

Sierra Signals

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

<http://sf-arc.org>

January 2005

P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658

New Look for Sierra Signals in 2005

Everything gets old after awhile. With the advent of a new year, this seemed like a good time to make some changes. I'm not sure this will all work out, but we'll see. Throughout 2004, there was missing information for some of the officers (email addresses, phone numbers, etc), so for 2005, we'll go with just name, call, and email address. The "At The Key" block also seemed to take up a lot of space, so some formatting changes were made to tighten it up a little. They include a smaller font, and reduced spacing between the entries. I hope you can still read them when printed!

I showed my wife the 12 2004 issues, and one of her comments was that the "In This Issue" seemed a little redundant for a 6-page newsletter, conveyed nothing that wasn't obvious while reading the rest of the paper, and it used up a lot of space. Worse, in several

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

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Casey McPartland, W7IB
w7ib@arrl.net

VICE PRESIDENT

open

SECRETARY

Paul Alford, KB6NYB
pla@wizwire.com

TREASURER

Donna Hodge, KD6PJN
dhodge2644@aol.com

DIRECTORS

Kevin Reid, K7TST
kevin_r89@netzero.net
George Simmons, KG6LSB
grsim@mindspring.com
Larry Hodge, AE6CE

REPORTERS

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH
History: Gary, KQ6RT
Digital/VE: Rob, WW6G

WEBMASTER

Marc North, W6SQL
marc@marcnorth.com

RESOURCES

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,

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

EDITOR

Fred Jensen, K6DGW
530.885.8251
k6dgw@arrl.net

issues, I forgot to update it, and consequently, it was redundant, big, and untrue.

The goal was to make some space for some sort of headline for a lead article or item. This all presumes, of course that I can get or find a lead article worthy of a headline each month. And, you all can help in this regard, of course. Sierra Signals accepts contributions on any subject generally related to Amateur Radio. Any format, including hand written in the US Mail is just fine.

Comments on the newsletter are welcomed. Just drop an email to the Editor. Please let me know if it is a comment or suggestion to me, or if you'd like it published as a contribution.

73, Fred, K6DGW

2005 Calendar of Events

(Operating Events in Italics)

Jan 8-9	ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan 8-9	N. American QSO (CW)
Jan 8	Kids' Day <i>(A lot happens on that weekend, no?)</i>
Jan 14	Regular Meeting
Jan 15-16	N. American QSO (SSB)
Jan 29	Club Breakfast

We encourage members to receive Sierra Signals via email to save the Club the cost of reproduction and mailing

Message from the Past President

The year has come to an end and I am grateful for all the good work and effort from our members. It certainly made the experience as president pleasant and worthwhile. Next year, Casey, Ed, Paul and Donna will be the officers and the club should have a great year.

ARES will continue to be a focus and club service will continue to be a source of pride for the club. It is hard to imagine that the MS Walk is just a few short months ahead. Please speak with George, KG6LSB, if you can help. I worked it last year and had a fine time. Give it a try next year.

If you missed the Christmas dinner, well, you missed a goodie. Larry, AE6CC, won the grand prize and the club came close to even on the grand prize raffle [when you add in the proceeds of the white elephant sale - which we do every year]. Hope to see Larry with the Buddipole at field day.

Well, the year comes to an end. No chestnuts roasting on an open fire, but a cat napping on the couch. Close enough. Merry Christmas to all and to a good DX !

73,

Rob, WW6G
2004 President

Meeting Minutes Christmas Dinner, 2004

The food was very good and everybody had a very good time including some very nice entertainment. For the Door Prizes: Larry, AE6OC, won the BuddiePole. As usual Gary did a good job on the raffle.

I would like to Thank all the Officers and committees for the job they did for the year. Thanks again.

Bob, WA6ULL
2004 Secretary

Forty & Thirty Years Ago

Reported by Gary, KQ6RT, SFARC Historian

Minutes of SFARC Jan 20, 1965

Meeting was called to order by President Otow add minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Treasurer's report showed \$168 in the checking account.

Motion made and carried to pay Ken Weger \$2.20 for miscellaneous, paper and to pay \$25.00 to Franks Auto wreckers for trailer body.

It was decided to continue our 3.974 net on Sunday mornings and to start a 10 meter

net on 28.75 at 2000 on Wednesday nights. All approved.

A committee of Otow, Carman, Goodpastor, J. Carman and M. Carman was appointed to set up the Potluck Dinner.

A very interesting film was shown by Ken Weger covering the Element Phosphorus and its many uses.

Thirteen members and three visitors were present.

Gift certificates were as follows:

Lea Miller	Zackit
Dick Lund	Cal TV
J. Carmen	Lombards
Sage Otow	Cal TV

Meeting closed and all enjoyed cake and coffee

Recorded and submitted by

Frank Carmen
Secretary

Jan. 1, 1975

Membership is now open to guest at a donation of \$5.00 or more for initial membership, and continuing dues. Guest, members, friends are encouraged to join for moral support of this open repeater station.

73,

Gary, KQ6RT

Technician License Preparation Class

Rob, WW6G, and Casey, W7IB, will be giving their sensational Technician License preparation class once again.

Dates: 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13

Time: 5:30-7:30 PM

Location: Raley's - in the community room - at the corner of Douglas Boulevard and Auburn-Folsom Road in Granite Bay

Cost: None except book and examination fee.

Contact: Rob Carpenter, ww6g@arrl.net
Casey McPartland, w7ib@arrl.net

The last class was quite successful with 21 of 22 candidates successful on the first attempt. There are slots open and if you know of someone who would like to take the class, please contact Casey or Rob. It is a great way to get into amateur radio.

MS Walk*Thanks to George, KG6LSB*

I am the SFARC coordinator for the MS walk that the club has been asked to support. The walk will be on Saturday April 2, 2005, starting at 0900 from Recreation Park in Auburn (off Auburn-Folsom Rd. The walk will probably be over by 1300.

I'm looking for 15 volunteers to man the various stations.

This year plans are afoot so that we radio operators will do other things while there is some dead time while the walk is in progress. I hope to set up a schedule to allow us to change bands, frequencies, use simplex and send some practice message traffic.

I'm hoping to get operators with dual band mobile or portable rigs and not rely on HTs.

This will be a great chance to get out in the field and set up your portable station and WORK it with other club members.

I have 2 firm volunteers to date and would like to know who else will be available to participate on the 2nd.

We also will be supporting the ROCKLIN MS walk on Saturday April 16 at 1600. This is only a 5K walk so should not take too long to administer and won't require as many people to assist -- probably 10.

73,

George, KG6LSB

Sacramento Section News*Jettie Hill, W6RFF -- Sacramento Valley Section Manager*

HAPPY NEW YEAR: I want to wish all of the Section Members, the best of everything for the New Year. Let us hope that some of the threats to amateur radio go away or at least diminish. The last few years have seen several threats to the amateur frequencies and modes. Each member and

club can do it's part in supporting the ARRL and amateur radio in general. Club memberships and meeting attendance are down, let us promote our clubs and get the members out to the meetings.

MORE OLD TIMERS: My listing of long time ARRL members brought me several emails on other section members. Bill Ozment, W6LSW, of the El Dorado County ARC is a 50 year member; John Moriarity, K6QQ, of the Alturas area is also member for 50 years. John has been seriously ill and now is getting back his health and hopes to be working CW again and handling traffic on NCN, as well as active in ECOMM activities; Tom Nelson, W6EO, of Davis has reached the 60 year level. If you plan on being a ham for many years and belong to the League, then you should think about becoming a life member -- 25 times your normal dues.

LICENSING CLASSES: The Sierra Foothills ARC will be holding Technician classes in Granite Bay, starting on Sunday, January 23 at 5:30 to 7:30 PM. (see full story elsewhere in this issue)

The Yuba Sutter ARC will also be holding Technician classes in January and February, twice a week, beginning on January 11 at 7 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The text will be NOW YOU'RE TALKING, published by the ARRL. Cost is approximately \$20. The last session of the class will be the FCC examination. The classes will be held at the Red Cross facility north of Queens Avenue in Yuba City on the Highway 99 Frontage Road. For more details call Herb Puckett, W6HBU, at 530.674.3648, firtree25@aol.com or Ron Murdock, W6KJ, at 530.674.8533.

HAMFEST: Just a reminder that the Three Rivers Red Cross will host a Communications Weekend and Hamfest, complete with emergency communications-related forums, workshops and exhibits on Saturday February 5, beginning at 0800, and a swap meet/flea market on February 6, 0800 to 1200. Indoor/outdoor tables and tailgate spaces for \$10. Location is 2125 Onstott Road -- eastside frontage on Highway 99, in Yuba City. Talk-in 146.085+ WD6AXM/R. For info contact Mike, W6CUJ at 530.632.8080 or 530.673.1460. The web site is <http://threerivers.redcross.org/hamfest/>.

TAHOE ARA: President, Paul WA6EWV, reports a successful year for the club and its' several communication events. They were called out twice because of 911 system outage. They helped with the Death Ride and the Tour de Tahoe bike rides. Field Day was held at Lake side. Silent Key was Sue Pfeiffer, N7PRF. Paul was busy getting the repeaters ready for the winter storms. Because of the uncertain weather, during December, they forgave their usual Christmas party.

MOTHER LODGE DX/CC: The club will be changing its meeting location in January, due to a new Round Table policy that requires a \$100 deposit for the use of their room in Martell. The next meeting will be Saturday January 29, 2005, at Noon, at the Ione Hotel, 25 West Main St., Ione. Telephone number 209.274.6082. If you are interested in DX or Contesting, this is an active, medium class club, and has been the winning club in the October California QSO Party (CQP) for several years. They have interesting presentations at the meetings, including DXpedition videos. A map of the meeting location can be found on their web pages, at www.mldxcc.com. They would be pleased to have you join them.

NORTH HILLS RC: The club is busy preparing for their "What is Amateur Radio?" night, to be held on April 19. There will be demonstrations of most modes and equipment for the general public. This is a good project type for all clubs. Their annual Hamswap will be held May 17 -- chance to get rid of those boat anchors!

RIVER CITY ARCS: The club continues to hold VE sessions on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 8:30 to 9:30 am, at the Carmichael Elks Lodge, corner of Cypress and Hackberry, in Carmichael. Call their Hot Line for more information; 916.492.6115. Next session is January 15, 2005.

HAM EQUIPMENT: Scott Davis, WD5HXH, wants to clear his garage of all his ham gear and parts. He has not been active

for some time and he is eager to dispose of the gear. He lives in Roseville, 916.773.8465 or smdavis@mindsync.com.

I wish to thanks all those members who have put in time and efforts as an ARRL appointee during the past year, and especially to the EMCOMM amateurs that put in many hours during the summer fires. Again, THANK YOU!!

73,

Jettie, W6RFF

Home: 916.783.0383 Cell: 916.367.9596 (new #)

"Yosemite Sam"

A rather strange intruder signal appeared earlier in December, which has been dubbed "Yosemite Sam." It was on four frequencies (3.700, 4.300, 6.500, and 10.500 MHz), only one of which is in a ham band. The transmission consisted of a short burst of what sounded like some sort of digital signal, followed by the voice of Bugs Bunny's nemesis, Yosemite Sam saying, "Varmint, I'ma Gonna Blow Yah T'Smithereens".

The voice transmissions were double sideband suppressed carrier, and could be copied on either USB or LSB. It repeated every 40 seconds, and cycled through each of the frequencies, transmitting, and then 10 seconds later, transmitting on the next frequency.

On 3.700 MHz, the signal was barely audible during daylight in the Sacramento area, climbing to S5-8 after sunset. Reports from amateurs to the ARRL led to a determination from the FCC Monitoring Station that the signal originated in the vicinity of Albuquerque, NM.

This is all written in the past tense because the signal disappeared around 1830Z on 12/23/04. There's a little more information at www.spynumbers.com/YosemiteSam.html which is an interesting web site in itself. Might be a good idea to check 3.700 MHz every now and then.

Where in Blazes Am I?

Epilog -- Fred, K6DGW

Remember the Four Course Radio Range at the beginning of this series of articles? While cleaning boxes filled with ancient tax records out of an upstairs closet, I ran across a box with a few hundred slides I had taken while serving in the USAF in Alaska and SE Asia from '64 through '67. Here is one of them.

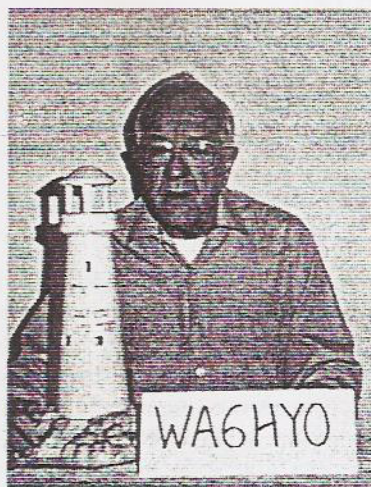
This is a Four Course Radio Range. It shows the four towers in a square with the center tower used for the omnidirectional identification signal. Personal memory being what it is for things 40 years old (and, for some of those things, I'd just as soon forget them), I am pretty sure that this range is (or was) in northern Thailand. That's the Mekong River in the foreground, and I remember taking the photo from a small Agency base just across the river in Laos, not far from Vientiane.

Based on the state of the river, the picture was probably taken in the fall of 1964, probably after the demise of nearly all the ranges in the US. They continued to be used in active service

in other countries for a number of years after that however. This range was probably constructed by the US for the Thai Air



Force which had a fairly large base not far from here at Udorn. The size of the towers and their spacing gives an indication of how large an efficient antenna needs to be in the 200 - 400 KHz range.



In that same box were some issues and materials from the period when I was first the editor of the SFARC News in the late '80s. (As I recall, Mark Forbes, KC9C of Ventenna fame was the President) Among the stuff was this picture of Dick Lund, WA6HYO, a very long time member of the SFARC and it's Treasurer for many years. The back of the photo offers this explanation:

"Richard H. Lund with the Lighthouse Trophy awarded to him by the Mississippi Lighthouse Chapter, 10-10 Net for becoming their 1,000th member."

OT's in the SFARC will remember Dick well, who also often called the 2m net on the K6ARR repeater, which may still have been on 146.16/146.76 then. Dick passed on a number of years ago, but his minutes as Secretary and references to him are appearing in Gary's "40 and 30 Years Ago At The SFARC" column.

Email Is Best

It's a new year, and we'd again like to encourage all members to switch over to email delivery of Sierra Signals. Obviously, it saves the Club the cost of reproduction and mailing. It also provides you with full color pictures, and active web links and

email addresses -- all you have to do is click on them while reading. It is published as an Adobe PDF file, and requires only the free Acrobat Reader to view it. So, make the resolution, and switch to email. Just drop an email to the editor at k6dgv@arrl.net and we'll take care of everything for you.

Ham Radio "Faintly Embarrassing?"

In a recent (maybe the most recent) issue of *Time* magazine, an author was writing about Web Logs, or "Blogs," as they have come to be known. In it, he made the following statement: "Before this year, blogs were a curiosity, a cult phenomenon, a faintly embarrassing hobby on the order of ham radio and stamp collecting," which, strangely, made it past the editorial staff and into print.

Needless to say, hams have been responding to letters@time.com with observations, perspectives, and calls for an apology. Since *Time* has an international distribution, and since there are a few hams outside the US, they've been getting quite a bit of email from the rest of the world as well. We have no idea how many stamp collectors there are, or if they are also sending complaints, but we're pretty sure they have a few outside the US also.

Probably all that will come from this is a momentary clog in *Time's* email server. "Faintly Embarrassing" indeed.

National Ham News

Thanks, ARRL Letter

No Immediate Action on Amateur Restructuring

The ARRL does not anticipate the FCC will offer up any proposals on the Morse requirement and further restructuring of the Amateur Radio licensing system until sometime in mid-2005, possibly sooner. The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau continues to review thousands of comments it received on 18 petitions for rule making--including one from the ARRL.

The various petitions called for eliminating or altering the Morse code requirement and changing other sections of the Amateur Service Part 97 rules, including further restructuring of the amateur licensing system.

In addition to agreeing on other changes affecting Amateur Radio, World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), left the choice to require Morse proficiency for HF access up to individual countries, and several already have dropped Morse code as an examination requirement. That has not yet happened in the US.

Before the FCC adopts any changes in the Morse requirement and the license structure, it must complete its comment review, issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) reflecting its interpretation of consensus within the amateur community based on comments received and invite further comments on the NPRM. The FCC then will review those comments before issuing a Report and Order that spells out any final rules. The ARRL does not anticipate any changes in the Morse

requirement or in other Amateur Radio licensing requirements before 2006, possibly later.

While this rule making process is under way, no changes have been made in the Amateur Radio Service rules. The 5 WPM Morse code requirement (Element 1) to gain HF privileges in the US remains in place, and no proposed automatic upgrades or other rule changes have been put into effect. The ARRL has posted answers to frequently asked questions on its own restructuring proposals at:

www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html

Handheld Trumps Cell Phone in Wake of Accident

When Storey County, Nevada, Emergency Coordinator Randy Davenport, KA4NMA, got into an automobile accident early on December 10, he sure was glad to have his 2-meter handheld transceiver along. "I was going down a side road and hit a sheet of ice," he reports. "I fishtailed into the other lane and nearly hit a car head on! But for some reason, my Ford Explorer turned sideways going down the road, and it did not roll over." Instead, he ended up sliding off the roadway into a creek, sustaining some injuries in the process. "I had no cell phone service, so I grabbed my HT and put out a call on 146.61," he said (the antenna for his 2-meter mobile was broken in the accident). Richard Foreman, KK7SL, an ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator in Carson City, heard his distress call and dialed 911. "The fire and sheriff department was on the scene within minutes," Davenport said. "Lesson learned: Cell phones do not work everywhere. Always carry a 2-meter radio (or other band) of some sort--handheld with charged battery or mobile--for emergency communication."

Where To For Sierra Signals in 2005?

Normally, Sierra Signals has six pages in the body plus the front and back pages. This month, it is four (obviously, it has to be even) -- that's really all the "news" there was to print, and some wasn't even news. What do you expect from your Club newsletter? We have few technological limits on what we can have ... pictures, diagrams, schematics ... all are easily doable.

Would someone be willing to choose a member each month for an interview (and some pictures) as a "Member of the Month?" Let's make this a real Club Newsletter, one that truly reflects what the membership wants to hear and read about. The email address is on the front page.



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SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2004 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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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:	\$ _____
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