

SIERRA WAVELENGTH

SPRING 2010 VOLUME 46, ISSUE 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE KEN, AE6LA



Spring 2010-

Greetings to all...!

Make me a channel....!

David Sumner, K1ZZ, Chief Executive Officer, ARRL was the Saturday night banquet speaker for EM-COMMWEST May 1 in Reno. His talk was not what I expected. He spent all of his time giving examples and illustrations of how amateur radio friendships are so very important to his life. Well, my friends, I

want to second that thought and tell you I value our friendship. Great friendships are created as we work toward a common goal and that goal is service to others. One HAM elmering another, members maintaining radio systems for possible community emergency service, members training together to be top notch communicators, that is why I love amateur radio.

Let me share a favorite prayer that I strive to

live up to...

Prayer of Saint Francis-

Lord, make me a channel of thy peace; that where there is hatred, I may bring love; that

Where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness; that where there is discord, I may bring harmony; that where there is error, I may bring truth; that where there is doubt, I may bring faith; that where there is despair,

continued on page 2...

Calaveras Amateur Radio
Society, Incorporated

Vol 46, Issue 1

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

Website:
www.calaverasARS.org

Club Calls:
N6FRG

K6XCA

N6FRG Repeater:
145.170 MHz
Offset = 600 kHz

PL = 100 Hz

IRLP Node:
3428

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's message	1
FCC Rules & Regs	1
Auto patch USE	2
CLUB officers 2010	2
A note from the past	3
New cars members	3
CLUB call signs	4
MINUTES- May 13, 2010	5
CARS HISTORY - Part 3	7
Pre-Field Day mtg	8
b-b-q swap meet	9
ICS/FEMA/emi info	10
Dayton Hamvention	10
NBEMS/emcomm	12
MEETINGS	13

FCC Rules and Regulations....(courtesy of KI6DWP, ACARC)

On the ARRL website, you will find a PDF file of FCC Rules Part 97. Part 97 covers Amateur Radio, and I encourage each of you to browse it and start to become familiar with the rules. Since Amateur Radio is self-policing, we must know and understand the rules to follow. You will also find an article from the ARRL discussing appropriate use of the Amateur Radio spectrum. This is non-technical and a great issue to understand. Have a look at <http://www.arrl.org/part-97-amateur-radio> for the latest updates and information on the rules.

Continued from page 1....

I may bring hope; that where there are shadows, I may bring light; that where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted; to understand, than to be understood; to love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life....Amen

Regards,
Ken Sanders, AE6LA
President, Calaveras Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

Using 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.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Thursday, July 8th
Bi-Monthly Meeting
IOOF Hall
Angels Camp
Meeting starts at 6:30 PM

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

NBEMS Net

3584 kHz USB
BPSK31

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

CARS OFFICERS – 2010

Ken Sanders - President
Steve Airola - Vice President
Barry Thaysen - Secretary
Bill Holmes - Treasurer
John Davenport - PIO

A NOTE FROM THE PAST...

As a kid, do you remember sitting around in the evening, and on Saturday mornings with your parents, friends, and siblings listening to the AM radio...yes, listening to the radio?

I do, and couldn't wait for the next episode of "The Shadow; the Green Hornet, Innersanctum, the Lone Ranger, Amos and Andy", and more!!!

No Television, no cellphones, no iPods, no stereo, no Satellite Radio, and no texting...we just enjoyed listening... and the magic of our imaginations with "radio" to provide images of the stories being told.

We thought all this was wonderful and exciting...how about you?

Though he built on the work of other scientists, Guglielmo Marconi is credited with being the first to build a radio transmitter and bring radio into people's homes.



PS- try putting this "radio" in your pocket...!! Editor

NEWEST CARS, Inc. MEMBERS IN 2010

WELCOME— WELCOME—WELCOME !!!!

Ed Allendorf, **KI6WJV**, Vallecito

Suzan LaDuke, **K6CDK**, West Point

Aaron Heffner, **KE6OUU**, Modesto

Terrie Fiegle, **KG6KEZ**, Pine Grove

Ron Eaves, **W6RPM**, Valley Springs

Dovie Eaves, **K6DOV**, Valley Springs

Ron Glass, **KJ6ELB**, Camp Connell

Michael Wright, **KC0QID**, Valley Springs

TOTAL CARS MEMBERS: 75 !

When you hear a new member on the air, be sure to say "HELLO" !!

ANSWER to "scrambled" word in the last issue: **"MISMATCH"**

Scrambled word for this issue... **HPCDTAUTA**

CARS OFFICERS**President**

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

Vice President

Steve Airola, W6RXX
754-5565
stevea@goldrush.com

Secretary

Barry Thaysen, K3UG
785-5384
bthaysen@caltel.com

Treasurer

Bill Holmes, K6DUY
728-9439
hinterland01@dishmail.net

Net Manager

Sam Hernandez, WS6P
293-4010
wb6qvi@eudoramail.com

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

**Don't forget to use
"Repeater Etiquette"
when using the CARS
N6FRG repeater !**
73
Editor....



Interested in getting a "ham" license upgrade, or someone to get their Technician license...?

Click here or go to the following to take "practice" exams for Tech, General, and Extra licenses: <http://www.eham.net/exams/>

GOOD LUCK..!

ADDITIONAL CLUB CALL SIGN.....K6XCA !

As previously reported, 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, 2009 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 MINUTES
May 13, 2010



Meeting called to order by AE6LA/Ken-President at 1830 Hrs...

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag conducted

Self Introductions of attendees

Minutes from 03/11/2010 meeting accepted after Bill Holmes requested the minutes be corrected to reflect his call sign as K6DUY (not W6DUY), and correct the checking account balance to reflect \$1,452.59 rather than \$1,452.29.

KD6NRB/Tim motioned that the minutes be accepted as corrected, seconded by KG6FEY/P.T.

Treasurer's Report – K6DUY/Bill

\$1,124.62 current checking account balance after all bills paid. Expenditures mentioned as being paid:

- o \$20/Refreshments for past meetings/WS6P
- o \$330/Antennas/West Point Antenna Project

VP's Report – W6RXK/Steve

- Speaker tentatively scheduled for July's Business Meeting will be K6KBE/Leland Farrar Co Founder of KLM Electronics. Topic: Antenna Construction
- Potential fall speaker – AA6G/Charles Vaughn-Astro Photography Specialist
- W6RXK noted that within the Ham Radio community, many silent keys call signs are being recycled and kept active by extended family members

President's Report – AE6LA/Ken

- Repeater 145.170/Fowler Peak and Mt. Reba link working without problems
- NARCC – 20% of its membership quorum wasn't present at 04/24/2010 meeting, mandating NARCC business not be conducted.
- CARS occupancy on Fowler Peak questioned. Records confirmed CARS as a permanent tenant
- NV6V, Andy, will soon begin working with K3UG, Barry on a Wi-Fi link IRLP. This is a work in progress with no completion date set.
- K6HP/Ed expressed to AE6LA in passing, possible interest in co-locating D-Star internet connection on Fowler Peak
- KC0QJD/Mike indicated 2 meter poor coverage in Valley Springs area. Has a neighbor Tech Committee may be interested in contacting to discuss possibility of installing a solar powered repeater to improve coverage in VS. Item under advisement

continued on Page 6....

Continued from Page 5..**EMCOMM West 2010**

- CARS was represented by AE6LA/Ken; K3UG/Barry; KG6FEY/P.T.; K6MAB/Miriam; and K6HP/ Ed at EMMCOMM held in Reno 05/01-02 at Grand Sierra Resort
- One of the presentations during conference was given by Air Force representative on Pave Paws. Audience informed on importance of Pave Paws role, one being the tracking of satellites and space junk using 440 wave length.

PIO/Grants/Breakfast/VE Committee Reports – KI6ART/John

- 05/29/2010 9:30am VE session to be held at Ebbett's Pass Fire Station
- Monthly breakfast attendance at Murphy's Hotel varies
- Grants – gathering information

ARES/OES Committee Report – KG6FEY/P.T.

- West Point Shelter Antenna Project funding completed
- WS6P will be putting together a work detail request to install antennas

Mr. Frog's Wild Ride 04/17/2010

- KG6FEY thank the nine HAMS that volunteered their communication services during this community event

NIMS....

- Required by Calaveras Sheriff and ARES Section Managers
- List of required courses passed out at meeting and information will be included in up coming newsletter
- PT requested copies of completion certificates be emailed to ptbrown@caltel.com
- Monthly ARES testing on Simplex Net/146.550 on first Monday following CARS net. Plans for June's Simplex Net will be to invite Amador and Tuolumne's participation

ARARC/CARS/TCARES Joint Picnic Report/KD6NRB/Tim

09/04/2010 12:00pm-5:00pm Utica Park, Angels Camp has been confirmed

- Planning with clubs' chairpersons will begin once Field Day is over

Field Day Committee Report – K6DUY/Bill and WS6P/Sam

- Field Day Pre-planning potluck scheduled for 05/22/2010 11:00am at K6DUY's residence in Sheep Ranch
- Weather (snow) a possible concern using Mt. Reba. Suggestions being solicited for an alternate Field Day location in the event Field Day needs to be moved from Mt. Reba due to snow.

Net Manager Report – WS6P/Sam

- May-June are covered by AE6LA/Ken (May) and KG6VLF/Dee (June)
- Volunteers are needed for July-December Monday night Nets

Events calendar reviewed by AE6LA/Ken.

Meeting adjourned at 1925 hours

Minutes recorded by K6MAB/Miriam

CARS HISTORY.....Part 3

HISTORICAL NOTES- By Harold j. farr - sk

This following is Part 3, 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.

At the January 1978 dinner meeting, the gavel was presented by Gladys Biles to Cliff Cole as the new President. Nate Huston had been elected Vice President, and Helen Last Secretary-Treasurer. Gladys Biles was awarded the "Member of the Year" certificate. CARS had to vacate the Farm Advisor's Office, and future meetings were held at the Calaveras High School. A novice radio theory and code class was held at Bret Harte High School. Beginning enrollment was fifteen, and declined to six, who completed the course. The class was given by Cliff Cole, with the assistance of Ron Airola and Nate Huston. Although membership increased during this year, there was the usual complaint of low attendance at the regular meetings. The quarterly dinner meeting, as usual, were well attended. There were insufficient member operators available for CARS to participate in the 1978 Field Day. Jim Carney, WA6YMU, was appointed Emergency Coordinator by the ARRL.

There were thirty members in the year 1979. "Member of the Year" certificate was awarded to Noel Biles, K6ODP. Roger Wixon, W6FDJ, was installed as President; Emile Guidici, W6CXK, Vice President; Nate Huston, K6TNC, Secretary; Cliff Cole, WD6CRL, Treasurer; and Noel Biles as Activities Chairman. Balance in the Treasury was \$99.45. Because of the low turnout of members at the regular meetings, it was decided to make every other meeting a dinner meeting. A two meter Club Net was proposed to operate on 126.940 simplex, and to meet each Sunday morning. In addition, the regular high frequency net schedule would be maintained. The club bought a 2 meter hand-held transceiver for \$60.00. Custodian of the rig was Roy Brown, W6IRJ. There was sufficient interest among members to organize a Field Day operation. A site near the Avery Dump was selected, and a portable rest room was rented. Results of the Field Day were 136 CW, and 315 phone contacts. The contacts exceeded prior Field Day events, but points accrued were less. Until this year, notifications of club meetings was made by telephone. In the latter part of 1979, it was decided to send cards to remind members of the meetings. At the July potluck meeting in Murphys Park, there were 41 members and guests in attendance. It was this year that Hal and Charlotte Farr went maritime mobile on the sloop "Farralones".

The new officers for 1980 were: Emile Guidici, W6CXK, President; Bill Hale, WA6SHS, Vice President; Nate Huston, K6TNC, Secretary; Roy Brown, W6IRJ, Treasurer; and Max Campbell, KA6CUJ, Activities Chairman. Cliff Cole, WD6CRL, was selected as "Member of the Year". Dinner meetings continued to be successful with good attendance. Max, as Activities Chairman, did an excellent job providing interesting programs such as a tour of the Naval Communications Station at Rough and Ready Island, Stockton. Sixteen went on this trip. Because of lack of interest, the proposed Field Day was cancelled. Calaveras High School continued to be used as our meeting place, and our dues remained at \$3.00 per individual, and \$4.00 for a family membership. Meeting notification was by postcard. A dinner meeting and tour of Tranex Company, an electronics assembly plant near Angels Camp, was arranged by Max. Eight club members participated in the CPR Walkathon. Cliff Cole and Jack Autrey and others participated in the Santa Claus Program. Radio gear was set up in Angels Camp and children were encouraged to talk to "Santa" by radio.

The January 1981 dinner meeting ushered in a new team of officers consisting of: Max Campbell, KA6CUJ, President; Chuck Strobel, K6PDE, Vice President; Nate Huston, K6TNC, Secretary; and Roy Brown, W6IRJ, Treasurer. Roger Wixon, W6FDJ, was appointed Activities Chairman by the new President. "Member of the Year" award was presented to Secretary Nate Huston. Noel Biles was trustee of the club station license. It was decided that due to the difficulty of obtaining a place for the club to meet, each meeting would be a dinner meeting. After two dinner meetings, this policy was terminated and the meeting resumed at the Calaveras High School on Thursday evenings once per month. Some members submitted letters of resignation at this point. There was no Field Day this year. A group of club members participated in a joint exercise simulating an emergency. Other agencies involved were: CDF, Tuolumne County Amateur Radio Club, CHP, Civil Defense, Red Cross, and the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office.

Continued on Page 8...

CARS HISTORY.....Part 3

HISTORICAL NOTES- By Harold j. farr- sk....cont'd from page 7

At the August meeting it was announced by the Calaveras-Amador County Civil Defense Coordinator that due to budget limitations the emergency preparedness program would be eliminated. Due to the resignation of Chuck Strobel, Vice President, Noel Biles was elected to fill the office for the remainder of the term. It was decided to return to quarterly dinner meetings. Only three members showed up for the September meeting so it was cancelled. In November, the President declared that there would be no December meeting and that the "Talk to Santa" program would take its place. Photos in the club scrapbook show Stan Shultz, W7WYY, Emile Guidici, W6CXK, and Cliff Cole, WD6CRL, as active participants in this event.

The quarterly dinner meeting and annual election of officers in January 1982 was held at the "Ranch House" in Mountain Ranch. New officers installed were: Noel Biles, K6ODP, President; Max Campbell, KA6CUJ, Vice President; Gladys Biles, Secretary; and Roy Brown W6IRJ, Treasurer. Emile Guidici, W6CXK, was appointed Activities Chairman. Club newsletters were begun this year and President Noel Biles was the editor. Field Day was held on Bear Mountain Ridge on the Stan Shultz property. Twelve members operated under field conditions. 138 CD, and 86 phone contacts were made. A news item was written for the local paper and numerous photos are now in the club scrapbook. The June meeting was held in San Andreas Park, because the club was locked out of its usual meeting place at the Calaveras High School. 29 members and guests attending the annual potluck picnic at Murphys Park. About this time, we ordered our first name tags for members and wives.

In July nine members used their 2 meter rigs at the dedication of the new Calaveras County Airport. Max Campbell and Ben Autrey, K6LHR, helped with communications for CDF during the last part of July on the "Keystone Fire".

PRE-FIELD DAY 2010 PLANNING- Bill Holmes, K6DUY, Chairman

On Saturday, May 22, 2010, a "potluck" lunch took place at the home of Bill Holmes in Sheep Ranch. Attending were Jim and Patsy Clark, Ken and Lynn Sanders, John Davenport and Jan, Fred and Shirley Soderer, Sam and Kathleen Hernandez, Steve and Pat Shinn, Kit Brown, and the hosts Bill and Phyllis.

The meeting covered various aspects of Field Day such as Safety, First Aid, Publicity, APRS Station locator, Sanitary Facilities, club sign placement, antennas, power requirement for participants, accommodating visitors, and the Saturday afternoon Barbeque.

Field Day will be held this year on Saturday, June 26th beginning at 1800 hours UTC, and ending on Sunday the 27th at 2100 hours UTC. This is 11:00 am Saturday through 2:00 pm Sunday...Field Day location will again be held in Bear Valley at the lower Mt. Reba Ski parking lot, located just off Highway 4. CARS will place signs on Highway 4, and Mt. Reba Road directing members and visitors to the Field Day site.

All amateur operators, and non-licensed visitors, will be able to make radio contacts and tour the radio facilities. Operation of the radio equipment by non-licensed visitors is legal and encouraged while under the direction of a licensed amateur control operator. There will be six transmitting stations in operation during the Field Day event using CW, voice, and digital methods of communications.

The BBQ will be held on Saturday afternoon, and is open to everyone wishing to join the festivities. It is requested that you call ahead to Bill (209-728-9439) if you plan on attending so we have enough food for everyone, and that you bring a dish "to share".

We are hoping that the weather will co-operate, and bring lots of warm sunshine. Our last report from Ken, AE6LA, who made a visit to the site on May 20th to take photos, showed the parking lots clear, but with 4-5 feet of snow along the sides of the roads.....brrrr!



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

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

SEPT 4th 2010

UTICA PARK PAVILION - ANGELS CAMP

12:00 - 5:00 pm

Bring a side dish to share !

Questions... ?

Contact:

Tim, KD6NRB @ 785-2905 or Ken, AE6LA @ 795-5947

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.

Call Sign: _____ **Name:** _____

(PRINT)

(PRINT)

ICS/ FEMA/ EMI COURSES...by PT Brown, KG6FEY

Our Emergency Coordinator, PT Brown, informs all Volunteer Emergency Communications members that the following classes are required to maintain your volunteer status, and are offered on line, free of charge (except the ARRL Level 1 course):

- *American Red Cross* "Introduction to Disaster Services" www.redcross.org/flash/course01_v01/
- *ICS-100a* (Intro to Incident Command System) <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100a.asp>
- *ICS-200a* (ICS for Single Resources & Initial Action Incidents) <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS200a.asp>
- *IS-700.a* (National Incident Management System/Introduction) <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS700a.asp>
- *IS-800.b* (National Response Framework/Introduction) <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS802b.asp>
- *IS-802* (Emergency Support Functions Communications) <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS802.asp>

The following class is optional, but recommended: *ICS-300*, and also available is the "ARRL Emergency Communications Course, Level 1" (offered online, work at your own pace; fee applicable)

DAYTON HAMFEST.....BY BARRY THAYSEN, K3UG

If you ever wanted to feel like you had overdosed on "Ham Radio", consider attending the Dayton Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio. This has been Ham Radio's Mecca for many years. 2010 was no exception with the attendance at this 3-day event has not been published, yet, but I am sure it will approach 20,000 attendees, if not more.

I was one of them, and I enjoyed my weekend immensely. Dayton has something for everyone; whether your interest is EMCOMM, Dxing, Contesting, ATV, APRS, Homebrewing, or other aspect of Ham Radio you will find something of interest at Dayton.

I attended an APRS forum presented by Bob Bruniga, the Father of APRS, where he presented some new information, and talked about the present status of APRS in the S.S. He also introduced several vendors that were there offering APRS related products.

Another forum I attended was a series of PowerPoint presentations on Dxpeditions to foreign lands. One was about the Y19PSE trip to Kurdistan this past April. The presenter discussed all the ins and outs of making it happen, and the problems they had to deal with along the way.

Ever browsed the ads in the back of QST and wondered where all those companies come from, and what their products are like...? Most of them have booths at Dayton. You can talk with ham radio entrepreneurs with all sorts of product to offer the ham. I even struggled through a chat with a Japanese ham that was there with a line of simple kits. English is his second language, and my only language, so we had an interesting time discussing his products.

When I am there I like to take in as much as possible...the flea market alone takes a full day of walking, and I like to cover it a little at a time on each day. Lots of treasures, anything from a mint Collins S-Line (if you don't know what that is, ask Bill, K6DUY!) to any part, connector, cable, tool, etc that you can use and some that you can't!

continued on page 11...

Continued from page 10...

The inside displays are in about 4 or 5 large exhibit halls. The ARRL has one end of a big area, and had lots of stuff on display. In another area you could purchase a simple kit, and assemble it on the spot with the guidance of a qualified mentor...the smell of solder was floating in the air!

The large radio manufacturers all had huge crowds...Yaesu, Kenwood, and ICOM had huge displays with lots of staff on hand to answer questions. Elecraft, and Flexradio had big crowds, too, with TenTec drawing a lot of interest also.

In the evening there are many banquets to choose from, if you are so inclined...Contesting, Dxing, QRP enthusiasts, you name it and it was there...or, up the street from the Crown Plaza Dayton is a fantastic little BBQ place, which is my favorite!

Below are a few of the photos that I took while at the Dayton Hamvention...enjoy!



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS– NBEMS by Sam, WS6P

Greetings and salutations,

It has been a while since my last update on NBEMS. So let's find out what's been happening....

First, the NBEMS net is still on Wednesday night at 2030 hours. We have been using PSK125 on 3.584 mHz, up 1500Hz. This has been our main Mode and Frequency. I'm sure that when summer arrives the bands will change, and we will utilize another frequency. **NOTE:** I predict summer will be here around Halloween, just before winter, hi hi.

Since my last article, the NBEMS software has been updated, and currently we are using; fldigi v3.20.11, flarq v4.3.1, flwrap v1.1.1 and Qforms v1.5.4. The NBEMS files can be downloaded from <http://www.w1hkj.com/download.html>, and Qforms can be downloaded from <http://www.activeham.com/pmwiki.php?n=Main.Downloads>.

The latest version of fldigi has some newer modes like PSK-125r PSK-250r, PSK-500r, and BPSK-500. We have done some testing with PSK-500r, and this mode is more robust and faster than the mode we have been using. We are still testing the new modes and we are learning a lot.

Of course there are some pitfalls, but that is due to the software developers changing the menu structure and the file locations. But this is all part of learning the new release of the software.

As you know, a picture is worth a 1000 words, so I did some testing by sending pictures via fldigi. These were done off the air. The results were terrible, with a 17KB picture taking about 15 minutes to send. If there were any errors, the entire picture would need to be resent. This would be unacceptable during an emergency situation. So the team tried SSTV (Slow Scan TV). After some minor adjustments to the software, we were able to send and receive pictures in just a few minutes. At times, there were some static crashes when receiving the picture, which caused some noise on the signal, which showed up on the picture as "hash", but the pictures were very usable.

The team was visited by several others; one of them was Brad, notable because of his SSTV webcam. Brad, KO6KL, runs a webcam site in Salida, CA, and even gave us some pointers on using SSTV. The entire month of April was dedicated to SSTV testing, and our transmissions were visible on Brad's webcam as well as others monitoring the 3.845 SSTV frequency. We are primarily using MMSSTV software, created by JE3HHT, Mako. It can be downloaded from <http://mmhamsoft.amateur-radio.ca>. This method of sending pictures is very useful, and will be included in our arsenal of tools for EmComm.

Well, I think that is all for now... If you have not tried using the NBEMS software, I would encourage you to give it a try. The software is not only for EmComm usage, but for everyday contacts, and has several modes to choose from. I have made several CW, PSK and RTTY DX contacts with this software.

73

WS6P - Sam

APRS VIA SPACE STATION -

The ARISS packet repeater is commonly used for relaying APRS (Automatic Packet/ Position Reporting System) signals. These bursts of data contain the locations of the APRS transmitting station along with other information. At the receiving end, APRS software decodes the data and displays the station positions as icons on the computer-generated maps.



And talking about emergency communications, here is the communication on April 14, 1912 at 11 pm between the ship Olympic, and the Olympic's office informing them that the Titanic "has struck an ice berg", and that Olympic had answered Titanic's "signals of distress" requesting assistance. Note that the Olympic and the Titanic were 505 miles apart when the distress signal was sent.

Note: Marconi lent his name to a telegraphy company that enabled people to communicate wirelessly. This wireless message was sent from the Titanic after it had hit the iceberg.

Editor...

Form No. 4-100-17810.	Date 14 APR 1912
The Marconi International Marine Communication Co., Ltd. WATERGATE HOUSE, YORK BUILDINGS, ADELPHI, LONDON, W.C.	
No. "OLYMPIC"	OFFICE 14 Apr 1912
Handed in at TITANIC	CHARGES TO PAY.
<small>This message has been transmitted subject to the conditions printed on the back hereof, which have been agreed to by the sender. If the accuracy of this message be doubted, the Receiver, on paying the necessary charges, may have it repeated wherever possible, from Office to Office over the Company's system, and should any error be shown to exist, all charges for such repetition will be refunded. This Form must accompany any enquiry regarding this Telegram.</small>	
To OLYMPIC	Total
<p>Eleven pm NEW YORK TIME TITANIC SENDING OUT SIGNALS OF DISTRESS ANSWERED HIS CALLS.</p> <p>TITANIC REPLIES AND GIVES ME HIS POSITION 41.46 N 50 14 W AND SAYS "WE HAVE STRUCK AN ICE BERG".</p> <p>OUR DISTANCE FROM TITANIC 505 MILES.</p>	

Next Bi-Monthly Meeting

Thursday, July 8, 2010

IIOOF Hall

Angels Camp

Meeting Starts: 6:30 PM

Breakfast Meetings

1st Saturday of Each Month

Murphys Historic Hotel

Murphys

9:00 AM

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.