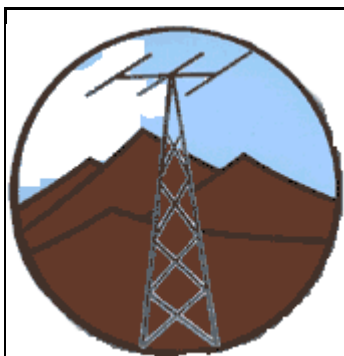


2009 SARC Membership Dues are Due!



THE AIRWAVES

February 2009

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! 1930 hrs (7:30pm) WA6YBN Translator 146.64 MHz (-)
Monday	
Night	East Kern County Emergency Net Visitors Welcomed! Rand repeater 145.340, pl 100 2000 hrs (8pm)
11 Feb	SARC Board Meeting 7:00pm Heritage Inn

11 Feb	SARC General Meeting 7:30pm Heritage Inn – Setting Up your first HF Station, Part
14 Mar	SARC Fox Hunt – 9:00am Heritage Inn parking lot

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMS

Every Even Month, Second Saturday

14 Feb	Volunteer License Exam Session Location: Guns 4 Us, basement classroom 417 East Ridgecrest Blvd, Ridgecrest CA No handicapped access Pre-reg by 10 Feb. Limited to 8 applicants All must register at 9 AM Contact Elvy Hopkins NØLV 760-384-3589 E-mail <lvrh7589@iwvisp.com>
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2009 SARC Dues are due!

Yes, it's that time of the year once again. Your 2009 SARC dues are due. Your dues support numerous repeaters, some possible repeater expansion, insurance, meeting site, licensing classes, this newsletter and host of other items. Please use the application at the end of this newsletter and rejoin, better, bring it to the January Installation Dinner. Also, please consider using the email option for the newsletter

Why Join SARC?

Why join SARC? Amateur radio can certainly be a solitary hobby, depending only upon yourself and a good many do. But joining a club such as SARC can expand your enjoyment of amateur radio. SARC maintains three repeaters, supports various local community events with communications, and provides a forum to meet others in your hobby. SARC provides excellent monthly meetings with informative presentations, T-Hunts and Field Day activities. Need help with an antenna, SARC members are there. Have a TVI problem, SARC is there. Need to get a license or an upgrade, SARC is there too. Come on and join us.

Technician Class

The Sierra Amateur Radio Club will once again be offering a Technician Class. The class will be conducted over a seven weeks period followed by the exam. The class will start on Feb 26. The class will start at 6:30pm to 8:30pm with a 10 minute break. The location has not been determined and will be announced later. The cost is \$25, including a copy of the ARRL Ham Radio License Guide (2006). If you have a copy, the cost will be \$10

For information and registration for the SARC Technician Class, contact:

SARC.Class@gmail.com (perferred)
or call Dennis Farrell (W6DWF) at 446-4787

From the President's Shack

The February newsletter and this column is an appeal to all hams reading this newsletter. If you are not a member, what can we do to get you to join? How can we make the club better? What meeting topics would capture your interest and get you into a seat? Is there something we do at a meeting that keeps you away? What activities would get you out of the house or on-the-air?

SARC (actually SARC members) currently transmit the weekly ARRL Audio News, hold bi-monthly hidden transmitter hunting, participate in Field Day, and will hold licensing classes this year. SARC repeaters support ARES/RACES training, the two weekly emergency nets, and emergency exercises. SARC members participate in 8 or so public service events each year when requested by local organizations. More members are needed to support SARC. More help at activities is always welcome.

How can we attract new people, especially young people, to ham radio and to our activities? We will soon be advertising another Technician License class to jump-

start potential new hams. A special VE session will be held at the end of the class. Look for details in *The Airwaves* and the local papers. Call or e-mail me (or one of the other SARC officers) with your thoughts and ideas.

73,
Greg
WA7IRW@arrl.net

PS: Don't forget to bring your new toys to a meeting for a show-and-tell session.

Treasures Report

Treasurer report as of 25 January 2009
Draft Account \$322.87
Share Account \$3,629.65
Balance \$3,952.52
submitted by Ed, KI6PSP

SARC Audit Report

An audit was conducted of the SARC finances by a committee comprising of Dennis Farrell, W6DWF, and Paula Herr, N6VGW. The finances were found to be sound and in order.

February Meeting Program

February Program Gene KI6LO will present "Setting Up Your First HF Station, Part 1" Basic components of an HF station. What to do, and what to avoid.

SARC 2009 Installation Dinner!

The 2009 SARC installation dinner was held on January 14, at Casey's Steaks & Bar-B-Q. We welcomed our 2009 board President - WA7IRW Greg, 1st VP - KC6UWM John, 2nd VP - KG6STR Fred, Secretary - N6VGW, Paula and Treasurer - KI6PSP, Ed

Overall, I counted about 35 folks in attendance, of which about 30 were club members. An excellent turn out indeed. The grand prize this year was a Heil Pro Set headphone / boom mic, won by Dennis, W6DWF. Other prizes, as well as the brown bags of mystery were handed out, with a good portion of the attending members going home with something.

As a separate event at the dinner, we held a drawing of those who completed and earned their General Class license at the recent SARC Class for a donated IC-735 all-band HF transceiver with auto tuner and power supply. All who attended and completed the SARC General License Class this fall and earned their General Class tickets were entered into the drawing. And the winner was Milt, AF6MY. Milt not only earned his General, but went on and earned his Extra as well.

As it would be, I forgot my camera and was having too much fun to notice... Mike WA6ARA

Badges

The secretary has badges for : Jeff KD5HML

Transmitter Hunt!

The January transmitter hunt was held on 17 January. WA6ARA won the chase (first time in a while). We are looking to hold the T-Hunts on the Saturday after the club meeting on the odd months. Look for the next one on March 14. Come and join us

The 30th annual Fire Mountain 50 mile Endurance Ride Jan. 26 2009

Preparations for the ride began on Friday about noon when Greg WA7IRW started to make a modification to the portable repeater. The mod was to attach a vertical section of PVC pipe to the side of the tanks that would hold the fiberglass mast. The idea was to make the portable repeater setup much faster and easier. I showed up just as the project was getting underway, and after several iterations, it looked like it was going to work, so we put the repeater back together (or so we thought, more on this later) and declared it a success.



Saturday morning at 0600 Greg was at Base Camp. By 0630 the 50 mile riders left Basecamp, and I was out setting up the repeater. The mod worked well, and the setup was fast and simple. At 0700 the 30 milers started, and I moved to Water 1 and Phil KG6JEL arrived at water 2. Dennis W6DWF manned a station over by Hwy 395 to keep the horses and riders away from the road. A little before 0900 all the riders had made it past Water 1 on the first loop, so I closed it down, and setup Water 3, on the second loop. Around 1130 all the riders had been through Water 2 and Radio 1 (Dennis), and they closed down their stations and were done for the day. About the same time Mark N0BLM showed up to man Water 6 on the last loop (Loop 3), Hal KM6JM was on station at water 4, and John KC6UWM and Lorilyn KG6LEW set up water 5 / Vet 3 over on Trona Rd.

As the radio traffic slowed on the western loops, and began to pick up on Loop 3 to the east, it became apparent that something just wasn't quite right with the repeater. The receive side sensitivity was far lower than it should have been. For a while I relayed traffic between Basecamp and the Loop3 stations, and then about 1330 I finally went back to the hill where I put up the repeater, and did some trouble shooting directed by Greg. When

he told me to check to make sure the connections to the tanks were tight, I discovered that we had left one completely off when we re-assembled the repeater on Friday. With all the connections actually connected, the repeater performed great for the rest of the day!



I went back to Basecamp about 1400, and spent a little time with Greg there, then relieved Greg so he could go home and take a nap! By about 1530 the last rider had departed Water 4, so Hal moved over to compare rider lists with John and Lorilyn at Water 5, then he returned to Basecamp where we spent some time trying to track down some noise in the transmit side of my radio. John and Lorilyn closed down Water 5 at a little after 1700, and finally just a few minutes before 1800 Mark saw his last riders go by, and shut down the last station, Water 6. I checked out with Valerie Rodgers at Basecamp and went out to retrieve the repeater. Valerie and several others at Basecamp expressed their thanks for everyone's help in making this a smooth and uneventful (well except for the repeater) horse ride.

Thanks again to Greg WA7IRW, Phil KG6JEL, Dennis W6DWF, Hal KM6JM, John KC6UWM, Lorilyn KG6LEW and Mark N0BLM.

And thanks to Bill WA6QYR for having things well organized before he turned it over to me so he could go be with Judy. We all wish Judy a complete and speedy recovery...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 IWV.

The Question... I've been thinking about getting a dual-band mobile rig to complement my HT and I see

that almost all dual-band radios are capable of a feature called "cross-band repeat." What is cross-band repeat and what benefit does this provide?

The Answer...

Although you can find a more technical explanation elsewhere, a cross-band repeater works very much like a regular repeater except that whatever signal it receives on one band, a cross-band repeater retransmits the signal on the rig's other band, therefore the term "cross-band repeat." Unlike a VHF or UHF repeater, where those repeaters only listen to a single frequency (and transmit on a single frequency), a cross-band repeater listens to the receive frequency on both bands. On a typical dual-band 2M/440 rig, you could have the 2 meter VFO set up for the SARC portable repeater frequency of 147.06 with a +600 KHz offset. On the 440 MHz side, you might decide to use 446.055 MHz simplex. Once your rig is activated to cross-band repeat, whenever a signal is received on the receive frequency of either band, in this case 147.060 MHz or 446.055 MHz, it will be transmitted on the transmit frequency of the other band, 446.055 MHz or 147.660 MHz.

So what's the big deal with this? It all depends upon how far you are from the station/repeater you want to reach. Let's use one of the horse rides that SARC helps out with each year as an example. Although the SARC Portable Repeater provides reasonably good coverage, it does not allow the use of hand held radios (HTs) at all check points. In order to provide good communications support, the Ham providing the support needs to be out with the riders and the horses, keeping track of each as they come in and out of their check point. If the Ham sets up their mobile rig as described above, they could use the LOW/MED/HIGH power of the mobile rig and the mobile rig's higher gain antenna to reach the portable repeater and then use a low power UHF HT for communications between the mobile rig and themselves. The Ham will be able to move about their check point in case they need to check with a Vet or hunt down one of the riders or hike to a hilltop to see if anyone has made a wrong turn, and still remain in contact with Base Camp.

A more detailed explanation on cross-banding is available at www.cvarc.org/tech/crossband.html by Ken Larson KJ6RZ.

A word about IDing. You are required to ID both of your transmitters with your call sign. How do you ID your mobile rig's 440 MHz transmitter that is sending the portable repeater signal to your HT (and everyone else within range)? It's not easy. There's lots of discussion on the 'net about that. 73

FOR SALE

The proceeds of the sale of KE6IFF Ray Boss' (silent key) have been donated to SARC by his widow Maralyn Boss. So far \$245 has been collected. The remaining hardware is listed below.

Kenwood TS-520 HF transceiver, 80 thru 10 meters (no

WARC bands), 120 watts PEP, bullet proof 6146 tube finals Kenwood VFO-520 remote VFO with cable for working split frequencies Original Kenwood manuals for both items above are included. Sure 444 microphone wired for the TS-520. This is a classic mic and one of the best of it's time. Bill Burns WA6QYR has gone through the transceiver and cleaned most of the pots, switch contacts and connectors. It is working very well now. The above really nice looking trio will make a very good first rig for someone wanting to get on HF at a very reasonable price.

This trio would be priced at \$350-450 on e-Bay. As a real deal, funds for the club and, hopefully my not having to pack and ship it, offers/bids starting at \$225 will be accepted.

HeathKit HD-10 Keyer. This is an old timer, not iambic, but a good one. Press the key to the right and it makes dashes, to the left and dots emit. There are a speed and a volume control on the top panel. A copy of the entire construction and operation manual is included. A cable with a phone jack and a connector for your transceiver's key input will have to be made. The internal speaker can be used to practice your code before you venture onto the airwaves. A real bargain for \$15 OBO. I could be talked into including this keyer with the trio above.

Next is a Knight Kit, KM-15, single channel, 15 Watt, 5 tube, HiFi amplifier with phono and tuner (line) inputs. Volume, bass, treble and on/off controls are on the chassis. This would make a nice general use amplifier around the shack. Another real deal at \$10 OBO.

Last is a Kenwood MB-201 mobile mount for the TM-201 and TM-401 series of VHF and UHF FM mobile transceivers. This set of hardware will mount one, stack a second or even a third transceiver on one dash mounting. The metric nuts, bolts and screws included are worth more than the asking price of \$2.

For more information or to purchase these items, call NØLV Elvy Hopkins at 760-384-3589 (NOT before 0900 hrs) or e-mail to LVRH7589@IWVISP.COM.

And Another For Sale

FOR SALE: Yaesu VR-5000 All Mode 100 KHz - 2600 MHz (Cell Blocked) Communications Receiver with DSP-1 module and MFJ-224 FM Analyzer. In addition to antenna input, MFJ-224 modified to accept BNC 10.7 MHz input so analyzing work can be done on any frequency VR-5000 is monitoring. No mods to VR-5000. Both items no scratches, look as new, operate as new, original boxes and operating manuals. Combo Deal only. \$450.00 Hal/KM6JM km6jm@arrl.net or 760.371.3208

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

February 2009

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**