

Sierra Signals

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

<http://sf-arc.org>

December 2006

P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658

Cosmic Fore!

(Reported by Greg, KO6TH)

Taking the second tee shot in space history, Russian Cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin recently joined one of the most exclusive sports clubs in the known universe.

The first shot was taken some 35 years ago, when Astronaut Alan Shepard fitted the head of a six-iron golf club to his sample collection tool during his Apollo 14 moon walk. One handed, and after a couple of practice swings, Shepard connected with the golf ball, the “familiar white pellet” as he called it, and sent the ball sailing an estimated 200 – 400 yards in the gravity of the moon. Reportedly, the idea for his “experiment” was inspired when Bob Hope visited the space center and tried out the lunar gravity



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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

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simulator, with one hand firmly on his trademark club.

Fast forward to this past month. The space race is long over, and the tiny fragile Apollo craft have been replaced by a massive orbiting space station, manned by explorers from many nations. Otherwise-average people pay \$20 million for rides to the Station, but the commercial exploitation of space is still in its infancy. (continued on page 2)

2006 Calendar of Events

(Operating Events in Italics)

[Dates are local unless otherwise indicated]

Dec 1-3	<i>ARRL 160m</i>
Dec 8	Regular Meeting-Christmas Party
Dec 9-10	<i>ARRL 10m</i>
Dec 16	<i>OK RTTY DX</i>
Dec 30	Club Breakfast
Dec 30	<i>RAC Winter</i>
Dec 30-31	<i>Stew Perry 160m</i>
Jan 12	Regular Meeting
Jan 27	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)

No Meeting for December 1966

Thirty Years Ago at SFARC

December 17, 1966

Mailed SFARC News, Vol. XXIX, No. 1 to membership on Repeater WR6ADI. SFARC finally paid off the purchase of the duplexer to Ken Weger by trading off an unused shed of value \$100 plus cash value \$200. Total \$300.00

73,

Gary, KQ6RT

Cosmic Fore

(Continued from front page)

On board the Station are experiments in a number of scientific and technological areas which could yield benefits in stronger alloys, new medicines, or any number of other things. Yet for all its scientific potential, this exploit is strictly commercial: Advertising.

The Toronto, Canada-based Element 21 Golf Company plans to use a video of Cosmonaut Tyurin hitting a golf ball in a commercial message, as they introduce a line of gold plated golf clubs next year. Tyurin placed the ball on a short tee mounted on a ladder the juts out from the Russian-built Pirs docking compartment, which is also used as an airlock for spacewalks. But in zero gravity you can't just place the ball on the tee; it would quickly float away. So the tee is more like a flexible coil that will hold the ball in place. Tyurin will then anchor himself above the ball and take his one-armed swing, just as Shepard did, due to the stiffness of his spacesuit.

Golf is not Tyurin's sport; he's more into hockey. In fact, golf is not much of a sport in Russia at all. He had to take lessons in preparation for the event, taking two classes with LPGA Hall of Famer Carol Mann and PGA director of instruction Rick Martino. He also practiced in a spacesuit in an underwater tank, which simulates the zero gravity environment. Now, he's reported to have fallen in love with the sport.

The shot will be aimed over the aft end of the Station, away from the direction of travel. For safety reasons, the intended gold-plated 45-gram ball was replaced with a white 3-gram ball. The light weight of the ball and direction of the shot guarantee that there is no chance the ball will come back to hit the Station on a subsequent orbit. While Shepard's shot went hundreds of yards back in 1971, Tyurin's will remain in orbit for several days. "We'll have opened a golf course in space,"

said David Sindall, Element 21's co-founder. "It's the smallest clubhouse definitely...but with the largest real estate, infinite real estate, and the longest fairway."

The Element 21 golf club currently aboard the ISS has been signed by each astronaut to visit the station since its Fall 2005 arrival. It will be returned later to be displayed in a museum or auctioned off for charity, said Nataliya Hearn, Element 21's president and CEO. She hopes the tee will remain on the craft for some time, for use by future Station crew and visitors.

Yeah. Just a \$20 million tee time.

Greg KO6TH

Contesting

(Reported by Fred, K6DGW)

Well, the weather got cold and wet, the leaves are everywhere except on the trees, the noise levels are down, and that means the winter contest season has already started. The ARRL Sweepstakes are over, and if you haven't gotten either your CW or Phone logs in, there is still time sscw@arrl.org or ssphone@arrl.org. Even if you only worked casually, please send in your Cabrillo log, it helps everyone. Here are some selected popular contests for December:

ARRL 160m: (1 Dec 2200Z – 3 Dec 1600Z
www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/160-meters.html)

ARRL 10m (9 Dec 0000Z – 10 Dec 2400Z
www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/10-meters.html)

OK RTTY DX (16 Dec 0000Z-2400Z
www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM)

RAC Winter (30 Dec 0000Z-2359Z www.rac.ca)

Stew Perry 160m (30 Dec 1500Z-31Dec 1500Z
jzap.com/k7rat/stew.html)

The ARRL 160m will likely be over by the time Sierra Signals reaches you, but I put it in just in case. With generally low SFI numbers, the 10m contest may be a bit of a drag this year, however 10 was open some for both Sweepstakes and for the just finished CQ WW DX, so one never knows, radio is always magic. OK RTTY is fairly active and fun, however there is one wrinkle: You compute your score by multiplying your QSO points times the number of multipliers worked times the number of OK's worked. Think it over a moment ... lots of Q's times lots of mults times zero OK's equals a score of zero. So, work at least one OK!

There are two RAC contests each year. RAC Canada Day is on the Canadian 4th of July (I believe they pronounce it "July Fifth"), and the RAC Winter is at the end of Dec. Both CW and Phone activity is high, signals are strong, and you don't have to copy any calls beginning with a number J. The VE3's are especially loyal to our own CQP and are out in droves, and we all like to repay their effort. Very likely, you will hear VY1JA and/or VY1MB in the Yukon as well ... just point the antenna north and look for the pileup.

The Stew is really the “Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge,” named after the Old Man of 160m, W1BB. You can log this one on paper easily, but the scoring is a bit complex since it is based on distance rather than the QSO/Multiplier scheme in most others. Nearly all of the popular logging programs do all of this automatically for you, as will the sponsor, so all you need to do is submit your log. In fact, other than working them, that’s all you have to do in any contest. The Stew does offer some attractive multipliers for low power ($\leq 100W$) and QRP ($\leq 5W$), although some of us believe that life is too short for QRP on topband.

Law of Unintended Consequences: Often summarized as, “Be careful what you ask for,” this Law has the corollary, “Be careful who you ask, especially if you’re thinking of asking the Government.” Most all have heard that the FCC finally issued a Report and Order on the long-pending “ARRL Omnibus Petition.” I am not going to rehash the final results – they are complex and you can visit www.arrl.org for the full story. Basically, the main thrust of the ARRL’s petition was to “refarm” the HF novice bands to improve usage.

In the heyday of the Novice Class License (50’s), the sub-bands were alive with crystal controlled CW 75W signals. Turn the Wayback Machine to 1953 and you’ll hear KN6ICS, KN6ICQ, KN6LOP, KN6HXX, KN6DGW, and KN6CHQ, among thousands of others, on 80, 40, and 15 virtually every day after school and all day and evening on weekends. Novice license still exists, but you haven’t been able to get a new one for a number of years, and usage of the novice sub-bands by the few novices left has been essentially nil. The modest petition sought to reallocate the sub-bands to other modes to increase usage, and alleviate QRM, mainly on 75 phone (“The Medical Band”).

And, when the FCC issued it’s proposed rules in the NPRM, they followed the petition’s requests almost to the letter. So far, so good. The comments came in, little happened for quite awhile, and then the R&O was published. WOW! It extended the Extra Class phone band on 75 from 4000 KHz all the way down to 3600 KHz and opened it all to both Phone and Image transmission (Extra CW is legal anywhere in the band). Advanced licensees were extended down to 3700 KHz.

“This is good,” I hear you say. “Phone ops got a big gift.” Well, yes, but only at the expense of the CW nets, data, and RTTY operations currently in the 3600 – 3700 KHz segment. Extra and Advanced would have phone privileges down to 7125 KHz with not quite as much impact of current usages there, but still substantial.

Now, none of this takes effect until 30 days after the R&O has been published in the Federal Register, and that occurred back in mid-November or so. So, don’t rush to 3605 KHz and start calling “CQ DX” on SSB just yet. There are a number of other smaller and more obscure changes in the R&O, and you can read all about them in the Nov and Dec QST’s or on the ARRL web site. And, the informal sub-divisions in The Medical Band will have to be rethought. Maybe 3600 – 3625 for DX, 3625 – 3635 for Diseases of the Lower Digestive Tract, 3635 – 3650 for the Upper Tract Problems and Belching, and so on. Orthopedics (hip and knee replacements) will still require a

larger segment as will cardiology, but now there’s more space. While I doubt it, years from now this R&O might be hailed as a major breakthrough in medicine.

None of this will affect me. My hearing is laying on the ground somewhere on the other side of the planet and SSB is a non-starter for me. And, CW is legal everywhere anyway!

73,

and Merry Christmas, Happy Haunakkah, Pleasant Kwanza, and Happy Holidays ... pick one or more.

Fred K6DGW

November Meeting Minutes

(Reported by Leslie, K7NYE)

Minutes of the SFARC Board and General Meeting, November 10, 2006 at the Auburn, CA main library:

The Board of Directors meeting began at 7:00 PM with quorum of officers in attendance. New business discussed included next years’ club picnic being held at a private residence, as to save \$75.00 in club money for the local park. Also, board discussed donating \$200.00 for the use of the church for the Christmas dinner and to donate \$220.00 to the library for club use. It was decided to bring those topics up for general vote by the club membership. George, KG6LSB brought up a bill for \$320.00 for liability insurance; the board agreed that the club membership would vote on that amount. Board voted to reimburse Joe KF6RQY and Dottie, K6DMS for the postage paid for the package sent to IRAQ for the troops. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

SFARC General Meeting Minutes:

7:35 PM Meeting started by W7IB, President, Casey McPartland; Meeting started with Pledge of Allegiance, Introduction of SFARC Board Members and introductions made of all club members and guests, total of 35 in attendance; Officer reports were given by President and Treasurer; VP and Secretary had no info to report. Committee reports made for ARES and VE. Chuck, KG6FFK reported on the results from a recent ARES EMSA drill. He reported the activity was a success and everyone enjoyed the event. Satellite report and Repeater report were not provided at this meeting. Announcement made that W7IB, Casey, is appointed Assistant Section Manager for Sacramento Valley ARRL Section. Jettie Hill, W6RFF, Sacramento Valley ARRL Section Manager spoke about his own resignation effective Nov 30th as Section Manager. W7IB will be filling out Jettie’s term from Dec 1 to Sept 2007 elections. It was reported that \$403.00 were raised

by the October White Elephant sale. The club wants to thank Ed Ahlstrom, KQ6CK and life member of SFARC for his generous donation to the general fund. Club membership voted on the payment of the insurance bill; motion made by Bob, WA6ULL and seconded by Matt Diridoni, KC6RUO. The 2006 annual Christmas dinner was discussed and volunteers were requested for set up and clean up, as well as for side dishes.

New Business:

No new business was introduced.

Presentation:

Board elections were held, with Don Hay, WB6LPJ voted in as President for 2007, Kevin Reid, K6TST voted s Vice President for 2007; George Simmons, KG6LSB, Treasurer (incumbent) and Leslie Nye, K7NYE (incumbent) as Secretary, respectively. Birton Gilbert, N6UG and Jim Griffith, KI6AZH were voted in as directors, while Wayne Stilwell, W6Dt will remain on the board as the carry-over director from 2006..

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

Respectfully submitted:

Leslie, K7NYE

Secretary

Amateur Radio "Omnibus" Rules Changes To Go Into Effect December 15

(Reprinted from ARRL Letter, Vol 25, No 46)

A little over a month after the Federal Communications Commission released the Report and Order (R&O) in the so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) to the public, a revised version appeared November 15 in the Federal Register <<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov>

v/2006/pdf/E6-19189.pdf>. The changes in the R&O will take effect Friday, December 15, at 12:01 AM EST, 30 days after its publication.

As expected, the Report & Order clarified two items that had raised some concerns when it was first released last month: That the 80/75 meter band split applies to all three IARU Regions, and that FCC licensees in Region 2, which includes North America, can continue to use RTTY/data emissions in the 7.075-7.100 MHz band.

Still to be resolved are three controversial aspects of the Proceeding:

* Expansion of the 75 meter phone band all the way down to 3600 kHz (thus reducing the privileges of General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees, who had RTTY/data privileges in the 80 meter band, and CW privileges of General and Advanced class licensees)

* The elimination of J2D emissions, data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter, of more than 500 Hz bandwidth. This will make PACTOR III at full capability illegal. Other digital modes effectively rendered illegal below 30 MHz include Olivia and MT63 (when operated at bandwidths greater than 500 Hz), 1200-baud packet, Q15X25 and Clover 2000.

* The elimination of access to the automatic control RTTY/data subband at 3620-3635 kHz.

The ARRL Board is discussing the possibility of a petition to reconsider several items in the R&O.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, commented: "The release of the R&O in the Federal Register has started the countdown clock. We are all looking forward to being able to use the refarmed frequencies starting on December 15. We are still anxiously awaiting the release of the Report and Order for 05-235, the Morse Code Proceeding. We are hopeful that the Commission will be able to move on that petition and address the outstanding issues in the Omnibus R&O soon."

For more information, see the band chart <http://www2.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/Hambands3_color.pdf>

and the Frequently Asked Questions on WT Docket No. 04-140 <<http://www2.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/faq.html>>. Both have been updated to reflect the R&O as it was published in the Federal Register.

Broadcasters Intervene To Support ARRL In BPL Court Appeal

(Reprinted from ARRL Letter, Vol 25, No 46)

The Association for Maximum Service Television (MSTV) and the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) have filed a joint motion for leave to intervene in support of the ARRL in its court appeal of the Federal Communications Commission's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules.

The motion to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is dated November 9 and states: "MSTV and NAB believe that the regulations under review are arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law, and will adversely impact their members by, among other things, permitting unlicensed users of radio spectrum to interfere with licensed uses of the spectrum."

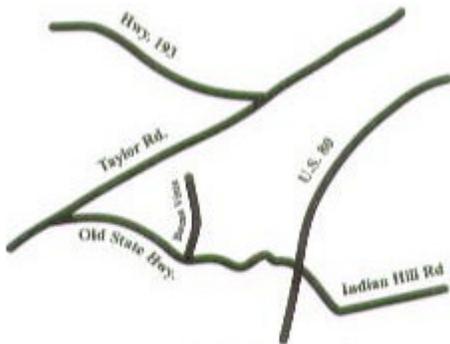
MSTV and NAB are entitled to intervene as a matter of right, so the Court is expected to grant the motion. As expected, some BPL proponents are seeking to intervene on the side of the FCC.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, welcomed the support of MSTV and NAB. "It is gratifying that these two prestigious broadcasting organizations recognize the danger posed to all FCC licensees by the FCC's flawed BPL rules. It's good to have them on our side."

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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