

SIERRA WAVELENGTH NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009 VOLUME 45, ISSUE 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE KEN, AE6LA

August 2009-

Summer greetings to all...!

I am very much looking forward to our club joint picnic/BBQ with TCARES on September 12th, from 2:00—5:00 pm at the Utica Park Pavilion in Angels Camp. Please join us, and bring a guest...just let Patsy, KN6XW, know how many. It's a "potluck" with both clubs providing hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks. So, bring a side dish or dessert to share.

TCARES' Carl, NI6Z, will be conducting a "Fox Hunt", so bring a 2-mtr radio and join in the fun!

Also, there will be a "swap meet"...so bring a table or tarp for all that radio equipment

you would like to sell. Who knows what you might find...!

Please go online to the CARS website "www.calaverasARS.org", and vote on the proposed Bylaws amendment that will merge CARS, Inc. and FPRG.

Our CARS, Inc. 501c3 corporation paperwork is now up-to-date with the State and IRS.

We continue to search for ways to support emergency preparedness, so if you have a grant or donation source, please let us know. Remember, **your dues and donations are tax deductible.**

The threat by the Northern Amateur Relay Council of California (NARCC) of changing our repeater frequency or spacing is gone for at least 3-years thanks to the results of

the July 11th special meeting in Concord, CA. That stability should allow us to focus on improving our repeater system, N6FRG.

On August 14th, my wife Lynn and I took a back road drive to see the damage caused by the "Knight" fire in Tuolumne County. We were a long way out on Forestry road 5N07 on the North side of the middle fork of the Stanislaus River. Approx. 6,000 acres were consumed by fire, and we could see most of this as we looked South from that ridge road.

Having followed that fire campaign by radio and online, this was quite interesting to see actual impossible terrain the..

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Calaveras Amateur Radio Society, Incorporated

Vol 45, Issue 3

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 391
Angels Camp, CA 95222

Website:
calaverasARS.org

Club Calls:
N6FRG

N6FRG Repeater:
145.170 MHz
Offset = 600 kHz

PL = 100 Hz

IRLP Node:
3428

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FIELD DAY 2009-RESULTS- K6DUY

The results are in, and Bill Holmes, K6DUY, Chair of the Field Day event, reports the following results:

CW TOTALS.....205

- 80M = 20 contacts
- 40M = 47 contacts
- 20M = 103 contacts
- 15M = 35 contacts

DIGITAL TOTALS.....113

- 40m = 78 contacts
- 20M = 18 contacts
- 2M = 17 contacts

SSB TOTALS.....325

- 80m = 1 contact
- 40m = 102 contacts
- 20m = 222 contacts

GOTA STATION.....117

- KI6UTW = 97 contacts
- KI6VRE = 20 contacts

RAW SCORE....1922

(W/O BONUS POINTS)

This score was better than Field Day 2008...!!

THANKS BILL.....!

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"FIRST RESPONDERS?" (excerpts from EMCOMM MONTHLY... "www.emcomm.org/em")

We don't know who first promoted the idea that public service ham radio operators fall into the category of "first responders". Whoever they are, they are way off base. And this myth still continues to be promulgated. Of course, many licensed amateurs serve in some "first responder" capacity such as an EMT, fire-fighter, reserve deputy, etc. And, upon rare occasions, they may use amateur radio during an emergency incident when normal public service radio or cell phone service has failed.

Amateur radio emcomm is not about flashing lights, sirens, badges, etc. If that is your forté, we suggest that you join a local fire department, become a reserve law enforcement officer, or EMS worker.

When we say emcomm, we are talking about a volunteer amateur radio service, capable of providing emergency communications (TACTICAL or FORMAL message traffic) on the amateur bands, on behalf of a third party. It may be for a government agency, a private relief organization, or the general public. The last time we reviewed the NIMS/ICS structure, communications is still under LOGISTICS...a support function. Let's let people know what our mission actually is and not let our egos become over-inflated.

cont'd on Page 3...

WHAT'S NEXT?

Thursday, May 14th
Bi-Monthly Meeting
IOOF Hall
Angels Camp
Meeting starts at 6:45 PM

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

NBEMS Net
3584 kHz

Wed at 8:30 pm

1st Saturday, monthly
CARS Breakfast
9:00 AM
Murphys Historic Hotel
Murphys, CA

Visitors Always Welcome !



Newsletter Editor

Write C/O:

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

Using the 145.17 N6FRG 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 portable or mobile radio. See website: www.calaverasARS.org

Autodial and Autopatch-

Everyone in the club is 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 the 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 use "73" to "down" the autopatch, the repeater will down it in a minute or two.

CARS OFFICERS – 2009

Ken Sanders - President

Steve Airola - VP

Patsy Clark - Secretary

Bill Holmes - Treasurer

John Davenport - PIO

The current offices of President, and Public Information Officer (PIO) will run to the end of their terms in CY2009 (see Bylaws Article III, Sec. 1 & 2 for details on terms of office).

‘FIRST RESPONDERS’ ? cond’t from Page 2...

While we are on the subject of NIMS/ICS (contrary to what you may have read elsewhere), amateurs should never use the term "Incident Commander" in reference to a leader within their own emcomm organization. While using the principles of NIMS/ICS within an ARCT, or even a field day type of event is a good idea, designating an emcomm leader as the "Incident Commander" has the potential of confusing those who don't know the difference between amateur radio emcomm and the command level of an incident. We suggest using the term "Team Leader" or "Event Coordinator". If, during an actual incident, someone starts using the term "Incident Commander" for an emcomm leader, you may suddenly find you and your team being escorted "off premises".

For more information on emcomm, visit "www.emcomm.org"....

Editor...

NEWEST CARS, Inc. MEMBERS IN 2009

WELCOME— WELCOME—WELCOME !!!!

Ed Parsons, K6HP, Murphys

Katey Hernandez, KI6UTW, Fair Oaks

Duane Prill, KG6KFA, Twain Harte

Kevin Ashford, AB6XS, San Jose

Lauren Hernandez, KI6VRE, Murphys

Larry Tusoni, KQ6XY, Angels Camp

Steve Shinn, KC6YFR, Murphys

John Mallard, KJ6ACF, Saratoga/Bear Valley

Jim Hartsfield, KI6YXW, Richmond

TOTAL CARS MEMBERS: 73 !

When you hear our newest members on the air, be sure to say “hello” !!!!!

ANSWER to “scrambled” word in the last issue: “GRAPEVINE”

Scrambled word for this issue... HTACMSIM

CARS OFFICERS**President**

Ken Sanders, AE6LA
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Fred Soderer, WB6QVI
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Public Info Officer

J. Davenport, KI6ART
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Old Bazinett Hotel, next to Safeway on left, in Angels Camp

Circa 1950's (Reprinted from old postcard)

**Don't forget to use
"Repeater Etiquette"
when using the CARS
N6FRG repeater !**

73

Editor....

**NEW ADDITIONAL CLUB CALL SIGN.....K6XCA !**

CARS, Inc. has received an official license for the FCC call sign of **K6XCA**, effective August 4, 2009. The additional call sign request was approved by the CARS membership at the July General meeting.

The "Strike" team designator for Calaveras County is "XCA", and K6XCA was available, and selected from the FCC database as an *additional* CARS club call sign.

The strike team designator for Santa Clara County is "XSC", and "W6XSC" is the call for the Santa Clara County OES Radio Club. W6XSC is widely used on the Santa Clara County EMCOMM packet system.

It was suggested that we obtain the K6XCA call sign with the idea of using it in connection with CARS EMCOMM efforts. One possible use might be some future packet node dedicated to OES/EMCOMM, and by using a call sign with the "XCA" designator, such a packet node would be unmistakably part of a larger OES network.

N6FRG will continue to be the "club" call sign for any ham radio activity and events, and the new call sign, K6XCA, provides the added benefit of showing OES/CalFire types that we speak, and understand their language.

Barry Thaysen, K3UG, AEC

CARS, INC
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
JULY 09, 2009
MINUTES



President Ken Sanders, AE6LA, called the meeting to order. Steve Airola, W6RXK, led the flag salute. A moment of silence was observed for silent key Ray Word, KB6CEG. Ray was very active in amateur radio, and his passing away is going to be felt by many. This Secretary was asked to send a card expressing our condolences to his wife Linda and family.

Ray and his wife Linda, KB6CEH, were to be the co-chairpersons for the TCARES joint picnic with Jim and Patsy Clark of CARS, coming up this Sept. 12, 2009. It is planned to have a "swap meet" at this picnic, too. More information on this picnic, soon.

A written financial report from Bill Holmes, K6DUY (Treasurer), was circulated among members present. This report covered the year from July 2008 to July 2009. This report has been filed in the Secretary's binder. Bill reports the year ending checking balance of \$2,085.09. CARS has 74 members, however less than half have renewed their membership at this time. Members are reminded to please pay your dues for the new fiscal year. John Davenport, KI6ART, volunteered to send reminder notices.

Vice President, Steve Airola, W6RXK, brought the logs and QSL cards of silent key Frank Genochio, W6RXU, to the meeting for display. The Genochio family loaned these items to Steve so we could see and enjoy them. Frank was first licensed in 1939 while living in Comanche, a little town now at the bottom of Comanche Lake. He had to travel to San Francisco to take his amateur test, and Steve's Uncle, Virgil Airola, went with him where both obtained their first licenses becoming W6RXU, and W6RXK. Our Steve now holds his uncle's call sign, W6RXK. Frank's contact logs and QSL cards were very interesting with his log showing his last contact before World War II began in 1941, when amateur radio had to close down. It also showed his first contact after the war in 1945. Everyone present wrote a brief note to the Genochio family, thanking them for allowing CARS to enjoy Frank's collection.

Steve said there would not be a speaker for tonight's meeting. He expected a small turnout for the meeting, and said we need to have larger attendances for speakers. He did have a video to show, however, after the meeting it was decided not to play the video due to the hour.

Ken, AE6LA, asked if the club should spend approx. \$250.00 for a TNC for APRS Packet on Fowler Peak with Steve Allred's, K6SCA, 440 setup. A motion was made by John Davenport, KI6ART, and seconded by Barry Thaysen, K3UG, that we budget \$250.00 for that purpose since this addition would help with OES work in the county. After a brief discussion a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Barry Thaysen, K3UG, told of plans to expand the N6FRG, 145.170, coverage into the Bear Valley area by use of a 440 APRS tracker digi-repeater connected to a digi-repeater on Fowler Peak. John Mallard, KG6ACF, is a key member of the Bear Valley ski patrol and is heading up this effort.

John sees this as a good tool for the ski patrol, since it would be used for health and safety, increase our coverage, and be a source of new members.

Ken, AE6LA, said the club has a new call sign, KJ6ACJ, for use with emergency work. He suggested the club apply for a vanity call sign to replace KJ6ACJ. The suggested call sign is K6XCA or W6XCA. This would indicate a Calaveras County emergency station. There is a charge for a vanity call sign. Barry, K3UG, purposed, and Tim Cody, KD6NRB, seconded that we apply for a vanity call sign to replace KJ6ACJ to K6XCA with an expense of \$13. After discussion the motion passed.

John Davenport, KI6ART, reported the large turnout of approx. 35 members (normally 20-35 attendees) at the June breakfast at the Murphys Hotel. He reminds us that the time for each breakfast is 9:00 a.m., and food orders will be taken beginning at that time or earlier for the "early birds"!

cont'd on Page 6.....

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...cont'd from Page 1

The fire fighter had to deal with. By Friday, there were no fire personnel seen, and only a few patches of smoke visible. The fire fighters efforts were certainly visible as they had created a huge fire break along 5N07, just in case the fire had jumped across the river. Surprisingly, there appears to be several unburned patches of land on the Mount Knight side of the river that will reseed the fire area.

Please come to our next "Bimonthly General Meeting" on Sept. 10th at the IOOF hall in Angels Camp. We will be proposing the "slate" of nominees for the offices of President, Secretary, and Public Information Officer, to be elected in November. Also, some committee chairmen have expressed the desire to retire and be replaced.

The General Meeting will be at our newest location in Angels Camp, the IOOF hall, which you can find off Raspberry Street in the parking lot behind the IOOF hall...this is the only entrance to the meeting hall, and we will begin the meeting at approximately 6:45 pm. I plan on having the meeting room open at 5:30 pm for those that would like to bring something to eat for dinner, and chat with other club members.

73,

Ken Sanders - AE6LA

President

MINUTES...cont'd from Page 5

Andy Thomas, NV6V, asks us to send any club announcements for posting on the CARS web site to him by email.

Andy said he was still compiling the "frog jump" event results, and plans to begin sending out the N6FRG certificates soon. It was suggested that certificates for club members participating in the event be handed out at the Sept. CARS/ TCARES picnic.

Steve Airola, W6RXX, has talked to the fair leaders about us working inside the fairgrounds next year. We would need to write a proposal telling them what we would do for the fair personnel. Barry Thaysen, K3UG, expressed interest in heading the frog jump for next year.

A written report from Bill Holmes, K6DUY, said Field Day on Mount Reba was a resounding success, again.

Andy Thomas, NV6V, proposed and John Davenport, KI6ART, seconded the motion that the club purchase additional club hats to sell. After discussion, the motion passed.

A suggestion was made that the club volunteer to clean a stretch of a County highway. This may be a liability that we should not take on, and John, KI6ART, will look into it.

Fred Soderer, WB6QVI, made a donation to the club of a old CW antenna tuner. There will be a silent auction at the upcoming September CARS/TCARES picnic to find a home for this very interesting piece of ham gear.

Respectfully submitted,
Patsy Clark, KN6XW, Secretary
July 09, 2009

CARS HISTORY.....**HISTORICAL NOTES- part 2 - By Harold j. farr- sk**

This following is Part 2, a continuation from the article written by Hal Farr, WQ6H, late husband of Charlotte Farr, N6NML, and father to Chuck Farr, W6AJW, both CARS club members. This article was compiled from Hal's memory (as a "founding member"), club minutes, news items, and photos found in the club historian's album currently held by Charlotte.

The first quarterly meeting in 1975 was held at the Bazinett Hotel (see photo on page 4) . Certificates of appreciation were presented to Al, and Helen Last, President and Secretary/Treasurer for 1974. Election of Officers was held and the installed officers for the year 1975 were: Noel Biles, K6ODP, President; Mike Wheeler, WA6NRH, Vice President; and Gladys Biles, Secretary/Treasurer. Activities chairman was eliminated as an "elective" office. At that time, CARS met regularly in the County Farm Advisor's Office in the old San Andreas Court House. At the end of June 1975, a Field Day was held at Airola Meadows. The station W6PNY/6 was set up in the cattle herder' cabin, complete with a bed and wood cook stove. Operating in this Field Day exercise were: Noel Biles, K6ODP; Halk Alto, W6PNY; Mike Wheeler, WA6NRH, Hal Farr, WA6NAM; Emile Guidici, 6CXK; Roy Brown, W6IRJ; Tom Farr, WA6NFC; and Chuck Farr, W6AJW. Noel also used OSCAR 6 & 7 for sending and receiving Field Day messages. The Field Day rig was a Heathkit SB-104 provided by Chuck Farr. The antenna was a Windom, shot up into Pine Trees about 60 feet using a bow and arrow. Also at the Field Day were Gladys Biles, and Mike Wheeler's two sons. 316 contacts were made...

CARS ushered in the nation's Bi-Centennial year with a potluck dinner at the Farm Advisor's Office on January 27, 1976. Noel Biles, out going President installed the following elected officers: Hal Farr, WA6NAM, President' Emile Guidici, W6CXK, Vice President; Charlotte Farr, WN6DTT/N6NML, Secretary/Treasurer. Emile was awarded a "Man of the Year" certificate for his service to CARS. Our newest and youngest member was Phil Desjardin, WA6NSW, who was a student at Calaveras High School. Field Day this year was held on June 26/27 at Airola Meadows. The station call was W6PNY/6, and was operated by Hank, Mike, Noel, Emile, Phil, Chuck, and Tim. 323 CW and 9 phone contacts were made during this event. Dinner meetins were well attending this year, but there was minimal attendance at the regular meetings. The Treasury reflected a balance of \$184.32 at the end of the year.

Elected unanimously for the year 1977 were: Gladys Biles, President; Emile Guidici, W6CXK, Vice President; and Noel Biles, K6ODP, Secretary/Treasurer. The "Member of the Year" certificate was awarded to George Nelson for his outstanding work as Activities Chairman. The club station license, WA6YGA, was renewed with Hal Farr as trustee. It was proposed that Field Day this year be a fin time with multiple transmitters, and not a single transmitter to accue a big score. This proposal was defeated by a majority of the membership, and it was agreed to have the Field Day at Airola Meadows again. Operating the Field Day station W6VY/6 were: Hank Alto, Emile Guidici, Hal Farr, Hoel Biles, and Tim Farr. Chuck Farr, who could not attend, volunteered his SB-104 transceiver. Also assisting in the operation were: Gladys Biles, Cliff Cole, and Charlotte Farr. A total of 334 contact were made. All members attending the June 28 meeting were give a hearing test by Charlotte Farr, a licensed Audiometrist.

During 1977, the members who were RACES, participated in a disaster drill involving bus accident. In addion to our members, the exercise invloved Mark Twain Hospital, the Nation Guard's 175th Medical Brigade, Highway Patrol Office of Emergency Services, the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office, the California Department of Forestry, two local Fire Departments, and the Coroner's Office. Fifty 4-H Club members volunteered as victims. It as agreed by all that the simulated disaster was excellent training.

cont'd on Page 8...

CARS HISTORY.....**HISTORICAL NOTES- By Harold j. farr- sk....cont'd from page 10**

A newspaper item in 1973 gives a clue to the effect that "The first meeting in recent years of the Calaveras County Civil Emergency Service was held the Murphys Hotel on July 26". The RACES program and organization was the "glue" that seemed to hold the amateurs together even though they were not formally organized into a club.

On January 30, 1973, there was an election of officers consisting of Al Last (W6GSQ), President; Roy Brown (W6IRJ), Vice President; Jim Hildreth (W6DYF), Secretary-Treasurer; and George Nelson, Activities Chairman. George was not a ham, but he was Civil Defense Coordinator for the County and the driving force that kept the organization going as the "Calaveras County Radio Amateur Emergency Service". A constitution was drafted and adopted, and dues were set a one dollar per year. The group at this time consisted of nineteen members. Also, in July of 1973, the group held a potluck picnic at Murphys park where there were 13 members and wives in attendance. The group participated in the air shown held at the Calaveras County Airport by providing a public address system and mobile radio services for crowd control. There are photos in the CARS scrapbook to substantiate this. A Heathkit HW-101 high frequency transceiver was purchased by the County for installation in the command center located in the basement of the government center. The kit was put together by Hank (W6PNY). A work party installed an 80-meter dipole on the roof of the County Administration Building.

During this year, the club obtained its own license, WA6YGA, and Hal Farr was its trustee. An effort to integrate CARS as a single organization failed as a constitutional amendment. It was voted down because it was felt that membership in a club should not be a requirement for public service.

Sometime prior to this, and before the organizational meeting of 1973, the RACES Group participated twice in setting up a radio station at the Calaveras County Fair Grounds in the main hall to the right of the stage. Material for the booths were purchased by the County under the auspices of the Civil Defense program and some of the material was donated by the American Forest Products plant at Toyon with assistance of Nate (K6TNC). The RACES sign was made by inmates at the Department of Corrections Camp at Six Mile Road, Angels Camp. The first transmitter was fixed frequency 250 Watt monster, obtained by the County in the early 1950's. A dipole was strung up on the roof of the building, trimmed to the frequency of the transmitter, which was fixed on the 80-meter band. The transmitter was AM, and the final was a 250TH. This was operated for a short time, because our transmissions were broadcast all over the Fairgrounds by the Public Address System, to the dismay of the Fair Board, and the Fair Manager. The second station set up several years later at the same place was more sophisticated as it was on SSB. Again the PA system picked up the signal, but with the advantage that the modulation was entirely incomprehensible and no one could understand where the interference was coming from. We operated this station a little bit longer.

In 1974, Al Last (W6GSQ) was re-elected President, Roy Brown (W6IRJ) Vice President, Helen Last (WB6LAL) Secretary-Treasurer, and George Nelson as Activities Chairman. The newspaper account of this meeting and election held at the Bazi-nett Hotel, noted that this was a joint meeting of RACES and CARS. The meeting was held on January 29th. At this meeting Henry Alto (W6PNY) was presented with a certificate designating him "Member of the Year". Dues were increased to three dollars per year for regular member, and one dollar for associate members, ie, wives or husband who were not hams.

Dinner meetings were popular, and there is a photo record of another dinner held at the Veterans Hall, Valley Springs, in 1974. In this year, a group of twelve members and the Calaveras County Sheriff, Russell Leach visited the nuclear power plant at Rancho Seco. This was before the plant became operational. The trip was arranged by George Nelson, Activities Chairman. Photos of this visit are in the CARS scrapbook.

TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.....Editor.



***** MARK YOUR CALENDARS...NOW!! *****

CARS-TCARES B-B-Q — SWAP MEET — FOX HUNT

SEPT 12TH

UTICA PARK PAVILION - ANGELS CAMP

2:00 - 5:00 pm

Bring a side dish to share !

Questions ?

Contact Patsy, KN6XW

Susie's Diner....a local Diner with good food and service, and a CARS 10% off !

This editor had the opportunity to talk with Susie at *Susie's Diner* in Arnold recently, and she has offered a discount on breakfast, lunch or dinner for CARS members and their families. So cut out the coupon below, and take it with you to Susie's Diner, located at 1308 Oak Circle (behind the El Dorado Bank).

Susie's is a 1950 –1960's theme diner that has excellent food and service! ENJOY!!!

Editor....KI6ART



CUT OUT THIS COUPON FOR REDEMPTION AT SUSIE'S DINER

The bearer of this coupon, as a member of the Calaveras Amateur Radio Society, Inc., is entitled to a 10% discount on breakfast, lunch, or dinner at Susie's Diner in Arnold, CA, upon presenting this coupon to Susie Huntsinger, Owner. (Expires Dec 31st, 2009)

Call Sign: _____ **Name:** _____

(PRINT)

(PRINT)

The State of NBEMS By WS6P – Sam, NCS

It has been slightly over a year since we started using NBEMS, and there has been several updates to the Fldigi software that included some new features, and bug fixes. The latest version is 3.12.4, which was released on 16 Aug 09.

Over the past year, the team came up with a set of standard frequencies, file naming for messages, and file locations on the computer. We tried several different modes, to see which one works for our terrain and to check how fast the transmission speed is.

Finally we have implemented the use of “RSID” (Reed Solomon) for the NCS. This allows stations to connect to the Net with the correct mode and audio frequency with a push of a button (RSID).

We added some new members, and at the time I compose this article, we have 10 members with 6 active on the weekly Net, who are building their skill levels with NBEMS with every session.

Let’s take a closer look at our accomplishments over the past year....

Standardized Frequencies:

Primary = 3.584 MHz, up 1000-1500Hz

Secondary 1 = 7.074 MHz, up 1000-1500Hz

Secondary 2 = 14.094 MHz, up 1000-1500Hz

We are now considering 17m, 10m, and 2m for some “short distance” “EmComm” sessions.

Since our current “practice sessions” start at 20:30 hours, we are considering a daytime NBEMS session to determine frequencies that will meet our communications needs. We did test 2m, on 146.580 FM, and it works quite well within a 10-15 mile range. We need to revisit the use of 2m SSB; where we did some very light testing about year ago.

Message Naming Convention-

WS6P-RMG025.xml

WS6P-ICS025.xml

The team uses “Qforms” to create and format both ARRL Radiogram Messages (RGM), and for ICS213 messages. The above .xml file names use the standard file naming we adopted. Broken down the file consists of the originators call, followed by the message type (RMG-Radiogram, ICS-ICS message) then the message number. We found this to be helpful, but I’m sure as we continue to use the software, and use it during an incident the naming of the files may change.

File Locations-

C:\NBEMS\

C:\QFORMS\

To make it easier to help each other, we decided to install NBEMS and the QForms software on the C Drive in the Root directory (C:\). So if one of us has a problem locating a file, anyone on the team can direct them to the correct directory location. This will also make it easier during an incident, when there may be only one PC and several operators, since the files are located in the same directories that we have been using for practice.

cont'd on Page 11.....

The State of NBEMS By WS6P - cont'd from Page 10...

OP Modes-

FLDIGI can be operated in several modes from CW to Feld Hellschreiber. The team uses BPSK120 as the standard operation mode. It allows us to pass our messages very quickly. Here are some of the modes that we tried over the past year...

MFSK-64

MT63-500

Olivia 16/500

DominoEX 22

THOR 22

Throb 4

Throb X4

QPSK-125

QPSK-250

RTTY

FELD HELL

Reed Solomon Identifier (RSID)-

We recently implemented the use of the "RSID" feature within Fldigi. This provides an automatic *mode detection and tuning* with the simple push of a button in the Fldigi main window. Here, the NCS sends the RSID before and after each transmission, and a joining station presses his RSID button at the beginning or during the transmission. Doing this will automatically change each station to the correct mode and audio frequency of the NCS. Using the RSID makes it a simple matter for the NCS to change modes during the middle of a Net in order to overcome propagation static, fading, or man made noise.

There has been several news articles about NBEMS in the QST magazine, as well as it being mentioned in some of the Em-Comm newsletters that I read. It is fast becoming the latest and greatest emergency communications software suite.

Please note, that the Fldigi software has its bugs and headaches, but so far the team has been working through the problems, and are making great leaps forward. Our weekly Net has provided practice and skills for use in event we are called to an emergency incident.

The EC for Amador County has joined the team, and is building familiarity with the Fldigi software and our procedures. We have four counties now participating in NBEMS; Calaveras, Amador, Tuolumne, and El Dorado.

Lastly, there is an NBEMS instructional DVD within the CARS library, which is a copy of a Webinar (Seminar on the Web) session. It is available to all members wanting to learn more about NBEMS. Contact me on the radio, or send me an email if you're interested in borrowing it.

Sam

Editor's note:

Sam has been instrumental in forming the NBEMS group in the three counties mentioned, and has been the Net Control Station for the EMCOMM practice sessions for the past 12-months. Members of the NBEMS emergency communications group sincerely owe Sam, WS6P, a great deal of thanks for a job well done.... editor, KI6ART



Please go online to the CARS website “www.calaverasARS.org”, and VOTE on the proposed Bylaws amendment that will merge CARS, Inc. and FPRG.

In September of this year members will be putting together the formal slate for new club officer nominations, with elections in November 2009.

The offices that are up for election are: *President; Public Information Officer; and Secretary.*

If you are interested in any of the listed positions (you may nominate yourself or a nominee for more than one position), or wish to nominate another club member, please send me an email. I will put the submitted names on the nomination list for slate approval at the September General meeting.

Please submit your nominee(s) for one or more of the club positions as soon as possible !!!

Next Bi-Monthly Meeting

**Thursday, Sept. 10th, 2009
IOOF Hall
Angels Camp
Meeting Starts: 6:45 PM**

Breakfast Meetings

**1st Saturday of Each Month
Murphys Historic Hotel
Murphys
9:00 AM**

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