



THE AIRWAVES

November 2008

SIERRA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

An ARRL Special Service Club

RACES ARES

P O Box 1442

Ridgecrest

California

93556-1442

BOARD	President	Greg Roush	WA7IRW	446-4383
	First VP	John Andrus	KC6UWM	371-2190
OF	Second VP	Fred Moses	KG6STR	371-3582
	Secretary	Paula Herr	N6VGW	375-5324
OFFICERS	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

Every	ARRL Audio News 1910 (7:10 p.m.) on 146.64 MHz
	IWV Emergency Net Visitors Welcomed!
Monday	1930 hrs (7:30pm) WA6YBN Translator 146.64 MHz (-)
	East Kern County Emergency Net Visitors Welcomed!
Night	Rand repeater 145.340, pl 100 2000 hrs (8pm)

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>

Nov 12	SARC Board Meeting – Heritage 7 pm
Nov 12	SARC Meeting – Heritage Inn 730 pm – HF rig show ant tell. See note inside for details.
Dec 07	OTHTC Ultramarathon – see notes inside.
Jan 24	Fire Mountain 30/50 Horse Ride

From the President's Shack

The Git-R-Done 100 mile endurance horse ride, our public service event for October, went well and quickly, due to the large number of volunteers. THANK YOU!! I enjoyed my several hours stint out in the desert with the stars overhead. And my thanks to Fred KG6STR for coordinating the event. Our next event will be the Ultramarathon in early December.

One of these days I'll start taking my own advice. I still have a few weeks of good weather ahead to get my antenna farm ready for the winter. I've been spending a lot of time getting some surplus test equipment cleaned and checked out. One piece is pretty cool- a time interval analyzer. It's great for measuring lengths of coax, among other things, since the timing resolution is 20 picoseconds. That's about 1/4".

And, speaking of measuring stuff, the annual ARRL Frequency Measuring Test is coming up on Wednesday, 12 Nov., the SARC meeting night. W1AW will transmit two tones to simulate the frequency shift of an FSK signal. A West Coast station will follow W1AW with another set of tones. These measurements can be done using a synthesized HF rig and a sound card. Allow all equipment to warm up for at least an hour to reach a stabilized temperature. Receiver and sound card errors can be measured using WWV before the test. Bring your measurements to the meeting and we'll compare results.

73,
Greg
WA7IRW@arri.net

SARC October 2008 General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Greg, WA7IRW. Frank, W6DZG brought in an old 2m/220m tube radio to show. Ed, KI6PSP, showed of his computer interface box. The upcoming events, T-hunt and the Git-R-Done Ride, were discussed. Jamboree on the Air, (JOTA) was canceled this year since there was no one volunteering to head it up. The evening's program was presented by John Piri, WD6CSV. He gave a very informative presentation on PIC, Controller for the ICOM software-controlled radio. Goodies were provided by Tammy, KG6VYA. The 50/50 was won by Mike, WA6ARA, Third time in 30 years. The meeting was adjourned.

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) to volunteer.

SARC 2009 Nominations!

The SARC 2009 Board nominations will be presented at the November meeting, with elections to be held at the December meeting. If you get a call, please volunteer for a club office.

November SARC Meeting Program!

The SARC November meeting program will be a show and tell. The emphasis this time around will be HF rigs, both commercial and homebrew. Please bring your favorite rig and be prepared for a short description of it's attributes.

Git-R Done Ride APRS

photos and text by Ed, KI6PSP



On the last horse ride, I attempted to set up a Digital Mapping system, utilizing APRS. I began by setting up a server at base camp, running on the standard 144.39 freq. The server utilized UI-VIEW32, and AGWPE. The system worked well for the area. I was able to run a few plots on the system, by creating objects from the field. Each checkpoint was already overlayed on the map, so it was easy to see where the objects were that I was creating from the field. The setup of this system was a partial success, and a partial failure. Here are the lessons learned from this project:

1. For base camp, it would be a good idea to be on house power, not emergency power. If emergency power is the only option, then a

laptop would be the ideal solution. Due to our high power consumption, and on battery power, the system failed around noon.

2. Objects created in the field are a little cumbersome. Objects can be projected by speed and direction, but once they hit a spot on the course where they turn, somebody would have to change the object for that direction, or delete it. Fixed objects that are updated when somebody sees them, might be more useful.
3. Small trackers might also work well on some horses
4. Base camp set up as a digipeater worked well, and would be good for the low powered trackers, so that all stations can receive the data
5. Usage of an alternate frequency might be a good idea, as there was a lot of traffic from Las Vegas that I was picking up. Small, low powered trackers might not be heard well enough to be decoded.
6. Base camp was in a difficult area to reach. The local Ridgecrest iGate couldn't receive any packets that were transmitted from the area. Then again the iGate is running off of a small scanner antenna, that isn't elevated very high. The installation of a digi on El Paso, that could have the alternate freq on it, would allow our tracking to be posted online. The other alternative would be to have the base camp packet station, gate the traffic to the Internet.



I welcome any input that anyone may have. KI6PSP (Ed)
ki6psp@gmail.com

Report from Pacificon

On the 17 of October, three intrepid SARC hams, Dennis, W6DWF, Paula, N6VGW and myself, Mike, WA6ARA, headed off to San Ramon for Pacificon. For those who may not know, Pacificon is THE west coast amateur radio get together. Held every October, hams from all over the west show up to look at new gear, attend the swap meet, listen to informative presentation and just generally have a good time.

My main interest was attending the various QRP activities. This included the QRP dinner on Friday night (which was a mad house), the QRP talks on Saturday and the Saturday night show and tell. I won a nice paddle kit at the show and tell. Here is a sample of what was shown at the show and tell.



There were plenty of vendors at Pacificon, but I would have to say a few less than normal. Plus, the prices were not that competitive. Here's Dennis scoring a good buy.



Badges

The treasurer has badges for :

Cameron KG6TXI
Allen KD7GXI
Erich N6FD

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 long time technician class license holder:

I've been a ham for a number of years, holding a Technician class license. I have thought about upgrading to a General class license but I end up asking why? I live in a very restricted antenna area and to really enjoy a General class license I would want to get on HF, but without a good outside antenna, is it possible? Others on HF have always spoken about the need for large antennas, miles of wire or a beam on the end of 50 foot tower. Is there any hope for the antenna limited ham on HF?

And the Answer...

The simple answer is YES! HF operation is possible in area where little to no antenna is possible. We are speaking of compromise antennas and they will not compete directly with the full size stacked 20 monobanders at 75 feet, but then who has those anyway. You will get out and you will work stations. As the solar cycle improves, these "compromise" antennas will work better and better.

Stealth Antennas...

Some hams have outside antennas, only you just can't see them. These are the so called "stealth" antennas. Antennas can be of the form of very light wire, painted a light blue or gray, stretched out from a balcony to a local tree. This can be loaded using a random wire antenna tuner. Other stealth antennas include mobile screw driver antennas located in a phony roof vent and jack. And yes, they work. One guy I knew set up a full size 20 meter quad and tower on his property, covered by trees. He did a fantastic job of camouflage painting and he kept the top at the top of the trees. You could not see it until you were at the actual antenna. An excellent source is "Low Profile Amateur Radio" By Al Brogdon, W1AB

Indoor Antennas...

Indoor antennas can be as simple as hanging as much wire as possible in room to room and then using an antenna tuner and a set of counterpoise wires laying on the ground. A good random wire tuner is needed, the typical built in tuner usually will not be able to find a match. I have use a 44 foot length of with thumbtacked on the wall of a hotel room as a successful 20 meter antenna, and that is running only 2 watts on CW. I have spoken to many hams using such an indoor antenna. Others will string either a random wire or a dipole in an attic. Again, not perfect but it does work. Helps if you have a second story.

Balcony Antennas...

The balcony antenna assumes that you have a balcony, or at least a window access to the outside world. A balcony antenna can be a purpose build antenna such as MFJs balcony antenna or a home brew antenna or

perhaps a mobile antenna pressed into service. A set of counterpoise for the various bands and a good tuner will be needed. Again, some would poo-poo the installation, claiming very poor efficiency, why bother, but look at it this way. It will be at least as "big" as a mobile HF antenna, and probably much higher. And hams are working DX running mobile only. Speaking of a balcony, I once ran a wire up to a balcony guard rail, loaded it up on 10 meters, and worked Florida from Inyokern.

Mobile Operation...

One possibility is to go straight to mobile. Some hams living in closed communities have gone the mobile route for all their amateur radio operation. Many hams have operated a lot of DX, counties or just enjoy the rag chew on HF while operating mobile and never set up a home station. Check out the ARRL book "Amateur Radio on the Move"

Portable Operation...

Portable operation isn't just for Field Day anymore. Many hams are taking to the field, either hiking or driving, to sites and operating their hearts away. This has bred a host of equipment for the portable operation, including the Buddipole antenna as well as the portable YP-3 beam from W6MMA Super antennas. A few adventurous hams set up a camper as a ham shack, doing all their HF operating away from the home, at great sites on mountain tops or the wide open spaces. In these cases the antenna set up may very well be superior to that of the home ham, plus at our location we have a wide choice of sites where man made noise would almost be non existence. Check out what Greg, WA7IRW has done with his motor home. It's becoming a super shack on wheels, with all the comforts. Check out www.superantenna.com and www.buddipole.com

Other modes...

For the most part, using stealth antennas, indoor antennas, balcony antennas and the like you will be at a disadvantage to the fella who has a full size antenna system. What you might consider is using different modes to improve your HF activities. CW comes to mind, as it has excellent signal to noise advantage, at both ends. But another mode has proven to be even better. This is PSK31. This is a computer keyboard to keyboard communication mode that is excellent for the weak signal style operation. It takes little equipment and the light weight signal from a modest antenna inside and 50 watts can work the world.

Limited space HF operation can and is being done, even now at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. I would encourage you to put up what ever you can, where ever you can, and get on the air on HF.

Check out the SARC Web Page
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 _____

THE AIRWAVES NEWSLETTER

November 2008

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.

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