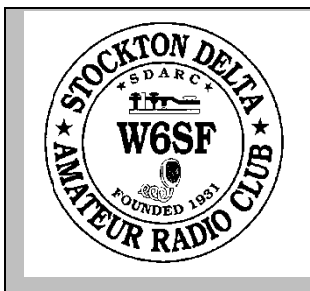


# Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



# W6SF FLYSHEET



ARRL MEMBER

P.O. BOX 690271

STOCKTON, CA

95269-0271

June 2012

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## PRESIDENT'S QST

**QST QST QST** - It was great to see everyone at the May meeting. Especially Dan, KB6UNC, who travelled from Utah just to make the meeting. Well, slight exaggeration, he was actually in town for family, but we were glad he and his family could enjoy a meal with several of us and that he could stay for the meeting. Unfortunately, Bob, K6ON, who was scheduled to present our program had a family emergency and had to cancel. We will be able to have him at an upcoming meeting.

Regrettably, this could be the last issue of the flysheet for some of you if you have not paid your 2012 dues. It is now easier than ever to pay your dues, bring cash or a check to the next meeting or pay through paypal - send me an email to [john@litz.com](mailto:john@litz.com). Members who have not paid by the June meeting will be dropped from the roster effective July 1. It's not too late, only \$20 for a single membership & \$30 for a family membership.

In this issue of The Flysheet, we report on a very busy May. We supported three operating events in May: the Delta Century ride on May 6<sup>th</sup>; the March of Dimes Walk-for-Babies on May 12<sup>th</sup>, and the Stockton Rotary Run-to-cure-Polio on Memorial Day.

June has several great opportunities to share the hobby with an inactive ham or interested neighbor. June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> is Museum Ships Weekend and we will be on the air at the USS Lucid as N6MSO. Field Day is June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. And, there will be a HamCram at Dameron Hospital on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Our next meeting is just 14 days away.

Let's get started.

73, John, NZ6Q



**JUNE MEETING NOTICE**  
**JUNE 14TH, 7:30pm**

**BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**11171 LOWER SACRAMENT RD**

**QST QST QST** ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS. The June meeting of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club will be held on Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012, beginning at 7:30PM.

This is our last meeting before Field Day on June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. With lots still to do, we will be devoting our meeting agenda to just a few moments of club business, a report from the USS Lucid Museum Ships Weekend event, and final plans for field day.

Doors open at 7:15 PM for meet and greet. Club business begins at 7:30PM.

New hams and anyone interested in Amateur Radio are encouraged to attend. Invite a Friend!

Directions: From North or South on I5 - Travel on I5 to 8 Mile Rd and go east on 8 Mile Rd to Lower Sacramento Rd. Turn north onto Lower Sacramento Rd and the church is about 1000 ft north of the intersection on the left.

From North or South on 99 – Travel on 99 to 8 Mile Rd and go west on 8 Mile Rd to Lower Sacramento Rd. Turn north onto Lower Sacramento Rd and the church is about 1000 ft north of the intersection on the left.

Parking: Ample parking is available, we meet all the way in the back of the in one of the classrooms.





## SDARC MEMBERS COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF DELTA CENTURY BIKE RIDE MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>

A nearly perfect spring morning greeted all of us as we headed off toward Jessie's Grove Vineyards in Lodi. The early morning found several brave souls who greeted each other on the repeater with friendly banter over assignments and who was getting coffee. I picked up Ed, N6XMA in front of his place about 7AM and we headed up Davis Rd to meet Dave, N6LHL at the start-finish line for the ride. The Stockton Bicycle Club and the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club have come together for this event for the past several years.

Dave, N6LHL, still recovering from his "bionic" knee replacement deserves both credit and our gratitude for pulling together the operators, planning posts with staff of the Stockton Bicycle Club and getting it "all together". Dave also volunteered his stand-up antenna mount as well as the tail-gate of his pick-up which proved to be a much better operating desk than the hatch back on my Subaru Outback. We also took the opportunity to try out Charlie's (WB6NVB) recently acquired gel-cell batteries for power and the set-up performed flawlessly for the entire event.

Bob, K6DGQ & Mike, W6MRM deserve the award for service above and beyond the call. Arriving at their Walnut-Grove rest stop assignment ahead of schedule, they would be "in the field" until nearly 5PM awaiting a father-son riding team determined to finish the 100-mile course. They arrived as we were finally packing up to a few cheers from those patient enough to see them back. DeVinci's, who catered an outstanding lunch of pasta, pesto, salad and bread, even kept back food for their arrival.

Our many thanks to the following hams who, got up early, braved the course and gave up a big part of their Sunday to support this annual event. They include, Eric, W6INP; Lynette, W6PJF; Robert, N6GTO; Brett, KJ6SEF; Tom, N6TMA; Ed, N6XMA; Bob, K6DGQ; Mike, W6MRM and our Net Control operator Dave, N6LHL.





NZ6Q, W6INP, N6GTO, W6PJF & KJ6SEF relaxing under the oak trees at Jessie's Grove

Lessons learned from this year's ride? Better communication with the SAG wagons I suspect would be number 1. The repeater performed flawlessly (thank you John Kester, KD6FVA) and only one rest stop had communication challenges. We felt it was important to have two operators at each rest stop and a limited number of volunteers caused us to be unable to staff SAG wagons. We did get a list of each SAG Wagon driver and their cell phone number, but that proved to be very limiting both because of poor coverage and a lack of knowledge of their locations. So next year we need to cover the SAGs with ham operators and we should look at APRS to provide some "real-time" tracking. Maybe we can get a few more club members interested in APRS this year so we will have a few more set-ups available next year.

The Stockton Bike Club did also honor us this year with a generous donation for our service and support.



**MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND 2012**  
**June 2- 3, 2012**  
**0000Z June 2, through 2359Z June 3, 2012**  
**Don't Miss it!**





**CLUB TO ACTIVATE MUSEUM SHIP USS LUCID  
FOR MUSEUM SHIP'S WEEKEND  
JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup>  
CALL SIGN – N6MSO**

The USS Lucid is docked in the Stockton Deepwater Channel, along Monte Diablo Ave across from Louis Park. [www.stocktonhistoricalmaritimemuseum.org](http://www.stocktonhistoricalmaritimemuseum.org) .

On May 26th, SDARC members met at the USS Lucid to erect and test antennas we will be using for MSW. We erected a 40-meter dipole, 20-15-10 meter beam, and we have an 80-meter antenna ready to go up.



Museum Ships Weekend is an annual operating event, coordinated by the battleship USS New Jersey (NJ2BB), when museum ships from around the world get on the air (many with their original WWII radio equipment). They attempt to contact as many amateur stations as possible. In 2012, there are nearly 100 museum ships planning to be on the air. This will be the first time

that the USS Lucid has participated in this prestigious event. While not an "official contest" many participants approach it as such. <http://www.nj2bb.org/museum/>

The "contest starts at 0000Z on June 2nd (5:00 PM PDT on Friday June 1st) and ends at 2400Z on June 4th (5:00PM PDT on Sunday June 3rd). The USS Lucid is planning to be on the air as W6MSO during daylight and evening hours.



Dave, N6DCH will be BBQing on Saturday evening - come help us enjoy the feast. There should only be a small donation for dinner.

Please contact Peter, KD6CPA at [selkied@earthlink.net](mailto:selkied@earthlink.net) , or Paul, N6KZW at [n6kzw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n6kzw@sbcglobal.net) if you plan on attending. There are spots open for volunteer operators.

Come join us this weekend for the fun!



THE VIEW FROM THE 20-METER BEAM



MY TURN?

This is a great opportunity to come out and enjoy something new and different. Several club members have put a lot of time into putting this together. My thanks to N6KZW, KD6CPA, KJ6SVX, W6MRM, K6YN, K6DCH (the chef) and many others for their hard work these past several weeks. Bring a non-member ham friend or a non-ham to check this out.

I'll be looking for you on the bands from Georgia on Saturday! I want that N6MSO QSL Card!



## MAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH OF DIMES WALK-A-THON DOWNTOWN STOCKTON

Volunteers and equipment were called into service a 2<sup>nd</sup> time in May by the March of Dimes to support their annual Walk for Babies. Several club members gave up the chance to get the early bargains at the Burson Swap Meet to help out on a bright Saturday Morning. The walk from Weber Point up El Dorado St to Walnut then down Center St back to Weber Point is the March of Dimes “flagship” fund raiser in Stockton each year.

We arrived early and Eric, W6INP set up net control on the K6KJQ 440 repeater at the police station downtown. This machine provides excellent coverage downtown and thank you Glen, K6KJQ for it's use. At 9AM, some 400 walker's “hit the streets” in downtown Stockton taking on the 3-mile challenge. There were no incidents and everyone made it back safely by about 10:30.

Many thanks to: Bob, N6GTO; Brett, KJ6SEF; Joe, KJ6PKZ; Dave, N6DCH and Eric, W6INP. Great job everyone for your support.



2012 March of Dimes Walk – PGE sponsored rest stop



Bob, N6GTO & Brett, KJ6SEF take a break with PGE Man



## MAY 28<sup>TH</sup> – MEMORIAL DAY RUN AGAINST POLIO

The third public-service event on May was the Rotary Run to Eradicate Polio. Thank you Dave, N5FDL who accepted the assignment to organize and chair amateur radio for the event. Our Rotary friends really appreciated us “being there” as the eyes and the ears around the entire course. We got the opportunity to “sign-up” for this one using David’s event bright account allowing for not only club hams but non-club hams to sign up for an event like this without necessarily tracking down a single person in the club to “sign them up”.

Again, the K6KJQ 440 repeater at the PD was put to use and provided excellent coverage. As of this writing, we are still waiting for a “debrief” with rotary and maybe we can find some improvements to implement at the Thanksgiving Day “Run to fight Hunger” which follows the same course in November.

My thanks to: W6INP, Eric; N6XMA, Ed; Dave, N6DCH; Mike, W6MRM; Shirl, AA6K; Tom, KJ6OVM; Bob, N6TCE; Steggy, WY6E; Dave, N5FDL; and to Mike, K6MDS who kept it all together as Net Control.

## SHIRL, AA6K PRESENTING DX NEWS AND TIPS ON THE LODI AND TRACY NETS

Our own Club Trustee, Shirley Rose, AA6K is offering 2-4 minutes of DX news and tips every week on the Tracy club net, beginning in May. I always enjoy listening to his news about what's on-the-air, who he's worked lately and tips for how you can join him at the top of the DXCC. Please join the Tracy net, held Wednesdays at 8:00PM on 146.655 - 100.0 and 146.775 - 100.0. You can hear Shirl's report right at the beginning of the net.

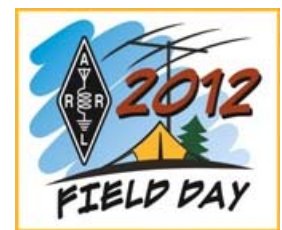
You can also hear Shirl on the Lodi Club Net every Wednesday evening at 7:00PM. The Lodi Club net is on the WB6ASU repeater (147.090 MHz +600, PL 114.8)





## TED, K6XN RECEIVES CARD #250 FOR 5-BAND WAS

Ted, K6XN reported that he received card #250 for West Virginia on 75-meters to complete his 5-Band WAS award. Congratulations to Ted on this coveted award. The 5-Band WAS award is given for confirmation of two-way contacts with Amateur Radio Operators in all 50 states on 5 of the HF Bands. It's a tremendous challenge and I encourage anyone interested in talking to Ted about ways you can do it too – it doesn't take a huge station or "big gun" antennas – but patience, perseverance and QSL Cards!



## 2012 FIELD DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Field Day is June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012, just about 4 weeks from now. It's time to get planning this year's field day. This will be a topic at the June meeting. Dave, N6DCH committed to chef duty on Saturday night so a traditional "field day feast" is guaranteed. We will be operating 2A with two separate stations, an "extra "Get-On-The-Air" or GOTA station for visitors and we are talking about watching for 6-meter openings as well.

We have been asked to host both a local Boy Scout Troup and a Marine Corp Explorer Post with our station this year. We will be needing lots of hands and everyone's participation to make a successful Field Day 2012!

## KB6NU NOTES FROM DAYTON 2012

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

My Dayton experience started at 3:45 am Thursday morning. That's when I had to get up so that I could make it to the Fairborn Holiday Inn in time for the first session of this year's Four Days in May (FDIM) conference. FDIM is a one-day conference put on by the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (<http://qrparci.org/>) and is a great way to start the "Dayton experience."

This year, we were treated to six very fine presentations. They included talks on using microcontrollers for various projects, software-defined radio, VHF and UHF for QRPers, homebrewing with "hollow state" devices (more commonly known as tubes), using open-source electronic design tools, and operating pedestrian mobile. The two talks that I enjoyed the most were "Hollow State (Thermatron) Homebrewing" by Grayson, TA2ZGE/KJ7UM and "Leveraging Free and Open Source Tools in Homebrewing" by Jason, NT7S.

Friday morning, I got up early again, so that I could make the 7:30am bus to the Hamvention. We arrived about 8:00 am, just as the gates were opening. The first thing that I did was to head to the FAR Circuits tent, which is—as the name implies—at the far end of the flea market. There, I made my first purchases, a board to make a regenerative receiver and one to make an audio breakout box.

The rest of the day was a combination of wandering the aisles of the outdoor flea market, fighting the crowds inside the arena, attending seminars, and meeting people that I know. By the time, 4:30 pm rolled around, I was pretty hot and tired. Temperatures topped 80 degrees, and on the blacktop surface of the flea market, temperatures were undoubtedly higher. I was happy to get on the bus and head back to the hotel.

Saturday, was pretty much the same story, except it was even hotter. The temperature almost hit 90 degrees. I didn't bring any sunscreen, either, so I got a little rosy.

I ran into some people that I knew that had just come down for the day, or perhaps that I'd missed the day before. One guy I ran into at the Ohio Repeater Council booth, pulled out his new Elecraft KX-3 and gave me a quick demo. It's actually quite a cool, little radio. I'm still saving up for a K-3, though.

Around noon, I went to the food court for a slice of pizza and a glass of beer. Seating is catch as catch can, so I shared a table with several other hams. This is great because you get to meet all kinds of different people.

This year, an older gentleman sat down next to me with his beer. We got to chatting, and as it turned out, this was his 55th straight year attending the Dayton Hamvention! He started going before it was even held at Hara Arena, and even after they moved to Hara, they didn't use the entire facility as they do now. I'm really glad that I got to speak with him.

So, what did you buy?

I didn't really go down to Dayton with much of a shopping list. In addition to the PC boards, I did pick up a bunch of other little stuff including some strain reliefs, more clamp-on ferrite cores, a paddle pad from Vibroplex (\$1) to keep the paddle down at the club station from sliding around, and some tube sockets! One of the vendors there had a box of tube sockets that they were selling for a quarter apiece or five for a dollar. I picked out five and paid the lady, and as I was

walking away, I decided that they were such a good deal that I went back and bought five more.

My biggest purchase was NT7S's OpenBeacon QRSS transmitter ([www.etherkit.com](http://www.etherkit.com)). It cost me \$40. It looks like a very nice kit, and I'm hoping to be on 30m QRSS shortly with it. The nice thing about this transmitter is that it has a microcontroller that lets it transmit DFCW and Hellschreiber, in addition to CW. It should be fun to both build and operate.

Too rich for my blood

In other news, both Kenwood and FlexRadio both introduced new radios at Dayton. Perhaps the most buzz was around the Kenwood TS-990. All they were showing was a prototype under a Plexiglass cover. In addition to being incredibly expensive, the radio is huge! I heard someone joke that to produce this radio, Kenwood is going to have to corner the market on buttons and knobs. If you've seen the photo in QST (which was allegedly produced with Photoshop), you'll know what I mean.

The other radio with a bit of buzz is the new FlexRadio FLEX-6000. For the past couple of weeks, the FlexRadio website was proclaiming that this radio was going to be a game changer. Perhaps it is, but at \$6,000+, this radio is out of my league, and too expensive for the majority of radio amateurs. That being the case, I really don't know what all the buzz is about.

I'm sure that the TS-990 and the FLEX-6000 are both great radios, but I think that the law of diminishing returns applies here. At some point, are you really getting \$6,000 or \$12,000 of fun out of the radio? I don't think that I would.

Well, that's it. Another Dayton Hamvention is in the bag. It was a lot of fun, and I'm already looking forward to next year. I've already contacted one of the forum organizers about adding an adult education forum. I think that's something that's both needed and would be popular. I'll just have to make sure to leave enough time to hit the flea market and grab some more tube sockets or coax or whatever.

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When he's not tromping around flea markets, or attending conferences, Dan, KB6NU, writes books about ham radio. His latest, 21 Things to Do After You Get Your Amateur Radio License, is available as an e-book from Amazon, Barnes&Noble, or from his website, <http://www.kb6nu.com/>. You can e-mail him with comments, questions, compliments, or brickbats at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).



**JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>**  
**HAM-CRAM**  
**0815 – 1600 HOURS**  
**DAMERON HOSPITAL ANNEX**  
**Lincoln & Acacia Streets, Stockton**  
**(Across Lincoln St from Dameron Hospital)**

If you are not a volunteer examiner and would like to help out with a HamCram Exam session, you can easily sign-up on the ARRL website <http://www.arrl.org/volunteer-examiners> . Please let your board know if you are a certified volunteer examiner.

Stockton Delta Amateur Radio Club says “Get Your License in One Day”. No tedious preliminary home study. No long, boring once-a-week classes. You attend for just one day, 8:15 AM to 4:00 PM, and you’re done. Thousands of men and women, ages 16 to 90, have quickly succeeded in the past ten years, in over 100 sessions. The success rate has never been less than 90 percent for adults. If you want to bring a younger person -- we have had kids as young as 8 pass -- please contact us before registering them for additional information.

Sign-up at <http://sdarc-eorg.eventbrite.com/>





## A HAM'S CALENDAR

**June 2-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 – MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND 2012** <http://www.nj2bb.org/museum/>

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – Monthly membership meeting of the Stockton-Delta ARC**, Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 Lower Sacramento Rd, Stockton, CA – 7:30PM We will be planning Field Day 2012 and anyone that purchase field day t-shirts should be able to pick them up at the meeting. Please be there as field day is just 9 days after the meeting.

**June 30, 2012 – HamCram & Amateur Radio Study Session** (Dameron Hospital Annex, Stockton, Ca) 0815-1600 hours for Ham Cram. One-day Amateur Radio licensing events – new hams and Tech-to-General-to-Extra upgrades. Testing also available. [www.hamcram.org](http://www.hamcram.org)

**June 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>? - WEED-WACKING SATURDAY** - Folks, we need to take a trip to the repeater site to “whack the weeds” and make sure we are fire safe for the summer. The longer we wait, the taller they get! Grab your GAS POWERED weed-eater and head to the hill. Date TBA

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**Do you have any suggestions, comments or concerns? We want to hear from you. Do you have an idea that we, as a club can all benefit from? Let us hear about it. Do you have any topic for discussion that YOU could and would contribute to the club? We want to hear from YOU! To submit articles for the monthly newsletter, email the editor at [n6lhl@softcom.net](mailto:n6lhl@softcom.net)**

## W6SF CLUB INFORMATION

**MEETINGS:** Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at **7:30pm, at the Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 Lower Sacramento Road, just north of Eight Mile Road.** Members, guests, and people having an interest in Amateur Radio are invited to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM.**

**WEEKLY NET:** Held each Monday evening at 8pm on **147.165+ PL 107.2 Hz** Members and visitors are invited to check in. There is also an unofficial get together on Thursday evenings (except meeting nights) at 7:30pm on **28.457.** Amateurs with the proper license are encouraged to participate.

**CLUB REPEATERS:** Located in the Sierra at 2500 feet, the club repeater covers the southern Sacramento and Northern San Joaquin Valleys. The call sign is W6SF, and can be heard on **147.165+Mhz** with a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. From the same site, the club also operates a 440MHZ repeater at **442.250 +** with a PL of 107.2 Hz.

**CLUB SIMPLEX FX: 147.51 MHz.**

**CLUB WEBSITE:** <http://www.w6sf.org>

### 2012 CLUB OFFICERS:

President:	<b>NZ6Q</b> , John Litz	<a href="mailto:john@litz.com">john@litz.com</a>
Vice President:	<b>WB6NVB</b> , Charlie Johnson	<a href="mailto:wb6nvb@arri.net">wb6nvb@arri.net</a>
Treasurer:	<b>KD6CPA</b> , Peter Hine	<a href="mailto:selkied@earthlink.net">selkied@earthlink.net</a>
Secretary:	<b>W6INP</b> , Eric Chapa	<a href="mailto:perrla1@aol.com">perrla1@aol.com</a>
Member At Large:	<b>N6KZW</b> , Paul Engelman	<a href="mailto:n6kzw@sbcglobal.net">n6kzw@sbcglobal.net</a>
Trustee:	<b>AA6K</b> , Shirl Rose	<a href="mailto:rosesl@prodigy.net">rosesl@prodigy.net</a>
Repeater Trustee:	<b>KD6FVA</b> , John Kester	<a href="mailto:jbkester@att.net">jbkester@att.net</a>
Membership Chairman	<b>open</b>	
Newsletter Editor	<b>open</b>	

**CLUB DUES:** are \$20.00 per year for a single membership & \$30 per year for a family membership - payable to Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club at the address on the masthead. You can also pay your dues using paypal. Contact John, NZ6Q for details. We thank you for your continued support!