

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter




users.newworld.net/wingman/sfar
December 2002
P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658



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(open)

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REPORTERS

Satellite Report
Greg Dolkas, KO6TH
40 Years Ago at the SFARC
Gary Cunningham, KQ6RT

REPEATERS

145.430 (-0.6 MHz/PL 162.2)
440.575 (+5.0 MHz/PL 94.8)
223.860 (-1.6 MHz/PL 100.0)

CLUB NET

All welcome to check in
Thursdays, 7:30PM, K6ARR/R
145.430

CLUB MEETINGS

Second Friday of the month,
7:30PM at the Auburn
Library, 350 Nevada St,
Auburn

CLUB BREAKFAST

Last Sat of the month at
Susie's Café, Cirby at
Riverside, Roseville - 8:00 AM

NET CONTROL OPS

Dave Jenkins, WB6RBE
Gary Cunningham, KQ6RT
Joe Sylvia, KF6OQY
Casey McPartland, K6WJM

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2002/3 Calendar of Events

(Operating Events in Italics)

Dec 6-8 *ARRL 160M Contest*
Dec 13 *Christmas Dinner*
Dec 14-15 *ARRL 10m Contest*
Dec 28 *Club Breakfast*
Dec 28-29 *Stew Perry 160m*
 Distance Challenge
Jan 1 *Straight Key Night*

IN THIS ISSUE

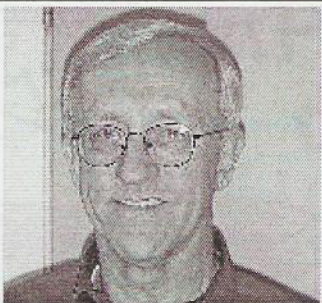
President's Report
2003 Officers
Amateur Satellite Report
"Digital Musings"
SFARC Cumulative CD

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*From the
President's
Shack*

**Richard
WA6RWS**



My Fellow Hams and Turkeys,

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving this year. We all have a lot to be thankful for in this great country we live in. Our hobby allows us a tremendous amount of freedom to talk and express our opinion without worry or consequence.

Our VE team has done a great job getting new people into our hobby. It has been a pleasure meeting these new hams over the air and at the club meetings. I have made new lasting friendships because of it and hope all of you out there did also.

The board meeting will be on December 6th at 7:30pm and all are invited to attend at the Round Table Pizza Place in Loomis next to Raley's.

Our annual Christmas potluck will be on Friday the 13th at Recreation Park in Auburn off of Racetrack. Talk-in will be on the club repeater. See further details in the newsletter.

This year has gone very fast and smoothly thanks to a great group of officers and Board of Directors. A special thanks to Gary, KQ6RT, for the raffles and Debbie, KF6LXN, and Gary for the snack bar. You have made the club meetings fun and exciting.

Thanks to all who came to the club meetings and all the events we worked this past year.

I am looking forward to 2003 and all the exciting events that are sure to happen.

Seasons greeting to all and hope to see you at the Christmas party.

73,
Richard, WA6RWS

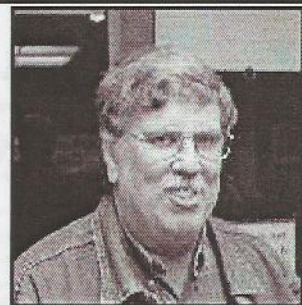
Moved? New Call?

Help us stay in touch with you. Please forward information about new calls, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses to:

Richard Kuepper, WA6RWS
530.878.6220 or
rkuepper@juno.com

*30 & 40
Years Ago
In SFARC*

**Gary
KQ6RT**



Forty Years Ago at the SFARC

Auburn, Calif.

Dec. 12, 1962

The final meeting of the year was called to order by Pres. Dick Lund. at 8:10 P.m. in the Civil Defense room. Minutes of the previous meeting was read by the secretary and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$139.99 and suggestions were made that the money be used for club equipment.

Dick Lund learned, from Buzz LaBontes that the 6 meter equipment for C.D. would cost \$21.00 for RACES members only, otherwise it would cost \$42.00. It was suggested that we make sure of the equipment before we join RACES.

Jim Carmen asked for volunteers to work on the BC 610 so we can get it on the air as soon as possible.

Election of officers for 1963 was held with results as follows: President, Frank Carmen; Vice president, Walt Dowdy; Secretary, Jim Carmen; Treasurer, Dick Lund; Activity Chairman, Bruce Witwer.

Walt Dowdy made a demonstration on voltage standard, taken from current Radio and TV experimenter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 and refreshments served while we watched a movie on standing wave brought in by Craig Tindal. The movie on Transistors which was ordered did not arrive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sage Otow

Thirty Years Ago at SFARC

Dec. 10, 1972

K6CBP purchased two Ringo antennas and also from Boyd Brandt, WA6RYO for \$51.84

a tone decoder and encoder for control.

73,

Gary, KQ6RT

Regular Meeting Minutes November 8, 2002

Minutes of the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club meeting, held November 8, 2002 at the Auburn City Library, Auburn, CA.

19:34 SFARC president Richard Keeper, WA6RWS, called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by introduction of club officers and members and guests. As comical tribute to Jettie Hill, W6RFF, members present introduced themselves as W6RFF.

Treasurer Mike Hudson, KG6EFK, announced that the treasury is in good shape and that the White Elephant sale, held at the October meeting generated over \$500 in cash.

Casey McPartland, K6WJM read the minutes of the October 11 meeting and White Elephant sale.

Committee reports:

Rob, WW6G, reported on the November 2 test session. He noted that this would be the last test session held at the Sutter-Roseville Hospital. Beginning the first Saturday of December 2002 the sessions will be held at Folsom Lake Community College at the junction of Highway 50 and Scott Road/E. Bidwell. The times and setup for the sessions will remain the same. However, the test session must be schedule in synch with the college class sessions, hence there will be no January schedule. Additionally, Rob mentioned that during the summer the VE Team proposes test sessions in the Auburn area. Listen to the club vhf net on Thursday evenings and the newsletter for further developments.

Birton, N6UG, gave the ARES update and noted that there will be a meeting of the Placer County team at Round Table in Auburn on December 8th. There will also be a Medical & Disaster Emergency Drill on November 14th in cooperation with OES.

Greg, KO6TH, reported on satellite communications status and the forthcoming ISS crew change.

Richard, WA6RWS, requested that anyone wanting to receive the club newsletter by email please let him know. This medium saves the club a great deal of money in postage.

Gary, KQ6RT, reported on the raffle prizes for the evening.

Jim, K6ARR, reports that the repeater is functioning well at this time.

George, KG6LSB, donated an old ammo box for the club's MFJ Antenna Analyzer and Bob, KG6BDQ, painted and lined it for safe keeping of the device.

Bob, W3PMP mentioned that personnel are still needed for communications at the Roseville Christmas Parade. Contact is Matt, KC6RUO.

19:54 Break

20:10 A lively discussion of raffle prizes for the Christmas Dinner was had. Debbie, KF6LXN, will handle a woman's prize and the membership decided that Gary, KQ6RT, should use his discretion to acquire a grand prize and the balance of the raffle prizes.

Elections for 2003: Given that all of the candidates for club positions are unopposed, it was moved to pass a "white ballot" and elect the officers and board as presented, the motion seconded and unanimously passed with the understanding that the position of Secretary is still vacant. The results are as follow:

Officers:

President	Richard Keupper, WA6RWS
Vice Pres	Rob Carpenter, WW6G
Secretary	<i>open</i>
Treasurer	Mike Hudson, KG6EFK

Board of Directors:

Position #1	Bob Boeckman, WA6ULL
Position #2	Casey McPartland, K6WJM
Position #3	Debbie Cunningham, KF6LXN

Vice-president Eldred Wilkerson, KD6ZSL, spoke about the speakers program for the next few months and then introduced the night's speaker, Jettie Hill, W6RFF.

The raffle was held after the presentation.

21:30 President Richard Kuepper, WA6RWS closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted on this 17th day of November 2002

Casey McPartland, K6WJM

Acting 2002 SFARC Club Secretary

*Amateur
Satellites*

**Greg
KO6TH**



New Crew on the ISS, and a New Satellite from Russia

A couple of short items this month...

If you have been tuning around the 2 meter band, you may have come across the NASA audio retransmissions that

Chris, N6ICW provides us on 147.405, which means that the Shuttle is in orbit! As I write this, the shuttle Endeavor is in the final stages of a dual-purpose mission to the International Space Station, which delivered another massive girder to the growing station, and a new crew who will be manning the station for the next 6 months.

The new crew, known as "Expedition 6", consists of two astronauts and one cosmonaut, all three of whom are Hams. The commander is Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP. He is joined by flight engineers Nikolai Budarin RV3FB, and Don Pettit, KD5MDT. You may recognize Ken from several previous Shuttle flights, including a mission that serviced the Hubble Space Telescope, and Nikolai from his two long-duration stays on the Russian Mir space station. This is Don's first trip into space. More information has been assembled at the new "ISS fan Club" website at: <http://www.issfanclub.com>.

The Expedition 5 crew, Commander Valeri Korzun RZ3FK, and Flight Engineers Peggy Whitson KC5ZTD and Sergei Treschev RZ3FU, will have returned to Earth on Endeavor by the time you read this, leaving the new crew to carry on the scientific mission of the ISS. We don't know yet how active they will be in using the Ham radio station on board during their off-hours, but previous crews have found that the Ham station provided a great source of enjoyment. Currently the station's packet system is in operation on 145.800 (uplink is on 145.990), using standard 1200 baud AFSK modulation.

Not unnoticed by the ham satellite community during all this Shuttle/ISS activity was the launch of a pair of new ham satellites. Known as "AlSat-1" from Algeria and "Mozhayets" from Russia, these satellites appear to be attached to weather satellites of some sort. Their ham capabilities are yet undisclosed, but they have been heard sending telemetry on 435.319 MHz. Some have reported hearing two-tone FSK-sounding telemetry bursts, while others have captured telemetry sent in CW mode. An alternate beacon frequency of 145.828 has also been reported. Part of the confusion is in trying to figure out which satellite is doing what. They both have similar orbits, and there is no decoding yet of what the telemetry means. But stay tuned; once their controllers check out the satellites, we should hear more about them.

73,

Greg KO6TH

VE Test Report

The VE team held its most recent and very busy test session on November 2, 2002 at the Roseville Sutter Hospital resulting in ten new hams plus two upgrades for already licensed hams. A total of twenty individual elements were given with 14 passes and 6 element tests to be tried again on another day. I am pleased to announce that my son, Justin, was one of the successful testers and received his new license - KG6NYD !!! Here are the totals:

Elements	1	2	3	4	Total
Passed	1	10	1	2	14
Failed	2	4			6
Total	3	14	1	2	20

New Licenses

Technician:	9
General:	1
Extra:	2
Total:	12

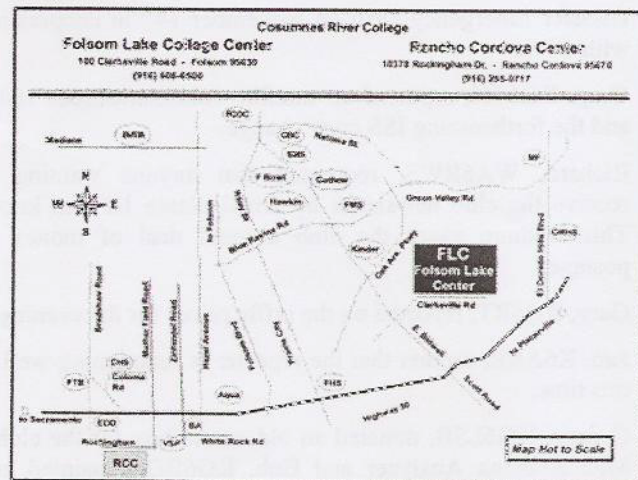
Beginning on December 7th, this team's VE testing will be held at the Folsom Lake College Center, 100 Clarksville Road, in Folsom. The college is conveniently located just off Highway 50 at the East Bidwell Street exit – across the street from the Broadstone Plaza which contains Borders, Home Depot and, of course, Starbucks. Testing starts at 8:00 AM and will run until complete – typically at 10:30. A talk-in frequency is provided courtesy of the K6ARR repeater on 145.430 [PL 162.2]. Walk-ins are welcome and no pre-registration is required.

All area hams interested in becoming a volunteer examiner and all area hams who are already volunteer examiners are invited to attend, meet the team and see if this is something they might want to participate in.

Testing at the college will follow the academic calendar with testing dates on the first Saturday of the month for December, February, March, April and May. The January date will be omitted as the college is not available that weekend. To better serve potential hams in other portions of Placer County, the team will provide test sessions in Auburn over the summer months and is open to special testing dates as needed. Our thanks to Jim Carman, K6ARR, who is looking into a facility for those summer sessions. More details will follow in future months.

73,

Rob, WW6G



Swap Meets

Foothill Flea Market - 2nd Saturday of each month from March through October at Foothill College, Los Altos.

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 Cliff Chiba, KF6EII, larkswap@usa.com

Roseville Holiday Parade



The annual Roseville Holiday Parade went off as planned under overcast skies on Saturday, November 23. As has been the custom for many years, led by Matt, KC6RUO, members of the SFARC provided communications

support for the event.

The parade begins at Vernon and Sixth, proceeds down Vernon past the new Civic Center, and then turns right on Folsom St., ending up at Roseville Square at Douglas and Harding. This year, the parade lasted for 2 1/2 hours. Our crew met at the Roseville Lion's Club, received their assignments, and then spread out along the parade route.



The participants included several high school and middle school bands, a variety of floats, a unicycle drill team, and a zillion kids. The 56-57 Chevy and the Corvette clubs got their usual ovations, and this year, we also had a PT Cruiser club. As is the custom, Santa brought up the rear, riding on Denio's fire truck.

Although the sky was heavily overcast and it was a bit chilly, there was no rain. In fact, in all the years the SFARC has been helping out with this event, it has never rained. It's a fun event.

Annual SFARC CD

The annual SFARC CD will again be available at the January, 2003 meeting. This is a cumulative CD and will contain material from 2000 - 2002. Cost is \$1.00 each which covers the cost of the CD blank.

The CD contains all newsletters (both MS Word97 and PDF) for the three years, all the photos in the archives from various club events, and a number of other goodies such as software, reference information, etc. This year, it will contain an index you can bring up in your browser to help find things and display/print pictures.

Burning the CD copies is a bit labor-intensive, so I'd like to hear in advance from those members who want one. Just email k6dgw@arrl.net or call me at 530.885.8251.

Digital Musings

(Rob Carpenter, WW6G)

December is a month in which our thoughts turn to our families and the holidays, but that is no reason not to get some great air time in. You may even turn on a family member or loved one to the joys of ham radio. Last month, my son Justin joined the ranks of the licensed and that was really, really neat. Welcome KG6NYD !!

Propagation and DX: Propagation for the month of November was reasonably good with solar flux numbers in the 170's again - which means pretty good opportunities on the higher bands such as 10 meters. They peaked at around 190 which was great. Toward the end of the month, the numbers got worse with solar flux around 150, the A index at 38, and K_p at 4 on the 22nd. The bands shut down. See <http://www.wm7d.net/hamradio/solar/index.shtml> for the numbers.

Digital and Tech-Plus/Novices: For hams who have a novice, technician with code, or who have a technician-plus, the good news about propagation on 10 meters is particularly exciting because the PSK31 frequency - 28.120 - falls within their band privileges. This means that with a PC [or Mac], a transceiver capable of SSB and an interface [from simple cable on up], they can work PSK31 on 10 meters and, when it is open, 10 meters is great! I have many contacts into the Pacific rim, Asia, Australia, Central and South America and Europe on 10 meters PSK31 working with well under 100 watts. I can only encourage you to give it a try!

Working Together - As mentioned last month, it is sometimes difficult to know exactly how well modulated your PSK signal might be and, while we wait for George Rothbart's controller circuit, we can help each other by providing critical assessments of signals to one another. If you receive a report that you are a little "wide", you might want to call a club member and walk through the adjustment process over the air to get some feedback on how your signal looks. This will help you find the "sweet spot" for your computer, interface and rig to put out a really clean signal. While it is true that your output will vary a bit from band to band [rig based] and from spot on the waterfall to spot on the waterfall [primarily sound card based], the process of finding the sweet spot will help you get it really close. Remember, an over-driven signal is actually harder to read on the other end so the adjustment process will result in a better signal, better copy and, maybe, better DX.

By the way, let George know if you are interested in the PSK Meter kit.

Digital Mode of the Month - RTTY: Except perhaps for CW, RTTY is the grand-daddy of digital modes. It is characterized by three parameters: baud rate, shift value and

inverted/non-inverted. The vast majority of RTTY on the amateur bands is 45/170/non-inverted.

Getting set up: For most of us, getting set up for RTTY is just like getting set up for PSK or any of the other soundcard based digital modes. The soundcard is connected to the computer in the usual way and the software does the rest. If you have multi-mode software like MixW, it is as simple as selecting the mode, baud rate, shift and inverting/non-inverting from the menu and you are ready to go. For those with old style teletype terminals such as WWII terminals, well, I am sorry to say that you are on your own.

When working RTTY, you will see two distinct "rails" with a total bandwidth of about 249 hz. The empty space between the rails is quite noticeable. Check the "*PSK31 and Other Digital Modes CD*" for pictures and the sound. Try listening around 14.080. Calling, QSOs, etc., proceed pretty much as usual. Two things to note. First, in the old days, a station would send out a string of RYRYRYRY... for the other station to lock on. It is not a bad idea, but with modern equipment, probably unnecessary. The second is that some stations on RTTY use very brief QSO formats, but fortunately there are lots of rag chewers too. Enjoy!

Upcoming Contests and opportunities to work Digital DX. Here are my favorites for December:

TARA RTTY Sprint: sponsored by the Troy ARA, 12/7-[1800Z] to 12/7-[0200Z]. <http://www.n2ty.org/>

DPX (Digital Prefix) Contest--digital modes, sponsored by the Penn-Ohio DX Society, 12/14-[0000Z-2400Z]. 160-6 meters. Categories: PSK, MFSK, RTTY, Hellschreiber, Throb, Packet, Multimode and SWL. http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/070_dpx.html This is a great chance to work many digital modes.

OK DX RTTY Contest--no, not Oklahoma, but Czechoslovakia ---sponsored by the Czech Radio Club, 12/21-[0000-2400Z]..80-10m. <http://www.crk.cz/eng/DXCONTE.HTM>

070 Club: The Pennsylvania-Ohio DX Club sponsors the 070 club which is dedicated to PSK and is so named because most of the standard PSK frequencies fall on xx.070. To become a member, you need to provide a copy of your log showing 50 2-way PSK contacts and provide a QSL card for at least 1 [the QSL card will be returned or you can submit the whole thing electronically with an e-QSL copy]. Upon doing this you will receive a really neat membership certificate to which you may add a long list of possible endorsements from WAC, Lower 48, Romania award, China Clipper, etc. There are lots of them and they are a lot of fun. So consider joining, tune up your PSK and work some great stations.

Hope to print you on my waterfall soon.

73,

Rob, WW6G

SFARC Digital Trivia

Rob mentioned in the previous article the occasional use of strings of "RYRYRYRY..." on RTTY. Why that combination of characters, and why isn't it common today?

Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner

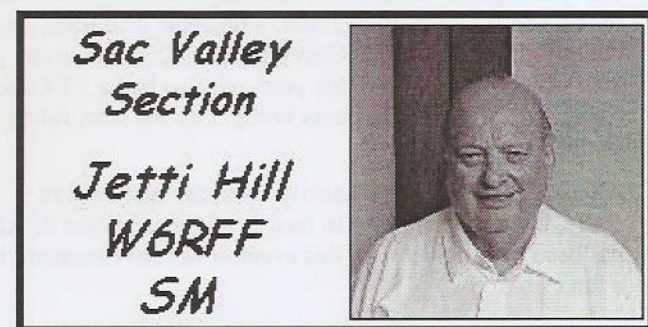
Friday 13th at 7 PM at Recreation Park, Auburn. Talk-in 145.430 the club repeater. Turkey and ham provided by the club along with coffee and sodas.

Please bring your favorite dish or dessert and your own tableware and plates. Grand prize will be an MFJ Antenna Analyzer accompanied by many other radio and non-radio prizes.

Reporter/Photographer Needed

Ever think you might be a shoo-in for a Pulitzer Prize? Well, here is your opportunity! Your editor needs a reporter for regular club meetings and the 2m net. (You may have noticed his absence at several meetings this year ... the result of having created a large family with lots of commitments to go with it).

Your inputs can be in pretty much any form you desire. A digital camera helps, but perhaps we can also find a photographer to help you out. Contact your editor at k6dgv@arrl.net. A style guide as a PDF file is available if you're interested, although you shouldn't worry about style much.



The past three months have been busy with my getting up-to-speed, again as SM. Much of the League's information is on their web pages, and I am just beginning to get the feel of it.

It is with deep regret that I announce that Harold Brown, W6KZN, became a silent key on October 30. Harold was very active in the Amador County ARC.

Dave Thorne, K6SOJ, was presented the Pacific Division Certificate of Merit at Pacificon, by Director Jim Maxwell, W6CF. Congratulations Dave. Dave is the Section Emergency Coordinator and doing an excellent job. If you

are interested in helping the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in your area – contact Dave.

For those contesters and DXers, look for Ken, K6TA and Kay, K6KO who will be operating from P4 during the 10 meter and 160 meter contests in December. They will be nice and warm while we are cold and foggy.

October was a busy month as I had several invitations to speak at clubs. Those I attended were Yolo ARS, Trinity County ARC, Amateur Radio Club of Anderson and the Shasta Cascade ARS. Also spoke with many section members at the Pacificon convention in Concord. MDARC will again sponsor the Division convention next year, as they have for several years.

New classes for the Emergency Communications course 001 will be starting shortly. If you are interested, check out the ARRL web page. Please keep me informed of your club or groups activities - also individual activities as this is the type of information that makes the section news more interesting.

There are reports that this may be a wet winter, so be prepared to help out your ARES or RACES groups. Training is important - before the emergency occurs!! If you need to locate your local Emergency Coordinator, contact K6SOJ at k6soj@arrl.net. Also my address, phone, and email are listed each month on page 12 in QST. (w6rff@arrl.org ... Ed.)

Have you given something back to Amateur Radio by volunteering for an ARRL appointment, or as a club officer or committee member? Now is your chance as new year nears and clubs are looking for help. Get involved with a club, ARES group, etc.

Happy Holidays to all.

73

Jettie, W6RFF

National Ham News

(Courtesy ARRL Letter and ARRL Bulletins)

CC&R Bill Dies As Congress Adjourns

The US House of Representatives officially adjourned for the year November 22 at 2:33 PM. The US Senate wrapped up its business earlier this week, so the 107th Congress is officially in the books. With adjournment go any hopes of passage of HR 4720, the CC&R bill introduced by New York Democrat Steve Israel earlier in the year. ARRL members are requested to wait until a new CC&R bill--with a new bill number--is introduced in the next session of Congress before seeking cosponsorship support from members of Congress.

TransAtlantic VHF Test Fails

Groups of amateurs from Germany, Canada and Ireland had no luck in their attempt to make the first two-way transatlantic VHF contact in conjunction with this week's Leonid meteor shower.

The effort was, in part, a quest for the Brendan Trophies (<http://www.irts.ie/brendan.htm>) offered by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (<http://www.irts.ie/>). One group was on the Irish coast, while the other operated from Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs (SONRA) (<http://www.sonra.ca/>) club station VO1AA, located at Signal Hill National Historic Site of Canada. That's the spot where Marconi received the first transatlantic signal almost 101 years ago.

"It's been quite an adventure," said Paul Piercey, VO1HE, who was at the Newfoundland end. "We never made the contact because the meteor shower didn't seem as big as predicted," he said.

The Brendan Trophies will go to each of the operators of the two Amateur Radio stations that first establish two-way communication between Europe and North or South America on 2 meters.

The teams in Ireland and Newfoundland attempted to use the ionized meteor trails to reflect FSK441 signals across the Atlantic. (FSK441? Rob? Ed.) A 1999 effort to complete a transatlantic 2-meter contact between Newfoundland and Scotland on CW also was unsuccessful. The group conceded that bridging the more than 1920-mile gap between Newfoundland and Ireland via meteor scatter probably would require "an unusual kind of propagation

It's a new year coming up ... any changes you'd like to see in the SFARC News? Now is the time to speak up since I generally review and update the templates and presentation things in the dead of winter. Budding Authors? We really need you ...

I wish you all the happiest for this holiday season

73,

Fred, K6DGW



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**SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2003 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ e-mail: _____

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	Name Badge:	\$6.50
Associate:	\$ 7.00	Repeater Donation:	\$ _____
Auto Patch Donation:	\$ _____	Newsletter Booster:	\$ _____
Miscellaneous Donation:	\$ _____	Christmas Donation:	\$ _____
Worldradio Renewal:	\$ _____	TOTAL:	\$ _____

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

