

---

# River City ARCS

---

Vol. 28 No. 04  
April 2004

River City Amateur Radio Communications Society

---

## Next Meeting: WX

---

### From the President:

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws (CBL) of River City ARCS, I have appointed a committee (Chuck Freas, and Kay Hankins) to review our CBL for currentness. The committee made a preliminary report to the Board at its last meeting. Several changes were recommended to the Board which will be reviewed in detail over the next several months. The Board will make any recommended changes in the form of amendments proposed to the membership at a meeting later this year. Additional information will be provided when it becomes available.

Our membership chairperson, Anne (AD6UY) has informed me that she is planning to make a move to New Mexico in the very near future. Anne, you will be missed by the members of this club!

In accordance with the provisions of the CBL I will appoint someone to fill the vacancy created by the loss of Anne when she leaves. If you are interested in filling the vacancy, please contact me either by telephone (916-925-1062) or by e-mail ([ad6ct@arrl.net](mailto:ad6ct@arrl.net)).

Dale Hankins, AD6CT, President

---

### March of Dimes Walk-a-thon

April 24, 2004, is the date for the annual March of Dimes Walk-a-thon. Volunteer ham radio operators are needed to pass health and welfare information. We will meet on the North side of the State Capitol at 7:30 a.m. for assignments and instructions. Contact Dale, AD6CT, if you can volunteer to help in this event. Phone 916-925-1062.

---

### You've Got Mail!

Thanks to more than 80% of club members who have responded to this article and now receive their monthly newsletter by e-mail. It costs the club about \$.75 for each "hard copy" newsletter mailed each month, or \$9.00 per year per member.

If you can receive e-mail, send a message to Dale, [ad6ct@arrl.net](mailto:ad6ct@arrl.net) and your newsletter will arrive *before* the meeting. Great news! This saves the club postage, paper, and ink (toner, to be precise!). Just write "subscription" on the subject line and send! Do it today.

---

### VE SESSION RESULTS:

From Ken Hall, WO6J, our "VE Guy": "The next session will be April 17, 2004, at 8:30am at the Carmichael Elks Lodge, corner of Cypress and Hackberry in Carmichael. The fee is \$12.00. Call the Information Hotline for details: 916-492-6115.

The March 20<sup>th</sup> session had two candidates and one became a technician with HF privileges.

"Be sure to bring your ORIGINAL CSCE form and license to the session. Copies will be made to send to the ARRL and the originals will be returned to you.

"The General class question pool (Element #3) will be administered starting July 1, 2004. It was released for publication on December 1, 2003. Be very careful about which General Class book you purchase."

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)

---

**The River City ARCS Newsletter is published monthly by and for the membership of the River City Amateur Radio Communications Society. All Rights Reserved. Permission is granted to other amateur related organizations to reproduce in whole or in part for internal nonprofit use, provided credit is given to the RCARCS newsletter and the authors of the reproduced materials. Articles and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the individual Board Members, the editor, or the membership in general.**

---

### April Speaker

Kathryn Hoxie, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service Office in Sacramento, will be our guest speaker for the club meeting on April 6, 2004.

Kathy's responsibilities are generally three fold: To train staff members on warning operations; to ensure warnings are effectively transmitted to those who need them; and, to work with the warning recipients to ensure the most effective use of the information. In addition, she serves on the forecast desk to cover for staff members on leave or travel.

Kathy is a California native, though most of her adult years have been spent working and schooling in various locations across the country. Because of this, she has an extensive arsenal of weather stories and tales, so be careful of getting her talking about the weather!

---

## 2004 RCARCS Officers/Board

President	Dale Hankins (AD6CT) (916) 925-1062 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ad6ct@arrl.net">ad6ct@arrl.net</a>
Vice President	Chuck Freas (W6FT) . . . . . (916) 332-0927 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cmfreas@ardennet.com">cmfreas@ardennet.com</a>
Secretary	Glenn Gleason (KG6LRX) . . (916) 480-0862 E-mail: <a href="mailto:gleasong@pacbell.net">gleasong@pacbell.net</a>
Treasurer	Al Auringer (WH6BK) . . . . . (916) 344-6700 E-mail: <a href="mailto:alauringer@juno.com">alauringer@juno.com</a>
Membership	Anne Bowman (AD6UY) . . . . (916) 991-6578 E-mail: <a href="mailto:anna@lanset.com">anna@lanset.com</a>
N6NA Trustee	Dane Westvik (KO6YD) . . . . Club Phone* E-mail: <a href="mailto:dane.n6na.org">dane.n6na.org</a>
Training	Bob Balthrope (KD6WTY) (916) 682-9871 E-mail: <a href="mailto:kd6wty@yahoo.com">kd6wty@yahoo.com</a>
Editor	Kay Hankins (KF6IZU) . . . . (916) 925-1062 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mkhankins@sbcglobal.net">mkhankins@sbcglobal.net</a>
VE Liaison	Ken Hall (WO6J) . . . . . Club Phone*
Directors	Bob Balthrope (KD6WTY) (916) 682-9871 E-mail: <a href="mailto:kd6wty@yahoo.com">kd6wty@yahoo.com</a> Stelian Vilceanu (AE6OR) . . . . . E-mail: <a href="mailto:Steli_hd@yahoo.com">Steli_hd@yahoo.com</a> Ron Boothe (KE6PUG) . . . . (916) 334-3527 E-mail: <a href="mailto:hoverking98@yahoo.com">hoverking98@yahoo.com</a> Ruff Gunn (K6DME) . . . . . (707) 678-5192

### Committees:

Sound Guy: Paul Grose, KG6KPV  
Newsletter Editor: Kay Hankins, KF6IZU  
VE Liaison: Ken Hall, WO6J  
Education Coordinator: Bob Balthrope, KD6WTY  
Holiday Dinner: Kay Hankins, KF6IZU  
Repeater Trustee: Dane Westvik, KO6YD  
Bylaws: Kay Hankins, KF6IZU, Chuck Freas, W6FT  
Field Day General Chairman: Roy Rudebaugh, KD6LLE  
Pot Luck Lunch Chairman:  
Set Up/Take Down Chairman:  
Publicity Chairman:  
Jackets, T-shirts & hats: Mary Anne Balthrope, KE6EST  
\*Leave message

### CLUB INFORMATION:

**DUES:** \$20.00 Annually beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>  
**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](http://www.n6na.org)  
**E-MAIL:** [n6na@arrl.net](mailto:n6na@arrl.net)

## 2004 RCARCS Calendar

April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting, 7:30pm
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting, 7:00pm
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting, 7:30pm
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting, 7:00pm
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Club Meeting, 7:30pm

June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Board Meeting, 7:00pm
June 26-27	Field Day 2004
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting, 7:30pm
July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting, 7:00pm
August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Club Meeting, 7:30pm
August 24 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting, 7:00pm
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting, 7:30pm
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting, 7:00pm
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting, 7:30pm
October 26 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting, 7:00pm
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	CLUB MEETING, MONDAY, 7:30pm
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	NO MEETING Election Day
November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Board Meeting, 7:00pm
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting, 7:30pm
December 28 <sup>th</sup>	No Board Meeting

## Morse Code Users Poised to Adapt to E-mail Realities

(Reprinted from the Sacramento Bee, March 4, 2004, by Anick Jesdanun, Associated Press)

Dot. Dash. Dash. Dot. Dash. Dot (- . - .).

By summer, that will be the international symbol for the @ sign used in e-mail addresses, under the quaint but rarely used Morse code system.

A working group of the U.N. International Communication Union last month recommended the first change to the code since at least the 1930s. Approval is expected this spring, said spokesman Gary Fowlie.

Morse code, whose origins date back to Samuel Morse's invention of the electromagnetic telegraph in the 1830s, has diminished in use over the decades, replaced by voice and computer bits.

Even its primary users – ham radio and other amateur operators – tend to communicate via voice, said David Sumner, secretary of the International Amateur Radio Union.

But “many of us just prefer to use Morse code,” he said. “It’s more fun than talking.”

Many amateur operators like to carry to the Internet conversations they started over the air-waves, creating a need for an @ sign to exchange e-mail addresses.

“Up till now, it’s done by leaving a big space, sending ‘A; and ‘T’ and then leaving another big space,” Sumner said. “But it’s appropriate to have an internationally recognized signal. This eliminates ambiguity.”

The ITU, which keeps the official Morse code list as part of its regulation of radio frequencies, began considering the change during its World Radio Conference last summer.

The new sign, designated “commercial at,” joins the multiplication symbol and other Morse punctuation marks (though missing still is an exclamation point). It essentially combines the codes for “A” and “C” – think of the symbol as an “A” enclosed within “C,” (a mnemonic).

---

Mikes' 2-Way Radio Shop  
9580 Arcada Court  
Elk Grove, CA 95624  
(916) 806-8550

web page coming is [www.mikes2way.com](http://www.mikes2way.com)

---

## Fresno Hamfest

The Fresno Amateur Radio Club is presenting the 2004 Fresno Hamfest and ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section Convention. This event will be held at the Ramada Inn University, 324 East Shaw, Fresno, CA, April 30<sup>th</sup> - May 2<sup>nd</sup>. See website for more information: <http://www.gsl.net/w6to>

---

## North Hills Radio Club Swap Meet

North Hills Radio Club Annual Swap Meet is scheduled Sunday, May 16, 2004, at Bella Vista High School on Madison Avenue in Orangevale.

---

## Area VEC Test Locations

**River City ARCS** (Walk-ins okay)  
Contact Ken Hall at 916-492-6115 (club hotline)

**Folsom** (Walk-ins okay)  
Contact Larry Hodge at 916-361-2476 or  
[larry.r.hodge@intel.com](mailto:larry.r.hodge@intel.com)

**Sacramento ARC** (Pre-registration required)  
Contact Bill Allshouse, KQ6AW, at 916-464-4115

**Yuba Sutter ARC** (Walk-ins okay)  
Contact Eddie O. Ansely at 530-742-2674 or  
[www.users.cwnet.com/ysarc/](http://www.users.cwnet.com/ysarc/)

**Stockton** (Walk-ins okay)  
Contact Mark at 209-465-7496

**Santa Rosa** (Walk-ins okay)  
Hot Line 707-579-9608

**Nevada County ARC** (Walk-ins okay)  
Contact Louis Pelletier at 530-477-2295 or  
[kq6sq@ncws.com](mailto:kq6sq@ncws.com)

**El Dorado Sheriff & Search & Rescue** (Walk-ins okay)  
contact James Swanson at 530-544-2351

---

## Do you remember when. . . ?

(From the Web)

All the girls had ugly gym uniforms? It took five minutes for the TV to warm up? Nearly everyone's mom was at home when the kids got home from school? Nobody owned a purebred dog? When a quarter was a decent allowance? You'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny? Your mom wore nylons that came in two pieces? All your male teachers wore neckties and your female teachers had their hair done everyday and wore high heels?

You got your windshield cleaned, oil checked, and gas pumped with out asking, all for free, every time? And you got trading stamps to boot! Laundry detergent had free

glasses, dishes or towels hidden inside the box? It was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner at a real restaurant with your parents? They threatened to keep kids back a grade if they failed . . . and they did?

When a '57 Chevy was everyone's dream car. . . to cruise, peel out, lay rubber or watch submarine races, and people went steady? No one ever asked where the care keys were because they were always in the car, in the ignition, and the doors were never locked?

Lying on your back in the grass with your friends and saying things like, "that cloud looks like a . . ." and playing baseball with no adults to help kids with the rules of the game? Stuff from the store came without safety caps and hermetic seals because no one had yet tried to poison a perfect stranger?

And with all our progress, don't you just wish, just once, you could slip back in time and savor the slower pace, and share it with the children of today? When being sent to the principal's office was nothing compared to the fate that awaited the student at home? Basically we were in fear for our lives, but it wasn't because of drive-by shootings, drugs, gangs, etc. Our parents and grandparents were a much bigger threat! But we survived because their love was greater than the threat.

Share this with someone who can still remember Nancy Drew, the Hardy Boys, Laurel and Hardy, Howdy Dowdy, and the Peanut Gallery, the Lone Ranger, The Shadow Knows, Nellie Bell, Roy and Dale, Trigger and Buttermilk. As well as summers filled with bike rides, baseball games, Hula Hoops, bowling and visits to the pool, and eating Kool-Aid powder with sugar. Didn't that feel good, just to go back and say, "Yeah, I remember that"?

I am sharing this because it ended with a double dog dare to pass it one. To remember what a double dog dare is, read on. And remember that the perfect age is somewhere between old enough to know better and too young to care.

## How many of these do you remember?

Candy cigarettes; wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water inside; soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles; coffee shops with table side jukeboxes; Blackjack, Clove and Teaberry chewing gum; home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers; newsreels before the movie; P.F. Fliers; telephone numbers with a word prefix . . . (Woodcrest 5774); party lines; peashooters; 45 rpm records; Green stamps; Hi-Fi's; Metal ice cube trays with levers; roller skate keys; Studebakers; the Fuller Brush Man; Tinkertoys; 15-cent McDonald hamburgers; 35-cent a gallon gasoline; Jiffy Pop popcorn?

If you're in your sixties or more, and you can remember most or all of these, then you have lived!!!! Pass this on to anyone who may need a break from their "grown-up" life. . . I double-dog-dare-ya!

---

## NOTICE TO ALL VISITORS

*What you are about to witness is an "Amateur Radio Station"  
Licensed by the Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.*

Before you ask questions, here are the answers:

1. The total cost of this equipment cannot be discussed here as it creates marital conflicts.
2. No, I cannot send a message to your brother in Hong Kong. I suggest you call Western Union.
3. This is a private station. We do not have the facilities or the time to fool around with TV sets, stereos, or tape recorders. I suggest you see a service person.
4. Yes, the antenna in the back yard is essential to the operation of this equipment.
5. The cards on the wall are called QSL cards. They are confirmation of contacts made with other amateur radio stations.
6. It is technically impossible for this station's equipment to interfere with TV reception, telephones, or stereo systems. Any interference problems of that nature are caused by design flaws in the devices themselves.
7. An amateur radio station may only be operated by a highly qualified, technically skilled, electronics expert. It takes dedication, training, and intelligence to reach the level of competence that justifies one to be licensed by the United States government. Therefore, it is not considered inappropriate to show proper awe, respect, and general obsequiousness when I operate my station or discuss amateur radio.

Furthermore, if you are granted the extreme honor of being invited to speak into the microphone, please observe the following rules:

- ★ Speak in a low and soothing tone.
- ★ Do not disagree with me in any manner.
- ★ Say no bad words or tell any off-color jokes.
- ★ It is customary for guests to make complimentary remarks about this station and its licensed operator when talking to other amateurs on the air.
- ★ **Please do not touch anything. Several visitors have been electrocuted in the past few weeks.**