



P.O. Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

February 2013

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**At The Key of SFARC:**

**PRESIDENT**

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**VICE PRESIDENT**

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no6no@pacbell.net

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Mark Graybill, W8BIT  
Donna Naylor, W6CQX

**FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN**

Dave Albright, NO6NO

**REPORTERS**

Satellites: Greg, KO6TH  
History: Gary, KQ6RT  
Misc Radio: Fred, K6DGW  
Sunshine: Richard, WA6RWS  
rkuepper@ymail.com

**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, W6EK/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**

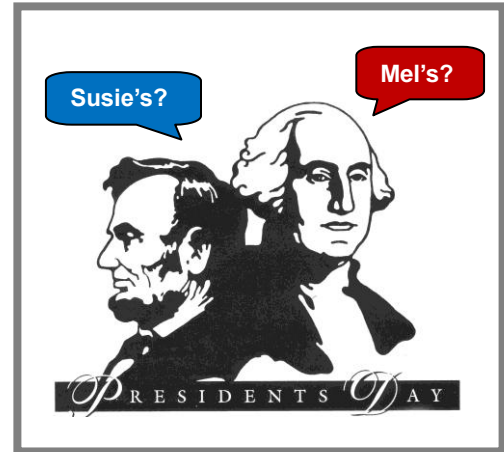
Dave Jenkins, WB6RBE  
Gary Cunningham, KQ6RT  
Norm Medland, W6AFR  
Casey McPartland, W7IB

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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anderson51@starstream.net

**WEBMASTER:**

Carl A Schultz, WF6J



**Calendar:**

**Fri 8 February:** Club Meeting

**Sat 23 February:** Club Breakfast

**Sat 27 April:** MS Walk in Folsom

**Sat 4 May:** Tour de Cure (Diabetes) in Roseville

**Sat 19 October:** Cystic Fibrosis bike ride in the Newcastle area

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- *Volunteers Needed*
- *Board and General Minutes*

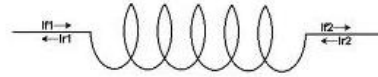
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## The Loading Coil

By Bob -K6UDA, President



With this issue of the Sierra Signals newsletter, I've officially been writing this editorial column for a year now. As I start my second year as president, I've decided to name this little section of the newsletter. After much consideration, I narrowed it down to two possibilities. My first thought was "The Dummy Load". It probably fits me best, but the next guy in line would have to change it in short order. I decided to call it the "Loading Coil." Maybe it'll stick, maybe it won't. Either way, henceforth (at least through my term as president) the presidents column will be known to all as The Loading Coil.

As we enter February of the New Year, radio sport 2013 is in full swing. Band conditions permitting, the HF bands are alive with activity. Several contests can easily be found almost every weekend and many hams are busy upgrading their shacks, antennas or both.

During this "slow" time of year when it's too cold, too foggy, too rainy, too snowy or whatever, indoor activities take center stage and for us hams, it's a great time to break out the gear and play. As a group, this is a fantastic time for the new members & newer operators to start experimenting with your radios & antennas. Many of us have a fairly limited vocabulary when it comes to all things ham radio. It's very cool to get that first portable radio and actually talk to someone miles away, but we all soon learn the absolute limits of those 4 to 5 watt wonders and the flexible dummy loads that come with them.

### *The Great Antenna Challenge - 2013*

I want to challenge the techs and new operators in the club (those licensed less than 5 years); take this challenge and I guarantee you'll come out the other end a much better ham. Take your existing portable radio and unscrew that barely radiating dummy load from the top and figure out what connector is on the radio. Now, buy, build, or borrow some type of external 2 meter antenna, gather up some feed line. Start cheap and find some RG58 coax, if you can, also round up an equal length of some better coax. The longer the run the better the coax you want. Mount or even throw your new antenna up in a tree. Plug it into your portable and test it by calling on the W6EK repeater. If you've been curious about the whole HF thing, build yourself a simple wire antenna and borrow an old rig to get on the air. 10 meters has a section for techs too.

I know from experience that you can throw money at the problem and you can fix it pronto. I also learned later that you can scrounge parts for little to nothing, or in my case have a buddy, **Jim N6MED** donate an antenna; then I scrounged the rest of the needed parts. Like I said, if you do this simple experiment one cloudy day, you'll learn a fundamental lesson about the principles of radio transmission and reception. You'll be a much better ham for it.

Now, for the old timers, my challenge to you is to dig deep. Deep into that garage full of old funky antennas, coax and connectors that you haven't used for 20 or 30 years. Loan out or pass on to the next generation of this great hobby. When I first got my ticket, an old ham passed on his old Kenwood dual bander and a slew of mag mount antennas. I've since passed that radio on to another ham, who in turn passed it on to another new ham. It feels good knowing I've contributed to the hobby by passing down. Bring some of your old parts to the meeting and we'll figure out who's gonna take the challenge.

As far as club stuff, I'm excited about this year. **Carl W6FJ**, has a plan for a new exciting net, and we're tossing ideas around for various classes & clinics. **Dave N06NO** is putting tech 10 and program ideas together for the upcoming months. I ask each of you, the membership of Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club, to help us develop programs to educate and inspire the rest of us. \*

One of the SFARC members **Bob, W6GC** worked the January 2013 VHF contest from up on Clark Tunnel Road in Penryn.

50 watts from Penryn to Visalia on 2 meter SSB is not bad!!!

The antenna was home-made by **Carl, WF6J**. Photo taken by Bob's XYL, **Donna, W6CQX**



**News to Use or Lose:** I've found this little table useful especially when traveling and tuning across an unknown repeater output by chance ... maybe you will too. Repeaters have standard input frequency "offsets" as shown in the table below. If the repeater does not conform to the standard, the non-standard input frequency is typically shown in the "notes" for the repeater when queried via the Internet or in the ARRL Repeater Directory. The listings below show the repeaters' OUTPUT frequency.

Output Frequency (MHz)	Input Frequency Offset
51 to 52	-0.5 MHz
52 to 54	-1.0 MHz
144.51 to 144.89	+0.6 MHz
145.11 to 145.49	-0.6 MHz
146.0 to 146.39	+0.6 MHz
146.61 to 147.0	-0.6 MHz
147.0 to 147.39	+0.6 MHz
147.6 to 147.99	-0.6 MHz
223 to 225	-1.6 MHz
440 to 445	+5.0MHz
445 to 450	-5.0MHz
918 to 922	-12MHz
927 to 928	-25MHz

Other designations and their definitions sometimes found in the "Notes" field:

**C** = Closed  
**O** = Open  
**L** = Links to other repeaters  
**T-*nnn*/*mmm*** = Transmitter has a "*nnn*" Hz tone; receiver requires a "*mmm*" Hz tone  
**e-*XXX*** = Emergency power capable  
**ca** = closed autopatch  
**X, z** = repeater used for RTTY  
**R** = RACES affiliated  
**#** = in-coordinated repeater  
**exp** = experimental  
**pkt** = packet

# *The Chronicles of Nocandoo - Episode I*

## *10-part series by Roger Wilcox, PHD*

*Submitted by Richard Kuepper, WA6RWS with permission*

It is 2056. A massive undersea earthquake near Bermuda has caused a tsunami and the eastern U.S. seaboard has been inundated from Florida to Maine. Manhattan Island is under several feet of water. Chesapeake Bay has quadrupled in surface area and Miami is virtually missing. The loss of life has exceeded all major disasters together and the property damage is "in the trillions". Upon the recommendation of the Minister of Peace and Safety (MOPS) the Three Party Presidential Authority (TPPA) has declared a federal state of emergency and due to widespread anarchy marshal law has been declared in all of the 58 states. All normal communications are out in the eastern U.S. and are sporadic at best elsewhere. The banking and financial infrastructure has collapsed due to a breakdown in the electronic system, commercial land transportation is at a stand-still.

Hemp (he was so named because his parents had obtained the permit for him to be born on the day in 2032 when marijuana became legal and tobacco was banned), and Psue (she was so named because federal law now required all first names to be four characters to fit the federal computer name data base files) are emergency workers under the Federal United Volunteer Authority (FUVA); and have been assigned to monitor and report the movement of any group of more than five persons in a specified sector. They were assigned to person a checkpoint within the devastated area, and have pedaled their bicycles over a hundred kilometers from a neighboring state. Gasoline is available, but mostly now only for paid government officials. Private consumers who wish to obtain a ration of gasoline are required to submit an application through the Federal United Fuel Authority (FUFA). Diesel production had ceased several years before when the Domestic Energy Consumption Authority (DECA) had implemented a \$75 (per liter) luxury revenue enhancement program.

Hemp was originally from the "Federation of Blue States" region and Psue had been raised in the "United Red States". However neither was solidly aligned with either of the party-regions, and both were somewhat sympathetic to some of the policies of the "Green States" which had gained increasing power in recent years and made up the third arm of the TPPA. None of the three entities have a majority of votes and since the electoral college had been eliminated as a result of the Constitutional Convention of 2023, the government of the now U.S.S.A. had been dead locked for over 25 years.

Hemp and Psue had made plans to be married, but now they feared that those plans would be delayed since the permit process would probably be delayed beyond the usual two years. Anyway, marriage was more of an exception than a norm now. As they pumped up their inflatable portable outdoor device (IPOD), they joked about how the world had changed over the past 50 years. Psue pointed out how useless the communication device was that had issued to them by the Federal Approved Communications Authority for Disaster Emcomm (FACADE). Although a mandatory plan and system for a National Emergency and Environmental Communication Operations (NEECO) had been signed into law by President Clinton, (during her third term), in 2022 it had never been implemented. Psue said that the obsolete (and now illegal) FRS handie-talkies that she had often played with as a child, actually worked better than the 62 trillion dollar communications system they were supposed to be using to report movements and suspicious activity.

They felt especially conflicted and vulnerable. Firearms, knives, and a long list of other personal items had been listed as "aggressive contraband" and had been banned under the United Nations Firearms Universal Confiscation Act (UNFUCA) of 2015. And when the U.S.S.A. Bill of Rights was revised at the Constitutional Convention of 2017 it appeared that they would never again be able to adequately defend themselves. However, the 261 member World High Court for Peace and Safety, meeting in Bagdad in 2018, ruled that convicted felons and terrorists could not be prohibited from possessing weapons. In their landmark decision they had said that prohibiting the "underworld" from possessing, trading, and manufacturing weapons would be depriving them of their "tools of their trade" and a way to earn a living, and thereby that would be a violation of their civil rights. It was a classic "Catch 22". Possessing a firearm was a felony; but if convicted, you then became a felon and could legally possess weapons.

They had heard a rumor that a "high government official" would be surveying the devastation in their area. Suddenly they observed a long convoy of vehicles escorted under heavy guard by units of the Joint Federal Armed Services Authority (FASA) proceeding towards them. As the convoy approached their check point, the advance escort vehicle's spotter noticed the abandoned rusty pick-up truck with camper shell that Hemp and Psue had "borrowed". Also the sun-shade, a table and some chairs, plus a mast to which a small vertical antenna is attached. A magnetic sign that simply said COMMUNICATIONS was noticeable on the side of the truck. The official ordered the motorcade to stop. The FASA guards drew their weapons and shouted: "FREEZE!" Hemp and Psue froze. \* (To be continued next month...)



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By George KG6LSB

The club is rapidly acquiring a reputation for providing good communications support for charity events. We've been supporting the MS walks from at least 2002 which was my first one. We've now done 2 Cystic Fibrosis bike rides in the Newcastle area and now we are being asked to support a Diabetes bike ride in Roseville.



**Consequently I am asking for volunteers for the following events:**

***Saturday April 27--MS Walk in Folsom --starts about 0800 and is done by 1200***

***Saturday May 4-- Tour de Cure (Diabetes) in Roseville --starts 0630 and ends by 1700***

***Saturday October 19--Cystic Fibrosis bike ride --Newcastle area--starts about 0800 and is over by 1300***

We provide radio support for the start/finish line, each rest stop, and the SAG wagons-the mobile vans that patrol the routes and assist riders in need. In the past we have found that it is best to have 2 people at each station-except the SAG wagons. The 2<sup>nd</sup> person does not have to be a HAM, but it helps.

Each operator needs to supply the radio equipment for the station assigned. For the SAGs this means usually a dual band HT and a mag mount antenna. We have successfully worked the last 4 events completely with HTs.

This is a perfect opportunity for using your radio for more than listening to the Thursday night net. I highly recommend that any new HAM volunteer for at least one event. You would be paired with an experienced person who will show you the "ropes" about volunteering.

We also get asked to support the California Enduro Riders Association events which take place in the Eldorado National Forest near Georgetown. These are usually in the spring and in the fall and are an all day event in the woods. Everyone who has done them says they are great fun and a tremendous learning experience.

**If you have a questions about volunteering for specific events, please contact me by email, phone, or corner me at a meeting.**

The Tour de Cure event is a new one for us and the organizers are asking me for how many volunteers we can provide. For this event the SAG wagons would be provided and we are asked to furnish the driver too. It would be best to bring a friend to drive. \*



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### January 11, 2013

The SFARC January Board meeting commenced at 1800 hours at Round Table Pizza in Auburn.

**Officers present:** Vice President Dave Albright-NO6NO (presiding); Secretary Dennis Gregory-WU6X and Treasurer Richard Kuepper-WA6RWS. Directors present were Chuck Baker-AE6LR, Donna Naylor-W6CQX and Mark Graybill-W8BIT. Also present were PIO Carl-WF6J. President Bob Brodovsky-K6UDA was absent.

#### **REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS**

**President's Report:** No report.

**VP's Report:** Dave-NO6NO led a discussion on Field Day 2013 planning and suggested we get a sign-up sheet distributed at tonight's meeting. The Board agreed to ask Al-NI2U if he would be interested in being Field Day Committee Chair. • A similar discussion was held on the picnic for 2013; no resolutions. • Also, Dave suggested we put out a "call for programs" at tonight's general meeting. • Further discussion was held on a new meeting venue. Dave will check into the availability of the Rose room at the Auburn City Hall. This venue has good parking, a small kitchen, and more seating room than the Auburn Library, which we are quickly growing out of. Dennis reported that Auburn Elk's is not available on Friday nights. • Dave reviewed Tech-Ten and other planned presentations for up-coming Club meetings.

**Secretary's Report:** Dennis-WU6X reminded the Board of the pending vote on "term limit extensions". The previous Board had scheduled a membership vote for January. The current Board agreed to re-visit the subject with the membership at tonight's meeting, re-post in January's minutes for review, and vote at the February meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Richard-WA6RWS reported a beginning balance as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of \$3,424.09. Expenses in December totaled \$78.40. Deposits included donations and membership renewals totaling \$646.35. Net cash on hand at end of December is \$3,992.04.

- Richard led a discussion on a proposed 2013 operating budget. Items for this year's budget included; AT&T/PG&E (repeater), newsletter, badges, Club picnic, Christmas party, website fees, insurance fees, DOJ/Sec of State document filings, Field Day, NARC fees, postage & misc. Projected expenses are \$2,595; income of \$2,155, with donations and other income un-reported as yet. Mark-W8BIT moved to accept the proposed Treasurer's 2013 budget as submitted, seconded by Donna-W6CQX; passed unanimously.
- Richard requested assistance with inventory and testing of equipment donations from Jim-K6ARR' estate. Dave and Mark offered their assistance.

**Repeater Reports:** Richard-WA6RWS requested, and reminded the Board, that any requests, received or noted, for use of the repeater for special events or activities should be forwarded to WA6RWS.

**VE Report:** Due to minimal advertising, no candidates showed up.

**Property Officer:** Richard-WA6RWS reminded the Board of equipment and tracking now available.

**Web/PIO Report:** Discussion was held on the web-based "Membership application form". Suggestions were offered at how we might simplify the mechanics of submitting the form, as some members have missed the last step; emailing the form to the Treasurer. Carl-WF6J will look into adding a feature that will make the last step more clear (automatic) to members using the web. • Other discussion was to add a donation-only form; no resolutions. • Also, a mobile version of W6EK.org was discussed.

*(Continued on page 7)*

*Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (continued from page 6)*

**Discussions:** The Board again discussed possible Club activities including an aerospace balloon project possibly involving a friend of Dale Schornack from Channel 10; a CalStar presentation; an Elmer Net on the opposite week from the Prepper Net); D-Star, radio-controlled aircraft; and suggestions from Chuck-AE6LR for an antenna workshop/pre-packaged project). Chuck volunteered to Chair a committee to explore options.

Meeting adjourned at 1855 hours. Submitted by *Dennis Gregory-WU6X, SFARC Club Secretary*

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES January 11, 2013



The SFARC General meeting for January commenced at 1930 hours at the Placer County Library in Auburn. Officers present were Vice President Dave Albright-NO6NO (presiding); Secretary Dennis Gregory-WU6X and Treasurer Richard Kuepper-WA6RWS. Directors present were Chuck Baker-AE6LR, Donna Naylor-W6CQX and Mark Graybill-W8BIT. Also present were PIO Carl-WF6J. President Bob Brodovsky-K6UDA was absent due to illness.

Vice President Dave-NO6NO led approximately 29 members and 8 guests in a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, followed by an introduction of Officers, members and guests.

### **REPORTS:**

**Past minutes:** No minutes to approve, as the meeting for December was essentially the Club Christmas Party (no formal).

**President's Report:** No report.

**VP's Report:** Dave-NO6NO updated the membership on Field Day 2013 plans and circulated a sign-up sheet, and other discussions from the Board meeting (see Board minutes). • Dave also commended the organizers of the Club Christmas Party which solicited a round of applause from the membership.

**Treasurer's Report:** Richard-WA6RWS reported a beginning balance as of December 1st of \$3,424.09. Expenses in December totaled \$78.40. Deposits included donations and membership renewals totaling \$646.35. Net cash on hand at end of December is \$3,992.04.

**Secretary's Report:** Dennis-WU6X reminded guests and new members to pick up a "Welcome Letter" during the break.

**VE's Report:** Due to our listing with ARRL expiring, no advertisement was posted and no candidates showed up. However, Dave reported that we had 100+ candidates in 2012 and plans for better advertising in 2013.

**Repeater Report:** Birton-N6UG reported the 220 repeater will be offline for updates/tweaks. Richard-WA6RWS reminded the membership of repeater codes being available to members, and to check with him for that hand-out.

**Satellite Report:** Greg-KO6TH reported on the "last day of the world" satellite launch, which of course, didn't happen-the end, that is. Other information was offered on a few opportunities for satellite communications.

**Sunshine Report:** Richard-WA6RWS reported Bob-K6UDA is out with a bad case of the flu.

**Newsletter Report:** The newsletter editor, Barbara, requests any and all submissions include photographs whenever possible.

*(Continued on page 8)*

General Meeting Minutes (continued from page 7)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Proposed By-Laws Change:** Dave the Membership of the Board's recommendation to extend term limits for Club Officers from 2 years to 4 years. The term would remain a year-to-year service and still be voluntary. The rationale is that some positions (e.g. Treasurer) take considerable time to master, and the person must leave office about the time he/she begins to be comfortable with the responsibilities. With longer possible terms, a serving Officer can legally remain in office beyond the present 2-year term if re-elected by the Membership. The Membership is asked to consider the proposed changes pending a vote in February. Should the proposed change achieve Membership approval, the Secretary will update the Bi-Laws for review.

The new refreshments Chair, Jim-WA8NPA reported on "goodies" for the break, and the new Raffle Chair, George-KG6LSB reported on raffle prizes available for tonight's drawing.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**General Announcements:** The Club net is on Thursday's at 7:30; Board meeting at 6pm on general meeting nights at Round Table Pizza; the General meeting schedule; Club breakfasts (last Saturday at Susie's Café); the "Prepper Net" every other Wednesday on the 2m repeater at 7:30pm; see the Club website (W6EK.org) for more information or changing dates.

**Tech-Ten:** none.

**Presentation:** Dennis-WU6X provided a slideshow presentation and discussion on **Log Book of the World (LOTW)**. The meeting adjourned at 2055 – Submitted by, Dennis – WU6X, Club Secretary



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2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_ Application is: (Circle) New Renewal

**Dues / Donations:**

Membership: yearly*	\$22.00	Name Badge:	\$7.00	Yes (special name)_____
Associate: yearly*	\$ 7.00	Repeater Donation:	\$ _____	
Auto Patch Donation:	\$ _____	Newsletter Booster:	\$ _____	
Misc. Donation:	\$ _____	Christmas Donation:	\$ _____	ARRL member? (circle) Yes
No				

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Please add \$1 if paying via PayPal**

\*Prorated dues for NEW Members/Associates Only

July	\$ 20 /6	October	\$ 14/3 + following year
August	\$ 18/5	November	\$ 12/2+ following year
September	\$ 16/4	December	\$ 10/1 + following year

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