



# THE AIRWAVES

September 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	371-4034
	Secretary	Paula Herr	N6VGW	375-5324
<b>OFFICERS</b>	Treasurer	Ed Czajka	KI6PSP	

## 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	<b>ARRL Audio News</b> 1910 (7:10 p.m.) on 146.64 MHz
Monday	<b>IWV Emergency Net</b> <b>Visitors Welcomed!</b> 1930 hrs (7:30pm) WA6YBN Translator 146.64 MHz (-)
Night	<b>East Kern County Emergency Net</b> <b>Visitors Welcomed!</b> Rand repeater 145.340, pl 100 2000 hrs (8pm)
Sep 10	<b>SARC Board Meeting – Heritage</b> 7 pm
Sep 10	<b>SARC Meeting – Heritage Inn</b> 730 pm – TBD
Sept 27	<b>Kiwanis Community WALK-A-THON</b>
Oct 18	<b>Git-R-Done ride</b>

## 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](mailto:lvrh7589@iwvisp.com)>

## From the President's Shack

I hope everyone has had a great summer. We had a good turn-out at the BBQ in July and a huge turn-out for ice cream in August. I've gotten several small projects completed and several others ready to start. Six meters has opened occasionally and contacts have been amazing. I've even had a couple of good QSO's on 2m while mobile to and from Reno.

September is the start of our busy public service event season. We have the Kiwanis community Walk-a-thon this month, possibly the Kernville bike ride and the Git-R-Done endurance horse ride in October, and usually an ultra-marathon in December. Lots of volunteers make these events easier for everyone. We could also use folks to act as coordinators for the ham involvement. We've also started planning for a General Class licensing course to begin in October.

So, please volunteer to help at one or more of these events.

73,  
Greg  
WA7IRW@arrl.net

PS: Don't forget to bring in your new toys each meeting for a show-and-tell session. And especially homebrew antennas in September.

## General Class!

We are getting ready to offer a General Class license class. This will be a continuation of the Technician Class. It is primarily directed towards the person who has already earned the Technician class license and is looking to upgrade to General, but all are welcomed. The class will be meeting on Thursday nights, starting at 6:30 pm at a location to be determined. The cost will be \$35, and will include the book. Look for more information to be emailed out shortly!

## Annual Kiwanis Walk-a-thon

The Kiwanis have again asked for ham radio support for the upcoming Community WALK-A-THON on Saturday, Sept. 27. The Walk will use the shortened 2.5 mile route.

The Walk-a-thon is one of the easiest public service events in the area, so is perfect for new hams to get involved. Communications can often be done with just a 1W handheld radio through the translator. The Walk provides a lot of exposure of ham radio to the public. Four checkpoints/water stops will be located around the route. At least 5 hams are needed to provide health and welfare communications from the checkpoints to the start/finish at the Kern Regional Park across the street from the fire station and post office. Duties include estimating the number of walkers passing through the checkpoint, monitoring water and cup quantities, requesting additional supplies if quantities get low, and reporting any health or safety problems with the walkers.

Volunteers should be at the park by about 0730 hours for assignments, and the walk will be mostly over by 1000. Contact Greg WA7IRW on 146.64 MHz or at 446-4383 to volunteer.

## Fall Git-R-Done Endurance Ride

Ham radio health and safety support for an endurance horse ride has been requested for 18-19 October. The Git-R-Done ride is typically a 25/50/100 mile/24 hour ride. As usual the available info is somewhat limited at this time. We typically will need 2-3hams about 0600, 3-4 hams until mid-afternoon, then 2-3 hams for the remaining hours. Typical finish time is about 0100 to 0200 on Sunday. Your individual schedule can often be accommodated. The routes/loops are from base camp near the north end of Brown Road, up towards Little Lake, and down towards Inyokern. We usually operate simplex, so a mobile rig with a good antenna is needed from the extreme ends of the route. Other areas will only need a handheld with a good antenna. (A good antenna is NOT a rubber duckie!) Contact Greg WA7IRW on 146.64 MHz or at 446-4383 to volunteer.

## 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. So, with no further ado, here is the first question for of the *Ask Elmer!* Columns.

### The Question...

I'm a new ham. During the recent flooding in Ridgecrest, especially during the heavy rains, it seems everybody was grounding their ham shacks and using HT's to keep track of events. My question: isn't there a way to be able to keep a 2 meter ham shack safely running during a thunder and lightening downpour? Even on batteries and 'indoor antennas'?

### And the Answer...

Considering the rarity of thunderstorms and power outages in the IWW, it's hard to justify spending large amounts of money on converting over to multiple AGM deep cycle batteries, West Mountain Radio RIGrunner power distribution panels and PWRgate Backup Power systems to power your radio shack. However, it is very easy to justify the purchase of something similar to the

NCG Power Pocket. The Power Pocket is a 12V 2 Amp/Hr (AH) sealed lead acid (SLA) rechargeable battery that comes with a carrying case and charger. Most HTs can be powered by an external 12V power source with the purchase of the manufacturer's DC adapter, or you can make your own with the appropriate coaxial plug. A 2 AH battery will power most HTs for at least 24 hours. See page 58 of the Spring/Summer AES catalog for more details on the Power Pocket. If you need to power additional rigs, you might consider a 7 AH SLA or larger battery. Check out [www.mouser.com](http://www.mouser.com) and [www.powerwerx.com](http://www.powerwerx.com) for more info.

Regarding indoor antennas, how about a very simple antenna using a chassis mount SO-239 connector and coat hanger wire? Just straighten out the coat hanger and cut it to the dimensions shown in the figure. You could install one of these in your attic and use it as an everyday antenna. You can also store it in your garage and use it as a standby antenna. You can route your coax up through some PVC pipe and then just rest the antenna on top of the PVC pipe and let the weight of the coax hold the antenna down.

#### **And Another Answer...**

Various articles, such as "Lightning Protection for the Amateur Station", QST June 2002, provide guidelines on how to protect your equipment. The article also presents some weather service data on the frequency of thunderstorm days (5-10/year for our area), and the estimated number of lightning strikes per year on an antenna at certain heights (the lower the better).

For example, in our area, one ham (of the several hundred in our area) might experience 1 strike per 10 years on an antenna at a 25' height (above average terrain). So a ham could trade the cost of lightning protection (spark gaps, grounding antenna switches, surge protectors, grounding system, etc.) versus the cost of replacing equipment and the chance of getting hit. A \$150 worth of protection for a \$200 handheld might not be worth it. More expensive equipment and higher antennas might justify the expense.

A ham can get a lot of static protection by using a "shorted" antenna such as a J-pole. This will not protect against a direct strike. Grounding the coax shield as it enters the shack to bleed off static is a good idea. Running the radio from batteries will protect against power line surges. The chance of getting zapped while operating this way during a T-storm will be very low but not zero.

### **For Sale**

Gap Titian Vertical 6 to 80 meters. Still together and working. \$100.00

Jim WA6TFZ 760-377-3474

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

# Here is what SARC have been up to over the Summer

## June T- Hunt



## July BBQ



## Field Day 2008



**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**

**THE AIRWAVES NEWSLETTER  
September 2008**

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