

SIERRA WAVELENGTH

SIERRA WAVELENGTH

WINTER 2008

PRESIDENT'S FALL STRETCH KEN, AE6LA

We're in the Fall Stretch... Christmas Party? Yes, it's time to get it on our calendars. My wife Lynn and I will be hosting the CARS, Inc. Christmas Party here at our home in Arnold, Sunday, December 7 at 2 PM. Potluck! We will provide the punch and coffee along with ham & turkey. We will count on you to bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Please know that your family is included in the invitation along with any non-member or prospective HAMs. I expect we will have a time of fellowship, probably a lot of radio talk, dinner and then I hope Andy will lead us in

Christmas Carols. If you have an activity you would like included, let me know. We will do some coordinating during net in November.

Elections: We have 3 offices to fill and one nominee for each. Thank you to Steve Airola, W6RXK nominated for Vice President; Patsy Clark, KN6XW nominated for Secretary and Bill Holmes nominated for Treasurer. There being no competition for any office, I suspect we can cast a white ballot for all three at our next quarterly meeting Thursday, December 11.

Speaking of quarterly meet-

ings, the location is still to be determined. Your suggestions please.

I understand the Oct. 4th monthly breakfast went well at the Main Street Café in Angels. I look forward to being there November 1st, 9 AM and seeing all of you there.

Thank you for your "20 to 0" Oct 13 special meeting approval of our bank account name change.

Repeater highlights: AE6LA, K6DUIY, NV6V, KD6NRB, KI6ART, and WS6P attended the September 24 Repeater

Cont'd on Page 3....



IRLP NEWS-ANDYTHOMAS (NV6V)

Sept. 2008 -We are now moving forward with the vision of marrying our node directly to the repeater on top of Fowler Peak. Step 1 was to migrate the guts of the node computer to a commercial-grade rack-mount PC case. This was accomplished on Saturday,

Sept. 27 and the node is now on the air at AE6LA's house in the new case.

The next step is to gather the needed equipment: two 2.4 GHz 802.11 wireless CPEs to bridge a home broadband network to the hilltop; two 2.4 GHz grid

dish antennas; outdoor-rated CAT5 cable; one wired ethernet switch; various little connectors and doo-dads to hook everything together. The plan is to find a willing club member that lives within 5 miles

Cont'd on Page 2...

Calaveras Amateur Radio
Society, Incorporated

Vol 44, Issue 3

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
IRLP NEWS & UPDATES	1
AUTO PATCH USE	2
OFFICER SLATE 2008	2
NEW MEMBERS 2008	3
CLUB OFFICERS 2008	3
NBEMS	4
MINUTES- SEPT. 2008	5
CLUB HISTORY- N6NML	6
EVENT PICTURES	6, 7
RED CROSS & MEETINGS	8

IRLP cont'd from page 1...

and has line-of-sight to the lower platform of the lookout tower. That member needs to have a broadband internet connection, and be willing to share it with the wireless bridge to the hilltop. I am in the process of collecting the equipment now, and expect that to take several months to complete.

Construction and testing will be step 3. During this phase, we will fine-tune the connection for a reliable internet connection on Fowler.

Step 4 will be installing the node in the repeater vault and connecting it to the repeater itself. Once this and testing is complete, I expect the audio fidelity of our node to improve immensely. It'll sound great...!

73 de Andy, NV6V

WHAT'S NEXT?**Thursday, Dec. 11th**

Quarterly Meeting
Main Street Café (?)
Angels Camp
Order and eat at 6 PM
Meeting starts at 7 PM

Mondays

7:30 PM Local
CARS Weekly Net
145.170 MHz, PL 100
Stay informed...Tune in!

1st Saturday, monthly

CARS Breakfast
9:00 AM
Main Street Café (?)
Angels Camp

Visitors Always Welcome!

**Newsletter Editor****Write C/O:**

Sierra Wavelength
P.O. Box 553
Arnold, CA 95223
(209) 795-7507

wavelength@calaverasars.org

Using the 145.17 Repeater Autopatch and Autodial...

The N6FRG repeater has autopatch and autodial capabilities. Club members are encouraged to use these assets whenever necessary. The autodial is a code-activated process where the repeater makes a phone call to a pre-determined number located in a slot assigned to each club member. The autopatch is just a way to connect your radio to the phone system, and make a call from your radio.

Autodial and Autopatch-

Everyone in the club has been given an autodial slot number, which contains their local phone number. The current CARS website Roster, which requires a "password" for access, has the slot numbers listed for each member's name. To use the autodial or autopatch to call another member's home, or a local 7-digit telephone number, see CARS website for instructions.

Remember all conversations go "over the air" like a radio-to-radio contact, so radio protocol is appropriate. Inform your call recipient they are "on the air." If you forget to "down" the autopatch, the repeater will down it in a minute or two.

CARS OFFICER SLATE- 2008

The following CARS members are on the ballot for election in November by the membership:

Steve Airola - VP

Patsy Clark - Secretary

Bill Holmes - Treasurer

The current offices of President, and Public Information Officer (PIO) will run to the end of their terms in 2009 (see Bylaws Article III, Sec. 1 & 2) for details on terms of office).

Cont'd from Page 1....President's Summer Thoughts-

...Repeater Committee meeting at my home in Arnold. On Oct. 1st, AE6LA, KI6ART, K6DUY, AND WS6P were met on Fowler Peak by Steve Allred, K6SCA. Several hours were spent working on our repeater improvement. Steve "retuned" our repeater's duplexer, and the system seems to be much improved due to Steve's efforts. Bill (K6DUY) installed a GE Mastr II power supply, and reworked the power switching and solar control panels in our rack. Ken (AE6LA) installed a transceiver, TNC, and antenna system for 144.910 Packet operation. Sam and John assisted all three, and took some pictures, too!

Please check the new areas on the CARS, Inc. website, <http://www.calaverasARS.org>, and plan to join us for the Monday night Nets, breakfasts, and quarterly meetings.

Don't forget the Christmas Party December 7th....!!!

Ken, AE6LA, President

18 NEW CARS, INC. MEMBERS ADDED SINCE JAN. 2008

Sam Hernandez, **WS6P**, West Point

Steve Airola, **W6RXK**, San Andreas

Robert Olla, **KC6VAG**, Murphys

Charlotte Farr, **N6NML**, San Andreas

Michael O'Keefe, **KI6PRM**, Mt. Ranch

Glenn Wharregard, **KG6CGE**, Rail Road Flat

Dan Forrester, **KC8DHV**, Copperopolis

Karen Coffman, **WA6KEC**, Coulterville

Robert Nelson, **K6RDN**, Murphys

Kathleen Hernandez, **KI6OBE**, West Point

Helen Olla, **KI6ARS**, Murphys

Derrill Coffman, **W7LTM**, Coulterville

Helen Holt, **KA6RNO**, Stockton

Tommy Farr, **W6IJ**, Denair

David Putnam, **KG6BVJ**, Herald

Carol Heath, **KB6GMU**, West Point

Michael Wells, **KG6MGF**, Camp Connell

Bruce Hart, **KI6RQY**, Avery

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2008

AE6LA, Ken Sanders, President- AE6LA@aol.com

KO6HV, Jim Clark, Vice President- JimnPat@sbcglobal.net

N6IV, Mark Godbout, Secretary- N6IV@arrl.net

AC6CY, Lynn Bartschi, Treasurer- AC6CY@pocketmail.com

KI6ART, John Davenport, PIO- KI6ART@arrl.net

Net Manager: Fred Soderer, WB6QVI

ANSWER to "scrambled" word in last issue.... **"FIELD DAY"**

Scrambled word for this issue... **AGLHTVWENE**

CARS OFFICERS**President**

Ken Sanders, AE6LA
795-5947
ae6la@aol.com

Vice President

Jim Clark, KO6HV
795-5652
jimnpat1@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Mark Godbout, N6IV
286-1083
n6iv@arrl.net

Treasurer

Lynn Bartschi, AC6CY
736-4337
ac6cy@pocketmail.com

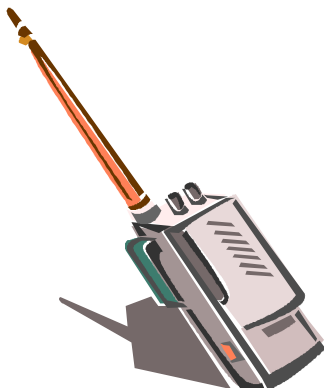
Net Manager

Fred Soderer, WB6QVI
728-9868
wb6qvi@eudoraimail.com

Public Info Officer

J. Davenport, KI6ART
795-7507
ki6art@arrl.net

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

**NBEMS— NARROW BAND EMERGENCY MESSAGING SYSTEM**

Below is a list of the current participating amateurs in the local area that have been involved in testing the NBEMS Net communications system for use in the event of an emergency. This is a "digital" group, and is headed up Sam (WS6P), who is located in West Point.

The Group meets on frequency each Wednesday evening at approx. 08:30 pm, and can be found on 18.104 MHz while using the N6FRG repeater for voice communications (145.170, PL 100). The initial mode is NBEMS BPSK31, but may change to other modes during the testing due to atmospheric conditions. The current software being used is "fldigi v3.03", and "flarq v4.0". Both are available for Linux and Windows operating systems at the following website: "www.w1hkj.com/Fldigi.html".

All licensed amateurs are welcome to tune in to monitor what's happening, and also to participate in the communication. You can view the NBEMS website, and download software at "www.w1hkj.com/Fldigi.html".

NBEMS PARTICIPANTS

Sam Hernandez - WS6P <SamTheHam@flobrew.com>

Andy Thomas - NV6V <nv6v@calaverasars.org>

Carl Croci - NI6Z <carlmel@goldrush.com>

Dave Nicholson - KB6PNT <KB6PNT@arrl.net>

Grayson Rehn - KE6KYI <papa-bird@sbcglobal.net>

Greg Bixby - KI6QLE <gregbixby@hotmail.com>

John Davenport - KI6ART <johndav@ix.netcom.com>

Ken Sanders - AE6LA <AE6LA@aol.com>

PT Brown - KG6FEY <ptbrown@caltel.com>

Ray Parker - ND6S <ND6S@arrl@sbcglobal.net>

The **Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS)** for Windows is a suite of software programs designed for point-to-point, fast, error-free, emergency messaging up to or over 100 miles distant, and takes up a very minimum of frequency space on the ham bands, leaving more space for other ham activities.

The system is designed primarily for use on the two-meter band, or on HF with NVIS antennas, where there is a minimum of fading (QSB) to slow down message transfers. Two meters has the advantage that distances long enough to span disaster areas of up to 100 miles can be dependably done with small, portable antennas. In hilly regions, if two meters is not workable over the distances required, NVIS antennas on HF can be employed instead, but are not nearly as portable.

This point-to-point system does not utilize repeaters, or email robots, for message forwarding. All forwarding is always done by stations manned by live operators on both ends, who can confirm that a frequency is clear locally, negotiate a QSY if necessary, and confirm delivery of a message by the intended recipient. The system depends upon a multitude of radio amateurs providing the traditional public service function, similar to the way they always have, and gives more hams a chance to help out with emergency communications without requiring a large hardware investment.

NBEMS is not intended for net communications, because only one station at a time can be connected and controlled by flarq. Nets can be conducted using fldigi alone, and net control can suggest that two stations move to an adjacent frequency, have one beacon, the other connect, and then pass traffic using the error-free ARQ protocol provided by flarq. If already connected to a station using flarq, net control can use "Plain Talk" to communicate with that station.

Minutes of the September 18, 2008 C.A.R.S. Meeting – Mark, N6IV

Due to the abrupt closure of the Country Cafe in Angels Camp our third quarterly meeting of C.A.R.S. was held at the Round Table Pizza in Arnold. Ken, AE6LA, opened the meeting at 6:45 pm and gave thanks for Andy's speedy recovery.

All 20 members attending immediately received "pink slips" from Bill, K6DUY, for a free raffle to be held at the end of the evening for a collectable 2m rig.

Mark, N6IV, read the last meeting's minutes and Lynn (back from Niagara Falls) announced \$1696.93 in the kitty. Both reports were approved and accepted into record.

Ken handed out copies of a new spreadsheet for the club's financial records displaying the expenses and incoming funds for the past 5 years. This will help clarify our monetary transactions and better predict future expenses. The spreadsheet was accepted into record.

Vice president, K06HV, reports nothing new with ARES or RACES but last weekend's emergency preparedness event in Murphys was well attended. The fire dept, OES, sheriff's office, CARS and other groups displayed their expertise. Jim and Patsy started a signup sheet for learning about ham radio and have proposed ham radio training classes with members of CARS acting as instructors. About 6-7 members volunteered. A meeting at Patsy's house for Nov 15, at 1 pm is scheduled to work out further details.

Ken's Presidential report started with K6DUY telling us about a 100 watt transceiver (GE Master II) as a possible replacement for the one now on Fowler Peak. This unit is being worked on.

Sam, WS6P, has borrowed the Amador clubs old repeater which we can use to test various sites for better repeater coverage in the county. Ken has proposed a repeater committee meeting to discuss the future direction of our repeater. All club members are invited.

Andy, NV6V, stated that our IRLP node is functioning properly and to check the web site for IRLP operating details. He hopes that we can get internet access up the hill to the repeater which would allow moving the node to Fowler Peak. This would improve reliability and audio quality. To accomplish this Andy said a line-of-site shot to the lower deck of the tower is needed encompassed with a radio link carrying broadband.

John, KI6ART, states we reduced the amount of our new grant request to the county for money to improve the equipment on the repeater site. John is keeping in touch with several county contacts regarding the importance of a solid radio communication service. He is also looking for reporters to help gather information for the newsletter.

Arturo, N6PGH, announced that radio support for Mr. Frog's Wild Ride bike event is manned and ready to go. Volunteers are still needed. The Century ride, because of low turn out, will not be coming back next year. Perhaps Amador will need our help if the ride occurs there. Arturo is resigning as chairman of the events committee.

Field Day 2008 score was 1218 and participated by 21 members says Bill, K6DUY. We had great food and fellowship. Where do we want to hold Field Day next year...?

Fred, WB6QVI, thanked the net control volunteers for a great sounding and inviting net. He is looking for other members to man the upcoming slots. The term "incorporated" is now in the net preamble.

Ken started the nominating process for the up coming club elections and agreed to remain as president for another year. The positions open are vice president, secretary, and treasurer. So far, Patsy has volunteered for secretary and both K6DUY and AC6CY are running for treasurer. No one has been nominated for VP. Via the newsletter and/or e-mail the rest of the club is being asked for nominations to these vacancies. Deadline for nominations will be Oct. 15, 2008 and then elections will closed Nov. 15, 2008.

Ken and his wife Lynn have invited the Club membership back to their house in Arnold for the annual Christmas party to be held on Sunday, December 7, 2008.

The subject of where the CARS group will get together for monthly breakfasts and quarterly meetings was also discussed. Fred, WB6QVI, Lynn, AC6CY and Tim, KD6NRB are looking for locations in Angels Camp. Your input will help. The next quarterly CARS meeting will be on Thursday, Dec 11, 2008. Location to be determined.

Miriam, K6MAB, made several suggestions to help facilitate the clubs activities including, club meeting times, newsletter/website additions, guest speakers, and social activities. Due to time restraints these topics were only briefly discussed so will be taken up again at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm

Submitted by N6IV, CARS Secretary

Club History

A Breakfast to Remember – June 1996

By Charlotte, N6NML

Jim and Patsy Clark proved they had a right to wear their chefs hats with their well-attended breakfast at their home in Arnold.

The most memorable dish to me was the “SOS”, a dish either liked/ disliked by military personnel during World War II. As for me it was the best I’ve ever tasted.

Some of the pictures I have show only the backs of the men as they are enjoying an eyeball QSO. I am hoping that other members will recognize them so that I can apply their names.

I will bring the albums to meetings in the hope of identifying people in the photos, as well as to solicit photos, news articles and other memorabilia that members may wish to contribute. I am grateful to Lynn and Darlene Bartschi for their past custodianship of the CARS albums and for passing them on to me. I will endeavor to keep up the history of the club in good order.



Jim & Patsy Clark– 1996

CARS Members at Disaster Fair in Murphys At LDS– Sept 13th



AE6LA Playing Ostrich



WS6P at His HF/VHF Station



K6MAB-Club “Reporter”



1 Person Emergency Supply



OES Emergency Equipment



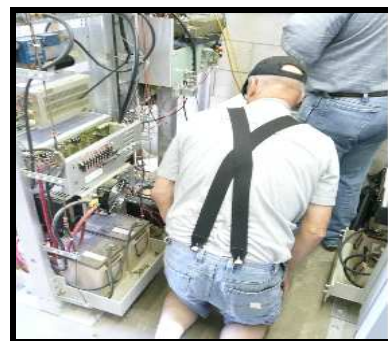
CARS Group Ready to Serve

N6FRG Repeater Maintenance and Upgrading- September 2008

Fowler Peak Tower



Fowler Peak Tower



AE6LA- Working on Master II



Steve K6SCA Tuning Duplexer



K6DUY- Installing Power Supply



CALFIRE & DOT Equipment

Miscellaneous Pix Field Day 2008- Bear Valley

KI6ART Being Interviewed



KO6HV & KN6XW



W6AJW & K6DUY Putting up Antenna



KG6OJV and Friend



AE6LA using "Packet"



Guests at BBQ



))) — Rrrribit

Thanks to all who sent in articles and information for this issue of the "Wavelength".....Editor

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Interested in taking a CPR or First Aid classes from the Red Cross..????

Why CPR training...?

Well, no matter how close to potential help you are, there can always be delays. What if there's a traffic accident blocking the ambulance from getting there? What if there are other calls that the 1st responders are answering? And, as always, the sooner CPR is started, the better. Even if the ambulance arrives in 2 -3 minutes, that's still 2 or 3 minutes worth of time that the victim can be helped. I always think about how I would feel if something happened to a family member...I don't think I'd be willing to do nothing, in the hopes that the 1st responders would arrive quickly. So, I would choose to be trained, because you never know when you might be called on to help, so why not be ready?

There are 3 components to the Red Cross classes -adult CPR, infant/child CPR, and basic first aid...the Angels Camp class includes all 3, and has a fee. However, if your members would like to become Red Cross volunteers, we will train for free. We are always looking for new volunteers, in communications and other areas. So, if anyone in CARS would like to become a Red Cross disaster volunteer, we'd be happy to come out and do that training for you as well. Just let us know...

Carole Metzner

Mother Lode District Community Outreach Manager
Sacramento-Sierra Chapter of the American Red Cross

Next Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 11th, 2008

Main Street Café, Angels Camp (Temporary)

Eat: 6:00 PM Meeting: 7:00 PM

Breakfast Meetings

First Saturday of Each Month

Main Steet Cafe, Angels Camp (Temporary)

9:00 AM