



River City ARCS

River City Amateur Radio Communications Society



Feb. 2014

<http://www.n6na.org/>

Vol. 34 no. 2



Carol Milazzo during the January VHF contest using a Flex-3000 on 6meters and an Flex-1500 and using homebrew halo antennas. Total score 1,258 -- 74 QSO points and 17 multipliers.

LAST MINUTE CHANGE

At our February 4 meeting, guest North Hills ARC President Doug Emerson N6NFF and our own VP Paul McIntyre KC5JAX will present a HandiHam program on radio operating for sight-impaired hams. Also, Kevin Laybourn KI6KIU will present an Introduction to the Arduino microcontroller.

DUES ARE DUE

Dues for 1014 are due. You can pay online at: <http://www.n6na.org/membership>

or print page form on page 4 and bring to the meeting.

From the River City ARCS President:

Our January 7 meeting featured excerpts from MFJ owner Martin F Jue's excellent video on the theory behind and many uses of the [MFJ Antenna Analyzer](#). We also had a live demonstration using an MFJ-259 to measure and tune an HF antenna. Thanks to Linda Cardoza KI6OLC who now manages orders for our personalized club clothing articles.

Our new [Wednesday night 8 pm net](#) discussion format is quite popular and informative. Net members share their expertise and meet others with common interests. Topics discussed so far have included handheld radio repeater access, experience with antenna analyzers and SWR meters, and our winter ham radio projects.

Plans are now under way for a site survey to install a remote repeater receiver in downtown Sacramento. This will enhance N6NA repeater access in that area for those who use low power handheld radios.

Mark your calendars for our annual club picnic on Saturday April 26 at Lew Howard Park, Folsom. The N6NA club station will again be on site participating in the 2014 [QRP to the Fields contest](#). Join us for good company, good food and outdoor fun!

At our February 4 meeting, guest North Hills ARC President Doug Emerson N6NFF and our own VP Paul McIntyre KC5JAX will present a HandiHam program on radio operating for sight-impaired hams. Kevin Laybourn KI6KIU also plans to have the [DIY \\$50 Arduino SWR sweeper](#) ready for demonstration. This device graphically shows an HF antenna's resonant frequency with one sweep and makes antenna tuning a snap!

Join us this coming Tuesday, February 4 at 7:30 pm at the Sacramento County Corp. Yard at [5026 Don Julio Blvd](#) for refreshments and great company. Visitors are always welcome.

73, Carol Milazzo, KP4MD
President, River City ARCS

CLUB INFORMATION

DUES: \$20.00 Per year

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 417718,
Sacramento CA 95841

MEETINGS: Membership meetings are generally held on the first Tuesday of each month, 7:30 P.M., at the Sacramento County Corporation Yard, corner of Don Julio and Elkhorn Blvd.'s.

Board of Directors meetings are held the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm. All members are welcome.

Contact a board member for location.

Web Site: www.n6na.orgE-mail: n6na@arrl.netContact club through the web page at:
<http://www.n6na.org/about>**N6NA Repeaters****145.250 MHz (-162.2)****442.600 MHz (+100)****Low Level (Orangevale)****2M Club Net - Members and Guests****Check In on 145.250 MHz****Wednesday at 8 PM****10M Club Net - Members and Guests****Check in on 28.420 MHz****following 2M net****SSTV Club net - Members and Guests****Check in on 145.51 MHz FM Simplex****Following 10M net.**<http://www.n6na.org/nets>**OTHER NETS**Noon Time Net is on the W6AK/R at
146.910 (-) 100 PL.**2013 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES****Board of Directors**

President Dr. Carol Milazzo, KP4MD

Vice President Paul McIntyre KC5JAX

Secretary Bob Woodward N6PGQ

Treasurer Kevin Laybourn KI6KIU

Membership Needed

Board Members:

2 year Term Chuck Freas W6FT

2 year Term Ralph Stocki KJ6PIK

2 year Term Ed Seigner WA6QYO

2 year Term Ryan Toomey KJ6ELV

Appointments:

N6NA Trustee Steven Bird KM6YU

VE Liaison Need volunteer

Training Ed Seigner, WA6QYO

Editor Ken Martin, KE6RMN

Sales Mary Ann, KE6EST

Field Day Need volunteer

Picnic Chair Need volunteer

**2014 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

For 2013 all membership meetings will be held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Board meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Membership meeting	Feb 4
Valentines day	Feb 14
Board Meeting	Feb 25
Presidents day	Feb 22
Membership meeting	Mar 4
Board Meeting	Mar 25

LOW VOLTAGE DETECTOR

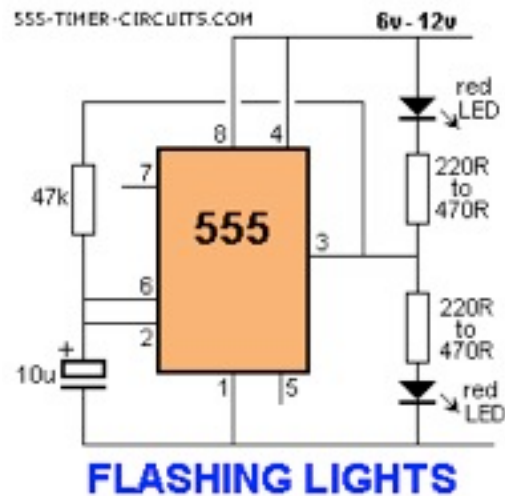
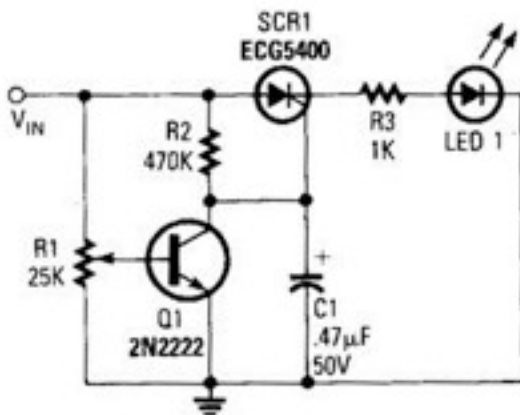
I built a low voltage detector to let me know when my battery needs charging.

Dave Martin
WB6YLK

Input terminal VIN is connected to the +V line of the circuit that the indicator is to monitor, and the grounds of both circuits are connected together. The position of potentiometer R1's wiper determines Q1's base voltage. As long as the transistor gets enough bias voltage to remain on, the low voltage at the collector will keep the SCR from firing.

As the battery voltage starts to fall, the transistor's base voltage will fall as well. When Q1 turns off (VIN drops), the collector voltage increases. That voltage provides enough gate drive to turn on the SCR, which turns on the LED. The LED could also be a buzzer or almost any other type of warning device.

Taken from <http://www.next.gr/meter-counter/voltmeters/low-voltage-indicator-113907.html>



Taken from <http://www.555-timer-circuits.com/>

← Connect to ground above

I made the two circuits above on a perf board mounted in a small plastic box and connected it to my battery for my radio go kit and adjusted R1 for 10.5 volts which is full discharge for my batteries. When the red LEDs start flashing I know that it is time to get the battery charged.

Tech Corner

If you are interested in using solar power I found what I feel is a very good primer on solar power.

It is a you tube video at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SuvAKZt0Vs>

Ken Martin
Editor





**RIVER CITY AMATEUR RADIO
COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY
RENEWAL APPLICATION
2014**



Date: _____

Annual Membership Dues
Family Member at Same Address (each)
Optional Repeater Fund Donation

\$20.00 \$ _____
\$10.00 \$ _____
Amt Paid \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____

FIRST NAME: _____
LAST NAME: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
MAIL ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
HOME PHONE: (____) _____
CELLULAR PHONE: (____) _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

BIRTH DATE: _____
SPOUSE'S FIRST NAME: _____
CALL SIGN: _____ CLASS: _____
ARRL MEMBER?: _____
NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER(S): _____

The club publishes a roster of the membership. Included will be the member's name, callsign, address, email, and phone number. This will be made available only to the RCARCS membership. If you wish to "opt" out or have any of the above information excluded from the published roster, please circle those items above.

Return this form with check payable to: River City ARCS

Mail to:
River City ARCS,
PO BOX 417718,
SACRAMENTO CA, 95841-7718
If you have any questions please contact:
Kevin Laybourn KI6KIU- Treasurer at
klaybourn@gmail.com or
at club phone at 916 905 4HAM

Do not write below this line – office use only

Date _____ Treasurer _____ Payment \$ _____ Check # _____ Cash \$ _____
Membership Chairperson _____ Roster _____ Membership Card _____ label _____