

SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB ASSOCIATED WITH THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

MAY 1995

NEWSLETTER

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS AND PUBLIC SERVICE SINCE 1958

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 5

P.O. BOX 3262 Auburn, CA 95604

News Editor: Matthew Diridoni - KC6RUO

Photographer: Dave Pellonini, KE6MBI

Image Scanning: Ralph McCune, KE6DJB

AT THE KEY OF S.F.A.R.C.

PRESIDENT

KA6WUW
Martha Vance
723-5488

CLUB NETS:

ALL WELCOME TO CHECK IN

Wednesdays 7:30 PM 10M
On/Close to 28.415 MHz

VICE PRES

KC6RUO
Matthew Diridoni
632-4084

Thursdays 7:30 PM 2M / 220
K6ARR & Club Repeater
145.430 (-600, PL 94.8) or
223.860 (-1.6 MHz)

SECRETARY

K6GKR
Jerri Metke
783-7610

CLUB MEETINGS: Second Fri.
each month, 7:30 PM Auburn
Fire Dept. 226 Sacramento St.
Auburn, CA.

TREASURER

W6PYX
Jim Venneman
885-1677

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET
Check Event Calendar For Dates
7:00 - 7:45 PM, Roseville City
Main Library, 225 Taylor St.

DIRECTORS

WA6ULL
Bob Boeckman
983-2776

CLUB BREAKFAST

Last Saturday of the month
(Except in December), 8:00 AM
to 9:00 AM, Susie's Country Cafe
in Roseville Hwy 80 & Riverside Av.

W6SUP

Bob Metke
783-7610

Thurs Night Net Controller:

Dick Lund - WA6HYO 885-3190

W3PMP

Bob Greenslade
624-5234



MEMORIAL DAY - MAY 29, 1995

1995 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 12

Club Meeting

May 22

Board Meeting

Jun 9

Club Meeting

Jun 24 & 25

Field Days!!

Jun 26

Board Meeting

Jul 1

Community Event -
Rocklin Jubilee
Parade

Jul 14

Club Meeting

Jul 24

Board Meeting

Aug 11

Club Meeting

Oct 31

Community Event
Halloween Patrol,
City of Rocklin

Nov 10

Club Meeting

Nov 27

Board Meeting

Dec 8

Christmas Party

Dec 18

Board Meeting

YOUR SFARC NEWSLETTER PRINTED BY

SNAPPY PRINTING

2280 Sierra Meadows Drive
Rocklin, California 95677

(916)-624-3371

Thanks Snappy!



FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S DESK
MATTHEW DIRIDONI - KC6RUO

Thank you Greg Dolkas, KO6TH, for the most interesting last minute presentation on satellite communications. Hopefully, we can get a full article for the newsletter on the same subject in the near future to share with the rest of the members.

We are still looking for a person or persons to chair Field Day. If one is not found within the next week or so, Field Day will probably be canceled this year.

We are looking for members to donate any unwanted equipment to the club to sell at the North Hills Radio Club Swap Meet, on May 21, 1995.

A table only costs \$10.00 and if members can donate any unwanted equipment to the club, we can sell it with all proceeds going to SFARC.

Members will notice more photos in the newsletter from now on. Thanks to two very dedicated members, Ralph McCune, KE6DJB, and Dave Pellonini, KE6MBI, who have volunteered to "SCAN" photos for the newsletter. Scanning photos will make photos much more clear. The old method was to paste a photo to the paper. The end result was everything was black, except for the persons call letters on the top of their hat.

Items for the newsletter, photos, articles complaints, suggestions, or letters to the editor, can be sent via "E-MAIL" to: **MattKC6RUO@AOL.COM**. If you subscribe to America on Line, simply send to **MattKC6RUO**.

73's - M.B. Diridoni
Vice President

QUAD A's

ELECTRONIC SUPPLY

7360 AUBURN BL. #B

Citrus Heights, CA

95610

Retail & Commercial Sales
Knowledgeable Assistance
(916)-723-7360

ADVERTISING?

THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS FOR A
VERY REASONABLE RATE.

If you would like to place an advertisement,
contact the SFARC Treasurer.

Jim Venneman (916)-885-1677

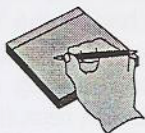


LOVE IS

Chuck & Gail Elder - W6LOE & KA6ZUU

Photo taken at the 1994 SFARC Picnic

THE VOLUNTEER EXAMINER REPORT



Bob Metke, W6SUP

For the month of April, the V.E. team tested 11 applicants and gave a total of 20 tests. The Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club V.E. team continues to take time out of their personal family lives to help those wishing to get involved with amateur radio.

On April 4, 1995, members of the VE team met to discuss ways to improve the examination process.

For more information on classes or testing dates, please feel free to call.

73's, Bob Metke - W6SUP
511 Oak Street
Roseville, CA. 95678
(916)-783-7610

S.F.A.R.C. SCHOOL INFORMATION

By Lewis Tuttle - KE6MFL

Dave Jenkins started a 6 week no code class at the Roseville Library, 225 Taylor St. on Monday, April 3, 1995 at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. This 6 week class is free, **book not included**.

The required text is Gordon West's no code technician manual. The book is available at most radio stores in the area.

For more information on this class and future classes, please feel free to call me at (916)-771-2336

Contest Tips, Tricks
& Techniques

Courtesy of America On Line BBS

How many testers does it take to change a light bulb? I don't know the answer to that one, but the number of operators needed to do a multi-single is one of the aspects of multiop contesting we will look at in this installment of CTTT.

For this month's topic of multiop contesting with emphasis on multi-single and multi-two categories, we have the views of Roger Western, G3SXW, and Paul Hellenberg, KS9K. G3SXW has been involved in a number of multiop efforts including contest DXpeditions. KS9K has risen to the upper ranks of multi-single/multi-two DX phone contesting the last few years despite being in the Midwest's propagation Black Hole. Take a look at the October 1991 ST and you will see one of the reasons why. The front cover features a nice sunset view of Paul's antenna farm.

On the hardware side, both Roger and Paul mentioned the importance of high reliability. It's bad enough to have a catastrophic failure three quarters of the way through a single-op effort, but with a multiop that many more tester-hours will be wasted.

Inter station interference is something that must be dealt with. G3SXW recommends using only the highest quality coax connectors and relates a problem he had on an operation from Morocco. Several T connectors failed there, causing severe interference between stations until they were found and removed.

Rigs should be checked out well in advance of the contest to find and correct any interaction problems. Rigs having phase noise problems may work fine by themselves, but cause problems to other, ... rigs nearby. Filters and stubs for removing harmonics are also essential. Roger puts a small tuner between the transceiver and the amp to cut down on these problems.

According to G3SXW, multipliers are the name of the game in multi-multi contesting. KS9K believes you need to strike more of a balance between rate and multipliers for multi-single and multi-two. Here with only one or two stations running QSOs, you have to make the old rate-vs-multiplier decisions. Contests such as the COWW

allow a second operating position to work new multipliers. This makes the decisions somewhat easier.

Both K59K and G35XW had some interesting comments on personal interaction between operators. G35XW thinks multisingle operations are often more fun because the groups are smaller and everyone usually knows everyone else. This tends to minimize friction between the operators. The smaller groups are also easier to coordinate [and to feed!-K5CI. Roger says it is easy for band teams in M/M to get so engrossed in their own efforts that they put themselves before the team.

K59K uses the band captain approach to operating assignments. Paul says he spends most of his time checking that things are running smoothly, and deciding what band will be the run band. He says frequently more than one group will want to be the running band because they think they can get a good rate, or in some cases to get needed multipliers. It is at this time he must make the decision as to what would help the overall effort the most. Paul does not feel that it is as much a superstar-ego thing that makes every band team want to be the run station; it's more that every athlete wants to play, not to sit on the bench. Making the decisions is most difficult around sunset and sunrise when as many as five or six bands can be open, often to distant locations, for only a few minutes each day. Once a band change is made, Paul monitors the station for a while to make sure the new run station can actually keep the rate they thought they could.

The KS9 team has grown from the ground up. You won't find most of their calls in a contesters who's who list. The group started out, contesting together several years ago and gained experience together. Paul thinks that at first it was fairly simple to make score improvements each year. Now that they are consistently in the top few places of their category, paying attention to band changes and operator assignments is more important. To be successful you need access to a variety of skills. You need operators who can maintain rates as well as dig out new multipliers. Also, a good rate operator alone and may not do as well on another band. Paul himself handles 80 and 160 meters because of personal preferences and aptitudes, and because those times of the night less of his time is required to supervise the overall operation.

How many operators are optimal for a multi-single or multi-two effort? Too few operators wind up operating part of the contest at less than top efficiency due to fatigue. Too many operators become a management problem. It is tough keeping the adrenaline flowing if you

are not actively operating. Also, "knowing the band" is an advantage that is lost with frequent operator changes. I remember a saying we had at the W9YT multiop efforts in the 1970s: "A tired, good operator is better than two fresh, poor ones." A good multiop commanding general has to weigh all the factors in recruiting and assigning his troops.

I dug out some old contest results for 1989 and 1990 and went through them to see how many operators were listed in a variety of contests and operating classes for these years. The results are summarized in Table 1. The numbers are for the top five finishers in each DX-contest category, and the top ten for the ARRL Sweepstakes for those two years.

The first two numbers for each contest and category are the smallest and largest team sizes to appear in either of the two years. There may have been more than one team of that size. The last number is the average number of operators for the top teams in each class. In some cases the call signs of the operators were not listed. When that happened, if there was a 6th place entry with operators listed, I used it for the table.

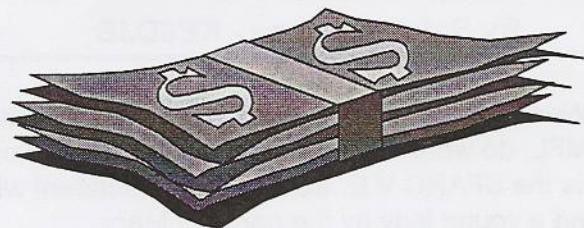
A few interesting observations can be made from this analysis. Winning teams do-- not tend to be that large. This may be partially due to the difficulty of getting enough experienced operators, a common complaint from multi-multi station owners when CTT&T covered multi-multi in the May/June 1990 NCJ.

Small team size for 55 makes sense due to the short time period and mandatory time off. Also, you can only work a station once,; regardless of band. Knowing which stations have already been worked is an advantage. Lots of extra operators don't help much in this contest.

Teams are larger for the CQWW DX contests than for the ARRL contests. Part of this may be due to the rule that allows new multipliers to be worked by a second station in CQWW, thus making extra operators more valuable. Also, DX multiop teams tend to have more operators than their US counterparts. I don't know the reason for this. Perhaps some of our overseas readers would be willing to let us know why.

Well, you now have a few of the secrets in setting up and staffing a successful multi single/multi-two contest operation. Thanks to KS9K and G3SXW for their thoughts. Thanks also to NB9C for suggesting this topic. By the way, just how many contesters does it take to change a light bulb, anyway?

THE TREASURERS REPORT



By Jim Venneman - W6PYX

As of 3-31-95

INCOME

ARRL DUES	\$ 2.00
AUTOPATCH DONATIONS	\$ 8.50
BADGE SALES	\$ 10.00
COMMUNICATIONS SIGN SALES	\$ 4.00
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$ 130.00
PATCH SALES	\$ 12.00
REPEATER DONATIONS	\$ 134.50
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,451.00

EXPENSES

ARRL DUES PAID OUT	\$ 60.00
AUTOPATCH LINE CHARGES	\$ 20.27
BADGES EXPENSE	\$ 49.65
MEETING ROOM RENT	\$ 150.00
NEWSLETTER EXPENSES	\$ 165.00
OFFICE EXPENSES	\$ 19.48
REPEATER ELECTRICITY	\$ 125.75
WORLD RADIO CLUB AD	\$ 60.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 650.24

ASSETS

AUTOPATCH FUND	\$250.91
CHRISTMAS FUND	\$697.68
GENERAL FUND	\$340.97
REPEATER FUND	\$528.61
TOTAL	\$1,818.17

CLUB MEETING PHOTOS APRIL 14, 1995



Irene Greenslade, XYL of W3PMP, and Muriel Morris, XYL of WA6FSO volunteered to bring snacks to the last club meeting.

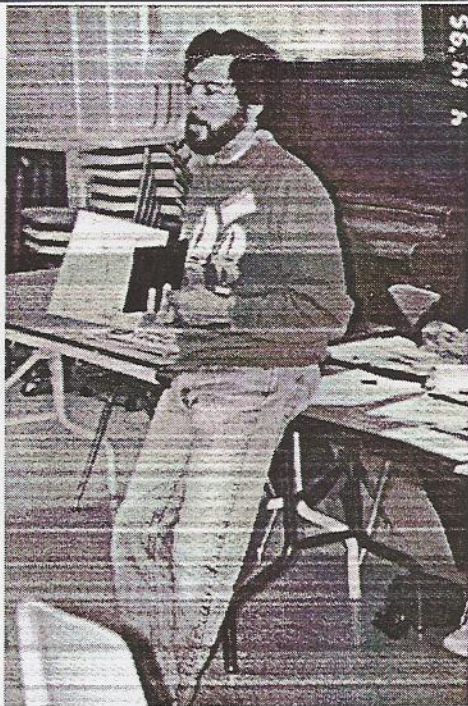
Thanks Irene and Muriel !!



The meeting was attended by 26 members and 3 visitors.



Mr. "CW", also known as Bob Naylor, AC6HF, seen here loitering in front of 226 Sacramento St., patiently waiting for the key to get inside



Greg Dolkas - KO6TH, gave an excellent presentation on amateur satellite communications at the last club meeting on April 14, 1995.

GOOD WORK

By Ralph McCune - KE6DJB

On Wednesday April 5, 1995, I saw Lew Tuttle, KE6MFL, do what looked to me like very hard work. Lew is the SFARC V.E. School Superintendent who tutored a young lady by the name of Mary.

Mary was confined to a gurney laying flat on her stomach, and still smiled at the world. She passed the test missing only one question. While taking the test, she kept a conversation going with the V.E.s and told us about her 4 cats.

Thanks Lew for a job well done. It took allot of dedicated work and the results showed.

Thanks to the V.E. team, Jerri Metke, K6GKR, Lyle Bleufram, AA6DJ from River City ARCS, and VEC Bob Metke, for going out to give the test to Mary. These are the kind of people that make life worth while.

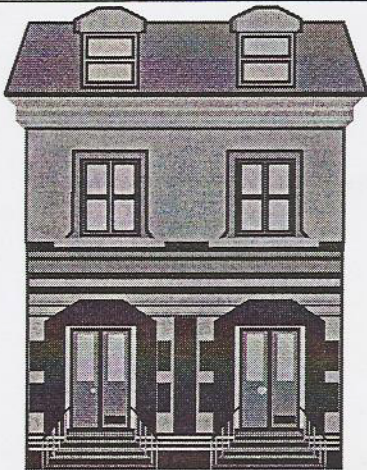
MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 1995

The meeting was called to order by President Martha Vance, KA6WUW. Introductions were made, and our guest speaker was Greg Dolkas, KO6TH.

The treasurers report was read by Vice-President Matt Diridoni in the absence of Jim Vennman. Lewis KE6MFL gave a school report, Bob Metke, W6SUP gave a VE and transmitter hunt report, followed by the Sunshine Report by Jerri Metke, K6GKR. Vice-President Matt Diridoni gave a brief report on the newsletter, that will include more photos with the help of Dave, KE6MBI, and Ralph, KE6DJB.

The club will be renting a table at the North Hills ARC swap meet on May 21, 1995. Members can donate any unwanted gear or parts to benefit Sierra Foothills ARC.



**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE
MARTHA VANCE - KA6WUW**

Hello to all!

Those who attended the April Meeting heard a solid presentation from Greg Dolkas, KO6TH about satellite communications. Judging from the questions that followed, the subject was of great interest. Thank you Greg for speaking on such short notice.

Our thanks to Muriel Morris and Irene Greenslade for doing an outstanding job with the snack bar. They brought home made cookies that were great. Thanks also to the guys that helped with the raffle, particularly Brain Naylor, whose mom, Pam ran the March Snack bar. These mentioned four are outstanding in my book. Though they are not "hams", they are "Club Boosters" and their assistance is much appreciated.

Remember, Family and friends are urged to attend our next meeting, on May 12, 1995. We are always looking for program speakers. If you can suggest someone, or have a topic the club members would like to know about, contact the Vice President, Matt Diridoni - KC6RUO, who schedules our speakers.

Be sure to join us on, 145.430 - each Thursday at 7:30 PM for our weekly club net. It's a good way to keep up with the current announcements.

I look forward to seeing you at the monthly meeting.

Best regards to everyone!

Martha - KA6WUW

BREAKFAST AND A RABBIT HUNT

April 29, 1995

For those that don't make it to the breakfast, you missed another good one. After a belly full of eggs & bacon, some members met at the Metke's residence and participated in a rabbit hunt.

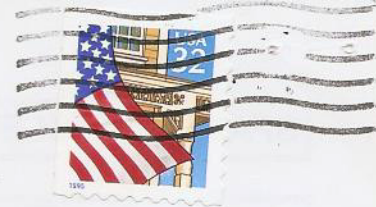
First place and \$20.00 was taken by Matt Diridoni - KC6RUO who found the transmitter within 15 minutes using a dopler radio direction finder.

Second place and \$10.00 was taken by Fred Jensen, K6DGW using a loop antenna in 45 minutes.

Last but not least, Ralph McCune - KE6DJB, who never returned from the transmitter hunt and is presumed "missing in action". Just kidding. Ralph found the transmitter using a tin foil file folder and a hand held radio in three hours.

Thanks to the V.E. team who sponsored this event. Special thanks to Bob and Jerri Metke, for the use of their home, and Dave Pellonini, who was hiding in the park with the transmitter.

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 3262
Auburn, California 95604



TO:



SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is valid from the date received until December 31 of that same year. Memberships received during the year will be pro-rated.
MEMBER DUES: \$17.00, ASSOCIATE DUES: \$7.00. NOTE: SEE APPLICATION BELOW FOR ARRL MEMBERSHIP

MAIL APPLICATION TO: SFARC TREASURER, P.O. Box 3262, AUBURN, CA. 95604

MEMBER NAME _____ CALL _____ Class _____
Last Name First MI

ADDRESS: _____
Numbers Street Name City State Zip Code

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

DATE: _____ Member: \$17.00 Associate: \$7.00 Repeater Donation \$ _____

Auto Patch Donation: \$ _____ Club Patch: \$2.00 TOTAL _____

ARRL APPLICATION FORM - ARRL CLUB NUMBER _____ DATE _____

Renewing your ARRL membership through the club costs no more, and earns the club money for each membership renewal.
Make check payable to SFARC and return to club Treasurer, P.O. Box 3262, Auburn, CA. 95604

Name: _____ Call _____ Class _____

Address: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Regular Member: \$30.00 Yearly ** Special Under 17 Yrs or over 65 Yrs, \$24.00

Member type and Number: R _____ Sp _____ Life time _____ TOTAL _____