

Sierra Signals

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

<http://sf-arc.org>

December 2005

P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658

Problems at the U.P. Train Yard

(Reported by Chuck, KG6FFK)

Placer County Golden Guardian 205 Simulated Emergency Test began about 09:00 on Nov. 15. This SET was the largest SET to take place in the state of CA ever. This level of testing will be required of all counties in CA every 3 years. This year CA simulated an event where there were several instances of terrorism attacks within a few minutes of each other. Simulated explosive devices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Sacramento caused the closing of bridges and roads. Locally our simulated problems arose when train cars carrying chemicals were ruptured which resulted in explosions that in turn ruptured other cars on tracks going in opposite directions. First the acetone car was shot by a terrorist which caused leaking and an explosion, then that blast caused an irreparable leak in the chlorine car. The neighboring car was damaged but eventually repaired, which contained hydrogen disulfide.

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

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Casey McPartland, W7IB
w7ib@arrl.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Ed Morell, N6EOD

SECRETARY

Paul Alford, KB6NYB
pla@wizwire.com

TREASURER

Donna Hodge, KD6PJJ
dhodge2644@aol.com

DIRECTORS

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

Larry Hodge, AE6CC

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

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

Deb Cunningham, KF6LXN
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Counties Special Forces were called into play. In Placer Co. Amateur Radio Emergency Services were deployed to aid in the protection of life and property by providing, what Placer Co. called, back-bone communications that kept an alternate means of communications when phone lines became inoperative. You wouldn't think that a gas leak of toxic fumes would cause the phone system to become over loaded.
(continued on page 2)

2005/6 Calendar of Events

(Operating Events in Italics)

[Dates are local unless otherwise indicated]

Dec 2-4	<i>ARRL 160m Contest</i>
Dec 9	Annual Club Christmas Potluck
Dec 10-11	<i>ARRL 10m Contest</i>
Dec 17	<i>OK DX RTTY</i>
Dec 17-18	<i>Stew Perry Topband Challenge</i>
Dec 31	Club Breakfast
Jan 13	Regular Meeting
Jan 28	Club Breakfast
Feb 10	Regular Meeting
Feb 25	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)

December 15, 1965

We met at Civil Defense building. Had seven members present so didn't have election of officers. Ate cookies brought by Dick Lund and had bull session and adjourned.

Dick Lund, Secretary

WA6HYO

73,

Gary, KQ6RT

SET

(Continued from front page)

However in a real to life drill the phones did become over loaded. This was due to manipulation by what is called a simulation Cell. The Sim Cell has the authority to interject any reasonable irritation that could happen in a real life situation. After delivery of an important message there was need of response. So, Auburn's Office of Emergency Services indicated that they could just call the other EOC (Emergency Operations Center) on the phone...10 minutes later ARES was asked to deliver a message as all phone systems were jammed and Auburn OES could not get through. Those at Auburn's OES received a first hand view of where ARES could lend a necessary hand if this had been an actual emergency. ARES provided emergency communications between: ground zero or incident command with George Simmons KG6LSB shadowing Dick Simmons of Placer Co. OES. Rocklin Emergency Operations Center Communications trailer manned by Gary Kramer WD6CVG. Ralph Lucas W6RWL covered Rocklin's Fire Station #77. Richard Kuepper WA6RWS and Eldred Wilkerson KD6ZSL were stationed at Roseville EOC Fire Station #1 where they did not know what, if any, radio infrastructure existed...It was good to be prepared as there wasn't even a radio room. Richard and Eldred had to find tables, power source, run transmission cables out of doors and set antennas. Paul Alford KB6NYB, Gary Martinez N6UWQ, Chuck Minton KG6FFK, and Andy Minton KG6PIY managed the paper shuffle at Auburn OES and operated primarily from the new OES's Kenwood 2000 and one backup radio via cables through doors to a quick pipe stuck in the ground mast and antenna system. Handhelds were very useful when on occasion we needed to leave the building. Sutter Hospital Roseville ARES was controlled by Mike Schumacher W6QB and Steve Faulkner KF6OCE. The antenna was supposed to have been

ready to go..Steve and Mike were prepared and used their own systems as the cable drops never made it in. At Sutter Auburn Faith Bob McInnis KG6BQG and Don Hay WB6LPJ were deployed to handle serious traffic and work with a radio that was insistent on being hard to handle. More than once tac frequencies proved useful. At Kaiser Roseville Dave Hund N6SHD helped with Joe Sylvia KF6OQY and Dottie Sylvia K6DMS. Joe heads up Kaiser Roseville's own emergency communications system known as Item 46 Kaiser Roseville.

At Auburn OES contact was established with REOC, Regional Emergency Operations Center in Modesto on both VHF (with a Yagi up at 30 feet at their end) and on HF on 7232Khz via Darrel W7LTM in the foothills of Coulterville and also our good friend WB6AGR Joe Park in Modesto proper. HF and VHF contact was also established with CA OES in Sacramento. An Emergency session Emcomm HF net was initiated and operated out of the state of Nevada and Placer Co. ARES was checked in to this net as well.

Everyone that participated found it an inspiring and very educational experience to see how we may one day (we all hope not) be utilized by our own county and what we could be up against if that time should ever arise.

Thank you to all who spent time and resources to make this a success.

Respectfully, Chuck KG6FFK.

(See photos at the end of the newsletter)

From the President's Desk

(Reported by Casey, W7IB)

Well here we are in December, and another year is about done. I've been reflecting on 2005 and will make a few observations after we get the club business out of the way.

The 2006 officers have been elected and yours truly will "preside" for one more year. During the November meeting the membership was polled to determine their desires for programs in 2006. A number of good suggestions were made and will appear elsewhere in this month's newsletter.

The Christmas Dinner meeting is rapidly approaching and there will be the usual drawings, but this year we've decided to take a little different approach to the **Grand Prize**--> This year's Grand Prize will allow its recipient to select up to **\$400.00 in merchandise** from AES...that's right folks, the Grand Prize is a \$400 gift certificate! The only place you can buy tickets is at the Christmas Dinner! **Grand Prize tickets are 1 for a dollar, and 6 for \$5, so be there and buy those tickets!**

Also, the usual offer stands for those pay their membership dues for 2006 at the Christmas Dinner meeting...one free ticket for the regular raffle!! Paying at the dinner is a good deal for you and for the SFARC.

2005 was an active year for the club, and amateur radio in general. We had a number of interesting and different presentations at club meetings, including the infamous Casey-forgot-to-pick-up-the-key-to-the-library-so-we-had-to-meet-outside meeting (and-boy-were-we-lucky-the-weather-was-

nice!) Field Day was a great time as always and we'd really like to see more members active this coming year. The work of SFARC members on the Western States and Tevis Cup races drew praise from the sponsoring organizations and many members are looking forward to working these events in 2006.

The ARES team has grown during the year, and with the departure of Joe WB6AGR, Chuck KG6FFK took on the responsibilities of Placer County EC. Great work is being done by Chuck as he builds and strengthens the ARES team relationships with the community and served agencies. As a result, this year's SET exercise was a resounding success – however, there's always room for improvement. The better we get, the better we need to become! It was a year of limited flooding and minimal fires, but it was also a year that required SFARC members to go out and provide service and assistance to other locations in California, and nationally! I don't have to go into a lot of detail about the hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast, but members Chris KF6NFW and Harry W6HFM were called upon, along with many other hams, by the American Red Cross to help out and spent *not* days, but months away from home and hearth – great job guys!

The VE Team under the direction of Larry AE6CC has had a great year - many new hams were "smoked" and others upgraded. The team is looking forward to new challenges in anticipation of the FCC licensing changes that are imminent. And, many thanks to Don WB6LPJ for picking up the mantle of trainer to get a new class of hams ready for their first exam!

Yes, 2005 was a year of many accomplishments. It was a year of continued growth by a great club. Congratulations to those of you who helped make it happen! My 2006 challenge to the membership is for each of us to take the initiative and get involved – bring the ideas and creativity, and be ready to make things happen! If every one of us gives 2 or 3 hours to the club, or donates a one of our unique skills or talents, imagine the pride we will be able to take in a great organization.

Have a safe and healthy Holiday Season, and we'll look forward to a fun and exciting 2006!

73 and the very best for the New Year

de W7IB and Oscar the 7 ½ wpm Dachshund (W7IB/k9)

Plans Change on the ISS

(Reported by Greg, KO6TH)

So, just when I thought it was safe to write about something neat that was about to happen, something comes up and changes everything. I hate it when that happens. Just so you know, I was going to write about the upcoming launch of Suit Sat, the amateur satellite built from radio parts, an arm full (literally) of "D" cell batteries, and an old Russian space suit; your typical ham radio project. Suit Sat was scheduled to be launched out of the hatch of the International Space Station during a spacewalk scheduled for December 7th of this year.

Unfortunately, the crew is a bit busy, and since they were able to get a little ahead on their home improvement projects on their last space walk, the December walk has been postponed until early next year, likely in February. So, the launch won't be until then. And since plans do have a habit of changing when it comes to space things, I'll file an update on Suit Sat as the launch date gets closer.

But that doesn't mean that the astronauts on the Station are sooo busy that they don't have time for some fun. Reports are that Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, has been active recently, making random contacts with folks on the ground. The previous crew limited their ham activity to scheduled contacts with schools, and maybe a few random contacts right afterwards. But over the past few weeks, hams across the country and around the world have been treated to an un-Earthly "CQ". The calls seem to come mostly mid-day or early evening on board the Station, which runs on the UTC clock. So, that makes it middle of the night to early in the morning our time. You can look for recently reported contacts on the Oscar Satellite Status page (<http://oscar.dcarr.org>), and the "ISS" line near the bottom.

With some luck, anyone with a Technician license or better can work them too. All it takes is a 2 meter FM rig that can work odd splits. The downlink is on 145.800 mhz (plus or minus about 5 khz of doppler), and the voice uplink on 144.490. To find out when the Station will be passing by, the Amsat website has a real-time prediction tool. Look <http://www.amsat.org> and click on "Passes" on the toolbar at the top. Most likely all you will hear is the occasional buzzing of 1200 BAUD Packet radio. With a TNC hooked to the rig, you should be able to copy both APRS as well as station to station digipeating. The packet uplink is on 145.990 (another odd split), if you want to give that a try. But listen for the packet to stop, and perhaps you'll hear Bill's voice calling CQ. Or, the packet will start up again. Either way you'll have heard something out of this world.

73s,

Greg KO6TH

November Meeting Minutes

(Reported by Paul, KB6NYB)

Minutes of the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club Meeting, Friday Nov. 11, 2005 at the Auburn, California main library.

1855-1922 - SFARC Board of Directors meeting was held, attending were: Casey, W7IB, Donna, KD6PJJ, George, KG6LSB, Kevin, K7TST, Larry, AE6CC, and Ed, N6EOD. Discussed schedule of events & activities for 2006, upcoming Christmas pot luck dinner & what to bring, \$400.00 gift certificate from A.E.S. catalog for the grand prize at the dinner was suggested, voted & passed. Also \$200.00 donation to the Newcastle United Methodist Church (location of Christmas dinner) was suggested, voted on & passed. President, Casey will contact the Parrish's for the entertainment.

1931 - President Casey called the general meeting to order 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, A.R.E.S. and V.E. reports were made.

2010 - Election was held for club officers & board members for 2006. A motion was made and seconded, voted on and passed by membership for a "white paper" ballot for the following: President Casey, W7IB; Vice President Ed, N6EOD; Treasurer George, KG6LSB; Secretary Leslie, K7NYE; Board of Directors - Dottie, K6DMS; Joe, KF6OQY; and Wayne, W6DT. Approved, voted on & passed by membership. End of election.

2022 - break

2034 - General meeting resumed with further discussion re: 2006 activities, projects, meetings, & training.

2117 - 2128 - raffle; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Alford, Secretary

KB6NYB

From our Treasurer Elect

(Reported by George,KG6LSB)

Financial notes -

1. Please remember to pay your dues at the Christmas party. On the newsletter's last page is the form you fill in and bring to the meeting with your check.

2. All members who renew at the meeting will get 1 free raffle ticket for the grand prize drawing.

3. The GRAND PRIZE will be a \$400 gift certificate at ARES so you can pick what you want.

And now something completely different...

MS Walk events:

The club will be supporting 2 MS walk events in 2006, one in Rocklin and one in Auburn. Rocklin is the 29th of April, a 5K walk in the afternoon.

Auburn is the 6th of May a 5/10K in the morning. We try to add some practice message traffic on the Auburn Walk because there is quite a bit of dead air time during the walk.

The Auburn walk will be similar to last year's with 4 rest stops in the same places and 2 SAG vehicles so if you're interested in a working in special place let me know.

Please let me know if you're interested in either or both events.

George KG6LSB

Future Meeting Topics

(Reported by Leslie,K7NYE)

During the last club meeting of November 11th, future meeting topics were gathered from the membership in open session. Here are the recorded topics introduced by members for 2006 (and beyond) club meetings and/or functions. As yet, no specific dates have been set for these topics. Member input is always appreciated and should be submitted via email to Vice President Ed Morrell, N6EOD@arrl.net.

- 1) QRP - W7PT Guest Speaker
- 2) Profiles of Radio Celebrities through Graphoanalysis - K7NYE
- 3) Portable Antennas - possibly W6MMA
- 4) Review of Tevis/Western States - possibly K6DGW or W6RWL
- 5) CW
- 6) Slow Scan TV
- 7) "Bring - a - Friend Night"
- 8) Mapping Reading and GPS Technology
- 9) Share Amateur Radio with a Scout Troop
- 10) Repeaters - possibly N6ICW
- 11) DXpedition
- 12) Local Expedition (field trips)
- 13) Movie-Video Night (Radio related)
- 14) Search and Rescue
- 15) Emergency Response - possibly KF6NFW
- 16) Survival/Emergency Kits

Photos from SET



Eldred, KD6ZSL & Richard, WA6RWS at Roseville EOC.



Steve, KF6OCE at Sutter Roseville Hospital



Air Quality Control checking for levels of toxic fumes.



Sacramento Special Enforcement Detail

Special thanks to Mike, W6QB & George, KG6LSB for photos.


Directions to Christmas Party

From Sacramento: Take Hwy 80 East toward Reno. Exit Newcastle Rd./Indian Hill exit. Turn left at the light onto Newcastle Rd. Go over the freeway, the road will bear to the left and dead end at Old State Highway. Turn right on Old State Highway (the road will take a few curves) and then turn right on Buena Vista. The church is on the left about a block from the Old State Highway.

From Auburn: Take Hwy 80 West toward Sacramento. Exit Newcastle Rd. exit. Turn right onto Newcastle Rd. The road will bear to the left and dead end at Old State Highway. Turn right on Old State Highway (the road will take a few curves) and then turn right on Buena Vista. The church is on the left about a block from the Old State Highway.



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