

LORAL

S.P.A.R.K.

South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub Newsletter

Vol. MCMXCIX No 1

Rptr: W6APZ/R 145.230(-.600)MHz - Club Str: WA6NKK

Thursday, June 3, 1999

The January 1999 Meeting...

Will Not Be Held -- Happy New Year!

REPEATER
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REPEATER AUTODIAL TRIAL

During the first week in January '99 we will reconnect the autoDIAL feature on a trial basis. This will enable repeater users to call emergency agencies using the pre-programmed seven-digit numbers, as well as allow club members to call home using the pre-programmed numbers in the repeater controller. (If you want your home phone number in the autodial, or if that number has changed, please e-mail me with the correction ASAP.) If the trial is successful, the autodial will continue to operate. If not, we will have to terminate the autodial.

We have programmed in the seven-digit (plus area code, if needed) equivalent of 911 for each city as we know it now. However, these emergency numbers have been known to change from time to time. In order to keep our autodial up to date, we need our members' input. If you hear someone trying to access an emergency number and they get a message telling them to dial another number, PLEASE let a control operator know ASAP so we can reprogram the repeater.

Phone Line

Last month I floated the idea of possibly installing our own phone line at the repeater and suggested several possible ways to pay for the line. I requested feedback on the idea. To date, the roar of the silence has been deafening! I'm trying to figure out what the lack of response means. Does it mean no one cares about being able to dial a phone number at random from their two-meter rig? Does it mean people want the service, but don't want to pay for it? Is there some other meaning? The 145.230 MHz repeater is YOUR repeater. Let me hear from you as to how our repeater can best serve YOUR needs.

73 de Rich, W6APZ <w6apz@svpal.org

The Prez Sez...

As usual, we had a good turnout of our retirees at the last meeting, but not of the balance of our membership. As a result, there was discussion regarding the appropriateness of the existing SPARK Constitution in light of the current demographics of our membership. Some concerns were that many of our most active members are not eligible for elective office. Also, that our general meetings have too high a content of administrative affairs that would better be delegated to an executive committee to be performed outside of the meetings.

I have been studying our Constitution (and Robert's Rules of Order) with these suggestions in mind. Inputs from any of you will be appreciated.

Happy New Year!

73 de Jack

A Note From the Treasurer:

Happy New Year! Here's to a good year for SPARK, and for Amateur Radio! As always this time of year, dues are now due. As you know, the Klub dues are the main source of operating funds for all Klub expenses. These expenses include equipment insurance, repeater operating expenses, shack operating expenses, and the mailing of the newsletter to members, as well as other items. A full breakdown of these expenses and the budget for next year will be available at the January meeting and will be published in the February newsletter.

Bring your dues, still value priced at \$10.00, to the January meeting, or send them to me at:

Rolf Klibo N6NFI
Space Systems/Loral
3825 Fabian Way MS G-16
Palo Alto, CA 94303

If you have ideas for programs at our meetings, please send them to me or Bill Jimenez, KE6FTO, and we will do our best to implement them. Bill's address is the same as mine but has a mail stop of H-15.

SPARK Elections Held in December

SPARK elections were held at the December meeting. Following are the officers for 1999.

President: Jack Nawrocki
Vice Pres: Bill Jimenez
Treasurer: Rolf Klibo
Secretary: Open

Also, a new Shack Trustee has been appointed for the coming year:

Shack Trustee: Dick LeMassena

ARRL Pacific Division Update

January 1999

by Brad Wyatt, K6WR, Director, Pacific Division, ARRL
 18400 Overlook Rd. #5, Los Gates CA 95030-5850
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 Packet: K6WR@N0ARY.#NOCAL.CA
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 Pacific Division Home Page: <http://www.pdarrl.org/>

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All in the Pacific Division!

Restructuring Docket Comment Periods:-

The Comment deadline on FCC WT Docket 98-143 was Dec. 1, 1998. The implementation of this Docket will set the framework for the Amateur Radio Service in the US for the next several years. The Docket and the ARRL "constructive suggestions" to the FCC on this Docket have been widely discussed in the Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec. QSTs as well as in recent issues of the Pacific Division Update (see the Pacific Division web site at www.pdarrl.org). As this item is being written, there are just under 1,800 Comments on file at the FCC on this matter. These comments are available on the FCC web site at <http://gullfoss.fcc.gov:8080/cgi-bin/ws.exe/prod/ecfs/comsrch.htm>. You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed to read the actual comments.

The ARRL Comments are also posted on the ARRL web site, www.arrl.org.

Thanks to those of you who sent in your Comments expressing your views about the future of Amateur Radio licensing and related topics!

The Reply Comment cycle is designed to allow anyone who filed Comments to reply specifically to Comments made by other individuals or groups.

Reply Comments can be filed via the web at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html> or by e-mail at ecfs@fcc.gov. For instructions on how to file using the ecfs address, send an e-mail to ecfs with the words "Get form <your e-mail address>" in the body of the message. Of course, written Reply Comments can be sent by hardcopy by US mail to Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St. NW, Washington DC 20554. Be sure to include reference to WT Docket 98-143.

What happens next? I do not expect to see a Report and Order on this matter from the FCC until late spring 1999. It is also possible that regardless of whatever the FCC decides, Petitions for Reconsideration will be filed by those unhappy with the decision which would further delay the effective date of the Report and Order.

FCC Enforcement Honcho Done "TAKING NAMES":-

The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, is making his list and checking it twice. And now that he knows which hams are naughty, not nice, he's ready to take enforcement actions against the most flagrant amateur offenders.

"Fully half of the amateur problems on HF relate to a specific group of jammers--malicious interferers who apparently enjoy disrupting as much amateur communication as possible," said Hollingsworth, the FCC's point man for amateur enforcement within the Compliance and Information Bureau. "Enforcement action against this group is long overdue."

Coal could be showing up in some Christmas stockings. Hollingsworth has prepared a report to his boss, CIB Chief Richard D. Lee, detailing his findings and fingering the most serious violators in a "top 10" list which he declined to make public just yet. His memo urged "immediate enforcement action." Hollingsworth said he's talked with more than 250 people on the amateur enforcement line (202-418-1184) since the end of September,

when the FCC's latest amateur enforcement initiative kicked into high gear. In addition, he has received more than four dozen letters and e-mailed comments concerning problems in the Amateur Service. Hollingsworth has concluded that, while most amateurs abide by the rules, a few habitual offenders continue to flout the law.

"We are not going to stand for the Amateur Service to be further degraded or destroyed by them," he said.

Hollingsworth says that jamming and deliberate interference is the most common problem, accounting for 31% of all complaints. Repeater misuse and jamming account for another 29%. But he considers the HF abuses--most typically reported on 75 and 20 meters--to be the more serious offenses because they can be national or international in scope. Other general problems accounted for another 17% of the complaints, Hollingsworth said. A full 10% of complaints concerned an unlicensed individual in California who already has spent time in jail for past convictions.

Hollingsworth has sent out 30 informal "warning letters" to individual operators as a result of complaints. The letters warn the recipients that a complaint has been received about the recipient or someone using his or her call sign, indicate that the allegations--if true--could jeopardize the amateur's license, and request the recipient to contact the FCC to discuss the matter.

"In almost every case the recipient has contacted us," he said. "In one case, the licensee contacted us, apologized, and reports since that time indicate that the licensee has become a model operator." Some amateurs have reported to the ARRL that amateur behavior has improved -- dramatically in some areas--since word hit the street that the FCC was taking amateur enforcement seriously. For its part, the League has said it is willing, for now, not to pursue its request to further privatize amateur enforcement.

Hollingsworth says the warning letters will continue, but now he's taking aim at the hard-core scofflaws within the Amateur Radio community. "We have now let everyone out there know we're back," he said. Continued violations will "guarantee" license revocations, fines, or--in extreme cases--equipment seizures.

"Church is out now," he said. "We mean business and we're strapped in and ready to ride." Hollingsworth said Amateur Radio rule-breakers "continue these violations at their own risk."

Thanks, ARRL Letter

ARRL NW Division Director, NM7N, a Silent Key:-

In early December Mary Lou Brown, NM7N, Director of the ARRL Northwestern Division since 1995, suddenly collapsed and died in the Los Angeles International Airport while enroute back from the VK9LX Lord Howe Island DXpedition. Memorial services were held on Dec. 17. Greg Milnes, W7AGQ, her Vice Director, replaces her as Director.

Strange Signals At or About 3525 kHz!

During the last two weeks several East Bay, San Francisco and Santa Clara Valley Section hams have reported strange and strong signals 24 hours per day around 3525 kHz. Several specific reports have come from members of the Northern California Contest Club. This interference has been traced to the wireless modems installed with some digital TV/CATV installations. The problem has been forwarded to ARRL HQ and assigned to Ed Hare, W1RFI, in the ARRL Lab (ehare@arrl.org). Ed has made a great deal of progress this past week. He told me on Friday, Dec. 18, that he is in contact with the device manufacturers and the cable TV industry. These groups are currently working with Ed on practical solutions. I anticipate that these practical solutions will be finalized very soon, then the information will be publicized. Stay tuned!

Thanks, NCCC, Ed Hare (ARRL Lab), and many others who have helped.

Foundation for Amateur Radio Scholarships Available:-

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer sixty-six (66) scholarships for the academic year 1999 - 2000 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds ten of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfests. The remaining fifty-six (56) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card from the following address. Applications must be postmarked prior to April 30, 1999.

FAR Scholarships
 Post Office Box 831
 Riverdale, MD 20738
 Thanks, FAR.

Grant for Ham Station in Pajaro Middle School:-

Teacher Sarah Cowan isn't even a ham yet, but she still managed to get a \$1,500 grant through Los Alamos National Laboratory to set up an Amateur Radio station at Pajaro Middle School in Santa Cruz.. The grant, from the US Department of Energy's Teacher Opportunities to Promote Science (TOPS) program, will allow students to learn about technology in general and radio waves in particular, study for their ham licenses, and take field trips to see scientists at work.

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

Nominations Open for Maxim Memorial Award:-

Nominations are open for the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award. The award goes each year to a radio amateur under the age of 21 whose accomplishments and contributions are of the most exemplary nature within the framework of Amateur Radio activities. These include, but are not limited to:

- * Participation or leadership in organizational affairs at the local or national level.
- * Technical achievement.
- * Operating record.
- * Recruitment and training of new amateurs.
- * Public relations activities.

In keeping with the tradition of the award when it was first established in 1936, formal nominations are made by Section Managers. Supporting information, including the endorsement of ARRL-affiliated clubs and elected or appointed League Leadership officials, should be submitted with the nomination. An award panel will review the nominations received and select the winner. The prize consists of a cash award of \$1000, a suitably engraved plaque, and travel and accommodation expenses to enable the winner to attend an ARRL convention for a formal presentation.

Nominations should document as thoroughly as possible the Amateur Radio achievements and contributions of the nominee during the previous calendar year. Additional information concerning the character of the nominee should be as complete as possible.

The award is intended to provide a tangible reward to those deserving young amateurs who contribute their time, skills and

energies daily through their commitment to Amateur Radio. As models for their peers, and inspirations to us all, these fine young people are highly visible boosters of Amateur Radio awareness. We must continue to recognize and encourage their hard work and contributions at every opportunity.

Nominations must be sent to the Section Manager. Nominations must be received at Headquarters from Section Managers by March 31, 1999. There is no limit to the number of nominations one may make.

For more information and an application form, contact ARRL Field Services Manager Rick Palm, K1CE, e-mail rpalm@arrl.org or write him at ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

Coming Events:-

- Livermore Swap Meet - 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, 7:00 AM to noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from the west, 145.35 from the east. Contact Noel Anklam, KC6QZK, (510) 447-3857 eves.

Hoo's Hoo...

Officers:

President:	Jack Nawrocki
Vice Pres:	Bill Jiminez
Treasurer:	Rolf Klibo
Secretary:	Open

SS/L Shack Trustee: Dick LeMassena

Newsletter Editor: Gary Hendra, W6NOE -- SS/L
 3825 Fabian Way, MS-G84, Palo Alto 94303
 E-mail to 'Hendra, Gary' on the Loral Network, or via Internet to 'hendra.gary@.ssd.loral.com'

Repeater Trustee/Control Operators(Primary):

Repeater Trustee: Rich Stiebel, W6APZ
 Control Operators: John Buonocore, KD6ZL, Dan Connell, W6ASD, Robert Reiling, W6JHJ, Rolf Klibo, N6NFI, Tom Holden, KN6KL; Gregg Schlaman, WA6ECQ

Repeater Technical Committee:

Committee Chairman: Rich Stiebel, W6APZ
 N6NFI - Rolf Klibo and KN6KL - Tom Holden

SS/L Training: Vacant

Picnic Committee:

Picnic Co-chairman: To be announced

Field Day Committee:

Chairman: To be announced.
 Members: To be announced

Other positions to be filled:

Club historian: To be announced.
 Retiree Representative: John Gibson, N6OM
 Club emergency comm coordinator: Randy Bassett, N6RUR
 Club ARRL Coordinator: To be announced
 Club swap meet coordinator: To be announced.
 Club Project coordinators: To be announced

For Address Changes, or If Undeliverable, Return to:

Gary Hendra MS-G36

SPACE SYSTEMS/LORAL

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Palo Alto, CA 94303-4604