



THE AIRWAVES

May 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
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)
13 May	SARC Board Meeting 7:00pm Heritage Inn
13 May	SARC General Meeting 7:30pm
06 June	SARC Fox Hunt – 9:00am Heritage Inn parking lot

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMS

Every Even Month, Second Saturday

13 June Volunteer License Exam Session
 Location: Guns 4 Us, basement classroom
 417 East Ridgecrest Blvd, Ridgecrest CA
 No handicapped access Pre-reg by Monday,
 8 June. Limited to 8 applicants 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 events are over until September. The next big SARC activity will be the ARRL Field Day on June 27-28. Field Day is a nation-wide exercise in emergency operations, after months of planning and preparation. Please help Gene W5DQ (ex KI6LO) with suggestions for sites, organizing, setup, participation, and take-down.

As I write this, I'm getting my gear ready for 2 weeks of field day on a sailboat in the British Virgin Islands. I must take all batteries and recharging gear, antennas, radio gear, headsets, tools, adapters, computer and interface, and cabling. All gear must be TSA acceptable, airline portable and survivable. I have to set it up each noon and take it all down the next morning. Anything that can be damaged by rain needs to be quickly stowed below whenever a rain squall moves through.

Unfortunately, most real-life emergencies don't give days or weeks of warning. That's why we encourage all hams to plan ahead and have ready a go-bag with essential items. We also encourage all hams to periodically check into the Monday IWV Emergency Net at 1930 hours on the 146.64 MHz translator. Periodic check-in ensures that you have a minimally usable station should an emergency arise. How many of us have a handheld that hasn't been turned on for months or even years?

Several videos are available to help a family plan for an emergency. Check-out "Surviving the Big One-How to Prepare for a Major Earthquake", and the more recent "Bracing for a Quake- A Survival Guide", both by KCET. Also, don't neglect the on-line FEMA training. Join RACES. If you aren't a RACES member, your usefulness in an emergency will be limited.

73,
Greg
WA7IRW@arrl.net

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

Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting: The meeting was commenced at 7:10 p.m. Each board member gave their report. Mike, WA6ARA, reported that newsletters went out to all members who renewed by the send out date. Bill, WA6QYR, said the 145.34 MHz repeater needs some work. Its signal is very weak. Ed, KI6PSP, gave the treasures report. There was nothing else to report from the remaining board members. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

General Meeting: The meeting began at 7:31 p.m. Will Leapshire, KB6TJB, was our visitor for the evening. Tom, N6NPG, announced that Miller's Reef was still going until Easter on the 17 and 40 meter bands. It was also reported that APRS digi is ready to go except recalibrating the computer.

During the "Show & Tell" portion of the meeting, Gene, W5DQ, shared the history of his new call sign. Bill, WA6QYR, showed a 2007 Handbook. Greg, WA7IRW, showed and discussed Lithium batteries.

It was brought up about the need of a new bulb for the projector. After some discussion, the topic was tabled until Fred, KG6STR, can find out prices.

Mike, WA6ARA, reported on the Tech. license class. The last class was Thursday, 4/9. A number of students had signed up to take the test at the regularly scheduled test Saturday, 4/11. The rest would be taking the test Thursday, 4/16.

Gene, W5DQ, will be coordinating Field Day this June 27th & 28th. He still needs some help, and asked for any suggestions. He mentioned the pros & cons of having it locally or up in the mountains.

There was a short break before the program. Cookies were provide by Lorilyn, KG6LEW, and Paula, N6VGW.

The program, "Electronic Compensation for Old Ears", was presented by Fred, KG6STR. Fred mentioned a web site, <http://www.phys.unsw.edu.au/jw/hearing.html>, that anyone can use to test their hearing. He advised using high quality headphones for this test to obtain the best results.

The 50/50 winner was Jim, KI6PTA. The meeting was adjourned.

Treasures Report

Treasurer report as of 08 April 2009
Draft Account \$320.11
Share Account \$4,177.55
Balance \$4,497.66
submitted by Ed, KI6PSP

Lake Isabella Swap Meet

The Sequoia Amateur Radio Group (SARG) of Lake Isabella is having a Swap Meet / Picnic for their May 9 2009 meeting. It will be at the Youth Center (3640 Golden Spur, Lake Isabella). The swap should start before 10AM as the business portion of the meeting will be very short. There will be grills and a refrigerator available if any of your group would like to join us.

Technician Class

The Sierra Amateur Radio Club Technician Class for 2009 is now complete. We had 8 students earning their Technician Class license and 1 that went on to the General. I want to thank one and all for the help and support.

73
Mike WA6ARA

Extra Class ?

And while we are on the subject, is there interest in an Extra license class in the area? It would likely occur in the fall and would require a lot of preparation by both the students and the instructors. If you might be interested in the an Extra class, please leave me a note. If there is enough interest, perhaps we can make it happen.

73

Mike WA6ARA
wa6ara@gmail.com

Transmitter Hunt!



The transmitter hunt of 4 April went off without a hitch. For the first time in a long time fox hider Paula N6VGW was able to join us. John KC6UWM and Lorilyn KE6LEW hid the fox and did it well. John had arranged some interesting reflectors that drove this writer a little crazy with all the odd reflections.

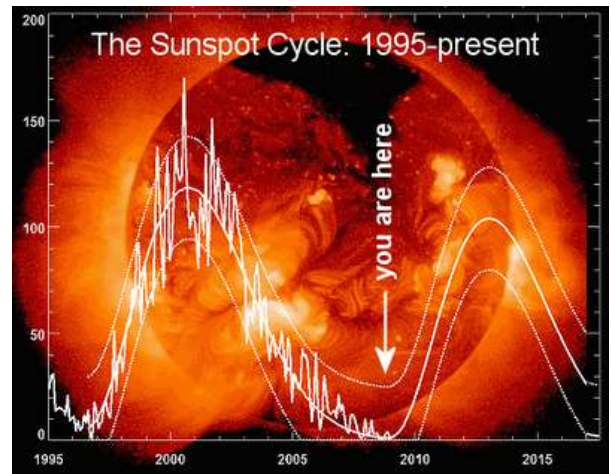
The next transmitter hunt will occur on 06 June The start point is the parking lot of the Heritage Inn, same spot as the SARC meeting. Start time will be 0900, and will last about an hour. If you don't have any T-Hunt gear, come along anyway. We will hook you up with someone who does and join the fun. This may be our last one for the summer, so make sure you make it.

Bishop Run needing volunteers

We have had a request for volunteers to help with communications for the big run they have coming up on May 16. The website with information is at www.bhs50.com . They will need operators from race start at 6am to finish at about 1am Sunday morning. Obviously they only need the later coverage nearer to the finish line and closer aid stations. 2 operators at each station who could note runner number and time in/out would be great. There are 12 stations.

Our contact for the Bishop club is Jon Patzer jonpatzer@hotmail.com and he would be very happy to hear from you.

SunSpot Blues



The sunspots are in the dumps. No doubt about it, it couldn't be much worse. We are at the lowest solar activity in the past 100 years.

One interesting point of this is listening to the various solar forecasters. So far I have heard just about every conceivable projection, from the next mega peak is just around the corner to a long, deep minimum. In the end, some will be right, others will be wrong.

Can it get worse? Well, in a word YES! From 1645 to 1715 there were very, very few sunspots, with some years recording none. Granted, the solar observation was not as sophisticated as it is today but never the less were well documented. It is called the Maunder Minimum.

During this time of solar inactivity there also occurred a cooling of the Earth's temperature, referred to the "Little Ice Age". Socially it helped push Europeans towards the new world and America.

There is evidence that the Earth has experienced other periods of low solar activity in the further past. It is likely it will do so again in the future.

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...

With the solar cycle at it's low point, is it worth getting on the HF bands (3 to 30 Mhz)? Should I just wait it out?

The Answer...

Don't wait, get on HF NOW!. There is a myth that because we are in a slump in the solar activity that there is no DX, there is no long distance communications and the like. Yes there is!

Everyday hams are working DX and having chats across the world. Yes, it is harder than during a solar maximum but isn't that part of the game? If it were turn key, like getting on the internet, then where would the challenge be.

Just about every day that I check 17 meters, it opens up for DX communications. Sure, not for long and to very limited locations, but it does open up. I've heard 10 meters open up. Again. Limited but it does from time to time, if you are patient.

The lower bands are the real work horses during a solar minimum. 30, 40, 60, 80 and 160 are open daily. If you want to run some DX you might have to get up early in the morning, or you may have to do a lot more monitoring but it can be done. Plus there is a ton of stateside operators on the air, just waiting for a QSO.

Ok, what else can I do on HF at this time? Well, try the digital modes. They offer excellent signal to noise benefits and with all that is available for your computer to run these modes, they can be easily done and at low cost.

In particular I would recommend you look into PSK31, WSPR and CW. Yes, I know, who wants to learn CW. Well, CW is a digital mode and can be done using a computer and very simple rigs. And, the number of QSOs being reported in contests using CW is actually going up, not down.

There is also new and interesting challenges during this minimum that is springing up. In particular very low powered beacons on the 30 meter band. Hams are putting up beacons running 30 milliwatts near 10.140 Mhz. Usually they are using either CW, FSK or WSPR. These signals are beign received at dedicated stations called "grabbers". Absoutly pheonomanal distances are being recorded. While not strictly a QSO in the normal fashion, it is a challenge that many find interesting.

So, in closing, there is fun to be had on the HF bands and I have only scratched the surface.

Ham Quick Tip

Got a quick tip to make ham radio more enjoyable, cheaper or just be cooler, send it in and share it!

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

May 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**