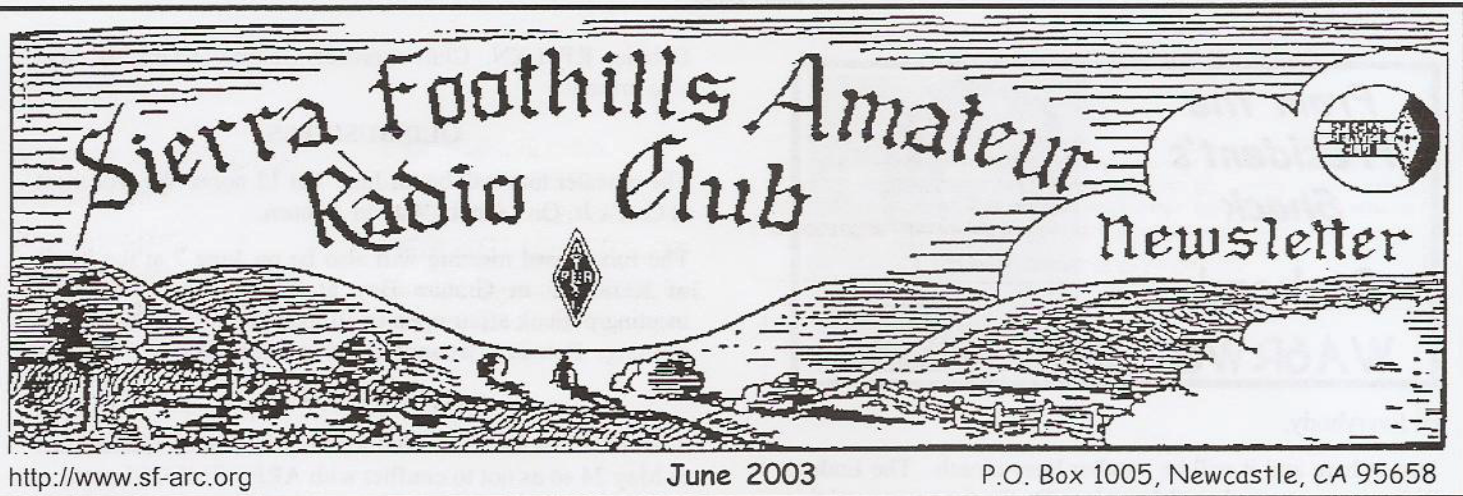




At the Key of S.F.A.R.C.



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
k6dgv@arrl.net

2003 Calendar of Events

(Operating Events in Italics)

- Jun 7 K6ARR Repeater Tour
Jun 7 VE Test Session (Auburn)
Jun 13 Regular Meeting
Jun 28-29 FIELD DAY!!
Jun 28-29 Western States Run
Jun 21 Club Breakfast
Jul 11 Regular Meeting
Jul 12-13 Tevis Endurance Ride

IN THIS ISSUE

Officers' Reports

Amateur Satellite Status

VE Report

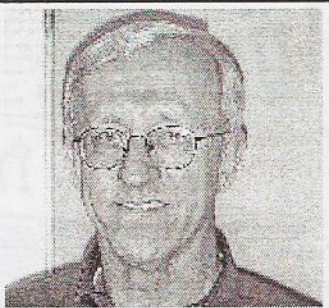
Digital Musings

Copyright © 2003, All Rights Reserved

The SFARC Newsletter is published monthly by the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club for the information of its members and friends. The newsletter is distributed via the US Mail and E-mail, and is posted to the SFARC Web Site. Permission is granted to non-profit amateur radio organizations to reproduce text verbatim with attribution. Use of images is prohibited without prior written approval of the SFARC, and of all individuals pictured in the images. All logos are the property of the represented organizations and may not be used without their permission.

*From the
President's
Shack*

**Richard
WA6RWS**



Hi Everybody,

June is here and it will be another busy month. The Enduro Ride was postponed until June 1st. By the time you read this we will have been to EMCOMM West on May 31st in Reno.

Next will be the tour of the repeater site by our trustee Jim Carmen, K6ARR on Saturday June 7th at 12pm, followed by the board meeting at Dottie and Joe's QTH, KF6OQY at 3pm. This is a potluck so check for details in the newsletter.

Our regular meeting will be on the 14th. The club breakfast has been moved up a week to Saturday the 21st, because of Field Day on the 28th and 29th. Wow, that covers just about every weekend in June. Along with birthdays and graduations, my social calendar is sure full, as I am sure most everyone else's is also.

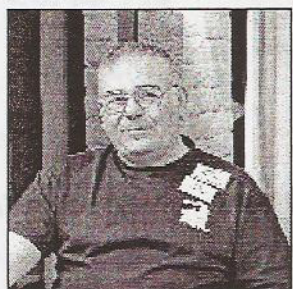
Rob continues to have some really great speakers and last month was no exception with the stealth antenna presentation. Our speaker generously donated one of his antennas for the raffle. We will have to get a report from the person who won it as to how well it is working.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at all of the upcoming activities.

73,
Richard, WA6RWS

*Secretary's
Report*

**Joe
KF6OQY**



**Board Meeting
May 2, 2003**

President Richard, WA6RWS, opened the meeting at 1937 hours. Officers present: Vice President Rob, WW6G; Secretary Joe, KF6OQY; and Treasurer Mike, KG6EFK. Board members present: Bob, WA6ULL, Casey, W7IB, and

Debbie, KF6LXN. Club member George, KG6LSB, was also present.

OLD BUSINESS

The repeater tour will be on June 7 at 12 noon. We will meet at Carl's Jr. On Lincoln Way in Auburn.

The June board meeting will also be on June 7 at the home of KF6OQY in Granite Bay at 3 PM. This will be a meeting/potluck affair open to all members as is every board meeting. Details to be announced at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

The club breakfast scheduled for May 31 will be rescheduled to May 24 so as not to conflict with ARES EMCOM event in Reno NV. The club breakfast scheduled for June 28 will be rescheduled to June 21 so as not to conflict with our field day event.

Casey, W7IB, announced that a class F station will operate from 4 to 6 hours from the parking lot at the OES site on Saturday June 28 only.

A motion was made by Casey, W7IB, to set aside \$200 for field day expenses. Motion seconded by Bob, WA6ULL. Because the amount requested exceeds what the board can authorize as per Article 7 section 7 of the by-laws, this motion will be presented to the membership for approval at the meeting of May 9.

It was decided that a presentation on the origin of the term Elmer will be in August. Secretary Joe, KF6OQY, has sent a copy of the club May newsletter and a thank you card to the Daily Grind coffee shop.

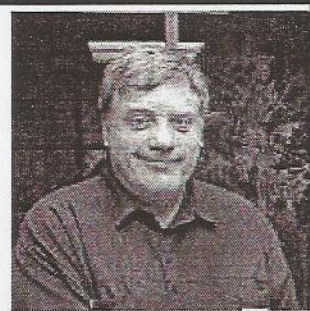
Motion to adjourn was made by Debbie, KF6LXN, and was seconded by Rob, WW6G. Meeting was adjourned at 2024 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Sylvia, KF6OQY
Secretary

*Vice
President*

**Rob
WW6G**



This month will be quite busy. On May 31, there is EMCOMM West in Reno. Many club members are going, so hope to see you there. Then one week later, June 7th, we will have the first VE session in Auburn at the public library – 350 Nevada Street. This is the club's usual meeting room. Later that day, at noon, members will gather at Carl Jr.'s on

Lincoln Way to go to the K6ARR repeater for a tour. That should be great. Finally at about 3PM, do not forget the board meeting which will be held at the home of Joe and Dottie Sylvia in Granite Bay. Come casual, bring a side or desert, and enjoy the meeting and a barbecue. All members are welcome and encouraged to come.

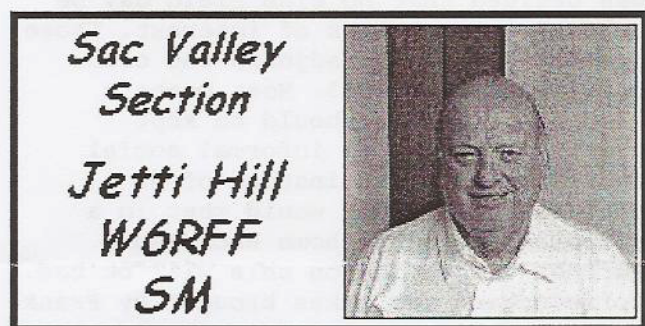
At our regular meeting on June 13th, Jettie Hill, W⁶RFF, will be speaking on DX. This is a rare opportunity to get a better picture of DX work from a really seasoned expert. See you there.

The Field Day T-shirts are in and will be available at the director's meeting and the regular club meeting.

Finally, do forget Field Day on June 28th and 29th in Nyack. More at the meeting.

73,

Rob, WW6G
Vice President



APRIL: This year was above average rainfall, and I hope this will decrease the chance of grass and forest fires throughout the section. Regardless, keep prepared to help out with communications during emergencies. The ECs are always looking for more ARES members. Contact K6SOJ at k6soj@arrl.net for more information.

SILENT KEYS: The following SKs were reported to me in April: Russ Ahlberg, K6KJ; Ken Weger, WA6EMU; Dave Peden, KA6KUT; and Michael Moore, K6SQJ. They will all be missed. The family of K6SQJ would like to keep the his call, so his wife and children are studying to get their licenses. Andy, N6AIM, and the Radio Elk Grove club are teaching a technician class for them.

QWCA and OLD TIMERS ARS: These two clubs meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Carrow's Restaurant, 4601 Watt Ave, North Highlands. Order breakfast at 7am, meeting/program starts at 8am. Contact Gary Stilwell, KI6T, at ki6t@arrl.net for more information.

EL DORADO ARC: On Tuesday May 27 at 7:15pm the club had a presentation by Dr. Leslie Deutsch of the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena. He is the Chief Engineer, Interplanetary Networks Directorate of JPL. spoke on "Expanding the Internet into the Universe - NASA's Mission in Deep Space" - he also discussed NASA's Deep Space Network, antennas, high

frequency (32 GHz) radio, optical communications, planetary relay satellites and GPS at MARS

CALIFORNIA ANTENNA BILL: The PRB1 type antenna bill has passed the State Assembly and now awaits committee hearings in the State Senate. There will soon be a presentation, by hams, before the committee.

NORTH HILLS RC: The NHRC's "What is Amateur Radio?" night was a big success, with a large crowd to view the many demonstrations of amateur radio's different modes and systems. Most were held in the parking lot to provide antenna and equipment space. The Sacramento Sheriffs communication van was open for viewing and we had an ARRL information table in the meeting room.

SHASTA CASCADE ARA: The clubs ARES group had a display at the Shasta Mall, in Redding, on Saturday May 31 - 10am to 6pm, during the Shasta County Animal Disaster Preparedness Day. They also had a display on April 26, during the Shasta County Fire Prevention Day.

SIERRA FOOTHILLS ARC: Casey, W7IB, made a presentation on FISTS membership and procedures, demonstrated 3 different speeds of CW and gave a report on the Placer County ARES.

NEVADA COUNTY ARC: John Zwerver, from the Red Cross, discussed the function and goals of the RC and how amateur radio operators can help. The ARES group participated in the annual RC preparedness exercise. The group logged 33 man hours and provided over \$6000 worth of equipment.

SISKIYOU COUNTY ARA: This club meets on the first Saturday of the month (except June, July, Aug) for breakfast, at 10am. Even months are at Silva's in Weed and odd months at Bob's Ranch House, in Etna.

TAHOE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION: TARA meets the 2nd Saturday of the month (except June, July, Aug), at the library in Zephyr Cove, at Noon. New officers: President, Paul, WA6EWV; VP, Bob, NR7A; Treasurer, Mauro, WA6SIM; and Secretary, Zetta, AC6CO.

MEETINGS: In April I attended the following meetings on behalf of the ARRL, Sierra Foothills ARC, North Hills ARC, Mt Shasta ARC and El Dorado County ARC.

In May I attended the International DX Convention in Visalia, ARC of Anderson, and the Special Pacific Division Convention - EMCOMMWEST in Reno.

FIELD DAY: FD is approaching fast. I will visit as many FD sites as I can on Saturday

73,

Jettie, W6RFF
Sacramento Valley SM

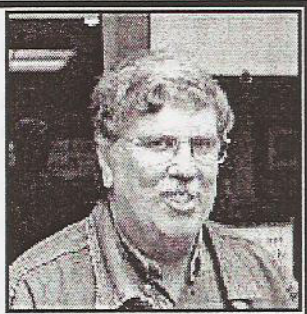
Sacramento Valley Section Nets

The Sacramento Valley Section Nets are held on the 2nd 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.

**30 & 40
Years Ago
In SFARC**

**Gary
KQ6RT**



It looks like the club took the rest of the summer off in 1963, so there will be no more minutes from that year again until October. My book ends in December of 1983, so next year there will be no "Twenty Years ago" entries, but at least there will be something to publish every month for the rest of this year. Next year there are a full twelve entries for 1964, and four entries for 1974.

Forty Years (and one month) Ago At the SFARC

No meeting was held as a quorum was not present. Those present viewed a film brought by Bob Richier. It was decided that the June meeting be held the 2nd Friday to see if a better turn out could be had. Coffee and donuts were served.

James Carman

Twenty Years (and one month) Ago At the SFARC

May 1983, 7:30 pm

Constitution and bylaws were distributed to each member. Minutes read and passed by majority.

Jim, WA6GZW asked for members to participate in field day, which takes place the last Saturday in June. At this time Dave, K6KUT will handle the 20 meter band, Tom, NS6Y will be on 15 or 40 meters. The newsletter contains members taking part.

Mary Ann, K6HJA asked for volunteers for a bicycle race in Davis. W6KCS's son is taking part in the race.

Jeff Hilliard, WA6IOK gave a program on satellite TV Reception in the Burns room outside. No one wanted to leave. Thanks go to Jeff for an outstanding show!

The raffle prizes were won by:

W6MEI
WA6AEU
W6MEI
KA6PTL

Meeting adjourned 9:30 pm

Bob Rett, W6MEI
Secretary

Forty Years Ago At the SFARC

June 14, 1963

Meeting called to order at 8:15. Reading of minutes was waved. Treasures report waved as treasure was out of town. It was decided that no club field day be held because of lack of interest. Those present decided to adjourn the club until September 1963. Most members thought the group should be kept together, but as an informal social session each month instead of an official club. They would meet in a different member's home each month. Further discussion on this will be had. Coffees, and cup cakes brought by Frank K6TFD, were enjoyed.

Gus, K6BIJ showed the group a 100kc crystal calibrator and transistor 12volt to 110volt power converter he built.

James Carman

Twenty Years Ago at SFARC

June 1983

Meeting opened at 7:30 by N6HJA, Mary Ann.

Mary Ann, N6HJA, will price items for Xmas party. She also asked for volunteers for the 100 mi. run.

There will be a meeting June 20 at the OE office at De Witt at 8 PM.

Treasury has \$1009.13 in club and repeater fund.

WA6GWZ reported an field day, KA6UVL volunteered to help.

WA6EMU, Ken, made motion to use club funds for field day. W6YHI seconded motion, carried by majority.

K6HJA asked for volunteers to contact old timers for old timer's day.

Raffle prizes:

1. K6HJA
2. WA6EMU
3. W6MYV
4. K6SKQ
5. W6MYV

Meeting closed at 9:30

Bob Rett, W6MEI, Secty.

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

*Amateur
Satellites*

**Greg
KO6TH**



Amateur Satellite Status

Every now and then, it seems like a good idea to update everyone on the current status of the amateur satellites ... there are an ever increasing number of them, and their status does change over time. So from AMSAT News Service Bulletin 145.S1, here goes:

AO-40 AMSAT OSCAR 40

Uplink:

- U-band 435.550 - 435.800 MHz CW/LSB
- L1-band 1269.250 - 1269.500 MHz CW/LSB
- L2-band 1268.325 - 1268.575 MHz CW/LSB

Downlink:

- S2-band 2401.225 - 2401.475 MHz CW/USB
- Beacon: 2401.323, 24,048.035

The "AO-40 FAQ", compiled by Steve, VK5ASF is now available at <http://www.amsat.org>

ARISS - INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Worldwide packet uplink: 145.990 MHz FM
Region 2/3 voice uplink: 144.490 MHz FM
Worldwide downlink: 145.800 MHz FM
TNC callsign: RS0ISS-1

The Packet system is currently non-operational, but keep checking. Listen on downlink used for school scheds, and occasional random QSOs. Alain, IZ6BYY and Claudio, IK1SLD wish to announce the opening of the ISS Fan Club. Visit: <http://www.issfanclub.com>

AO-7 AMSAT OSCAR 7

Uplink:

- 145.850 to 145.950 MHz CW/USB Mode A
- 432.125 to 432.175 MHz CW/LSB Mode B

Downlink:

- 29.400 to 29.500 MHz CW/USB Mode A
- 145.975 to 145.925 MHz CW/USB Mode B
- Beacon: 29.502, 145.972, 435.100, and 2304.100

Mode A/B is random when spacecraft enters sunlight. Only operational in sun, and is often weak.

UO-14

Uplink: 145.975 MHz FM

Downlink: 435.070 MHz FM

Status: Operational and strong.

FO-20 JAS-1b

Uplink: 145.900 to 146.000 MHz CW/LSB

Downlink: 435.800 to 435.900 MHz CW/USB

Beacon: 435.795

Spacecraft is getting intermittent, due to weak batteries.

AO-27 AMRAD

Uplink: 145.850 MHz FM

Downlink: 436.795 MHz FM

April 5th, 2003

We have turned on the Scheduler. Weekend morning passes will be on for 10 minutes every pass. During the week it will be on digital mode.

FO-29 JAS-2

Voice/CW Mode JA

Uplink: 145.900 to 146.000 MHz CW/LSB

Downlink: 435.800 to 435.900 MHz CW/USB

Beacon: 435.795 MHz

Status: Operational

SO-41 SAUDISAT-1A

Uplink: 145.850 MHz

Downlink: 436.775 MHz

Broadcast Callsign: SASAT1-11

BBS: SASAT1-12

Status: Operational but intermittent.

SO-50 SAUDISAT-1C

Uplink: 145.850 MHz FM (67.0 Hz PL tone)

Downlink: 436.800 MHz

The repeater is available to amateurs worldwide as power permits, using a 67.0 Hz tone on the uplink, for on-demand activation.

NO-44 PCSAT

Uplink/downlink: 145.827 MHz 1200 baud AX.25 AFSK via W3ADO-1

Aux/Uplink: 435.250 MHz 9600 baud via PCSAT-2 (off)

APRS Downlink: 144.390 MHz (Region 2)

PCSat is a 1200-baud APRS digipeater designed for use by stations using hand-held or mobile transceivers. Downlinks feed a central web site <http://pcsat.aprs.org>. The APRS-equipped PCSat was built by midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy under the guidance of Bob Bruninga, WB4APR. The spacecraft is failing due to weak batteries; access is intermittent.

73,

Greg, KO6TH

VE Report

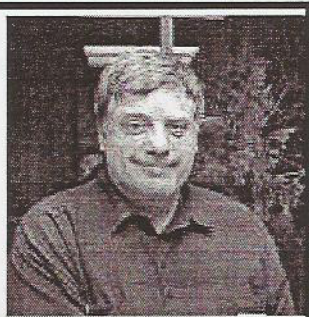
The VE team had another great session in April. The results were:

ELEMENTS	1	2	3	4
Passed	1	4	2	
Failed		2		1
Total	1	6	2	1
	Tech	Gen	Ex	Tot
New license	4	1		5

Beginning in June and running through August, the team will hold its sessions in Auburn at the Beecher Room of the Auburn Public Library. Come on down and join us !

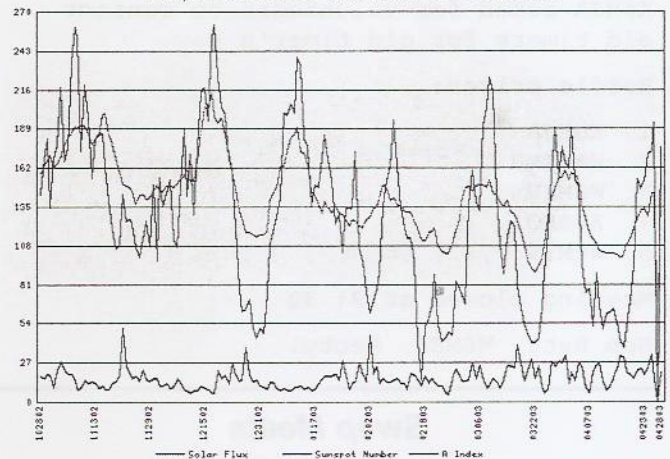
Digital Musings

*Rob
WW6G*



Propagation has been challenging this month with the solar flux readings low for most of the month. Toward the end, they have increased to around 138 which is, by itself, not too good a number. We simply need to sustain it for a while, but on the downward slope of the solar cycle, that is not very likely. As you can see from the ssn chart, there is a general downward trend in solar flux and this trend will continue.

Sunspot/Flux Chart 10/28/2002 to 04/28/2003



April was a great month on the digital bands despite poor propagation. The TARA Rumble kept the PSK bands humming. I worked only an hour of the contest and managed to work 9 countries in that hour including a new DXCC. All in all, it was fun. An interesting note is that as propagation gets more challenging, contest provide a way to work distant contacts. It is simply a matter of higher density which improves your chances.

In June, there are some interesting contests. Please remember Field Day. consider: So, there should be some fun to be had.

On the 18th this month, I shall be presenting **PSK31 and other digital modes** to the North Hills Amateur Radio Club. Unbeknown to me, that presentation was given to Yuba county and the CD copied and distributed. I learned about it in Jettie's newsletter. Not angry, just gratified !

73,

Rob, WW6G

ROCKLIN JUBILEE



1893-2003

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2003

The City of Rocklin is looking for Radio Operators on Saturday June 28th for the 2003 Rocklin Jubilee. Operators are needed between 8:30 AM at 12:00 AM. This will leave plenty of time to attend Field Day afterwards.

If you are interested in this family event, please call Matt Diridoni, KC6RUO at 916-625-5417.

For Sale

Collins 75A2

Collins 75A2 receiver, part of the estate of W6MNG. This is a classic Collins product, in very good shape. If interested, contact Robert Sessions (son) at 916.771.8075 or at resessions@surewest.net.



Kenwood TS-830S

Complete HF station, consisting of the Kenwood TS-830S transceiver (100W, 160m – 10m including WARC bands), VFO-230 External VFO, SP-230 External Speaker, and MC-50 desk microphone. Currently has 2.1 KHz SSB and 500 Hz CW filters installed. Includes manual, a spare pair of 6146B finals, driver, and a spare set of 2.1 KHz crystal filters.



2 owners: Jettie, W6RFF, and myself. I'd have kept this rig were it not for the really great deal I got a TS-850S. \$400, delivered in the greater Sacramento area. Contact K6DGW at 530.885.8251, or k6dgv@arrl.net.

Emergency Communications Course Registration Opens

Registration for the next Amateur Radio Emergency Communication course, EC-001, will open on Monday June 2, at 12:01 AM EDT. Registration will be open until June 7-8, or until all spaces are taken. If you miss this one, there will be registration for EC-001 classes on the First Monday of each month, 12:01 AM EDT. More info, www.arrl.org.

Hams Get Less Than Half a Loaf

(Facts from ARLB035/Comments by SFARC Editor)

"The FCC has declined to grant amateurs a sliver-band allocation at 136 KHz 'at this time.' Also, in a compromise

with government users, the Commission decided to give amateurs five discrete 2.8-kHz-wide channels in the vicinity of 5 MHz instead of the 150-kHz band ARRL had requested. The Report and Order is available on the FCC's Web site, http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-105A1.doc.

The electric power industry probably killed 136 KHz for us. They use this range for control of the power grid using carrier current systems, transmitting signals on the power transmission lines. They are concerned our signals may interfere with theirs. The phrase "at this time" holds out hope. An LF allocation with reasonably high power limits would be great for experimentation.

At 60m, I'm not certain, but in 50 years of ham radio, this is the first time I can remember that hams have been granted discrete channels in the HF spectrum.

Typically, hams have a range of the spectrum, and 47CFR97 is clear that none of us have any prior claim to any frequency. We can choose a clear spot, we can slide up or down a bit to avoid QRM, and we can capitalize on propagation to avoid it. It's not clear how the 5 discrete channels could be shared as hams are famous for.

Yet another issue is exact frequency. I make sure there is someone below or above me at the band edge. Not foolproof, of course, but my radios are fairly well calibrated and I've never gotten an out-of-band notice (well, one, in 1953 as 13-yr old KN6DGW, when every stage of my transmitter was oscillating. My Elmer helped me fix that!).

With discrete channels, we will need to be very careful in how we operate in this new "band". Hopefully, the ARRL will take enough of a leadership role to work out plans and protocols for this "band." Hopefully also, it will turn into a "real" band soon. 5 MHz is not just "a bit below 40m ... it's 2/7 of the way to DC. Propagation will be very different there, and new techniques will evolve. It's likely the Federal Communications Commission didn't really know what they were doing. They also have a habit of correcting their mistakes. This is one ... we shall see.



Randy & Pamela Ubry
RPU, Incorporated
Owner - Operators

Indian Hill & I - 80
P.O. Box 788
Newcastle, CA 95658

Featuring Metropolitan Fine Coffees®
& Royal Konaccino® Iced Beverages

Phone 916-663-9220
Fax 916-663-9205

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

