

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 1999

<http://www.foothill.net/ham/sfarc>

P.O. Box 1005 Newcastle, CA 95658

At the Key of SFARC

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Evan Phillips, WB6EXQ

REPORTERS

Satellite Report
Greg Dolkas, K06TH

DX Report

Mike Sexton, KN6MK
Kn6mk@jps.net

REPEATER INFO.

145.430(-) PL 94.8
440.575(+) PL 94.8
223.860 (-16 Mhz)

CLUB NET

All welcome to check
in Thursday 7:30 PM
2M K6ARR & Club
Repeater 145.430 (-)
10 Meter Sunday
7:30 PM on or about
28.415 Mhz.

CLUB MEETINGS

Second Fri of the
month 7:30 PM at the
Auburn Library 350
Nevada St. Auburn

CLUB BREAKFAST

Last Saturday of the
month at Susie's Café
80 at Riverside Av.

NET CONTROL OPER.

Dave Jenkins, WB6RBE
Gary Cunningham, KQ6RT

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Matt Diridoni, KC6RUO
Matt@spyderwebb.com

CLUB MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Feb 12

General Meeting
Gary James, N6CNG, Control
Master Products (Belden)
ALSO*
A World Radio Presentation

Feb 27

Club Breakfast

Mar 12

General Meeting
Larry Hogue, W6OMF
VHF small signal work

Mar 27

Club Breakfast

Apr 9

General Meeting

Apr 24

Club Breakfast

May 14

General Meeting

May 29

Club Breakfast

Jun 11

General Meeting

Jun 26

Club Breakfast

Jun 26

Field Day

Jun 26

Rocklin Jubilee

Jul 9

General Meeting

Jul 31

Club Breakfast

Aug 13

General Meeting

Aug 28

Club Breakfast

Sep 10

General Meeting

Sep 25

Club Breakfast

Oct 8

General Meeting

Oct 30

Club Breakfast

Nov 12

General Meeting

Nov 27

Club Breakfast

Dec 10

Christmas Party

Key News Inside

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Presidents Message

Wayne Mikel, KE6DJE

We are off to a good start for the year, we had a good turnout at the January meeting and enjoyed Jettie W6RFF's talk about radio during the war. I don't know of anyone that can copy CW at 100+ wpm. Jettie I can't wait to read the article.

We have won an MFJ Antenna Analyzer from World Radio magazine, to be presented to the club at the February meeting by Rick McCusker KO6DJ the Editor of World Radio. Dress your best for the pictures.

The featured speaker for the meeting is going to be Gary James N6CNG of Control Master Products (Belden) I missed him the last time he was here, but understand he was a good speaker.

We are attempting to gather the e-mail addresses of all of you that have them. Please email them to Matt KC6RUO at matt@spyderwebb.com.

Metke's T.V. & Communications

(916)-782-5553

K6HLO Doc & Pat Metke

199 Cirby Way Suite 14

Roseville, CA 95678

Hours Mon-Fri 9 - 6 Sat 10 - 5

SFARC Members 5% Discount on Labor

THE NEW SFARC WEB PAGE

<http://www.foothill.net/ham/sfarc>



SFARC is currently working on a new web page. All members please thank Web Page expert Chris Wright, KF6OGD, and his Father, for building the web page.

Members can find our page at the new location <http://www.foothill.net/ham/sfarc>. Please add the address to your bookmarks.

WEB PAGE SPACE DONATED BY



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Thank You Foothill !



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e-mail: ur29@unitedrentals.com

Hours: Weekdays: 7:00-5:00

Saturday: 7:00-5:00

Sunday: 8:00-4:00

MARCH PROGRAM SPEAKER

Larry Hogue (W6OMF) (w6omf@cwnet.com) has agreed to come and do our March program. He will talk about VHF small signal work. Larry is President of the Western States Weak Signal Society (www.wswss.org). The following is information from their web page:

The Western States Weak Signal Society (WSWSS) promotes the use of weak-signal Amateur Radio communications above 50MHZ. We are dedicated to the preservation and use of these frequencies. We conduct regular nets in various parts of the Western States and encourage all modes of DX. We participate in all band planning activities and support all ARRL national band plans pertaining to the weak signal segments of our VHF bands. We also promote technical activity and have an annual conference to present technical and operational accomplishments. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact any of the board members indicated below. Our membership covers the Western states as far East as Texas, and is open to all persons interested in these activities.

Bill Parrish, KM6KV

DX...The Quest Continues

Edited By KN6MK, Mike Sexton

C6, BAHAMAS. John/K3TEJ and Edward/WA3WSJ will be here from February 16-23rd. Their activity will be on 160-10 meters, including the WARC bands. They will also be in the ARRL CW DX Contest using the callsign C6AKW. QSL via K3TEJ.

J7, DOMINICA. February 12-22nd. Look for operators Gay/KD4GMV (YL op) and her husband David/KK4WW; Kay/KF4EKH (YL op) and her husband Don/KE4UGF; Bill/W4WX and array/N4VA to sign as J79GMV, J79WW, J79EKH and J79UGF. Operations will be on CW/SSB and RTTY. Suggested frequencies are: 7180, 7240, 14190, 14240, 18130, 21350, 28380 and 50125 kHz. QSL via operator's instructions.

J47, GREECE (Special Event). George, SV7DMU, reports that the "Radio DX Group of Thrace" (in SV7-land) will activate the special event station J47XCF from the February 8-21th. The station is active to commemorate the "Carnival Festival of City Xanthi" in North East Greece.

KG4, GUANTANAMO BAY. Don, W4ZYT, will once again be active from here, February 16-23rd, as KG4ZK. Also, look for him to be active as KG4DZ in the upcoming ARRL CW Contest. QSL KG4ZK via home call and KG4DZ via W4SD.

VK9 - INDIAN OCEAN DXPEDITION. Charlie, WOYG, reports that the callsigns issued are VK9XX for Christmas Island and VK9YY for Cocos-Keeling. Operations as VK9XX will be from February 6-13th and from VK9YY from February 13-20th. W8UVZ, K9FD and WOYG will operate, concentrating on 80/160m, the WARC bands, RTTY and some 6m activity if there is an opening.

XT, BURKINA FASO. Mike/F5RLE and Joel/F5AOW will be active again from February 7th to March 1st, as XT2OW and XT2DM. Mike will do the CW and Joel the SSB using an IC-706 w/100 watts, 2 element beam for 20-10 meters and a G5RV on the other bands. Look for activity on the WARC bands. QSL via F5RLE.

IOTA.....

5Z, LAMU ISLAND. Jim/G3RTE, Phil/G3SWH, John/G3WGV and Rob/5Z4RL will activate Lamu Island on the northern Kenyan coast between February 17th and 24th. Lamu counts as AF-040 for IOTA purposes

and has been activated only twice before. It also counts as 5Z for DXCC purposes, of course. The team will be active with two stations on CW, SSB and RTTY on all bands from 160-10 meters, with the exception of 30 meters. There is hope for a special callsign to be announced closer to their departure date. QSLs will be handled by G3SWH or via the RSGB bureau.

Jean Marc, F5SGI, will be F5SGI/P from Noirmoutier Island (IOTA EU-064) from February 20-26th. He will be active mostly on CW.

FW - Cedric, HB9HFN (ex A35FN and 5W0FN) will be active (call to be announced) from Uvea (OC-054), Wallis and Futuna between 28 February and 8 March. He plans to operate on 160-10 meters mostly on CW, with some SSB and RTTY.

H40 - Bernhard, DL2GAC now plans to be active as H44MS from Pigeon Island (OC-065), Temotu between 23 January and April. He will be joined by DK9FN (CW operator) until early February. QSL via DL2GAC.

CONTESTS.....

New Hampshire QSO Party	Feb 6-7
Delaware QSO Party	Feb 6-8
Minnesota QSO Party	Feb 6-7
North American Sprint, Phone	Feb 7
ARRL School Club Roundup	Feb 8-13
YL-OM Contest, Phone	Feb 13-15
North American Sprint, CW	Feb 14
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	Feb 20-21
YL-OM Contest, CW	Feb 20-22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, Phone	Feb 26-28
North Carolina QSO Party	Feb 27-28

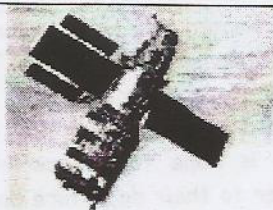
73 de KN6MK

kn6mk@jps.net

Thanks to the OPDX, The GOLIST, The 59(9) DXReport, DX News Letter, DX News Sheet, for the DX information.



Happy Valentines Day!



Satellite Report

By Greg Dolkas, KO6TH

Working RS-13, the New "Easy Sat"

When RS-10 went silent a few years ago, many Hams lost their only means of satellite communication. RS-10 was THE "Easy Sat", for it required minimal equipment, and was frequented by skilled and understanding operators who made even the first time contact a success. The uplink was on 2 meters, SSB or CW, and the downlink on 10 meters. Only a few watts were required, and with simple antennas. I made dozens of contacts through RS-10 using only 10 watts into a homemade 2 meter J-pole, and with a longwire to a backyard tree connected to a Radio Shack DX-440 short-wave radio.

Over the past few months, the control station of the combined RS-12/13 satellite has been experimenting with different modes of operation. Some worked, others did not. They appear to have settled on putting the RS-13 portion in "Mode KA", which means that we have a new Easy Sat in operation. Frequencies are:

Uplink passband 145.960 to 145.600 MHz
Downlink is from 29.460 to 29.500 MHz
with a CW beacon on 29.504 MHz

Want to try? Here's what to do: First, listen (that's good advice for any new mode). Pick a time when the satellite should be visible and listen for the beacon on the downlink. Don't forget about the Doppler shift - the beacon will appear to be 1-2 kHz high at the start of the pass, and end about 1-2 kHz low. If you don't have (or want to bother with) the satellite pass prediction software, you can look on the Internet at: <http://liftoff.msfc.nasa.gov/realtime/JTrack/Amateur.html>.

If you can hear the beacon clearly, try tuning the receiver to a quiet spot around 29.480 MHz. Tune your transmitter to 145.980 MHz in CW mode. Note that the last two digits of the frequencies match. If you aren't using exactly these frequencies, just make sure the

last two digits match (and that you're within the satellites

passband). While you are listening on the downlink, send a series of dits on the uplink and slowly tune the Transmitter UP in frequency until you hear the dits coming back down on the receiver. I leave the receiver set in upper sideband while doing this so I can zero-beat the two signals more easily. Switch the transmitter to upper sideband and talk. You should hear yourself in the downlink, with a very slight (and for some people, hard to get used to) delay. Adjust the Transmitter for clearest signal, and call CQ! You will have to keep adjusting the transmitter, because of our friendly Doppler shift. On mode A, the amount of shift is a few kHz, so if you find the last two digits of the frequency more than, say, 4 kHz apart, you're not tuned correctly. Start back with the digits equal and try again to find your signal. Because of Doppler, it is essential that you can hear your own signal as you operate. Always adjust the transmitter to clarify the received signal, not the other way around.

If you prefer CW, just leave things in CW mode. The operation is the same. Note, however, that FM is NOT allowed on these birds. The power requirements are too high to run FM, and the signals are too wide for efficient use of the limited passband space.

At first, you may feel like a "one armed wallpaper hanger", trying to control two radios and communicate at the same time. Quickly you will get the hang of it, and start hunting around for others calling CQ. Just remember the last two digits.

Good luck and 73's,
Greg KO6TH

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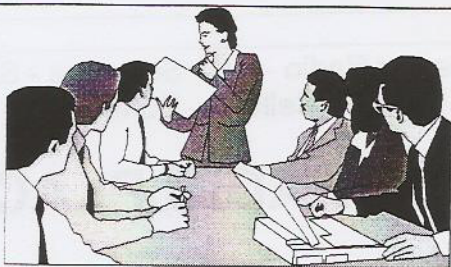
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President Washington's & Lincoln's Birthday
February 12 - 15, 1999



Board of Directors, January 22, 1999

The board meeting was called to order by president Wayne Mikel, KE6DJE at 1841hrs. Also present were Bill KM6KV, Dave N6SHD, Gary KQ6RT, Evan WB6EXQ and Richard WA6RWS. Absent was Roger N7TK. Guest was Bob, KF6RCC.

Wayne discussed dues structure and pro-rated amounts during the year. Gary made up a pro-rated schedule and Wayne will have it published on the web page along with his telephone number.

If dues are not paid the cutoff on the newsletter will be February. No March newsletter will be sent. Wayne asked for input on advertising for new members. He suggested having a booth at the fairs. He will explore those possibilities and report back to the board. Bill will contact Nyack again to reserve spot for field day. Still do not have a field day chairman. Wayne discussed having the club picnic on the 3rd Saturday in August. He will bring up at the next general meeting.

Dave announced we have 61 paid members. Motion to adjourn made by Gary and seconded by Bill at 1920hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Richard Kuepper

SWAP MEETS & STUFF

Livermore Swap Meet - 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, 7:00 AM to noon, all year.

Talk in 147.045 from the west, 145.35 from the east. Contact Noel Anklam, KC6QZK, (510) 447-3857 eves.

Northhills Radio Club Hamswap, May 23, 1999, at Bella Vista High School.

River City Arcs Club Hamswap, August 15, Bella Vista High School,

Joe Walsh

Rock Star/Collins Collector

Story Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter

A West Virginia ham recently cut a deal to sell his refurbished vintage Collins KWS-1 transmitter and 75A4 receiver to singer-songwriter Joe Walsh, WB6ACU.

Mark Danehart, W8MSD, of Mt Olivet, West Virginia, decided to sell the pair recently, and he was surprised when Walsh was the lone caller responding to his ad. Danehart made arrangements to ship the heavy metal units to Walsh, who was wrapping up a concert tour.

An ARRL Life Member, Walsh, 51, has enjoyed a career with **The Eagles** and as a solo artist. He's belonged to the League for 27 years now. In addition to a check for the Collins gear, he sent Danehart an autographed picture as well as two autographed CDs. Walsh's road manager also promised Danehart front row seats to Walsh's next concert in the Ohio Valley.

Danehart's story of the Collins sale appeared December 9, 1998 in The Wheeling Intelligencer.



From The Desk of W6SUP

SFARC V.E. REPORT

This month, your SFARC V.E. Team tested six applicants, and gave a total of twelve tests.

All members please thank the dedicated members of the team for taking the time to promote Amateur Radio.

TESTING DATES

February 10, 1999

February 24, 1999

March 10, 1999

March 24, 1999

Pre-registration is required by calling Bob Metke, at 783-7610. Special arrangements can be made to travel to the homes of the disabled.

Bob Metke, W6SUP
511 Oak St
Roseville, CA 95678
916-783-7610

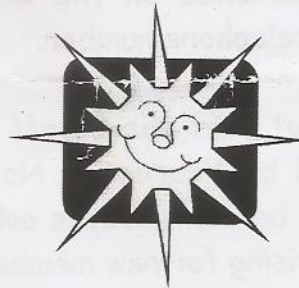
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THE RADIO PLACE

Glen Stillwell, W6RO
5675-A Power Inn Road
Sacramento, CA 95818
916-387-0730

Tri Valley Vending Inc. Professional Vending Services

Gary Cunningham, KQ6RT
916-969-8866
Assistant Manager



SFARC Sunshine Report

By Jerri Metke, K6GKR

Bev McCune has been feeling a bit under the weather this month.



Don't Forget Your Sweetheart
February 14th

**FCC WARNS ALLEGED MAJOR
AMATEUR OFFENDERS**

Story Courtesy of the ARRL Newsletter

The FCC has issued strong warnings to two amateurs in Indiana and a third in New York who are on the Commission's top ten list of alleged major amateur offenders.

The FCC's amateur enforcement point man, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says the warning letters sent earlier this month are the last step before the FCC initiates formal enforcement proceedings. One case primarily involved malicious interference on VHF repeaters, while the other two involved interference to an HF net.

"We have been cutting bait a while, now it's time for us to fish," said Hollingsworth, the legal advisor for enforcement within the FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau.

The FCC did not make the names or call signs public, but Hollingsworth said all those who received the letters were put on the FCC's Alert List with FCC field offices.

"The Alert List is the FCC equivalent of an all-points bulletin," Hollingsworth explained. He said Field Office monitors would be making a special effort to listen for further violations by stations on the Alert List.

Since taking over Amateur Radio enforcement within the CIB last fall, Hollingsworth says he's sent out dozens of warning letters of a much milder nature. "Now, we're distilling that activity to the worst offenders," he said of the latest epistles. Hollingsworth indicated that similar actions were imminent in other major cases of alleged amateur rules infractions. He also said he has sent out another three dozen or so routine warning letters "generally based on a collection of complaints received over the holidays."

The letters sent out January 7 and 8 spell out the agency's expectations in no uncertain terms. In

the case of the alleged HF offenders, Hollingsworth's letters state that the Commission "has additional evidence that you have been deliberately and maliciously interfering with the operations of other licensed amateurs," primarily a 75-meter net. Both hams--whose cases are related--already had received official Notices of Violation last fall for similar conduct, and the FCC had imposed restricted operating hours on one of them. But the FCC says that the troublesome behavior has continued.

Hollingsworth said the alleged illegal activities not only put the hams' licenses in jeopardy but open them up to possible fines and even put transmitting equipment at risk of seizure. He said he also has cautioned the controllers of the net involved to not engage hecklers or those attempting to harass or interfere, nor to call up the net on a busy frequency. "One thing these nets have to understand is that the nets don't own the frequency," he said.

The case of the alleged VHF offender had a similar pattern. The amateur license of the ham in question already had been suspended at one point, but violations are said to have continued, even during the suspension period. Beyond amateur violations, Hollingsworth said that the FCC's evidence indicated the amateur had threatened FCC employees and others. He told the ARRL that additional warning letters went out to eight other individuals whom he described as "cohorts" to the alleged prime VHF offender.

Hollingsworth requested that all of the amateurs contact him immediately to discuss the allegations. After a lengthy telephone conversation with one of them, Hollingsworth expressed optimism that the situation would be resolved.

In an unrelated case, Hollingsworth recently mailed warning letters to six individuals in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area regarding alleged malicious interference on VHF.

**SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Associate Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Application: (Circle One) New Renewal

Member Dues: Circle Amounts That Apply.

Applications received in the middle of the year will be pro rated. Contact the President or Treasurer for exact rate.

Membership:	\$22.00	Club Patch:	\$2.00	Newsletter Booster	\$ _____
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ARRL	\$34.00	Name Badge:	\$5.50		
ARRL (Spouse)	\$ 5.00	Repeater Donation:	\$ _____	TOTAL:	\$ _____
ARRL (Special)	\$28.00	Auto Patch Donation:	\$ _____		

NOTE* Renewing your ARRL membership through the Club earns the Club money with no additional cost to you. To renew your ARRL membership through SFARC, make check payable to SFARC and mail to P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658.

OFFICE USE ONLY:

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Date: _____ Treasurer: _____ Secretary: _____ Roster: _____
 Payment: _____ Check Number: _____ Cash: _____

SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
 P.O. Box 1005
 Newcastle, CA 95658



TO:

