

S.P.A.R.K.

South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub Newsletter

CMXC VII No 1

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

Thursday, June 3, 1999

The March 1998 Meeting...

Where: Space Systems/Loral
Bld 3 Auditorium
3825 Fabian Way, Palo Alto

When: Thursday, 5 March 1998
High Noon

Subject: ATV with Paul Trainer

REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER

A Note from the Treasurer

On the subject of meetings, we, as a Klub, have not even been able to hold elections this year because of a shortage of attendees at the meetings. Since the indication is that not many people show up at the meetings because there have been few interesting things happening there, I am proposing to set formalities aside and just have meetings for the purpose of listening to interesting speakers and occasionally swapping ham tales. If members and others continue to come to the meetings, and active membership increases, we can continue on as a Klub and add some of the formalities back in. If attendance continues to wane, the club will probably have to take on some other form; perhaps as a repeater support organization.

Along those informal lines, I have spoken to Paul Trainer, N6YNU, who has agreed to give a presentation on Amateur Television (ATV). Paul, who recently returned from a few years in France (French call F1PUV), has been active in ATV for some time and has built a good deal of his equipment. He plans to describe his equipment, how it works, include a demo and show some previously recorded activities involving ATV. This should be an interesting topic for hams and non-hams alike.

And speaking of interesting topics, a few future hopefuls that were brought up at the last meeting:

History and Status of the GOES Satellites

Update on recent Jammer and local DF activities

What is Automatic Position (Packet) Reporting System ?

Please consider putting in a little time to support the Klub. If you have an idea for a meeting topic that is interesting to you, bring it to the next meeting (or send them) and I will collect them and try to add legs to them. But, if you can, do some exploratory work first (e.g. who to contact), and that will make it easier to implement.

See you at the March meeting.

de Rolf, N6NFI



HOSPITAL NET ON 523

From the inception of the 523 repeater, it has been our policy to be an open repeater and support public service in the true spirit of amateur radio. We have welcomed new hams to the machine and have made the repeater available for bike-a-thons, walk-a-thons, coordination of community events such as the annual Palo Alto Snowman and Sleigh event, etc. Many years ago, we were asked to make the 523 repeater available in time of emergency (and for emergency drills) for use by the peninsula hospitals to supplement their normal communications system and to help them coordinate the medical needs of our area. This emergency use was the prime reason we installed a back-up battery system on the repeater that keeps the repeater on the air even when the AC power fails. During the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, a hospital net was established on 523.

Over the years the people in charge of emergency communications have changed, both in the ham world as well as in the various cities and counties. The current emergency coordinator was unaware of the above historical usage of our repeater and was looking for a machine that would provide the needed coverage. She was surprised to learn that the 523 repeater had been used in the past. After a few test transmissions from a mobile making the rounds to various hospitals, she has asked SPARK and SARS to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would put us on record as having agreed to use of the repeater for a hospital net in time of emergency and for two to three emergency drills a year.

I will be coordinating this effort and plan to bring the MOU to the February or March meeting for an official vote after coordinating the wording with the club officers, SARS, and Control Ops.

PHONE LINE DOWN

As any listener to 523 is aware, the 9 AM talk net has had a lot of jamming in recent weeks. In addition, the jammer has been dialing up 911 repeatedly and letting the phone hang, or worse. This has created a problem for the host of our phone line. To prevent losing the line, the patch has been temporarily disabled. Rolf, N6NFI, has located an electronic box that is intended to block certain outgoing calls, e.g. 900 numbers. We are in the process of looking into ordering the device. The cost is approximately \$82. A motion to make the purchase will be brought up at the February SPARK meeting. Once the device is installed and tested, we plan to re-enable the patch. This device will keep us from losing the phone line.

Unfortunately, this box will not prevent a jammer from dialing up one of the emergency agencies on the Emergency Autodial list and causing a problem there. The diligence of ALL club members is needed to minimize this problem. When you hear someone making an Unidentified patch, use the hang-up code to terminate the call. When I have not been sure whether the call is a jammer or for real, I terminate the call first. (Usually I've been monitoring, so I KNOW that the station did not previously ID) Then, I come on the

SPARK Newsletter

repeater ONCE and give my call and politely request the station accessing the patch to identify. If the station identifies and is in need of help, I facilitate the call by either dialing the correct emergency number or standing by while the other station redials. If the response is another burst of touch tones, I continue to terminate the patch. I do NOT acknowledge the jammer.

If you hear someone misusing the patch, please jump in and help. If the jammer is continually thwarted, perhaps he'll become discouraged.

73 de Rich, W6APZ <w6apz@svpal.org>

February Meeting Minutes

There was no meeting held in February.
Collin Lim/KD6YCV

SPARK Web Site

SPARK now has a very impressive World Wide Web site located at <http://www.macscouter.com/SPARK>, or <http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/4024/>. If you have photo's, anecdotes, or anything that would show the world what SPARK is all about, please send it to the SPARK Webmaster Collin Lim, lim.collin@ssd.loral.com.

The Prez Sez...

We don't have one yet.

Nominating Committee Report

According to the SPARK Constitution, the nominating committee is required to publish a slate of candidates in the December Newsletter. This slate is as follows:

President:	Jack Nawrocki
Vice Pres:	Mike Spate
Treasurer:	Rolf Klibo
Secretary:	Collin Lim

Nominations are still open, and will be accepted at both the March SPARK meeting, when the election will be held.

ARRL Pacific Division Update

March 1997

by Brad Wyatt, K6WR, Director, Pacific Division, ARRL
18400 Overlook Rd. #5, Los Gates CA 95030-5850
(408) 395-2501 (Phone and FAX)
Packet: K6WR@N0ARY.#NOCAL.CA
E-mail: K6WR@arrl.org
Pacific Division Home Page: <http://www.pdarrl.org/>

Ham RF Exposure Guidelines Effective Jan. 1, 1998:-

Compliance with the new guidelines should be straightforward for the vast majority of hams and should require few changes in current operating practices. These Amateur Radio rules deal with

Thursday, June 3, 1999

the general public for the first time in a new substantial manner; therefore, compliance is very important.

There are numerous information resources - an excellent summary of the guidelines is contained in October 1997 QST, pages 51 and 52. An article titled "How To Do a Routine Evaluation," starting at page 50 in the January 1998 QST, will answer most questions. Also, an ARRL book on this subject will be available soon.

For the latest news on this matter and linkage to related Web sites, visit the ARRL RF-Safety Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety>. To obtain the FCC documents directly refer to the FCC site at <http://www.fcc.gov/oet/rfsafety>.

FCC Lists Items For Biennial Regulatory Review:-

Among 31 proposals for FCC staff for review released on Feb. 5, 1998, was this one involving the Amateur Radio Service:

"WTB Part 97: Streamline Amateur Radio Service. Seek comment on amending Parts 0, 1, and 97 of FCC Rules to privatize further the administration of the Amateur Radio Services and to simplify the licensing process."

Just what will come of these proposals is unclear, but ARRL is tracking the proposals closely.

US To Participate in CEPT Guest License Agreement:-

For many years efforts have been underway to secure US participation in the European CEPT agreement that permits licensed hams in European member countries to operate in other member countries without receiving prior, individual approval. Approval of the US request to participate came in late January at a meeting of the CEPT Radio Regulatory Working Group (WGRR), in Groningen, The Netherlands.

What this means, is that US amateurs also will not need to apply for reciprocal licenses in order to operate during short visits to most European countries. Similarly, most European hams visiting the US no longer will have to submit FCC Form 610A.

Under the arrangement, a US Technician license will be recognized as a CEPT Class 2 (VHF-only) license, with full privileges above 30 MHz. Holders of Tech Plus through Extra tickets will be given a CEPT Class 1 license, with full privileges on HF and VHF. Novice licensees would not be eligible for a CEPT equivalent license since most CEPT countries don't offer a license of this type.

The time schedule for final implementation of the agreement hasn't been announced. Watch QST, the ARRL Letter, and this Update for further developments.

1998 Northern California ACS Emergency Response Institute In Sacramento:-

This year's Northern California Emergency Response Institute, will be held May 2-3, 1998 in Sacramento, California. The location will be at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's Headquarters Auditorium, and is sponsored by the Governor's Office of Emergency Service's Auxiliary Communications Service, the California Emergency Services Radio Association (CESRA), SMUD, and Pacific Bell.

Featured classes will explore the theme 'Assessing Our Commitment', and will include instructors from throughout the state of California. The \$35.00 registration includes a Saturday evening reception and dinner.

To register, you may:

(a) Visit the ERI '98 Home Page at <http://www.garlic.com/oes/erihome.htm> You may download the registration form and mail or fax it back.

(b) E-mail to larton@garlic.com for a registration information packet.

(c) Drop a note with your registration to ERI '98 7512 Greenhaven Drive, Sacramento, CA 95831.

Make out checks or money orders to ERI '98.

SPARK Newsletter

Questions? Contact Institute Deputy Director Dave Larton N6JQJ, at (408) 778-7265, by e-mail at larton@garlic.com, or by fax at (408) 778-3101.

ARRL Audio News Available for Repeaters:--

The weekly ARRL Audio News service now is available via telephone at 860-594-0384. For those wishing to record ARRL Audio News for later use, a short countdown precedes the complete audio feed, which is typically around 10 minutes long. Each week's audio feed is expected to be available by 6:00PM Eastern Time every Friday. ARRL Audio News will continue to be available in RealAudio from the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/>. Thanks, ARRL Letter.

ARRL Instructor of the Year Nominations Open:-

Nominations are due to ARRL Section Managers by February 28, 1998 for the ARRL Instructor of the Year awards. Each year, the ARRL Board of Directors selects recipients for each of four award categories. 1) The ARRL Herb S. Brier (W9AD) Instructor of the Year Award is presented to an unpaid volunteer instructor. 2) The ARRL Professional Educator of the Year Award is presented to a paid, professional, state-certified teacher. 3) The ARRL Professional Instructor of the Year Award is presented to a paid instructor who is not state-certified. 4) The ARRL Excellence in Recruiting Award is presented to an individual who recruits more than teaches.

Section Managers will forward nominations to the Educational Activities Department at ARRL, and EAD will send details to nominees about how to compete for the awards. See page 12 in any QST for your Section Manager's name and address. More information and nominating forms can be found on the ARRLWeb at <http://www.arrl.org/ead/award/>. For further information, e-mail ead@arrl.org.

McGan Silver Antenna Award Nominations Open:-

Nominees are welcome for the seventh annual Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, a chance to honor the ham who did the most to promote Amateur Radio in 1997. The McGan award was named for journalist Philip J. McGan, WA2MGQ (SK), the first chairman of the ARRL Public Relations Committee. It goes to the ARRL member who demonstrates volunteer public relations success on behalf of ham radio at the local, state or national level, and who best exemplifies the volunteer spirit of the award's namesake.

Public relations (as opposed to public service) activities are those specifically directed at bringing Amateur Radio to the public's attention in a positive light--typically through the media (newspapers, TV, radio).

Nominations for the seventh annual award are due May 29, 1998 at ARRL Headquarters, Newington, Connecticut, by 5:00 PM Eastern Time.

Entry forms for the Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award are available from Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY, e-mail jgagne@arrl.org or call 860-594-0328.

Send completed forms and supporting materials to Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, care of Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111.

50 Years for W6OWP Code Practice Sessions:-

Fifty years ago this month, Bart, W6OWP, began the West Coast code practice and qualifying runs. The first official announcement appeared in the June 1948 edition of QST. Congratulations, Bart, and thanks!

ARRL Radio Coaches Program to Enhance Elmering:-

Radio Coaches stems from the kickoff of America's Promise, the Alliance for Youth, a national campaign to improve the lives of the nation's young people and put them on paths for brighter, more productive futures.

Thursday, June 3, 1999

The mission will be to give young people an ongoing relationship with a caring adult and a marketable skill through effective education. Amateur Radio will be our chief tool.

Through Radio Coaches, we want to reinforce the idea that Amateur Radio is a "sport for the brain." Ham radio provides not only a lifetime of enjoyment, but also, potentially, a lifetime career.

To get involved contact Radio Coaches, c/o Field Services Department, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington CT, 06111; or e-mail coaches@arrl.org. Thanks, ARRL Letter, Nov. 14, 1997.

Call for Applications for 1998 Scholarships:-

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 1998-99 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds nine of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining fifty-seven 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 WWW pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1998, from

FAR Scholarships
6903 Rhode Island Ave.
College Park MD 20740

Coming Events:-

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

- Foothill Flea Market - 2nd Saturday of each month from March to October at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA.

- The Valley of the Moon ARC is holding its annual hamfest Saturday, April 25, 1998, at the Sonoma Veteran's Memorial Bldg., 126 First St. West, Sonoma, CA. Talk in 145.35 (-) PL 88.5, Contact Darrel Jones, WD6BOR at wd6bor@aol.com or (H) (707) 996-4494. CA.

Hoo's Hoo...

Officers:

President: Open
Vice Pres: Mike Spate
Treasurer: Rolf Klibo
Secretary: Collin Lim

SS/L Shack Trustee: Ian Kushner, AF6K

Newsletter Editor: Gary Hendra, W6NOE -- SS/L
 3825 Fabian Way, MS-G86, Palo Alto 94303
 E-mail to 'Hendra, Gary' on the Loral Network, or via Internet to
 'hendra.gary@.ssd.loral.com' [<http://www.macscouter.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
 3825 Fabian Way
 Palo Alto, CA 94303-4604