



# THE AIRWAVES

December 2008

SIERRA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

An ARRL Special Service Club

RACES ARES

P O Box 1442

Ridgecrest

California

93556-1442

<b>BOARD</b>	President	Greg Roush	WA7IRW	446-4383
	First VP	John Andrus	KC6UWM	371-2190
<b>OF</b>	Second VP	Fred Moses	KG6STR	371-3582
	Secretary	Paula Herr	N6VGW	375-5324
<b>OFFICERS</b>	Treasurer	Ed Czajka	KI6PSP	384-4726

## SARC OWNED AND MAINTAINED REPEATERS

Randsburg	WA6YBN 145.34 MHz (-), PL 100.0 Hz, Wide Area, Emergency Power, linked to 147.00
Ridgecrest	WA6YBN 146.64 MHz (-), Translator, No Squelch Tail, Emergency Power
Ridgecrest	WA6YBN 147.00 MHz (+), PL 107.2 Hz, Autopatch, linked to 145.34
Ridgecrest	YBNBBS:WA6YBN, 145.050 MHz, Bulletin Board, 1200 Baud
Ridgecrest	#YBNSW:WA6YBN-4, 223.580 MHz, Node, 1200 Baud
Ridgecrest	#YBNSW:WA6YBN-4, 439.025 MHz, Node, 9600 Baud

## SARC Committees

**Technical Assistance:** Greg, WA7IRW 446-4383  
**Program:** Fred, KG6STR 371-3582  
**RF Interference:** Bill, WA6QYR 375-8566

**Public Relations:** John, KC6UWM 371-2190  
**Airwaves Editor:** Mike, WA6ARA 375-5324  
**Emergency and Public Service:** Mike, W6PM 793-0541

## THE AIRWAVES CALENDAR

<b>Every</b>	<b>ARRL Audio News</b> 1910 (7:10 p.m.) on 146.64 MHz
<b>Monday</b>	<b>IWV Emergency Net</b> <b>Visitors Welcomed!</b> 1930 hrs (7:30pm) WA6YBN Translator 146.64 MHz (-)
<b>Night</b>	<b>East Kern County Emergency Net</b> <b>Visitors Welcomed!</b> Rand repeater 145.340, pl 100 2000 hrs (8pm)
<b>Dec 10</b>	<b>SARC Board Meeting – Heritage</b> 7 pm
<b>Dec 10</b>	<b>SARC Meeting – Heritage Inn</b> 730 pm – Elections, Radio Quiz and Christmas goodies See note inside for details.
<b>Dec 07</b>	<b>OTHTC Ultramarathon – see notes inside.</b>
<b>Jan 24</b>	<b>Fire Mountain 30/50 Horse Ride</b>

## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMS

Every Even Month, Second Saturday

### 13 Dec Volunteer License Exam Session

Location: Guns 4 Us, basement classroom  
417 East Ridgecrest Blvd, Ridgecrest CA  
No handicapped access Pre-reg by 10 Dec.  
Limited to 8 applicant All must register at 9 AM  
Contact Elvy Hopkins NØLV 760-384-3589  
E-mail <[lvrh7589@iwvisp.com](mailto:lvrh7589@iwvisp.com)>

## From the President's Shack

WOW! This year seems to have shot by pretty fast. I've lots to be thankful for this Thanksgiving: new roof doesn't leak, new toys to play with, new hip still works, and the old wife has been repaired, is feeling much better, and ought to be around for a few more years (darn it).

I've started working with my APRS gear once again. Based on software dates, about four years have slipped by since I last did much with APRS. An interesting coincidence that this month's Elmer question regarded APRS. Ed, KJ6PSP, has been working on an APRS digipeater to go up on El Paso Peak. I'm told we have an APRS Igate (internet gateway) in Ridgecrest. An Igate puts local APRS traffic into an APRS server, so that friends and family can track the progress of ham relatives as they travel through our area. When the digi is operational, it will fill in a big gap between Bishop, Las Vegas, and points south. In the spirit of ham radio, all efforts so far have been due to individual interest. SARC has donated a 2m transceiver to the digipeater effort. I keep thinking that APRS would be useful for some of our public service events, but we just don't have enough hams with mobile/portable APRS capability.

I wish everyone a happy set of holidays. The December QST has a short article regarding a variety of gift ideas for the ham.

73,  
Greg  
WA7IRW@arrl.net

## SARC November 2008 General Meeting Minutes

At 7:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by the club president, Greg Roush, WA7IRW. We had one visitor which was Eddie Witzel. Gene, KI6LO, had a request of the DX community. He asked that those who use the QSL Bureau, to please print legibly or type. Gene processes QSL cards for the Bureau, and some he hasn't a clue where they should be directed. You can find the treasurer's report each month in the club newsletter. The next event needing amateur radio operators is the OTHTC Ultra Marathon, Dec. 7th. On January 24, 2009, HAMS are needed for the Fire Mt. 50 horse ride.

Greg received a \$50 donation from the Kiwanis for the club's assistance with the Walk-a-thon. The Great Calif. Shake Out was scheduled for Nov. 13, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Bill Burns, WA6QYR, came up with no new nominations for the club offices. The incumbents seem to be running unopposed. The meeting's program was a show & tell. Mike, WA6ARA, brought in his KX1 & K2. Greg, WA7IRW, showed off his Yaesu 857, LDG 211 Pro external tuner, LDG meter & battery booster, and Astron switching

power supply. Dennis, W6DWF, sent in via Greg, an Icom 706. John, KC6UWM, showed off his TS 2000, Bill, WA6QYR talked about his 817.

The evening was brought to a close with the 50/50 drawing, which was won by Greg, WA7IRW, and the consumption of goodies provided by Bill & Judy Burns.

## Treasures Report

Treasurer report as of 04 November 2008  
Draft Account           \$192.50  
Share Account           \$3,826.27  
**Balance                 \$4,018.77**  
**submitted by Ed, KI6PSP**

## Upcoming SARC Communication Event

We're getting ready to do the 2008 Over The Hill Track Club Ultra Marathon. This year it will be on Sunday, December 7th. The course, aid station locations, and time schedule will be the same as last year. Contact Mike, WA6ARA (375-5324 or [wa6ara@gmail.com](mailto:wa6ara@gmail.com)) to volunteer or show up at the College Gym parking lot at 0630 on Sunday Dec 7 for assignments.

## SARC 2009 Nominations!

The SARC 2009 Board nominations as of the November meeting is as follows:

President	WA7IRW Greg
1st VP	KC6UWM John
2nd VP	KG6STR, Fred
Sec	N6VGW, Paula
Tres	KI6PSP, Ed

Nominations are still open, with elections to be held at the December meeting.

## December SARC Meeting Program!

Elections! Elections will be held at the December meeting.

The program for December will be a short Amateur Radio Quiz. This quiz should be easy for the recent General Class Students, think you could pass it? Not to worry, it'll be a group effort; no embarrassing scores will be published. You can even use a book and/or a calculator if you have them.

Christmas goodies will be supplied by Paula, Gibeault, N6OQQ

## General Class Report

The 2008 General License Class is over! We started with eleven students, two dropped for various reasons leaving nine. At the test, seven showed up to take the test. Of the seven, five walked away with their General and two of those went on to pass their Extra. We are looking forward to the two who could not show up for the Class license exam make the December one pass the General.

On a side note, Paula, N6VGW, took her Extra test at the General Class Exam Class and passed!

We are looking to offer the Technician Class again this spring, so keep on the lookout for more details later.

### Badges

The secretary has badges for :  
Allen KD7GXI  
Jeff KD5HML

## More from the Git-R-Done Ride

Dan Brown who owns the ranch on Panorama Trail where the Git-R-Done endurance ride is held was so impressed with the Amateur Radio help during the October ride that he is making some changes for next time. He's adding a permanent dual-band antenna on top of one of the phone poles inside the arena for our use, and will relocate us inside, near the announcer's booth. This is also near the food and coffee, just in case someone wants the cushy coordinator job next time! The in and out timers will still be out in the road (in the dust) and will communicate with us via FRS radios. Dan even plans to have gotten his Tech license (with a little help from Steve KA7ULQ) so he can talk to us directly. Steve has already acquired a pair of Yaesu VX-170 HTs to use.

Thanks again to everyone who helped make things run smoothly last time!

Jack NL7SX  
Charlie AD6QK and Barbara KI6PSQ  
Tom WB6EPD and Fran KI6RQZ  
John KC6UWM and Lorilyn KG6LEW  
Ed KI6PSP  
Tammy KG6VYA  
Harry KI6PSZ  
Greg WA7IRW  
Steve KA7ULQ

73  
Fred, KG6STR

## Ask Elmer!

*Ask Elmer!* is a chance for anyone, both new and old hams, to ask a question and get, hopefully, accurate and useful information. This can be a basic question of operating or a detailed one on a new mode. Send the editor your questions and I will distribute them to a group of local hams who will come up with the answer. If they don't know, I'll go out and find the answer to the amateur community outside of the IWW.

**The Question...** From a newbie:

I hear a lot about APRS, but looking online I don't find much but PR and Hype. Is APRS a Kenwood proprietary feature? ( I couldn't find anything about it in the ads for other brand radios). What other mobile's support APRS. How is a typical APRS and GPS connected? What do I have to do to enable APRS? What are the key standards I need to look for if buying and radio for APRS and or a GPS unit I intend to use with APRS?

Where to start... APRS stands for Automatic Packet Reporting System. APRS is "... a two-way tactical real-time digital communications system between all assets in a network sharing information about everything going on in the local area." Check the web at <http://aprs.org/>. APRS was developed by Bob Bruninga, WB4APR. APRS is an open standard so anyone can develop hardware or software to implement the features. One of the most popular uses of APRS is position reporting. Generally, a 2m FM transceiver and a computer with a sound card are needed for APRS. The computer/sound card implement the modem and terminal node controller (TNC) to decode the packets of data into data strings using free software known as AGWPE (SV2AGW's Packet Engine). APRS software, such as WinAPRS, AGWtracker, XASTIR, or UIView, will use the data strings to display messages or positions. Only a few radio makers build a modem/ TNC into a few of their radios to support APRS (or packet radio in general) A GPS receiver is only needed if one is sending APRS position reports while mobile. The GPS plugs directly into an APRS-capable transceiver, or into a TNC / computer and then into a standard FM transceiver. Several people sell small APRS encoders, such as the TinyTrak3, which grabs the GPS position info, packetizes it into APRS message format, keys the transmitter and sends the packet. APRS has the potential to be quite useful during an emergency for locating critical people/equipment and passing short messages.

Several of us have experimented with APRS over the last 4-5 years. IMHO, we have not found it very useful for our typical public service events. We almost always know where we all are located. We communicate OK via voice. Part of the problem is that too few of us are fully APRS-capable in a mobile or portable situation. I suggest before jumping financially into APRS that you talk with those of us with APRS gear and get the additional info that the ads don't mention.

## World Radio bought out by CQ

In case you haven't heard, CQ Communications, Inc., publisher of CQ Amateur Radio, Popular Communications, and CQ VHF magazine, has purchased World Radio magazine. World Radio will continue to be published, just in a free, on-line format. But what about our subscriptions?

If you are a regular subscriber of World Radio, CQ will apply the remaining months of World Radio subscription and apply it to CQ magazine. So, if you are due 6 more months of World Radio, then you will get 6 months of CQ. Not too bad, if you want CQ. If not, then you will have your choice of Popular Communications or CQ VHF.

But what if you are like me, last year I got a lifetime subscription. What about that? Well, CQ is applying the total amount that you paid for the lifetime subscription to CQ magazine. So, if you paid a few years ago at \$100, then you will get the full \$100 applied to CQ ( or Popular Communications or CQ VHF). Not too bad. And if that doesn't make you happy, then you can apply the amount to the other books and material the CQ Communications

sells. CQ is trying to make the transition as painless as possible.

If your choice is to receive CQ (or extend your current CQ subscription) no action is necessary – your subscription will begin with the February issue (or extended appropriately). If you'd like to receive one of our other publications, please notify CQ in writing by mail or fax by January 5<sup>th</sup>. Simply jot down your complete World Radio address label information and note your magazine choice below it. Mail/fax this information to us at CQ Communications, Inc. 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville NY 11801, fax 516-681-2926.

I for one will miss World Radio. The little newsie paper with it's great columns and insights were always a welcomed sight in the mail box.

Check out the SARC Web Page  
[www.qsl.net/wa6ybn/](http://www.qsl.net/wa6ybn/)

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
**SIERRA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of the HIGH MOJAVE**

Please fill out this form. It is used to make the club roster and newsletter mailing list. This form must accompany all membership and badge payments. All renewals are due 31 March. Please mail this application and your payment to SARC, POB 1442, Ridgecrest, CA 93556-1442 or give them to the Secretary at a meeting.

**Membership – Please circle one**

Individual via Mail - \$20.00	Individual via Email - \$17.00
Family via Mail - \$30.00	Family via Email - \$27.00
Full time student via Mail - \$10.00	Full time student via Email - \$8.50
Active Duty Military via Mail - \$10.00	Active Duty Military via Email - \$8.50

**Individual or First Family Member**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Novice \_\_\_ Tech \_\_\_ Gen \_\_\_ Adv \_\_\_ Ex \_\_\_ ARRL Member : Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Note: Email address is not shared, for newsletter only)

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Family Member** (For more family members please duplicate)

Name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Novice \_\_\_ Tech \_\_\_ Gen \_\_\_ Adv \_\_\_ Ex \_\_\_ ARRL Member : Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**DO NOT DETACH**

**BADGE ORDER**

**DO NOT DETACH**

The club badge shows your Amateur Call, your Name and Sierra Amateur Radio Club. It will identify you at club meetings and public service events. To order a badge, provide the information below and, include \$11.00, for *each* badge in Membership Application total above or with this form and mail to SARC, POB 1442, Ridgecrest, CA 93556-1442 or give it to the Treasurer at a meeting.

Name to put on my badge is \_\_\_\_\_ (What you like to be called)

Amateur call for my badge is \_\_\_\_\_

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**RACES, ARES and INDIAN WELLS VALLEY  
EMERGENCY NET MEMBERS**

In case of impending or current emergency, monitor the SARC translator on 146.64/04 MHz or the backup simplex frequency of 146.52 MHz. W6PM, Mike or AI6A, John, the local RACES ECs, will coordinate mobilization. An Emergency Net Control Station will direct radio communications. Check in. State your capabilities. Be prepared to go outside the IWV for at least three days. An E-Pac should contain: your RACES card, radios and accessories, batteries, charger, paper, pen, clipboard, flashlight with spare batteries, timepiece, headgear, sunglasses, spare glasses, your medications, your medical history, first aid kit, severe weather clothing, non-perishable food, 3 gal. water, sleeping bag.

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**THE AIRWAVES NEWSLETTER  
December 2008**

**SIERRA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
POST OFFICE BOX 1442  
RIDGECREST, CA 93556-1442**