

# Sierra Signals

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

April 2008

P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658

## A New Twist on Mounting Your Beam

(Submitted by Carl, WF6J)

Like many of you my radio covers 2 meters and is an all mode rig. I like both FM and SSB operation.

When I thought about what antenna would go up I was having difficulty deciding between horizontal polarization (a must for SSB on 2 meters) and vertical polarization (FM operation). After some deep thought I decided to do both!

Being on a budget I took two Alliance U100 rotors that had been on my old satellite set-up and set out to design a "V H" rotor system. As the U100s are mast through the center type units. All that would be necessary is a simple "T" design made from pipe that would attach to the top rotor's usual mast clamp. The long end of this "T" would serve as the mast through the lower Azimuth rotor.



### OFFICERS

#### **PRESIDENT**

Don Hay, WB6LPJ  
[wb6lpj@arrl.net](mailto:wb6lpj@arrl.net)

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Casey McPartland, W7IB  
[w7ib@arrl.net](mailto:w7ib@arrl.net)

#### **SECRETARY**

Wayne Stilwell, W6DT  
[dxwayne@juno.com](mailto:dxwayne@juno.com)

#### **TREASURER**

Leslie Nye, KYNYYE  
[k7nye@arrl.net](mailto:k7nye@arrl.net)

#### **DIRECTORS**

Jim Griffith, K16AZH  
[jim.griffith@usamedia.tv](mailto:jim.griffith@usamedia.tv)  
Chuck Minton, KF6FFK  
[chuckminton@wizwire.com](mailto:chuckminton@wizwire.com)  
Norm Medland, W6AFR  
[norm.linda@surewest.net](mailto:norm.linda@surewest.net)

#### **REPORTERS**

**Satellites:** Greg, KO6TH  
**History:** Gary, KQ6RT  
**Misc Radio:** 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

#### **EDITOR**

Deb Cunningham, KF6LXN  
916.663.4143  
[kf6lxn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kf6lxn@sbcglobal.net)

Sort of like building a boat in the basement, this took some planning with the beam. While still without elements on the front, the boom was put through the top "V H" rotor to a point of balance. The "V H" rotor was preset to "West" which would become the horizontal (SSB) position. Then when the control box was turned to "North" the beam would be in the vertical (FM) position. After putting the front elements onto the boom and securing it in the "V H" rotor with clamps. The short "mast" section of the azimuth rotor was secured into the lower azimuth rotor.

(continued on page 2)

### 2008 Calendar of Events

Apr 5	<b>VE Session</b>
Apr 11	<b>Regular Meeting (Meeting to be held at the Newcastle United Methodist Church)</b>
Apr 26	<b>Club Breakfast</b>
May 3	<b>VE Session</b>
May 9	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
May 31	<b>Club Breakfast</b>

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

Sierra Signals is published monthly by the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club for the information of its members and friends, and is distributed via E-mail and USPS mail. Opinions expressed are those of the authors. Newsletter exchanges with other clubs via E-mail are welcomed. Contact the editor to be placed on the E-mailing list. The contents of Sierra Signals are copyrighted by the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club, and all rights are reserved. That said, we will gladly permit republications for non-profit uses of all text material. Photos require the consent of all persons pictured in them, and some of our material is copyrighted by others and published by permission. You'll need to contact them for permission.

## Thirty Years Ago At The SFARC

(Reported by Gary, KQ6RT)

April 14, 1978

The meeting was called to order by President Carroll Evans at 7:45 pm.

Minutes of March meeting were approved as read.

Treasurers report: \$30.76

Our club now has 52 members.

Jim, K6ARR reported as follows for the Technical Committee:

1. WR6ADI will change frequencies on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The pair will be 144.83 in - 145.43 out.
2. NARC held discussions at its last meeting regarding the proposed 20 kHz splits in the 146-148 segments of the 2 meter band.

Bob, WA6EBI offered to assist Novices with code practice.

Floyd, W6ZOH outlined preliminary plans for Field Day. The proposed site is the airfield at Blue Canyon. Dates June 24-25<sup>th</sup>.

Tom, WB6UBF talked about the proposed Hamfest to be held in the fall. Jack, WB6BPO and Bob, WB6AEU were selected to find a site.

The technical committee was asked to present cost estimates for upgrading our repeater control system.

Club badges are available to members at \$2.00.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Al Schweigert, Secretary

73,

Gary - KQ6RT

### Mounting Your Beam...

(Continued from front page)

Then it was up onto the roof with this contraption. My push-up mast was secured in it's tilt base, the antenna and rotors were attached to the top of the mast with their cables and coax

attached. Now it was a push up job to get the mast vertical. After using the level and setting the guy wires, so the mast was straight, the big task began. Up on a ladder the first section was pushed up and locked. Then the second section was pushed up and locked. As the sections were being pushed up, a service loop in the cables was provided and then the cables taped to the mast. Tape was used every 10 feet to hold the cabling to the mast. With the mast fully extended, the other sets of guy wires were pulled tight and secured to the eye bolts located in the roof beams.

The beam in the photo is a Cushcraft 15 element boomer. Results on FM are excellent. I am able to "raise" the Palo Alto repeater and talk to my nephew. This has also served well in simplex point-to-point needs between stations. When in the SSB or horizontal mode I have been able to work many stations up and down the western states. Also active on the Sunday night 8pm SWOT (SideWinders On Two) net. AS scores of stations check in from Oregon to LA, it is good to be able to track them and see what can be heard.

This was a great Ham Project as it met all the requirements: thought, low cost and some labor. Now I've found that I need to keep the elements vertical so the birds can't sit on the antenna and contribute to covering the shingles- hi

Carl, WF6J



### March Meeting Minutes

(Reported by Wayne, W6DT)

Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting of the Board of Directors came to order at 7pm, a quorum being present. Vice-President Casey, W7IB, made suggestions and was open for ideas about this years Field Day, including having attendees pay a nominal fee for the food, coordinating the stations, keeping better logs, and having mini

programs for the membership focusing on those who would like to attend but have no HF or Field Day experience. The suggestions were to be brought up at the general meeting. The speaker for the evening, Dennis Mayer, KI6MLG, was introduced.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

General Membership Meeting

The General Membership meeting was called to order by President Don Hay, WB6LPJ, at 7:31 PM.

Flag salute followed.

Each member was asked to comment on his/her operating activities during the member introduction.

Vice-President Casey, W7IB, brought up ideas for this year's Field Day including having a cost of \$5 per person to help offset the cost, but equally to insure a commitment for those planning to attend. It was also suggested that lunch would be up to each member with the club providing dinner. Station coordination was brought up as well as keeping good enough logs to actually submit a score sheet to the ARRL. It was left open to anyone with the skill and equipment to set up a LAN for the stations. Field Day operating tips will be presented to the club at the meetings before Field Day for those wishing to learn more about this event and encourage more people to attend. Casey also mentioned the possibility of having a future program about CalStar.

Chuck, KG6FFR, gave a report about recent ARES activity. He also reported on a presentation to 4th thru 8th grade kids at a charter school in Colfax.

The Treasurer, Leslie, N7NYE, reported that the club has \$2290, including funds earmarked for the repeater.

Greg, KO6TH, gave a satellite report. He also advised the space shuttle could be heard on 147.405 MHz.

Members were reminded that the April and June meetings will be held at the Methodist Church in Newcastle, the same place as the most recent Christmas Dinner.

The speaker for the evening was Dennis Mayer, KI6MLG.

Dennis is a relatively new ham, first licensed in October of 2007. In the short time since then, Dennis has been personally active and responsible for getting 49 people their ham license! This came about due to Dennis' involvement with off road travels and trials in the Sierra with his Jeep. He was initially inspired to get his ham license due to an accident where the failure of other communication methods failed to get a response. Just by luck, they came across a ham who was able to make contact and emergency personnel were there in 20 minutes!

Dennis is active in many groups trying to preserve the great outdoors for all responsible users, including the Friends of the Rubicon and the Rubicon Trail Foundation. It was a very informative and interesting presentation and question and answer session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne, W6DT

Secretary

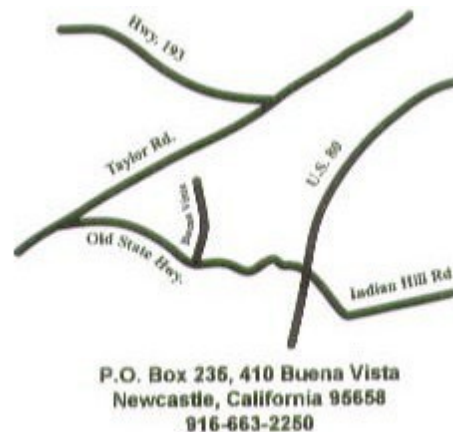
**April - Change in Meeting Location**

Our April SFARC club meeting will be held at the Newcastle United Methodist Church – 410 Buena Vista (the same place our Christmas party is held) due to the unavailability of the Auburn Library.

Directions:

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.



**Operators Needed**

Radio support is needed for the MS walk in Rocklin on Saturday May 3rd and the motorcycle Enduro in Georgetown on Sunday May 4th. That will make a full weekend for some of us.

For each event we need about 8 operators with radios. We have supported both of these events in the past and each one



has it's own challenges and we learn something new each time we participate.

The MS walk is a 5k walk/run that starts and ends at the big church on Stanford Ranch Road near Costco. We've provided a net control, a mobile radio for their SAG vehicle a shadow for the event coordinator and a mobile setup at the 1 rest stop on the route. It's best if there are 2 operators at each site. The event starts at 9 AM and lunch starts at 1100. In the past we've used the Roseville repeater successfully and will probably do the same this year.

The Enduro is a longer event. It is a 300+ motorcycle event in the national forest past Georgetown. We meet in Auburn at 0645 and convoy to the site. We are asked to provide a net control station, a fuel stop, a unit at the southern end of the course and a relay at Bald Mtn. NCS will be the last to leave probably about 1240. Based on past experience it is best to have 2 operators at each site because there can be some dead time between riders and messages.

George  
KG6LSB

### Outdoor Radio Adventures

(by Doc Hendrickson, KG6ZIN)

As an amateur radio operator, have you ever dreamed of hiking into the backcountry with your radio gear in tow, and work as many modes as possible along the route?

That is just what 57-year-old Edison Shaw (N7GCW) of Northeast Washington State intends to do this September 2008. This General Class HAM will be strapping his pack and gear to his back, take a walking stick in hand, and strike out for a week long thirty four mile trek along the scenic Kettle Crest Trail from Sherman Pass to Boulder Pass. With a solar panel on his backpack for system charging, and sporting a new Yaesu FT-817ND for communication, he is staying as GREEN as possible. Plans will include a daily check-in to the Noontime Net (frequency 7268.5 KHZ). Also, a daily contact with his best friend and sponsor 'Doc' Hendrickson (KG6ZIN) is scheduled for a rundown of the day's events, LIVE on the trail....Not only will he be enjoying the one-ness with the environment of the Kettle mountain range, but also the enjoyment of his life-long hobby as an amateur radio operator blended into the natural experience. If that was not enough, prior to his endeavor in Washington, Edison will be venturing out on a pre-trip to Alaska as a tune up. We will feature both adventures with photography, video, prose, information on how to contact Edison through HF/satellite along the way, and what experiences he has throughout the treks. So, get ready to dwell in the realm of natural and electronic dream weaving come to life!

More to follow..... periodically check the Internet link for updates:

[http://www.hvsm.com/N7GCW\\_trek.htm](http://www.hvsm.com/N7GCW_trek.htm)

73

Doc Hendrickson  
KG6ZIN

### Local Ham Does YouTube Videos for All To See

(submitted by Carl, WF6J)

Randy, K7AGE of Grass Valley has been producing small video programs that he is posting on YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)). They are very informative and deal with a variety of ham radio subjects. If you are not familiar with Randy's stuff, go to YouTube and search "K7AGE" and that will give you a listing of all his videos.

Of recent interest to me was his Bluetooth Audio Radio Interface. He shows how to use a bluetooth adapter to interface to your radio, plus a boom-mic headset (also bluetooth) as your operator's device. As July 1st brings about the hands free cellular law, Ham Radio mobile operation is exempt, however I really like Randy's take and hope to go hands free in my mobile soon. Have fun!

Carl, WF6J



Randy, K7AGE showing the bluetooth (wireless) Boom mic headset.

### North Hills Hamfest

That time again. North Hills Radio Club is holding their annual Hamfest this year on Sunday, May 18th.

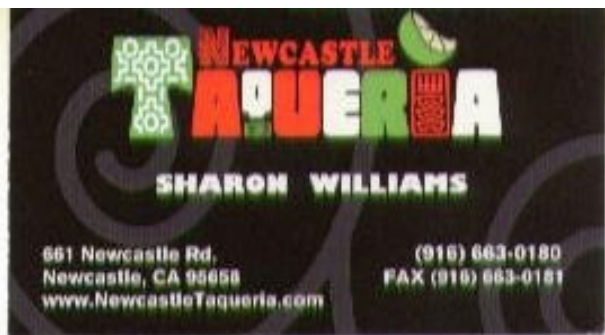
Location: (Sacramento)  
 Bella Vista High School  
 8301 Madison Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA  
 halfway between Sunrise & madison Aves.  
 Time: 7am - Noon  
 Talk in: K6IS 145.190 (-) PL 162.2  
 Free parking, spaces \$20 for 2,  
 Food & Beverages,  
 Raffle and hourly prizes.  
 NHRC is an ARRL Club  
 Contact:  
 www.k6is.org  
 Maynard, W6PAP (916) 726-1673  
 North Hills Radio Club  
 PO Box 417370  
 Sacramento, CA 95841-7370



**Net Control Operator**

Joe Sylvia, KF6OQY has decided to retire as net control operator for our Thursday night net. If anyone is interested in working as net control, please contact Dave Jenkins, WB6RBE and let him know. It is lots of fun and a good way to practice as net control. There is a script provided to assist.

Thanks Joe for all your years of service!



SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 1005

Newcastle, CA 95658

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print

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: (P)	\$22.00	Name Badge: (R)	\$7.00
Associate: (Q)	\$ 7.00	Repeater Donation: (S)	\$ _____
Auto Patch Donation: (T)	\$ _____	Newsletter Booster: (V)	\$ _____
Misc. Donation: (X)	\$ _____	Christmas Donation: (W)	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL: (Y)</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>	

OFFICE USE ONLY:	DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE		
Date: _____	Treasurer: _____	Secretary: _____	Roster: _____
Payment: _____	Check Number: _____	Cash: _____	