

The two meter node has died. I think the receiver is dead and we will examine that as soon as one of us gets up the hill. Alex thinks it is a minor problem that can be quickly fixed. I'll put my bets on Alex again since it is a Micor radio.

I have asked Jim, N6UGH, to head up a party to do antenna work. I believe plans are to do this in January. I have additional sections of tower here that were donated to the club by Jim. These sections are damaged and will require quite a lot of

work before they can be installed. I'm hoping to get the tower completed in the next couple weeks. We will need the additional tower to gain mounting space for the new 4 pole 220 antenna and the Station Master for the 440 repeater. The new guy anchors and guy wires will need to be installed at the same time. Additional ground rods and grounding will need to be done as well. Fortunately most of the materials for this project have been donated so the club's expense can be kept to a minimum.

Alex is working on a more secure auto patch system for the club. This will include two additional transmitters and receivers which he has obtained. I do not yet know the cost, although I'm told it will be very little. When accomplished, it will greatly enhance our operation.

Alex is putting together another 440 transmitter to replace the one we are using on the 440 repeater. Plans include an increase in power from the ten watt final to about 40 watts. Coupled with a higher gain antenna that should make our repeater hold its own with the best. Once again I want to thank those who have donated their time materials and effort to assist with the repeater system.

My special thanks to Jim, N6UGH for taking over the antenna project and to Alex for the greatly needed, and greatly appreciated technical help. Thank the members for being patient as the time needed to do the work is not always available. 73, LeRoy.

More on PL encoders

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

Last month I touched briefly on the subject of PL codes being used on the SARA repeaters and how you could reasonably install an encoder on your FM equipment that needed one. I mentioned the Communications Specialists encoder I installed on my Yaesu 227R several years

ago and recommended it.

If you received a copy of the Amateur Electronic Supply Winter 94/95 catalog, you will find the Communications Specialists ad on page 145, which shows the encoder I bought, the SS-32P, which sells for \$28.95. It is DIP switch programable to encode 32 standard or EIA tone frequencies between 67 Hz and 250 Hz. The SS-32SMP model is a small programmable CTCSS encoder designed for use in most handhelds. It

comes standard with 32 EIA tones between 67 Hz and 203.5 Hz with each individual tone selectable by soldering binary coded jumpers. The size of the unit is 0.53" x 1.0" x 0.16". It requires 6-15 VDC and sells for \$27.95.

If you want to get real fancy, you can buy the TE-64 multi-purpose endocder providing 64 frequencies which include 32 sub-audible, 19 burst-tone, 8 Touch-Tone and 5 test frequencies with separate outputs for the high and low frequency ranges. It's \$ 79.95.



Via the SARA packet mailbag by
Berry Griffin, KN6ZE

—Just a thought!

When I read almost any Ham Radio magazine these days, or browse through packet mail on my favorite BBS, or listen to Newline, there always seems to be a least one item pertaining to a restrictive antenna ordinance in some town that thinks radio antennas are evil, nasty looking radiators of some cancer causing unknown radio beam.

The city councils, or county planners, then pass some dumb ordinance that outlaws amateur radio antennas, and tell any hams involved in a conflict with a neighbor to cease operating. If the ham fights back with litigation, more often than not, some judge who thinks a three dollar telephone shouldn't have to reject any outside radio transmission, rules that some poor ham has to give up his hobby, just so Mr. and Mrs. Neighbor can watch X-rat-

ed movies on their cheap-o VCR without having any worry about shielding from radio transmissions.

More and more people are getting on the ANTI - HAM band wagon, trying to restrict amateur radio, and in some case, outlaw it completely. Needless to say, I get a little peeved when I read about such happening, and I suspect, other hams feel the same frustration as I do. Which brings me to the point of all this.

What do you suppose would happen if the ARRL, ARES, RACES, MARS and all other like organizations were to inform city and local governments that if these city and or local governments enact ordinances to prohibit ham radio, or ham antennas, they can expect NOT to receive any assistance with emergency or disaster communications or public service from the amateur radio community?

Likewise, any organization that depends on hams for their communications for their special events, charity walks, bicycle races, etc. could also forget about getting any help from us, if that event takes place in or passes through a city or locality that prohibits amateur antennas or activities.

I fully realize that this is a radical thought. I know it goes against a long tradition of community service by hams for the American people as a whole, but, times are changing. We live in an age where right and wrong no longer seem to matter. Presenting logical arguments has no bearing on the outcome of a conflict. The person, or persons, who yell the loudest wins. We can sit by quietly, as city after city outlaws antennas and or trans-

missions, and hope that somewhere, somebody in a position of power will listen to our logical, sound reasons for our hobby and come to our rescue. The real world chances of that happening are very low.

So, since that direction seems to fail, we can fight back. If the neighbor down the street comes banging on my door, telling me that I am messing up his cordless phone, and refuses all offers on my part to help fix the problem, and then calls me, my mother and everyone I know, some four letter derivative of a lower life form, I will be dammed if I am going to use my radio to find out if his mother in LA is alive and well, or was mashed flat in the big earthquake that just hit.

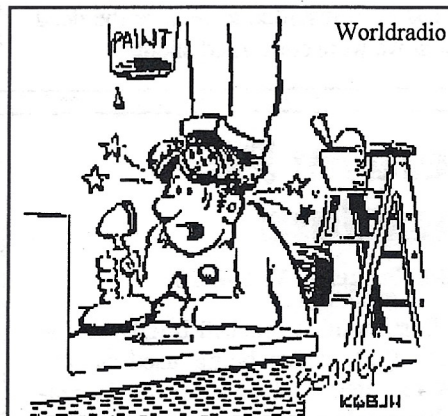
Now —I fully realize that some hams just live for community service. This is their bread and butter. Their arguments are that there are a lot of people out there who have nothing against ham radio, are glad we are around, and would miss us if we didn't help out anymore. My answer to that is, those people are all voters. If they allow their communities to pass laws that make it impossible for us operate, or vote for supervisors and city council members enact such laws and ordinances, they get what the deserve.

There is an old saying, " You can live on your knees, or live standing." The choice is always a personal one. Like I said, this is all just a thought.

Tri-County VE tests for 1995

| Where | When | Contact | Phone |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Turlock | January 14, 1995 | W6XK | (209) 883-2968 |
| Merced | February 1, 1995 | KI6PR | (209) 383-2166 |
| Modesto | March 11, 1995 | W6XK | (209) 883-2968 |
| Oakdale | April 1, 1995 | W6XK | (209) 883-2968 |
| Turlock | May 13, 1995 | W6XK | (209) 883-2968 |
| Merced | June 10, 1995 | KI6PR | (209) 383-2166 |
| Modesto | September 9, 1995 | W6XK | (209) 883-2968 |
| Merced | October 14, 1995 | KI6PR | (209) 383-2166 |
| Modesto | December 9, 1995 | W6XK | (209) 883-2968 |

If you have any questions regarding the Tri-County VE Team examination schedule, please contact W6XK @ KD6JZZ or phone (209) 883-2968.



"Yeah, the painter is painting the shack right now, but I just couldn't miss a band opening this good!"

Newsletter

From front page

share of the money earned in the raffle each year.

The handwriting is on the wall! The repeaters are the essential heart of our club. The equipment and liability insurance we carry are prudent and necessary. The newsletter is an important PR tool and creates a positive image for the club and is an important vehicle by which we maintain old members and attract new ones. Unfortunately, it's has to be considered a luxury. So, what are the choices.

1. Total elimination of the newsletter
Savings \$1,755.00
2. Reduce to a quarterly newsletter
(3 issues per year)
Costs \$585.00
3. Reduce to a Bi-monthly newsletter-
(6 issues per year)
Costs \$877.50

Yes, we could save more money by cutting down on the quality of the newsletter by going to standard 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper printed on both sides with the sheets stapled together. We could also restrict the number of pages by publishing only club news and nothing else. In my opinion there is nothing more boring than a newsletter with only club news and I will tell you right now, I would not waste my time on such a newsletter. I would rather see its demise before I would see the quality reduced.

My personal feeling is that we reduce the newsletter to a bi-monthly publication (February, April, June, August, October and December, and use the savings to increase the budget of the engineering department. We will probably have to continue the yearly raffle which would give us some breathing room and restructure our priorities.

So, the choice is up to us. This matter will discussed at the February 21, 1995 meeting of *SARA* and a decision will be made. We need you input! If you can not be at the meeting, call one of the officers and let your feeling be known. If you are outside the area, please write to us and gives us your feeling. Your opinion on this matter is earnestly solicited. Please make your feelings know. Write, call or come to the meeting in February. Let you voice and suggestions be heard. It's an important decision and your input in needed.

SARA Minutes

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

The December 20, 1994 meeting of *SARA* was called to order by President, Liz, KD6GIW, at 730 PM. 22 members and guests present introduced themselves. Technical report was given by LeRoy, NV6S. (See page 5 for details). The treasurers report was read by treasurer Bob, KC6TVE, and approved.

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| November expenses: | 451.33 |
| November income: | 203.85 |
| Year to date: | |
| Expenses: | 5,085.60 |
| Income: | 4,449.51 |
| | < 636.09 > |
| Check book balance | \$1,510.80 |

Minutes of the November meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. Acting Secretary Bob, WA6ZLO, reported the club's ad in Worldradio magazine was due for renewal at a cost of \$60.00. He explained that Worldradio provides 10 free memberships to the magazine to help clubs recover the cost of the ad. Each membership is worth \$12.00 and can be easily sold at club meetings. Therefore the ad pays for itself. It was moved and seconded to renew the ad.

ZLO reported that two solid steel 30 foot crankup towers had been donated to the club by the Red Cross. LeRoy, NV6S, said the club had no use for them and suggested we sell them. Steve, KD6YCB, said he had received an offer of \$300.00 for both towers. He was authorized to sell them. The towers have been stored at his home.

The President then announced the winners of the club's special awards for 1994. The "Most Improved" ham was awarded to Judy Mahan, AC6DY, who went from a Novice to Extra during the year. Patricia Corraera, KE6CZW, was awarded the "Youngest *SARA* Ham" award. Bruce Johnston, NK6C, the "Best Elmer" of the year award for all the time and efforts he spends helping students earn they licenses. Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO, was award the "*SARA* Volunteer" of the year for the time and effort he has put forth on *The READOUT* and as Acting Secretary this year. A

handsome certificate prepared by Liz, was awarded to each winner.

Election of 1995 officers was held. No nominations were received from the floor. Therefore, the proposed slate was elected unanimously by secret ballot. Jim Jones, N6UGH, President. Mark Lemmons, WB6BJH, reelected Vice President. Bob Kimball, KC6TVE, was reelected treasurer and Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO, was elected as Secretary. The officers take over on January 1, 1995.

Prior to the vote, Jim, N6UGH, read a prepared statement of what he would like to accomplish if he was elected. He said he would like to see our equipment and systems be brought up to "first-class" condition and maintained that way. Identify and get rid of equipment that was no longer needed and to put together a program with people and equipment to go after jammers. He also announced that he was putting together a work party to go to Mt. Oso soon for repairs on the towers and guy wire and grounding systems. Those who wanted to help were asked to contact him.

NV6S announced that a group of Modesto Churches would be holding a walk-a-thon on March 5, 1995, starting at 2 PM. Three operators would be needed to help with the communications.

New members Tim O'Brien and Aaron Heffner were welcomed to the club. Both are Technicians. Tim is waiting for his call and Aaron's call is KE6OUU. Mike, KI7FQ and his son Chris, KB7ZGC, once again provided delicious cookies to go along with coffee and tea at the end of the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 815 PM. Respectfully submitted by WA6ZLO, acting Secretary.

1995 *SARA* Officers

President
Jim Jones
N6UGH

Vice President
Mark Lemmons
WB6BJN

Treasurer
Bob Kimball
KC6TVE

Secretary
Bob Pinheiro
WA6ZLO



Editor's Notes

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. We are fortunate to start our 19th year as a club with a strong slate of officers for 1995. Congratulations to those elected and best of luck. President, Jim, N6UGH, started off with some fine business suggestions as to what he would like to see the club do in '95.

First, bring all of our repeaters and related equipment up to first class condition and maintain them there. He also wants to see us get rid of old equipment that is no longer being used. Along this line, the club is very fortunate to have a new equipment manager, Larry, KE6HDT, has agreed to take on the tough job. We have never had an equipment manager and we can certainly use one. The biggest part of the is going to be finding and inventorying all the club's equipment. The equipment not in service is stored at various members homes. The reason for this has been to save money on storage charges.

Down through the years we often considered renting a storage bin to keep all of the equipment in one place. However, when we checked into the prices for even a small bin, the costs were prohibitive. A small bin alone would run around \$50 a month or \$600 a year. Further, such a bin would not hold bigger things like towers, large antennas, generators etc. So, as a result, we have farmed out equipment to various members homes.

The majority of the unused equipment is taking up space at LeRoy's, (NV6S) home. The generator is at Bob Kimball's, KC6TVE's, home. The club station equipment is at Jim Jones, N6UGH, home. Various other pieces are at various members homes. We still can not afford to store it in a commercial location, but it sure would be nice if one of our members had a nice clean and

secure building we could use. In any event, the new equipment manager will be on the job making up the list of what we have and where it is, including the equipment in service. When it is determined that equipment is surplus or no longer needed it will be sold or disposed of. You can help Larry with his job by letting him know about any club equipment you may have. You can either write to him in care of the club's PO Box, or call him at 571-0188. Thank You!

—Speaking of Larry, KE6HDT, congratulations to him upon upgrading to a General. Also, kudos to Mike Heenan, who upgraded to an Advanced and has a new call, KO6JU. Welcome to new members Aaron Heffner, KE6OUU and Tim O'Brien. Aaron is a student at Johansen High School and Tim is a grocer who works in the family owned grocery store (O'Briens) in Roseburg Square. He is a Technician who is waiting for his license. Welcome aboard!

—It's official. The name of the next version of Windows (code-named "Chicago") is "Windows '95." The details are pretty exciting: no more DOS, a document-centered rather than application-centered environment, lots of new communications features, and much better performance and speed. Even the little details hold great promise; just imagine what it will be like to save files with long descriptive names, instead of those cryptic eight-character abbreviations DOS forced upon us for years. Window's '95 will start shipping this month.

—Wal-Mart, working with Home Shopping Alternatives of Bethesda, Maryland, will begin on-line ordering of general merchandise and groceries in January. There will be a \$6.95 delivery charge regardless of the order size. Surprisingly, tests show that the average order for home delivery is larger than in-store purchases.

The new service is aimed at dual-income families who have trouble shopping during the day.

—Starting on January 17, 1995, Pacific Bell will offer three new services that could affect you. But you won't be able to order them thanks to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). One of the services is vital to putting a stop to crank, threatening or any type of offensive calls. It's called CALL TRACE, and would make it easier for the offended party to trace such calls within their own service area. All a customer would have to do after receiving such a call is to dial a special code after hanging up from the offending call and the phone companies equipment will trace the call immediately. However, the traced number will only be released to the law enforcement agency to which the customer would have to file a complaint about the call.

The CPUC has blocked this important feature saying that the system could be abused to the point of releasing confidential information of innocent parties. Let's hope the CPUC comes to there senses on this one. It's vitally needed.

The other two features which have been blocked by the CPUC include, CALL RETURN and CALL SCREEN. CALL RETURN only works within a service area and calls back the number of the last person who called you. The call can be returned by pressing a three-digit code, even if it was never answered or was picked up by an answering machine.

CALL SCREEN lets subscribers decide who they don't want to receive calls from. It can block calls from them from up to 10 phone numbers within their service area. They decide what numbers they don't want to hear from.

73, Bob



ARRL Pacific Division Update

By Brad Wyatt, K6WR,

Congressional Legislative Report:-

The "lame duck" session of Congress in late November has come and gone. Unfortunately, even though the ARRL and many others did everything they could, the Senate did NOT bring up House Resolution 4522, the FCC Authorization Act of 1994. The House passed the bill in the closing hours of the session on Oct. 7 before leaving for the election campaign. HR 4522 contained various technical provisions desired by the FCC and other provisions desired by ARRL (but less the Joint Resolution language, which was passed, as reported last month).

Among the provisions was one that Congress had decided to change the \$7 per year fee for "vanity calls" to a ONE TIME application fee of \$150. It was the judgment of Congress that this change was "revenue neutral" and would ease the burden of billing and collection on the FCC. (It also helps to stay away from a potential annual license fee for ALL Amateur Radio licenses).

The ARRL staff is now planning our national legislative agenda for 1995 for approval by the Board in January 1995. I would like to have your input to this process. Please contact me immediately with your ideas. Ideas being proposed include reintroduction of the HR 4522 bill concerning vanity call sign application fees; protection for volunteers while performing their specific tasks, such as OOs, VEs; spectrum protection; enforcement issues; to name but a few. Let's look ahead to the potential Pacific Division Amateur Radio support in the 104th Congress to convene in January 1995.

Effort to Save the 13 cm. Band:-

By the time you read this, Comments on ET Docket 94-32, the NPRM involving the sale of licenses in the 2390 - 2400 and 2402 - 2417 MHz bands, will have been filed by all the parties interested. The comment deadline was Dec. 19, 1994. Many thanks to all who have worked so hard on this effort, with special thanks to Jim Von Striver, W6ASL, the spokesman for the Pacific Division Spectrum Committee, NARCC, NCPA and many others for all the effort put into trying to save 13 cm.

for all of us. Jim is planning a campaign to write Reply Comments on this matter. The Reply Comment deadline is Jan. 3, 1995. Please contact Jim at (510) 827-9826 if you are interested in helping.

There is another docket which discusses spectrum allocations above 40 GHz. This one appears to be relatively benign as it involves Amateur Radio only in the 76-77 GHz. segment of one of our bands and appears not to really threaten us. Nevertheless, the ARRL is filing comments, and I ask those of you interested to secure a copy of the Docket from Jim Von Striver, W6ASL, who will be assembling the Pacific Division comments. Comments are due on Jan. 31, 1995.

Vanity "Preferred" Callsigns -

At the ARRL National Convention in mid 1994 and at a later meetings, FCC officials indicated that the vanity call implementation should occur in early 1995. The basic outline of the ARRL Comments filed on FCC Docket 93-305 by the April 21 deadline is contained in the June 1994 Update. For the moment the dollar cost for obtaining a vanity call license remains at \$7 per year annual fee - see Congressional Legislative Report, above.

Pacificon'95:-

The Mount Diablo ARC has again agreed to sponsor the Pacific Division Convention. Many thanks! Details are in the Coming Events schedule.

Massive FCC Reorganization:-

More pieces of the Aug. 1, 1994, reorganization are now falling into place. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is now in existence. This is the group which administers the Amateur Radio Service. The new Chief is Regina Kenney. Of significance is that there is an Enforcement Division of 30 people within this Bureau. We hope that this is another step in the direction of more and better enforcement of the rules.

ARRL President George Wilson, W4OYI, and the ARRL Washington Staff continue to call at the top of the FCC (Commissioners and Civil Service Staff).

Electronic Filing of 610s:-

The first data interchange tests between selected VECs and FCC dealing with electronic filing of 610s has started. So far, the test results seem favorable. If all goes well, the FCC could be fully on-line with

the new 610 process by the beginning of 1995. This action should continue to shorten the time between examination and issuance of license.

New Division Appointments:-

With great pleasure I announce we have added a new Volunteer Counsel in the state of California. He is Al Crespo, WR6R, of Orinda. It is also with great pleasure I announce that Wallace Oki, KH6DJF, of Hilo, HI, has accepted an appointment as a Volunteer Consulting Engineer. Welcome, Al and Wallace!

Antenna Ordinances:-

Rusty Epps, W6OAT, continues to lead a Pacific Division-wide effort to develop a database of antenna ordinances and related materials. Rusty reports that data is coming in from all parts of the Division — thanks! Send all the material to Charles K. (Rusty) Epps, W6OAT, 651 Handley Trail, Redwood City, CA 94062.

As this Update is being written, we are in the middle of what could be the most significant antenna ordinance trial of many years in the Pacific Division, if not nationally. This is the retrial of Hotz vs. Rich, of Foster City. A favorable outcome in this trial could have far reaching impact on the enforceability of CC&Rs involving Amateur Radio. Jimmy Rich, WD6CJB, is the defendant in this long running case.

Known other antenna ordinance activities are currently underway in Fresno, Sonoma and Santa Clara counties and in Pleasant Hill, CA. All are being monitored closely. Please let me or Rusty know of activities in your area involving antenna ordinances.

Scholarships and Awards:-

There are many scholarships and awards covering a wide range of situations available to licensed Amateurs. The ARRL Foundation, The Dayton Amateur Radio Association, The Foundation for Amateur Radio, to name only a few, will be announcing their dates for applications for their 1995 scholarships. Watch QST and other amateur radio publications for details. Nominations for 1995 awards can be submitted starting now.

73 and Happy Holidays. Brad

CD-ROM technology in understandable terms

An excellent story entitled CD-ROMs for the Radio Amateur appears in the Fall 1994 Communications Quarterly magazine put out by CQ magazine. Author Brad Thompson, AA1P explains CD-ROM technology in very understandable terms.

Basically a compact-disk drive focuses an infrared laser beam through a plastic coating and reads "bumps" as ones-and-zeros along a 470 meter long spiral path stamped into a reflective metal layer. A photodiode converts the reflected beam into an electrical signal.

The 1,400 ones-and-zeros per millimeter translate into 650 megabytes of data ...about the same as 450 1.44 MB high density 3 1/2" floppy disks. And compression/decompression software techniques can double the storage capacity of CD-ROM disks. CD-ROM drives are more expensive than audio CD players since they must read the data more accurately. CD-ROMs offer software manufacturers a low cost alternative to stacks of floppy disks. Double, triple and quadruple speed drives transfer data faster. W5YI Report

KE6HDT accepts equipment manager post

By Larry Owens, KE6HDT

Hello fellow SARA members. I volunteered, or maybe someone volunteered me, I don't know which, as club equipment manager. What I need is a little help from you in compiling a list of club equipment and where it is located. I will need serial numbers, if available.

This is going to be a big job and your help is most needed. We need to have an inventory list of what we own, and where it is located. This will also help us decide what equipment is surplus and can be disposed of. More importantly, it will provide us with the information we need to supply our insurance carrier on the equipment which is insured.

I know that down through the years we have accumulated a lot of equipment and that it has been kept at various locations to eliminate storage costs. This is all well and good, but it's a nightmare for me to find and inventory.

So please, if you have any SARA equipment stored at your QTH, please let me know. I can be reached by phone at (209) 571-0188 or you may inform me by packet by sending me a message at KN6ZE-2 on 144.910.

Thanks and 73 de KE6HDT.

Please execute (sic) him

By Dave, WD5BRP

Excuses written by parents to teachers often bring smiles and sometimes, out right laughter when read. The following are a few true examples.

Dear school:

- 1. Please excuse John of being absent on January 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.
- 2. My son is under the doctor's care and should not take fisticuffs. Please execute him.
- 3. Ralph was absent yesterday because of a sore trout.
- 4. My daughter was absent yesterday because she was tired. She spent the weekend with the Marines.

- 5. Please execute Jimmy for being. It was father's fault.
- 6. Please excuse Joyce from (gym) for a few days. Yesterday she fell out of tree and misplaced her hip.
- 7. Excuse Gloria. She has been under the doctor.
- 8. Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing area.
- 9. Please excuse Ray Friday from school. He had very loose vowels.
- 10. Please execute Wayne for being out yesterday, because he had the fuel.
- 11. Please excuse Sarah for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.

Courtesy of W3OK Newsletter, Delaware-Lehigh ARC.

Pssst!

1995 dues are due. If you have not submitted your dues for 1995, please use the handy form on page 10 and send it and your check or money order to the club's Post Office box as soon as you can. Also, please use the bottom half of the form to give us your thoughts on the future of the newsletter. Your comments are important!

For Sale

Hygain 10-15-20 meters Super T-Bird 6 element beam with a 24 foot boom. Antenna gain is 9.5 dB and it's capable of handling a full kilowatt. This beam sold new for around \$700.00 and is in the box and nearly brand new. It can be easily upgraded to include the new WARC bands. We are asking \$400.00 or, best offer. Contact Bob, WA6ZLO, for more information. 209-523-5880.

PLEASE COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS AND RETURN TO
WITH YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

SARA
PO BOX 4601
MODESTO, CA. 95352

1995 MEMBERSHIP

Renewal ☐ New ☐

DATE _____ CALL: _____
ADDRESS: _____ MEMBER OF ARRL?: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
HOME PHONE: _____ BUS. ADDRESS: _____
BUS. PHONE: _____ OCCUPATION: _____
DATE OF BIRTH: _____ CLASS OF LICENSE: _____
YEAR FIRST LICENSED: _____

PUBLISH THIS INFORMATION IN THE CLUB ROSTER: YES NO

Dues: Renewal (full membership) = \$23.00 per year. Student (up to Sophomore in college and Associate (unlicensed applicant) \$12.00. Family rate: \$23.00 for the head of the household and \$12.00 for the next two members living in the same home. The fourth or more family members living in the same home are FREE. Out of Area rate (more than 150 miles from Modesto) is \$11.00 Make your checks or money orders payable to SARA. Thank You!

Suggestions on future of The READOUT

As reported on the front page of this issue, the costs of publishing The READOUT monthly are more than we can afford. We need your suggestions on what steps to take. Please complete the questions below and offer any suggestions you may have and return this form to the club's PO Box. Thank you!

1. Completely do away with the newsletter. Yes No
2. Reduce the newsletter to bi-monthly. (Six issues) Yes No
3. Reduce the newsletter to quarterly (3 issues per year) Yes No
4. Continued the newsletter as is (every month) Yes No

Suggestions or remarks _____



Calendar

Jan. 14, 1995 VE Testing In Turlock 9 AM
..... Contact Chet, W6XK, 883-2968
Jan. 17, 1995 **SARA** Monthly Meeting 730 PM
Jan. 21 Winterfest Hamfest 8 AM- 2PM
..... TalkIn 146.97 (-) PL 94.8 Hz.
Feb. 1 VE Test In Merced 9 AM
..... Contact KI6PR
Feb. 21 SARA Monthly meeting 730 PM
Mar. 11 VE Test In Modesto 9 AM
..... Contact W6XK
Apr. 1 VE Test In Oakdale 9 AM
..... Contact W6XK

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/VARES programs.

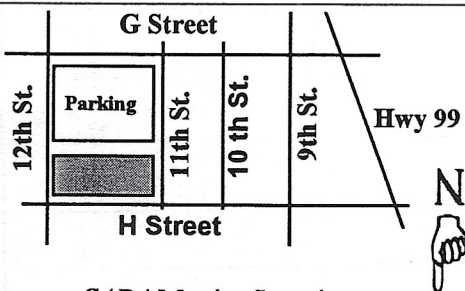
The **READOUT** is mailed with a bulk mailing permit. Please notify us if you move as the Post Office will not forward bulk mail regardless if you left a forwarding address.

SARA repeaters on Mt. Oso at 3,300 feet- 145.39(-) MHz PL 136.5 Hz. 224.14 (-) MHz. 440.225 (+) MHz PL 136.5 Hz. Modesto Low Level machine 145.43 MHz (-) PL 67 Hz. KA-Node Digipeater (**SARA**) 144.91 MHz. 10 meter digipeater 28.103 kHz.

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

Address Correction Requested

Bulk Rate
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Modesto, CA.



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

News Briefs

Hamvention dates to change

—The Dayton HamVention will be changing their convention dates starting in 1996. The “always on the last week-end in April” will now become the third week-end in May. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association announced last week that starting in 1996, the HamVention will be three weeks later.

The new dates are: (for 1995 no change - April 28, 29 and 30) but for 1996: May 17, 18, and 19.

MIR spacecraft lacks power

—It is beginning to look like future ham radio activity aboard the Mir space station will be greatly curtailed ...or even non-existent! A top

Russian official said six cosmonauts on the ageing Mir space station would have to ration electricity for several months after the craft's solar batteries were unexpectedly drained when a powerful piece of electrical equipment unexpectedly sprang to life last month.

The accident shut down part of the station and discharged four of the six batteries. Four new solar batteries cannot be installed on board Mir until the middle of next year. Until then the cosmonauts will have to ration electricity.

Several experiments had to be postponed because of the lack of energy. It is not yet clear what had caused the problem to begin with.

W5YI Report

To:

1994
~~FILE COPY~~
~~MAN~~
~~MAN~~
~~MAN~~

Next SARA Meeting is Jan. 17, 1995 at 730PM & You're Invited!