

29.4 Broad Band F.M./Coffee Society

It all started at the Oakland Radio Club. The ORC at that time was the largest radio club in the East Bay. A half dozen or so members of the ORC were discussing mobile activity. The ground work was laid, because sometime in the early 50's one of the guys acquired a surplus B.C. 1335. Before long 7 or 8 of us poked up \$10.00 each and the 29.4 Broadband F.M. group was started.

We had monthly potluck dinners followed by a transmitter hunt. The Xyl's stayed at the host's home, and chatted or crocheted while we drove around looking for the transmitter. Each month the potluck was at a different location. By then we had started to spread out; San Francisco, Danville, Hayward and East Oakland.

For many years we traveled to the Fresno Ham Meet. We usually stayed in the same motel; the gals went their way (not being too interested in radio). We had plenty to do at the ham fest; the transmitter hunt was our favorite, but as I recall we never were winners. In the late fifties the gang started to disband and before long there was no more interest in our socializing.

There was a lapse of about 31 years when Lu Kirk(SK), W6VDR and Bob Reynolds, N6OGP (SK) started to get the old gang together again. It was difficult finding many of them, but through hard work and diligence we located about 10. We found them in southern Cal, Roy Utah, Boston Mass., Talent, OR, Hemet, CA and locally around the bay area. The name was changed to the "AMATEUR RADIO COFFEE SOCIETY" which has been shortened to "29.4 Broad band FM COFFEE SOCIETY".

The group has grown to about 12 of us now. We have Val, K6KB, who flies up from Southern Cal; Wes, W6BTH, comes down from Roy Utah; Glenn, W6ACP from Hemet, the rest are from the bay area. W6HOR, now a 'SK', traveled from Douglas City, Ca.

We had our picnic at the Petaluma Cheese factory for many years, we changed and went to the Napa Airport. This was better for us because Val could fly in and no one had to pick him up. The Xyl's liked Napa, they didn't have to prepare a picnic lunch.

After our year 2000 meeting we lost two of our old timers. Roger, W6FDJ and John, W6CCY became Silent Keys. I knew John when he was still in high school; Roger I met at the Oakland Radio Club in the early fifties. Both very fine amateurs to know.

A get-to-gether was cancelled in 2005 when "Buck", W6HOR became a SK. Hopefully we can get together in 2006. If there is a meeting, probably

Will have only about four or five members left.

That brings us up to date. We would like to hear from anyone that had a BC 1335 and would like to join us this year, my E-mail address is w6zzt@juno.com

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