



Mike And Key



An ARRL Special Services Club

Founded 1914

SARC Calendar

- November
- 11th General Meeting:
Sacramento Blood Bank,
1625 Stockton Blvd.
Sacramento at 7:00 PM.
Informal get-together at
6:30 PM.
 - 25th Executive Committee
Meeting Keith Crandall's
QTH at 7:00 PM.
- December
- 9th General Meeting:
Sacramento Blood Bank,
1625 Stockton Blvd.
Sacramento at 7:00 PM.
Informal get-together at
6:30 PM.
 - 30th Executive Committee
Meeting: Keith Crandall's
QTH at 7:00 PM.
- January
- 13th General Meeting:
Sacramento Blood Bank,
1625 Stockton Blvd.
Sacramento at 7:00 PM.
Informal get-together at
6:30 PM.
 - 27th Executive Committee
Meeting: Sacramento Blood
Bank at 7:00 PM.

Antenna Party a Success

by Jim Rich, N6SZQ

On the morning of Saturday, October 31, six SARC volunteers gathered at the Sacramento Blood Center for an "antenna party". Jim White, Mike McDermott, Tom Preston, Herb Bennett, Carl Jensen and Jim Rich were joined by George Murphy. George is the SBC manager who oversees the efforts of the SARC team which provides emergency communications for the blood bank. Our goal was to improve the HF performance of the blood bank's Amateur Radio station.

We first conducted a routine safety check of the radio station. Jim White and Carl remained in the radio room while the rest of us climbed the interior ladder up to the roof of the three-story blood bank. As we did we noted the location of the metal pipes and ducts underneath the wooden roof. Once

on the roof we used a rope and buckets to haul up our equipment and supplies, including tool boxes, coaxial cable, PVC pipe and a NVIS antenna.

We inspected the existing HF and VHF antennas, and found them to be in good working order. We then discovered an ideal location for the 40-meter NVIS antenna: directly over recently-installed thick metal ducting running north-south on top of the roof. We connected the NVIS antenna to the coax, and installed it an average of nine feet above the metal ducting.

We then tested the old end-fed trap dipole HF antenna on 40 meters and got S-5 reports from blood bank communications volunteers in San Diego and Burlingame, and an S-7 from our own Ed Braaten in Rancho Cordova. Then we disconnected the old antenna and hooked up the coax from the new NVIS antenna to the end of the coax which goes to the old antenna, and repeated the test. Both the Burlingame and Rancho stations reported S-9 or above signals, while the San Diego station could not be heard. So we switched back

to the old antenna, but could still
not raise San Diego. Neither could

Continued on Page 2

Our People

1998 SARC OFFICERS

President

Gary Bryant, KB6KZZ
646-1171

Vice-President

Stan Harter, KH6GBX
SK

Secretary

Jim Rich, N6SZQ
361-3542
JWRich9@aol.com

Treasurer

Steve Cates, KC6TEV
391-7341

Directors

Les Ballinger, WA6EQQ
393-4775

lballinger@juno.com

Herb Bennett, KA6VHF
451-6864 hbenn66018@aol.com

Ed Braaten, K6EKB
939-1432 ekb@sprynet.com
Glenn Hartzell, W6WBO
428-0885

Tom Preston, KQ6EO
722-9358 KQ6EO@jps.net

Jim White, WS6K
456-9206

W6AK Trustee

Keith Crandall, K6QIF
452-5056 k6qif@cwnet.com

PIO

Richard Yeager, KG6GE

489-6334

Newsletter Editor
Tom Preston, KQ6EO
722-9358 mikekey@jps.net

PREZ SEZ

By Gary Bryant, KB6KZZ

Dear members:

I am looking forward to our November general club meeting. A great deal of member enthusiasm, and team effort is going in the presentation at that meeting. The focus of the meeting will be on introducing new hams and candidates for amateur radio to show, and tell some of their experiences as hams, and what type of activities, hobbies, and professional volunteerism that can be made possible by becoming a licensed ham operator.

I am very happy to see so much club participation to let others know how great it is to be in ham radio, and at the same time show others some of the expert talent we have in our club. I extend the invitation to join our club and bring new and different aspects of these talents.

So if you would like getting involved in Ham radio, and a chance to work with some of the BEST HAMS I know, don't even think of missing the SACRAMENTO AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS November general meeting. I guarantee you will be as impressed as I was when I went to the club's presentation meeting 10 years ago.

Quick mention about up-coming ham radio contests you might be interested in giving a listen too, or

participate in. November Sweepstakes, phone NOV. 21-23. 160-meter contest DEC. 4-6, and the 10-meter contest DEC.12-13. Novices and qualified technicians are encouraged for this 10-meter event. For all the rules and forms, see the 1998 contest yearbook by ARRL or a recent issue of QST.

73's until next month.

Antenna Party Continued

Keith Crandall, operating from his home station. So we took down the NVIS antenna, reconnected the old antenna, gathered our tools and equipment, and climbed back down the ladder.

However, we had learned enough to confirm the hypothesis that a NVIS antenna is feasible for the Blood Center's roof. Such an antenna will usually prove superior to the current antenna for 40 and 75 meters at distances of up to about 350 miles. After the SBC's Amateur Radio station is moved to its new location we plan to reroute the coax and permanently install a NVIS antenna for 40 and 75 meters, as well as a second 2-meter antenna, which will be used for voice communications. We will be recruiting SARC volunteers for that antenna party when a date has been set.

KIT KORNER

By Frank Zawalick, WD6DCV

Frank was short of time this month but he will be back next month.

Personality Profile

Tom is out of town this month so there will not be a personality profile. He should be back next month too.

November/December General Meeting Room

For the rest of the year we will be in the Sierra - Tahoe Room of the Alhambra Annex. This is the room in which we have meet for the last couple of months. For newcomers this is the building at the corner of Stockton and Alhambra. Do not confuse this with the meeting room that used to be in the main building called the Sierra - Tahoe Room. If you have any problems finding us just give a call on the repeater, as we will be monitoring. See you there at 7:00 PM.

Meeting Minutes

October General Meeting Minutes
By Jim Rich N6SZQ

The Sacramento ARC meet in the Alhambra Annex on Wednesday, October 14. Our President, Gary, KB6KZZ, began the meeting with the usual round of introductions. We welcomed a visitor from Missouri - Nick, KC0DXP.

Gary then opened officer nominations for 1999. He nominated Ed Bratten to serve as Treasurer. Jim Rich nominated Gary Bryant to serve another term as club President. Gary urged those attending to think of club members who they believe would make a good club officer or Board member, then ask them if they would be willing to be nominated to serve the club in some capacity.

We then discussed the "Introduction to Amateur Radio" meeting set for November 11. Carl

Crump agreed to come prepared to discuss VE exams, the no-code Tech license, and how easy it is to become a ham radio operator today. Jim Rich volunteered to bring a photo display and say a few words about DX. Les agreed to talk for 5 to 10 minutes on Amateur Radio use in support of public safety and disaster response services. Tom Preston volunteered to say a few words about APRS. Finally, Gary agreed to briefly describe how the CDF uses Amateur Radio operators in its VIP program.

The blood bank provided us with the free use of a TV monitor and VCR, which allowed us to watch a video loaned to us by the ARRL: *Terrible Tuesday*. The video told the story of the deadly Wichita Falls, Texas tornado that devastated that peaceful community on a Tuesday in the 1970's. Forty-six men, women and children were killed by the giant twister on that day, as it cut a 1.5 mile-wide patch of destruction through the town. About 1,700 people were injured, and 5,000 homes were destroyed. But the toll would have been a lot higher if the community had not been so well prepared to respond to the disaster.

The City of Wichita Falls had an "outstanding" disaster preparedness program in place when the tornado hit. Annual disaster drills involved City officials and public safety officers, the American Red Cross, schools, the news media, Skywarn spotters, church groups, and many Amateur Radio operators. In fact, Amateur Radio helped link all the volunteer groups with each other and the public officials.

The video featured impressive footage of the huge funnel cloud approaching, and then moving through town. Many of the Skywarn spotters were Amateur Radio operators. At least one of those brave hams raced his car

On the Air W6AK

146.91 - PL 100
442.80 + PL 100
224.1 - (coming soon)

Sacramento Valley Noon Net
Every day at Noon

On the Net

<http://home.sprynet.com/sprynet/w6ak>

Meetings

**General Meetings are the second
Wednesday of every month at the
Sacramento Blood Center, 1625
Stockton Blvd. Sacramento.
7:00 PM**

Please Join Us

down streets parallel to the tornado's course as he carefully reported its position. Part of the video's "sound track" featured taped conversations of public safety officers and volunteer responders. Everyone involved talked with calm, professional-sounding voices.

Finally, the video provided some advice on how to survive a tornado: Buy and use an alert tone-equipped weather radio. Don't stay in your car when the tornado hits - seek cover by lying flat in a ditch or ravine. If no basement is available, seek cover in an interior, windowless room. And don't be caught inside a mobile home when a tornado hits.

October Board Meeting Minutes
By Jim Rich N6SZQ

The SARC Board of Directors met at Keith's house on October 28. The club officers and directors were joined by Carl, KF6LBM, who is providing publicity for our November "Introduction to Amateur Radio" meeting. We began the meeting by addressing envelopes and placing fliers in them for that meeting.

We next discussed the program for that meeting, including who had volunteered to give short presentations on various aspects of Amateur Radio. Then the club's latest bank statement was examined, to confirm there were enough funds remaining for insurance renewal and the Christmas party.

We also made final plans for the antenna party at the blood bank on the following Saturday, and discussed officer nominations for the 1999 term.

November Meeting

The November General Meeting will be the "Introduction to Amateur Radio" meeting. So bring those people that you would like to "Introduce" to our hobby along with you.

December's General Meeting will be the Christmas Party. Current plans are for Pizza and sodas. An Alinco DJ-280 (a brand new 220 MHz handheld) will be raffled off. So come on by and join the celebration. This meeting will also be the yearly business meeting with elections for next year's officers and Board members.

January's speaker will be Ben Green, WD8CZP, ACS/EAS Coordinator for the State Office of Emergency Services. Ben replaced Stan Harter when Stan became a SK earlier this year.

BUY, SELL, or TRADE

Estate Sale

ELENCO Signal Generator SG-9000 100Khz-150Mhz

Oscilloscope (Unknown Manufacturer) Wideband 12 Mhz

EICO TV Sweep Generator

EICO VTVM

LAFAYETTE Telsat-23 23 Channel CB

SBE Model 33 Mobile HF SSB XCVR (2 available) 80-10 Meters (Pre-WARC))

HEATHKIT HW-22 Mobile SSB XCVR

Home Brew HF RF Amplifier (Output Unknown)

All items are offered as "Best Reasonable Offer". Contact: Frank Zawalick / WD6DCV / 682-1589

Advertising of Ham related items are free to club members. So if you have anything to sell or trade or you are looking for something, get the information to Tom Preston, KQ6EO and I will post it here.

Ham Swaps

Placerville – 3970B Missouri Flat Rd. #3 Placerville. Third Sunday of the month, 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Talkin 146.865 – PL 142.2 or 440.700 + PL 88.5

Livermore Swap Meet – Las Positas College in Livermore. First Sunday of each month, 7:00 AM – 12:00 noon. Talkin 147.04 (from west) or 145.35 (from east).

Foothill Flea Market – Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. Second Saturday of March through October.

809 Phone Scam

By Les Ballinger WA6EQQ

You get home and you listen to your answering machine messages. One is a caller asking you to call a number beginning with area code 809 to receive information about a family member who has been ill. (They may also tell you someone has been arrested, died, you have won a wonderful prize, etc.) In any event, concerned or curious, you make the call.

Sometimes the phone will be answered by a person who claims to speak broken English. (The idea is to keep you on the line to build up charges.) Or, sometimes you will just get a long recorded message. The bottom line is, when your phone bill comes, you see this incredible charge, oftentimes more than 100.00 dollars

The Sacramento Amateur Radio Club *Founded 1914*. An ARRL Special Service Club. **1998 SARC Officers:** President—Gary Bryant, KB6KZZ, 646-1171; Vice President—Stan Harter; Secretary—Jim Rich, N6SZQ, 361-3542; Treasurer—Steve Cates, KC6TEV, 391-7341; **Directors:** Les Ballinger, WA6EQQ, 393-4775; Herb Bennett, KA6VHF, 451-6864; Ed Braaten, K6EKB, 939-1432; Glen Hartzell, W6WBO, 555-5555; Tom Preston, KQ6EO, 722-9358; Jim White, WS6K, 456-9206. W6AK Trustee—Keith Crandall, K6QIF, 452-5056; Mike and Key Editor—Tom Preston, KQ6EO, 722-9358. **Club Dues**—\$16 per year, from January to December (new memberships will be prorated). **The SARC Newsletter, Mile and Key**, is published monthly by and for the membership of the Sacramento Amateur Radio Club. Permission is granted to other amateur radio organizations to reproduce in whole or in part for internal non-profit use, provided credit is given to the SARC Newsletter and to the authors of the reproduced materials. **Articles**—Manuscripts and letters are welcome. Items may be sent to Tom Preston, email at mikekey@jps.net, or snail-mail at Editor, *Mile and Key*, 8425 Arcaro Ct. Citrus Heights, Ca. 95610. **Advertising**—commercial non-personal advertising, business cards through full page, is available. Contact the editor above for information. Classified advertising is free to members of SARC. Submit ads monthly to the Editor at the above addresses.



Quad A's Electronic Supply
7360 Auburn Blvd. Suite "B"
Citrus Heights, Cal. 95610

(916) 723-7360 (916) 723-7366 Fax (916) 723-7368
 www.quads.com

Samuel E. Ansell

A Woman Owned Business

Retail and Commercial Sales

METRO ELECTRONICS

ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTORS

1831 J STREET
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

(916) 442-1512
 FAX: (916) 442-1586

Sacramento Amateur Radio Club

P. O. Box 161903, Sacramento, Ca. 95816-1903

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL FORM

Date _____ New Renewal Change of Address

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

General, \$16.00 Associate, \$16.00 Family, \$21.00 Student, \$8.00

Please fill in and circle anything you do not wish to have printed in the SARC Roster.
 Family memberships must reside in the same household.

NAME _____ CALL _____

LICENSE CLASS: N T T+ G A E Birthday _____ ARRL Member: Yes No

Family member: NAME _____ CALL _____

LICENSE CLASS: N T T+ G A E Birthday _____ ARRL Member: Yes No

Family member: NAME _____ CALL _____

LICENSE CLASS: N T T+ G A E Birthday _____ ARRL Member: Yes No

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Areas of interest, bands and modes used:

Emergency communications capabilities: ACS/RACES or ARES

New memberships in mid-year will be pro-rated.

This form must accompany your check, made payable to SARC. Send to SARC at address above.