



River City ARCS

River City Amateur Radio Communications Society

October 2017

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

Vol. 37 no. 8



White Elephant Sale

October 3 will be the Annual RCARCS White Elephant night. Bring your ham or ham-related items that you would like to see auctioned. This is a club fundraiser. All proceeds go to support club activities. This is a fun event and you may find that something you've been looking for at a bargain price!

Round-the-World Flyer Brian Lloyd, WB6RQN, Spearheading Dominica Airlift

Brian Lloyd, WB6RQN, the Texas aviator who recently circumnavigated the globe following Amelia Earhart's path, is spearheading "[Dominica Airlift -- Angels to Eden](#)" to aid residents of the storm-stricken Caribbean island nation. A category 5 Hurricane Maria slammed into Dominica on September 18, leaving the population of about 70,000 without power or viable telecommunications. In addition, it wrought severe damage to homes and infrastructure, including the island's port, but sparing at least one usable airstrip.

ARRL Newsletter

Brian is a former RCARCS member.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

October's general meeting will mostly be about treasures to be auctioned off at the annual "White Elephant Sale". Unfortunately, some of us older Hams have become "silent keys" - an event that doesn't have a date, it just happens. Treasures of the "silent keys" will be among the things offered at this event. The only thing younger Hams can do is maybe find some of the joy the previous owner had in using the devices and components that show up at these event. There are other offering from "us" that have collected things over the years, for what ever reason(s), but never got around to using them. So these treasures are being offered to the next Ham to give it a try. The proceeds of the "White Elephant Sale" supplements the club's bank account that the Treasure uses to pay club's bills - see Phil Sittner if you want to know who needs money from us over the year.

At the monthly board meetings, we discuss many things, one being the "general meeting" agendas. Of the twelve meeting we have annually (not including picnics and Field Day) we have the following 6 that have developed over time:

- * Elmer Night
- * Home Brew Night
- * Field Day (preparation and pertinent topics.
- * White Elephant Sale
- * Christmas Party
- * Elections - not the entire meeting.

That leaves us with 6+ meeting that are open to "what ever". One observation that came out of the board meetings was that maybe some of the new Hams

have not really been exposed to amateur radio. Out of our 130 members, less that 2 dozen come to operate at Field Day, which is mostly contest operation - not much conversation communications. The numbers are about the same with the Wednesday Night Net. One reason for the low turnout might be "mike fright" or "not knowing what to say".

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CLUB INFORMATION

DUES: \$20.00 Per year

Send to: River City ARCS

c/o Phil Sittner, Treasurer

9181 Winding Oak Dr

Fair Oaks, CA 95628-4172

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.

2016 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**Board of Directors**

President	Ed Siegner,	WA6QYO
Vice President	Paul McIntyre	KC5JAX
Secretary	Gert Thompson	KK6ZGA
Treasurer	Phil Sittner	KD6RM
Membership	Phil Sittner	KD6RM
Board Members		
2 year Term	Kevin Hooke	KK6DCT
2 year Term	Don Jackson	K6GET
2 year Term	Andy Stephens	W6AWS
2 year Term	Dave Martin	WB6YLK

Appointments:

N6NA Trustee	Andrew Stephens	W6AWS
VE Liaison	Need volunteer	
Training	Ed Seigner,	WA6QYO
Editor	Ken Martin,	KE6RMN
Sales	Linda Cardoza	KI6OLC
Field Day	Need volunteer	
Picnic Chair	Need volunteer	

Web Site: www.n6na.orgE-mail: n6na@arrl.net

Contact 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)****441.300 MHz Member use only****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**

A list of other nets is at:

<http://www.qsl.net/w6tee/nets.html>**2017 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

For 2016 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	October 3
Pacificon	October 20-23
Board Meeting	October 24
Halloween	October 31
Membership meeting	November 7
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving	November 24
Board Meeting	November 28



Homebrew Night—Sept 5, 2017

Seven members of the River City ARCS participated in our first (and possibly annual) home brew night. The presentations ranged from a homemade '60's vintage vacuum tube HF transmitter by John Geyer, WB6UBK, to a state-of-the-art go-kit configured Packet rig which incorporates JAVA script linking to Twitter for instant notification of incoming messages presented by Kevin Hooke, KK6DCT. Prize winners were Sylvia, KS6WTF, for her 100mWatt WSPR station winning the beginner classification. Tom Cutter, W6BS did an amazing presentation on his efforts towards improving the performance of his 80 meter vertical antenna for the overall second place prize. The top prize went to Kevin Hooke, KK6DCT for the above mentioned go-kit packet rig and software combination. Congratulations to all of our participants who demonstrated the "can-do" character of the amateur fraternity.

Phil Sitner



Close up of Kevin Hooke's homebrew portable packet radio station

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONTINUED

During net night, if check-in have time, there is some limited conversation dealing with the topic chosen by the Net Control Operator. I do acknowledge that Wednesday Night Net is at 2000, and one may have other obligation or just had a bad day, but if some members are at a lost in how to participate, maybe we should develop one of the remaining 6 meetings to "Op Night"(?).

During the member/guest introductions at the October's meeting, if you can add to the above within a few minutes of input, the board, and members of the club, would be very interested. I take notes during meeting so I don't forget your inputs. See you Tuesday,

73, Ed Siegner
WA6QYO



Kevin Hooke KK6DCT shows his homebrew portable packet radio station



PACIFICON

Pacificon, an ARRL Convention, will be held October 20-22, 2017 at the San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon, CA. The Talk-In frequency will be on the Mount Diablo Repeater at 147.060 with a PL 100 Hz, or 441.32 with a PL of 100 Hz, call sign W6CX.

Pacificon gives you three great days of activities for one low cost: A full slate of outstanding Forum presentations about a wide range of amateur radio topics, a large Vendor Expo filled with exciting products and exhibits, an outdoor Swap Meet, great QRP activities, a Youth Forum, and great Youth Activities including electronics kit building and soldering classes, a One Day License Prep Class to prepare you to pass the amateur radio Technician license examination and get your first amateur radio license, a chance to hear3

about and discuss important national amateur radio issues with top ARRL leaders, a chance to win radios and other great prizes throughout the convention, and perhaps the best part - a chance to interact and share information with lots of other amateur radio enthusiasts to further (or begin) your own knowledge and to advance the hobby. Tickets are \$25.00 in advance (thru Oct. 8th) or \$30.00 at the door. Website: <http://www.pacificon.org> For more information contact send an email to info@pacificon.org or call at (925) 288-1730.



Tom Cutter W6BS described his 80 meter vertical antenna project



Sylvia Stork describes her homebrew Raspberry Pi WSPR beacon



Close up of Sylvia Stork's homebrew Raspberry Pi WSPR beacon