

SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB ASSOCIATED WITH THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

JUNE 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: Lewis Tuttle, KE6MFL

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

PRESIDENT

KA6WUW
Martha Vance
723-5488

VICE PRES

KC6RUO
Matthew Diridoni
632-4084

SECRETARY

K6GKR
Jerri Metke
783-7610

TREASURER

W6PYX
Jim Venneman
885-1677

DIRECTORS

WA6ULL
Bob Boeckman
983-2776

W6SUP
Bob Metke
783-7610

W3PMP
Bob Greenslade
624-5234

CLUB NETS:

ALL WELCOME TO CHECK IN

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

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

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

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

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.

Thurs Night Net Controller:
Dick Lund - WA6HYO 885-3190

1995 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jun 9

Club Meeting
Dan Brockman, KC6VEQ of
Sutter Buttes
Communications

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,
ELECTIONS

Nov 27

Board Meeting

Dec 8

Christmas Party

Dec 18

Board Meeting

THIS MONTHS MEETING

This months meeting will feature Dan Brockman, KC6VEQ, of Sutter Buttes Communications.

Dan will demonstrate the test equipment on his service van. Dan has been employed as a commercial service technician for the past few years and is very active in amateur radio.

Dan said he should have some time to place some members radios on the service monitor if they wish.

Hope to see you all at this very interesting meeting!

YOUR SFARC NEWSLETTER PRINTED BY

SNAPPY PRINTING

2280 Sierra Meadows Drive
Rocklin, California 95677

(916)-624-3371

Thanks Snappy!



FROM THE PRESIDENTS HOUSE
MARTHA VANCE - KA6WUW

NOTHING RECEIVED BY PRINT DATE



Flag Day - June 14, 1995

QUAD A's ELECTRONIC SUPPLY

7360 AUBURN BL. #B
Citrus Heights, CA
95610

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

Amateur Television - An Editorial "IN MY OPINION"

Editorial by Donald L. Stoner, W6TNS
Courtesy of America On Line Ham Radio Club

One of the wonderful aspects of ham radio is the diversity of our fraternity. There are really many hobbies within the framework we call Amateur Radio. Some hams like DX'ing, packet transmission of computer data, public service, nets, traffic handling and a zillion other specialties found under the same roof.

A fast growing segment, and one that Henry Ruh, KB9FO writes about this month, is Amateur Television or ATV. The big obstacle to getting on this mode used to be the lack of equipment. In the "good old days," almost everything had to be "home-brewed," in some cases even including the camera. But with the advent of consumer products for home video, the price of cameras and camcorders is very low. At the same time, the quality, performance and resolution of these devices is quite impressive.

The interest in ATV has been supported by ham manufacturers such as Pauldon, PC Electronics, Wyman Research and AEA, who make superb products like TV transmitters, converters and accessories.

Speaking of the "good old days" (which I have been known to dwell on), I have a confession to make to the assembled multitude. Now that the statute of limitations has long since expired, I can confess my sin and purge my soul of the heavy weight it has carried all these years.

At the risk of sounding like something on the cover of The Inquirer, I was a TV "bootlegger." For newcomers, I should explain the term, as it applies to ham radio. A "bootlegger" is one who operates on Amateur frequencies without legal permission (in the form of a ham license) to do so. It is not something to be proud of, but I am on the FCC records as the first non-commercial TV "bootlegger" in the US. The dubious distinction of being the very first "bootlegger" belongs to Sylvania, Corporation. In 1949, they set up a transmitter in Emporia, PA to broadcast television to the area residents. Unfortunately, they did so without benefit of formal blessing by the Federal Communications Commission. It was their contention that since Emporia was in a bowl, surrounded by hills, that they could not interfere with licensed stations. The FCC took a dim view of their argument and punched out their lights, so to speak.

Then along came Mrs. Stoner's young son Donald. Picture it... the year is 1950... the place Flint, Michigan. The FCC had mandated a freeze on the granting of new television licenses until they could determine why distant stations interfered with local broadcasters. Many times in Flint, KPRC (in Houston, Texas) would "cream" WJBK from Detroit, even though their signal had to travel for more than 1,000 miles. Although channel 12 had been allocated to Flint, no new construction permits and licenses were being released by the FCC because of the freeze.

I was always fascinated by television in the days when WJR in Detroit put on a program every few hours. Between shows they placed a rubber Felix The Cat in front of the camera and played Sammy Kaye music on the sound channel. I was in the 10th grade of high school at the time. Other than my dad, I was about the only person in the town who knew how to install a television set. We needed 40 foot antenna masts to pick up Detroit, 60 miles to the south. The Darby Mast Company put up the antennas and I tweaked and tuned the sets. At 16, I knew the old RCA 630TS chassis like the back of my hand. By the way, I saw one of these sets during a visit to the Smithsonian Museum this summer. Boy! Did I feel ancient. The sets I installed back then were now museum pieces.

But I digress.

I wanted to build a television receiver of my own. In 1948, there was a big surplus "store" (actually it was under a huge tent) in Detroit that was almost giving away war surplus goods. They sold a big "boat anchor" which they claimed could be converted to a TV set. I remember taking the Greyhound to Detroit (it was safe for a 16 year old boy to do so in those days!) with a buddy. I also remember lugging the big beast (the proposed TV set, not the buddy) back on the bus. It was built to withstand a direct hit by a mortar and weighed a ton.

I came to the realization that anybody could build a television receiver, but it took real brains to make the pictures. I decided to make a camera!

My first endeavor was to purchase a 5527 iconoscope tube. There were no vidicon's or CCD's in those days! It cost \$20.00 which was a fortune in 1950, even considering the outrageous prices I was charging for a television installation. The camera used a chain of 6AK5's (that a vacuum tube for you youngsters). The camera required a total of 30 tubes altogether and, along with the sync generator, it really warmed up the basement at 506 E. Pierson Rd. And it made pictures. I

could see my test pattern with at least 150-175 lines of resolution.

About that time one of those significant events occurred that affect people's lives and which they never forget.

Earlier I mentioned the television freeze imposed by the Commission. No one knew when the freeze would be lifted or who would be granted permission to broadcast television in the various areas of the country. All except one station--WFDF, the most powerful AM broadcast station in Flint. Day-after-day they propagandized the public with their slogan.... "When television comes to Flint - WFDF will bring it to you." It was incessant. We heard it before Amos and Andy, we heard it after Jack Benny, Fred Allen, and Fibber McGee. They even messed up Reggie and Doc in "I Love a Mystery" with their stupid commercial.

A bright young lad, such as myself, had to wonder how they knew they would be the one selected? While I had no aspirations to broadcast television (if I had only known!), why couldn't I be the first one to bring television to Flint? Sure -- why not?

The question did cushion shots in my brain for weeks, maybe months. And there was that stupid commercial of WFDF's itching away like a heat rash in my mind.

I couldn't take it anymore--something inside finally snapped! I wired up a 6J6 (that's another tube) modulated oscillator, put six volts on the filament, 200 volts on the plate and connected it to the 300 ohm twin-lead from our Amphenol TV antenna up on the pole. With an evil glint in my eyes, I connected the "kluge" to my camera. A hideous cackle reverberated throughout the house.

What do you suppose--a watt maybe? Probably half that output into the antenna. But my Channel 12 test pattern was seen in Saginaw, Birch Run and Pontiac, not to mention at the studios of WFDF. There was sheer panic in the broadcast executives who had Flint's television future all planned out.

As one would expect, they called the FCC in Detroit to see who had been granted permission to use "their" channel. And, as you might suppose, the FCC knew nothing about it. And as you might further suppose, they decided rather quickly that they wanted to know more about this mysterious "melter" of the freeze.

On the second day, I read about my mysterious handiwork in the Flint Journal. The idea crossed my mind

that this rebellious streak in my nature might be hazardous to my health. I was now 18 and an adult in the eyes of the law. I wisely decided to shut down the transmitter and promptly put an end to my budding career in television broadcasting.

While the FCC moves somewhat slowly, they certainly do move and their movement is inexorable. On the third day, I was visited by a fellow who introduced himself as the radio inspector from the Detroit office of the FCC. And while he was not able to monitor the errant transmission, the word around town was that it might have its origin in my neighborhood.

Like a gentleman, he allowed me the luxury of a bald-faced lie that my tripler stage to 432 MHz must have been radiating. He did not embarrass me by asking to see my ham license, nor dispute how the 22 MHz discrepancy would make this harmonic interference possible. He didn't even inquire how I happened to have Channel 12 printed on my test pattern!

It also turned out that the "RI" was W8DX. We reached an understanding that the FCC would not prosecute the case if I took steps to insure this could never happen again and if I would give him the schematic for the television camera and sync generator.

Needless to say, I was more than willing. The phrase \$10,000 or 10 years struck fear in every nerve-ending in my body. I suppose Justice was well served. I got off easy and W8DX went on to become one of the "big guns" in ham TV.

Like many stories, this one also ends on a commercial note. While your introduction to ATV might not be as exciting as mine, it is a fascinating activity. Henry Ruh, KB9FO, a book out called "ATV Secrets For Aspiring ATV'ers." The way the book has been organized makes learning the basics of ham TV easier than saying the title. He covers transmission and reception from both earth bound stations and from space, getting started, public service, balloon, rocket and radio controlled ATV and an index of articles that have appeared in past issues of ATVQ, the quarterly publication for those interested in this exciting hobby.

For now, 73 DE Don, W6TNS

YOUR POINT OF VIEW



If you have questions, comments, complaints, suggestions, please feel free to call the President, Martha Vance at 723-5488.

Letters to the Editor can be mailed to:



SFARC Newsletter Editor
4941 Gibbons Drive
Carmichael, CA. 95608



If you prefer, you can E-MAIL your Letter to the editor to: [MattKC6RUO @ AOL.COM](mailto:MattKC6RUO@AOL.COM)

Letters or photos received by the 20th of the month will be printed in the next months issue of the SFARC newsletter.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

SFARC GAINS \$230.00 AT NHRC SWAP MEET

Matt Diridoni - KC6RUO - May 21, 1995

Thanks to some members that donated funds and time, Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club now has an extra \$230.00 in it's account.

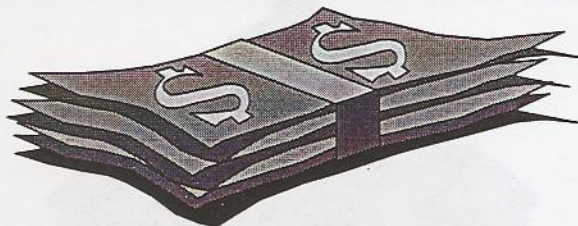
On May 21, 1995 at about 4:45 AM, Lewis Tuttle, KE6MFL, and I rented two spaces at the North Hills Radio Club swap meet in Carmichael.

Members need to thank the sponsors of this fund raising event. Lewis Tuttle, KE6MFL, who donated an antenna sold for \$50.00, Bob and Jerri Metke, donated \$10.00 for table rental, Henry Sparks, KB2DLE donated a scientific calculator sold for \$10.00, John Webb, W6RCW, donated miscellaneous parts sold for \$8.00.

The rest of the items were donated by Dan Brockman, KC6VEQ, of Sutter Buttes Communications, in Yuba City. Dan and his Brother Myron, emptied out the Motorola surplus inventory and gave them to us. Needless to say, the equipment sold like hot cakes.

Thanks again to all that donated to this very successful club fund raiser.

THE TREASURERS REPORT



By Jim Venneman - W6PYX

INCOME

ARRL DUES	\$ 72.00
AUTOPATCH DONATIONS	\$ 98.50
BADGE SALES	\$ 14.00
COMMUNICATIONS SIGN SALES	\$ 4.00
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$ 1,142.00
PATCH SALES	\$ 12.00
REPEATER DONATIONS	\$ 144.50
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,487.00

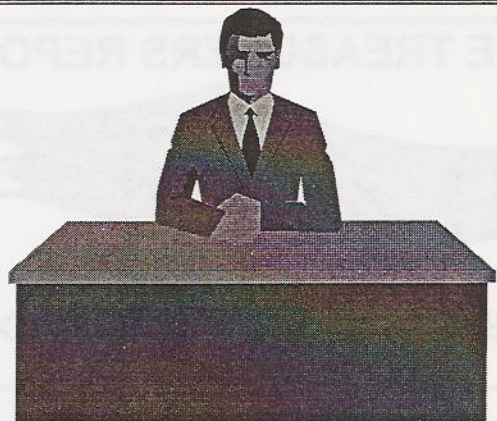
EXPENSES

ARRL DUES PAID OUT	\$ 60.00
AUTOPATCH LINE CHARGES	\$ 54.09
BADGES EXPENSE	\$ 45.05
MEETING ROOM RENT	\$ 150.00
NEWSLETTER EXPENSES	\$ 354.36
OFFICE EXPENSES	\$ 19.48
REPEATER ELECTRICITY	\$ 170.18
REPEATER EXPENSES	\$ 21.00
WORLD RADIO CLUB AD	\$ 60.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 934.16
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$ 552.84

ASSETS

AUTOPATCH FUND	\$227.09
CHRISTMAS FUND	\$697.68
GENERAL FUND	\$172.30
REPEATER FUND	\$473.18

TOTAL **\$1,570.25**



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

Arrangements have been made for Field Day in Nyack. I hope everyone who attends will enjoy.

Lisa and I will be vacationing on the sands of Santa Cruz for the weekend and will not be in attendance for the Field Day festivities.

I hope you are enjoying the photographs that are being printed in the newsletter. We all need to thank Dave Pellonini, KE6MBI for donating the film, and taking the pictures, Ralph McCune, KE6DJB and Lewis Tuttle, KE6MFL for the use of their image scanners. Thanks gentlemen for making our newsletter look great.

73's

Matthew Diridoni, KC6RUO



Don't Forget Fathers Day - June 18, 1995

SWAP MEETS & STUFF

River City ARCS annual Ham Radio & Electronics Swap Meet and Picnic on Sunday, July 30, 1995. Swap Meet is 7:00 AM to Noon, Picnic following the Swap.

LOCATION: Lot A of Sacramento State University. Talk in 145.250(-) / PL 162.2

Reno Hamfest at Reno Airport Facility north of Reno, Aug. 12, 1995. Contact Sierra Nevada ARS Bob Davis, KG7IY, (702) 856-2826.

HAMCON '95 (Southwestern Division Convention), Sept. 1 - 3, 1995, at Long Beach CA. Contact Nate Brightman, K6OSC, (310) 427-5123.

SCRA Hamfest/Swapmeet, Sept. 16, 1995, in Santa Rosa CA. Contact Rick Reiner, K6ZWB, (707) 575-4455.

2nd National Hamfest, Oct. 6-8, 1995, at Costerisan Lake in Bakersfield, CA. Contact the Kern Co. Central Valley ARC at P. O. Box 743, Bakersfield CA 93302

Pacificon'95 at Concord, CA, Oct. 20-22, 1995. Contact Richard Schultze, AA6DL, at (510) 932-6125 on the Pacificon'95 Hotline.

CLUB MEETING MINUTES**May 12, 1995**

The Meeting was called to order by President Martha Vance, KA6WUW & Introductions were made.

We did not have a speaker, so Matt, KC6RUO volunteered to show and tell about transmitter hunting with a Doppler, which he uses in most transmitter hunts. He demonstrated how to it and how you can put one together yourself.

He also named several antennas that can be used.

A motion was made by WB6EDR to accept the April 14, 1995 minutes as printed in our newsletter. Second by KC6LOE, motion passed.

We then discussed Field Day, Rocklin Jubilee, out picnic and the Christmas party. What preparations have been made and what the club still has to do and figure out.

W3PMP, Bob Greenslade said the treasurers report as printed in the newsletter should not be accepted due to typographical errors.

A suggestion was made to correct the report in the next newsletter.

Bob W6SUP gave a short talk on transmitter hunting and mentioned how well the Doppler works. He is hoping there will be more competition in the future.

Field Day: Matt KC6RUO will reserve Nyack for a field day location again and work on getting generators to work with

Rocklin Jubilee: The City of Rocklin is looking for people to work 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM. This years theme is the 1950's Rockin & Rollin Jubilee. PICNIC: August 27, 1995 is the annual picnic. Matt KC6RUO and Greg KC6LOE will cook.

We need somebody to help the games and raffle, and the two meter mobile installation contest.

OLD BUSINESS: Martha thanked and commended people who helped in the Special Olympics at Rocklin High School on May 6th.

Jim Venneman, W6PYX, will get PG&E to check and inspect the antenna pole at the repeater site. The pole is 3 feet in diameter. WB6EDR will climb the pole with a helper.

Jim Venneman will get in touch with Jim Carmen, K6ARR and see what he wants done and what he is willing to do.

Matt Discussed the club buying the DX Bulletin. This was tabled until the next meeting.

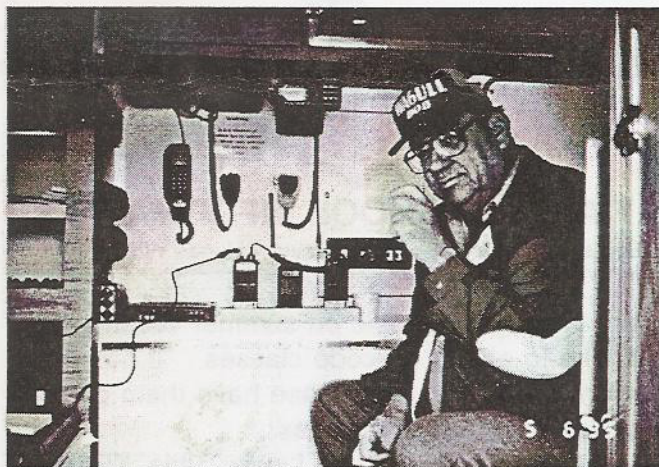
Lewis Tuttle, KE6MFL reported on testing and said he will have summer classes, especially for the young who have time off from school.

Matt asked for donations to sell at the North Hills ARC swap meet, benefits going to the club.

Martha has 3 people for the nominating committee. Russ Ahlberg, Lewis Tuttle, and Jim Venneman.

Meeting adjourned.

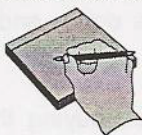
Respectfully Submitted
Jerri Metke, K6GKR
SFARC Secretary



Bob Boeckman, WA6ULL pictured here in the Rocklin Police Mobile Command Unit. Bob served at the morning Net Control Operator at the Special Olympics. The special vehicle is equipped with a Yeasu 2400 2 meter mobile as well as telephones, police and fire radio equipment.

Photo courtesy of Dave Pellonini, KE6MBI

THE VOLUNTEER EXAMINER REPORT

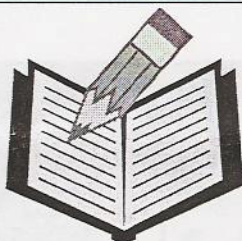


Bob Metke, W6SUP

For the month of May, the SFARC V.E. Team gave 26 tests to 19 applicants in 6 sessions.

A special thanks to all members of the V.E. team for taking the time to help promote amateur radio.

If you need to take a test, or have questions about testing, please feel free to call me at (916)-783-7610. The next test is on June 19th and on June 24th.



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

By Lewis Tuttle - KE6MFL - Dave Jenkins - WB6RBE

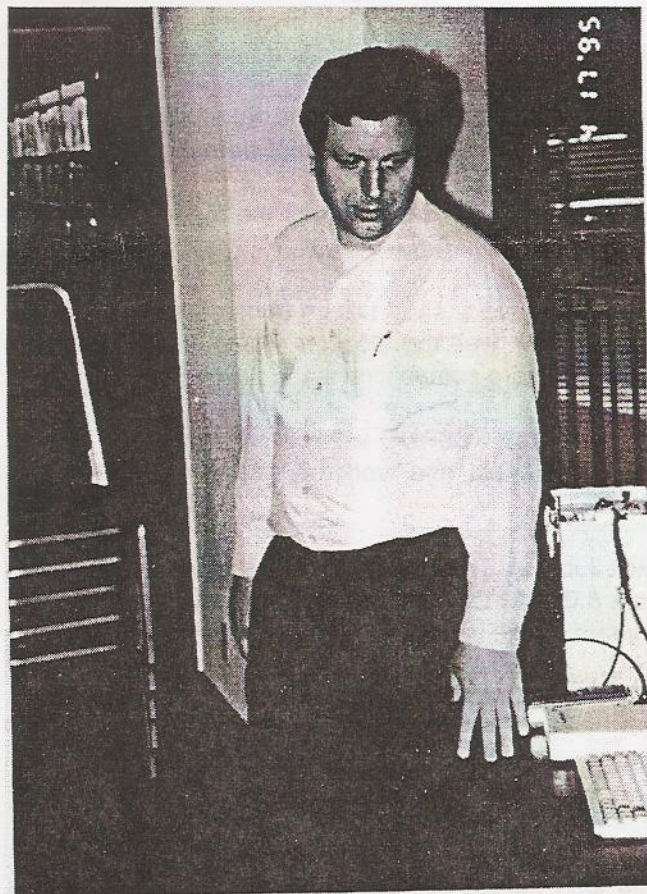
We are looking for people on summer vacation that would like to attend no code classes. If members know anyone interested, please have them contact me to arrange times and places.

Lewis Tuttle, KE6MFL
SFARC School Coordinator
(916)-771-2336



Lewis Tuttle, KE6MFL, SFARC School Coordinator (Center) with students at the Roseville Library.

Photo courtesy of Dave Pellonini, KE6MBI



Dave Jenkins, WB6RBE instructing a no code class at the Roseville Library.

Photo courtesy of Dave Pellonini, KE6MBI

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 22, 1995

Present were Director Bob Greenslade, Director Bob Metke, Secretary Jerri Metke, and visitor. Also present was visitor Dave Pellonini. Absent was President Martha Vance, Treasurer Jim Venneman, and Director Bob Boeckman.

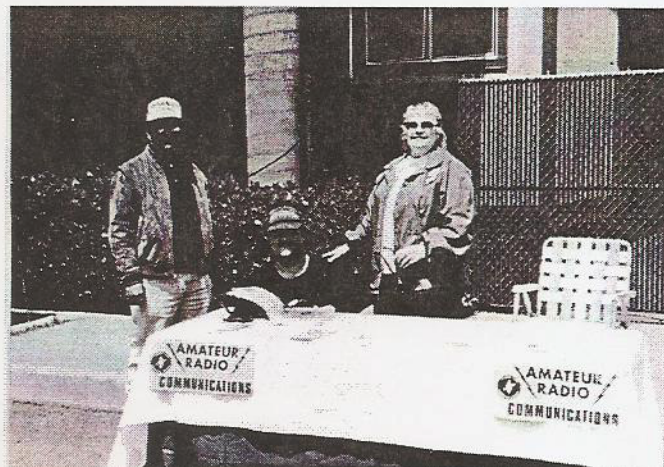
The meeting was called to order by Vice President Matthew Diridoni. Matt made \$230.00 at the North Hills ARC ham swap. The money will be turned over to the treasurer. Matt also reported that the field day location in Nyack was reserved. We need to get hold of the National Guard or find members with generators.

Jerry Metke wanted to make sure that the park is reserved, and paid for, for the club picnic. We will have to check with the President.

Bob Metke reported he is planing for another transmitter hunt on Saturday, July 29, 1995.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Jerri Metke, K6GKR
SFARC Secretary



Carl Crump, WA6VLS, Larry Ellsworth, KE6DLB, and Martha Vance, KA6WUW at the Roseville Police Department for the Safety Fair. Members demonstrated amateur radio at this May event.

Photo courtesy of Dave Pellonini, KE6MBI



DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US AT THE CLUB BREAKFAST ON THE LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH (EXCEPT DECEMBER) 8:00 AM TO 9:00 AM AT SUESIE'S COUNTRY CAFE IN ROSEVILLE, CIRBY WY AT RIVERSIDE AV, OFF I-80.



SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 3262
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95604

TO:

