



THE READOUT

The Stanislaus Amateur Radio News

21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

The Official Newsletter of the Stanislaus Amateur Radio

1997 SARA'S ELECTION RESULTS!... Ham Radio Crisis!.... SARA'S ON THE NET!...

FROM OUR NEW 1997 SARA PRES.

BY KF6FIR, ED

Hello All,

I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and a happy new year! In December we had elections for club officers, at which it the honor of president fell upon me. At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to express some thoughts, and my goals for the coming year.

GOALS:

- * To continue the fine work started by my predecessors
- * To improve attendance at the monthly meetings
- * To provide in advance of these meeting, an agenda of topics to be addressed
- * To provide opportunities for individual growth among the membership (workshops/discussions/demos)

IDEAS for improvement:

- * A suggestion box (a can to drop ideas into for workshops or "constructive" criticisms)
- * Schedule the meeting to start promptly at 7:30, a 10 minute break around 8:00, finish by 8:30, workshop until 9:00
- * Have agenda available at door
- * Announce agenda at weekly Thursday night nets
- * Provide agenda in The Readout
- * Have a calendar of events for the year (Field Day, Walk-a-thon, Bike-a-thon, Classes, Workshops, etc.)

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MAKIN A BEAM

By n8ugh

Designing a Yagi-Uda beam Part 3

Before we get started I need to apologize to the antenna purest. These series of articles are for the very beginner to try to get more hams started into the fascinating part of this hobby called antenna building. Also, the formulas used here are just one method used to design a Yagi beam. These formulas are just a starting point, the builder is encouraged to experiment and try something new and different.

In the first two parts we designed a driven element and placed a reflector behind the driven element. Now it is time to place a director in front of the driven element making a simple three element beam. We discovered last time that moving the reflector on the boom will change gain while also changing front-to-back rejection. The same is true with directors and is compounded when more directors are added. Each time a director is added the spacing between all the other elements will need to be adjusted.

When we figured the reflector length we approximated the length to be 2% longer than the driven element. The director can also be approximated and will be about 2% shorter than the driven element. Now taking our calculations from our driven element we can calculate the director length. $472 \times .02 = 9.44$ then $472 - 9.44 = 462.56$ We will round this to 463 to make calculations easier. Now $463 / 14.175$ (center of 20M band for example) $463 / 14.175 = 32.6631$ feet

Now that we have a starting place for a

length of our director let us calculate where to place the director on the boom. Once again I must say, these calculated dimensions are only a starting place, each antenna installation will be different.

Element spacing is a science in its self. If maximum gain is desired then a long boom is needed, but at the sacrifice of low f-t-b. A shorter boom will give lower gain figures but increases f-t-b figures. On a three element beam a boom length of 0.45 wavelength will have a gain of about 7.8 dB but f-t-b will be down to about 15 dB. Maximum f-t-b ratios can be achieved with a boom length of about 0.25 wavelength. With this boom length a gain of about 7 dB can be achieved with a f-t-b ratio of over 30 dB. To lower SWR and to increase bandwidth the driven element will need to be placed closer to the director by about 0.2 percent. In our sample antenna, using 14.175 as center frequency, we calculate boom length as: $984 \times .25 = 246$ (spacing constant) $246 / 14.175 = 17.3545$ feet This is the center to center length from reflector to director.

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SARA MINUTES....11/19/97

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

The regular meeting of Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by President Mike W7MH. I ntroductions were performed and there were 22 people in attendance. Treasurers report-Bob, KC6TVE, gave the report. Total to date income \$3,618.46, Expenses \$2744.62, check book balance \$3316.76. Equipment fund \$628.20. Technicians report-Leroy NV6S was absent. Communications-none Secretary's report-Barbara KE6SUM was absent. Nanette KF6BOZ is secretary protem. Old business-Club call sign. It has been 2 months since we applied for a new call sign, FCC has been bogged down with the vanit y call sign since they opened gate 2 so the process on the new call signs has been slow. Hopefully we will hear something in t he next week or two. Bill KC6VWO reported on the Ham License Plate, signatures are still needed, Bill will be accepting signatures until Jan uary, at which time a bill will be presented into legislature. Ham Radio Operators will have more recognition for emergency co mmunications. That is the purpose behind the Ham License Plate.

New business-VE testing will be held January 11,1997 at Prescott school in Modesto at 9:00am cost is \$6.25. The club sends condolences to Ernie W5NH and Rita KD6BNV on the death in the family, a card was sent to them. The club also sent a get well card to Jim N6UGH, as Jim broke his leg. Mike Siegel KI6PR (San Joaquin Valley Manager) Presented a Certificate to Chet Jensen W6XK, for all his work with the VE sessions he has organized for the past 12 years at which 450 people have received their license. Thanks to Chet f or all his hard work! Open Discussion-The floor was opened for discussion. There were no questions or matter raised. Nominations are as follows: Treasurer Bob KC6TVE Nominated by Jim N6KMR Secretary Barbara KE6SUM Nominated by Des W6BMA Nanette KF6BOZ Nominated by Ed KF6FIR Vice Pres. Barbara KE6SUM Nominated by Ken W6FK Duane KF6BPA Nominated by Nanette KF6BOZ President De KF6FIR Nominated by Jim KF6BPC

Motion was made by Jim N6KMR, to adjourn seconded by Duane KF6BPA.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.
Respectfully Submitted by:

Nanette KF6BOZ

Secretary Pro-protem

Fitting for the yule tide cheer

Politically Correct Santa

'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck... How to live in a world that's politically correct? His workers would no longer answer to "Elves", "Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.

And Labor conditions at the north pole Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul. Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety, Released to the wilds by the Humane Society.

And equal employment had made it quite clear That Santa had better not use just raindeer. So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid, Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!

The runners had been removed from his sleigh; The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A. And people had started to call for the cops When they heard sled noises on their roof tops.

Second-hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened. His fur trimmed red suit was called "Unenlightened."

And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows, Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose And had gone on Geraldo, in front of the nation, Demanding millions in over-due compensation.

So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife, Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life, Joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz, Demanding from now on her title was Ms.

And as for the gifts, why, he'd ne'er had a notion That making a choice could cause such a commotion. Nothing of leather, nothing of fur, Which meant nothing for him. And nothing for her.

Nothing that might be construed to

pollute. Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot. Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise. Nothing for just girls. Or just for the boys.

Nothing that claimed to be gender specific. Nothing that's warlike or non-pacific. No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth. Nothing that seemed to embellish the truth.

And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden, Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden. For they raised the hackles of those psychological Who claimed the only good gift was one ecological. No baseball, no football...someone could get hurt; Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt. Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passe; And Nintendo would rot your entire brains away.

So Santa just stood there, disheveled, perplexed; He could not figure out what to do next. He tried to be merry, tried to be gay, But you've got to be careful with that word today.

His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground; Nothing fully acceptable was to be found. Something special was needed, a gift that he might Give to all without angering the left or the right.

A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision, Each group of people, every religion; Every ethnicity, every hue, Everyone, everywhere...even you.

So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth... "May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth."

Notice: This poem is copyright 1992 by Harvey Ehrlich. It is free to distribute, without changes, as long as this notice remains intact. All follow-ups, requests, comments, questions, distribution rights, etc. should be made to mduhan@husc.harvard.edu.

Happy Holidays!

We appreciate the new stuff from DAN KB6UNC who correspondsto this editor regularly...

Have you heard an new one?

Picked one off the internet?

Steel one off the bulletin board at work?

TECH REPORT.....

Hello to all;

As the year draws to an end we can look back a bit on what has been done this year. I've made several minor repairs at the site and installed a six meter repeater. Somehow along the way we seem to have gotten rid of the interference that was killing our two meter repeater. I wish I could tell you that I solved that but to the best of my knowledge it just went away. The bad news is that I expect it to return when the conditions that created it return. I wish I knew what those conditions were. As for this time all of the equipment seems to be operating pretty well. There is a slight hum on the two meter machine that I plan to look into next time I get up the hill. It has not been annoying enough to cause a trip for the sake of the hum. Some work is currently in progress. I have decoders ordered so that we can install pl on the 220 and six meter machines as will soon be required for our sanctions, while still allowing use by many of our members who do not have pl in the rigs they own. When these are installed we will have the star five option with a timer just as we currently have on the two meter machine. All repeaters will be required to be pl in the near future so it is time to bite the bullet and make it work for all of our members. For the members that have neither pl nor touch tone pad, I'm sorry but after market units are available at a reasonable price. I wish I could find a way to help you out, but I just do not know a way. I have planned work that will begin as we make future trips up the hill. I hope to find the hum on the two meter machine and repair it. I hope to relocate several antennas so that a more favorable location can be had for the six meter antennas. I may explore using a higher power level on the six meter repeater as it seems to hear better than it transmits. I have planned improvements in the control system that will enhance security and help the control operators. I also hope to find a willing and able person to help with technical chores. My eyes are getting worse every year and I don't know how much longer I will be able to see well enough to do the technical work. Most of all I wish to thank Alex, K6LPG for his technical help, Al, KD6GIY, for help and for

donation of the six meter repeater. I also wish to thank all who have had any part in the technical chores or labor around the repeater site. Those who have gone along on trips simply to lend support are also appreciated. The members who have supported most of the costs are to be commended. Those who have simply been patient and forgiving as we have tried to solve problems that defied solution are to be thanked as well.

73 to all and cul de NV6S sk

TO BE OR NOT TO BE, VANITY.

Some of you are asking some good questions about the Petition. Like, 1) What are they going to cost? 2) Will it cost the same as my old plates? 3) Will it cut the plates that I have now? 4) Would it be FREE after the first time I buy the new plates? I'll try to tell you as much as I know at the present time and will follow up with new information when I receive it

1) The cost at this time the cost is still undetermined. I am working with Senator Dick Monteith office and the D.M.V. 2) My goal is to keep the price as the regular ham plates. The initial purchase price will probably be the same as if you were to purchase new Ham plates. 3) No it will not cut your plates you have now. 4) I am also striving to keep them free. I have stated to them that the ham plates must stay the same as the other ones.

You have asked "why am I doing this?" Recognition, not for me, but recognition for the Ham community. We need the recognition, not just in Modesto, Turlock, Stockton but throughout this state and other states. People need to know that Hams have always helped out in emergency situations. Because I am a member of S.A.R.A. and Aries I feel it's time to show that I am proud to be a part of these organizations. Thousands of hours have been donated by Hams in times of emergency. When normal communications are down, due to fire, floods or any disaster, Ham plates could be acknowledged by emergency personnel and Hams could be called on to help. Your help could make the difference in a life and death situation. We need to let our communities know

MAKIN A BEAM

from page 1

Now to find the spacing for the driven we divide the above number (17.3545) in half and then adding 0.2 percent we end up with the driven element being 10.8723 feet from the reflector.

Once again, I must caution the builder these are only starting dimensions. By using an antenna modeling program these dimensions can be fine tuned for bandwidth, gain, and front-to-back rejection. There are many antenna modeling programs available, from simple "free space" programs to very complicated commercial programs. One program requires inputs locating ALL power lines in the area as well as other antennas, trees, buildings, underground and indoor plumbing, and where cars and trucks will be parked. This program not only wants the location of these items but the size. As the antenna builder can see from this, just about everything around an antenna has an effect on performance.

Next time we will add one more director to make a four element beam and we will fine tune some of the dimensions. Also, I will offer some building tips.

N6UGH JIM ...

Thanks Jim, we do enjoy your articles. To bad no one sends articles in!! waiting for the next....the editor

that we are here if the need arises.. I know with all your support and the support of some of the emergency services we can do this If you have questions or if you would like to get the partition by way of fax, packet or e-mail, I can sent it to you. You may call and leave your phone #, fax , e-mail address, or any other questions that you may still have. My phone number is 524-0324, you can also mail a short letter with your name and call sign, stating that you would like to see Ham plates made to: BILL YOUNG % HAM PLATES PO. BOX 938 CERES, CA. 95307 THANK YOU ALL FOR THE WONDERFUL SUPPORT IN WHAT I'M DOING.

73's FROM BILL KC6VWO

OST-ARRL digital

SB QST ARL ARLB095 ARLB095
TAPR Digital Directory

With the support of the ARRL, the Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corporation (TAPR) will begin providing at the TAPR Internet site the information on digital systems that formerly appeared in the annual ARRL Repeater Directory. The digital directory information will be available at <http://www.tapr.org/directory>. Information on digital systems will not be published in the 1997-98 edition of the Repeater Directory, permitting the publication to better focus on its primary use as a guide to voice repeaters for traveling amateurs.

In planning the 1997-98 edition, the ARRL concluded that the Repeater Directory was no longer the most effective medium for this information. Discussions involving various regional digital groups that provide data to the digital section of the Repeater Directory led to the conclusion that TAPR was the logical group to take on the task of a new North American Digital System Directory.

This new database system will describe systems used by Amateur Radio stations involved in digital communications in United States, Canada, and Mexico. The Digital System Directory will be based on information provided by regional, state, and local organizations as well as individuals, in a nearly real-time format. This should allow information to be maintained and updated more frequently than in a yearly publication. TAPR will also work with participating organizations to make this information available on TAPR's yearly CD-ROM as well as some future publication for local/regional groups to distribute.

The purpose of the Digital System Directory is not to manage, coordinate, or regulate the usage of digital systems, but to provide the most up-to-date and accurate listing of digital systems that can be provided. Neither is it a formal organization, but a mechanism to allow regional groups to provide and share information regarding digital systems.

The Digital System Directory is intended for use by individuals to further their enjoyment of the hobby, and by

organizations to help plan and develop digital networks.

Regional/Local groups have already begun to participate in the process. These groups include TwinsLAN, Texas Packet Radio Society, Miami Valley FM Association, Ohio Area Repeater Council, Puget Sound AR TCP/IP Group, Northern California Packet Association, Northern Illinois Packet Radio Frequency Council, Indiana Digital Experimenters Association, Central Lakeshore Experimenter's Digital Organization, HogNet Packet Radio Association, YCCC Sysops Association and the Missouri Amateur Packet Radio Society. TAPR encourages other regional groups to support this project by contributing data from their respective areas.

For further information on the project and how to get involved, regional groups should check <http://www.tapr.org/directory> or send e-mail to Carl Estey at wa0cgg@tapr.org. NNNN

EMCOMM-ARES

EMC058 More CHP ACS Activities For Release 12/16/96

Here is more recent activity from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) ACS unit mentioned in the last bulletin.

Training activities: a H-80 Helicopter was brought for insight into the communications system on the helicopter.

A Caltrans (state transportation) district superintendent explained how the ACS unit could help during periods of adverse highway conditions, especially those caused by weather. At another meeting an explanation of a particular state highway unit site (Caltrans), along with its history and operation, was provided as the ACS operators will be involved from that site during snow or other operations involving that particular area.

Community activities: a local business person committed to funding the purchase of safety/identification vests for the unit, as well as assist in obtaining funding for radios for the control center at the unit office.

Shown a video on how Caltrans and CHP conduct traffic control in the area of the unit during adverse highway

conditions.

ACS unit participants were invited to join in a local group to participate in some of the fun activities with the CHP officers.

Operations: during the fire season an en route fire truck lost a fan belt. An ACS unit participant used the radio to locate a new part and guide the truck to the repair point. Several Weather Watch mobiles and fixed were activated during storms.

This CHP unit is one of the best organized ever witnessed, partially due to the expertise of the CHP ACS coordinator and the CHP practice of easy-to-use records and management practices. Each mission/incident is described in writing with its location, coordination, volunteers, assignments time in/off, whether standby or active, and total hours per participant, and total hours expended on the mission.

The unit has been so successful another CHP unit nearby has decided to form a similar unit. If you have information on a successful EMCOM unit (whatever its affiliation or registration) please send the information to crm@oes1.oes.ca.gov. Thanks!

ACS Web URL: <http://www.garlic.com/oes>
BBS 916-262-1657 <ftp://ucsd.edu/hamradio/races> and [hamradio/packet/tcpip/incoming](ftp://ucsd.edu/hamradio/packet/tcpip/incoming)
OES ACS staff manager Stan Harter, Email stanharter@juno.com
W6WWW Email crm@oes1.oes.ca.gov
P a c k e t
W6WWW@KM6PX.#NOCAL.USA.NA
EOM EMC058

PRESIDENTIAL SONG OF THE PAST PRESIDENT: by w7mh

Well folks, this is my "swan song" to you as your (ex) president. It is my wish to thank everyone of you who helped out in many ways. The list must start with Jim, KE6HVB, as the VP. Jim learned many things about how a club runs and how, at times, it can be a pain in the rear! Next I must thank Barbara, KE6SUM, who really kept me on track. She worked very hard for the club in 1996 and I am very happy she is serving the club in 1997. Bob, KC6TVE, who held the purse strings. Continued on page 5

PAST PRESIDENT QUOTES: from pg 4

I am also happy he is serving on the 1997 board. Two very important events happened in the past year. First, we solved the money problems with a balanced budget without the use of a fundraiser. The 1995 president Jim, N6UGH, began the balancing of the budget, and I just continued the program. Second, we had a great field day. The best one in years. Of course, I need to say thanks to Bill, KC6VWO, for his outstanding efforts for the promoting of field day. After much thought and debating, we were able to get a second call for SARA. The call, W6ERE, is a memorial callsign to honor one of the "founding-fathers" of the club, Cliff Price. At a later date, I would like to write an article about Mr. Price so the members would also honor him by using the callsign at HF events such as field day or for special events that may take place. My biggest complaint, if I may use that word, is the non-equality of members. This is very true in the class of license one holds. It appears to me that a large rift hangs over the club between no-code techs and the other higher class members. The problem isn't the class of ticket one has, but the CB attitude that has infested ham radio. The "old timers" cringe at the terms 10-4, what's your personal, and so forth. If it wasn't for the no-code techs, we probably wouldn't have ham radio for we wouldn't have the membership base. I see many no-coders doing a fine job for the club, and the ones that have upgraded or want to upgrade are really super folks and will do well!! Last years field day proved we all are able to have fun and have a great time as one unit flying the SARA banner. At this time, I would like to wish the new folks on the board good luck and take SARA into a new era. Ed, KF6FIR, is your new president. He has many ideas to improve the club and I believe he will do an outstanding job. With his long commute each day, he will be on the repeater to listen to your ideas, gripes, or just to chat. The new VP Duane, KF6BPA, will team up with Ed to form a good management. Along with Barb and Bob, this should be a banner year for SARA. Congratulations to all, I wish you well and for 1997 we shall see the club grow in members.. Good hammin' and goodbye!! 73 Mike W7MH

The Readout

* Have committees for each event (multiple member on each committee)

* More membership involvement (a club member should have to be on more than one committee)

* I will also try to keep the membership up to date on events via The Readout

I will also be available for suggestions or comments via radio or e-mail. I generally monitor the S.A.R.A. repeater from 6:30am to 7:30am and from 5:30pm to 6:30pm Monday through Friday. I can also receive e-mail from N6KMR's BBS (IPMOD) addressed to KF6FIR, or from the Internet via EdwH@msn.com.

73 and thanks for your help, KF6FIR Ed

Thanks Ed, We also had others voted into the front of the room, they are:

Vice Prez : KF6BPA Duane (Promises to maintain his Big Party Animal status)

Secretary: KE6SUM Barbra (said she'll try to be better than last year? How can you Improve perfection Barb?)

Treasurer: KE6TVE Bob (was heard singing after the election ... "were in the money") congratulations every one and GOOD LUCK cuz you'll need it.. the ed.

COMMENTS from N6KMR

Last issue I asked if there were stations out there who were on the Internet, AOL, etc. The response was good but could be better. We have a list of members and not so members on file and will publish them as white pages for the Internet ham radio personel. There are more members on the internet than on packet!! There are more hams on the Internet than on Radio.

Humm, this should tell you something?

Is this due to bad hf conditions? Or is the clientel of the radio waves something to be desired of? Well I have joined the forces of the Internet and find it not so big of a deal but that's one persons view. These same chat rooms and user groups are on the packet BBS and TCP/IP systems.

Is this revolt to ham radio something to look at? Or is it easier to just to pay 20 bucks a month to some company. Just so you can sign on with your computer to a world wide chat room and talk about any thing what ever come your way.

Sounds Like 39!!

Just a thought, Send Me your Thoughts. E-mail or send me packet 145.650. n6kmr@modesto.n6kmr.ampr.org

SARA Membership Application

Call : _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____

Zip Code: _____ ARRL Member?: (yes) (no)

Home Phone: _____ Alt Phone: _____

Occupation: _____

Date Of Birth: _____ Clas Of Lic: _____

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. I.E- You join in July = 6 x \$1.91 = 11.46

SARA, repeaters are, on MT.OSO... 2mtr > 145.390 pl 136.5, 220band > 224.14 pl 136.5, 440 band > 440.225 pl 136.5, 6mtr. > 52.800, packet> SARA> 144.91 and 145.65 TCP/IP&ax25 radio mailbox & e-mail, Internet address > Sara@modesto.n6kmr.ampr.org Web page > HTTP://WWW.joshuanet.com/~n6kmr/index.html CHECK US OUT...

NEWSLINE.....

NTIA SAYS "MAYBE" TO NEW HF BANDS

The possibility of expanded high frequency Amateur Radio allocations after the turn of the century is included in a December 13th document released by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Titled High Frequency Spectrum Planning Options by the N.T.I.A., the report lists up to nine hundred kilohertz of new or upgraded allocations that could be opened to Amateur Radio at a later date. Included is a new ham radio band from 4.945 to 4.995 MHZ.

Changes or additions to existing bands include making 3.5 to 3.8 MHZ an exclusive worldwide Amateur Radio allocation, rearranging 40 meters to cover 6.9 to 7.2 MHZ, expanded worldwide primary allocations at 10.1 to 10.35 and 14.000 to 14.400 MHZ. Also included are expanded bands at 18.068 to 18.318, 24.74 to 24.89, and 28 to 30 MHZ.

But this will not be a free ride. This is because some of the expansions proposed are mutually exclusive for amateurs and broadcasters. This means that there is the probability that the two services will have to share on a non-interfering basis on 17, 20 and 30 meters.

If you want to read the report, take your computer to:

www.ntia.doc.gov

and use the search engine to find it. (Condensed from NTIA release)

(*****

FCC BUSTS FLORIDA PIRATE

Another unlicensed broadcaster has been taken off the air in Florida in what the FCC says is a clean-up of pirate operations nationwide.

On December 11th agents from the Tampa Office of the Federal Communications Commission, with assistance from the Orlando Police Department shut down the pirate station operation of The Base operating on 106.3 MHZ in the FM broadcast band.

Stations that transmit out of frequency between 88 and 108 MHZ must be licensed by the FCC. No such license has

been issued for this station, said an FCC news release.

The Tampa Office had received complaints of possible illegal operations from station WOCL which operates on 105.9 and WXXL which operates on 106.7 both in Orlando.

Two agents from the Tampa Office traveled to Orlando to investigate the complaint. Contact was made with the Orlando Police Department for backup and together at approximable noon they approached the pirate station operator. The operator could not produce any type of authorization for use of the frequency. Therefore the FCC agents shut down the illegal operation. The penalties for the type of violation was then explained and the equipment was then removed from the station.

Local FCC Spokesman say they are investigating 12 FM pirate operations in the state of Florida alone. As he put it, this is becoming a major problem for the FCC.

The FCC is expected to step up its crackdown on unlicensed broadcasters in all services in the months to come. (Via FCC)

(*****

TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE

Ham radio will again be on the air from a float in the Tournament of Roses Parade. The station signing WB6UCD will operate from the Edison International float. That's the call sign of the Edison Amateur Radio Network and club members plan on making contacts worldwide. This, as the float winds its way along Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California on New Years Day.

Internet users will also be able to watch the parade from the floats unique point of view on their home computers. This, by calling up the Edison International homepage on the Word Wide Web at:

www.edisonx.com

while the parade is in progress.

The floats sponsor is Edison International. This is the holding company for the Southern California Edison Company.

Again the call sign to listen for is

WB6UCD mobile on Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena on New Years Day. (From Tournament of Roses press release)

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ARRL AGAIN ASKS FOR PRIMARY ALLOCATION AT 2300-2305 MHZ

Recognizing the value of our UHF bands, the ARRL is once again asking the FCC to assign 2300 to 2305 MHZ as a primary allocation to the Amateur Radio Service. This, in comments filed in response to the FCC's plans to reallocate and auction off parts of the 2.3 GHz band for a new Wireless Communications Service.

In its filing, the ARRL asks the Commission to create a primary amateur allocation in the 2300 to 2305 MHZ segment. It also wants the FCC to maintain a secondary ham allocation in the 2305 to 2310 MHZ band.

Under Docket 94-32 the League had already petitioned the FCC to upgrade the 2300 to 2305 MHZ band to primary status. Now, in its comments on General Docket 96-228 the ARRL suggests that the FCC upgrade the status as part of the ~~current proceeding~~ instead.

All of this comes about because of congress. Just prior to adjourning, the 104th Congress directed the FCC to reallocate 2305 to 2320 MHZ and 2345 to 2360 MHZ to wireless services. It also said to assign new licenses by competitive bidding by April 15 in order to help balance the budget. This action lead to the FCC issuing General Docket 96-228 and opened the door for the ARRL to file for the pro-ham radio allocation change. (Via ARRL Letter)

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VANITY CALL SIGN UPDATE

The FCC is catching up on issuing Gate 2 vanity callsigns but more applications are coming in every day. According to our friends at the ARRL, the FCC's Gettysburg license processing facility reports it received another 405 vanity callsign applications between November 26 and December 4th. Of these 226 were filed electronically.

As of December 13th, Gettysburg personnel had processed vanity

applications received through October 31st. The ARRL estimates the FCC backlog as of December 4 at approximately 1600 applications.

Also, no date has been announced for the opening of Gate 3. The FCC also reminds hams filing for modifications and renewals to include their Zip code to avoid delays. (Via ARRL Letter)

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THE STING

Authorities in Indiana and Florida recently used the World Wide Web to set up an interstate computerized sting. The operation nailed a man allegedly using his Internet home page to sell stolen walkie-talkies.

Our tale begins in Indianapolis back on November 7th. That's when a reserve marshal walked into the Metropolitan Emergency Communications Agency. He asked the radio shop to program three radios so they could be used on the areas countywide emergency network.

But the technician found that the radios were set to operate on a Florida fire department channel. He became suspicious and checked national computer theft records. That's when he found that the radios had been stolen from fire stations in the Pompano Beach area.

The technician wondered how a reserve deputy marshal obtained stolen public safety radios. The deputy explained that he ordered them from an Internet sales operation in Florida for \$1,700. He had been smart enough to keep printouts of all his on-line discussions. He gave them to a Captain in the Marion County Sheriff's Department.

The Captain called a detective in the Broward County Florida Sheriff's Department. He told the detective that he had three of the county's stolen radios and mentioned the Internet sales offer. He also suggested that Florida law officers use the computer service to pose as prospective buyers. And that's exactly what they did.

The detective sent an internet message to an on-line salesman who called himself Captain H.C. He told Captain H.C. that he was in the market for some radios. In a short time he received a reply. Captain

H.C. said he had a couple of them for sale.

A meeting was set up a meeting to buy the radios. The detective and suspect met in a shopping center. When he was certain he had his man, the detective made his move, arresting the man and charging him with grand theft.

A search of the suspects car and home turned up fifteen more walkie-talkies valued at three thousand dollars each. All had been stolen from Fire Departments in Southern Florida. (Via listener submission)

(*****

FCC AUDIO FEED AVAILABLE OVER THE INTERNET

Want to find out what the FCC is doing? Turn on your computer and take it over to the World Wide Web. That's where the Federal Communications Commission has launched a new Internet Audio Broadcast Home Page. This, to provide worldwide access to live and recorded audio broadcasts of selected FCC events.

The first event to be broadcast live was the Friday, December 13th Open Commission Meeting. For more information go to the FCC Internet pages on the Word Wide Web. The Universal Resource Locator or URL is:

www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Miscellaneous/Public_Notices/index.html

Don't worry if you did not get all of that. There is a simple way to find it. Just go to:

www.fcc.gov

Then use the on-line search engine that they provide. (via CGC Communicator)

(*****

THE ARRL LETTER TO BECOME ELECTRONIC-ONLY PUBLICATION

The ARRL Letter has gone 100% electronic delivery and will no longer mail out paper copies. The decision to go paperless was announced in the December 13th issue and is part of an ongoing austerity move by the League.

The League says it has been losing close to \$12,000 a year on the mail-out version. It says that paid subscribers to the paper version can request a credit or

a refund and that affected subscribers will be notified of their options by mail.

The ARRL Letter began in 1982 as a League member only subscription publication. Last January, it instituted electronic distribution plus weekly electronic updates via the Internet. At that time, paper distribution by mail went from semi-monthly to monthly. Now even that will disappear but subscribers who have internet access and wanting more information can visit the ARRL Home Page. It's at:

www.arrl.org

The Leagues decision to abandon paper delivery of the ARRL Letter leaves Fred Maia's W5YI Report as the only major paper based subscription ham radio news service left in the United States. (Via ARRL)

(*****

NEW PACKET DIRECTORY

The ARRL may have dropped digital listings from next years repeater directory, but thanks to Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Incorporated, the information is not going away. TAPR as the group is better known, says that it will soon be providing details on digital systems throughout much of ITU region 2 at its site on the Word Wide Web.

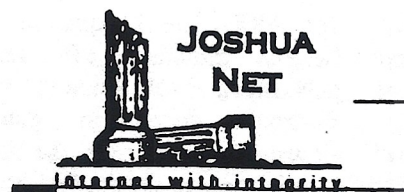
The new TAPR Digital System Directory will describe systems used by amateur radio stations involved in digital communications in United States, Canada, and Mexico. It will be based on information provided by regional, state, and local organizations as well as individuals in a nearly real-time format. This says TAPR, should allow information to be maintained and updated more frequently than in a yearly publication.

TAPR says that it will also work with participating digital organizations to make this information available on its yearly CD-ROM. Its also considering some future publication for local or regional groups to distribute.

For further information on the project please check the World Wide Web at:

www.tapr.org/directory

or send e-mail to Carl Estey at wa0cqq@tapr.org. (Via TAPR)



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1400 Standiford Ave. Suite 5

Modesto, CA 95350

209-571-9300

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SPECIAL EDITION FLOODS OF MODESTO

ARES STARTS THE NEW YEAR OUT WITH A BANG!!!

Good morning, Jim.

Maybe this can be of help for The READOUT.

At 11:55 PM, Thursday evening, local ARES personnel were activated to participate in providing emergency communications for the flood stricken area in and near Modesto. This callout was initiated by Russ Richards, N6JTA, Office of Emergency Services Director. EC Ernie, W5NH immediately sought help from local ARES operators. Within 30 minutes personnel and their equipment were in route to the established Emergency Operations Center (EOC) (Where SARA meetings are held) in the lower level conference room of the County Administration Building, and from there they were dispatched to three local Red Cross shelters.

Initially, the three Red Cross locations were at the Community Center in Waterford, the Red Cross Chapter on 6th Street in Modesto, and Modesto High School. Shortly thereafter, a request was made to have auxiliary communications established at the Police Department in Waterford and a third shelter was soon established at the First Baptist Church on 12th and Needham in Modesto. It wasn't until early Sunday morning that a fourth Red Cross shelter was established at Oristimba High School in Newman.

The cause of all the flooding was the amount of snow deposited in the Sierra's and the subsequent warm temperatures and rain the following week. Rain totals on the valley floor were not significant. However, as the snow melted, and with the extreme rainfall resulting from several tropical storms, local reservoirs quickly filled to capacity, and releases from dams had to be significantly increased to handle the additional runoff.

Additional ham radio operators from as far away as Livermore volunteered their services and were utilized in this operation. Offers of help were also received from the Tuolumne/Calaveras groups as well as Region 4 OES.

Water crested on the Tuolumne River at the 9th Street Bridge at approximately 1:30 PM on Saturday afternoon, and slowly began decreasing shortly thereafter. However, several levy breaks along the river and surrounding waterways caused major flooding along the and San Joaquin River causing evacuations totaling in the hundreds.

As of this writing, the incident is in full operation, and by the time of this printing hopes are high that it will have been completed. Thanks to all of you who made this situation run as smoothly as it has. Ernie, W5NH, Stanislaus County Emergency Coordinator.

The Readout

S N O W
R A I N
W A R M
W I N D S .
FLOODS
DAMAGE.
A.R.E.S.
PRESSES
INTO
ACTION!



THE READOUT

!! READ ME ... IMPORTANT INFORMATION HERE !!

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ARRL membership may be paid through SARA with the club recieving a \$2.00 commission. Please send your ARRL membership form along with your check to SARA, we will deduct the commission and place your membership with theARRL.

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~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Next Meeting Is January 21, and also February 18, 1997 At 7:30 pm & You're Invited to come to the Stanislaus County Ad. Biulding downstairs in the conference room....

SEE YOU THERE..... COME AND SEE THE NEW JOKERS!!