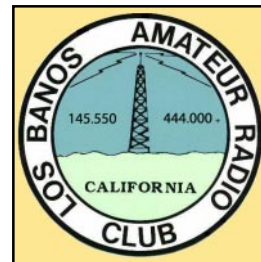




Los Banos Amateur Radio Club



The Frequency

October Meeting

One person (Dave, KG6NUO) remembered to show up for the October meeting. Let's hope we have a better turnout for the Hospital Drill & the Christmas Parade.

November 2006 Meeting

The November Meeting of the Los Banos Amateur Radio Club will be held on November 11th in the Police Annex Building located at 525 "J" Street.

Hospital Drill Set for November 15th

The Annual Hospital Drill is set to take place on Wednesday, November 15th. This annual exercise tests the hospital's ability to respond to a disaster and gives us a chance to test our ability to provide emergency communications backup in a disaster. Please, let either Dave, KG6NUO or Mike, AD6AA know if you can take part in this critical exercise.

Christmas Parade Support

Once again the Los Banos Amateur Radio Club is being called upon to provide communications support for the Annual Christmas Parade. Please let Dave, KG6NUO know if you will be available to help in this effort.

Annual Christmas Party December 9th

Todd (K6TJS) & Yulie Springer will host the Club's annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 9th in their home on Wood Duck Court. Members are asked to contact Yulie to coordinate what dish they will bring, as this to be a "potluck" event.

The LBARC Net

Day: Thursday
Time: 7:30PM, local time
Freq: 146.925- (PL123.0)
444.000+ (PL123.0)

Scheduled hosts:

Nov - AD6AA
Dec - You?
Jan - W6YD

Coming Events

Nov 11th.....Club Meeting
Nov 15th.....Hospital Drill
Dec 1st...Christmas Parade
Dec 9th.....Christmas Party
Jan 2nd.....Dues are Due
Jan 13th.....Club Meeting

1000 Marbles.....Page 2

Membership in the Los Banos Amateur Radio Club is open to all radio amateurs.
Annual dues are \$10 and are due the first of each year.

The Frequency is published monthly by the Los Banos Amateur Radio Club and is sent to all club members. Short contributed articles are encouraged and should be sent to the editor, George Allan, W6YD at 719 Ruddy Ct, Los Banos, CA 93635 or via e-mail to w6yd@aol.com. Unless otherwise noted, the Los Banos Amateur Radio Club grants permission to reprint any article from this publication -- provided credit is given to both *The Frequency* and the article's author.

1000 Marbles

The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the garage with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it:

I turned the dial on my ham radio up into the phone portion of the band in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind; he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whom-ever he was talking with something about "a thousand marbles." I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say:

"Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. It's too bad you missed your daughter's "dance recital" he continued. "Let me tell you something that has helped me keep my own priorities." And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles."

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years.

"Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. Now, stick with me, Tom, I'm getting to the important part. It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail", he went on, "and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays." "I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy. So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round up 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear."

"Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away. I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight."

"Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure that if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time."

"It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. This is a 75 Year old Man, K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!"

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter. Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast." "What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. And hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles."

A good friend (my sister) sent this article to me. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. If so, there could very well be a run on marbles in the City of Los Banos. 73 de W6YD