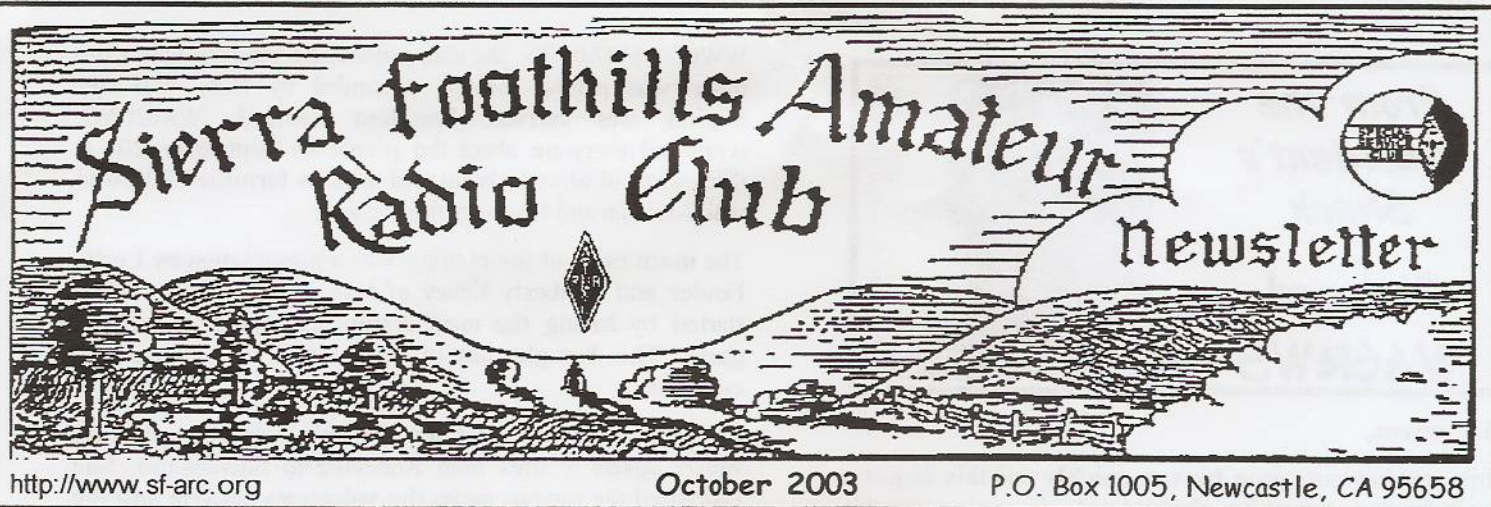




Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

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



PRESIDENT

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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

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2003 Calendar of Events

(Operating Events in Italics)

- Oct 4-5 *Cal QSO Party (CQP)*
- Oct 10 **WHITE ELEPHANT SALE**
- Oct 17-19 **PACIFICON 2003**
- Oct 25 **Club Breakfast**
- Nov 1-2 *ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)*
- Nov 14 **Regular Meeting**
- Nov 15-16 *ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB)*
- Nov 28-30 *CQ WW DX (CW)*
- Nov 29 **Club Breakfast**

IN THIS ISSUE

Officers' Reports

Picnic Report

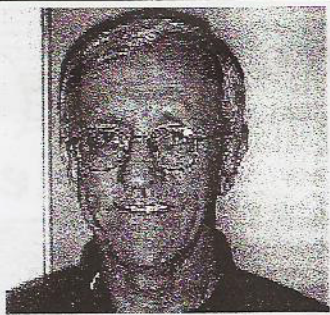
"It's His Opinion"

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From the President's Shack

**Richard
WA6RWS**



Hi Everyone,

This year has sure gone by very quickly and this is just a reminder that our white elephant sale is coming up this month. Be sure and get out in your garage and dust off some of that stuff you have wanted to get rid of and bring it to the sale.

Remember we will **NOT** be at the library or Recreation Park. See details in another section of the newsletter.

I have had some good reports that the picnic was well attended and Rob has missed his calling as a chef. I am sorry I was not able to make it to the picnic. Thanks to all that helped and participated.

Also a big thanks to Greg, KO6TH for the tour of his station.

I hope to see all of you at the white elephant sale. Until then,

73,

Richard, WA6RWS

Secretary's Report

**Joe
KF6OQY**



General Meeting September 12, 2003

President Richard, WA6RWS, opened the meeting at 1940 hours. Officers present: Vice President Rob, WW6G and Secretary Joe, KF6OQY. Board members Casey, W7IB, Debbie, KF6LXN, and Bob, WA6ULL, were also present. President Richard led everyone with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by introduction of officers, members and guests in attendance. Secretary Joe, KF6OQY, read the minutes of the General Meeting of August 8. Motion to accept as read was made by Rob, WW6G, and seconded by Bob, W3PMP. Motion was carried by the membership. A motion by Joe, KF6OQY, was made to reimburse Rob,

WW6G, \$147.00 for the club patches he paid for when the order was placed. Motion seconded by Bob, W3PMP. Motion was carried. President Richard, WA6RWS, reminded everyone about the picnic on September 20. A discussion of what to bring and what is furnished followed with location and times for the picnic.

The main event of the evening was a presentation by Leslie Fender and Kimberly Kelley of Kaiser Permanente. They started by having the membership participate in a name game. This brought lots of laughs and was enjoyed by everyone.

Leslie is the coordinator for Kaiser's volunteer program which covers 5 sites from Roseville to Sacramento. She explained the various duties the volunteers perform and the dedication these people have. Kaiser has a lunch for the volunteers a couple of times a year and also recognizes the volunteers with awards. Leslie followed with a short video of how Kaiser foundation got started and what it is today. The video was followed by questions from the membership which Leslie answered. Leslie was followed by Kimberly Kelley who is the person at Kaiser Roseville who coordinated the ham radio emergency communication program. Kim met with a group of six hams at Kaiser in September 1999 to explain their program needs. The hams in attendance were: Ralph, AC6SG, Beverly, AC6SF, Dave, AC6RD, Joe, KF6OQY, Ed, KQ6CK, and Darall, AD6WC.

She told the membership about the schedule that was made to cover the Y2K concern for the new year 2000. She also said that Kaiser has a net every 4th Wednesday of each month at 12 noon on 147.060 Mount Diablo repeater. Kaiser has installed equipment to cover 2meter, 220,440 and packet capabilities. Kaiser also participates in state wide emergency drills and reports in to OES. Kim also said that what the hams do is greatly appreciated.

A state wide emergency drill will take place on November 13. Thank you Leslie and Kim for a great evening and for the gifts to the membership. The socket tools and the pens were appreciated. (Note: The top of the pens light up when pressed down to write. I observed a member being creative by sending CW with the lighted pen) Great job ladies and thanks again. Meeting was adjourned at 2115 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Sylvia KF6OQY
Secretary

SFARC Picnic September 20, 2003

(Many thanks to Joe, KF6OQY, for this report)

The club picnic was held at the Auburn Recreation District Regional Park.

The park is a great area for this type of function. All facilities are available and very convenient for parking close

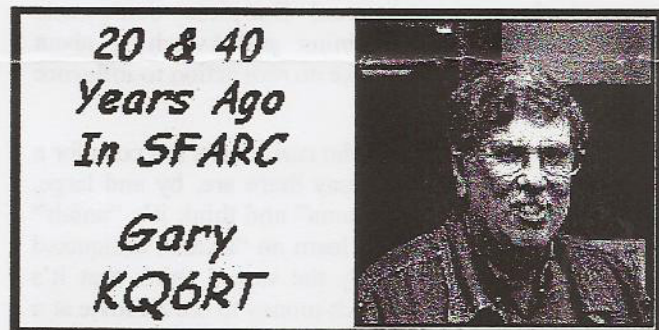
to the picnic grounds. The area has an abundance of shade trees and is very well kept with tables and benches. I counted a total of 24 people in attendance who seemed to enjoy the conversations and the day in general. Also the great food including the side dishes brought by the membership.

Compliments to Chef Rob, WW6G, who did a great job with the cooking. Debbie, KF6LXN, and son Danny stopped by to deliver the cold drinks but had to leave. Seems that they had some plans for Danny as it was his birthday. Happy Birthday again Danny and thanks for your help in delivering those drinks. Greg, KO6TH, and his wife Holly took several people on a tour of the park to see the grinding stones that were used by the Maidu people of long ago. They also invited everyone to their home to see Greg's satellite station.

A hot game of Bocce ball was in progress as Kevin, AD6XB, brought the equipment to the picnic. Thank you George, KG6LSB, for getting the permit for the use of the grounds. I for one had a great time and for those who didn't get to attend, there's always next year. Club functions such as this one is what makes our club enjoyable. Thanks to all who attended.

73,

Joe, KF6OQY



SFARC Minutes
October 14, 1983

The regular meeting of SFARC was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Mary Ann, N6HJA.

New member Dick Wilkins, WB6EDR was introduced.

President Mary Ann appointed a committee to handle the Christmas party.

John, KA6LNC, requested help to set up a receiver antenna for a totally disabled person. Got several volunteers.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for 1984:

President:

WA6ANX Woody Woods

Vice President & Bulletin:

KA6GZI Jim Standley

Secretary

KA6UUL Cliff Cottam

Treasurer:

W6HDG Katherine Woods

Board Members:

N6HJA Mary Ann Simmons

W6YHI Jack Drummond

KA6LNC John Tiernan

Nominations were made from the floor:

Dave Peden, KA6KUT nominated Len Taylor, WB6HGS. Len Taylor, WB6HGS nominated Dave Peden, KA6KUT.

Dick, W6YHO ask to be relieved of net control. It was agreed to put net control on a rotating basis.

A total of six new members joined this meeting: WB6EDR (Dick), KA6RTA (Mike), W6SUP (Bob), KB6BUJ (Sandy), N6HLZ (Dan), K6GKR (Gerry).

The business meeting was adjourned for refreshments and the White Elephant auction. The auction was aptly conducted by Len, WB6HGS with spirited and lively bidding.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Standley, KA6GZI

73,

Gary, KQ6RT

For Sale

Kenwood KS-440S, with MFJ power supply and the Kenwood speaker -- \$350. Contact Helen Sunderland at 916-723-1787. (Helen is the recent widow of a friend of Gerrie Metke, K6GKR).

(Thanks to David Jenkins, WB6RBE)

MFJ-969 300 watt antenna tuner. Has cross-needle pwr/swr meter, roller inductor, internal balun for matching both single wire and balanced line as well as coax, and a dummy load. \$120. Contact Fred, K6DGW, at k6dgw@arrl.net or at 530.885.8251.

Rohn Files for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy

(Thanks to an ARRL Bulletin)

(Generally speaking, the SFARC News refrains from publishing items of a commercial nature. A Rohn tower, however, probably enhances the esthetics of a number of members' backyards, so for this, we make an exception. Ed.)

Rohn Industries has filed a voluntary petition for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The best-known manufacturer of tower and tower hardware for the Amateur Radio community, the Peoria, Illinois-based company also manufactures towers, antenna support structures and "infrastructure equipment" for the telecommunications industry. In business since 1948, the firm also makes security fencing and provides design and construction services. Rohn announced September 16 that it was filing for Chapter 11 relief in the US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

"Our immediate goal is to stabilize the company's financial situation and utilize the Chapter 11 process to enable the company to conduct normal business operations as the company works to complete a sale transaction," Rohn Industries President Horace Ward said in announcing the company's bankruptcy filing. Rohn says it's now in discussions with an unrelated third party regarding a proposed asset sale while it continues to conduct business as usual. Ward told ARRL there is "no truth" to a rumor circulating on some Internet newsgroups that disgruntled workers had damaged manufacturing equipment beyond repair in reprisal for consolidating fabrication facilities into the single Indiana plant.

The impact of Rohn's troubles on the Amateur Radio community is not clear, but at least one major antenna products supplier reported earlier this summer that it was having problems getting Rohn products, although it continues to offer them. Ward told ARRL this week that Rohn intends "to execute the orders we have and to continue to take orders in the normal course of business."

In the company's statement, Ward attributed the bankruptcy filing to a severe downturn in the telecommunications industry. Last January, the company consolidated its manufacturing activities into a single plant in Frankfort, Indiana. In July, NASDAQ delisted Rohn Industries after it was unable to meet its minimum bid price requirement. The company remains eligible for listing on the Over the Counter (OTC) Bulletin Board, where it's been assigned the OTC BB symbol ROHN. The company's stock had been selling for as little as \$0.01 a share over the past 52 weeks.

In the wake of the bankruptcy filing, Rohn Board of Directors members Stephen Gorman and Jordan Roderick resigned, leaving Ward as Rohn's chief executive officer and only director.

It's Just His Opinion!

By Casey McPartland, W7IB

(as channeled from Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW)

(Disclaimer: The thoughts and ideas put forth in this article come to me from out of the ether. I intersperse my thoughts in an effort to maintain continuity, but for the most part it's just his opinion!)

Recently, I have been following a number of postings on QRZ.com regarding code/no-code and BPL, and a couple of ongoing themes running throughout these rants strike me: 1) many people who are otherwise fully capable (i.e., they have no physical handicaps or synaptic deficits that prevent them from learning CW) want the code requirement to be dropped; and 2) many hams look at the ARRL as some kind of villain against them!

It is a tough world we live in, a world where we're expected to do certain things and to meet certain requirements to attain our personal goals!

My assessment of the "code issue" is that if you don't want to meet the code requirement that's currently in place, don't. However, please don't whine about not being able to work the HF bands even though you can pass the theory exams - it's boring and there are no new arguments - the rules are the rules, until changed. Further, the way to change the rules is to lobby the FCC and the Congress, and gather up all the forces required to make it happen! But please don't waste the time of others (me) whining and kvetching about something that *you* choose to take no *real* action to influence or resolve.

There really *are* some people who *can't* learn the code for a variety of real reasons. I daresay there are, by and large, many more who just don't "wanna" and think it's "unfair" that *they* should be required to learn an "arcane, antiquated and little-used (!?) mode". By the way, I think that it's unfair that I have to pay so much money to see a movie at a theater, but it's the only way I can do it - or I have to wait until it hits the video store so that I can watch it on that "little tiny screen" with terrible audio... The funny thing about my movie price phobia is that, apparently, not many people care (woe is me!)

I remember when we all had to have an FCC license to operate CB, and then they made the license some combination of your initials and your zip code. (Author's note: I still have the original copy of my license, and I remember it after all these many years - it's not made up of my zip code and initials.) Then a large number of CBers decided that they didn't need a license, or any silly rules, and began taking it all into their own hands - pandemonium prevailed, things went to heck and the FCC dropped the whole deal. Check out the activity on CB now - REACT has been disbanded in Northern California!

Funny thing, I remember when the criteria for getting a ham license were strict and required not only Samuel Morse's *vaunted* code in three flavors (5, 13, and 20 wpm), but a really detailed and technical theory exam in front of the FCC

examiners (yikes!) That proved to be too hard and very costly to the FCC so we went to the VE system. So now we're down to CW at 5 words per minute and a multiple-choice exam to get the highest class of license. In the US, this was caused by a small number of voices making a huge amount of noise! I'm not going to make the judgment that this is good or bad – the rules are the rules, but I'm not sure where we're going anymore... (HPM sez, "be careful what you wish for!")

I have a feeling when/if they drop the code requirement, the theory test will become considerably broader and much more difficult to pass based on your memory. This leads me to believe that many (most) people won't be able to get beyond their entry license anyway, and then all of the old timers will join HPM in the "Great Shack in the sky," there will be no Elmers, and the good ol' FCC will let the greatest hobby in the world die on the vine and make a lot of money selling off the frequencies, and you'll be relegated to playing with your computer on BPL. Remember, Northern California REACT was just disbanded, some 30+ years later.

Speaking of BPL, all you amateurs had better take that issue really seriously – it threatens to turn our bands into the new CB, noisy and mostly useless. At least that's what Hiram sez.

As for those old school types back in Newington CT, and their mad desire to rule ham radio, 1AW, founder of the ARRL (for those of you who thought I'd be channeling some "nobody"), channeled this – while the ARRL can't and doesn't please all of the people, all of the time, it does represent some 20% of all the hams in the US. In fact, it tries desperately to represent the interests of 100% of US hams, and this is very hard to do. However, there is *no* other group of people, organized or otherwise, that takes the time and energy to address the *real* issues of this hobby as economically as they do. There is no profit motive, and believe me, nobody at the ARRL does this for money – it's only a hobby. No other organization has the energy and the purpose of lobbying the Congress, the FCC, and the communications industry in our interests. NO OTHER! They don't make the rules, nor do they have much real say in the rules (consider 60 meters.) So I say to those who rant and rage about the ARRL, if you don't like it, actively change it, or shut the heck up!

So, how did we get here from the postings on QRZ.com? You'll have to meet HPM on the astral plane to find that out, but he just reminded me of something old Hermann Goering said, "If you say something enough times and it becomes the truth."

Well I guess I'll leave these topics for the time being. When the "Old Man" contacts me, it's sometimes troubling, and I need to take a break. Ya never know when he might move me to channel his thoughts again – that old bug pushing, spark gapping, ham-fisted telegrapher! So ----- 'til next time!

Editor's Note

Things got away from me this month with a couple of unforeseen family and friends' issues. Consequently, I'm a bit late with the October issue. Actually, I put most of it together at 8,300 ft in my tent trailer at Monitor Pass where I'm a member of the Alpine County crew for the California QSO Party ... which will be over when you get this. While we have something around 30 KVA of electricity here ... we have no Internet, so I couldn't send it. For next year, KQ6DI is checking out a 2.4 GHz WiFi path to Minden/Gardnerville in NV, which we can see about 4K feet below us while using our "personal convenience". We'll see how that works.

This issue of the newsletter is also a bit shorter ... not too many inputs, and trust me, we really don't make this stuff up! Surely many of you are doing things of interest to the rest of the club. Write it down in whatever mode you want. We take email, MS Word, MS Works, Word Perfect, typewriter, hand written on a lined pad, and we'll even interview you for your oral history. We just want your story.

Possibly worse, Richard indicated that there would be further information in this issue about the location of the October meeting, which is also the annual White Elephant Sale. So far, I have not received any "further information."

I will send the email issue of the newsletter on Mon, 10/6, with any additions/corrections that have arrived. Hopefully, Richard will be able to correct the USPS version of the newsletter, and we'll get an email out with the location of the meeting.

Apologetically,

Fred, K6DGW

SFARC Trivia

Ok, this is a teeny space filler, but maybe fun too. Why do we always seem to use 1/4 wave antennas (Note: A dipole is really two quarter wave antennas, one on each side of the feedline)? How come we don't use half wave antennas?



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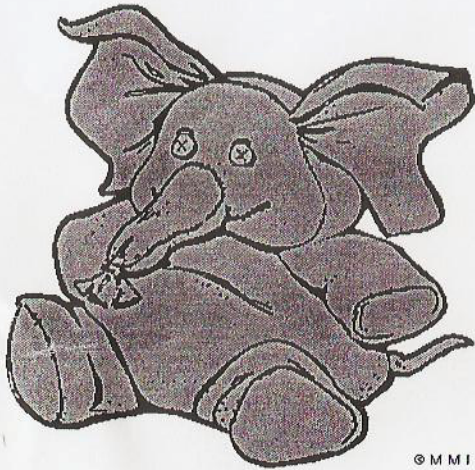
Indian Hill & I - 80
P.O. Box 788
Newcastle, CA 95658

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

White Elephant Sale

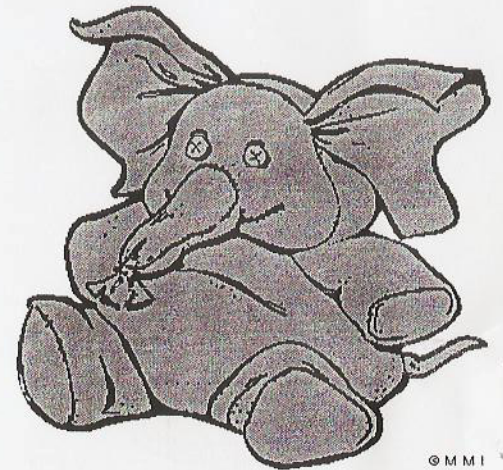
October 10, 2003 - 7:30PM
Canyon View Community Center
471 Maidu Drive, Auburn, CA

Bring all that stuff that is collecting dust and buy some treasures at bargain prices.



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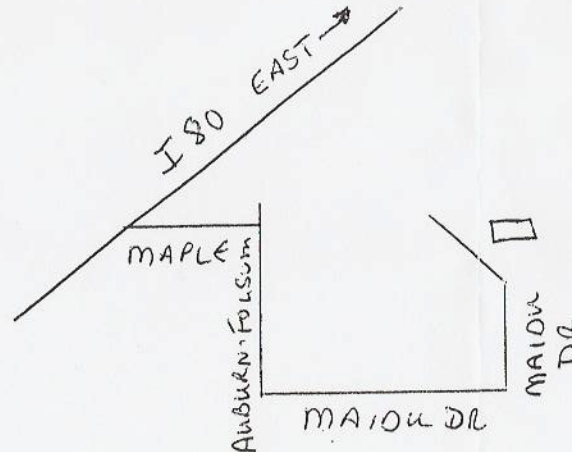
**Bring the Whole
Family
for
A fun filled
Evening**



©MMI

From Sacramento, take I80 East to the Maple Street offramp in Auburn. At the courthouse, Maple Street becomes Auburn-Folsom Road. Go straight through the intersection which is now Auburn-Folsom Road for several miles, then turn left on Maidu Drive. Follow Maidu Drive until it deadends. Turn left on Riverview-Maidu. Canyon View Community Center is the first building on the right.

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SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 1005

Newcastle, CA 95658



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:	\$ _____

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Date: _____ Treasurer: _____ Secretary: _____ Roster: _____

Payment: _____ Check Number: _____ Cash: _____