

---

# River City ARCS

---

Vol. 28 No. 10  
October 2004

River City Amateur Radio Communications Society

---

## White Elephant Sale - 10-05-04

---

### From the President:

The River City ARCS Swap Meet was canceled as the scheduled site was made unavailable 10 days before the scheduled swap. Several hundred E-mails were sent to interested ham operators and clubs and notices were mailed to those without E-mail. We apologize for the inconvenience. A new site has been secured for 2005 and plans are already underway for a swap meet. Watch this newsletter for new date and location.

Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> will be a joint picnic with North Hills Radio Club and the Sacramento RACES/ARES net members at Gibson Ranch County Park beginning at 11:00 am. The club will furnish sodas, eating utensils and plates, and an entree (fried chicken). Please bring a dish to share of your own choosing.

Gibson Ranch County Park is located 3/4 miles West of Watt Avenue on Elverta Road. Turn north off of Elverta Road on to Gibson Ranch Park Road (Thomas Bros. Map pg. 238, D6). There is a per car entry fee into the park. Last year the fee was \$5.00.

The October 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend is the California QSO Party so we will be running at least one radio station during the picnic. Plan on joining in the fun!

Dale Hankins, AD6CT, President

---

### VE SESSION RESULTS:

From Ken Hall, WO6J, our "VE Guy": "We had two test takers at our September 18<sup>th</sup> session. One became Technician and one became an Extra Class." 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 November 20th, 2004, at 8:30am at the Carmichael Elks Lodge, corner of Cypress and Hackberry in Carmichael. **The October session will not be held due to Pacificon.** Remember, 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.

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)>

---

### Election of Officers & Board Members

As October is the month for the president to appoint an election committee in order to present a slate of officers for election at the November meeting, the following members have been appointed: Kay, KF6IZU; Mary Ann, KE6EST; and Ken, WO6J, have been appointed to serve. All officers and two directors seats are open for nomination. If you are interested in serving your club as an officer or director, please let the committee know. Nominations may be made from the floor during the November meeting provided the nominee is present and consents to serve.

The offices are president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, membership chairman, and two directors at large.

If you have questions, please contact a member of the committee for additional information.

---

### Pacificon 2004

Pacificon 2004 is scheduled for October 15, 16, & 17, 2004, at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel in San Ramon, California. Check [www.pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org) or [www.madarc.org](http://www.madarc.org) for more information regarding tickets and events.

If you plan to go to the swap meet, it is scheduled for Sunday, October 17 from 6:00am to noon, in the parking lot. Admission is free to buyers. The price for sellers is \$20.00 for a double-car slot.

Additionally, there will be two T-Hunts. The first begins at 8:00am Sunday; the second T-Hunt will begin at 9:00am. Hunters will meet at the Pacificon Registration Counter in the hotel lobby.

---

### Silent Key - W2KWN

"Red" Erickson, W2KWN, recently passed away. "Red" was a long time member of River City ARCS and North Hills Radio Club. He will be remembered as a kind, fun-loving Ham and good friend. Our sincere condolences to his wife Edie, W5BBO.

---

### E-mail from W6DFG

Clarence Arndt, W6DFG, recently sent an e-mail with his phone number (see Roster). Clarence is hoping someone will call to tell him he won the Lottery! He has an antenna running around the yard due to CC&R restrictions, and that it works fairly well though he has to use an antenna tuner. Clarence says he misses RCARCS meetings; we miss you too, Clarence. Keep in touch!

## 2004 RCARCS Officers/Board

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| President      | Dale Hankins (AD6CT) (916) 925-1062<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:ad6ct@arri.net">ad6ct@arri.net</a>  |
| Vice President | Chuck Freas (W6FT) (916) 332-0927<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:cmfreas@ardennet.com">cmfreas@ardennet.com</a>  |
| Secretary      | Glenn Gleason (KG6LRX) (916) 480-0862<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:gleason@surewest.net">gleason@surewest.net</a>  |
| Treasurer      | Al Auringer (WH6BK) (916) 344-6700<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:alauringer@juno.com">alauringer@juno.com</a>   |
| Membership     | Kay Hankins (KF6IZU) (916) 925-1062<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:mkhankins@sbcglobal.net">mkhankins@sbcglobal.net</a>  |
| N6NA Trustee   | Dane Westvik (KO6YD) Club Phone*<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:dane.n6na.org">dane.n6na.org</a>   |
| Training       | Bob Balthrope (KD6WTY) (916) 682-9871<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:kd6wty@yahoo.com">kd6wty@yahoo.com</a>  |
| Editor         | Kay Hankins (KF6IZU) (916) 925-1062<br>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<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:kd6wty@yahoo.com">kd6wty@yahoo.com</a><br>Stelian Vilceanu (AE6OR) E-mail: <a href="mailto:Steli_hd@yahoo.com">Steli_hd@yahoo.com</a><br>Ron Boothe (KE6PUG) (916) 334-3527<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:hoverking98@yahoo.com">hoverking98@yahoo.com</a><br>Ruff Gunn (K6DME) (707) 689-2336 |

### 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 1<sup>st</sup>  
**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](http://www.n6na.org)

**E-MAIL:** [n6na@arri.net](mailto:n6na@arri.net)

## 2004 RCARCS Calendar

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| October 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | Picnic - Gibson Ranch                     |
| October 3 <sup>rd</sup>   | Sacramento Marathon                       |
| October 5 <sup>th</sup>   | Club Meeting, WHITE ELEPHANT SALE, 7:30pm |
| October 15, 16, & 17      | - Pacificon, San Ramon                    |
| 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 12 <sup>th</sup> | Club Holiday Party (TBA)                  |

## December 28<sup>th</sup> No Board Meeting

Subscribe to World Radio  
2224 Beaumont Street, Suite D  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
[subscriptions@wr6wr.com](mailto:subscriptions@wr6wr.com)

12 issues – \$15.00 – 24 issues – \$28.00

## Sacramento Marathon Volunteers

Sunday, October 3, 2004, is the date scheduled for the Sacramento Marathon. The race begins at 8:00am at Land Park, and runs a loop to Old Sacramento; twice for a full marathon; once for half a marathon.

Six radio operators have volunteered to handle health and safety traffic along the course. If you are available to help out, contact Dale, AD6CT, at (916) 925-1062. If you have never participated in this kind of event, you will be paired with a veteran operator. This is a fun event and a good way to learn how to participate as a volunteer ham radio operator.

Coming up is the Clarksburg Country Fun Run in November, and the California International Marathon in early December. Volunteer ham radio operators will be needed for those events too. Watch this newsletter and tune in to the Monday night RACES/ARES net on Monday evenings at 7:00pm on 147.195 for additional information.

Be a part of the team and commit a few hours of your time to assist in these community events. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

## From Jettie Hill, W6RFF

"My email on the cancelled swap meet brought several inquiries to me.

"SHASTA CASCADE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY will hold a swap meet this week end on Saturday September 25 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Redding Downtown Mall. Use Yuba street entrance off of Pine or California. Vendor tables \$10. Setup 9-10 am. For more information contact Jim, KK6MM, at (530) 222-8001 or [kk6mm@arri.net](mailto:kk6mm@arri.net)

"AMADOR COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will hold a swap meet on October 9 at the Walmart parking lot in Martel on Hwy. 88 near intersection with Hwy. 49. Tables \$10, set up 6-7 am. For more information, contact Ray ND6S at [nd6sarri@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nd6sarri@sbcglobal.net).

"They would like to invite those that were going to attend the RCARC swap meet, to bring their items to sell and/or their money to buy!!

Don't forget the California QSO Party (CQP) on October 2-3.

73, Jettie, W6RFF

## Picnic at Gibson Ranch

Saturday, October 2 will be a joint picnic with North Hills Radio Club and the Sacramento RACES/ARES net members at Gibson Ranch County Park beginning at 11:00 am. The club will furnish sodas and water and eating utensils, plates and napkins, and an entree (fried chicken). Please bring a dish of your own choosing to share.

Gibson Ranch County Park is located 3/4 miles West of Watt Avenue on Elverta Road. Turn north off of Elverta

Road on to Gibson Ranch Park Road (Thomas Bros. Map pg. 238, D6). There is a per car entry fee into the park. Last year the fee was \$5.00.

The October 2 weekend is the California QSO Party so we will be running at least one radio station during the picnic. Plan on joining in the fun!

## White Elephant Night

October 5, 2004, will be the Annual RCARCS White Elephant night. If you have ham or ham-related items you would like to see auctioned, bring them to the meeting. All proceeds will go to the club. This is a fun event and usually generates about \$300 for the club treasury.

## 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](mailto:mkhankins@sbcglobal.net). Additions and corrections are shown in **bold type**.

Updated: October 7, 2004

| <i>Call Sign</i> | <i>First Name</i> | <i>Phone Number</i>  |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 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      |
| ae6or            | Steli             | no phone listed      |
| af6lf            | Larry             | (916) 966-0266       |
| k5cxa            | Joe               | (916) 332-6152       |
| <b>k6dme</b>     | <b>Ruff</b>       | <b>(707)689-2336</b> |
| 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       |
| kd6gxr           | Ray               | (916) 725-8490       |
| 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       |
| ke6nh            | Norbert           | (916) 443-9115       |
| 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       |
| kf6yqt           | Clarence          | (916) 961-0179       |
| kf6zmv           | Robert            | (916) 681-0669       |
| kg6don           | Roland            | no phone listed      |
| kg6kpz           | Paul              | (916) 427-5676       |
| kg6kpw           | Dwane             | no phone listed      |

|                  |                  |                           |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| kg6lrx           | Glenn            | (916) 480-0862            |
| kg6ose           | John             | (916) 456-2508            |
| kg6qif           | "Windy"          | (916) 723-2994            |
| kg6qyg           | Troy             | (916) 722-2416            |
| kg6smx           | Gary             | (916) 348-7859            |
| <b>kg6vdq</b>    | <b>Michael</b>   | <b>(916)</b>              |
| kj6qc            | Michael          | (916) 689-3461            |
| <b>km6xu</b>     | <b>Mark</b>      | <b>(916) 455-2980</b>     |
| 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            |
| <del>n6jtk</del> | <del>Chris</del> | <del>(916) 660-0434</del> |
| n6pgq            | Bob              | (916) 782-7601            |
| n6sno            | Frank            | (916) 397-7589            |
| n6ud             | Wes              | (916) 344-4127            |
| n6usj            | Jim              | (916) 791-7383            |
| n6vg             | Jerry            | (916) 422-1266            |
| n6wr             | Armond           | no phone listed           |
| w3tvy            | Will             | (916) 338-0870            |
| w3jrc            | John             | (916) 683-9780            |
| <b>w6dfg</b>     | <b>Clarence</b>  | <b>(503) 463-8220</b>     |
| w6eag            | George           | (916) 925-2555            |
| w6ft             | Chuck            | (916) 332-0927            |
| w6rwl            | Ralph            | (530) 367-3026            |
| <b>w6vbc</b>     | <b>Catherine</b> | <b>(916) 455-2980</b>     |
| wa6ehb           | Frank            | (916) 726-9616            |
| wa6vis           | Carl             | (916) 381-2368            |
| wb2zei           | Armand           | (916) 972-7802            |
| wb6kdp           | Don              | no phone listed           |
| <b>wb6pmy</b>    | <b>Chris</b>     | <b>(916) 660-0434</b>     |
| wb6ufo           | Mike             | (916) 466-1681            |
| wb6ylk           | Dave             | (916) 687-8528            |
| wh6bk            | 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. Would you like to have your E-mail address listed too? Just send an E-mail to Kay, KF6IZU, at [mkhankins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkhankins@sbcglobal.net). On the subject line write: E-mail - YES or NO. Thanks.

## National Elections - November 2nd Club Meeting on Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>

### 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)

**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

---

## Remember the Burma Shave Signs?

(From Dave & Marie Martin)

For those of you who never saw the Burma shave signs, here is a quick lesson in our history of the 1930's and 1940's. Before the Interstates, when everyone drove the old two-lane road, Burma Shave signs would be posted all over the countryside in farmers' fields. They were small red signs with white letter. Five signs, about 100 feet apart, each containing one line of a four line couplet . . . and the obligatory fifth sign advertising Burma Shave, a popular shaving cream.

- ★ Don't lose your head
- ★ to gain a minute
- ★ You need your head
- ★ Your brains are in it \*\*\*Burma Shave\*\*\*
  
- ★ Drove too long
- ★ Driver snoozing
- ★ What happened next
- ★ Is not amusing \*\*\*Burma Shave\*\*\*
  
- ★ Brother speeder
- ★ Let's rehearse
- ★ All Together
- ★ Good morning nurse \*\*\*Burma Shave\*\*\*
  
- ★ Speed was high
- ★ Weather was not
- ★ Tires were thin
- ★ X marks the spot \*\*\*Burma Shave\*\*\*
  
- ★ The midnight ride
- ★ Of Paul for beer
- ★ Led to a warmer
- ★ Hemisphere \*\*\*Burma Shave\*\*\*
  
- ★ Around the curve
- ★ Lickety-split
- ★ It's a beautiful car
- ★ Wasn't it? \*\*\* Burma Shave\*\*\*
  
- ★ No matter the price
- ★ No matter how new
- ★ The best safety device
- ★ In the car is you \*\*\*Burma Shave\*\*\*
  
- ★ A guy who drives
- ★ A car wide open
- ★ Is not thinking
- ★ He's just hopin' \*\*\*Burma Shave\*\*\*

- ★ At intersections
- ★ Look each way
- ★ A harp sounds nice
- ★ But it's hard to play \*\*\*Burma Shave\*\*\*
  
- ★ Both hands on the wheel
- ★ Eyes on the road
- ★ That's the skillful
- ★ Driver's code \*\*\*Burma Shave\*\*\*
  
- ★ Passing school zone
- ★ Take it slow
- ★ Let our little
- ★ Shavers grow \*\*\*Burma Shave\*\*\*

Thanks for the memories, Dave & Marie!

---

## Think About Ham Camping Next Summer . . .

Chris Hancock, KC6UUG, is an experienced "ham camper." This past summer, Chris and two radio clubs camped out in the Sierra Mountains. Chris installed military whip sections on his pickup shell and tuned them with an SGC Smartuner. In the stationary camp environment, Chris used his TenTec Argonaut on a table next to his pickup. Unfortunately, band conditions were very poor. Chris did check in on two different 75-meter nets of his on different days but only with relays.

There is an article and photograph in the October 2004 issue of *WorldRadio* or contact Chris for more information.

---

## Did You Know That . . .

- . . . The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone?
- . . . Coca-Cola was originally green?
- . . . Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S.Treasury?
- . . . Men can read smaller print than women can and women can hear better?
- . . . The state with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska?
- . . . The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28% (now get this. . .) The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%?
- . . . Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair?
- . . . The first novel written on a typewriter was *Tom Sawyer*?
- . . . Those San Francisco cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments?
- . . . Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history: Spades - King David, Hearts - Charlemagne, Clubs - Alexander, the Great, Diamonds - Julius Caesar?
- . . . 111, 111, 111 x 111, 111, 111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321?
- . . . If a statue in the park of a person on a horse had both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air the person dies as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes?

. . . Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4<sup>th</sup>? John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until five years later.

. . . "I am" is the shortest sentence in the English language?

. . . Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt?

. . . No NFL team which plays its home games in a domed stadium has ever won a Super bowl?

. . . The only two days of the year in which there are no professional sports games (MLB, NBA, NHL, or NFL) are the day before and the day after the Major League all-stars Game?

. . . What separates "60 Minutes," on CBS from every other TV show? No theme song!

. . . Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of their birthplace?

. . . Most boat owners name their boats and the most popular name requested is "Obsession."

. . . If you were to spell out numbers, you would have to go to one thousand to find the letter "A"?

. . . That bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers were all invented by women?

. . . That honey is the only food that doesn't spoil?

. . . There are more collect telephone calls on Father's Day than any other day of the year?

. . . In Scotland, a new game was invented. It was entitled "Gentlemen Only Ladies Forbidden."

---

## Ham Radio Speakers Bureau

River City ARCS is putting together a "ham radio speakers bureau" compiling a list of possible speakers for future club meetings, and would like to share this list with other radio clubs. If you know of a speaker of interest to ham radio operators, or have heard a speaker at another club meeting, contact Chuck, W6FT.

A list will be compiled with contact information and topics and shared with other Sacramento area clubs.

---

## Phonetics - Editorial Musings

*(Reprinted with thanks from Sierra Signals, September 2004 Issue)*

The phonetics hams use to clarify call signs and words when transmitted on voice have probably always been a bit of mystery to non-licensed folks. Sometimes, they are just tunny, such as Des Stovall, now SK, who would occasionally identify on 75 meters as "Watching Six Elephants Chewing Yardsticks." Sometimes they are downright confusing (I actually heard a 4 using "Drinking Marquesses Rum" . . . I wasn't aware they had rum there), and do little to enhance communications, and sometimes, such as in the heat of a contest and when used at high speed by a DX station for whom English is an acquired language, they don't work at all.

Urban Legend #1: The "International Phonetic Alphabet" begins with ALPHA, FOXTROT through LIMA, QUEBEC and the SIERRA, and ends with a pas de deux by a ZULU (sic).

There have been many "approved" lists of phonetic words, some National, some International, and some were used primarily in one occupation. All have been less than crashing successes.

The Joint Army/Navy Phonetic Alphabet came on the scene around WW II, and became the ham standard for a number of years. It began, ABLE, BAKER, CHARLIE. . . used ITEM for the 'I' . . . included MIKE (it seems like 'mike' and 'x-ray' are the only universally accepted phonetic words) . . . and ended with a ZEBRA. In the 40's and early 50's, it was solemnly declared to be The Approved Phonetic Alphabet in the ARRL Handbook and other operating guides and handbooks.

Quite a few variants of this alphabet grew up, such as in law enforcement, where some substitutions were made (e.g. ADAM for ABLE), and which, with the advent of television in every home and numerous cop shows, became very familiar to the public. MIKE and XRAY stood fast, however.

Unfortunately, many of the phonetic words in these alphabets derived from things and experiences that were culturally American, and didn't really stir up quick recognition around the world or even in other English-speaking nations. So, in the mid-50's, NATO, being at the forefront of international interoperability, developed and published the "NATO Phonetic Alphabet," supposedly pronounceable by everyone (let's see, is it QUEE-BEK or K-BEK? . . . PAH-PAH or pah-PAH?). MIKE and XRAY held on, however, and it was adopted by the ICAO for aircraft usage world wide, and most of us know it by heart.

It begins with ALPHA, FOXTROT through LIMA, QUEBEC, and the SIERRA, and ends with a pas de deux by a ZULU (sic). "Oh, and that became the 'International Phonetic Alphabet,'" I hear you cry! Well, no . . . it became the "NATO Phonetic Alphabet" and stayed that way. The International Phonetic Alphabet actually arose in the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the arcane field of linguistics and is still alive and well. If you're interested, try [www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/IPA/iparchart.html](http://www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/IPA/iparchart.html)

Urban Legend #2: When NATO figures something out, it is probably the best we have.

Well . . . Let's give NATO a big hand for a really good try. In many international communications situations, it works extremely well, but then QRM is not common for them either. For ham usage, it still comes up a bit lacking. Take the pronunciation problem alluded to above. Spanish speakers tend to pronounce WHISKEY more as WIKEEE – not surprising since it follows the rules of their language. SIERRA means "saw" or "mountain range" in Spanish, I have no idea what it means, if anything, in German, or Serbo-Croatian. I'm a KILO SIX, but is it KEE-LOW, or KIH-LO? Of course, MIKE and XRAY still seem to work.

Hams have, over the years always had a second affinity to place names as phonetics. LIMA is okay, but everyone in the world knows where LONDON is. We Americans tend to think that everyone also knows where WASHINGTON is, and indeed, when DELTA GOLF WHISKEY doesn't seem to do it, DENMARK GERMANY WASHINGTON nearly always does. In fact, the NATO alphabet, GOLF has to stand as the worst choice. MIKE and XRAY still hang in, but then MONTEVIDEO poses some real problems and MONTREAL isn't all that much better, although you do hear it.

Allegedly, the result of an extensive survey, which I doubt, there is a ham phonetic alphabet that does seem to work, most of the time:

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| AMERICA  | NORWAY     |
| BOSTON   | ONTARIO    |
| CANADA   | PORTUGAL   |
| DENMARK  | QUEBEC     |
| ENGLAND  | RADIO      |
| FRANCE   | SANTIAGO   |
| GERMANY  | TOKYO      |
| HONOLULU | UNITED     |
| ITALY    | VICTORIA   |
| JAPAN    | WASHINGTON |
| KILOWATT | XRAY       |
| LONDON   | YOKOHAMA   |
| MEXICO   | ZANZIBAR   |

- eating utensils
- flashlight & extra code red batteries
- candle lantern and 9-hour candles
- signal mirror
- compass
- storm whistle
- 50 feet of parachute cord
- SAM splint
- light sticks
- first aid kit
- 3-day supply of freeze dried foods or other goods such as MREs
- BG survival candy
- grooming kit
- telephone change (10 each nickels, dimes & quarters)
- emergency funds (10 each: \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20)
- poncho
- personal medications

QUEE-BEK is still there (rats!), and MIKE has finally bitten the dust, but KILOWATT is something we all know, and it doesn't matter if its KEEE-low-WATT or KIH-LO-WATT. And XRAY remains. I guess it beats XYLOPHONE, BOSTON maybe works because most of the world drinks tea.

## **Winter Is Just Around The Corner; Are You Prepared?**

The rainy season is just about to begin, and being prepared for emergencies, becomes more crucial than on balmy summer days. Here in the Sacramento Valley, we know that flooding can be a problem each winter, and we need to be ready for any potential emergency. Now, if you are a true preparedness nut, you are ready for any kind of emergency event, like earthquakes, forest fires, hazardous material spills, etc. But if you've been putting it off, now is the time to get your gear in order.

RACES/ARES holds periodic training sessions and drills to keep ham radio operators up to date on communications, shelters, and evacuation routes. Tune in each Monday night at 7pm on 147.195 for more information.

In addition to ham radios, spare batteries, antennas, expertise, connector cables, etc., you may want to include the following items in your 72-hour responder kit:

- 1 backpack, suitcase or duffle bag
- 1-2 changes of clothes
- 1 space blanket and/or sleeping bag
- 1 tube tent or single person tent
- tri-fold shovel
- Swiss Army knife
- 3 boxes windproof/waterproof matches
- pocket/wire saw
- magnesium fire starter
- portable stove
- 1 box fire starters
- water purification tablets
- water filter kit
- 5-gallon water bat
- cook kit
- cooking utensils

You may have other items that you need for 72-hour emergency survival. Make a list of your own tailored to your needs. Some things are basic, like bottled water and a first aid kit. Many of your needed items can be purchased in your local grocery or drug store. Another essential for packing your kit might be zip-lock baggies and a permanent marking pen. Your kit will be neater and more easily organized. Take the time now while the sun is still shining to get ready!

For more information, check out the following publications: *Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course, Level (ARRL)*; *When the Big One Hits: A Survival Guide for Amateur Radio Operators (WorldRadio)*; *72-Hour Emergency Kit written by Barry Crockett*; and *Emergency Survival Packs, written by Blair D. Jaynes*.

## **White Elephant Sale October 5<sup>th</sup> All proceeds go to Club treasury**