



# Mike And Key



An ARRL Special Services Club

Founded 1914

## SARC Calendar

April

- 7<sup>th</sup> APRS SIG Meeting:  
Sacramento Blood Bank, 1625  
Stockton Blvd. at 6:30PM
- 14<sup>th</sup> General Meeting: Sacramento  
Blood Bank, 1625 Stockton  
Blvd. Sacramento at 7:00 PM.  
Informal get-together at 6:30  
PM.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee  
Meeting: Keith Crandall's  
QTH at 7:00 PM.

May

- 5<sup>th</sup> APRS SIG Meeting:  
Sacramento Blood Bank,  
1625 Stockton Blvd. at  
6:30PM
- 12<sup>th</sup> General Meeting: Sacramento  
Blood Bank, 1625 Stockton  
Blvd. Sacramento at 7:00 PM.  
Informal get-together at 6:30  
PM.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee  
Meeting, Keith Crandall's  
QTH at 7:00 PM.

June

- 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting: Sacramento  
Blood Bank, at 7:00 PM

## Saturday Morning Get Together

By Tom Preston, KQ6EO

Some of our member, due to scheduling conflicts or night transportation problems have been unable to make the monthly general meeting. The survey at the beginning of the year had 8 people showing interest in a Saturday morning get together. Well I am happy to announce that Ed Braaten, our club treasurer, has volunteered to organize the get together. He will be contacting those who expressed an interest in the survey to determine which Saturday of the month and what time will be workable for everyone. If you have an interest please contact Ed with your input and so that we can get to everyone with the final information. I call this a "get together" instead of a meeting because there we be no business portion or scheduled speaker. Just a few short announcements and

then a lot of gab about radio and other related subjects. Maybe we can set up a trip of some kind afterwards once in a while. So if you are interested get hold of Ed ( His contact information is in the "OUR PEOPLE" section on the next page. Hope to see you there. And "THANK YOU" Ed for volunteering.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Club Renewals Due Now

By Tom Preston, KQ6EO

March 31 was the due date for membership renewals. If you have not already done so please get your renewal in right away. Those who are not current by the end of the month will not get any more Mike and Key newsletters and will no longer be considered an 'Active' member of the club.

RENEW NOW

\*\*\*\*\*

# Our People

## 1998 SARC OFFICERS

### President

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

### Vice-President

Frank Zawalick, WD6DCV  
682-1589 wd6dcv@jps.net

### Secretary

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

### Treasurer

Ed Braaten, K6EKB  
939-1432 ekb@sprynet.com

### Directors

Les Ballinger, WA6EQQ  
393-4775 lballinger@juno.com

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

Gary Bryant, KB6KZZ  
646-1171

Keith Crandall, K6QIF  
452-5056 k6qif@cwnet.com  
Glenn Hartzell, W6WBO  
428-0885

Jim White, WS6K  
456-9206

### W6AK Trustee

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

### PIO

Carl Jensen, KF6LBM  
443-8866, ericejen@webtv.net

### Newsletter Editor

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

# PREZ SEZ

By Tom Preston, KQ6EO

Greetings fellow members:

Alrighty now, the APRS SIG is going well and the Saturday morning breakfast is being organized by Ed Braaten. Hopefully we can have the breakfast going late this month or early May. As the APRS SIG activity levels off after the initial startup we will probably use the First Monday of the month time slot for other SIGs as well.

We still need more people to volunteer. As I am writing this Carl Jensen, KF6LBM has volunteered to take the PIO (Public Information Officer) position. We now need SIG managers to organize the initial meetings and then oversee the SIG meetings. We want to have a family barbecue at Field Day and need someone to handle that as Bob and Mike are busy with sites, equipment, etc. Please try to help with at least one position a year. Also a position could be shared. Get someone to share a SIG Manager position with you and both could back each other up. Again Thanks Carl.

73 until next month.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Tube Donation Update

By Tom Preston, KQ6EO

Last year Don Holton from the FAA Radar site donated all the old tubes that they had and were going to throw away to the club. I picked them up last summer and over time I finally got them sorted out and cataloged. There were 2049 tubes of many different sizes. About a

month ago Tom Hughes took over the project of the sale of the tubes.

Antique Electronic Supply was interested in about half of them. Tom has sorted out 1007 tubes and shipped them out. They have to be checked by Antique Electronic Supply before we know the final value but if most are in good shape there should be a tidy little sum for the treasury.

Tom is going to set up a space at the Bella Vista Swap on the 24<sup>th</sup> to try and sell some of the ones left over. If you can give him a hand let him know.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Personality Profile

By Tom HughesWA6ZYK

Mike McDermott, KF6RUQ

Mike is a native Californian having been born in Pasadena. He has also lived in Pomona and Claremont until his freshman year of High School at which time he moved to Denver, Colorado where he finished high school.

Immediately after High School, in 1976, he joined the Navy for six years. He received Basic Electricity & Electronics instruction at San Diego, California and Electronics Technician (ET) school at Great Lakes, Illinois. Following that he attended Crypto school in Augusta, Georgia and UHF school in Norfolk, Virginia.

Mike's first duty station was at the Naval Telecommunications Center, Subic Bay, in the Philippines. The eighteen month Philippine tour was followed by twelve months aboard the USNS Chauvenet (TAGS-29), a Coastal Hydrographic Research Ship operating in the Makassar Strait between the Indonesian islands of

Borneo (Kalimantan) and Sulawesi. That operation, working from 36-foot fiberglass survey launches, included mapping the ocean floor right up to the water's edge.

Next he was assigned to the USS Wichita (AOR-1). They performed Oiler and Ammunition Replenishment duties. Mike says that they were essentially a "Floating 7-11" except that they also handled bullets and bombs. This sometimes involved transferring fuel, underway, to ships running on both sides of them. I commented that I recalled always being sure that I was below decks when they fired the first line across from the supply ship. Mike said it was never a problem for him since he was on the "shooting side"!

After completing six years with the Navy he joined Sprint, the long distance phone company, in the Bay Area and began work on his Electrical & Electronic Engineering Degree. In 1989 he transferred with Sprint to Sacramento and graduated from Sacramento State in 1994 with a BSEEE. At Sprint Mike has worked as a laboratory technician, operations technician and control center specialist and currently holds a position as Software Engineer at Sprint's Rancho Cordova Billing Center.

Mike initially picked up an interest in electronics from his father who, although not a "Ham", dabbled in radio electronics. Mike was finally convinced to become involved in Ham radio by his neighbor, Bob Browning K6RWB. Mike joined the S.A.R.C not long before Field Day 1998 and was one of S.A.R.C's most productive operators. He is now also a member of the SHARP operation and the California Blood Bank Society's Amateur Radio Network.

Mike & his wife Nora met and were married in the Philippines. They have two daughters, Michelle 19 and Rushelle.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Club Equipment

We are trying to get all the club equipment together so it can be checked out for Field Day. Please bring any and all club equipment to the meetings or give Mike (682-6994) or Bob (689-9594) a call so they can arrange to get it from you.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Meeting Minutes

**March Meeting Minutes**  
by Jim Rich, N6SZQ

The Sacramento ARC meet at the blood bank on Wednesday, March 10. Our President, Tom Preston, KQ6EO, began the meeting with the usual round of introductions for the 19 members and visitors. We welcomed two first-time visitors: Dan Adams, KJ7PJ, and Bob Lipman. Dan is a native of Idaho, and is new to the area. He lives in Granite Bay and works in Sacramento. Bob works for the Poison Control Center, and does not yet have his ham ticket. He is interested in maritime mobile operation.

We then heard several updates on club business. Marv, N6XML, has been having technical problems getting our new 220 MHz repeater on the air. He continues to make progress on this important project. Rory, KD6RKL, had a suggestion for a future program: a tour of OES headquarters.

Finally, Frank, WD6DCV, suggested the club try to distribute fliers at Railfair 99 to publicize our nearby Field Day operation at

## 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/~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

Discovery Park. Frank said we need to publicize and promote Amateur Radio so as to attract more young people to ham radio.

Tom then introduced Mike and Brian, from the River City ARC. They discussed the big RCARC swap meet to be held on April 24 at Bella Vista High School, in Fair Oaks. This year's meet will be a family-oriented event, and will feature events and displays of interest to both hams and their families. Phone 492-6115 for more information.

Tom then introduced the evening's speaker, Rick McCusker, WF6O, a former SARC Vice President. In December 1997 he was hired as the editor of World Radio, despite having no journalistic experience. However, he brought to the job a contagious enthusiasm for Amateur Radio, and a willingness to try new ideas to improve the magazine and promote our hobby.

Rick showed how World Radio has changed over the years. It began in 1971 as a newsletter typed on an electric typewriter in the basement of its publisher. It is now published almost entirely by electronic means, using Page Maker and Photo Shop, and reaches 23,000 subscribers.

Rick discussed some of the issues and events he has covered for World Radio. These included operating from the Queen Mary ocean liner, and a US Navy submarine docked at Pier 45 in San Francisco. Rick also toured the USS Hornet, now restored as a floating naval museum and docked in Oakland. It does not yet have a permanent Amateur Radio station, but has hosted a special event operation.

Rick then discussed the decline of Morse code, which is no longer used by even the US Coast Guard. Recently Rick, a Coast Guard veteran, toured the USCG station at Point Reyes. It has only one microphone, and no Morse code key, so they can't even use Morse as an emergency backup. The vast majority of their communications is automated, with e-mail being very common for ship-to-shore communications.

As editor of World Radio, Rick has observed some troublesome trends and developments in Amateur Radio. Foremost, there has been the decline in licensed Amateur Radio operators in America since 1991, despite the new no-code entry-level license.

Rick feels that the spread of personal computers and the rise of the Internet are the main reason for this.

The decline in the number of hams has increased pressure to lower Morse code speeds required for ham licenses, so as to prevent the loss of parts of our bands. For instance, the FCC may soon propose or consider lowering the code speed required for the General Class license to only five words per minute. The Extra Class speed would decline to 12 wpm.

Another unfortunate development has been the abuse of the FCC's granting of free vanity call signs for Amateur Radio clubs. Rick and other World Radio staff have discovered one ham who is the trustee of 18 radio clubs and the holder of 13 vanity calls. Another man is busy serving as trustee of 38 clubs, and trying to keep track of 27 call signs. One Amateur Radio club has even been established in the name of a famous Nevada brothel, with an obscene call sign, granted by the FCC. Rick suspects that many of these vanity calls for fictitious clubs are being held so they could be sold to other hams. Rick plans to publicize this issue in World Radio.

Finally, Rick had a suggestion for helping to reverse the decline in the number of new hams: Use the annual Field Day to publicize Amateur Radio. Most clubs should operate from highly visible locations in public places, such as city parks or shopping malls,

instead of out in the wilderness where few members of the general public will run across them.

### March Board Meeting Minutes By Tom Preston, KQ6EO

The March Board Meeting of the Sacramento Amateur Radio Club was held at Keith Crandalls QTH on March 31 at 7:00 PM.

Field Day was discussed with Frank Zawalick, WD6DCV reporting that combining Field day with RailFair 99 was a NO GO. The Railfair committee never came back with an answer and it became too late to pursue it any longer. Mike McDermott, KF6RUQ and Bob Browning, K6RWB are still checking on parks with "Discovery Park" being our first choice. Mike and Bob are also ready to collect all the club equipment so that they may check it out and have it ready to go. They will also make up any power distribution cables that will be needed. Tom Hughes has the generator that we had trouble with last year and it seems to work fine. He will check into the problem further.

Storage of the club equipment was discussed next. Storing it at OES was thought to be the best place as many club members would have 24 hour access to it at that location. It will be looked into further.

Next Tom Preston announced that Ed Braaten, K6EKB would be organizing the Saturday morning breakfast.

**The Sacramento Amateur Radio Club** *Founded 1914*. An ARRL Special Service Club. **1998 SARC Officers:** President—Tom Preston, KQ6EO, 722-9358; Vice President—Frank Zawalick, WD6DCV, 682-1589; Secretary—Jim Rich, N6SZQ, 361-3542; Treasurer—Ed Braaten, K6EKB, 939-1432; **Directors:** Les Ballinger, WA6EQQ, 393-4775; Herb Bennett, KA6VHF, 451-6864; Gary Bryant, KB6KZZ, 646-1171; Keith Crandall, K6QIF, 452-5056; Glenn Hartzell, W6WBO, 428-0885; 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, Mike 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](mailto:mikekey@jps.net), or snail-mail at *Editor, Mike 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.

Carl Jensen expressed interest in a NTS messaging talk for a monthly meeting and Frank Zawalick will look into it.

Last we discussed the tubes donated by Don Holton. Tom Hughes reported that two boxes with about 700 tubes had been shipped to Antique Electronics Supply that day (3-31-99) for sale. He also reported that he planned to take the remaining tubes to the swap meet on April 24<sup>th</sup> and see what could be sold there. He asked for some help during the swap meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

\*\*\*\*\*

## April Meeting

The guest speaker for the April meeting is Les Cobb, W6TEE. Les is a resident of the Sacramento area and a contributor to the amateur radio publication, World Radio. He is an avid mobile radio operator and will be discussing Amateur Radio Mobile Operations prior to Repeaters. Mathew Cobb, KF6FIQ, is planning on attending the meeting to share his ham radio experiences with his father. This should prove to be an interesting meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BUY, SELL, or TRADE

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Classes and Testing

VE Testing - N6DK in Sacramento  
383-2113

VE Testing - W5YI in Roseville  
783-7610

VE Testing - 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM. Carmichael Elks Lodge, 5631 Cypress Ave. Carmichael. Corner of Cypress and Hackberry.

Ham Classes - RCARCS. Call 492-6115 for further info.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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.

Yuba Sutter ARC Swap Meet - Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> at American Legion Post, 5477 Feather River Blvd. in Linda.

North Hills Radio Club - Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Bella Vista High School in Fair Oaks.

River City ARCS - Saturday April 24 at Bella Vista High School.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Emergency Service Organizations

### SBC

Sacramento Blood Center  
Contact Jim Rich N6SZQ

### OES-ACS:

Auxiliary Communications Service of the Governors Office of Emergency Services  
Contact Cary Mangum, State ACS Officer at 916-2621670  
or  
Les Balinger WA6EQQ  
Herb Bennett KA6VHF

### SARCR

Sacramento Amateur Radio Communications Reserve  
Sacramento City RACES  
Contact Chuck Miller KD6AQM at 916-362-5924. Net on Monday's at 19:00 on 145.190 PL 162.2

### CDF-VIP

California Division of Forestry Volunteers in Prevention  
El Dorado Co.  
Contact Bill Ozment, W6LSW at 530-644-7066

Please contact Tom Preston KQ6EO with any other organizations that should be listed here

\*\*\*\*\*

## Contest Reminders

By Tom Preston, KQ6EO

### April Contests

9-11: Japan Int'l DX Contest  
10-11: MARAC County Hunters  
10-11: DIG QSO Party  
12 : VHF/UHF Spring Sprint  
17 : European Spring Sprint  
17-18: Holyland DX Contest  
17-18: YU DX Contest  
17-19: Michigan QSO Party  
20 : VHF/UHF Spring Sprint  
24-25: Helvetia Contest  
24-25: Florida QSO Party  
24-25: Ontario QSO Party  
28 : VHF/UHF Spring Sprint

## May Contests

- 1- 2: Connecticut QSO Party
- 1- 2: Mass. QSO Party
- 1- 2: ARI Int'l DX Contest
- 1- 2: MARAC County Hunters

\*\*\*\*\*

## FCC Amateur Enforcement Line

202-418-1184

\*\*\*\*\*

## Airline In-flight Safty

Submitted by Tom Preston,  
KQ6EO

Here are some supposedly true humorous statements by several airline flights crews. Occasionally, airline attendants make an effort to make the "in-flight safety lecture" a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

"As we prepare for takeoff, please make sure your tray tables and seat backs are fully upright in their most uncomfortable position."

"There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane..."

"Your seat cushions can be used for floatation, and in the event of an emergency water landing, please take them with our compliments."

"We do feature a smoking section on this flight; if you must smoke, contact a member of the flight crew and we will escort you to the wing of the airplane."

"Smoking in the lavatories is prohibited. Any person caught smoking in the lavatories will be asked to leave the plane immediately."

As we waited just off the runway for another airliner to cross in front of us, some of the passengers were beginning to retrieve luggage from the overhead bins. The head steward announced on the intercom, "This aircraft is equipped with a video surveillance system that monitors the cabin during taxiing. Any passengers not remaining in their seats until the aircraft comes to a full and complete stop at the gate will be strip-searched as they leave the aircraft."

A frequent line used at the end of a flight is, "Our flight attendants are now walking through the aisles with trash receptacles for any garbage you might have or anything else that you might wanna give us!"

Once on a Southwest flight, the pilot said, "We've reached our cruising altitude now, and I'm turning off the seat belt sign. I'm switching to autopilot, too, so I can come back there and visit with all of you for the rest of the flight." s the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Washington National, a lone voice comes over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella... WHOA..!"

"Should the cabin loose pressure, oxygen masks will drop from the overhead area. Please, place the bag over your own mouth and nose before assisting children or adults acting like children."

"As you exit the plane, please make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please, do not leave children or spouses."

"Last one off the plane must clean it."

"If you are so lucky to be traveling with small children..."

And from the pilot during his welcome message: "We are pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry...Unfortunately none of them are on this flight..."

This is an actual joke I heard on Southwest Airlines, just after a very hard landing in Salt Lake City, one of the most bone jarring I've experienced; The steward came on the intercom and said, "That was quite a bump and I know what ya'll are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airlines fault, it wasn't the pilots fault, it wasn't the flight attendants fault.....it was the asphalt!"

>From a Southwest Airlines employee..."Welcome aboard Southwest Flight XXX, to YYY. To operate your seatbelt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seatbelt, and if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised.

In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, oxygen masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with two small children, decide now which one you love more.

Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but they'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest Airlines."

\*\*\*\*\*

Advertising  
Space  
Available

Contact Tom KQ6EO at 722-9358

**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, \$16.00+\$5.00 for each additional  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.

# The Radio Place

YOUR COMPLETE AMATEUR RADIO SOURCE!  
SERVING THE GREATER SACRAMENTO VALLEY SINCE 1976

**YAESU**

**ICOM**

**MFJ**

Tuesday - Friday 9:00 - 5:30

Saturday 10:00 - 4:00



5675-A Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95824  
Telephone 916/387-0730 FAX 916/387-0730



Sacramento Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 161903  
Sacramento, CA. 95816-1903

**FIRST CLASS**

To: