

S.P.A.R.K.

South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub Newsletter

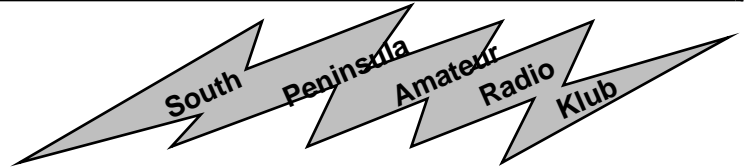
Vol. MCMXCVII No 10 Rptr:W6APZ/R 145.230(-.600)MHZ - Club Stn: WA6NKK Wednesday, November 26, 1997

The November 1997 Meeting...

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

When: Thursday, 6 November 1997
High Noon

Subject: AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS
DURING SOLAR POWERED CAR RACE
IN AUSTRALIA.



The Prez Sez...

The November meeting program will be presented by Martin Koebler, a veteran of five solar car campaigns around the world. He will talk about the communications needed for a solar car race. This includes voice and telemetry. Use of the ham bands is very attractive for distances up to 400 miles. You must realize that the outback of Australia has limited Cellular Telephone facilities and the good old Ham Radio is great to fall back on. He will give an overview of the requirements to communicate between the race team and the backup crew. He will display current data loggers and telemetry systems. You can become involved in this activity. Come to the November meeting to discuss it in person with Martin.

The last meeting was at Harry's Hofbrau and we had an excellent get together. In response to our vote at the September meeting, I spoke with BIP, W.E. Backman W6BIP and invited him to the October meeting. He graciously showed up with his wife and son and had dinner with us. He has been in ham radio for more than a half century and has experienced every phase of ham activity. As most of you who know BIP, know that he is an excellent speaker and enjoys reminiscing. Anyway, he was the center of our get together at Harry's. We all enjoyed his presence.

BIP was one of the founders of SPARK and was the second president. He was trustee of the ham shack station for many years. I invited BIP to be our speaker at the December meeting where he will talk about RF interference in audio and TV equipment and how to reduce it by filtering. I am sure that all of you will make a special point to attend the December meeting and say, "Hello" to him. If you have not met BIP already, you will be impressed. You can also ask him directly if he agrees with the vote we took at the September meeting.

We have had some inquiry about the cabinets that are in the hallway near the ham shack door. The LORAL safety department wants to secure the cabinets to the wall, for support during earth quakes. Also, we have a hazardous material cabinet which contains gasoline and oil for our backup/field day generator. There is a mixed opinion as to the necessity of a generator and operating chemicals for our club. This will need to be discussed and voted upon at the November meeting. Come to the November meeting and vote.

Last but not least, we need to nominate officers for next year. The nominations will be made at the December meeting and the vote at the January meeting. We need a nominating committee now. Again, your presence is requested at the November meeting.

The November meeting will be held in the LORAL, Building Three, Lobby Auditorium at 12:00pm on November 6. You are all welcome. See you there.

73, Ian, AF6K

October Meeting Minutes

The October '97 SPARK meeting was held on Thursday, October 3 at Harry's Hofbrau on El Camino Real in Mountain View. There were 11 attendees including nine members and two guests. Three SPARK officers attended the meeting: Ian Kushner (President), Mike Spate (Vice President), and Rolf Klibo (Treasurer). Honorary member W. E. Bachman, W6BIP (aka "BIP") attended with his wife and son. "BIP" shared with the group his experiences on RF interference in Hi-Fi equipment.

Collin Lim/KD6YCV

SPARK Web Site

SPARK now has a very impressive World Wide Web site located at www.macscouter.com/SPARK. 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.

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No report this month.
73 de Rich, W6APZ <w6apz@svpal.com>

ARRL Pacific Division Update

October 1997

by Brad Wyatt, K6WR, Director, Pacific Division, ARRL
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Pacificon'97 Was a Great Success!:-

From all reports, the attendees, speakers, exhibitors and vendors all had a great time. Thanks to Greg Estep, KE6VTA, and Sylvia White, KC6YJV, who were the Co-Chairs of the event. They and their crew put on the best show in the series so far. Now, on to Pacificon'98 at the Sheraton in Concord.

KI6DS, WA6GER Pacific Division 1997 Hams of the Year:-

Doug Hendricks, KI6DS, and Jim Cates, WA6GER, were named Pacific Division Hams of the Year for 1997 at Pacificon'97.

Jim and Doug are the co-founders of the Northern California QRP Club, a.k.a. NorCal QRP Club. Both thought that the club would attract only a handful of radio amateurs in the Northern California area when they formed it in 1993. Due to their co-leadership and team efforts they now have over 2500 members in all fifty states and some sixty countries. It continues to grow at a high rate.

Congratulations, Doug and Jim!

10 Year Old Passes Extra Class Exam at Pacificon:-

Joseph Simon III, KF6ACO, of Alamo, CA, originally licensed about one year ago, passed his Extra Class exam at Pacificon and was awarded his Extra Class license by the FCC the day before his 11th birthday. Congratulations, Joseph! Thanks to ARRL VEC and others.

Latest Band Threat News:-

This month (November) WRC 97 opens in Geneva. A great effort by ARRL and IARU has been put forth to protect our spectrum. We will not know the results of this enormous amount of work until the gavel comes down in Geneva on Nov. 21. For the latest detailed information, read "It Seems to Us" an editorial by Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, in Nov. QST page 9.

Amateur RF Exposure Rules Effective Jan. 1, 1998:-

The long-awaited FCC decision on RF exposure rules for the amateur radio service were finally released in August. An excellent summary of the obligations the new rules places on individual hams is contained in October QST, pages 51 and 52. Two questions immediately will come to mind: when must individual hams be in compliance with the new regulations, and how must individual hams demonstrate such compliance? More details are provided in the QST article cited above, but in brief, here's the story.

When - The new regulations become effective Jan. 1, 1998; however, there will be a transition period for compliance by individuals, as follows.

1. New licensees after Jan. 1 1998 must be in compliance with the new regulations at the time of first licensing. The FCC is preparing a new version of Form 610, which will contain a statement to the effect that the new licensee understands and complies with the new regulations. That is, the applicant will certify compliance by the very act of signing off on the 610 application.

2. All those licensed prior to Jan. 1, 1998, will have to be in compliance with the new RF exposure regulations whenever a Form 610 is filed, such as for a license renewal, upgrade, or other

modification. Because the same revised Form 610 used by new license applications is used for such modifications, the act of signing off on the 610 will certify compliance.

3. All stations, new or old, must be in compliance with the new regulations no later than Sept. 1, 2000. This date must be met whether a Form 610 has been filed previously or not.

How - The full story of how each ham must determine compliance to the new regulations is too lengthy to present here; additional details may be found in the Oct. 1997 QST article. Briefly, each ham, with some exceptions, will need to perform a routine station evaluation to ensure that maximum permissible exposure levels, as described in the new FCC rules, are not exceeded. Those running at or below certain threshold power levels will be exempt from routine evaluations, although they will not be exempt from complying with the RF exposure levels prescribed by the regulations. The full list of the threshold power levels is given in the Table below. For example, from 160 through 40 meters routine evaluations need not be performed at output levels of 500 watts PEP or less, while at 2 meters the level that triggers an evaluation is 50 watts PEP.

Output PEP Thresholds for Routine Evaluation of Amateur Radio Stations

Band (Wavelength)	Transmitter Power (Watts)
160 m	500
75 m	500
80 m	500
40 m	500
30 m	425
20 m	225
17 m	125
15 m	100
12 m	75
10 m	50
6-1.23 m	50
70 cm	70
33 cm	150
23 cm	200
13 cm and up	250

Additional details on performing evaluations, as well as details regarding maximum permissible RF exposure levels are given in the FCC document OET-65, now available on the WWW. A supplement specialized to the Amateur Radio Service, OET-65-Bm is being prepared by the FCC. It is expected to be released some time during November of this year. See the ARRL RF-safety Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety>, or at the FCC at <http://www.fcc.gov/oet/dockets/et93-62/>.

FCC Announces Electronic Renewal Form 900:-

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has consolidated eight renewal forms into one form. Form 900, Application for Electronic Renewal of Wireless Radio Services Authorizations, is an interim measure to permit all WTB licensees, including hams, to renew their licenses electronically.

This form is only for renewals, not for license modifications. You can only enter changes (e.g., name, address) using Form 900 as a part of the process of renewing your license. You can only use Form 900 if the expiration date on your license falls within the renewal window (within 120 days of expiration). You cannot use Form 900 to renew an expired license. Form 900 may only be submitted electronically. No Form 900 paper applications will be accepted. When filing Form 900, you will be required to enter a Social Security Number for a taxpayer ID number.

Access Form 900 on the WTB Electronic Commerce page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/electcom.html>. Select "Production Page for Electronic Commerce Applications" to access the Form 900.

Click on any item number for filing instructions. Once you have filed the form, clicking on "Electronic Renewal Query" lets you view or print the information submitted.

Once you have successfully submitted Form 900, it is important to click on the "Continue" button to obtain fee information pertaining to your filing. The screen will prompt you with a Fee Remittance Advice, Form 159. The form will indicate that there is no charge to renew an Amateur Radio license, except for vanity call sign holders, who won't have to renew for several more years yet. Thanks - FCC and ARRL Letter Oct. 3, 1997

ARRL Seeks Changes to Morse Code Waiver Rules:-

The ARRL has asked the FCC to change the way Morse code exam exemptions for severely handicapped applicants are handled. The League wants to change the procedural requirements in Part 97 that must be met prior to granting examination credit.

Under the League's proposed changes, a candidate at least would have to attempt the CW test - with any and all permissible accommodations - before being granted an exam waiver based on a physician's certification. Also, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) would be entitled to request medical information pertinent to an applicant's handicap from the certifying physician. VECs also would be required to have this information on file before the application is forwarded to the FCC for processing.

The League said it believes the procedural changes alone will help to deter those who might abuse the process while still allowing exemptions to deserving applicants.

See the editorial "It Seems to Us" by David Sumner, K1ZZ, QST, Oct. 1997, page 9. Thanks also to ARRL Letter, Oct. 3, 1997

Northern California ARES HF Net Established:-

The Northern California ARES HF Net meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 8:30 PM on 3987 kHz. Net control is the Siskiyou EC, Dave KC6HOY, who established the net. All EC's and ARES members in Northern CA are encouraged to check in. Southern Oregon stations also participate at times.

The Sacramento Valley Section ARES now has a web page. It can be found at <http://www.eheart.com/ares/>

Thanks, Jerry Boyd, K6BZ -- Pacific Div. AD, PSAC Rep. and SV SEC.

Bob Schmieder, KK6EK, Wins Cover Plaque Award:-

Pacific Division member Robert W. Schmieder, KK6EK, won the September 1997 QST Cover Plaque for his article, "The 1997 VK0IR Heard Island Expedition." Congratulations, Bob! This is Bob's second Cover Plaque Award.

ARRL Audio News Debuted October 17:-

The League inaugurated ARRL Audio News, a weekly, Web-based audio news service, on October 17. Compiled from the ARRL Letter, ARRL Audio News will include the week's top news from the world of Amateur Radio and the League. ARRL Audio News will be available in RealAudio format via the ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/>. Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) has generously agreed to provide space on its Web server to permit the League to offer this service.

Each edition of ARRL Audio News will contain up to 10 minutes of timely Amateur Radio news. It will be available via the ARRLWeb every Friday by 9 PM Eastern Time. Dial-up telephone access will be announced later.

For more information, contact Rick Lindquist, N1RL, e-mail n1rl@arrl.org; telephone 860-594-0222. Thanks, ARRL Letter Oct. 10, 1997

State Department Applies for U. S. CEPT Participation:-

The State Department has applied for US participation in the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Amateur Radio licensing system. The move, taken on September 22, could eventually make it easier for US hams to operate temporarily in European countries that participate in CEPT, without having to apply for a reciprocal license.

Last fall, the FCC proposed amending the Amateur Radio rules to make it easier for hams holding a CEPT license or an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) to operate during short visits to the US. Thanks, ARRL Letter Oct. 10, 1997

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.

Hoo's Hoo...

Officers:

President:	Ian Kushner
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-G86

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