

Sierra Signals

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club
Auburn, CA
An ARRL Special Service Club

<http://www.sf-arc.org>

January 2004

P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658

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



PRESIDENT

Rob Carpenter, WW6G

ww6g@arrl.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Casey McPartland, W7IB

W7ib@arrl.net

SECRETARY

Bob Boeckman, WA6ULL

916.987.9910

wa6ull@cwnet.com

TREASURER

Donna Hodge, KD6PJN

larryhodge2000@attbi.com

DIRECTORS

Kevin Reid, KG6RIO

George Simmons, KG6LSB

grsim@mindspring.com

Larry Hodge, AE6CE

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

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k6dgw@arrl.net

2004 Calendar of Events

(Operating Events in Italics)

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| Jan 3-4 | ARRL RTTY Roundup |
| Jan 9 | Regular Meeting |
| Jan 10 | North Am. QSO Party (CW) |
| Jan 17 | North Am. QSO Party (SSB) |
| Jan 23-25 | CQ 160 DX Contest (CW) |
| Jan 31 | Club Breakfast |
| Jan 31 | North Am. Sprint (CW) |
| Feb 7 | North Am. Sprint (SSB) |
| Feb 13 | Regular Meeting |
| Feb 20-22 | ARRL DX Contest (CW) |
| Feb 27 | Club Breakfast |
| Feb 27-29 | CQ 160 DX Contest (SSB) |

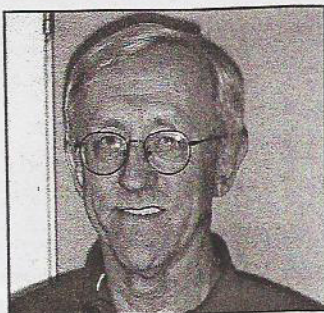
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Christmas Dinner Recap

"Its His Opinion"

Sacramento Valley Section News



Happy New Year to everybody

Here we are in 2004 and I am looking forward to more great club meetings and events this year.

You have elected some great officers and directors. After seven years of being either a director or officer, it will be fun

to be back in the audience and give me an opportunity to visit more with you.

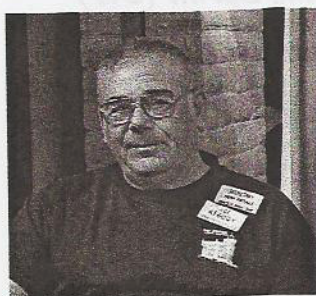
With sad news, I am reporting that Bob Greenslade, W3PMP, became a silent key on Christmas morning. Bob will be missed. I always looked forward to his comments and experience in the direction the club was going. My condolences to Irene and the family.

Thanks to everyone for all your help in making SFARC a wonderful fun club.

73,

Richard, WA6RWS
Past President

Board Meeting Minutes December 5, 2003



President Richard, WA6RWS, opened the meeting at 1945 hours. Officers present: Vice president Rob, WW6G, Secretary Joe, KF6OQY, and treasurer Mike, KG6EFK. Board members Debbie, KF6LXN, Casey, W7IB, and Bob, WA6ULL, were also present, as were members

Donna, KD6PJM, Larry, AE6CC, George, KG6LSB and his wife Pat, Gary, KQ6RT, and guest Dottie Sylvia.

A discussion on directions to the Christmas party followed and it was agreed that we will have a talk-in and signs posted to help anyone who isn't sure of the location. It will be held at the Canyon View Community Center in Auburn. This is the same building where the White Elephant sale was held.

Rob, WW6G, asked that the board recognize the efforts that Debbie, KF6LXN, and Gary, KQ6RT, do with the raffle and snack bar. All in attendance totally agreed with this gesture. He also commented on the job that president Richard WA6RWS has done for the club.

Joe, KF6OQY, reported on the results of his efforts on the costs of magnetic signs. Bids from five businesses were reported and it was agreed to submit the results to the membership for further discussion. It was agreed that all signs must be paid in full prior to ordering. Mike, KG6EFK, explained to the officers to be in attendance and the procedures needed to transfer signature authority with the bank so as to continue the

financial affairs of the club. Mike, KG6EFK, also reported that the vendor has increased the cost of badges. Rob WW6G made a motion to charge \$7.00 for badges and also noting that the club does not profit from this. Motion was seconded by Casey, W7IB. Motion carried. Casey, W7IB, reported that classes for the technician class license will be available in January 2004. Location, dates etc to follow at a later date. He also stated that a National Weather spotters course will be offered with a credential upon completion. He also said his articles that he does for our club newsletter will appear in QST. Debbie, KF6LXN, made a motion to issue one free regular raffle ticket to all who renew their membership at the Christmas party. Motion was seconded by Rob, WW6G. Motion carried. George, KG6LSB, will meet with the people at the Auburn library to reserve the meeting room for 2004. Rob, WW6G, made a motion to issue a check to George, KG6LSB, to pay the rent for the meeting room. Motion seconded by Casey, W7IB. Motion carried. Motion to adjourn was made by Debbie, KF6LXN, and seconded by Larry, AE6CC. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2030 hours.

Respectfully Submitted

Joe Sylvia, KF6OQY
2003 Secretary

SFARC General Meeting December 12, 2003

There is no official business to report at this time because, as we all know, this was the night for the club's annual Christmas Party. Once again a good time was had by all who attended. We sure had plenty of food, such as two turkeys and two hams, plus the generous portions of side dishes and desserts donated by the membership. Many thanks to those who helped with the set up and take down of the tables and chairs plus with the clean up. Over the years we have always been very fortunate to have lots of help with all of our club functions.

Once again many thanks to Bill, KM6KV, and Shannon, KD6CMX, who were joined by Mike, KG6EFK, for providing the music for the evening. Great job guys. President Richard, WA6RWS, gave out certificates of appreciation to several individuals for their efforts in 2003. After introducing the club officers of 2003, President Richard then introduced the club officers who will serve in 2004.

The grand prize winners were:

ICOM 2720: Rob, WW6G

Samsung flat panel monitor: Joe, WB6AGR
(the monitor was a generous donation by the son of Jettie, W6RFF)

The ladies prize of a fifty dollar gift certificate for the Galleria in Roseville: Linda Hedgpath.

There were many more winners for the regular raffle.

Well this is my last report as Secretary and where has this time gone? It has definitely been a pleasure to serve with the

officers of 2003. Now on to 2004 and we have a good group of officers to take us in to the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted

Joe Sylvia, KF6OQY
2003 Secretary (retired)

Sierra Signals Debuts

Welcome to the first issue of "*Sierra Signals*," formerly known as the SFARC Newsletter. Thanks to George, KG6LSB, we get to start the year with a new name, and that deserves some spruced up formatting and graphics as well. Late last year, I invested in a couple of reference books ("*MS Word for Dummies*," and "*The Complete Idiot's Guide to MS Word*" -- they seemed about the right level for me), and we'll see if I can start using some of the thousands of "features" Bill Gates has put into his software to liven things up a bit.

The masthead in this issue is temporary. Richard, WA6RWS is apparently spending some valuable spousal radio points and asked his wife, Kerry, to conjure up a real one. Thanks, Richard, I'd have probably used my "points" to get a new radio.

You'll note some blanks on the front page ... I haven't assembled all the data for our new officers yet. The E-mail (PDF) version of this issue will contain color pictures as a test. If they don't increase the file size a lot, and the Xerox can handle them for the USPS version, we'll continue them.

With the new year, again the plea for your inputs to the "*Sierra Signals*." Don't sweat the format or formatting. Hand drawn sketches and diagrams are just fine (black ink on white paper really helps). Handwritten, typed, floppy disk, CD, USPS, email, packet radio (call me first, I don't leave it on since it interferes with the temperature readings on my weather station), telephone, ... you choose. But let us hear from you!

A big THANKS to all the contributors in the past years, and my best wishes to each and all of you for a prosperous, happy, and peaceful 2004.

73,

Fred, K6DGW

Jurassic SFARC

Gary, KQ6RT



(Gary, our Resident Historian Extraordinaire, reports that he has meeting minutes for all of 1964, so we'll get a good history lesson for this entire year on what things were like back in then. He also reports that 1974 is a little thin. The club was reviving then, and apparently it took awhile to get it all together. We'll publish what Gary has each issue. Ed.)

Forty Years Ago at the SFARC

Minutes of the SFARC January 8, 1964

1. Meeting was called to order and minutes approved as read.
2. Carl Rolufs gave the treasurers report of \$76.43 in K6CBP checking account with BofA and a deposit of \$250.00 with the Central California Federal savings and loan at interest payments of 4.85% per annum.
3. Ken Weger, as secretary was given a stamp fund of \$5.00. It was mentioned that starting with the next meeting a petty cash fund of \$10.00 should be at the discretion of the secretary for such incidentals as stamps, paper, coffee, sugar, cups, etc. as things come up during the day.
4. Status of equipment stored at the fair grounds was still status quo. Jim Carman as trustee was asked to look into this.
5. Eleven persons were present with the possibility of 3 new members in the near future.
6. Frank Carman stated that the club code and theory classes are staying up to "snuff".
7. Entertainment for the evening was provided by the president in the form of a film entitled "Big Bounce" the passive satellite Echo of the Bell Laboratories.
8. Another film provided by Ken Weger on "Porky Pig".
9. Field day probabilities was discussed. Nothing decided.
10. Otto Ruud was the refreshment chairman for the evening.
11. Meeting was adjourned and refreshments served.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J Weger, WA6EMU
Secretary

Thirty Years Ago at SFARC

Jan. 1, 1974

K6CBP (SFARC) received the repeater call WR6ADI with President Jim Carman as Trustee. Thereafter WR6ADI was put on the air with Control manually operated at QTH of K6ARR.

(The club call, K6CBP is currently unassigned in the ULS)



New Year Satellite Update

Greg, KO6TH

As I write this, 2003 is rapidly winding down, and I am relaxing at my In-Laws in Washington State for the Holidays. The Ham rig, power amp, and beam antennas are some 750 miles away, and wouldn't you know it, Astronaut Mike Foale has been heard on the International Space Station making voice contacts with the ground. Since I have my trusty HT with me, I try to hear him, knowing all along that it is highly unlikely that I will be able to make a 2-way contact. Oh well. Perhaps he will still be making contacts when I return. Perhaps even by the time you read this he will still have time in his schedule for us.

A new Ham station has been installed on the ISS, and it has been cleared for use. The crew seems to have it on most of the time. When not being used for voice contacts, it is enabled for packet. The world-wide downlink frequency is 145.800, for both voice and packet. Uplink for voice is 144.490; for packet it is 145.990, although recently they seem to be using 145.800 simplex.

It's easy to hear packet from the ISS. Simply turn on your packet system (the same 1200 baud packet system we use down here on Earth), and leave it monitoring 145.800. The station has several passes over our area each day, and any packet activity will be captured and displayed. Look for messages from one Earth-bound Ham to another, digipeated through the Station. If you want to try digipeating through the ISS, set your station to Unproto mode via RS0ISS-4, transmitting on the 145.990 uplink split. If that doesn't work, you might try simplex. With so many other stations trying to do the same, the chances for getting a packet through without it being stepped on is small, so not every packet will make it back down to Earth. Keep trying; it's normal.

The ISS voice mode is less complicated. Just remember the split is odd here too. If you hear Mike, or Cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri, wait for them to call CQ or QRZ, and toss your call upwards. If you are lucky, they will respond. A little power will help the odds, of course.

In other news, AO-27 has new scheduler. If you recall, this is the satellite that went silent last year because its design was based on the satellite's intended orbit carrying it into darkness once each orbit. They used that transition into and out of darkness to time and trigger maintenance events, including turning on the satellite's transponder. Over time, the orbit shifted slowly, and now the satellite is in continual full sunlight, so their means for scheduling things quit working. No trigger, no transponder.

The new scheduler has been configured to run the satellite for one telemetry pass in the morning and one transponder pass in the evenings. The news article I read didn't mention just *which* evening pass would be the transponder pass, so we'll have to listen to find out. AO-27's uplink is at 145.850, and the downlink is 436.795, both in FM mode. The downlink is a little hard to hear, so a small beam is a must. 5 elements will

do. As with all satellites, it is important to be sure you can hear the satellite before transmitting on the uplink. AO-27 has a very sensitive receiver, so you may inadvertently QRM somebody else if you aren't listening.

Finally, did anyone else catch the error in my last article? It was subtle, but definitely an "oops" on my part...

The Earth spins. Yes, we all know that. The important point is that it spins *to the East*. This means that a satellite launched towards the East will have a head start of about 1000 mi/hr, since the Earth's surface is already headed in that direction. So satellites circle from West to East. If you are hovering above the North pole, looking down on the planet, that means they will be orbiting *counter-clockwise*.

My picture showed the ISS circling *clockwise*. Sorry about that. Either turn the picture over, or pretend you're standing over the South pole.

I hope everyone had a happy Holiday Season. Best wishes for 2004!

Greg, KO6TH

For Sale

Sears/Craftsman 2400 watt portable generator. Works perfect, about 3 years old. \$200. Contact Patrick, N6ARO
n6aro@arrl.net

More on Tech Upgrade

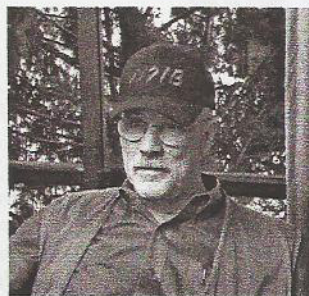
(Thanks Les, W6TEE and the Mobileer Reflector)

Following up on last issues reminder that technicians can claim code credit with proof of an original tech license,

"The W5YI-VEC will perform exhaustive hand lookups into their massive collection of old call books for a \$5 fee. Contact them at 1-800-669-9594".

It's Just His Opinion!

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 sometimes intersperse my thoughts in an effort to maintain continuity, but for the most part it's just his opinion!)

So, the Old Man has paid me a number of short visits recently, I suspect it has something to do

with the end of the year. I guess he wants me to once again put some of his thoughts on papers and share with the modern day amateurs. Anyway, my headache is getting stronger and it's my guess that getting his thoughts written down would help more than an aspirin and a nap. Here it comes --

Well, yet another year has passed and amateur radio, as well as the world in general, is going through a lot of changes. I observe that amateurs today may not see the value of what they bring in terms of security, service and goodwill.

In the past I've expressed my views about the constant bickering that has gone on, and that continues among hams - CW, incentive licensing, license classes based on accomplishment, and on and on. All of these are insignificant when held up against the life and continued health of the world's greatest hobby. We, as a group, are constantly being threatened from the outside. Face it folks, there's a lot of others out there that would just love to suck up our spectrum, and turn the radio amateurs into another group of email/internet/VOIP users that are totally under the control of THEM - just another group of commodity users. However, the real purpose of Amateur Radio is more than that.

In the very first few words of Part 97 (those are the infamous FCC Rules governing the Amateur Radio Service), the first principle stated in 97.1(a) is: "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications." Everyone should know this considering all of us are required to have a working understanding of Title 47 CFR, Part 97 (*that's why questions about them come up on all of our exams!*) [side comment: In this old man's observation of the hobby, there must not be too many people who have read or who possess the "Rules" - there just doesn't appear to be a whole lot of volunteering going on. However, it is the *first* guiding principle, and one that runs throughout our hobby, whether it's acknowledged or not.]

Volunteerism is rampant in ham radio, though probably not recognized as such. There are Volunteer Examiners, Instructors, Field Day committees, club officers & board members, Elmers, repeater owners-trustees-control ops, every level of ARRL field management, ARES, RACES, VIP, ACS, etc. Then there are ham volunteers to hospitals, blood banks, religious and service organizations, foot races, and on and on. BUT, a lot of the people doing one of these duties are also doing one, two, or three others, as volunteers. It's been said by someone smarter than me that 20% of the people do 90% of the work - I'll wager it's more like 10%, but that's beside the point. Thinkin' about those numbers gives us a clear vision as to why volunteers burnout, or why someone who was "the best President, Vice-president, or Chairperson we ever had," suddenly disappears from the landscape for a long period of time. Call it "let George-do-it-ism!" [Sorry George]

So, back on task! Ours is a hobby that has no component for huge financial gain. Even the big equipment companies aren't making *billions* because there just aren't enough hams to support that kind of economy. As we move into 2004, I think that more people need to decide how important this hobby is to them. Whether or not you believe it, we and our spectrum are under near-constant attack - and, we and our spectrum are directly dependent on one another. There's BPL, Part 15 unlicensed devices (almost anything "wireless"), the media-based frequency suckers, local governments, the commercial satellite industry, and the list goes on. We just can't have the

"let George-do-it-ism" continue and expect to survive during these times of squeaky wheels. It'll just kill us!

How to volunteer? Get on *one* of those deals that require you to give your time, and do the very best job you can. Write letters to your duly elected representatives about things of importance to you and your hobby, after all they do serve you. Make comments on proposed rule making when asked, it's darned important to show that there are more than 80 or 100 people out there that give a hoot. While these things may not seem very important when looked at individually (i.e., "What does it matter what I think?") - cumulatively they are *HUGE!*

When we make a stand by volunteering for one Amateur Radio activity we are affecting the entire future of our hobby. Even beyond the future of the hobby, we affect everything that our hobby touches. Take a look at those 5 guiding principles in 97.1 and then try to tell yourself that the world's greatest hobby has no real impact. They go like this:

- Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advance of the radio art.
- Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Better yet, get out your copy, or go get a copy, and read them over, you might find something you hadn't seen before, you might even find an "Aha!" [*for instance: have the most recent rule-makings had anything to do with (c), above.*] You might also find that you'd like to volunteer to teach one little part of the "Rules" at a club meeting. Who knows?

So Amateurs, move with conviction into 2004 and make your personal skills and abilities known to the community through volunteering for something simple. Or, take a course and learn something that helps you grow in the hobby, and that helps the hobby grow through you. Or, reach out a help a new ham get moving in a good direction - you'll suddenly be an Elmer! Most important, have a great and productive New Year!

Wow, this was a tough one. The old ham-fisted spark gapper was especially riled up this month! Jeez, what a headache! The very happiest of New Years to everyone, and while you're thinking about it give thanks for what you've got and make every effort to help others [and maybe even volunteer to make FD 04 the best ever!]

From the Old Man, W7IB, and Oscar, the 7 wpm Dachshund, very Best Regards!

EC Report

Joe, WB6AGR, Placer Co. EC

I wanted to wait until after the Search and Rescue Exercise before reporting. I had a meeting again with American Red Cross to plan the SAR exercise. We had a good day I think, with donuts and coffee to start. Then we got demonstrations of 3 helicopters (no rides): One was from Sacramento. Fire, one was from the Sacramento Sheriff, the other was a Blackhawk Medivac Chopper. They said I could have it for 30 easy payments -- only 12 million total. It's quite a machine.

There were SAR people and K9s from several counties and some very impressive Communications Units, the biggest being the Sacramento. Sheriff's unit. There were 2 hams in it who I think are called SHARPS ?? I was there on an invitation from the Red Cross. We had about 5 hams, 3 from SARCR, myself, and Harry, KG6RIM, EC from El Dorado Co.

We are trying to get a working relationship between ARES and the Red Cross. This is going to be a pretty big job. We hope to get this worked out in the near future. I haven't received word on our progress with Packet and I hope to get this going in January.

Sorry I missed the party, I was just too busy with other things. I understand I won 2nd prize. Maybe I can trade Rob for the Radio. HI HI. I would like to find out what Sunday Evening would be the best for our ARES meeting in Jan. Please let me know which would be the best and/or the worst Sunday for you, either on the Sunday Net, or by e-mail at ktnjoe@netzero.net. You might also send a copy to Rob, WW6G at ww6g@arrl.net.

I think we might also stop doing the Sunday phone call-up for a while. I know a lot people don't like to have the phone ring, especially at dinner time. It was a test, and next we will probably try a call at a random time to see how many people we can get to respond to it and come up on the radio.

73,
Joe, WB6AGR

Sacramento Valley Section News

Jettie, W6RFF SM



HAPPY NEW YEAR! to all of the Sacramento Valley Members. As the New Year begins, let us be thankful that we can continue to enjoy amateur radio, in its many modes. I hope that many more of you will take advantage of the ARRL Emergency Communication courses, and those of you that have taken the courses will

spread your knowledge to others in the ARES organization. As your Section Manager, I am in the process of making out my schedule for the year. I want to visit as many of the Section clubs as time permits. If your club would like me to visit one of your meetings or give a talk to your members, then, please contact me and we can work out a schedule. The ARES groups should be commended for their time and effort that they put into drills and actual emergencies, especially Dave Thorne,

K6SOJ, the Section Emergency Coordinator. He has put in many, many hours of volunteer time during the year.

EMCOMM: Michael Colvin, W6CUJ, was chosen to receive Red Cross training on their new Communications Response Vehicle (CRV). A vehicle is designated for the Sacramento area and will be driven from Austin, Texas to Sacramento. They will operate, during the trip, as "ARC Excursion West" -- the call to be announce. Ford Motors donated 8 of these vehicles to ARC. They are loaded with all kinds of communication equipment and systems, including ham HF and VHF. For more information and pictures, go to www.emcomm.org/red_cross/index.html

VE EXAMS: The WT6G exam team gives exams in El Dorado Hills every Thursday at 6:30 PM. See www.wt6g.com for more information. They also have code practice transmissions on WT6G repeater, daily, 5-13 wpm at 7:30 am, 8:30 am, Noon, 5:30 PM, 6:30 PM, and 4-40 wpm at 9 PM on 147.150 MHz from EDH. Text and info at www.wt6g.com. Also ARRL news, RSGB news, This Week in Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio NewsLine is transmitted every night at 8 PM on 145.370, except Thursdays when the Northern California Swap Net is carried.

Yuba Sutter ARC's next VE session is January 10th at the Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church in Yuba City, starting at 9 am. Pre-register with Clara, KC6JPP. Contact Herb, W6HBU, at 530.674.3648 or firtree1@pacbell.com. The club also will have a Technician Class in January and February at the American Red Cross Center, 2125 East Onstott Rd, Yuba City. Contact Ron Murdock, W6KJ, at 530.674.8533, or w6kj@arrl.net.

Sierra Foothills ARC will present a Technician Radio Class in January, in the Auburn area, no date or time as yet. Contact Casey, W7IB, at w7ib@arrl.net with your name, phone number and email address. SFARC also sponsors VE tests in Folsom on the first Saturday of the month. For more info check with Rob WW6G at ww6g@arrl.net.

River City ARCS holds VE tests on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the Carmichael Elks Lodge, corner of Cypress and Hackberry in Carmichael, 916.492.6115 for more information.

ARRL: Members, please check the ARRL home page often for new news. There are changes on it every day. Also check the Sacramento Valley section news for latest news. Information on nearly every subject is available on the Leagues web pages. Please promote the ARRL, Your Club, and Amateur Radio.

73 and Happy New Year

Jettie, W6RFF

SFARC CD

Yet again, we will offer a Cumulative CD featuring archives of newsletters and pictures of members, officers, and events, for the amazingly low price of \$1.00 (cost of the blank). Contact your editor via email if you would like one.

National Ham News

(from The ARRL Letter and ARRL Bulletins)

General Class Question Pool Released (ARLB069)

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has released a revised and expanded Amateur Radio General class (Element 3) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2004, and must be used to generate all General written examinations administered on or after that date.

"The pool has been expanded to 432 questions," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, a member of the Question Pool Committee, who notes that all sub-elements grew slightly. "The largest increase in questions this time around was in our Operating Procedures and Amateur Radio Practices sub-elements," he said. The General class question pool does not contain any diagrams or symbols.

The new Element 3 question pool is available on the ARRL Amateur Exam Question Pools Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html> in Adobe PDF and ASCII text format. It includes all questions and answers relating to Element 3.

The Question Pool Committee now is turning its attention to developing an outline for an updated Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool, which will be revised over the next 24 months, Jahnke said. It will go into effect July 1, 2006. The deadline to submit input to the Amateur Extra question pool syllabus is May 1, 2004.

Commenters may address specific Element 3 questions as well as inputs to the Element 3 syllabus and question pool to the Question Pool Committee via e-mail at, qpc@arrl.org.

FCC Announces New ULS Web Interface (ARLB071)

On December 14, the FCC unveiled a new on-line filing interface for its Universal Licensing System (ULS), on the web at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>, which includes the Amateur Service.

Among other features, the ULS's new look will include easier-to-read on-screen forms that guide users through filing and simplify such routine tasks as applying for license renewal, address change or vanity call sign. The FCC says the introduction of its new system, called "ULS License Manager," concludes phase one of an ongoing ULS overhaul by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

ULS License Manager will be compatible with most major Web browsers and computer platforms and no longer will require downloading Java and Java Script files. An FCC staffer involved with implementing ULS License Manager notes that all features may not be in place when the system debuts.

The ULS will require all filers to log into the system using an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. Taxpayer Identification Numbers

(TINs) no longer will be accepted for log-in purposes, the FCC said.

Once the new system is up and running, all licenses and applications in the ULS database will be converted to the new ULS License Manager filing environment.

There's also a new paper version of FCC Form 605, dated December 2003. One change is that Form 605 no longer requests a date of birth and will only accept an FRN and CORES password. There are no Amateur Service-related changes to any Form 605 schedules. The FCC says Amateur Service applicants may continue to use the March 2001 (or later) edition of Form 605, although it encourages use of the newest version. The new FCC Form 605 now is available via the FCC Web site at

<http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html>.

Normal hours for assistance are weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time. Technical Support is available via the FCC Web site at, <http://esupport.fcc.gov>, or telephone 877.480.3201 (TTY 202.414.1255). ULS licensing support and forms information is available weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 5:30 PM Eastern Time via e-mail at ulshelp@fcc.gov, or telephone 888-CALLFCC (225-5322),

Option 2 (users also may call 717-338-2888).

Don Tollefson
Owner



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



**SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2004 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:	\$7.00
Associate:	\$ 7.00	Repeater Donation:	\$ _____
Auto Patch Donation:	\$ _____	Newsletter Booster:	\$ _____
Miscellaneous Donation:	\$ _____	Christmas Donation:	\$ _____
Worldradio Renewal:	\$ _____	TOTAL:	\$ _____

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DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

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Payment: _____ Check Number: _____ Cash: _____