

Sierra Signals

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

September 2007

P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658

Upcoming School Contact

(Reported by Greg, KO6TH)

The following notice appeared on the SAREX-BB Internet reflector, under the heading of "Upcoming School Contacts":
Westbrook Intermediate, Clear Creek, Texas, telebridge via W6SRJ (***)
Fri 2007-09-14 18:40 UTC 31 deg (***)

So?

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

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REPORTERS

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH

History: Gary, KQ6RT

Contesting: Fred, K6DGW

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

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What this means is that the Westbrook Intermediate School in Texas will be hosting a live question and answer session between the school's students and the astronauts on the International Space Station, via Amateur Radio.

(continued on page 2)

2007 Calendar of Events

(Operating Events in Italics)

[Dates are local unless otherwise indicated]

Sept 9	<i>NCJ Sprint(CW)</i>
Sept 14	Regular Meeting
Sept 16	<i>NCJ Sprint(SSB)</i>
Sept 29	Club Breakfast
Sept 29-30	<i>CQ Worldwide DX Contest(RTTY)</i>
Sept 29-30	<i>Texas QSO Party</i>
Oct 6	VE Session
Oct 12	Regular Meeting-White Elephant Sale
Oct 27	Club Breakfast
Nov 3	VE Session

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

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Thirty Years Ago At The SFARC

(Reported by Gary, KQ6RT)

September 24, 1977

SFARC attended an NARC meeting at Sacramento Airport and was allocated a new frequency for WR6ADI to operate on if and when the FCC approves the change.

73,
Gary
KQ6RT

School Contact

(Continued from front page)

The Ham station involved is W6SRJ, which is the school station at the Santa Rosa Junior College, in Santa Rosa, California. They will be linked with the school in Texas via a "Telebridge", which is sort of like an intercom link between Santa Rosa and Texas.

18:40 UTC is 11:40am here in Auburn, on Friday September 14th. And, Santa Rosa is only 80-odd miles from here, which puts us well within a good part of the "footprint" of the Space Station. That means we can listen in on the astronauts as they answer the students' questions, because both Santa Rosa and Auburn will both be within line of sight of the Station as it passes over the area.

The total pass is only about 10 minutes or so in length. In order to get the most out of the limited time, the students' questions have been prepared in advance. The students take their turns at the microphone, asking their question, and the astronauts reply. There is certainly going to be an audience of parents, teachers, community members, and the press on hand to witness the event.

So, get ready for a stellar eavesdropping event. Tune your radio to the ISS' downlink frequency of 148.800 mhz on your mobile rig or HT. Don't forget about the Doppler shift; you may need to adjust your receive frequency a little during the event. The usual shift is less than 5 khz, so one click either side of 145.800 should be sufficient to bring in the best audio. You will also likely need a bit more of an antenna than the stock "rubber duckie" that comes with an HT. A mobile whip should do nicely, or one of those "extended" HT whip antennas will help. The more antenna you have, the more of the pass you will be able to hear. But just hearing part of the pass is sure to be memorable.

Because the orbit of the ISS may shift a bit over the next few weeks, you should start listening a few minutes before the appointed 11:40am start time, in case they are early, and keep listening until later. (My software says the pass won't start until 11:48, but these things change.) At it's peak, the ISS will

be about 25 degrees above the western horizon, as viewed from here. You won't want to miss this!

For an example of a school contact, the Scouts in Chelmsford, England recorded their event, and have it posted on line. Take a look at <http://www.issfanclub.com/node/6192> and scroll down to see the questions asked, and a link to the video of the event. (It's a 21mb file, so find a buddy with a high speed Internet link to download it.)

73s,
Greg KO6TH

White Elephant

The October meeting on the 12th will be our annual White Elephant Sale.

Remember all the proceeds go to the Club Treasury for the treasurer's next trip or the Club's annual Christmas Dinner on December 14th which ever comes first.

Anything that doesn't sell will have to be taken home by the donor due to the lack of trash disposal at the Library.

So start gathering your extra stuff that can be auctioned off to the highest bidder and let's make some money for the Club.

George
KG6LSB

Contesting

The Sport of Amateur Radio

(Reported by Fred, K6DGW)

Selected Contests for September:

As always, the complete list can be found on Bruce's page at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/ but the slim summer contest season is winding down, and, except for a couple, September is the horse latitudes of contesting. Just wait 'til October! This is what's out there, you can read my recommendations below.

All Asian DX [SSB]: 1 Sep 0000Z – 2 Sep 2400Z
ncjwww.arrl.org/contests/months/sep.html

NCJ Sprint [CW]: 9 Sep 0000Z – 0400Z www.ncjweb.com

NCJ Sprint [SSB]: 16 Sep 000Z – 0400Z ncjweb.com

CQ Worldwide DX Contest [RTTY]: 29 Sep 0000Z – 30 Sep 2400Z cqww.com

Texas QSO Party: 29 Sep 1400Z – 30 Sep 0200Z
www.txqp.org
30 Sep 1400Z – 2000Z

Contest Chatter: We're in the early fall doldrums in the athletic parts of ham radio, but it gets better fairly fast. First off, conditions being what they are at the end of Cycle 23, the All Asian DX is a fairly good deal for us left-coasters. Lower bands in the early morning [before and around sun-up]. Have your QSL's ready in about a year or so, you'll get a lot of JA

requests. We've done the NCJ Sprints ["The most fun you can have in 4 hours with your clothes on"] before. There is a Thursday night conflagration from 1930 – 2000 run by the No. Calif. Contest Club. It's a good chance to get some practice in the Sprint format. All the usual rules, except you only have to QSY 1 KHz.

If you're a RTTY ham, the CQ WW is a great chance to pick up some new ones on RTTY. There may be a few Q's to be made on other digital modes, but the main emphasis is on standard 175 Hz shift RTTY. Activity will be intense ... the big question is ... "can any of us hear it?"

Texas QSO Party is a fun event. Texas is big. I know, I've lived there and we made a kid there [she's still our wild child, must have been something in the water]. When my parents were on the way to visit us for the first time in Houston [coming from Los Angeles], Dad called from El Paso and said, "OK, we're in Texas." I said, "Congratulations Dad, you're about half way here." He didn't believe me until he looked at the map. Like all State QP's, counties are the multipliers. Only -- Texas has 23<mumble> of them! The big thing in the TQP is "follow the mobiles." They have a huge number of them on the road, CW and SSB [that's the reason for the break in the middle of the contest ... give them some sleep time]. They'll tell you when they expect to hit the next county. Log everyone as K5XXX/<countyabbrev>.

Cal QSO Party: It starts on Sat, 6 Oct this year, and there may not be time to flog it in the next edition of Sierra Signals, but this is "our" contest. It's the largest State/Province QP by maybe an order of magnitude or more. It's bigger than a number of international contests, and everyone wants to contact you!! The exchange is a serial QSO number and your county. See www.cqp.org for the county abbreviation list. Placer County can be fairly rare, often it has been Jettie, W6RFF; Jack, KF6T; and me, and I'll be with N6A again this year at Monitor Pass in Alpine County, so at best there might be two or three Placerites if we're lucky. The rules for CA stations is that you get a mult for the first CA you log, however you must log the county QTH of all CA stations you work. You get QSO credit for them. Log mobile CA stations like TQP, you get QSO credit for them in new counties. You get QSO credit for all DX stations, just please log them as "DX" regardless of what they send [An "OK" who sends "OK" as his QTH is going to be logged in Oklahoma. If that's your only OK, you lose a mult].

Things are going to improve on HF, probably starting this winter. A little slow at first, but typically the sunspot cycles rise fast and fall slow.

73,

Fred K6DGW

August Meeting Minutes

(Reported by Leslie, K7NYE)

Minutes of the SFARC Board and General Meeting, August 10th, 2007 at the Auburn, CA main library:

Board of Directors meeting began at 7:10 PM with a quorum officers and directors in attendance. Old business discussed

included final preparations for the club picnic. New business was focused on how best to present information to the club about an alternate back-up club repeater and how to solicit donations from the club for this purpose. Current expenses and balance for the club were presented by George, KG6LSB. Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

SFARC General Meeting Minutes:

7:35 PM Meeting started by SFARC Club President, Don Hay, WB6LPJ. Meeting started with Pledge of Allegiance, introductions of general members and officers. Twenty Nine members and guests were attendance. Reports were given by VE, ARES and ARRL representatives.

Old Business: Preparations for the upcoming Club picnic were confirmed. Bob Boeckman, WA6ULL reserved a picnic location at PineBrook Mobile Home park in Folsom on Saturday, August 18th. Members were reminded to bring a side dish, salad or dessert, as well as chairs for their own use.

New Business: Gene, KG6NYH mentioned that he has been asked to do some long-range planning for communications for both the Tevis and the Western States annual races. The goal is to coordinate the communications efforts between the various entities, such as SOS, OES, Placer Search and Rescue, SFARC, etc. He suggested that SFARC solicit a representative that can support this initiative and represent communications from the club. Other business talked about was a new repeater/site for SFARC. Parts required to make a new repeater operational include a duplexer and a control board, which will require private donations to purchase. The repeater itself and other components have already been acquired. Bob B. and Richard K. are part of the committee supporting this project. A nominating committee for future club officers was formed, with Richard K. and Casey M, volunteering to head this up. Jim, K7ARR requested club funds for maintenance for the current repeater. A club vote was taken, seconded and passed to provide K6ARR up to \$150.00 for maintenance purposes.

Presentation: There was no formal presentation this month.

Gene, KG6NYH held the monthly Drawing. Meeting was adjourned around 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Leslie, K7NYE

Secretary



Don Tollefson
Owner

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**SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2007 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 (for new members only) 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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