

Sierra Signals

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

October 2007

P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658

Happy Birthday, Sputnik

(Reported by Greg, KO6TH)

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the launch of Earth's first artificial satellite, Sputnik-1. The Russian satellite was launched on October 4th, 1957, into an elliptical orbit some 150 miles above our planet.

Technically, the satellite was “decidedly non-spectacular”, by one report. The 184 pound satellite consisted of a polished 22 inch diameter aluminum sphere, with four spring-loaded antennas sweeping outward to one side. Contained within the sphere were a small radio transmitter, temperature and pressure sensors, and batteries.



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REPORTERS

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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

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EDITOR

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Set in the context of the 1958 “International Geophysical Year” (IGY), this simple satellite was designed to accomplish a set of scientific objectives, besides proving that putting something in orbit could actually be achieved. The spherical shape was

(continued on page 2)

2007 Calendar of Events

(Operating Events in Italics)

[Dates are local unless otherwise indicated]

Oct 6	VE Session
<i>Oct 6-7</i>	<i>CA QSO Party</i>
Oct 12	Regular Meeting-White Elephant Sale
<i>Oct 13-14</i>	<i>Oceania DX (CW)</i>
<i>Oct 23-24</i>	<i>W/VE Islands QSO Party</i>
Oct 27	Club Breakfast
<i>Oct 30-31</i>	<i>CQ Worldwide DX Contest (SSB)</i>
Nov 3	VE Session
Nov 9	Regular Meeting
Nov 24	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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Thirty Years Ago At The SFARC

(Reported by Gary, KQ6RT)

No column this month - will return next month.

73,

Gary - KQ6RT

HB Sputnik

(Continued from front page)

designed to determine the density of the atmosphere in its path, an objective reborn in FCAL and ANDE which were launched late last year from the Space Shuttle. Its shiny surface helped with optical tracking, and also the public relations opportunities that emerged after the successful launch. The radio transmitted on 20.005 and 40.002 mHz (or megacycles back then), with then intent use the two different radio signals to analyze the structure of the ionosphere. The whole sphere was pressurized with nitrogen gas, which provided a way to know the sphere had not been punctured by a micrometeorite impact. It also helped with the thermal design of the electronics package. The temperature and pressure readings were translated into a series of beeps, the tone and duration of which comprised the telemetry data. This resulted in the "beep beep" signals we all associate with satellites.

The launch rocket was the Russian R-7, a rocket being developed to deliver atomic weapons to intercontinental targets. Sputnik's launch was actually only the second time the rocket had launched successfully. The first successful launch occurred less than two months earlier, sending a dummy H-bomb warhead 6,000 km to Kamchatka.

Sputnik 1's transmitter operated for about 22 days, until the three silver-zinc batteries were depleted. The satellite itself remained in orbit until January 4, 1958, its booster rocket having come down about a month earlier. There are reports that some debris from the booster landed in Encino, California, on December 8, 1957, and are now on display at The Beat Museum in San Francisco.

Besides being the first satellite, the launch of Sputnik-1 marked the beginning of a new era. Time became divided between pre-Sputnik and post-Sputnik. Political reaction to the launch forced the pull-in of the U.S. "Vanguard" program, with embarrassing results as the booster blew upon the pad. NASA was created out of the existing National Advisory Council on Aeronautics and the hysteria that occurred as the public and government realized that the U.S. was behind. The Space Race had been created within the Cold War, and this was one the U.S. needed to win. This led to president Kennedy's "Man on the Moon" 1960 challenge, and the landings 9 years later.

Commemorating the Sputnik launch this month will be a number of events. Satellite stations will replay recordings of the original Sputnik telemetry beacon on Wednesday night (early October 4 UTC) via the AO-51 satellite. We are expecting the downlink to be on 435.150 (+/- doppler shift), but look for announcements on the details. Robert, G8ATE and

John, G7HIA will be using the special call sign GB50SO for a month starting on October 4th, for their satellite operations. It is not known if they will be working the shortwave bands, but folks on the East Coast might be able to snag a contact with them during a mid-Atlantic satellite pass.

Whether you are able to work any of the satellites this month or not, take a moment to gaze up at the night sky. It looked a lot different 50 years ago.

73s,

Greg KO6TH

White Elephant

Bring your surplus, new, used stuff to the meeting on Friday Oct. 12 and help the Club build up the Christmas party fund.

Cash is preferred Credit cards are a no-no and checks with photo ID will be accepted. Pesos will be accepted too since my next trip is to Mexico later in the month.

Come and bid high for the club and you benefit from each sale.

Remember if your items don't sell and you can't give them away you need to take them with you.

George

KG6LSB

Contesting

The Sport of Amateur Radio

(Reported by Fred, K6DGW)

Selected Contests for October:

See Bruce's page at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/ for a complete list. October offers some fun contests, and pretty much signals the beginning of the winter season.

California QSO Party: 6 Oct 1600Z – 7 Oct 2200Z
www.cqp.org

Oceania DX [CW]: 13 Oct 0800Z – 14 Oct 0800Z
www.oceaniadxcontest.com/rules.pdf

W/VE Islands QSO Party: 23 Oct 1600Z– 24 Oct 2359Z
www.usislands.org/

CQ Worldwide DX Contest [SSB]: 30 Oct 0001Z – 31 Oct 2400Z cqww.com

Contest Chatter: Hopefully you'll see this before the CQP on the weekend of 6/7 Oct. Cal QSO is **our** contest, and is likely the only time everyone in the world wants to call yet another California station! The exchange is a serial QSO number and your county abbreviation. 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 and you log that way is going to be logged in Oklahoma. If that's your only OK mult, you will lose it during log checking]. See the web site for a listing of the standard 4-character county abbreviations. I'll be on CW from N6A in Alpine County.

Oceania DX [CW]: Conditions being what they are, signals from down-under will be weak, but as with all Pacific area contests, we on the left-coast have the advantage over the mid-west and east coasters. The exchange is simply RST + QSO serial number. Only stations within the IARU-defined Oceania area count for points [VK, ZL, the Pacific Islands, and a few others]. The SSB version of this contest is on 6-7 Oct, but you'll all be entered in CQP, won't you.

W/VE Islands QSO Party: This contest is sponsored by the US Islands program [note that the USIP is not the same as the IOTA program]. There are over 1,800 qualified "islands" work in the US and Canada. Many will surprise you ... the "islands" in the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta count, as to many islands in rivers! Alameda is an island, as is Angel Island in SF Bay. Those that count have designators comprising a two-character state/province abbreviation, a 3-digit number, and a single letter. I've fooled around in it in past years, and it's really a lot of fun.

CQ Worldwide DX [SSB]: The bands will be alive with strange prefixes, this is your chance to pick up some new ones.

Other News: For the next to last week in Sep, Tad Cook [ARRL's sunspot and propagation maven] reported the daily sunspot numbers were zero, zero, zero, zero, zero, zero, and zero, for a weekly mean of ... zero [you were surprised?]. Most predictions from various models are converging on an end of 2007/very beginning of 2008 as the final throes of Cycle 23 and the beginning of Cycle 24. And, not a moment too soon! Cycle 23 has been dying an operatic death for way too long now, but the good news is that sunspot cycles tend to rise much faster than they decline, so things will be picking up before we know it.

And, maybe not really news, but I was notified by ARRL a couple of weeks ago that, after 54 years on the ham bands, I have finally made DXCC with 110 countries confirmed. About 87 of them were via Logbook of the World, and the rest came from cards. Some of my cards go back a long way ... for countries that either don't exist any more [e.g. Czechoslovakia] or have new names [Ceylon and Burma]. Only 3 were DXpeditions ... VP6DI, BS7H, and N8S. I didn't manage a 3B7C QSO, but then I didn't try very hard either.

Hope to work you all in the CQP!

73,

Fred K6DGW

Organizer: Golden Empire Council, BSA Bill Ragsdale, K6KN
Communications Chief Media Contact: Scot Crocker, VP
Marketing, Golden Empire Council 916 - 552-7971

Midway Radio Merit Badge Station, K6BSA Operations: 0900 - 1600 PDT, Saturday, September 29, 2007

Larry Hyde, N6YBZ Scout Liaison/ Coordinator

Carl Schultz, WF6J Control Operator

Over 7,000 scouts gathered on Beale AFB property to participate in a weekend long event. On Saturday the Special Event Amateur Radio Station K6BSA operated at the Radio Merit Badge location, just west of a sea of tents, tepees and sleeping bags. K6BSA operated on HF and VHF utilizing: SSB, CW, FM, IRLP, APRS, Satellite and ATV modes.

One prime objective of the station was to make on air contacts and to deliver "traffic" consisting of a book message originating from a scout at the event. K6BSA would ask for a relay operator using the K6VMR repeater on 147.00 Mhz owned by the Mt. Vaca Radio Club. Several area Hams participated handling hundreds of outbound messages. There was a test net held on September 23rd by Bill Ragsdale, K6KN. Operations went smoothly and the group refined our procedure. The delivered message was: " GREETINGS BY AMATEUR RADIO. WE ARE HAVING A GREAT TIME AT THE SCOUT EXPO AT BEALE AIR FORCE BASE. I WILL HAVE DETAILS WHEN I GET BACK". This message going to mostly northern California destinations was delivered in minutes by the relaying stations via the telephone.

In addition to the traffic handling, many on-air contacts were made on 40 meters, 20 meters, and 2 meters. Notable contacts were with other Scout Groups and helpful amateurs from all over. One such contact was with Shun, JE1RIV/W7 in Seattle, WA working with their Scout Group. At the Headquarters Building K6S was also operated by Bill, K6KN; Ron Murdock, W6KJ; Curtis MacCoun, KI6ESK; Linda Paumer, KF6QYQ; Jim Richter, K6RZL, and Tim Wells. These operators rotated through the K6BSA location and also handled outbound messages.

The QTH - getting into Beale AFB is one thing, getting in with two truck loads of antennas and Ham gear is yet another. Friday set-up went well. I decided to venture home to make some signage and load more gear. That night the camp was treated to an early dose of heavy rain, turning the field site into a mud flat. There was moisture in the am, but a bright clear sunrise gave promise to what became a prefect day.

While we all talk about the slowing down of Amateur Radio, we can tell you that there was tremendous interest and enthusiasm from the scouts, especially for: CW, Space communications, and IRLP. The youths of America are interested, now it is our job to keep their interest and invite them to join our Radio Community.

Scout Expo 2007

(Reported by Carl, WF6J)

Saturday, September 29, 2007 - Special Event Station Day
K6BSA Scout Expo 2007 : "From Brownsea to Beale: When Tradition meets Tomorrow" at Beale AFB near Marysville, CA.

All of us at the Expo extend our thanks to countless Amateurs who patiently handled the traffic, talked "elmerly" to excited scouts, and made contacts with the Special Event Station.

Thanks to the NHRC operators for helping talk to the scouts and relay messages locally. We (Larry, N6YBZ and myself) really appreciate it. Also for the QSOs during the set-up, tear down and commutes :) 16 + Hams operated 40, 15, and 2 to make over 200 outbound message relays, and many contacts to stations. K6BSA was listed in QST as a Special Event Station, and everyone will receive a nice QSL card from the Golden Empire Council, BSA. (hey do the ops get one?) There were over 7,000 scouts and over 300 volunteers that worked to make this a great success.

Despite Friday night rain, high winds and the usual in-the-dirt field conditions. Saturday turned out to be a great day and everyone had a lot of fun.

Notable contacts were with a scout group from Japan, who was operating in Seattle. Another was a special event station on a carrier in Corpus Cristi, Texas marking a 100 year event there. (I'd love that QSL myself). Probably the most coincidental was when Larry, N6YBZ working the HF 40 meter station, heard, then talked with his "Elmer", a ham in the LA area. What are the odds of that happening?

It was uplifting to see so many young folks so interested in radio. Getting them "into" the hobby would do wonders for local clubs. CW (morse code) was a top topic. Listening to over the air cw and playing with a paddle was a great attention getter. APRS, Satellite and Space communications plus DX on 40 meters seemed to be the favorites.

Hats off to Bill Ragsdale, K6KN, Communications Chief for all the organizing, Larry Hyde, N6YBZ for running the K6BSA Radio Merit Badge activities, and to everyone who talked, relayed traffic and participated in the event. Also many thanks to the Mt. Vaca Radio Club for making their repeater available for use.

Carl, WF6J

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER

(Reprinted from The ARRL Letter V.26 No. 39)

America was abruptly reminded of the critical role of Amateur Radio in 2005 as Amateur Radio operators came from all over the country to provide emergency communications when other systems failed during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In 2007, Amateur Radio operators continued to provide lifesaving services in many floods and wildfires around the country. Because of the complexity of today's normal communications systems, they are often overwhelmed in a disaster. These painful lessons are being tested again on October 6 and 7 as Amateur Radio operators around the country conduct their annual Simulated Emergency Test.

This year, Amateur Radio operators will be replicating many scenarios that have crippled normal communications in the

recent past. These include flooding, wildfires, bombings, ice storms, hurricanes and earthquakes. Something new for this year are plans for responses in case of pandemic flu and the probability that large populations will need to shelter at home and not be able to go out.

Using emergency powered radios and working with local agencies, hams will establish radio communications networks that can be used should there be a failure or overload of normal services.

While the ARRL has scheduled the Simulated Emergency Test for October 6-7, some ARRL Sections have scheduled their SET for different dates. Please check with your Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator for the date of the SET in your Section.

SV Section News from September

KI6ESK, our assistant section manager for youth, and I attended the Boy Scout Expo to operate K6S. Curtis found himself in the thick of operating and opening the portals of amateur radio for the benefit of the scouts. We even met a couple of interested scouts to lead further down the path to a license. Message forms were filled out, and hams in the local area took the traffic and delivered book messages to the homes of the scouts. Bill Ragsdale, K6KN, was a key organizer, but there were many more hams involved.

The 42nd California QSO Party occurs on Saturday and Sunday October 6-7 -1600 UTC, 6 October 2007 (Saturday 9AM PDT) through Sunday 2200 UTC, 7 October 2007, Sunday 3 PM PDT--and is billed as the most fun a new ham can have. All the info about the contest can be found on the web page <http://www.cqp.org/>

Rules: <http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html> Operating strategy: http://www.cqp.org/pdf/cqp_strategy_k6rb.pdf 2006 Results: <http://www.cqp.org/results/2006/06complete.pdf> 2006 Records: <http://www.cqp.org/results/Records/2006.pdf>

And, of course, lots of great awards, a free personalized/signed certificate for all participants with 100 or more QSOs and T-shirts that you can purchase (\$12). Awards: <http://www.cqp.org/Awards.html> If you have new hf privileges, don't forget about CQP, the California QSO Party.

N6BOA, Barbara Olson-Arenz, still needs a few good VE's for an October 20, 2007 test date in Placerville. While this conflicts with Pacificon 2007, there may be some ARRL VEs able to help at this session. Barb has up to 34 to examine and is going to need a total of seven VE's and has five so far. Contact Barb at bdoa@comcast.net.

Our Pacific Division Convention, Pacificon 2007 will occur October 19-20-21 at the San Ramon Marriott in San Ramon. The general admission tickets are \$10 each, and you should consider the opening breakfast, \$14 each, and the Banquet \$39 each. The tickets are available with a PayPal payment or by mail. Compared to some convention meals I have paid for in past years, the Marriott does it quite well. <http://www.pacificon.org/> is the website.

Orienteers, the term Amateur Radio Direction Finding competitors give themselves, were active the weekend of 14-16 September in the South Lake Tahoe area at Camp Concord. 30 ARDFers from the U.S. and overseas came to compete for ribbons and medals in the dry, thin air above the lake. I attended as a volunteer, served as a race marshall on Saturday, and at the start line and finish line Sunday morning. Some runners (yes, this is a cross country race) had to find all five transmitters in three hours. Some had to find less but were in different categories of competition. Categories and classes were set by gender and age. Saturday evening we attended an awards dinner, where I helped hand out the medals and ribbons. Saturday was a 2m race, and Sunday the competition was on 80m. The competitor carries a radio, attenuator, and yagi or DF loop in one hand, and also carries a lightweight map board in the other hand. The Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club (SBARC) and the Los Angeles Orienteering Club (LAOC) sponsored the event. The chairman was Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS, Joe Moell, K0OV, our ARRL U.S. ARDF coordinator, handled publicity, and Bob Cooley, KF6VSE, set up the course and handled training.

If your group, club, organization, etc., is going to hold an event outside your local area but near the local area of another club, it makes sense to contact the other club with information regarding your operation. It is a good way to 'network', meet people you may need to talk to in an emergency, and maybe scrape up a few volunteers if needed. I asked if the orienteers had contacted the South Lake Tahoe Amateur Radio Club, but they had not. I think they missed a bet.

Vanity call sign fees went down September 17th to \$11.70. The old fee was \$20.80.

The Amador County ARC will hold a swap meet on 13 October 2007 from 7am to 3 pm in the Kmart parking lot in Martel, that's Jackson. The ACARC meets on the first Thursday of the month except for FD being the July meeting. I know, FD is in June, but close enough. They start with a dinner and board meeting at the Bonanza restaurant around 5PM. 835 N. Main St in Jackson. Then they round up at the Senior Center, 229 New York Ranch Rd, about 7 PM. ACARC had a Ham Cram at the same location at 9AM sharp Sept. 29th with a test session for Tech around 2PM and upgrade tests as prearranged with Ray in advance. Ham Cram is a class to teach prospective hams how to pass the tech test, not how to be HAM. They will have a life time to spend learning how to be a HAM. Candidates are encouraged to buy the book, read the material and study the correct answers before attending HC. The fee is \$25-bucks including the license for TEN years. CHEAP! Contact Ray Parker 209 267 5958, or Edelmaiers at 209 304 1628 for swap reservations and more information. Seller parking spaces will be \$10 and food will be available from a bake sale table with all the normal swap meet fare.

Ever wonder how many hams are in our section. The FCC data base has all the raw information, but how do you get to it? Joe Speroni, AH0A, has done all the hard work for us. Our section's latest data is for December of 2006, but will be updated as he gets time. As of that date, Sacramento Valley Section had 1,176 amateur extras, 950 advanced class, 1,676 generals, 4,413 techs, and 253 novices. Add it all up, and we had 8,468 total licensees at the end of 2006. I know you will

want to refer to this figure occasionally, so check out Joe's web site at <http://www.speroni.com/FCC/ARRL/Sec-SV.html>. You might drop him a line via e-mail and tell him how much you appreciate all the different ways he slices and dices the data, in tabular and graphic form.

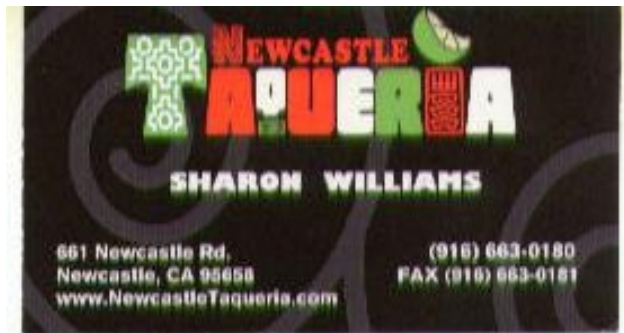
Two more section appointees have been named Local Government Liaisons. Michael R.E. Buck, K6BUK, of Lincoln, CA, and Leo C. Gilman, K7PPM, of Olivehurst, Ca, have stepped up to new responsibilities. Welcome aboard!

Don't forget the Section Net, 2nd Wednesday evening each month. We start with a VHF net at 7 PM on the WD6AXM/R, 146.085 +, 127.3 PL. At 7:30 PM we switch to 3987 KHz and repeat announcements. Please join us and make this a regular part of your operating agenda.

A daily net for those near Sacramento is the Sacramento Noon Net, held each day at noon as the name implies, on 146.91 MHz, plus offset, 100 hz tone. If you find that one noisy, as I do, try 442.800 MHz, plus offset, 100 hz tone. This directed net has places for everyone to check in, and it is as close to a voice bulletin board as you can get. Everyone checking in has the opportunity to list information on events and latest happenings. All the state, county, and city EmComm stations check in as well as ARRL and club stations.

73, Ron Murdock, W6KJ

Section Manager Sacramento Valley Section



If this name sounds familiar, it is. This is the same Sharon Williams – KQ6A - that did the embroidery on our hats and jackets a while back. Stop in and have some dinner next time you visit Newcastle! The Taqueria is located in the same shopping center as Denny's.



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

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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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