

Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



ARRL MEMBER

P.O. BOX 690271

STOCKTON, CA

95269-0271

June, 2013

MAY MEETING NOTES

President Charlie **WB6NVB** opened the meeting at 7pm with thanks to all who attended tonight's meeting at Eddie's Pizza. He congratulated and thanked all the operators who supported the Saturday, May 4 March for Babies and the operators who supported the Sunday, May 5 Delta Century Bike Ride. Those who worked both events were recognized for the extra effort they made.

Dave **N6LHL** is seeking one more operator for the May 19 Avenue of the Vines half marathon run from Woodbridge winery. He and John **NZ6Q** further described the use of APRS for tracking a sag wagon at this event.

Treasurer Peter **KD6CPA** made all aware of upcoming expenses to the club: rent for the repeater site, contribution to the church for our meeting room, annual website charge and our liability insurance bill. He pointed out we have sufficient funds in our account to cover all expected expenses.

Glen **K6KJQ** requested permission to expand the already existing 444.575 repeater through the installation of two additional receivers to be located, one at North Stockton and another in Lodi. This led to a long and convoluted discussion over technical aspects of the project, possible interference with the W6SF voter, and our mutual understanding of the project. Glen pointed out that interference is a non-issue because transmissions would not be sent to the repeater via airwaves, but would be done on a phone line to the repeater. This phone line is already in place. Glen asked for permission to spend \$200 for the crystals. Charlie asked Glen to invite our benefactor to our **June 13** meeting.

Charlie is working to set up an ATV demonstration in July, and an APRS demonstration in August. He further advised all that his DeVries Road wheat field is available for Field Day. (June 22 & 23) However, it is now planted in grapes so there is not room for an 80 meter dipole. A signup sheet for Field Day shirts was sent around.

Tobin **KJ6YVH** asked if anyone is interested in putting on a ham radio demonstration at a local Stockton school. We will discuss it further next month.

Thanking all for attending, the meeting was adjourned.

FOR OUR HF OPERATORS

HF operators may find this site interesting. <http://t.co/Afp6XUScxH>. Tnx to Paul N6KZW.

2013 DUES

. Thanks to the many members who paid up at previous meetings and through PayPal, but now we need all the rest to do their part, and dig out the check book and mail their contributions to:

Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 690271
Stockton, CA 95269-0271

Dues paying are now even easier. You can do so by going to the club website www.w6sf.org, clicking on PayPal, and sending your dues to the treasury electronically. Individual dues are \$20, family dues are \$30

Our next meeting is Thursday, June 13, and Treasurer Peter **KD6CPA** will be pleased to receive your dues in check (preferable) or cash. Again, note that you can now pay your dues through PAYPAL. It has been proposed that in the near future we may be dropping folks from the mailing list who are not supporting the club with their annual contribution.

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

A list of net control operators for the next months from those that indicated an interest in doing this function is:

June 3	N6KZW
June 10	N6LHL
June 17	W6MSU
June 24	NZ6Q
July 1	KJ6SVX

If you have an interest in improving your traffic handling skills and moderating the Monday night net, please contact me at n6lhl@softcom.net. The script to follow is right on the website, and all you need is a pencil and paper to write down names and calls of the members who participate. The more people who participate, the easier it is on every one.

MAY 4 MARCH FOR BABIES WALK

On Saturday morning, May 4th, a picture-perfect day greeted both the March for Babies participants as well as SDARC volunteers who gathered in support of this charity event. This years event was held on the UC Stanislaus Downtown Stockton campus which was formally part of the State Hospital grounds. Fitting a 5K walk-a-thon into an enclosed space without the walkers taking 2 laps posed to be challenging and we received the final route only days before the event.

This proved to be challenging as previous routes had the walk exiting the campus onto California Street and back at Harding Way. This would have required a much larger pool of volunteers to be "eyes and ears" for the event as it exited onto city streets and then back onto the campus. The final route was able to keep the event inside the fence with a number of twists and turns making it a lot of fun. It also perfectly fit the number of volunteers we had committed and allowed us to try some new things.

For primary communication, we decided to test the capabilities of David Coursey's N5FDL repeater on 147.210 (+ PL 114.8) for providing portable coverage in the area. This repeater is located on the Coronado St tower in central Stockton. We also had available Glen, **K6KJQ**'s UHF repeater on 444.325 (+ PL 94.8) as back-up along with 147.570 as simplex. The 147.210 repeater proved to be very reliable and provided excellent HT coverage in the area.

The new venue opened at 8AM and all operators were ready and in place by 0845. Supporting the event were, as Net Control, Eric, **W6INP**; At rest stops Shirl, **AA6K**, Charlie, **WB6NVB**, Dean, **KJ6EML**, Kevin K6KBQ, David N5FDL; John, **NZ6Q** rode the course on his bicycle as "Rover 1" keeping up with the 300 - 400 participants as they weaved their way through the campus to complete the 5K walk. Paul, **N6KZW** walked through the course taking a number of pictures. A hearty THANK YOU to each and every one.

There were not only individual walkers, but also a number of team-walkers representing local businesses, and also families who have or had a child born prematurely. Event Staff were very thankful to have radio operators at each rest stop as their "eyes and ears" and demonstrated their appreciation with T-shirts for each club member as well as complimentary breakfast and lunch - love those chili dogs!

The March of Dimes "Walk for Babies" is held each year as a fundraiser and to promote awareness of the struggles for both families and children who are born pre-maturely or with birth defects. After the walk, there was a very touching program which featured a release of doves to commemorate those premie babies which 'didn't make it' over the last year.

Mark your calendars next year to join the fun - we have already been asked to support next year's event!



Shirl **AA6K**



Dean **KJ6EML**



Kevin **K6KBQ**



David **N5FDL**

MAY 5 DELTA CENTURY

Many thanks to the 9 club members who supported this year's Stockton-Bike Club sponsored Delta Century ride from Lodi to Clarksburg and return. The SBC set up the ride so a biker could ride a 26 mile trip to Thornton and return; a 62 miler to Courtland and Walnut Grove and return, and a 99 mile trip to Clarksburg and Walnut Grove and return. At each rest stop the Stockton-Delta ARC had hams to handle calls for sag wagons, food supplies and keep net control, located at the start/finish line at Jessie's Grove Winery, informed of events on the course.



Charlie **WB6NVB** ran Courtland.



Eric **W6INP** directed at Thornton.



Dave **N6DCH** and Bob **K6DGQ** at Walnut Grove.



Chuck **W6COB** at Clarksburg's Old Sugar Mill.



Net Control John **NZ6Q** and Ed **N6XMA** are joined by Chuck **W6COB** for lunch at Jessie's Grove Winery.

MAY 19 AVENUE OF THE VINES RUN

Sunday, May 19 dawned cool and breezy for the 1000 or so runners who showed up for the annual Avenue for the Vines half marathon and 5K run through the vineyards of Lodi. Members of the Stockton-Delta ARC participated by staffing the 5 water stops along the 13 mile route. W6SF repeater on 147.165 worked well for both mobile and HT users. This event is well staffed by CHP officers, Sheriff's deputies, AMR medical bike team and ambulances. Entry fees paid by the runners benefited the Stockton Emergency Food Bank. Many thanks to club members Randy **K6TVT**, Dave **N6DCH**, Guy **W6MSU**, Eric **W6INP**, John **NZ6Q**, Ed **N6XMA**, Chuck **W6COB** and Dave **N6LHL**.



Runners line up at the Start/Finish line.

About 750 runners leave the Start



Chuck **W6COB** and Ed **N6XMA**



Dave **N6LHL** and John **NZ6Q**

CROSS-BANDING

Cross-banding is the process of receiving on a VHF frequency and retransmitting on a UHF frequency, vice-versa. Most dual band radios have this feature. While reception may be very good on a base station, using a hand-held radio in a structure can be spotty at best. Using the cross-band feature allows you to transmit and receive from a hand-held radio with good results.

This practice is becoming favorable, but with little regard to the rules and consequences. Without caution, it is easy to unknowingly cross-band to either the input, or the output of an active repeater, causing interference. In addition, using a national simplex frequency is highly discouraged. Cross-banding from a repeater, or to a repeater should be approved by the respective org rep.

Example #1 A newly licensed amateur in the Pine Grove area has been cross-banding to the input of 444.325 here in Stockton. The signal strength is extremely poor, but is adequate to activate the repeater, retransmitting 90% noise.

Example #2 During the May 5 SDARC event, someone was cross-banding the event to 446.000, the national calling frequency.

When using this feature, please know exactly what you are doing. There are many seasoned SDARC members, willing to guide you through the proper procedure. Failure to do so could result in an FCC violation.

(Thanks to Glen K6KJQ)

WEED WACKERS NEEDED!

On Saturday, June 15, we will be **Weed wacking** at the repeater site on Red Mule Ridge east of Fiddletown. In order to protect our repeater from a brush fire, we need workers to knockdown weeds on the hillside next to the repeater building. This will require heavy duty weed eaters and such. (Lawn trimmers are not strong enough for this kind of work.) Steve & Sue have always provided a first class hamburger lunch. Contact Dave N6LHL at n6lhl@softcom.net. If you are a repeater system user, here is your chance to show you care for the equipment.



A HAM'S CALENDAR

June 1 & 2 – **Museum Ships Weekend** aboard the USS LUCID, a minesweeper anchored at the Port of Stockton. www.nj2bb.org/museum. OPERATORS ARE NEEDED! Contact Paul N6KZW at n6kzw@sbcglobal.net.

June 13 – Monthly **membership meeting** of the Stockton Delta ARC at Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 Lower Sacramento Road, just north of Eight Mile Road.

June 15 - **VE Testing** at Fire Station #14 on McNabb Street off Thornton Road at 10am. Contact Mike Zane at [N6ZW @ Comcast.net](mailto:N6ZW@Comcast.net) at least 3 days prior to test day. No walk ins!

June 15 – **Weed wacking** at the repeater site above Fiddletown. Wackers are needed with hefty weed and grass cutting equipment. Steve will be providing burgers, hot dogs and soft drinks for lunch. Contact Dave N6LHL at n6lhl@softcom.net .

June 22 & 23 – **Field Day** at the WB6NVB vineyard on DeVries Road, 1/3 mile north of Kingdon Airport.

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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

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 13, 2013**

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 operates a 440MHZ repeater at **442.250 +** with a PL of 107.2 Hz. Locally, the club also operates a **444.575+** repeater with a PL of 107.2 from East Main Street.

CLUB SIMPLEX FX: 147.51 MHz.

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

2013 CLUB OFFICERS:

President:	WB6NVB , Charlie Johnson	wb6nvb@arrl.net
Vice President:	N6KZW , Paul Engelman	n6kzw@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer:	KD6CPA , Peter Hine	selkied@earthlink.net
Secretary:	W6INP , Eric Chapa	perrla1@aol.com
Call Sign Trustee	AA6K , Shirl Rose	rosesl@prodigy.net
Repeater Trustee:	KD6FVA , John Kester	jbkester@att.net
Member At Large:	K6KJQ , Glen Pitts	kjq45@att.net
Membership Chairman	KJ6RGE , Bryan Moulton	b.moulton@sbcglobal.net
Newsletter Editor	N6LHL , Dave Hardwick	n6lhl@softcom.net

CLUB DUES: Individual dues are \$20, family dues are \$30, payable to Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club at the address on the masthead. We thank you for your continued support!

"It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently....Warren Buffet