
River City ARCS

Vol. 28 No. 08
August 2004

River City Amateur Radio Communications Society

Get Ready for RCARCS' Swap Meet 9-25-04

From the President:

I was sitting at the computer keyboard thinking about what I should write in this column this month when I realized that the room was totally silent. There are four (4) VHF & UHF radios turned on and monitoring seven (7) repeaters in the local area! I haven't heard anyone key their radio in nearly an hour. It's apparent to me that we (the Ham Radio community) are putting ourselves in the position of giving the business interests interested in our frequencies a wide open opportunity. Just how long can we continue to claim in defense of our frequencies that they are absolutely necessary when they are so infrequently used. We must take on a **use them or lose them** attitude or face the possibility that the business interests will eventually hear the silence and use it against us. Turn on your radio. Select a frequency – hopefully 145.250 (-162.2), but any one will do. Pick up your microphone once in a while. Press the PTT button. Speak across the microphone and eliminate the silence. I monitor both of the RCARCS repeaters all the time. Call me. I'd love to chat with you.

I'll step down from my soapbox for now to give you a heads-up. Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 2nd. We will be having a joint picnic with North Hills Radio club and the Sacramento RACES/ARES group at Gibson Ranch. Additional details will be provided next month.

Dale Hankins, AD6CT, President

2004 Membership Cards

If you haven't received your River City ARCS 2004 membership card, contact Kay, KF6IZU, who has been appointed membership chairman for the balance of the year

There are still some who have not remitted dues for 2004. Please do so right away so that you may continue to receive the newsletter. Those who are unpaid for 2004 will be deleted from the mailing and e-mail list on August 1.

VE SESSION RESULTS:

From Ken Hall, WO6J, our "VE Guy": "We had four candidates at our July 17th session. Two became Technician and one upgrading to Extra." Ken says, "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 next session will be August 21 2004, at 8:30am at the Carmichael Elks Lodge, corner of Cypress and Hackberry in Carmichael. We have a **new time schedule**: 8:30am to 9:30am. Code testers must be there by 9:00am. We close at 9:30am. The fee is \$12.00. Call the Information Hotline for details: 916-492-6115.

"We began using the new General class question pool (Element #3) 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>

You've Got Mail!

If you can receive e-mail, send a message to Dale, ad6ct@arrl.net and your newsletter will arrive *before* the meeting. Great news! Just write "subscription" on the subject line and send!

RCARCS Swap Meet – 9-25-04

River City ARCS has scheduled its swap meet for September 25, 2004, at the Sutter Middle School. Vendor slots will be \$10 and admission for buyers is free. Coffee and donuts will be provided for a small fee, and there will be drawings. Tickets will be available from club board members.

Ham Radio for Dummies

(Reprinted from *World Radio*, August 2004)

Carl Luetzelschgwab, K9LA, wrote an excellent book review of *Ham Radio for Dummies* in the August 2002 issue of *WorldRadio*, pages 18 & 19. In his article he outlines how the book is organized and says the book is "easy reading." "In my opinion, it covers all the major topics that a newcomer needs to know – and then some."

The book is available wherever books are sold including www.arrl.org and www.amazon.com. The list price is \$21.99 in the US.

Did you know that you only have to pass 37 of the 50 questions to up grade to Extra Class?

2004 RCARCS Officers/Board

President Dale Hankins (AD6CT) (916) 925-1062
E-mail: ad6ct@arrl.net

Vice President Chuck Freas (W6FT) . (916) 332-0927
E-mail: cmfreas@ardennet.com

Secretary Glenn Gleason (KG6LRX) . . (916) 480-0862
E-mail: gleasong@pacbell.net

Treasurer Al Auringer(WH6BK) . (916) 344-6700
E-mail: alauringer@juno.com

Membership Kay Hankins (KF6IZU) . (916) 925-1062
E-mail: mkhankins@sbcglobal.net

N6NA Trustee Dane Westvik (KO6YD) . . Club Phone*
E-mail: dane.n6na.org

Training Bob Balthrope (KD6WTY)(916) 682-9871
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Ron Boothe (KE6PUG) (916) 334-3527
E-mail: hoverking98@yahoo.com
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
Jackets, T-shirts & hats: Mary Anne Balthrope, KE6EST
*Leave message

CLUB INFORMATION:

DUES: \$20.00 Annually beginning January 1st
CLASSES: Contact Bob Balthrope, KD6WTY, for information and scheduling.
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

FCC Sets New Vanity Fee Start Date

The FCC has announced that the new Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$20.00 for the 10-year license term will go into effect August 6. Applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$16.30 fee per vanity call sign application received by FCC until the new fee goes into effect. The FCC says it expects to collect close to \$162,000 from 7800 Amateur Radio vanity call sign applicants during fiscal year 2004.

2004 RCARCS Calendar

August 3rd Club Meeting, 7:30pm
August 24th Board Meeting, 7:00pm
September 7th Club Meeting, 7:30pm
September 25th RCARCS Swap Meet –
Sutter Middle School
September 28th Board Meeting, 7:00pm
October 2nd Picnic - Gibson Ranch
October 5th Club Meeting, WHITE ELEPHANT SALE,
7:30pm
October 26th Board Meeting, 7:00pm
November 1st CLUB MEETING, MONDAY, 7:30pm
November 2nd NO MEETING Election Day
November 23rd Board Meeting, 7:00pm
December 7th Club Meeting, 7:30pm
December 12th Club Holiday Party (TBA)
December 28th No Board Meeting

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ECHO Prepared for Launch

(Reprinted from World Radio, August 2004)

The soon to be launched ECHO Ham Radio satellite arrived safely at the launch complex in Russia and is being made ready for launch. According to Chuck Green, N0ADT, once he and the team arrived at the launch site, the satellite shipping containers were opened and placed in the clean room. ECHO was taken out of its shipping case and set up for completion. The bottom antennas were then installed. As was the bottom solar panel, magnets, and corner reflectors.

ECHO was then powered on and the team successfully communicated with it over a hard wire connection from a computer. The four 2M receivers and the two 70cm transmitters were all successfully tested. And that's good news for everyone waiting for the new AMSAT to take its ride into space.

The planned launch period for ECHO is four weeks beginning on June 29th. Once in orbit the command teams will be working together to assure everything is working OK and get ECHO into its initial 'normal' modes as quickly as possible. After that it will open to the users in the Ham Radio community.

– *Amateur Radio Newsline™, AMSAT*

George Brought Dessert . . .

Many thanks to George, W6EAG, for bringing donuts and cookies to the July Club meeting. And in June, Norm, K6FO, celebrated his 88th birthday, and his daughters generously provided a huge birthday cake for the meeting. Thank you, ladies. Norm received lots of "88" wishes.

If you would like to bring a dessert to share at Club meetings, please contact Dale, AD6CT, or Kay, KF6IZU, to make arrangements at (916) 925-1062. Club members really enjoy a treat with their coffee.

RCARCS 2004 Roster

The following is a list of the members of River City Amateur Radio Communications Society. If you are not on the roster, please contact Kay, KF6IZU, at (916) 925-1062 or e-mail: mkhankins@sbcglobal.net.

Call Sign	First Name	Phone Number
aa6dj	Lyle	no phone listed
aa6mp	Everett	(916) 791-1761
ab6uz	Arthur	(916) 782-0690
ac6il	Betty	(916) 782-0690
ad6ct	Dale	(916) 925-1062
ad6pv	Harry	(916) 489-1412
ad6uy	Anne	no phone listed
ae60r	Steli	no phone listed
af6lf	Larry	(916) 966-0266
k5cxa	Joe	(916) 332-6152
k6dme	Ruff	(707) 678-5192
k6fo	Norm	(916) 212-5636
k6vss	Bob	no phone listed
ka2mcz	Eckart	(916) 332-4151
ka6eki	Al	(916) 772-7574
ka6jff	Dale	(916) 773-2098
kb6fft	Lou	(916) 638-3417
kc6uug	Chris	(916) 991-2747
kd6lle	Roy	(916) 641-1172
kd6phb	Marty	(916) 482-0729
kd6uyq	Dave	(916) 348-7253
kd6wty	Bob	(916) 682-9871
ke6apu	Don	(916) 487-3139
ke6dwi	Gene	(530) 389-2930
ke6est	Mary Anne	(916) 682-9871
ke6gmj	Don	(916) 967-1343
ke6pug	Ron	no phone listed
ke6rmn Ken		(916) 726-6188
kf6ido	Mark	(916) 344-2212
kf6izu	Kay	(916) 925-1062
kf6rcb	Bobbie	(530) 367-3026
kf6yfq	Clarence	(916) 961-0179
kf6zmv	Robert	(916) 681-0669
kg6don	Roland	no phone listed
kg6kpw	Dwane	no phone listed
kg6lrz	Glenn	(916) 480-0862
kg6ose	John	(916) 456-2508
kg6qif	"Windy"	(916) 723-2994
kg6qyg	Troy	(916) 722-2416
kg6smx	Gary	(916) 348-7859
kj6qc	Michael	(916) 689-3461
km6yu	Steve	(916) 961-2731
kn6da	Rod	(916) 371-2105
n6drv	Claude	(916) 973-8301
n6dxx	Tony	(916) 427-6749
n6ggh	Al	no phone listed
n6icw	Chris	(916) 921-1352
n6jtk	Chris	(916) 660-0434
n6pgq	Bob	(916) 782-7601
n5sno	Frank	(916) 397-7589
n6ud	Wes	(916) 344-4127
n6usj	Jim	(916) 791-7383
n6vg	Jerry	(916) 422-1266
n6wr	Armond	no phone listed
w3tvv	Will	(916) 338-0870

w3jrc	John	(916) 683-9780
w6dfg	Clarence	no phone listed
w6eag	George	(916) 925-2555
w6ft	Chuck	(916) 332-0927
w6rwl	Ralph	(530) 367-3026
wa6ehb	Frank	(916) 726-9616
wa6vis	Carl	(916) 381-2368
wb6zei	Armand	(916) 972-7802
wb6kdp	Don	no phone listed
wb6ufo	Mike	(916) 466-1681
wb6ylk	Dave	(916) 687-8528
wh7bk	Al	(916) 344-6700
wo6j	Ken	(Club phone)

NOTE: If you aren't listed, it's probably because we have no record of your 2004 Club dues. Please contact the membership chairman. Also, if you do not want your phone number listed, please let us know. Thanks.

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

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/

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

El Dorado Sheriff & Search & Rescue (Walk-ins okay)

Contact James Swanson at 530-544-2351

The BPL Fight in the U.S.

(Reprinted from *World Radio*, August 2004)

The fight to keep Broadband Over Power lines from going nationwide continues. With summer now here, expect the Broadband over Power Line Internet access issue to heat up especially as more people get a chance to look over the latest filing from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The federal agency, which advises the White House on telecommunications policies and oversees radio spectrum used by government agencies, weighed in with more BPL comments in a 04 June filing with the Federal Communications Commission.

The American Radio Relay League and others who've analyzed the comments say it's clear the political considerations are overshadowing the engineering data which raises many questions about the viability of BPL. In its filing with the FCC, the NTIA's policy makers, now call BPL a win-win situation for all and make what some claim an outlandish claim the deployment of the technology could actually lead to reduction, that's right, reduction of power line noise.

Now, the engineering types who've been studying the BPL and doing all kinds of test measurements are really scratching their heads trying to make sense out of that. The NTIA filing also contains this comforting assertion for BPL opponents. It says that the current power line system is responsible for even greater local interference risks than what BPL would bring . . . And, it says, BPL operators would implement procedures to eliminate any harmful interference. The stack of complaints about BPL test sites and assertions by a lawyer representing one of the large utilities testing the technology might lead some to question that reassurance.

A source tells amateur Radio Newline the FCC has failed to "property direct" BPL complaints to the appropriate FCC regulatory office for action, and, the source says, commissioners questioned about that haven't offered any explanation. A lawyer who has commented in writing to the FCC about some of the BPL complaints his utility company received claimed there was no basis for them, essentially saying the amateur Radio Operators making the complaints don't know what they're talking about.

One thing the NTIA did suggest in its filing is the exclusion of certain bands and frequencies in specific geographical areas to protect critical government systems. Does that suggest an agency confident BPL won't be an interference source? The American Radio Relay League and others who've been vocal in this fight suggest otherwise. They say BPL is far from a done deal and they're hopeful that the FCC's extension of reply comments to 22 June will net some helpful information. And, they say, they're not giving up or going away quietly.

In the meantime, there is a sense BPL is on a fast-track at the FCC where the majority of the commissioners view it as an engine to help stimulate the economy. Could the FCC act on the BPL issue before the November election: Anything is possible. And some close to the BPL debate say if the Bush administration believes it will generate a much-needed bump in the public opinion polls or at the ballot box . . . well, you get the idea.

— *Amateur Radio Newline™ with ARRL, CQ, Repeater Journal, Published news reports and others.*

From ARRL:

To anyone with kids of any age, here's some advice. Bill Gates recently gave in a speech at Mt. Whitney High School, Visalia, California, about 11 things they did not and will not learn in school. He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

Love him or hate him, he sure hits the nail on the head with this!

- Rule 1: Life is not fair - get used to it!
- Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.
- Rule 3: You will NOT make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.
- Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.
- Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping - they called it opportunity.
- Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.
- Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.
- Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life HAS NOT. In some schools they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.
- Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF. Do that on your own time.
- Rule 10: Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

Hey, Stella!

Correction: In the "In Brief" news item "Actor Marlon Brando, KE6PZH/FO8GJ, SK," appearing in The ARRL Letter, Vol 23, No 28 (Jul 16, 2004), we erred in a statement regarding Brando's real name. He was born Marlon Brando Jr, although he appears in the FCC database under the name "Martin Brandeaux," an apparent pseudonym. His FO8GJ listing indicates both names.

ARRL Newsletter

The Field Day Phenomenon

(Written by Casey McPartland, W7IB, and reprinted from Sierra Foothills Newsletter, July 2004)

Well, Field Day 2004 is over. For many of us it seems to be just the latest in a series of these annual events. Having taken a little time to think since wrapping things up this morning, and chatting with a number of the SFARC participants as we "broke it down," and after catching up with Leslie at home, *and* after many years, and many FD's on both coasts, I've come to some interesting conclusions.

The FD phenomenon mostly isn't about radios and antennas, or operating, or numbers of QSO's. It isn't really about competition or set-up, or non-standard power sources; it isn't solely about the food or the "social aspects", or being with friends, old and/or new. And, it's really not about whose got the fanciest, newest, oldest, plainest, most complicated, or simplest. No, Field Day for me is about people being with people, coordinating an effort to achieve – just being people.

What I've done is sit down this evening (after my nap, of course) and scribbled a list of words that are the FD phenomenon for me. I ask that you think about them and if you weren't there, consider the opportunity in the future, even for a few hours.

If you couldn't be there for whatever reason, God love you. Either way, you *were* missed! For those of you who were there (wherever "there" was) or, who have been in the past, here's my list – it's dedicated to hams from Jettie Hill to Phillip & Andy, to Donna & Patty, and everyone in between (and those who've gone before us, and are no longer with us):

Camaraderie, Fellowship, Learning, Teaching, Working, Playing, Good Food!, Nature, Kidding, Experimentation, Laughing, Dirt, Dark Chocolate, Sunburn, Sharing, Acceptance, Rocky Road, Old & Young, Old & New, Bugs, Stories, Advice (good & bad), Finding Common Ground, Sunflower Seeds.

Whether we're pushing a mic-button, tapping a key, slapping the paddles, or tickling the keyboard, we share a strong affection for a common passion – we're all hams.

So when FD is complete and the cleanup is done, and you're standing around shaking hands and sharing a good hug, and trying to figure out why you "don't really want to leave," think of *your* list of words – then I think you'll get it! It's the Phenomenon of Field Day.

Editor's Comment: I haven't been able to attend Field Day for a couple of years due to work commitment, so Field Day 2004 was an event I was anticipating! It was a wonderful day and I had a great time! Thanks, Casey, for your word list – I think you covered the bases! – KF6IZU

From *WorldRadio* - Letters to the Editor

In the May 2004 issue of *WorldRadio*, on the Letters to the Editor page, I noticed the headline "The ARRL is out of step." After reading the comments from Walt Zandi, K1WZ, of Sugar Hill, NH, I thought that ham radio would really be a "dinosaur" hobby if each new ham had to "build and get on the air one piece of their own equipment and demonstrate some basic radio knowledge instead of memorizing the answers to pre-canned questions."

River City ARCS has an ample supply of "Elmers" to help new hams learn how to use their radios, build a j-pole antenna, practice Morse Code, and at nearly each meeting, schedules a speaker to shed light on some aspect of the hobby. Our club conducts classes for new hams, and classes to upgrade licenses. We sponsor a test session each month, except October, and many of our members assist with public events like Eppie's Great Race, the Clarksburg Country Run, and the California International Marathon. Additionally, many of our members also belong to RACES and ARES and respond to pass health and welfare traffic in the event of a disaster.

So, with due respect to Mr. Zandi, and his opinions, I don't agree that the ARRL is "dumbing down" the hobby. In some circles, I am considered very bright to have achieved a General class license – and I'm blond!

Just thought you'd like to know my thoughts!

Kay, KF6IZU

"73"