



THE AIRWAVES

November 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
Ridgecrest	WA6YBN 146.64 MHz (-), Translator, No Squelch Tail, Emergency Power
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	Public Relations: John, KC6UWM 371-2190
Program: Fred, KG6STR 371-3582	Airwaves Editor: Mike, WA6ARA 375-5324
RF Interference: Bill, WA6QYR 375-8566	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)
11 Nov	SARC Board Meeting 7:00pm Heritage Inn
11 Nov	SARC General Meeting 7:30pm Heritage Inn -
06 Dec	OTHTC Ultra Marathon - See details inside
12 Dec	FOX HUNT - details inside

23 Jan Fire Mountain 50

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMS

Every Even Month, Second Saturday

12 December Volunteer License Exam Session

Location: Guns 4 Us, basement classroom
417 East Ridgecrest Blvd, Ridgecrest CA
No handicapped access Pre-reg by 8 Dec.
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...

November is generally pretty light for public service events. Our next event should be the Ultramarathon in early December. My thanks to those hams that helped at the hospital drill for the state-wide emergency exercise.

I also want to thank John AI6A, Tammy KG6VYA, and Milt AF6MY for their work as the nominating committee. We have a slate of candidates and will actually be having an election (with ballots) in December. Remember, an election is too important to vote just once.

I will also need three hams to be on the audit committee. Please make it easy for me by volunteering before I twist your arm.

One of these days I'll start taking my own advice. I should have a few weeks of good weather ahead to get my antenna farm ready for the winter. I need to check the weatherproofing on my coax connectors, look at the mounting hardware to see if any bolts need replacing, sweep the coax and compare the data to last year's data (this is where I need to take my advice and actually record the data), and perhaps add an antenna before it gets too cold.

A fun contest of sorts is the annual ARRL Frequency Measuring Test on Wednesday, 11 Nov., the SARC meeting night, starting at 1845 hours local time. This year's format is the easiest test- W1AW will transmit a single tone. A West Coast station will follow W1AW with another signal. And a Midwest station will also be transmitting a signal. Signals can be found on the lower HF bands. Depending on band conditions, you should be able to hear at least one station and possibly all three. Check out the info at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/>. These signals can be measured using a synthesized HF rig and a sound card with one of the spectrum analyzer programs. Allow all equipment to warm up for at least an hour to reach a stabilized temperature. Practice measuring using WWV on its various frequencies before the test. Measure your receiver and sound card errors using the WWV carrier and modulated tones. Give me a call if you have questions. Bring your measurements to the meeting and we'll compare results.

73, Greg, WA7IRW@arrl.net

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

SARC Board Meeting Minutes

14 Oct 2009

The meeting started at about 19:15. In attendance were, the Treasurer, Ed, KI6PSP, First Vice-President, John, KC6UWM, Secretary, Paula, N6VGW, and President, Greg, WA7IRW. Some of the business that was discussed included, up-coming community events where Club support was needed, and information to be

brought up to Club members at the general meeting. Bill, WA6QYR brought up the Git-R-Done ride, happening in October 31 and November 1. Mike, WA6ARA brought up the idea of dropping the paper version of the newsletter. Mike pointed out the cost and hassle of putting together fewer and fewer paper newsletters. The club constitution does not dictate that a paper version of the newsletter will be produced, only that a newsletter will be. It was decided to bring this up to the general membership. Jerry, KK6PA, announced he was resigning as the club trustee for WA6YBN. The board thanked him. The meeting was adjourned at 19:30.

SARC General Meeting Minutes

14 Oct 2009

The meeting commenced at 19:33, with a welcome from the President, Greg Roush, WA7IRW. Then, for Show & Tell, Mike, WA6ARA showed off his NUE-PSK digital modem he built from a kit (article in this newsletter) and Ed, KI6PSP showed off his I-Gate built out of a router. Greg, WA7IRW spoke about the how and why of using Anderson Power Poles.

The nominating committee. Milt Entres, AF6MY, Tammy Johnson, KG6VYA, and John Denson, AI6A, reported that all positions for the club have candidates.

The Git-R-Done ride is coming up, this time 31 October (7am to 7pm) followed by 1 November (6am to 6pm). John, AI6A, spoke of the upcoming emergency drill.

There was considerable discussion concerning dropping the paper version of the club newsletter. Mike, WA6ARA explained the decreasing number of paper newsletters sent out, their expense and time and effort required. Jim, K6PQ volunteered to send out letters to those club members who have not supplied an email address.

The program for the evening was given by Gene, W5DQ. Gene discussed the ins and outs of contesting.

It was announced the Jerry, KK6PA, was resigning as the trustee for the WA6YBN call. Greg, WA7IRW, made a general call for a volunteer to become trustee.

And finally, a mighty fine batch of cookies was supplied by Tammy, KC6VYA. Meeting was adjourned at 20:55.

Treasures Report

Treasurer report as of 02 October 2009

Draft Account	\$115.95
Share Account	\$3,881.29
Balance	\$3,997.24

New Club Call Trustee

Bill, WA6QYR, has agreeded to be the WA6YBN Club Trustee. Thanks Bill!

VE Session Report

1 examinee: Brent Teeter KG6OJR
For: Upgrade to Extra
Results: passed

Upcoming SARC Service Opportunities

Ok, it's that time again, the 2009 Over The Hill Track Club Ultra Marathon. This year it will be Sunday, December, 6th. The course, aid stations locations and time schedule will be similar as last year. Contact Mike, WA6ARA, (375-5324) or wa6ara@gmail.com to volunteer.

And...

Bill, WA6QYR, received a phone call about the planning meeting for the up coming 50 mile horse ride on Jan 23, 2010. Keep that date in mind.

SARC 2010 Nominations

John, AI6A

The following individuals are willing to serve if voted in:

President - Bill Burns or Harry Stephens
First Vice President - Fred Moses or Gary Hareland
Second Vice President - Gene Brewer
Secretary - Paula Herr
Treasurer - Tammy Johnson or Julie Stephens

Change in the newsletter

We have made the decision to go to a email version of the newsletter only. This has been after discussion at the SARC board meeting, regular club meeting and querying those who received the newsletter via mail but had no email address. So, starting in 2010 the SARC airwaves will be in only email format. In filling out the application, please list the email address you wish to receive the newsletter, even if I already have it. If you change addresses, please contact the editor or the club secretary as to the change.

ARRL OUTGOING QSL SERVICE

Gene W5DQ

If you have QSL cards that you have been saving to send out via a QSL bureau, please take note that since the Sierra ARC is an ARRL affiliated club we can use this service as a group. I have a couple pounds of cards that I am planning to send before the end of the calendar year but if there are any other club members who have some, we might as well send them as a club to save on fees. If you have any outgoing DX (non-US) cards that you would like to include in the bundle, I would request you first take a look at the ARRL website for limitations. Click on <http://www.arrl.org/qsl/qslout.html>. Pay close attention to the list of "Countries Not Served By The Outgoing QSL Service" and other limitations. Also note that you must be a SARC club member and a ARRL member, both in good standing. Sorry but those are the rules. I will consolidated and organize all the cards for shipping and collect the fees for the QSL service and shipping costs. Contact Gene W5DQ (w5dq@mchsi.com) or 446-1315 for more details.

FOX Hunt

The October Fox hunt was held on October 24. The fox for the event was Paula, N6VGW. After about a 45 minute chase, Ed, KI6PSP, found the Fox. The next SARC Fox Hunt will be December 12th. So now is the time to start to drag out all the fox hunting equipment and get ready. We will meet at 9am, at the Heritage Inn parking lot and lasts about an hour. If you don't have equipment, come on anyway and ride with someone. The T-Hunt frequency is 146.565Mcs.

Mobile Operation

Web sites that may be of interest for mobileers. Both from Alan Applegate (K0BG)

- K0BG - A Web Site For Mobile Amateur Radio Operators: <http://k0bg.com/>
- Maximizing Efficiency in HF Mobile Antennas: <http://www.eham.net/articles/22397>

The NUE-PSK Digital Modem Mike WA6ARA



At a couple of the SARC monthly meetings I have passed around my NUE-PSK digital modem. I've gotten some strange looks and questions about it so I thought some additional explanation is in order. First, what is a NUE-PSK digital modem? The name really doesn't explain much, other than it does something with PSK. The NUE-PSK digital modem is a standalone PSK-31 terminal. It does not use, nor need a computer. It takes the audio from a radio and decodes and displays the PSK-31 signals. It also takes input from a keyboard and encodes the input to PSK-31 for transmission. Other modes are possible with RTTY just becoming available and CW should be possible soon. Personally, I am hoping for some of the more exotic modes such as JT65 someday.

Ok, so what is so special about this? Most folks build a simple interface and connect a computer and freeware and operate PSK-31. My interest is operation in the field. The NUE-PSK has very low current draw, especially compared to most laptops. The size and weight is considerably lower as well. But most important is the ability to see the NUE-PSK in full sunlight. This makes it a pleasure to use outside and in the field.

Setup and use of the NUE-PSK is easy and straight forward. It does not require a separate interface, just a cable to the radio. It's very easy, just receive audio, transmit audio and PTT. Set the transceiver to a typical PSK frequency like 14.070 MHz, turn the NUE-PSK on and the display shows the spectrum of the audio passband. The decode point comes up at 1500Hz. At that point you can either tune by moving the rigs VFO or, better, moving the decode point using the front knob on the modem. This is nice because when the modem knob is moved, the spectrum freezes and the decode point moves. Set it up on the PSK31 signal and wait. The decoded signal starts to appear on the display. For transmission, just hit the F10 key and start typing. There are five macro key that you can set up for CQ, station description, etc. Again, easy to set up and use. At the end hit F10 again and you are receiving again.

The NUE-PSK is available completely built or as a kit. The kit is not for the faint of heart, as a lot of surface mount is used, including a 48 pin main processor. I built the kit and spent a lot of time under a microscope soldering and re-soldering components. The kit price is \$149 and the completely built one is \$199. They have cables made up for most modern rigs for reasonable prices. One additional option that is just recently available and should be worth it is the USB module. This allows you to connect the NUE-PSK easily to a computer for upgrading the software and for complete recording of the QSOs using a thumb drive. This also adds the ability to change the software using a thumb drive in the field. This would allow you to change from PSK-31 to RTTY with just swapping a thumb drive. Check out www.nue-psk.com for additional information and ordering.

So far my experience has been very positive. I had been on PSK-31 years ago, but not for sometime. Once turned on and trouble shot, with 5 watts on 17 meter I worked Wisconsin, Russia and Japan without really trying. I had forgotten the advantage of PSK31 from a weak signal point of view. During the next month I should have had a chance to use it in the field, at 5 watts and buddipole.

For Sale

Editor's note: The following ad was inadvertently dropped from the October issue

1- IC-746 2 to 160 meters. \$800.00 w/mike, mint cond.

2- TS-120S's 10 - 80 meters. w/mikes \$300.00 ea or both for \$500.00

1- 6 mtr LPA (Big 6) beam.

Let's dicker? call Jim WA6TFZ 760-377-3474

For Sale

For Free- Early Heathkit items-
G-2 sine/square wave generator
V-5 VTVM;
C-1 condenser checker
Later Heathkit- 5 inch scope O-10
V7A VTVM
AG-9 Audio Sign gen
Eico 460 5 inch scope with manual 5MHz bandwidth.
Free-- one metal box with latches, about 6 ft long by 6 inches high by 15 inches wide
Bill WA6QYR 1-760-375-8566

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 Email - \$17.00

Family via Email - \$27.00

Full time student via Email - \$8.50

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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November 2009**

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