

Sierra Signals

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

<http://sf-arc.org>

October 2005

P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658

AO-51 in High Power mode

(Reported by Greg, KO6TH)

Here's your chance!

The low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite "AO-51" is going to be in high power mode from October 17 to the 23rd. This will be an excellent time to give satellite communications a try!

High Power mode means that the satellite will be spraying it's RF at the whopping level of 2 watts, from its lofty elevation of 450 miles. Now, 450 miles is the satellite's height over the ground; the slant range (from its antenna to yours) is more like a few thousand miles. For those of us used to VHF or UHF communications down here on the ground, even through a repeater this is a very long way to go. But there's good news; this really is line-of-sight communications. No buildings in the way, no mountains, and, really, not even much air.

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

OFFICERS

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REPORTERS

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

WEBMASTER

Marc North, W6SQL
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

Thursdays, 7:30PM, K6ARR/R
145.430

CLUB MEETINGS

Second Friday of the month,
7:30PM at the Library, 350
Nevada St, Auburn CA

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

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AO-51 in high power mode is still a fairly weak signal affair. Your typical HT "Rubber Duckie" antenna is not ideal for this. An extended whip, ground plane, or better yet, a small beam is needed. Fortunately, the satellite has a sensitive receiver, so you don't need much power on the uplink. In this mode, AO-51 will be listening on 145.920 mhz, and transmitting back to us on 435.300 mhz. This cross-band operation is sort of like

(continued on page 2)

2005 Calendar of Events

(Operating Events in Italics)

[Dates are local unless otherwise indicated]

Oct 14	Regular Mtg & White Elephant Sale
Oct 15-17	Pacificon
Oct 29	Club Breakfast
Nov 11	Regular Mtg & Elections
Nov 26	Club Breakfast
Dec 9	Annual Club Christmas Potluck
Dec 31	Club Breakfast

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

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Forty Years Ago At The SFARC

(Reported by Gary, KQ6RT)

October 20, 1965

President Sage Otow opened the meeting about 2015 with 7 members and 1 guest present. The treasurer reported \$28.08 balance in the checking account. The secretary's report was not called for so it was not given. Probably just as well as nothing much of importance happened to report.

The trailer is in about the same state as last reported.

Disused CD-2 meters – Can get material from the county through Bud Ganow according to Joe. Bow Owens is in charge of CAP. CD meets tomorrow night.

ARRL did as might be expected--. Sent a telegram instead of the movies that had been arranged for, so Jack got three movies that he showed– Photosynthesis and Respiratory Cycle, Crisis at Guantanamo, and Deserts of California. We were promised the ARRL movies for next month's meeting.

Frank suggested some code work for the next meeting. If you want to copy code o.k., if not you don't have to, but can sit and ragchew.

The trail ride committee would like us to plan on helping with next year's ride.

Joe offered to bring a cake for next meeting. Meeting adjourned about 2150.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard H. Lund, WA6HYO

73,
Gary, KQ6RT

AO-51

(Continued from front page)

working a repeater with a really big shift.

To work a satellite, you need to know when it will be passing by. There are lots of programs out there for your PC or hand-held computer, but the easiest way is to go to NASA's satellite tracking site: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/>,

where you can select the satellite to track and your location, and it will display the next set of passes.

Then, when the appointed time arrives, grab your dual band radio and antenna, and get ready. Tune the transmit side to the uplink frequency (145.920), with a PL of 67 hz. On the other side, start with 435.310 mhz. We will be need to track doppler shift on the receive side, and will let the satellite's FM capture effect take care of us on the uplink. As the pass progresses, adjust the UHF side for best signal, and listen. Move the antenna around, but try not to look like you're casting some sort of demonic spell if the neighbors are watching. Once you can hear the satellite, try throwing your call in between others. It's best if you can listen to the downlink while transmitting, either on a full duplex rig, or with another radio. That way you will know you're getting through.

Good luck and 73,

Greg KO6TH

White Elephant

Don't miss our October club meeting – its our annual White Elephant Sale! Bring your old radios, parts, pieces, etc. to donate and don't forget your wallet so you can pick up a new treasure. Remember all proceeds go toward the club's Christmas party.

(Any items not sold must be taken home by the owner.)

SECTION NEWS

(Reported by Jettie, W6RFF)

As we go into the last quarter of the year most clubs are looking for nominations for officers for year 2006. This is your chance to put something back into amateur radio by becoming a club officer or committee chairman or committee member. In most cases it only takes an hour or two a month to do the job. Those clubs that have swap meets or special events can take longer, but if many people help out, the load is lightened. Club meetings, presentations, newsletters, plus active officers can make a viable club and that can help keep their members. Club affiliation with the ARRL can bring excellent information on running a club and the latest amateur news and information. Also please promote the ARRL. In the Sacramento Valley Section ARRL members are only about 21 percent of the total licensed amateurs. Twenty years ago it was over 30 percent.

PACIFICON: The annual Pacific Division ARRL Convention will be held at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, in San Ramon on October 15, 16, and 17th. There will be many presentations on various amateur radio topics. There will also be a separate

QRP gathering. There will be exhibits by several groups and the latest in amateur equipment will be demonstrated and for sale. The vendors usually have special convention pricing, so you have a chance to save on that new rig. On Friday there will be a presentation on antennas -- at an additional cost. The ARRL will have a booth where you can meet the Division Director and the several Section Managers. Information on all of the convention events can be found at www.pacificon.org. See you there.

CONTESTERS: The Sacramento Valley group, mostly members of the Northern California Contesting Club, had an enjoyable gathering in Auburn, with many stories of previous contests and new ideas on contesting. An excellent lunch was provided by Fred K6DGW at his QTH.

CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY (CQP): The Mother Lode DX and Contest Club is hoping to win the annual NCCC award for the highest club score, during the CQP contest. The Redwood Empire club is also hoping to win, and topple MLDXCC's winning streak. I contacted several stations that made over 2000 contacts. My operation was interrupted by a wedding reception and our wedding anniversary.

DX: The DXpedition to Kure Island kept the bands busy for about 10 days. This was an unusual operation as they sent the information on their contacts, by satellite, and in a few minutes after making a contact you could see it confirmed on the DXpedition's web page and it also showed which bands and modes you had made contacts. Most groups probably could not afford to use the satellite service, as they did on this trip.

DX LOG OF THE WORLD: LoTW now has logs from over 250 countries in the files. If you are a DXer or Contester, you can enter your log files and get possible matches with DX stations, that can be applied toward DXCC, instead of requiring paper QSLs. This is open to ARRL members.

EMCOMM: So far the fire season has not been too bad. No big out of control fires and we should start to get a little rain in October, BUT we still need to keep On The Ready, with our GO bags. Who knows what the winter will bring. Dave, K6SOJ, the Section Emergency Coordinator keeps his organization on their toes. Dave's EMCOMM Monthly is published the first of each month. To subscribe send an email to k6soj@arrl.net. It is free and full of information on emergency communication.

At least two SV members have been in the South East disaster areas providing communications for the Red Cross. There is still a need for hams to replace those now in the disaster areas. The Midwest and East coast have supplied most of the hams, mostly because of the cost and time for traveling to the areas. At least the amateurs are finally getting some recognition from some of the government agencies, such as FEMA.

MISC: This has been a hectic couple of weeks for me and I am running behind time in getting this monthly report out to our section members. This report goes to about 850 members by email. As we approach the year end, things will slow down,

but I will have to dig deeper for information for this Section News.

73, Jettie, W6RFF

September Meeting Minutes

(Reported by Paul, KB6NYB)

Minutes of the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club Meeting, Friday Sept. 9, 2005 at the Auburn, California main library.

The SFARC Board of Directors meeting convened at 1830 hrs., attending: Casey, W7IB, George, KG6LSB, and Larry, AE6CC. Subjects discussed: White Elephant Sale, Christmas dinner, November election and classified on the web site.

President Casey called the general meeting to order at 1932 hrs. and led all members and visitors in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. He introduced the club officers and invited all members and visitors to introduce themselves. Officers submitted their reports. V.E. and A.R.E.S. reports were made. Casey advised that the new club call sign was official: W6EK. Break for refreshments and raffle at 2018 hrs. Resumed meeting at 2040 hrs. Gary, N6UWQ demonstrated homemade 300 ohm tv lead in wire, portable j-pole antenna. Meeting adjourned at 2139 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Alford, Secretary

KB6NYB

EMCOMM News

(Reprinted from EMCOMM Monthly-October 2005)

The EM PHILOSOPHY

The RIGHT FORMULA: (For effective and efficient field communications.)

The RIGHT PEOPLE: Properly trained, exercised, proficient, and disciplined communicators.

The RIGHT PLACE: Prepared to operate. Whether at home, at an ECC, mobile, or portable.

The RIGHT TIME: Prepared NOW for emergency communications later. Anytime they are needed.

The RIGHT EQUIPMENT: Simple, self-powered, dependable, durable, and portable.

The RIGHT PLAN: Structured and well defined. But not so rigid as to not allow leaders to make course corrections.

As long as we continue to support the notion that it is an effective utilization of the amateur resource for individual agencies to recruit their own cadre of amateur operators, many of whom are untrained, inexperienced and undisciplined; and who (attempt to) set-up and operate "their own" networks, amateur radio emcomm will continue to wallow in confusion, and our mission of service to the public (Part 97.1) will be only mediocre at best. In large incidents especially, strategically deployed EMCOMM teams (ARCTs) capable of handling message traffic, whether it be tactical or formal, whether it be *EMERGENCY, PRIORITY, WELFARE or ROUTINE*. It should make no difference if the originator of a message is a private citizen or an official with an NGO or a government agency. The important thing is that each message have a stated /precedence/ and that the message is properly addressed. The originating station may be a "no-code tech" using a HT in a shelter, aboard a small boat with a damage survey team, or in a radio room behind the counter at a full service amateur field station.

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS - KATRINA and RITA

The recovery phase of the Hurricane Katrina catastrophe and Hurricane Rita is underway. Over the next months and years many lessons will be learned (if we, as a people, are willing to listen). Several of Katrina and Rita's lessons are already evident. One is that it is unrealistic to assume that "the government" is capable of protecting or managing rescue and relief efforts for victims of major disasters, and that the "infrastructure" is NOT fail-safe. During Katrina several deficiencies regarding emergency and public service communications were obvious:

1. Skilled, experienced, disciplined radio amateurs capable of properly handling message traffic are in short supply. This deficiency is only worsens every day...as a generation of dedicated operators keys (or mics) go silent. The most obvious deficiency noted during Katrina was the inability of the amateur service to handle large quantities of message traffic. Thousands of messages were either lost or mishandled due to incomplete address, improper formatting, and inaccurate relay of message texts. As I listened to some of the (so-called) traffic nets, I was appalled by what I heard! It takes about two hours to learn the basics of traffic handling.

-- IS THIS TOO MUCH TO ASK OF EVERY EMCOMM OPERATOR? --

2. There is a serious lack of over-all leadership, planning and coordination. This is true at the highest levels of both government and amateur radio.

3. Radio amateurs capable of mobilizing quickly with highly portable, self-powered, multi-mode (CW/SSB/FM), field stations are in short supply.

4. HF propagation patterns vary and are constantly changing. Ignorance of propagation patterns abounds. (E.g. - 20 meters is a poor choice for regional operations.)

5. Voice communications may drop out at any time. Digital was rare or non-existent. CW will work when nothing else will.

(A QRP rig, a small battery, a key, a piece of wire, a yellow pad and pencil in the hands of trained and experienced operator will work wonders!)

6. Agency officials are not aware of the importance of communications. And certainly not aware of the potential of amateur radio!

But before we brag about how great we are...and how effective we can be...we had better get our own house in order! From its inception, EMCOMM MONTHLY has emphasized preparedness. Specifically: preparedness through training, practice and experience.

EM is tired of waiting for others to act. In the next few months EM will move ahead aggressively towards solving some of these problems.

KATRINA AFTERMATH - NEWS FROM THE FRONT:

From Chris Robinson, KF6NFW via Joe Park, WB6AGR ARRL/OES Modesto, CA --

R Sep 7 2132PDT: -- "I am in Baton Rouge. will be here for a long while.

am on communications team here. Got to meet some of the ECRV operators, special thanks to ECRV 4708 today for information, no one else could get the phone number for the Red Cross in Baton Rouge. Not as scared or nervous about situation, it is tense but NOTHING like what you are seeing on TV those are isolated incidents as of this time. Will be traveling from shelter to shelter establishing communications between centers. Electric is up in half of state now, but to expect system failures here and there, same with cell sites. My solar panel was broke during the shuffle, so have no way other than 110vac when avail to recharge systems. Water is ok at this time, but sticking to the bottled stuff. I have met many neat and helpful people, as well as some of the not so nice ones. Well need to get out of here, others wishing to follow in my steps and use this machine. this is the only computer here connected for outside communications. I am staying at the Our Lady of Mercy church/shelter here, and it is time to go to bed to. My regards to all back home."

R Sep 16 1202PDT: -- : "I have been all over state. Sickening sights. Have taken over the communications team at Cajun Dome in Lafayette, LA, and ECRV management. -- Chris Robinson, KF6NFW

"My son Wayne, KB7OYI, has been helping with relief efforts for two weeks. He is part of INTEL and is part of a team that volunteered to setup laptops at Red Cross shelters. He has a Blog that may be worth checking out." To view the BLOG browse to: <http://www.wirelessfort.net/blog/>

-- Wes Allen, K7WWG, Beaverton, OR

November Elections


Yes, its that time of the year again – November is the meeting we elect our officers for the new year. If you are feeling the call to be on the Board of Directors, or if you would like to be the Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, or yes, even President, please let one of the current officers know and you will be added to the ballot! To inspire you to consider this wonderful opportunity, I've decided to include a list of our past Presidents (thanks for the list Gary!).

Presidents of SFARC**1958 - 2005**

1958	Theron "Woody" Woods	W6ANX
1959	Theron "Woody" Woods	W6ANX
1960	Jim Carman	K6ARR
1961	Lindell Hunter	K6IEH
1962	Dick Lund	WA6HYO
1963	Frank Carman	K6TFD
1964	Clay Goodpastor	WA6UHV
1965	Seiichi "Sage" Otow	K6ZWZ
1966	Joe Merryman	WB6KUT
1967 ?	Joe Merryman	WB6KUT
June 1967 - July 1972 , The Lost Years - No Official Club Meetings of SFARC		
1972 - 77	Jim Carman	K6ARR
1978	Carroll Evans	WB6DTI
1979	Craig Bledsoe	K4TXK
1980	Doug Horton	WB6HEV
1981	Jim Matessino	KA6ESF
1982	Jim Matessino	KA6ESF
1983	Mary Ann Simmons	K6HJA (KI6TE)
1984	Theron "Woody" Woods	W6ANX
1985	Jim Standley	KA6GZI
1986	Eric Peterson	W6PZJ
1987	Jettie Hill	W6RFF
1988	Jettie Hill	W6RFF
1989	Dennis Bartoldo	N6PMI
1990	Dennis Bartoldo	N6PMI
1991	Mark Forbes	KC9C
1992	Dennis Bartoldo	N6PMI

1993	Janet Huttula	KC6LIX
1994	Roger Hedgpeth	N7EUQ (N7TK)
1995	Martha Vance	KA6WUW
1996	Bob Boeckman	WA6ULL
1997	Greg Huttula	KC6LOE
1998	Gary Cunningham	KQ6RT
1999	Wayne Mikel	KE6DJE
2000	Wayne Mikel	KE6DJE
2001	Matt Diridoni	KC6RUO
2002	Richard Kuepper	WA6RWS
2003	Richard Kuepper	WA6RWS
2004	Rob Carpenter	WW6G
2005	Casey McPartland	W7IB

So if you would like to see your name here too someday, we'd love to see your name on the ballot.



Don Tollefson
Owner

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