



THE AIRWAVES

October 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 371-4034
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
Monday	IWV Emergency Net Visitors Welcomed! 1930 hrs (7:30pm) WA6YBN Translator 146.64 MHz (-)
Night	East Kern County Emergency Net Visitors Welcomed! Rand repeater 145.340, pl 100 2000 hrs (8pm)
Oct 08	SARC Board Meeting – Heritage 7 pm
Oct 08	SARC Meeting – Heritage Inn 730 pm – Icom PC Radios and a stand alone controller by John Piri WD6CSV Goodies by Tammy KG6VYA
Oct 18	Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

Oct 18 Git-R-Done ride

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMS

Every Even Month, Second Saturday

11Oct Volunteer License Exam Session

Location: Guns 4 Us, basement classroom
 417 East Ridgecrest Blvd, Ridgecrest CA
 No handicapped access Pre-reg by 09 Oct. Limited to 8 applicant All must register at 9 AM
 Contact Elvy Hopkins NØLV 760-384-3589
 E-mail <lvrh7589@iwvisp.com>

From the President's Shack

Our public service event for September, the Kiwanis Walk-a-thon, was most notable this year for the large number of volunteers. THANK YOU!! It was great to be able to fully man checkpoints. Many hams made the job easier for everyone. Please consider volunteering for an upcoming event.

The fall is a great time to do maintenance on your antennas, mast or tower, if you have one, and emergency power sources. Check the waterproofing on connectors. Inspect your grounding system. Inspect guy lines for damage. Clean and oil winches. Fire up the generator, put air in the tires, and change the oil. Inspect the antennas for corrosion. Check SWR and compare with your previous measurements (I'm sure we all keep a written record). I know I ought to do all this. I've got one ladder-line spacer that needs to be reattached to the mast, and I really should add another spacer.

I've started a sign-up sheet for the mid-meeting "goodies" so that one person doesn't continually have to provide something. Thanks to Pam and Lorilyn for the many taste treats that you've provided over the last months and years. Tammy KG6VYA has volunteered to bring something to eat at the October meeting. This is a great opportunity to show off your (or your spouse's) cooking skills.

73,
Greg
WA7IRW@arri.net

Silent Keys

It is my sad responsibility to announce that a local ham, Fred Willis, KC6YYS has passed away,

October SARC Meeting Program!

John Piri WD6CSV will be presenting the Icom PC Radios and a stand alone controller for them. An Icom PCR 1000 will be demonstrated with computer control. Then the same Icom PCR 1000 will be controlled with a home brew PIC chip controller. This will demonstrate why PC controlled radios are so powerful and popular.

Git-R Done Ride Volunteers needed!

Want to get out and make some new friends and enjoy the cooler weather? Then sign up to help with the Git-R-Done endurance horse ride on the 18th and 19th of this month. If you haven't ever worked a ride before, now's a great time to learn by working a checkpoint with someone who has. We need people to work 2 to 4 hour shifts from about 0600 Saturday till about 0200 Sunday. Most of the checkpoints will be accessible via paved or good dirt roads. This is a great opportunity to learn or hone some skills that will be needed if and when there is an emergency. For a limited time only, we are offering this specialized, advanced training absolutely FREE to

the first 24 people who sign up! Please contact Fred KG6STR at 371-3582 or kg6str@verizon.net.

Annual Kiwanis Walk-a-thon



The annual Walk-a-thon was held on Saturday, Sept. 27 2008. The morning was cool and comfortable with no wind. The walk started at 0800 and the last checkpoint closed at 0917. Nine hams provided health and welfare support for about 360 human walkers and 10 dogs. The outstanding participation made the walk very easy. We were able to place two hams at each of the first two checkpoints so that radio and counting duties did not conflict. The only event of note was the need to call for the Police Explorers to provide traffic control at the park for the returning walkers. Thanks to Hal KM6JM, John KC6UWM, Lorilyn KG6LEW, Fred KG6STR, Milt KI6FXI, Tammy KG6VYA, Dennis W6DWF, Jerry WA6BFA (the Kiwanis resupply driver), and Greg WA7IRW.



Badges

The treasurer has badges for :

Cameron KG6TXI
Allen KD7GX1
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 relatively new Ham:

I want to build a simple, single band, vertical, vhf (146 MHz) antenna to use for a base-station. There are a ton of designs out there. So far I have decided on a 5/8-wave vertical radiator. And I have identified 3 possible options

1. A dipole
2. A j-pole
3. Over a ground plane

The level of complexity and all basic construction techniques seem similar, and there isn't a big difference in materials.

My question is for local (Mojave Desert) use, which would be the best design?

And the Answer...

If those are your only 3 options, I'd select the J-pole because it doesn't require ground radials or special mounting like a classic dipole (unless you meant an end-fed dipole) to keep it away from the feedline

The basic J-pole (an end-fed dipole) design and assembly is pretty straight-forward. Finding the tuning point and attaching a connector (or feedline) is the only challenge. A copper J-pole is fairly rugged for most climates. However, copper will tarnish over time unless protected. Copper is fairly soft, so don't drop it or it'll get bent.

A somewhat lower cost "experimental" option would be to use a 2" diameter length of PVC pipe with aluminum tape on opposite sides of the pipe to create the J-pole. One could choose a diameter of PVC pipe that would slip over an existing vent pipe (with the bottom of the J-pole several inches above the top of the vent pipe) for rooftop mounting. Painting the finished antenna will protect it for several years from our environment.

All three types of antennas will have about the same gain because all are basically dipoles.

And Another Answer...

My all time favorite is the tried and true J-pole antenna made using copper tubing and matched with a

SO-239 connector and a short piece of 10 or 12 gauge solid copper wire connecting the SO-239 to the J-pole. If you're not handy at soldering copper pipe or don't have the equipment to do so, you can always use 450 ohm ladder line or 300 ohm twin lead. Check out <http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=3482> for all the information you'll ever need to know about designing and building J-pole antennas.

Some of the benefits of the J-pole antenna are: Easily matched feed point; no ground system/radials; cheap (ladder line/twin lead). The ladder line and twin lead versions can be installed in PVC pipe for installation as a base antenna. You can also attach a line to the top of the antenna and haul it up into a tree and use it for portable/emergency operation.

Montana Ham Assists in Rescue of Fellow Amateur 600 Miles Away

(Editor – This article was reported in ARRLWeb and the September 23,2008 story and is repeated here with permission from the ARRL.)



On Sunday, September 21, Bob Williams, N7ODM, of Bozeman, Montana, was just tuning around on 40 meters, giving his rig a test just before a scheduled QSO with his brother Rich, K7URU, in Spokane, when he heard a faint CW signal around 1 PM (MDT): Glenn Russell Ruby Jr, W7AU, of Corvallis, Oregon had broken his leg and was using a portable radio and Morse code to

send out a call for help. Williams said he was able to understand the injured man's code even when his signal became very weak.

"He called me. He must have heard me testing out the radio. When I finished, I signed off with my call, and then I heard, 'N7ODM, this is W7AU/7,' so I answered," Williams told the ARRL. "I told him to go ahead, I had solid copy. He told me that he was a hiker that had fallen and broken his leg. He identified himself as Russ, provided information as to his GPS coordinates, the shelter, food and water on hand, as well as his detailed physical condition. He told me exactly who I needed to contact for assistance."

According to Williams, Ruby had slipped on a wet rock and broken his leg while out hiking in the Buck Creek Pass area of the high Cascades in Western Washington, 600 miles away from Williams. "Russ really had his act together," Williams said. "Before he even called for help, he set up his tent. It was raining when he fell, so he climbed into his tent and got into some warm clothes and had a snack of sunflower seeds and dried apricots. After that, he strung up a wire antenna, fired up his Elecraft KX1 and called me." Williams said that Ruby told him he had a "couple of weeks worth of battery power" for the radio.



Ruby asked Williams to notify the Snohomish County Search and Rescue in Washington State. "I didn't have their number, so I called my local 911 dispatcher. All they had was the info for King County in Washington, so I called them and they gave me the number for Snohomish. When I got a hold of Snohomish County Search and Rescue, they asked me to obtain additional info from Russ, such as the color of his tent and if he was in a clear or wooded area, and remain in contact with him as long as possible," Williams said.

"Russ and I were able to maintain contact until about 8 PM on Sunday, during which time I was able to pass additional traffic between Russ and Search and Rescue, but then his signal got so weak where I couldn't copy it anymore. Before he faded, we had agreed to try and make contact in the morning. I tried, starting around 6:30, but he never heard me. I finally heard him calling me around 9 on 7.051 MHz. We kept in contact until he was evacuated from the site by Search and Rescue at about 10:35 AM," Williams told the ARRL.

On Sunday, rescue crews reached Ruby, who had set up camp on Buck Creek Pass, at about 6000 feet just west of the Chelan County line. He was taken to safety Monday on horseback. Williams said that bad weather Sunday prevented a helicopter rescue: "It was snowing all night; Russ told me that when he woke up Monday morning, his tent was all covered in snow."

"I just happened to be at the same frequency," Williams said. "It's just a stroke of luck that turned out great. It was quite an experience. I'm just glad that he was a ham radio operator and that I was able to talk to him. It made the difference for him. What I did was not anything special. I'd like to think that any ham in Montana would've done the same thing."

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 _____

**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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POST OFFICE BOX 1442
RIDGECREST, CA 93556-1442**

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