

SIERRA WAVELENGTH

VOLUME 42, ISSUE 3 FALL 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KEN, AE6LA

It feels like fall; the equinox is just 13 days away on 9/23!!

Welcome new members. — P.T. Brown, KG6FEY; Don Wilber, WD6GYJ; Miriam Brown, K6MAB; Dick Zuttermeister, N6TNX; and Dee Garrison, KG6VLF. Our active, paid membership is at 40, the same number as last year but we still have some coming in. We are growing. Thank you all for your support of our club. It's been fun for me to call some of our members that we haven't heard from for a while and it was great to see Nate Huston, K6TNC at our last break-

fast.

Since Field Day, our Monday night net has averaged 23 check-ins, with an average of 5 visitors. Tim Cody, KD6NRB and AE6LA have been net control. Any of you can do this! It's good training and practice besides being fun. KG6FEY has October. Let me know what month you want.

www.calaverasars.org is our fantastic web site thanks to Andy, NV6V. Please use it often. It's full of resources for both local and general radio info. Check out our Field Day Report,



remembrances of recent silent keys, propagation, and events like California QSO Party - 7 October to name just a few items. Lots of good information there and I am just learning to use it.

Our next quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 21 at Straw Hat Pizza, 250 S. Main St., Angels Camp, CA. 736.4700 (Great Pizza).

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Calaveras Amateur Radio Society

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 391
Angels Camp, CA 95222

Web:

calaverasars.org

Club Call:

N6FRG

NV6V Repeater:

145.170 MHz
- offset
PL=100 HZ

IRLP Node:

3428

REPEATER NEWS

ANDY, NV6V

The club has purchased the new repeater controller and it's sitting on the bench as I type this report. The software makes programming it a snap.

Here's what we have:
RC210 Controller

API Autopatch
RAD Audio Delay Board
RC210R Rack Mount
RCP Programmer

All are from Arcom. You can see information at:
www.ah6le.net/arcom/



I have the autopatch slots programmed and I'll be setting the rest of the parameters.

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WHAT'S NEXT?**Thursday, September 21**

Quarterly Meeting
Straw Hat Pizza
Angels Camp
Order and eat at 6 PM
Meeting starts at 7 PM

Mondays

7:30 PM Local
CARS Net
145.170
Weekly net
Stay informed!

First Saturday of each month

Monthly CARS Breakfast
9:00 AM Local
Perko's Restaurant
Angels Camp

**Newsletter Editor Needed**

2006 will be my last year as your newsletter editor. I would like to concentrate more on the website and repeater.

I have been producing it in MS Publisher and I can pass along the template file, or just about any word processing application can be used.

Please direct inquiries to:

Sierra Wavelength
P.O. Box 770
Arnold, CA 95223-0770
(209) 795-3928
wavelength@calaverasars.org

Be Prepared! *(from ARRL)*

September is US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Preparedness Month, and Saturday, September 16, is Amateur Radio Awareness Day. For the third straight year, the ARRL and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) groups across the US will join a coalition of more than 200 national, regional, state and local organizations taking part in Preparedness Month activities. ARES is a partner with DHS through the Citizen Corps program. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, WIAGP, says local ARES groups and clubs will be making presentations to civic organizations, at schools and at regional fairs to showcase Amateur Radio.

"More than 4000 ARRL 'Hello' campaign brochures have gone out in the past few weeks alone to prepare for the month-long initiative," he said.

To highlight Amateur Radio Awareness Day, ARRL public information officers (PIOs) will promote the DHS's "30 Tips for Emergency Preparedness" to attract news media coverage. Some tips on promoting National Preparedness Month are on the ARRL public relations Web pages.

ARRL Public Service Team Manager Steve Ewald, WV1X, notes that the underlying theme of National Preparedness Month is to encourage everyone to be aware of and prepare for emergencies all year long.

"Amateur Radio operators, led by ARRL Field Organization leaders across the country, are encouraged to consider this year's ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) -- as well as all preparations and post-SET evaluations -- as a demonstration of your participation in National Preparedness Month," Ewald said. The target weekend for the 2006 SET is October 7-8.

Amateur Radio Expo 2006

A major ham radio presentation during September will take place on the West Coast. ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, says Amateur Radio Expo 2006 will be held in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Fair. "They will staff the exhibit over four weekends," Norton said, noting that the fair annually attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Amateur Radio Expo 2006 will get under way the weekend of September 9-10 and will feature a special event station plus interactive presentations to demonstrate the many facets of ham radio.

Grab that Camera!

In a related vein, Pitts says he'd like to see a tighter relationship between ARES organizations and the League's corps of volunteer PIOs.

"Too often something happens, and everyone grabs a radio. No one grabs a camera or laptop and gets the word of ARES actions out to the media until long after the story becomes stale," he observed. "We have wonderful stories to tell, but we are too busy to tell them when they are fresh."

Pitts said he and the ARRL Public Relations Committee are working on ways to better integrate public relations and emergency response actions at the local level.

Be Prepared!

National Preparedness Month 2006 is a nationwide effort to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. This year's goals are to increase public awareness about the importance of family emergency preparedness and to urge individuals to be better prepared.

"Every American has a personal responsibility to ensure that their family is prepared for the unexpected," said Under Secretary for Preparedness George Foresman. "Through this effort, the Department of Homeland Security and the National Preparedness Month Coalition will encourage all Americans to be ready before emergencies happen."

Pitts says that according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), families should plan on being totally on their own for up to four days. "That's like being back in ancient times: no cell phone, no Internet, no 911," he said.

President's Message*(from page 1)*

Plan on arriving at 6 PM, with program starting by 7 PM. Steve Cantine, KF6HJB is presenting information on scanning in our area. Bring your scanner and your questions. It will be great to find some of those mystery signals.

73 for now,

Repeater News*(from page 1)*

I plan to test it from my house here in Arnold using our UHF link radio. This testing at home will also hopefully include testing our IRLP node with the same radio. I will be consulting with WB6MFV to find out what equipment I will need to calibrate it at our Fowler Peak site.

So, it shouldn't be too much longer before our new controller is on the air along with IRLP node 3428.

73 de Andy, NV6V

TOM COSTANZA, AA6PM - SK

AA6PM was an active member of CARS for many years. He served as president. He was often heard on the repeater and was always friendly with all, technician, general, advanced, or extra.

He maintained his own repeater for several years and everyone was welcome to use it.

He maintained friendships with hams after they moved away from the area. He would arrange for nets with hams that had moved and announce the time and frequency on the CARS net so everyone wishing to could take part in the net.

Last Monday on the net it was announced that AA6PM was now a silent key. The hams that knew Tom then told stories that they remembered about Tom. The Arnold hams told of riding with him down to the monthly club meetings. They said he loved to tell stories and they said it was such a fun time.

Tom will be missed.
Jim Clark, KO6HV

School's back in session ... please drive carefully!



CARS OFFICERS

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MINUTES

KIT, WB6QVU

Minutes of the June 15, 2006 CARS Meeting

Again this meeting was held in the Banquet Room of Straw Hat Pizza in Angels Camp.

Ken, AE6LA, CARS President, called the meeting to order at 19:00. Ken thanked Steve, KF6HJB, for bring the scanner frequency lists. Steve will be presenting a talk on the use of scanners at the September quarterly meeting.

Lynn, AC6CY, club treasurer, stated that we have \$1080 in the checking account, of which \$577 is for repeater use. Kit, WB6QVU, CARS Secretary, read the letter of appreciation, mailed 27 JUN 06, to K7MI for his technical contributions to our repeater. Andy, NV6V, thanked those who helped with the clean up at the repeater site after the CARS breakfast on June 3rd. Andy also said that he now has the website set up to accept on-line payments of dues with a \$1.30 cost, to the club, per transaction. He also requested that someone else take over the newsletter editor job soon as he is not willing to continue that chore for much longer. It is currently being done with MS Publisher.

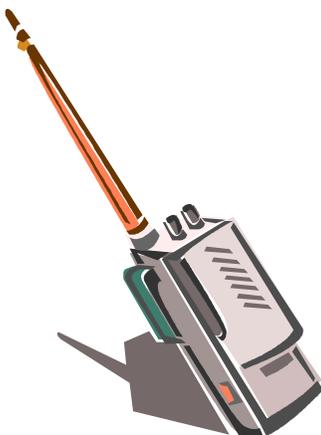
Jim, KO6HV, CARS VP, said that he had given the Sheriff's Department the RACES information sheets that a number of club members had completed, but had not heard back from them. Ken, AE6LA, discussed Field Day. He stated that we had to move it our location from Cottage Springs (Moto-Cross event being held there) to Big Meadow. Ken said that we would be setting up an HF "GOTA" (Get on the Air) station that could be used by people without the proper license, under the supervision of a ham with the appropriate license. The planned class of operation was to be 4A, with one digital station being planned. Tim, KD6NRB, has the club batteries and will bring them to the site. The club will be providing some food and sodas including refreshments for those using the GOTA station.

Ken thanked Andy for his work on the website, especially the Field Day Packing Check List. It is very helpful.

Pictures from the June 3rd cleanup at the repeater site were shown on the Straw Hat Pizza's TV monitor. Andy stated that Doug, WB6MFV, told him that it had been several years since the repeater building had been painted and Andy suggested that we paint it sometime soon.

John, KI6ART, gave a very interesting talk on receiving various digital modes, especially utilizing the "MixW" software. He stated that it could be downloaded for free, but that a sound card would be needed. We listened to various modes, including PSK31, CW and RTTY and also saw the spectral display produced by this software.

Ken adjourned the meeting at 20:17.



I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our friend Lloyd, N6EL. I was able to find the information below in an old ARRL Letter and on QRZ.com. I remember Lloyd telling me the story of how he and his brother Floyd got those calls.

Lloyd was truly an Elmer to me. He invited me to his home and passed along pieces of ham equipment that he knew I could make use of.

I remember the straight key night he invited me to operate his station. I had just passed my 5 WPM code test and became a tech+. I was able to spend many happy hours with Lloyd at his well-equipped station. I think he let me operate the whole time. It must have been painful for him to sit there and listen to me struggling along at 5 WPM when he could easily work 35 WPM while reading the daily paper!

Lloyd thought everyone should learn to love CW and was very encouraging along those lines. I remember more than once observing him copying incredibly fast code when I could hardly distinguish dits from dahs.

I also remember many happy hours simply passing the time with Lloyd and his lovely wife Irene.

Hearing "dih-DAH-dih-dit" to this day brings his name to mind.

We'll miss you, my friend. Best Wishes de NV6V.

TWIN BROTHERS, TWIN CALL SIGNS



Floyd Bumpus is N5EL. His identical twin, Lloyd Bumpus, is N6EL. How'd they do that?! Well, it was just good timing. In 1977, when the FCC allowed Extra Class licensees to apply for special call signs, Floyd was K5OKQ, and Lloyd was W6PXB (ex-K5ELY). They wrote a joint letter to the FCC and each sent a Form 610. On the same day, April 2, they received N5EL and N6EL. "Keeping up with current affairs concerning Amateur Radio through QST and other publications allowed us to be at the right place at the right time," said Floyd.

The twins got interested in ham radio near the end of World War II, when their oldest brother was captured by the German Army in the Battle of the Bulge. The War Department sent a "missing-in-action" telegram to the family. A few months later, they received a postcard from a ham radio operator in New York City saying he'd intercepted a message from a German station giving a list of names of prisoners of war being sent to a certain prison camp. The brother's name was on the list. "We had not received any information until this time about the welfare of our brother," Floyd recalled. "Within a few weeks we received a form card from him saying he was at the prison camp as had been noted on the postcard from the ham operator."

Eventually their brother was liberated, and Lloyd and Floyd joined the US Navy, serving together. Lloyd became a radio op and stayed 22 years, while Floyd got out after 4. In 1956, Lloyd--stationed in Asmara, Eritrea, at the time--made a phone patch to Floyd via Dick Freeling, W5TIZ, an A-1 Operator from Little Rock, Arkansas, who was completely blind. That's when the twins really got interested in the hobby and have since enjoyed QSOs with each other from all over the world.

"Amateur Radio has a special place in our lives, and I sincerely hope all operators can enjoy our hobby as much as we have. We are both very active in promoting Amateur Radio," Floyd said. --Rosalie White, WA1STO

The ARRL Letter

March 8, 1996 (Volume 15, Number 3)

From QRZ.com:

The callsign K5OKQ now is issued to Floyd's son and K5ELY to a nephew in AR. Floyd, and Lloyd could be heard making cw contacts on 15 and 20 meters several times a week for 45 years. Sadly Lloyd had a severe heart attack in 2002 and had to quit radio completely. He still has one son who is licensed but not active. Floyd is still active, they made their last cw on air contact in August 2002. A picture appears with the article in May 1996 QST. Updated May 2nd 2004



QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CALAVERAS AMATEUR RADIO
SOCIETY

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**Next Meeting:
Thursday, September 21st**

Straw Hat Pizza, Angels Camp

**Order and eat: 6:00 PM
Meet: 7:00 PM**