
River City ARCS

Vol. 27 No. 09
September 2003

River City Amateur Radio Communications Society

October Meeting: Monday, October 6, 2003

From the President:

Summer is almost over and it is time to start getting ready to work some HF this fall and winter. To help with getting ready for the winter, we are going to hold a swap meet on the 27th of September 2003. You are sure to find some real bargains for your station. If you don't find everything at the swap meet, you may find it at the white elephant sale at the October meeting.

The raffle table was a success at the last meeting and should be better at the September meeting.

On September 14th we have scheduled a joint picnic with North Hills, ARC, and it will be lots of fun. Check n6na.org for details.

Last thing I have this month is a message from the ARRL about Broadband over Power Line (BPL). This will be discussed at the September club meeting. See you there.

"73"

Chuck Freas, W6FT, President

VE SESSION RESULTS:

Ken Hall, WO6J, our "VE Guy": At the August 16th session there were four candidates. Two became General and one Technician.

The test fee increased to \$12.00 January 1, 2003. The next session will be September 20th, 2003, at 8:45am at the Carmichael Elks Lodge, corner of Cypress and Hackberry in Carmichael. The new Technician test began July 1st.

Larry Hodge will hold test sessions on the first Saturday of the month. For more information, contact Larry at [<larry.r.hodge@intel.com>](mailto:larry.r.hodge@intel.com)

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Joint Picnic in September

River City ARCS and North Hills ARC will hold a joint picnic at Gibson Ranch Sunday, September 14th, beginning at 11:00am. It will be a pot luck lunch, so bring

your favorite picnic dish to share and join the fun. Take Watt Avenue to Elverta Road, go west on Elverta about 3/4 mile; then turn right to Gibson Ranch Park Drive. Look for the mobile antennas!

RACES

If you're interested in becoming a member of RACES, contact Dale, AD6CT, at (916) 925-1062, for more information. You may also tune in to the Monday night net on 147.195 at 7:00pm.

E-mail is Faster!

You can receive your newsletter faster and cheaper than snail mail. It costs the club about \$.75 for each "hard copy" newsletter mailed each month. If you can receive e-mail, send a message to Dale, ad6ct@arrl.net and your newsletter will arrive *before* the meeting. Great news! Do it today. Just write "subscription" on the subject line and send!

RCARCS Swap Meet - September 27th

On Saturday, September 27th, from 7:00am until 11:00am, RCARCS will hold a swap meet at the Sutter Middle School located at Alhambra Blvd and "I" Street.

Vendors pay \$10.00, buyers are admitted free. Coffee, sodas, and muffins will be available for purchase.

October Club Meeting on Monday

The October club meeting will be held on Monday, October 6th because of the special election. Same time, same place, different night. And be sure to vote on Tuesday.

FCC Update

In a detailed, nine-page petition, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) is calling on the FCC to delete Element 1 and give "Tech Plus" privileges to current Technician licensees. The NCVEC also asked the FCC to "take expedited action" to allow volunteer examiner coordinators (VECs) to discontinue administering Element 1 "as soon as possible."

"The Amateur Service community suffers from the loss to its ranks of a large number of potentially excellent operators who are turned away because of the CW requirement," the NCVEC petition said.

The organization, the umbrella group for the 14 VECs in the US, said there's "no longer any reasonable justification for requiring an applicant to demonstrate this antiquated skill," and that most applicants never use morse

after they pass the test. The NCVEC petition is designated RM-10787.

The ARRL-VEC abstained from voting on the NCVEC's petition question when it came up during the NCVEC's July 25 meeting in Pennsylvania. At its own July meeting in Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors affirmed its interest in reviewing members' input on the Morse issue as well as on other possible revisions to Part 97 arising from WRC-03. The Board's current position is to retain the Morse requirement for HF access.

2003 RCARCS Officers/Board

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	Ruff Gunn (K6DME) . . (707) 678-5192

*Leave message

CLUB INFORMATION:

DUES: \$20.00 Annually beginning January 1st

CLASSES: Class schedules, tests to license or upgrade, and general information are available by calling the RCARCS Hot Line at (916) 492-6115.

MEETINGS: Club meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm, at the Sacramento County Corporation Yard, (formerly SMUD), corner of Don Julio and Elkhorn Blvds. Board of Directors meetings are held the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

CLUB PHONE: (916) 492-6115

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 215073, Sacramento, CA 95821

WEB SITE: www.n6na.org.

E-MAIL: n6na@arrl.net.

2003 RCARCS Calendar

September 2nd	Club Meeting, 7:30pm
September 14th	Joint Picnic with North Hills ARC
September 23rd	Board Meeting, 7:00pm
September 27th	RCARCS Swap Meet
October	Prevention 2003, TBA
October 6th	Club Meeting, White Elephant Sale, 7:30pm
October 28th	Board Meeting, 7:00pm
November 4th	Club Meeting, Elections, 7:30pm
November 25th	Board Meeting, 7:00pm
December 2nd	Club Meeting, 7:30pm
December 7th	Holiday Dinner (tentative) - TBA
December 23rd	No Board Meeting

Significant Changes for Ham Radio at WRC-03

The 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference in Geneva, Switzerland brought several significant changes to international ham radio regulations. First, the 7100-7200

kHz frequencies on the 40-meter band will be cleared of international broadcasters by 2009 and will be open to radio amateurs worldwide.

In another major change, the International Telecommunications Union voted to drop the Morse code exam requirement for all hams operating below 30 MHz. Code test requirements, or lack thereof, will now be made on a country-by-country basis. Switzerland may be the first country to change code requirements, according to *Newsline*, which reports that the Swiss say they will grant HF operating privileges to all hams with non-code licenses. *Newsline* also reports that the UK may soon do the same.

ARRL Files Strong Opposition to BPL

Calling Broadband over Power Lines "a Pandora's Box of unprecedented propositions," the ARRL has called on the FCC to "Take no steps" to allow the proposed system of using power lines for high-speed internet transmission. The 120-page filing in response to the FCC's Notice of Inquiry on the subject was, according to the ARRL Letter, one of 1900 replies submitted. In its comments the League cited potential for interference both to and from amateur radio, noting that the potential remains untested and unrealized since no BPL systems are currently in operation. However, several studies included with the League's comments suggest a worst-case increase in noise levels on HF and low VHF bands would be on the order of 34-65 dB above typical ambient noise levels. The *ARRL Letter* also noted that power-line interference is already a significant problem for amateurs and that some power companies have "a less-than-stellar record of cooperation" in resolving these problems. Comments on the FCC's Notice of Inquiry closed on July 7.

California Antenna Bill

California Governor Gray Davis has signed into state law a bill incorporating the FCC's limited antenna pre-emption rules, commonly known as PRB-1. Under the new law, the *ARRL Letter* says, any California ordinance regulating amateur radio antenna structures must "reasonably accommodate" amateur radio communication and must constitute "the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the city or county." California is the 20th state to adopt a state version of the federal rules. It is particularly significant because it is the nation's most populous state and home to more amateurs (about 15% of the total) than any other US state.

PACIFICON 2003

October 17, 18 & 19

**San Ramon Marriott Hotel
San Ramon, California**

www.pacificon.org

Hot Line: (925) 932-6125