

# LORAL

# S.P.A.R.K.

## South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub Newsletter

Vol. MCMXCVI II No VI Rptr: W6APZ/R 145.230(-.600)MHz - Club Str: WA6NKK Thursday, June 3, 1999

### The June 1998 Meeting...

**Where:** Harry's Hof Brau  
El Camino in Mountain View

**When:** Thursday, 4 June 1998  
6:00 PM PDT

**Subject:** Hamming Fellowship

**Looking ahead:** The 9 July 1998 meeting will be held at SS/L and will feature Fred Dietrich, NM6J, talking about the GlobalStar satellite system.

### May Meeting Minutes

No Report

de Rolf, N6NFI

### 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](mailto:lim.collin@ssd.loral.com).

### The Prez Sez...

The May meeting was dedicated to exploring the 'glue' that holds volunteer hobby organizations together. Our retirees occupied most of the sparsely inhabited deacon's bench. (Somehow the old joke regarding the bald-headed parrot comes to mind, but this a family publication. There'll be a small prize given at the next get-together for the first person who can tell me the punch line. Discretely, of course.) The whole group of attendees actively participated in some very thoughtful discussion. Thank you all. As a sub-group, our retirees favor coming together for the camaraderie. Those absent certainly want a Klub as they have confirmed by paying their dues.

Rolf Klibo and I subsequently met to sort out the combined wisdom of the participants and to prepare a questionnaire to determine what our members really need from the Klub and each other. It's slow going to put together a poor questionnaire and even slower to put together a meaningful one. It should be ready for the July newsletter. If we get it ready sooner, we'll distribute it independently.

We'll undoubtedly find out that one more meeting in an endless series of meetings to which our members are normally subjected had better be monumentally intriguing. I wonder what else will be revealed?

73 de Jack

### News from Our Treasurer

I am trying to upgrade to General Class, and need to (greatly) improve my code speed. I am presently using SuperMorse, a shareware program, to build my code capability. But I was thinking that it would be nice if someone would take on the "Training Person" role for the Klub, not necessarily to do actual training, but to be a source of information about where to get training, training aids, etc. This would not be a big time buster, so please consider if you could help here.

And we still need a Secretary.... think about that one, too!

REPEATER  
REPEATER  
REPEATER  
REPEATER

#### AUTOPATCH / AUTODIAL UPDATE

This is a "good-news, bad-news" report. The good news is that we finally got the call blocker to work and demonstrated its capability at home. N6NFI and W6APZ then took the blocker to the repeater and proved it would very quickly block an outgoing call. Encouraged, we tried reprogramming the device to block calls to our host's emergency line. Sure enough, within milliseconds the call was blocked.

The bad news is that milliseconds is not fast enough. But... from another prospective that's really good news. How? This test demonstrated that if, in an emergency, you call for assistance and after you have dialed, but have not yet been connected your call is interrupted, the emergency agency already has your phone number and could send assistance!

Where does that leave the autopatch/autodial? Unfortunately, still on hold. Rolf is contacting the black-box company to see if the wait time can be reduced further. As a fall-back position, we are thinking about some type of audio delay line which will delay the dial tones from reaching the phone line until the call blocker can disconnect the line.

We are interested in hearing from anyone with technical experience in this area, or in other approaches to solve this problem. Please contact either Rolf, N6NFI @ 852-7633, or Rich, W6APZ @ 650-494-0128.

#### Public Service

The repeater was used as the talk-in frequency for Palo Alto's Black and White Ball during May. Thanks to the users who QSY'd for this public service event.

73 de Rich, W6APZ <[w6apz@svpal.org](mailto:w6apz@svpal.org)>

# News from Jerry Bliss

I just returned from a 2-week vacation in England. Went to the International Submariner's Association Gala in Harrogate, England. About 400 in attendance from 6 or 7 countries. Most were old WW2 type submariners; made me feel 20-years younger! My USN Sub service was in the late 50's. Was Radio Op; mostly CW ship to shore traffic.

Harrogate was the location of the WDL site where I spent a great deal of time. When I heard the Gala was to be there, I signed up right away! It was fun seeing old friends and places. I took my XYL along for the ride, too.

Stopped off at the DARC radio club on the base and caught up with all the gossip and inspected their new Force-12 antenna, etc. Got in a couple of QSO's on the satellite; a first for me!

Otherwise, my hamming is limited to the occasional Rag Chew and half-a-dozen contests a year.

73 de Jerry Bliss K6III  
Saratoga, CA

The petition notes that "The band is generally popular with radio amateurs, currently on a secondary basis, with repeater use in 440-450 MHz and satellite links and amateur television in 430-440 MHz" and says, "Amateur applications in the 420-430/440-450 MHz should remain secondary to PMRS."

Comments on this petition are due in hard copy format only by June 1, 1998. No e-mail comments will be accepted. Reply Comments are due in hard copy format only by June 15, 1998.

Submit your hard copy comments by June 1, 1998, to the following address:

RM 9267  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St., NW  
Washington, DC 20554

The Petition is 75 pages long, and reportedly will NOT be put up on the FCC WWW site.

In the Petition there are four key pages affecting the Amateur Radio Service -- pages 28 - 31. These pages will soon be available from the Pacific Division WWW site at pdarrl.org and in straight ASCII via e-mail from me. Conversion of the hard copy text from FCC via ARRL Headquarters is by Glen Lokke, KE6NBO, of the Pacific Division team -- thanks, Glen!

## ARRL Pacific Division Update June 1998

by Brad Wyatt, K6WR, Director, Pacific Division, ARRL  
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### 70 CM BAND THREATENED BY LAND MOBILE SERVICE PETITION

On April 30, 1998, the FCC put on notice for public comment a Petition (RM 9267) filed by the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) seeking, among other things, "immediate....reallocation of 420-430 MHz, paired with 440-450 MHz, from Federal use to PMRS [Private Mobile Radio Service]". The LMCC is a loose affiliation of organizations with interests in (mostly private) land mobile communications.

The ARRL is actively organizing opposition to this petition. The purpose of this special Update is to spread the word within the ARRL Pacific Division, and to encourage all to write to the FCC in opposition to this proposal.

As background, the 70 CM band is the second most popular of the Amateur Radio Service's VHF/UHF allocations, with substantial FM repeater and other operation in the 440 to 450 MHz segment and a variety of uses in the 420 to 430 MHz segment. Amateur Radio now enjoys the use of 420 to 450 MHz on a secondary basis to the Federal Government. The proposal would transfer the primary allocations between 420 and 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz from the government to the PMRS. Amateur radio would retain secondary status in the segments, and the 430 to 440 MHz allocation would remain unchanged. However, a primary assignment to PMRS from 420 to 430 and 440 to 450 MHz has the potential for a significant impact on amateur operations in those segments.

The petition notes that land mobile already has access to 420-430 MHz in three cities along the Canadian border, the result of a move by Canada at the time of WARC-79 to reallocate that part of the band from amateur to land mobile. The petition makes brief reference to expected "reduction in military use of this band" and to Wind Profiler use of 449 MHz, which according to LMCC "should be discouraged or at least minimized, in favor of higher frequency operation (e.g. 915 MHz), if reallocation to PMRS is considered."

### 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.

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

- Fair Oaks swap meets (near Sacramento) - Bella Vista High School, 8301 Madison Ave., on Madison Ave. east of Sunrise Blvd. - May 31 and Aug. 15. 6:00 AM to noon.

- Placerville, every third Sunday, 3970 B Missouri Flat Rd #3 Placerville. 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Talk-in on 146.865- PL 142.2, 440.700+ PL 88.5. No fee, free parking. Hwy. 50 East take Missouri Flat off-ramp. Go over Hwy. to 2nd light, into shopping center in front of Radio Shack. See <http://www.inforum.net/h&h/radioswap.html>; e-mail jwilson@inforum.net, Jason Wilson KE6BUU.

- The International DX Convention, sponsored by the South Samoian, W6SR, (714) 993-0713 or (310) 616-3912.

### Hoo's Hoo...

**Officers:**

President:  
Vice Pres:  
Treasurer:  
Secretary:

Jack Nawrocki  
Mike Spate  
Rolf Kilbo  
Open

**SS/L Shack Trustee:**

Mike Spate

**Newsletter Editor:**

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Gary Hendra, W6NOE -- SS/L

**Repeater Trustee/Control Operators(Primary):**

Repeater Trustee: Rich Stebel, W6APZ  
Control Operators: John Buonocore, KD6ZL, Dan Connell, W6ASD, Robert Reiling, W6JHJ, Rolf Kilbo, N6NFI, Tom Holden, KN6KL; Gregg Schlamman, W6BECQ

**Repeater Technical Committee:**

Committee Chairman:  
N6NFI - Rolf Kilbo and KN6KL - Tom Holden

Rich Stebel, W6APZ

**SS/L Training:**

Vacant

**Picnic Committee:**

Picnic Co-chairman:

To be announced

**Field Day Committee:**

Chairman:  
Members:

To be announced.  
To be announced

**Other positions to be filled:**

Club historian:  
Retiree Representative:  
Club emergency comm coordinator: Randy Bassett, N6RUR  
Club ARRL Coordinator:  
Club swap meet coordinator:  
Club Project coordinators:

To be announced.  
John Gibson, N6OM  
To be announced  
To be announced.

For Address Changes, or If Undeliverable, Return to:

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