

SIERRA WAVELENGTH

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WINTER 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE KEN, AE6LA

Welcome to Spring! Time to go Forward...and we have been.

On Monday evenings, the weekly Net has averaged 21 member check-ins, and 7 visitors since Jan. 1st. WB6QQVI, K6MAB, and KI6ART have been Net Control Operators... Come one, come all. This is fun to do and builds confidence you so can be a NC later in an emergency.

Our club breakfasts on the 1st Sat. of the month (9 am) at Perko's in Angels Camp have been well attended. I have attempted to bring something of interest to each meeting I could attend, and you can too. We will have a trip to the repeater site later this spring, after a breakfast. I am planning

on May 5th. The view from Fowler Peak should be fantastic (bring your camera). Come and join us for the fellowship and good conversation, and you just might learn something new.

Thanks to all who attended our quarterly meeting on March 15th, at Straw Hat Pizza in Angels Camp. The "Ides of March" didn't get us! Our next meeting will be on June 21st at 6 pm, and again at Straw Hat Pizza, which is located next to the Radio Shack store in the Mother Lode Plaza. (We will be in the back room) The program for this meeting has yet to set, but surely we will be discussing Field day 2007 and our repeater.

Speaking of Field Day, Bill

(K6DUY) and Fred (WB6QVI) are our co-chairs for this event, and a location will be set soon. Please mark your calendars with June 22—24. Starting time is 10 am Saturday, and we will be providing hamburgers & a potluck dinner at 5 pm on Saturday. See you all there...!!

Andy (NV6V) has done a great job maintaining our website (www.CalaverasARS.org). Our member roster is kept there, as well as the "Net Control" check-in sheets. Both are easily downloaded from the website, where you can find a lot more useful information... THANKS, ANDY!!

cont'd on Page 3, bottom

REPEATER NEWS

The new repeater controller has been installed, and after some frustrating moments, AE6LA and KD6NRB were successful in setting all the operating parameters correctly.

The Arcom RC210, rack mountable Controller with Autopatch is now functioning

as planned, with the exception of the IRLP which will be up and running soon. The auto-patch slots have been programmed for members (see CARS website).

You can see further information on the controller at:
<http://www.ah6le.net/arcomcontrollers.com/rc210/rc210.html>.



Calaveras Amateur Radio Society

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 391
Angels Camp, CA 95222

Website:
calaverasars.org

Club Call:
N6FRG

N6FRG Repeater:

145.170 mHz
Offset = 600 kHz

PL = 100 Hz

IRLP Node:
3428

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Andy, NV6V (blue shirt) at N6FRG repeater rack....

Hmm...let's see what happens when I turn this knob...?

Minutes of the March 15, 2007 CARS Meeting (edited)**WHAT'S NEXT?****Thursday, June 21, 2007**

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 PL 100
Weekly net
Stay informed!

First Saturday of each month

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

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The meeting room of the Straw Hat Pizza was once again our very pleasant meeting place. Ken, AE6LA, CARS President opened the meeting at 18:50. He had e-mailed the agenda, plus he had copies to pass out. After Ken's welcome to all present, your Secretary read the minutes of the December 10, 2006 meeting. Those minutes were then approved by the group.

Next Lynn, AC6CY, presented his Treasurer's report. Lynn said that our checking account balance is \$772.61. No portion of that is allocated to the repeater. However, some of those funds can be drawn upon for repeater use if deemed necessary. It was pointed that there will be expenses associated with Field Day. Lynn reported that when a membership is submitted via PayPal, we are charged \$1.17 on a \$30 membership. Membership dues will come due for all "old" members next June 30th. Ken stated that it continues to be club policy to allow new members to have a full year's membership from the date they joined.

Under "Old Business", Fred, WB6QVI co-chair of Field Day (with Bill, K6DUY who will be working with Fred on the event) said that a location had not yet been selected. By a show of hands, many present showed an interest in participating in this event.

The Sierra Century Bike Ride, previously been done in Amador county, will be entirely within Calaveras County this year, on June 2nd. Arturo, N6PGH, CARS coordinator for the event stated that he has been in contact with Sacramento Wheelmen, the organizing group, and they are interested in our assisting with communications in conjunction with the Amador County Amateur Radio Club (www.k6arc.com). Further details will be announced on the Monday night net as they become available. KO6HV, KN6XW, KI6ART, AE6LA and WB6QVI indicated that they were interested in taking part in the event.

Jim, KO6HV, our VP and Emergency Coordinator, said that he has been trying to contact Clay Hawkins, Calaveras OES Captain, regarding CARS participation in their activities. Jim stated that Clay apparently "wants an event in March", but that no details were available and CARS was not contacted in conjunction with a hospital event that OES held recently.

Another brief mention of Field Day was made. It was stated that the TCARES group had invited CARS to join them at their site. It was felt however that due to several factors, including being limited to few HF stations (owing to the potential RFI between them) and other logistical concerns, that we had declined their offer. However, a joint BBQ with the two groups at some time in the future was considered quite desirable. John, KI6ART, indicated that he had made a presentation on "An Introduction to Digital Software", and PSK31 on February 24th to the Amador County Amateur Radio Club (ACARC).

Ken then turned to new business. The primary topic dealt with the repeater and the newly installed controller. Many thanks were expressed to Ken and Tim, KD6NRB, for their many hours of work to put it into operation. Thanks were also given to Andy, NV6V, for his work on the IRLP node and other aspects of the repeater and his continuing duties as CARS webmaster. People were reminded that they can get a current roster on the site by logging in with their call and the password. KD6NRB brought the motion that Ken and Andy be granted lifetime memberships. This motion was passed unanimously. Ken stated that he is now the owner of the CARS repeater, taking over from Andy. He reminded the group that the "Fowler Repeater Group", of which he is the chair is the actual owner of the repeater. Ken stated that he was "uncomfortable" with also being CARS president in that it might constitute a conflict of interest. He then passed out cards with a few repeater codes. These included the use of the autopatch, DTMF keypad test facility, repeater parameter readout and codes for enabling and disabling the system. Ken stressed that disabling should be done only if needed due to repeater "hangup" or inappropriate use of the repeater. Ken stated that he was the person responsible that the system is operating properly and used appropriately. Therefore he will monitor the repeater as much of the time as he is able. He recommended that we follow the guidelines stated in the "Repeater Etiquette & Tips" that is available at <http://www.10-70.org/repeater.htm>.

One particular item he mentioned is that he felt that the system should not necessarily be used for conversations that could more appropriately be carried on other media. There was a little bit of discussion on this. Members were made aware that a double, quick, beep on the courtesy tone would mean that we were on emergency power and in such a condition, only CW IDs will be heard.

Andy, who has been working on the IRLP equipment, stated that it would be at least a couple of weeks before he would be able to bring it into service. There was some discussion about the desirability of our having the IRLP facility and of being a node. The obvious feature of listening to "DX" is the ability of the new controller (a feature not available on the previous one) to connect to a "reflector". A reflector allows connection to multiple nodes. Steve, KF6HJB, mentioned that we could frequently hear such a system in operation on the Sonora repeater at 440.850 mHz.

Ken felt that our current RF hardware, a GE Mastr II Mobile, was one that no one in the group really knew how to maintain. This he stated compromised our ability to provide a reliable system for emergency purposes. He recommended we consider purchase a new RF deck such as the Kenwood TKR-750. Clearly at \$1500, a source of funds would need to be found. While personal contributions and some accumulation from members' dues could be obtained, that would probably take some time.

This lead to the final repeater related item on the agenda. Miriam, K6MAB, has been pursuing the preparation of a grant request, for repeater equipment from the county and has a preliminary draft. It was suggested that a grant request might include, in addition to a replacement for our current RF deck, a second system that could be deployed as a portable system for emergency use.

The next agenda item was the "need" for non-profit incorporation. This, it was felt, might help in our pursuit of a grant. Fred, WB6QVI, stated that the paperwork of filing tax returns and the other "considerable" paperwork associated with a non-profit made such a move of questionable merit. He further stated, that the PR generated at a Field Day site could help in public visibility and might generate support. The group decided to not pursue non-profit status at this time.

Lastly, Ken called for new business and/or comments. John, KI6ART, again stressed the desirability of getting together with other hams groups, especially the Amador and Tuolumne repeater clubs. With no further business, Ken adjourned the meeting at 20:42.

Submitted by Kit, WB6QVU, CARS Secretary

California Ham Has Role in Sea Rescue...ARLB002

A California radio amateur played a part in an international effort to rescue a US sailor attempting to single-handedly circumnavigate the globe. Miguel "Mike" Morales, KC6CYK, of Riverside, told ARRL he was able to contact fellow radio amateurs in Chile to obtain and relay reassuring information to the family of Ken Barnes, whose 44-foot ketch Privateer was foundering off South America. A Chilean trawler, Polar Pesca 1, rescued Barnes from his disabled vessel on January 5. Upon learning of Barnes's predicament on January 2, Morales said he contacted the sailor's fiance, Cathy Chambers.

"She mentioned that the satellite telephone was dying on him over there, so their communication was 30 to 60 seconds at a time," Morales recounted. "I was lucky enough, I got in touch with some of the Charlie Echo [CE-prefix] stations until I got to someone in Punta Arenas, and then Polar Pesca, the vessel that did the rescue." Morales speaks fluent Spanish and has visited Chile and knew "the way things operate down there." As a result, he says, he was able to obtain credible reports via his 10-meter contacts as to what was happening.

Morales said he was able to gather information via his Chilean ham radio contacts from the Polar Pesca 1. He relayed information about Barnes's location and when he was going to be rescued. Morales said he felt it was important for the family to know Barnes's situation and how the rescue plans were playing out.

Barnes, who's 47, left Long Beach, California, late last October, hoping to be the first person to sail around the world from the West Coast. A severe storm dismasted, badly damaged the vessel and soaked his supplies.

The Chilean Navy dispatched one of the CP3 Orion aircraft Chile uses to patrol its 200-mile-offshore territorial claim. The plane spotted the foundering vessel, photographed it and even attempted to drop a life raft that missed its mark. The Chilean Navy coordinated the operation and recruited the Polar Pesca 1 to undertake the actual rescue, although Morales says the US Coast Guard agreed to cover the expense. At that point he was able to pass along news to the family that the trawler was en route to Barnes's location.

"The main thing is, Ken Barnes is back, is alive," Morales said. "What I did was on behalf of the US ham radio community, I believe. That's what you're there for."

Barnes is scheduled to return home to California this week, and Morales will be among those on hand to welcome him.

Good endings to situations are always welcome reading....editor

Cont'd from Page 1....

Andy (NV6V) has done a great job maintaining our website (www.CalaverasARS.org). Our member roster is kept there, as well as the "Net Control" check-in sheets. Both are easily downloaded from the website, where you can find a lot more useful information...THANKS, ANDY!!

Ken (AE6LA), Tim (KD6NRB), and Andy will continue to work on improvements to our repeater system. Bringing IRLP back onto the system is our next goal. Miriam (K6MAB) and I are attempting to put together the paper-work for a grant to help support our community service repeater.

ANSWER to "scrambled" word in last issue.... "Repeater"

Scrambled word for this issue... **Y S T E O C U R**

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Net Manager

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DON'T FORGET TO USE
"REPEATER ETIQUETTE"
WHEN USING THE CARS
REPEATER !
73S.....
EDITOR

**MINUTES KIT, WB6QVU****Minutes of the December 10, 2006 Quarterly CARS Meeting**

We had 22 people attending the event and all seemed to have a great time. After a lot of socializing for about the first hour, Ken, AE6LA, CARS President, called the meeting to order at a little after 15:00 hours, and WB6QVU, club Secretary, read the last meeting's minutes. Lynn, AC6CY, club Treasurer, reported that we have about \$1,153 in the CARS checking account. We now have 43 members of whom 7 need club badges. Jim, KO6HV, our VP, was not able to attend, but sent a comment about not being able to make any successful contact with the county RACES people.

Andy, NV6V, gave a report on the repeater controller stating that he needed to pursue "a different route" for the UHF link between the IRLP node at his QTH, and the repeater site. As stated in the "Wavelength", he has a GE MVP radio that he will try to use for this link.

It was mentioned that a new repeater in Sonora on 440.850 mHz would be coming on the air soon. It will be a primary machine for the Red Cross.

Ken, AE6LA, asked for a volunteer to be in charge of 2007 Field Day, but no one volunteered at the meeting. Ken stated the last year's total contact points score was 1,748. He called for nominations for any of the officer positions, but none was submitted. All four existing officers indicated that they would be willing to serve for one more year. Ken stated that this would be his final year.

A brief discussion followed on how to attract new members... Many felt that the Monday night "Net" was important for people being introduced to CARS. Bill, K6DUY, suggested that sending postcards to hams in our area, who are listed on the "QRZ.com" website might be worthwhile. Someone stated that they had left "ham radio" information at some schools, but had not received any responses. John, KI6ART, said he believed we needed to emphasize the technology aspects of ham radio for it to be attractive to new people.

Ken then called for new business... Arturo, N6PGH, stated that there was a "Century" bicycle ride on June 2nd, and it would be going through Calaveras County. Ham radio communications had been used during previous events. The route is about 100 miles in length, and some 2,000 riders are expected. The event organizer has contacted Arturo, and he is interested in having Calaveras County hams participate. Arturo volunteered to coordinate the CARS activity for the event. Fred, WB6QVI, said that he took part in a similar event several years ago, and was thanked by a numerous people during that event.

Ken said that the meeting schedule and place would be the same as this year. Ken volunteered to host the 2007 CARS Christmas event at his home on December 2nd.

Andy, NV6V, as the group joined hands, led us in prayer. Ken adjourned the meeting, and everyone began to enjoy another great potluck meal.

Submitted by Kit, WB6QVU, CARS Secretary

PSK31 DIGITAL COMM STILL ALIVE ON THURSDAY NIGHTS !

The 10 Meter PSK31 Digital Communications for Calaveras and surrounding counties continues to meet on **28.121.50 mHz each Thursday evening at 8 pm local time.** Tune in and enjoy the “QRP” (10-20 watts) chat with other local county hams... its easy and fun!!

For further information contact John, KI6ART, “Net Control” for this mode of operation.

NEW MEMBERS 1ST QUARTER 2007

Larry Rebarchik, **KI6CCH**, Redwood City

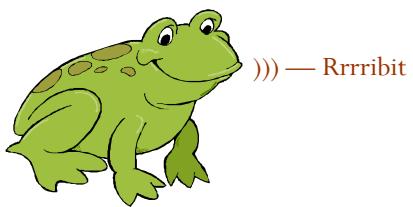
Robert Sullivan, **WB5FTF**, Pleasanton

Geri Sullivan, **KG6TMY**, Pleasanton

Ray Malone, **KF6GQX**, Oakdale

April 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 CARS NET	3	4	5	6	7 CARS Breakfast
8	9 CARS NET	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 CARS NET	17	18	19	20	21 TCARES Breakfast
22	23 CARS NET	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 CARS NET					



39 cents

**QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CALAVERAS AMATEUR RADIO
SOCIETY**

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FOLD ON THIS LINE

**Next Quarterly Meeting:
Thursday, June 21, 2007
Straw Hat Pizza, Angels Camp
Order & Eat: 6:00 PM Meeting: 7:00 PM**

**Breakfast Meetings:
First Saturday of Each Month
Perko's, Angels Camp**