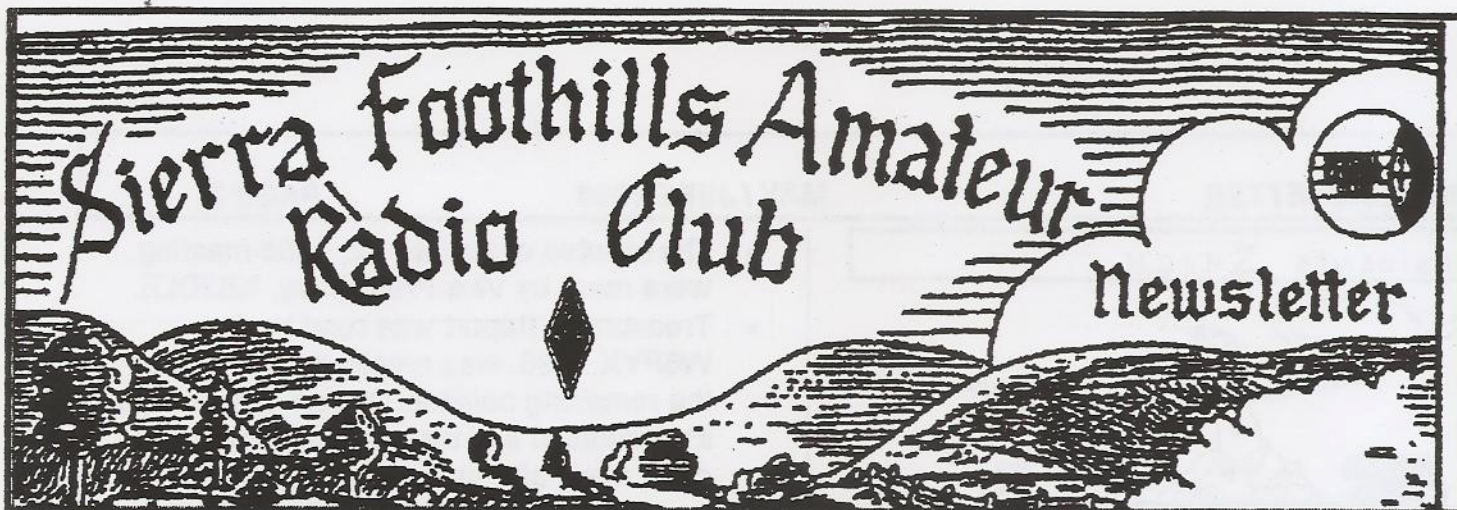




Volume 37, Number 3

P.O. Box 3262 - Borman Br
Auburn, CA 95604

MAY/JUNE 1996

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AC6SF Beverly McCune

AC6SG Ralph McCune

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

PRESIDENT

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983-2776

VICE PRES

KB2DLE
Henry Sparks
978-9556

SECRETARY

Vacant

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885-1677

DIRECTORS

W3PMP
Bob Greenslade
624-5234

W6JDT

Bill Aston
652-9038

KE6MJC

Fred Campbell
888-1840

CLUB NET:

ALL WELCOME TO CHECK IN
Thursdays 7:30 PM 2M / 220
K6ARR & Club Repeater
145.430 (-800, PL 94.8) or
223.960 (-1.5 MHz)

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET

One hour before Club Meeting
Check Event Calendar For Dates

CLUB BREAKFAST

Last Saturday of the month
8:00 AM to 9:00 AM,
Susie's Country Cafe,
Roseville, Hwy 80 & Riverside

Net Controller:

Dick Lund - WA6HYO 885-3190

President's Shack . . .

See Page 2

1996 CALENDER OF EVENTS

May 10	Club Meeting
May 25	Club Brkfst- Susie's Cafe
Jun 14	Club Meeting
Jun 22/23	FIELD DAY
Jun. 29	Club Brkfst- Susie's Cafe
Jul 12	Club Meeting
July 27	Club Brkfst - Susie's Cafe
Aug 09	Club Meeting
Aug 31	Club Brkfst - Susie's Cafe
Sep 13	Club Meeting
Sep 28	Club Brkfst - Susie's Cafe
Oct 11	Club Meeting
Oct 26	Club Brkfst - Susie's Cafe
Oct	White Elephant Sale
Nov 08	Club Meeting
Nov 30	Club Brkfst - Susie's Cafe
Dec 13	Club Meeting
Dec	Christmas Party
Dec 28	Club Brkfst - Susie's Cafe

Your SFARC Newsletter printed by

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PRESIDENTS SHACK



Thanks for all your response to our meetings -- Hope to see you there in May - for the meeting/potluck. Starts at 7:00 p.m. - 1/2 hour earlier than regular meeting. Bring a dish for everyone to partake - also we are making **Big Plans** for a fantastic **FIELD DAY** - If you miss it you will be missing a good time! We are having a Dual Field Day with North Hills Radio Club. Some of us with R. V.s will be arriving at Nyack Friday morning and we will be listening on 146.52 Simplex and 145.43 - SFARC repeater.

Another event I will be working is the Ham Swap and Radio Fair - Carmichael Elks Lodge, Carmichael, CA - Cypress and Hackberry - May 19, 1996.

I want to Thank Henry, KB2DLE, my Vice-President, for all his cooperation. He has sent nice notes to all our members who obviously have forgotten to pay their dues for 1996 - with good results. Good Job Henry!

Thanks to everyone for their cooperation, I am really enjoying being President of your Club. A lot of nice people!

Thanks

Bob, WA6ULL

MINUTES

Feb - Mar - April

February 9, 1996

- WA6ULL, Bob, SFARC President brought the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
- Membership & guest introductions followed. There were 32 members in attendance.
- The evening program titled "Are You Ready for the Big One" was presented by WA6ULL Bob, and KB2DLE, Henry. Many important suggestions and recommendations were offered.

- The minutes of the Jan 12, 1996 meeting were read by Vice Pres Henry, KB2DLE.
- Treasurers Report was read by Jim W6PYX. \$93. was received - \$999.30 is the remaining balance. In Jan. the Club paid it's insurance and the club house rent and other misc. bills for a total of \$719.90
- Intermission from 8:10 - 8:20 pm.
- VE Report - presented by Bob W6SUP. Feb. 28 will be the next VE test. Tests are scheduled from February through April. W6SUP also reported on the last Transmitter Hunt. Another hunt is planned for the 1st Friday or Saturday in April. KE6DJB, Ralph shared some stories on people who took the code test.
- ARRL/DX Report - given by W6RFF, Jettie. Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean is having a February Dxpediton. Jettie gave the locations and calls of the February and March Dxpeditons. Jettie also reviewed the sun spot cycles and its affect on DX Communications.
- W6RFF advised ARRL is working on mailing out QST at the same time for all subscribers. The March issue has the minutes to the ARRL meeting. These minutes cover ARRL goals and priorities for the next five years. ARRL is working on getting passed an exemption to CCR's - so amateur radio operators can put up antennas when CCR's exist. They currently prohibit it in specific housing developments. ARRL was successful in allowing a 36" video dish being exempted from CCR "restrictions".
- KC6RUO Matt discussed his current organizational efforts on his "Old Fashioned Field Day" for June 1996. W6ULL will provide Matt with a liaison to the North Hills Radio Club so joint field day attendance can be arranged. KC6RUO is looking into locating generators and determining the cost if the club was to set up it's own, self supporting field days - without the cooperation and generator support of the National Guard.

Continued Page 3

Minutes - Feb Continued from Page 2

- Anyone interested in Clarence James radio equipment, contact Henry, KB2DLE.
- AC6QP Lewis gave a School Report. He offered to provide a summer school for the club members children and grandchildren. He has had over 75 students in 1995. He is currently working with 20 students.
- W6ULL Bob said that the repeater spruce-up event has been post-poned several times due to the rainy weather. The repeater has been turned down to 25 watts. Two new batteries for emergency power have been installed.
- Sunshine Report- K6GKR Jeri said FSO Lowell will be getting a new hip joint on February 26. W6ULL Bob will send out a special greeting & well wishes to Lowell.
- The raffle drawing was held at 9:10 pm. Winners were: KE6DJB, N7EUQ, W6RFF, KE6RTM, KE6MJC and Theresa, KC6JIX.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Jan Huttula KC6LIX

There Ought to be a Law

...that all areas with CC&Rs restricting "unsightly" antennas, apply the same rule to basketball backboards and hoops....

From Worldradio

WORLD RADIO Newsfront**Massachusetts Antenna Law**

Massachusetts now has a PRB-1-like law of its own. It's literally a Thanksgiving present to the hams of the state.

Phil Temples, K9HI reports that on 24 November, the governor signed into law legislature Bill H-2782 which is now Chapter 225 of the Acts of 1995. The text of the new law is simple and unambiguous. It reads in part as follows:

"No zoning ordinance or by-law shall prohibit the construction or use of an antenna structure by a federally licensed amateur radio operator.

Zoning ordinances and by-laws may reasonably regulate the location and height of such antenna structures for the purposes of health, safety, or aesthetics; provided, however, that such ordinances and by-laws reasonably allow for sufficient height of such antenna structures. This so as to effectively accommodate amateur radio communications by federally licensed amateur radio operators and constitute the minimum practicable regulation necessary to accomplish the legitimate purposes of the city or town enacting such ordinance or by-law."

Temples praised all who made efforts on behalf of this legislation as well as the countless amateurs who wrote letters and made phone calls to the congressmen and women, and to the Governor's office in support of the bill.

A Thought

If you ever find something you like, buy a life-time supply, because they will soon stop making it -Fullerton Radio Club Smoke Signals from Apr'96 *Worldradio*

We Thought We were Ready!

Well we took many precautions prior to the quake. How did they work? Pretty well, we're happy to say, but we've had some adjustments to make.

We had "baby locks" on the kitchen cabinets and they did their job, keeping the dishes, etc., inside. That made a mountain of items to scale as we exited the bedrooms. They have locks now!

The good news was the flashlight was next to the bed. The bad news is that the quake rendered it unfindable by moving it way under the bed during the quake. Solution: it's stuck in place with "velcro" now.

Bad news: Eyeglasses lost from nightstand. Good news: spare pair in car came to the rescue.

Good news: Having the china cabinet wired to the wall worked, keeping it in place and intact. Bad news: dresser in bedroom nearly fell on bed. It is now also wired to screw eyes in the wall. Continued Page 4

Ready Continued from Page 4

Mixed blessing - we had to store paint cans on high shelf in the garage. Seeing the quake danger back then, we passed a rope through their handles. It worked. The cans came off the shelf and were dangling from the rope.

The battery backup power system for the ham station worked as planned. We were able to maintain VHF voice and packet communications. We also passed some HF "health and welfare" traffic to the east coast. That felt good.

As the sun came up on 17 January, we were already making notes of the "improvements" that would help in being better prepared for the next emergency. Although many of these have already been implemented, the lesson we have learned is that no matter how well prepared you think you are, Mother Nature can still throw a good curve your way. Keep looking at ALL your preparations with the thought that you can probably improve on them.

- Melissa and Jeff Reinhardt, KM6II *The Smoke Surf and Slide* from July '94 WorldRadio

Minutes - March 08, 1996

- Meeting called to order at 1933 hours by WA6ULL, Bob.
- Everyone introduced themselves.
- Minutes of 09 Feb meeting were read by Henry, KB2DLE, our vice president.
- Bob, W6SP gave a VE Report. Next tests on 27 Mar. and 10 Apr. Next Rabbit Hunt will be at night on April 27.
- The evening program was a demonstration on Antenna Testing using MFJ 2459.259 test equipment with a battery pack. Several types of antennas were tested, including a "J" pole and several rubber ducks plus a 5/8 wave mobile whip and a dipole. All the antennas were 2 meters. Capabilities of the MFJ test units were shown and discussed. Thank you AC6RD, WA6ULL and KB6DLE for the interesting program.

- Intermission
- WA6ULL confirmed that the "North Hills Club" will join us at Nyack for Field Day.
- We are planning for a cleanup day at the K6ARR repeater.
- Concern was expressed about local jamming on two meter repeaters. Several questions were discussed. (a) What should we do if know "jammers" apply for membership. (b) What do our club by-laws say about this questionable membership.
- The Valley Sierra YL Net meets every Thursday at 7:30 PM. Check-in is possible following our net.
- We will have a pot-luck type dinner at the Fire House for the May meeting. More details later.
- Suggestions were offered for future meeting programs.
- Raffle drawing was held. Winners were: W3PMP, KE6MJC, Linda, AC6RD and WA6ULL
- Request was made for volunteers to work the "special Olympics" event at Rocklin High School on May 11, 1996.
- Meeting was closed at 2105 Hrs. Acting Secretary, Roger/N7EUQ

FCC Releases Vanity Call Sign Application

The FCC has not yet announced any of its application-gate opening dates, so do not send your Form 610-V to the FCC yet! Feb '96 QST

This is for you Bob W6SUP- AC6SF
you always "want to know"

More - - - -

Minutes -April 12, 1996

- Meeting called to order by President, Bob WA6ULL.
 - Brief introductions. Spoke about a CHP patrolman who had a M/c accident - is surviving, and will retire at age 55. Request for radio operators for the Special
- Continued Page 5

Minutes - Apr. continued

Olympics May 11 - 9:00 to 3:30 in Rocklin.

- Field Day - will be combined with North Hills Radio Club - River City may also attend. More into later.

- Self introductions of those attending .

Henry , KB2DLE introduced speaker, and Official Observer, Steven Douglas N6TLD. As an Official Observer, he can notify violators, as well as "good guys" . He also serves as a Technical Specialist assisting citizens to solve TVI problems. He illustrated how he uses a Casio Personal Digit Diary to keep him on time for all his appointments recorded to the end of the year. Steven described some of his experiences at the '94 Hamvention he attended. He informed us that Dayton is within 800 miles radius of 2/3 of the population of the US. He stated they had camping facilities available however, since he didn't camp he doesn't have further information about that.

His demonstration was a portable 2 meter beam "Handy-Finder" for antenna hunting. He had several items available both "kit" and fully assembled, also had a "kit" for an LED transmitter locator and a Dopler. There is a very good book on the market for transmitter hunting. Steven also covered handy equipment to easily do a BNC connector. He operated a crimp connector & applicator and a handy little gadget called a "coax stripper". No one should be without those handy little dudes!

- Break -resume approx. 8:21.
- Minutes from March meeting read.
- Treasurer's Report (a) We overspent our income by \$10.00 and (b) we have a deficit of \$50.00 in the General Fund. and (c) we have \$774.20 balance..
- Field day discussed - each club participating will plan for \$100 for this event.
- President, WA6ULL, Bob stated a letter had been received from Jim Carman. (Note; Full text is included in Newsletter)
- WA6ULL stated during a Bicycle Race using the repeater, people were told to find another repeater. Matt KC6RUO discussed "poor" communications in this context

Minutes continued

WA6ULL also noted the pole at the repeater site was split and needed work, however, the club has no current funds available for this - which also brought up discussion regarding the possibility of a self-supporting pole being available to the club. It was also noted there is another repeater owner that had requested support for his repeater. Jim W6PYX stated he had seen documents for the repeater site and that SFARC is listed - Jim Carman signed for the club signing Martha KA6WUW by him. A letter to that effect was mailed to Martha.

- Next Meeting - May POTLUCK at Auburn Fire Station. Roger N7EUQ donated \$20.00 to Bob WA6ULL for chicken.

SCHEDULE: A - M Salad
N - Z Dessert.

First letter AFTER number in your call sign to determine what you bring.

The Pot luck meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. - 1/2 Hour earlier than usual . Please invite former members or friends you believe would be interested in joining us.

YOU SUPPLY - pot luck dish (large enough to share) and your table service (Plates, silverware etc.)

CLUB SUPPLIES - Chicken

SODAS - COFFEE- TEA

Paid Items to go to the Snack Bar Fund.

- Bob Metke W6SUP gave VE Report. Next test will be 24th of April and another May 8. A rabbit or Squirrel Hunt Saturday, April 27 7:30 to 9:30 . Start 511 Oak Street, Roseville.
OPEN TO ANYONE-
Prize - \$20.00 - \$10.00- \$5.00

Continued Page 6

- Minutes -Apr continued
- Roger N7EUQ proposed a CHALLENGE HUNT N7EUQ and Bob WA6ULL against Matt KC6RUO and Doppler (Roger purchased one at meeting) (Ed Note: We have to figure out a "handicap" for these Dopplers so the rest of us don't get lost in the dust)
- Lou AC6QP said General Class is doing well at Roseville Library 7:00 PM . Stop by.
- Martha KA6WUW inquired about ARRL Flag fund - advised Donations total \$27.50. She also said National Guard are eager to participate as it coincides with their preparedness training. In view of two clubs jointly doing Field Day, what Call Sign to use? Bob WA6ULL will speak with Jettie W6RFF, whose call sign we usually use. The alternate could be K6IS from the North Hills Club.
- Raffle drawing.
- Meeting adjourned 9:22 pm.
Submitted by B. McCune AC6SF

You Know its time to ease off when:
From the BARC Bulletin, Ft Lauderdale, FL

...you're talking on the phone with a ham buddy,
and you end the conversation and hang up the
phone with a "KD1HZ "

-Michael P Deignan, KD1HZ

...After you find out who the calling party is, you
say "you are 5-9 in Virginia."

-Ben E. Cline, AC4XO

...you end a face to face conversation with
"dit dit." - Paul Flaherty, N9FZX

...you're talking on an EMS telemetry radio with
a base hospital for medication orders and such
and sign out with your call sign...No, I didn't do
this, but N5JXS swears he did, and that he got
a call sign back...

-Jay Maynard, EMT-P, K5ZC

...you go shopping, get to the checkout, write a
check, and sign it KE3HO

-James E. Proctor, KE3HO

...u find urself typing in cw shorthand to fellow
wrkers on internal e-mail... -Fred M. Davis, VA3FD

"We all get heavier as we get older because
there's a lot more information in our heads".
-Rocking Chair Copy - Clark County (WA) ARC

The Following are all authentic, taken directly
from announcements made in churches --

- This Afternoon there will be a meeting in the
South and North ends of this church. Chil-
dren will be baptized at both ends.
- Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. there will be an ice
cream social. All ladies giving milk, please
come early.
- The service today will end with "Little Drops
of Water". One of the men will start quietly
and the rest of the congregation will join in.
- This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs.
Brown to come forward and lay an egg on
the alter.
- The ladies of the church have cast off cloth-
ing of every kind, and they can be seen in
the church basement on Friday afternoon.

Submitted by Jan Huttula, KC6LIX

New Members

I see you at the meetings
But you never say "Hello"
You're busy all the time you're there
With those you already know.
I sit amongst the members
and yet I'm a lonesome guy.
The new ones are as strange as I
But you old members pass me by.
But you folks ask us in..
And talk of "fellowship".
You could just step across the room
But you never make the trip.
Why can't you nod and say "Hello"
Or stop and shake my hand
Then go and sit amongst your friends?
Now that I would understand.
I'll be at your next meeting
Perhaps a nice time to spend.
Do you think you could introduce yourself?
I really want to be your friend.
Anonymous

Submitted by Dave Pellonini, AC6RD

Field Day - Field Day - Field Day -

"Trash bag" antenna saves the day

The Cass County ARC began this year's Field Day exercise with the same anticipation of success as every other year. The remote site was ready. The trailers were ready. And the radios and generators were ready to put club station, W9VMW on the air.

Antennas were being erected by the Logansport, Indiana club including a 160-foot vertical wire launched by a helium-filled weather balloon to serve as a five-eighths was on 75 Meters.

The balloon was only about half filled when, without warning, "POW!" No more balloon! AND no Back-up balloon this year.

At about this time, Dave Rothermel, K9DVL, owner of the Field Day site, was in the process of placing new trash bags around the area and commented, half jokingly, "I've got your replacement!"

The engineers manning the helium tank, Bill Wells, WA8HSU, and Steve Wilson, WB9SHY, looked at each other for only a moment when Steve said, "Let's try it and see if it holds."

So they squeezed the open end around the tank nozzle and turned it on as other club members began to gather around and watch in amazement. And it held!

"We need more lift," Bill and Steve decided. So three more of the 33 gallon bags were filled, the ends tied together, and the antenna wire secured. With the antenna launching, the "trash bag" vertical was born!

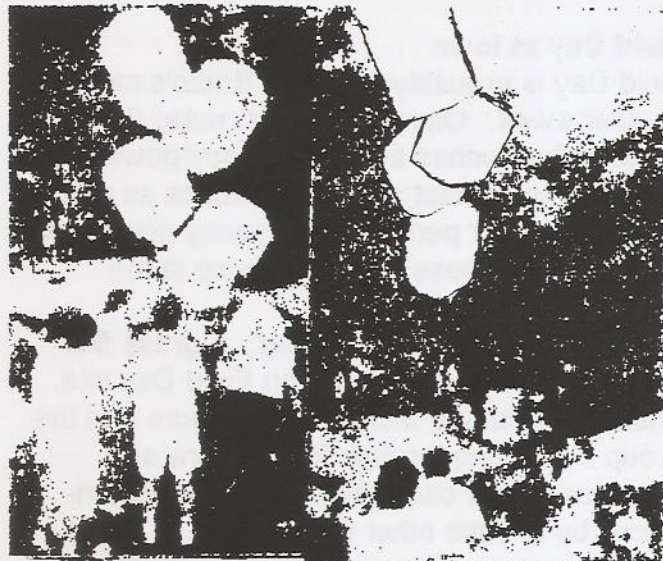
Did it work? Better than ever, club members decided after experiencing the pile-ups, and it was still flying high when Field Day ended, although the performance was not up to that of the 40-Meter bobtail curtain constructed of aluminum sewer pipe, but that's another story. -- Ed Norris, K9PSR 9/95 WorldRadio

When Languages Collide From a HI paper

In a Japanese Hotel: You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid

On a Swiss Menu: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

Field Day - Field Day- Field Day-

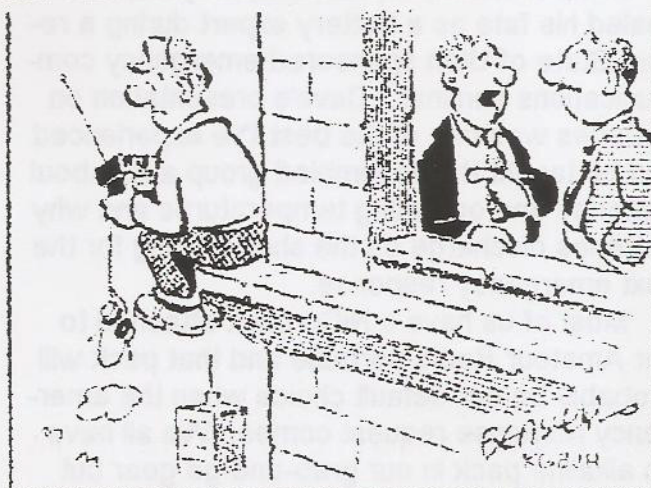


Bill Wells, WA8HSU, (right) and Steve Wilson, WB9SHY, (2nd from right), launch CCARC's "trash bag" vertical on Field Day.

We'll be looking for you at NYACK in June to get some Field Day stories of our own -

See you in the Newsletter

AC6SF/AC6SG Editors



SAYS HE'S MAD BECAUSE HE CHOSE THAT SPOT AS A "FIELD DAY" SITE, AND NONE OF THE CLUB MEMBERS SHOWED UP

Field Day - Field Day - Field Day - Field Day -**Field Day In Iowa**

Field Day is arguably Amateur Radio's most popular event. Once each year, using the makeshift antennas and emergency power, participants contact as many stations as possible in a 24 hour period. Emergency preparedness is the purpose, and fellowship is the theme.

In Clarinda, Iowa, one year, a grass fire threatened to engulf the hilltop Field Day site. Then it rained four inches in four hours and the group after going through four generators emerged with a camaraderie seldom experienced by anyone other than victims of some awful disaster, such as Custer's Last Stand.

A visitor asked, "What's that cable I stumbled over?" The coaxial dipole antenna had fallen to the ground, no one had noticed.

Next year, we plan to celebrate Field Day on the campus of the local Mental Health Institute, if we can persuade the superintendent that doing so will not "set a bad example for the patients." ---Sooland ARC *Kerchunk* from 9/95 WorldRadio

Battery Life

Dave Christensen, KD7UM, may have sealed his fate as a battery expert during a recent State of Utah sponsored emergency communications seminar. Dave's presentation on batteries was one of the best I've experienced and he taught the assembled group a lot about batteries and operating temperatures and why batteries discharge on the shelf waiting for the next emergency response.

Most of us have a NiCd pack attached to our Amateur Radio portable and that pack will probably be our default choice when the emergency response request comes. We all have an alkaline pack in our grab-and-go gear but we'll be running off the NiCds at first.

I've stayed with one particular brand of radios of the same vintage because they all have interchangeable battery packs. If the VHF rig goes flat, I can borrow the pack off the marine band radio. If I use the aircraft portable a lot,

the UHF pack can be used. I also need only a couple of alkaline packs because they fit all the radios.

You, as I, have experienced the dreaded "dead battery pack" syndrome. The radio dies after a couple of hours, or the low battery indicator comes on immediately after a "full" charge. Every six months I do a load and voltage check on all my battery packs and about once a year discover one pack that is not up to spec.

To combat the "syndrome" we (you and I) have resorted to zapping cells or going to the local electronics store and buying a single replacement cell. Once we have zapped or replaced that cell, the pack is returned to service. Except that a month or two later, the zapped cell is dead again, or another cell has died. And we repeat the process again.

In Dave's seminar, one point his home-battery cells have a limited life! They all fail some day. It makes sense that if you have a battery pack of seven cells, all manufactured at the same time and all mostly identical, they're all going to have similar life expectancy. If your pack has lived a full and useful life of two or three years, expect to replace it. Dave suggested you can give a dead cell a jolt or replace a cell, but others are soon to follow.

Let me give some personal insight. My son (KC7GKE) and I had battery packs that had one or two dead cells. Rather than zapping or replacing a cell we opted for replacing all the cells. I priced individual cells at the electronics store and cost per pack (seven cells) was about \$20. The original capacity of the pack was 450 mAh and the replacements were rated the same. I would have to carefully align the solder tabs, connect the cells and move the temperature sensor from the old pack into the rebuilt pack. Sounded simple.

Because we wanted to explore other solutions, this being an educational process, we contacted three companies that advertised replacement inserts for battery packs and one other local battery specialty store. The local store had batteries with solder tabs in 1200

Battery Life continued-

capacity for \$4.50 each or \$31.50 (plus tax) for seven cells. We would have to assemble our own packs if we went this route.

Toll-free calls to the three battery companies were the most rewarding and surprising. The cost for an assembled pack (with the temperature sensor already in place) ranged from \$24 to \$55. One company could provide capacity of either 450 mAh, 1200 mAh, or 1400 mAh - each having significant price difference.

We decided on the \$24- 1400 mAh insert and placed an order for two. They arrived a week later and in less than 30 minutes we had soldered them into place and after charging, we're back on the air.

What did I learn? From KD7UM I learned that after two or three years, expect the pack to expire. You can spend (and waste) a lot of time fixing each cell as it dies, but you will not have a dependable pack when you're finished. From efforts at pricing cells, I discovered a wide range of price and capacity. With replacement inserts in hand, it is not a complicated task to remove the old and solder in the new cells. The replacement was a single unit of tabbed and welded cells and all we had to do was solder three wires and put the pack back together.

We gained about 950 mAh capacity over the old pack and our chargers work fine. We're now good for another two or three years and won't have to worry about old cells giving up in the middle of an exercise or public service response.

Jerry Wellman, WB7ULH from
Search and Rescue Communications Dec '95
Worldradio

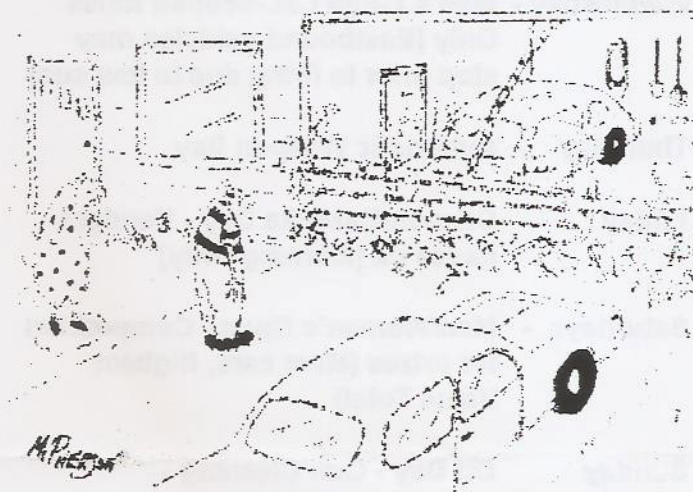
Battery Alert

Using alkaline and carbon zinc batteries in combination can create a pressure explosion great enough to split and blow the end cap off an explosion-proof flashlight!

Of seven different styles inspected, the Eveready Alkaline Energizer was the only battery that incorporated a warning label concerning the hazards of mixing battery types. This is espe-

cially disconcerting since major manufacturers are reportedly converting from carbon zinc to alkaline. Be particularly careful with the green-jacketed Military batteries which contain no warning labels or chemical descriptions.

Play it safe. When you use more than one battery in combination, have them all from the same manufacturer. **SMARK SPARKS FROM**
May '96 Worldradio



"Here's the problem. The batteries to the garage-door opener were in backward."

NOT PROPHETABLE

A new pastor of a country church dropped in on a Sunday School class. In his chat with the children, he quizzed one boy: "Who knocked down the walls of Jericho?"

The boy started to cry. "Not me, sir," he said.

The pastor, upset, turned to the teacher and said, "Is this the kind of teaching you do?"

The teacher, embarrassed, replied, "Now, Reverend, Timmy is a good boy and doesn't tell lies. If he says he didn't do it then he didn't."

Now, thoroughly flustered, the pastor presented the matter to the deacon's board. After an interval the board sent a message to the pastor: "We see no point in making an issue of this situation. The board will pay for the damages and charge it off to vandalism."

---Martha J. Beckman SatEvePost

Yes, we are back from our trip to AZ and I wanted to share this item we picked up along our way -

Southern Calif Freeway Schedule

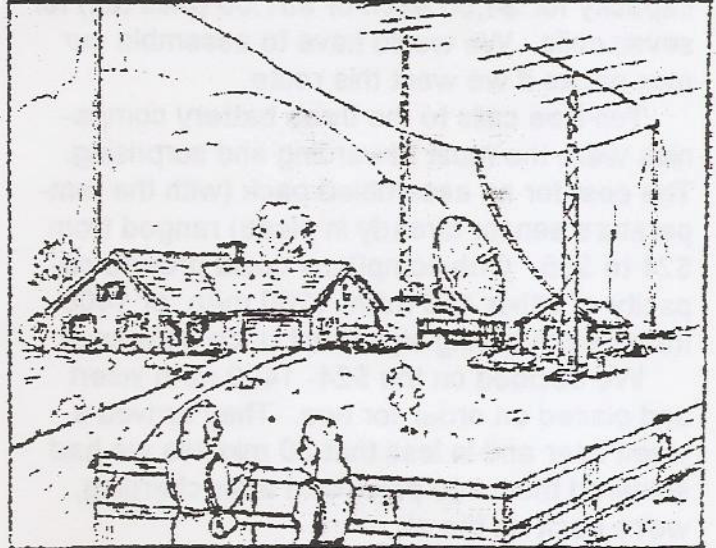
- Monday** - Small Arms Only -.38 Cal. or less
- Tuesday** - Lady's Shotgun Day
- Wednesday** - Men's Large Cal.-Scoped Rifles Only (Eastbound vehicles may stop prior to firing due to low sun)
- Thursday** - Automatic Weapon Day
- Friday** - Cannon/Bazooka Day - Handgrenades ok (Morning Only)
- Saturdays** - Men/Women's Open - Competition for prizes (Most cars, Highest Value Total)
- Sunday** Off Day - Gun Cleaning - (Slingshots, Squirt Guns, Gestures of Profanity ONLY.)
NO THROWN OBJECTS!!!

If you are planning a trip to Southern California, please arm yourself according to the above schedule. Failure to comply will suspend you from freeway use. Additional Violations will result in **REVOCAION OF USE OF FREEWAYS AND PERMANENT PLACEMENT ON AN L.A. RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT BUS.**

FYI - According to March '96 On Frequency-North Hills Radio Club Newsletter, the Club will hold Hamswap '96 Sunday, May 19 at Carmichael Elks Lodge. Should be a gala event. I'm sure they would enjoy and appreciate everyone's support. Further details would be available from Pres. Bob WA6ULL. (By AC6FS)

Minds are like parachutes - they only function when open. Author Unknown

HAM CHOCKLES



SHE WANTS A DISHWASHER BUT HE SAYS THEY CANT AFFORD SUCH EXTRAVAGANT AND FRIVOLOUS LUXURIES!

Law of Averages: If you have one foot in a bucket of ice water, and the other in a bucket of boiling water, on the average, you're quite comfortable ---The Microvolt from Jan '96 Worldradio

HAM TEST DATES

License or Upgrade tests will be given-

May 8, 1996 - May 29, 1996
June 12, 1996 - June 26, 1996
July 10, 1996 - July 31, 1996
Aug 14, 1996 - Aug 28, 1996
Sept 11, 1996 - Sept 25, 1996
Oct 09, 1996 - Oct 30, 1996
Nov 13, 1996 - Nov 27, 1996
Dec 18, 1996

YOU MUST PREREGISTER

FEE IS \$6.05

**CONTACT: W6SUP BOB METKE -
916-783-7610**

allegations have been made and now the time has come to face my "alligators"

I don't remember where I saw this but it seems to be appropriate as shown in the following
AC6SF Bev AC6SF

March 29, 1996

TO: SFARC Members

FM: Jim Carman, K6ARR

RE: Two Meter Repeater

It is time the facts about the 2 Meter repeater be made straight. Heard there are rumors about why it was taken out of operation. Saying the equipment is broken down. Certain users conduct. Heard someone say the transmitter oscillates, there was a GE MASTR II amplifier in use earlier that was unstable, it was intended for use above 150 Mhz. I could see it on a Spectrum Analyzer on the bench. A different GE MASTR II amplifier is now in use and is stable. There is really two transmitters and receivers for it. They can be interchanged in a short time. There is nothing wrong with any of this equipment, the problem is the antenna mounting. This has been an on going one. The new 2 meter antenna was installed, replacing the old Phelps Dodge Stationmaster installed when the repeater was on 146.76 Mhz It was tuned for higher in the band and does not work properly on 145.43 Mhz. New coaxial cable was installed before this. Further problems were noticed when the antenna was installed, and have become worse over time. The 2 meter antenna is mounted on a pipe attached to the top of the pole for the old 42 Mhz 108 band antenna Placer County installed in the 1950's. The elements are gone and it is reduced to mostly rust and requires more than a wrench to remove. Attached to it is old copper hardline, the other end broken off near the ground. The 2 meter antenna is mounted in a space below it, there is about 2 feet of this old antenna and pipe nearly in contact with it and detunes it, the SWR measures 2.5:1. To make matters worse

are the rusty pieces of metal connected to each other and to the old coax, grounded only by the 2 meter antenna feedline. This is a good place for intermod and noise to be generated. The reflected power on the feed line and transmitter output being rectified by all this causes intermod and noise desensitizing the receiver, is not good for the final transistor in the transmitter and other unknown problems, including interference to TV or other services. Reducing transmitter output was a temporary fix, for a while, the problem just became worse. When everything is clean and matched it works fine. Rain and wind causes even more problems. Have noticed noise on the 220 Mhz and 440 Mhz repeaters during these times.

I decided to temporarily turn the system off. The transmitter ID's itself at 20 minute intervals with a D for disabled after the call at about 5 Watts output. Communication was nearly impossible because of these problems, only very strong signals into the receiver were usable. I do not want to put a repeater on with poor performance, it is my Call on it and it should operate properly. Am looking for someone who can do the pole work and go up and clean off the junk up there. If this does not solve the problem the antenna and feedline can then be checked out further and fixed. If anyone knows of a person who can do this please call me. There was some talk about the pole no longer being sound, this is something that needs to be determined by someone who knows more about the subject. With the weather getting better now, hopefully the work can now be started to fix the problems.

There has been discussion by many about improper operation, conduct, language etc. by certain users of the repeater. A number of people have said that this has caused them to quit using and monitoring it. This is a sensitive problem involving personalities and hard to resolve. My lack of attendance to the club meetings is partly for this reason. A large number of former members in the Auburn area seems to feel the same way.

Continued Page 12

Memo continued

There has been some jamming going on also, it was a bit serious, someone was making bogus 911 calls I was told, 911 dialing was disabled to stop this. Other systems in the area are also having problems too.

These ill feelings are bad for a club, it went dormant for a while in the past. Putting on the Two Meter Repeater was part of getting it going again. These repeaters, 2 meters, 220 Mhz, 440mhz, have been in operation for many years weathering a number of storms. A lot of work by many has been put into them. Let's hope something like this does not cause them to cease operation for good.

Memo to AC6SG, Ralph as Co-editor, printed verbatim, to preclude misunderstandings.

* * * * *

Your comments, suggestions and submittals are appreciated. Preferences regarding material you would enjoy in your Newsletter will help make this a Newsletter you will look forward to receiving. I am having a wonderful experience doing this, and learning along the way. Thank you for those items that have already come my way, they will eventually all show up.

Bev AC6SF/ Ralph AC6SG McCune
5921 Mallard Lane
Citrus Hts, Ca 95621
Phone: 722-1469

* * * * *

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE OCTOBER 1996

Keep watching for further details

Quad A's Electronic Supply

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Great Headline Gaffes

- Enfield couple slain: police suspect homicide
 - Police begin campaign to run down jaywalkers.
 - Drunk gets nine months in violin case.
 - Survivor of Siamese twins joins parents.
 - Killer sentenced to die for second time in 10 years
 - Police found safe hidden under bed
 - Iraqi head seeks arms.
 - Two sisters reunited after 18 years in checkout counter
 - Prostitutes appeal to Pope.
 - British left waffles on Falkland Islands.
 - War dims hope for peace
 - Eye drops off shelf
 - Teacher strikes idle kids.
 - Reagan wins on budget, but more lies ahead.
 - Squad helps dog bite victim
 - Enraged cow injures farmer with ax
 - Miners refuse to work after death
 - Juvenile court to try shooting defendant
 - Stolen painting found by tree
 - Two Soviet ships collide, one dies
- From America Online compiled by Susan Barton, KA6SEH and I got it from ARNS

Something for Every Ham to Think About

A striking feature of Radio Amateurs is the diversity of their interests. There is no such thing as a typical ham. Our Amateur Radio interests include fast-and-slo-scan TV, RTTY, packet, CW, SSB, AM, FM, EME, QRP, weak-signal VHF and UHF, traffic handling, public service, contesting, antenna design and construction and much, much, more.

Such diversity is to our credit. We are progressive enough to keep adding new interests such as satellite work.

But when diversity breeds division, it can become a great weakness. Division shows when we think what we do is more important, useful, or intelligent than what others do.

Lately, with rumors of no-code on HF, some of us have blamed the codeless Techs for trashing two meters.

Yet most Amateurs welcome newly licensed hams with open arms. Most realize that interference was a problem long before the no-code license.

Let's not forget that all of us entered this hobby to communicate - whether with Amateurs overseas, or to a spouse across town. And no matter what our license class or interests, the only way we can avoid the chaos of eleven meters is to cooperate with other hams...

So let's treat other operators just as we would have them treat us, whether or not we share their interests or have the same type of license.

by Tony Everhardt, N8AC

from the Oct '94 Toledo Mobile Radio Assoc "Amateur Radio Beacon" -
Chuck Krukowski, KB8FXJ Editor as seen in ARNS

Wanted

QST, HR, CQ, 73

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Dates

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July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Reservations and Questions
AC6QP Lewis Tuttle - 916-771-2336

* * * * *

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Advertising?

This size space could be
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(6 Issue Minimum)

Contact the Newsletter Editor: 722-1469

SIERRA FOOTHILLS ARC INCOME/EXPENSES
1/ 1/96 Through 3/31/96

SFARC94-All Accounts
4/12/96

Page 1

Category Description	1/ 1/96- 3/31/96
INCOME/EXPENSE	
INCOME	
ARRL Dues Paid In	50.00
Autopatch Donations	63.00
Badge Sales	9.00
Interest Income	5.30
Membership Dues	896.00
Repeater Donations	106.00
TOTAL INCOME	1,129.30
EXPENSES	
ARRL Dues Paid Out	46.00
Autopatch Line Charges	31.24
Badges Expense	36.00
Bank Charges	26.00
Christmas Party Expenses	101.00
Insurance	266.00
Meeting Room Rent	150.00
Newsletter Expenses	239.18
Office Expenses	16.48
Picnic Expenses	40.00
Postage Expenses	40.00
Repeater Electricity	87.40
World Radio Club Ad	60.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,139.30
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	-10.00

SIERRA FOOTHILLS ARC FUND BALANCES
As of 3/31/96

SFARC94-Selected Accounts
4/12/96

Page 1

Account	3/31/96 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
AUTOPATCH-AUTOPATCH FUND	213.57
CHRISTMAS-CHRISTMAS FUND	265.52
GENERAL-GENERAL FUND	-50.13
REPEATER-REPEATER FUND	345.24
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	774.20
TOTAL ASSETS	774.20
LIABILITIES	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	774.20

Well, we are back from our vacation or what ever you would like to call the trip to Az. Had a lot of fun, meet several "HAM's" and all around had a good time.

We did miss the people here but talked to some on the radio, and that was fun. Bev. enjoyed herself and visited with our son and his family, also saw her brothers and sister, as well as her mother. The weather wasn't as nice as last year but didn't have the rain that was in Ca. either.

We are looking forward to "field day" and to the Parade in Rocklin. Again it's good to be back.

The McCunes



AC6SG

AC6SF



To see us goin
g away, or to
see us return?

People we meet on
our trip.

Bill W7JUK

Casa Grande, Az.

DALE KC7JDT

Collage, Az.

LEE N7NUN

Quartzite, Az.

ED WB6V

Yuma, Az.

AL N6HFO

Niland, Ca.

Clandestine Operations

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to establish and maintain radio communications without arousing suspicion among the local inhabitants, by disguising your antennas or installing them in such a manner as to avoid notice, and by practicing habits which invite no attention from the curious
Attention Grandparents - This may just be up your alley.

A Slinky is a toy made from a flexible 90-turn spring with a 2-3/4" diameter. Each Slinky contains 67' of flat steel wire, and weighs approximately 1/2 pound. When a Slinky is compressed it is only 2-1/4" long, but it can be stretched into a helix as long as 15' in length without deforming. An antenna made from a Slinky is light, simple to suspend and extend, and easy to put out of sight when not in use.

Slinky Antenna Basics

Since the 1950s millions of people have had fun playing with a Slinky because of its mechanical properties. But it turns out that the Slinky has some interesting electrical properties at radio frequencies, too. Since it is a helix made of conducting material, it will be self-resonant at some frequency. In fact, a standard Slinky coil resonates as a quarter wave between 7 and 8 Mhz when it is stretched to lengths between 5' and 15'. To tune the Slinky within that range, one must only extend the coil to approximate size, then expand or contract it to reach the desired resonance. At a length close to 7 1/2' a standard Slinky is quarterwave resonant on 40 meters. So a 40 meter dipole made from a pair of Slinky coils will fit in any apartment, balcony, or hotel room and can be put up in a matter of minutes.

Dipoles resonant at frequencies above the 7-8 Mhz range may be

created by removing turns to the helices or by shorting out turns. A twenty meter dipole, for example, can be made by cutting a Slinky coil in half or simply by feeding it with a delta match in the center.

For target frequencies below 40 meters, one adds turns from another Slinky coil or clips wire pigtails on the ends. For example, by adding one more coil to each side and stretching the whole to about 30' in length, you can make an 80 meter dipole that will fit in most attics and motel hallways.

Performance

Is this a wonder antenna? No. But it works. In a test on a statewide 75 meter phone net, a 30' 80 meter Slinky dipole at 20' received signal reports on an average 1 1/2 S-units lower than a TNT Windom at 35'. That's not bad for a 1/10 wavelength antenna. It would have done better if the antennas were equally high, but it would never outperform the full-size dipole. Compared with a Hustler Mobile whip, its performance and bandwidth were outstanding. So, considering that you can even install a Slinky antenna for 80 meters inside a motel room, Slinking around with one promises some good moments.

Kids don't know half the fun of a Slinky. Could they imagine talking into one and having someone from Japan answer them of 15 meters? Only in Amateur Radio can you get a bang like this out of a Slinky. More info available in Radio Adventure Jan /Feb '96.

**SIERRA FOOTHILLS ARC
AND
NORTH HILLS ARC**

**1996 FIELD DAY
"AN OLD FASHIONED FIELD DAY"
JUNE 21st through 23rd, 1996**

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

NYACK, CALIFORNIA

Potluck Dinner

5:00 PM June 22, 1996

BRING YOUR FAVORITE SALAD OR DESSERT

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Field Day is a training and preparation exercise to test your ability to operate under adverse conditions. It prepares you for the day when disaster strikes without the benefit of commercial power. It is also a fun weekend camping and radio operating.

I would like to get an idea of how many participants, visitors, and operators will be joining us this year. We are planning to operate HF, 160 - 10 meters, SSB & CW, UHF/VHF, 6 and 2 meters packet, QRP, and Satellite.

Please fill out the form below and return it to Matt Diridoni, KC6RUO or Bob Boeckman, WA6ULL, at your next club meeting.

1996 FIELD DAY FORM

Name _____ CALL _____

I will be attending field day on / / All dates / / Potluck only / / Friday night only

/ / Saturday only / / Sunday Morning only

I can loan or operate _____
Describe equipment

I can assist with: / / Cooking / / First aide / / Operating stations / / Setup

Please bring this completed form to your next club meeting. Give the form to Matt Diridoni, KC6RUO or Bob Boeckman, WA6ULL

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. NOTE: SEE APPLICATION BELOW FOR ARRL MEMBERSHIP. MAIL APPLICATIONS TO: SFARC TREASURER, PO BOX 3262, AUBURN, CA 95604

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A purple postage stamp featuring a portrait of Mary Cassatt. The stamp includes the text "USA 23" and "Mary Cassatt".

TO: