

# Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club

## Newsletter

http://www.sf-arc.org
May 2003
P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658



## 2003 Calendar of Events

*(Operating Events in Italics)*

### PRESIDENT

Richard Kuepper, WA6RWS  
530.878.6220  
rkuepper@juno.com

### VICE PRESIDENT

Rob Carpenter, WW6G  
916.984.1892  
ww6g@arrl.net

### SECRETARY

Joe Sylvia, KF6OQY  
916-797-3149  
jsylvia@vfr.net

### TREASURER

Mike Hudson, KG6EFK  
916.624.4714  
mihudson@firstam.com

### DIRECTORS

Debbie Cunningham, KF6LXN  
916.663.4143  
dmc@midtown.net  
Bob Boeckman, WA6ULL  
916.987.9910  
wa6ull@aol.com  
Casey McPartland, W7IB  
916.660.9680  
w7ib@arrl.net

### REPORTERS

*Satellites:* Greg, KO6TH  
*History:* Gary, KQ6RT  
*Digital:* Rob, WW6G

### 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, W7IB

### WEBMASTER

Justin Carpenter, KG6NYD  
rancourt@houserancourt.org

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Fred Jensen, K6DGW  
VOX: 530.885.8251  
FAX: 530.745.9622  
k6dgw@arrl.net

May 4 Enduro Ride Support

May 4 CLUB PICNIC

May 9 Regular Meeting

May 17 *Armed Forces Day*

May 25-26 *CQ WPX Contest (CW)*

May 31 Club Breakfast

Jun 13 Regular Meeting

Jun 28-29 *FIELD DAY!!*

## IN THIS ISSUE

*Officers' Reports*

*Satellite TV - Ham Style*

*Weather Fax*

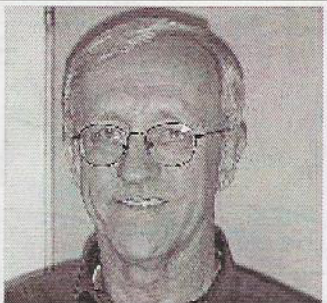
*CW Practice CD's*

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## From the President's Shack

**Richard  
WA6RWS**



Greetings,

May is going to be another exciting month for the club. May 4<sup>th</sup> will be a motorcycle ride in the El Dorado Forest and the club is providing the communications again this year. This year Birton Gilbert, N6UG, heads up the team. If you have not done this race you are missing out on a lot of fun. It also allows you to practice your skills for when an emergency occurs you will be ready to participate where needed.

Rob has done a super job with the guest speakers this year. The presentations have been terrific and if you have not made it to a club meeting, again you are missing out on a lot of fun.

Which reminds me, if any of you out there need a ride to the meeting, give me or any of the officers or Board Members a call and we will work something out so you can be at the monthly club meetings. Besides, you miss out on the raffle and those atomic clocks that are still the hot ticket.

Be sure and check the club Web site for the latest news and events. Thanks to Rob and Justin for providing such a professional site for the club.

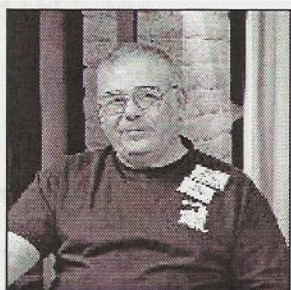
Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

73,

Richard, WA6RWS

## Secretary's Report

**Joe  
KF6OQY**



## Board Meeting April 4, 2003

George, KG6LSB, will look into having club patches made. He will report on the availability and the cost. Joe, KF6OQY will give him a sample patch. Casey, W7IB, and Rob, WW6G, will look into the origin of the term "Elmer" for a possible future presentation. Debbie, KF6LXN made a

motion to have a contest to give our newsletter a name. Motion was seconded by Bob, WA6ULL and was carried. It was determined that the prize would be a surprise. This contest will be open to all members. An advertisement for the Daily Grind will be placed in the club newsletter.

## General Meeting April 11, 2003

President Richard, WA6RWS, opened the meeting at 1934 hours. Officers present: Vice President Rob, WW6G, and Secretary Joe, KF6OQY. Board Members Bob, WA6ULL, Casey, W7IB, and Debbie, KF6LXN were also present. Secretary Joe, KF6OQY, read the minutes of the April 4 board meeting. Motion to accept as read was made by Gary, KB7QWC and seconded by Bob, WA6ULL. Motion carried.

Rob, WW6G, reported on a successful April 5 VE test session. A sign-up sheet was available for the May 4 club picnic as was a sign-up sheet for those who wished to order merchandise for the Field Day event. Rob, WW6G, needs someone to head up the food arrangement for Field Day. Greg, KO6TH, gave a satellite report and also demonstrated a home brew antenna for 2.4 GHz.

Casey, W7IB, gave a short report on ARES, and also a presentation on FISTS membership and procedures. He also demonstrated the three CW speeds that were required in the past for the different classes of license -- Five WPM for the Tech Plus, 13 WPM for the General, and 20 WPM for the Extra class license. Thank you Casey for an interesting presentation.

Thanks to Gary, KQ6RT, for doing the raffle, and to Debbie, KF6LXN, for attending the snack bar. Thanks also to the 24 people who attended the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 2050 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Sylvia KF6OQY  
Secretary

## 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

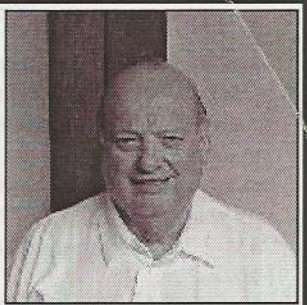
## For Sale

Kantronics KPC3 Packet Radio TNC .....\$50.00

Contact Patrick, N6PBM  
916.525.1957  
n6pbm@arrl.net

## Sac Valley Section

Jetti Hill  
W6RFF  
SM



**AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 2003:** There are two bill in Congress now, to ensure availability of spectrum to Amateurs, that requires the FCC to provide "Equivalent Replacement Spectrum" - That is to say, if they were to take away an amateur frequency, then they must replace it with a frequency that is in the same area of spectrum and has like characteristics. These bills are S-537 in the U.S. Senate and HR-713 in the House of Representatives. You are encouraged to contact your Congressman and Senators and ask them to support these two bills by becoming a cosponsor. Stress the fact that amateurs play a big part in emergency communications during fires, flood and earthquakes.

**CONVENTION:** There will be a special Pacific Division convention this year to stress Emergency communication. EMCOMMWEST will be held in Reno, NV on Saturday May 31. There will be displays of communications equipment and vans, as well as talks by experienced hams. Dan Miller, K3UFG, from ARRL HQ will be one of the speakers. It will be held at the South Reno Baptist Church, from 9am until 5pm. Pre-registration is \$10 - \$15 at the door. Information, registration form and maps can be found on [www.cvrcc.net/emcommwest/](http://www.cvrcc.net/emcommwest/).

**EL DORADO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB:** On Tuesday May 27 the El dorado ARC will have as its guest speaker, Dr. Leslie Deutsch from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. Dr. Deutsch is the Chief Engineer, Interplanetary Networks Directorate. He will speak on the following subjects:

- Expanding the Internet into the Universe.
- Discuss NASA's Deep Space Network
- He will field questions on any aspect of the space program.

EDARC invites everyone, amateurs as well as the general public to attend this most interesting and informative meeting. Tuesday May 27, 2003 at 7:15pm at the Federated Church of Placerville, 1031 Thompson Way, Placerville, CA. for further info. contact Frank, W6DHN, [w6dhn@innercite.com](mailto:w6dhn@innercite.com), or 530.333.4431.

73,

Jettie, W6RFF  
Sacramento Valley SM

## Sacramento Valley Section Nets

The Sacramento Valley Section Nets are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 1900 on 146.085 [+600/127.3] (Yuba Sutter ARC repeater), and at 1930 on 3.987 MHz. NCS is usually Jettie, W6RFF, our Section Manager.

The Section ARES net meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of each month at 1930 on 3.987 MHz. Dave, K6SOJ, is the Section Emergency Manager, and he and others will be NCS.

## Amateur Satellites

Greg  
KO6TH



## ISS To Get a Camera

In last month's newsletter there was a great article about Slow Scan TV – sending pictures via Ham Radio on short-wave frequencies. Hams have done this for years, bouncing signals off the Ionosphere to a receiving station on the other side of the planet, in full color, even. But there are other things to bounce your SSTV signals off, besides the Ionosphere, and other places to send and receive signals from, besides the good old planet Earth... (hint, this is an article about satellites)

Since an SSTV signal takes only an SSB-worth of bandwidth to send a color picture, nearly any means of talking to someone can be used to send a picture instead. This includes satellites. The Low Earth Orbit FM birds (UO-14 and AO-27) are far too crowded to be used for SSTV, although in theory they would do very well. It's hard enough getting just your call sign through; 90 seconds of SSTV would be nearly impossible in practice. But there are



three other satellites that do just fine: FO-20, FO-29, and AO-40. FO-20 and -29 are in a relatively low orbit, are relatively easy to work, and are not very crowded. AO-40 is more difficult, but the results can be rewarding.

The Japanese Ham community is especially active on AO-40 with SSTV, sending clear pictures of their equipment and their homeland around the world.

But just sending pictures through satellites, as exciting as it is, doesn't measure up to sending or receiving pictures to the

satellite itself. I'm talking here about the astronauts and cosmonauts in space. Years ago, the space station Mir had an amateur radio station on board, and towards the end of its mission, that station included SSTV among its modes. Some



of the final crews were very active for a time on SSTV, sending pictures of themselves and the station, as well as shots out the window at the planet below. Mir, of course, is no longer in orbit, but it's super-sized replacement,

the International Space Station is. And, the ISS is to be getting an SSTV station, possibly as early as this coming winter.

*(Greg advises the above picture was saved live from Mir on Dec 19, 1998.)*

The ISS station is planned to be a follow-on to the Mir system developed by MAREX-NA. Called SpaceCam-1, the system has been under development since 1999, and will include a camera, which is attached to one of the Station's laptop computers, and an audio interface box which connects the laptop to the Ericsson Amateur Radio transceiver. Software on the laptop will convert the image from the camera into audio tones through the laptop's sound card, using the "Robot 36" SSTV mode. Robot 36 is regarded as being the best compromise between image quality and transmission time. The radio to be used will be in 70 cm band (435-438 MHz), transmitting through the outside UHF antennas installed last year.

The MAREX team is planning to have the camera used for live shots around the Station, as well as a "slide show" mode for sending pictures from the laptop's hard disk. They are even planning an SSTV Repeater mode.

For reception here on Earth, most of the standard SSTV programs should work with the Robot 36 mode. A quick scan of the Internet should yield several alternatives. My favorite is MMSSTV, which can run on most any Windows-



based PC with a standard sound card. There are also alternatives for Linux and even MS-DOS.

So while you wait for the camera to be launched and installed on the ISS, take your SSTV

capability out for a little test drive through the other amateur satellites. Hope to see you on the birds,

73,

Greg, KO6TH

## North Hills RC Annual Swap Meet

The NHRC will hold its annual Ham Swap on May 18, 2003 at Bella Vista High School, from 0600 to noon. Seller spaces are \$10 (2 car stalls), and there is free parking for buyers. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each with an abundance of prizes with drawings hourly. They will have 5 Grand Prizes this year: IC-2720H, MFJ-4245MV, BC80XLT scanner, M-24M-2 70cm magmount antenna, and a pair of Motorola FRS radios.

Bella Vista HS is located on Madison Ave., between Fair Oaks Blvd and Kenneth Ave. Contact Kim Scheidel, KE6RKX, at 916.991.9496 or [scheidel@inreach.com](mailto:scheidel@inreach.com) or visit the NHRC web site at [www.k6is.org](http://www.k6is.org).

## SFARC Web Site URL

Rob, WW6G, would like to remind everyone that the SFARC Web Site URL is [www.sf-arc.org](http://www.sf-arc.org) ... the "-" is critical. If you enter the URL without the hyphen, you'll find yourself browsing the San Francisco Amateur Radio Club web pages.

## VFW Mother's Day Breakfast

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Donner Post 1942, will serve its annual Mother's Day pancake breakfast on Sunday May 11 2003 from 0800 to 1030 in the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 100 East St in Auburn. The menu consists of waffles with strawberries, ham or link sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit cocktail, orange juice and coffee PLUS all you can eat pancakes. The cost is only \$3 with children 12 and under eating for free. The public is cordially invited to attend.

For more info, contact George, KG6LSB, at 530.888.0860

*(George also advises that the VFW hold this breakfast on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month - May just happens to fall on Mother's Day. Ed.)*



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## USS Hornet ARC to Celebrate Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day

In case you missed a QSO with NB6GC commemorating the raid on Tokyo by Jimmy Doolittle, you get two more chances for their QSL package. NB6GC will be on the air on Armed Forces Day, May 17, from 0900 – 1700 PDT. You'll find them at 3.857, 7.260, 14.320, 21.320, and 28.320 MHz on SSB and at 3.530, 7.030, 14.030, 21.030, and 28.030 on CW. From our area, 40m is probably the best bet – NB6GC was a fairly solid S7 on 40 SSB.

Then, over the Memorial Day weekend, May 24, beginning at 0900 PDT, and continuing to 1700 PDT on May 26, they will again be operating from the ship's radio spaces. 40m should work well during the day, and 75/80m at night. They offer a special commemorative QSL package including a certificate, a shoulder patch, a CD crammed with pictures of the ship (many from WW2), and of course the QSL card itself, all for a donation of \$7.50. *(Mine from my Doolittle commemorative QSO has already arrived and it is really cool! Ed.)* LtCmdr Tom Hale, KB6SSN, commands the museum, and is an Auburn resident. See last month's SFARC News for a recap of the presentation at the March meeting.

## SFARC News Offers CW Practice CD's

Getting a little tired of the repeater? Interested in upgrading to an HF-friendly license class? Or, maybe you have decided to try out a CW contest? Have we got a deal for you! HF requires a General or Extra Class license, which require a 5 WPM code test. Contest operating will challenge you at perhaps 20 WPM.

The ARRL transmits code practice every day from W1AW, but, for those who are still employed at a day job, all but one is during the day out here on the frontier, and the evening one is at 7 PM. The League has graciously given us permission to record them and publish them to club members on CD's for the price of the CD blank (\$1.00).

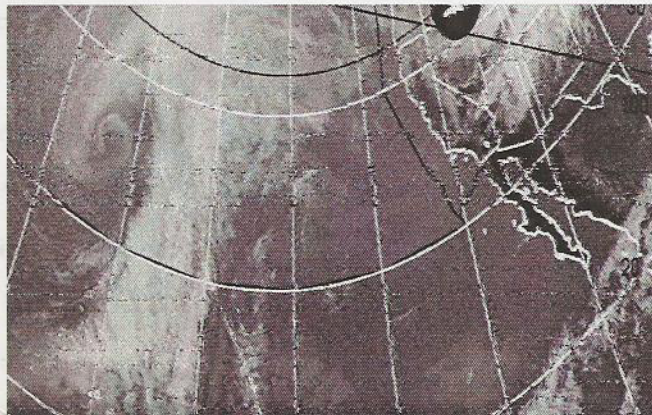
*(Ok, so there's an ulterior motivation here ... I obtained some audio recording and editing software to allow me to record radio stations to send with the care packages to a helicopter pilot friend and his unit in Iraq, and it turns out to be a new and interesting way to pass the time ... for someone who no longer has a day job)*

I've been recording the Fast Code at 10, 13, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 WPM. I can do the slow code (5, 7.5, 10, 13, and 15 WPM) as well. You can have whatever combinations you want on the CD ... all one speed, a mixture ... your choice. You can actually learn the code and/or improve your speed for casual and contest operating just by listening to it on a regular basis, possibly on the way to or from your day job?

Drop me an email if you're interested with instructions on what you want. Keep in mind that I don't have a day job (except for what my wife conjures up for me), so you get the CW practice and I get the audio editing practice.

## Weather Fax

In our continuing exploration of various amateur communications modes, this month's selection is really a one-way, receive only mode – but nevertheless interesting. In fact, it's especially so because if you picked up MixW after Rob's great PSK31 presentation, and you have a general coverage HF receiver, you already have all you need.



The above picture is part of a weather satellite photo of the eastern Pacific, recorded on March 27, 2003. Someone (at the weather service, I presume) has conveniently outlined the land masses for us ... Cabo San Lucas is obvious, as is our part of California. Hawaii (the Big Island) is visible in the lower left corner. This is an infrared image (heat), so it shows mainly water vapor. That storm obviously approaching us did in fact have quite a bit of water in it!

This image was copied from NMC on 8.682 MHz as a fax. NMC is in Point Reyes, CA, and runs 10 KW so they're pretty strong here in the foothills and Sacramento. The transmissions include various hand drawn weather forecast maps, wave height forecasts, satellite images, and other things of interest to weather geeks and sailors.

On board ships, the FAX machine uses a roll of paper, and these images are really quite large. In MixW, the width will be the width of your screen, however they may be very long since most start in the polar region (you can see places where the forecaster has marked the "ice edge"), to below the equator. I look for the parts I'm interested in, press "PrtSc", and then paste the picture into a photo editor.

Most of these stations transmit at 120 lines per inch. MixW does not automatically synchronize the image, so you may see a black bar running vertically down the image. That's the sync pulse. As soon as it starts, just set the line rate to 121, and watch the sync pulse slide over to the right edge of the image. When it gets there, set the line rate down to 120, and watch the weather unfold before your eyes ... and way before the 6 o'clock news.

Stations, schedules, and frequencies can be found at (on the web of course) <http://weather.noaa.gov/fax/>

**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:     | \$ _____ | <b>TOTAL:</b>       | \$ _____ |

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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

