

Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

WWW.W6SF.ORG

MARCH 2015

Welcome to the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club

OUR 84TH YEAR!

Amateur Radio: The first technology-based social network



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – W6COB

Greetings once again fellow hams,

It looks like this spring is filling up quickly with lots of ham radio activities. I hope we get lots of support for all of these events.

Besides easing the workload, it makes for a more enjoyable day hanging out with your friends.

Can't wait to get back in the swing after my trip! I am definitely looking forward to the first Ham Radio in the Park and bar-b-que!

I have decided to throw my hat in the ring and work on my VE certification. Might take a while with my schedule, but it's always good to lead by example, right? Who else will step up with me this year?

Looks like we have some good presentations and show-n-tell sessions in the upcoming months so be sure to make the meetings when you can.

See you then!

73,

Chuck, W6COB



**APRIL MEETING NOTICE
STOCKTON-DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
THURSDAY APRIL 9TH , 2015
BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH
7:30PM**

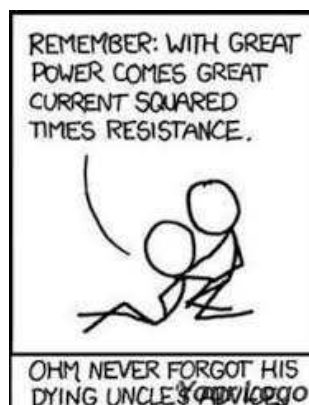
QST QST QST All members and their guests are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club on Thursday, April 9th , 2015. The meeting will be held **at Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 N Lower Sacramento Rd, North of Eight Mile Rd in Stockton.**
The meeting will start at 7:30PM

Jason, KK6OQW from Modesto will present his story on the recovery of the High Altitude Balloon Launch from Berkeley March 15th, which landed near Copperopolis (see track above). This is a great story. Don't miss it!

We will also be planning our first "Ham Radio in the Park"; the March of Dimes Walk-a-thon on May 2nd; the Delta Century on May 3rd. We need everyone to attend and sign-up for these important operating events.

Club Membership dues are still being accepted. Click [HERE](#) if you would like to pay your dues on-line through the club website.

If you are need of transportation to and from the meeting, please contact Paul, N6KZW or John, NZ6Q and we will arrange transportation assistance for you.





MONDAY NIGHT NET CONTROL OPERATOR'S SCHEDULE FOR MARCH – APRIL 2015

The club holds a weekly net every Monday night beginning at 8:00PM on the **W6SF** Repeaters on 147.165Mhz VHF and 444.250Mhz UHF. Club Repeater information is listed at the end of the newsletter.

We need more Net Control Operators! If you would like to volunteer, or you can recruit a new net control operator volunteer, please contact Dave **N6LHL**. This is a great opportunity to improve your operating skill in a “minimal” pressure environment. The Net Control Script is available on the club website at

<http://www.w6sf.org/netcontrolscript.html> .

If you have a conflict, please contact Dave **N6LHL** as soon as possible in order to secure a replacement.

March 2 nd	Guy, W6MSU	April 6 th	Guy, W6MSU
March 9 th	Paul, N6KZW	April 13 th	Paul, N6KZW
March 16 th	Charlie, WB6NVB	April 20 th	Charlie, WB6NVB
March 23 rd	Eric, W6INP	April 27 th	Eric, W6INP
March 30 th	Dave, N6LHL		



STOCKTON-DELTA ARC MEETING REPORT March 12th , 2015

The meeting was held at UJs Restaurant beginning at 6:30PM so the membership could enjoy a meal and fellowship.

Dave **N6LHL** gaveled the meeting to order at about 7:00 PM He welcomed those members in attendance and spoke for a few minutes.

Dave **N6LHL** gave the treasurers report. The club account stands at \$5,451.20. The repeater fund is \$526.00

Joni from the Community Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired read a letter from the center's director thanking the club for their support of their Peddling Paths to Independence Bike Ride this year. She reported that they had a record 420 sign-ups and netted over \$20,000 for the Blind Center.

Dave **N6LHL** reviewed the recent gift to the club and reported that a few items had been sold, netting an additional \$200.00 to the treasury to be deposited. Several of the donated items were on display for club members. John **NZ6Q** and Paul **N6KZW** suggested that rather than sell the equipment, the club might be better served by putting some of the donated equipment to work by creating our own "Net Control Station in a box" to use at our public service events, club meetings and operating activities.

John **NZ6Q** made a motion that the club keep the FT-857 and Icom IC-2820 donated along with power supplies and ancillary equipment to create such a station. Paul **N6KZW** offered to donate a box he had for the project. John estimated that the cost of any additional equipment needed would be more than covered by the sale of the other gear. Shirl **AA6K** asked that the motion be amended to have John and Paul report back at the April meeting with a design that the membership could see and a final budget before agreeing to spend any money on buying new hardware. The motion was amended and carried unanimously.

Several of the clubs upcoming activities were discussed in general.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:37 PDT.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Stockton Bicycle Club Delta Century
Sunday May 3, 2015 0600 - 1500
Lodi, California

The **Stockton Bicycle Club** has requested our support for the **37th Delta Century**—the flattest and fastest 100 miles (or 100 kilometers) anywhere! This year's route is completely different: We'll ride most of the same roads, but in the opposite direction. This will mean new challenges and new opportunities for the club.

There are still three routes - all completely flat and well supported with rest stops and SAG vehicles (that's where we ham operators come in)

The Quarter Century 26 miles of vineyards with a fully stocked rest stop midway.

The Metric Century A delightful 62 mile loop of vineyards, levee roads, rivers and sloughs. And, a ride on the J Mack Ferry!

The Full Century 100 of the flattest miles around. The same loop as the Metric (including the J Mack) with an added loop to the north.

The new route and added traffic from the Highway 12 construction nearby, will add more “ham spotting” assignments and make communication in the SAG vehicles – including APRS for vehicle dispatch – more critical this year.

As in previous years, a delicious post ride meal (served 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) catered by De Vinci's Delicatessen and Catering is included for all volunteers. The Stockton Bicycle Club donates more than 80% of the net proceeds to a variety of local and national worthy charities – including a healthy gift each year to the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club.

Jessie's Grove Winery will have their wines available for tasting and purchase.

Plan to join the fun now. Send an email to John **NZ6Q** or Paul **N6KZW** or (new this year) sign up on the club website at <http://www.w6sf.org/eventvolunteer.html>



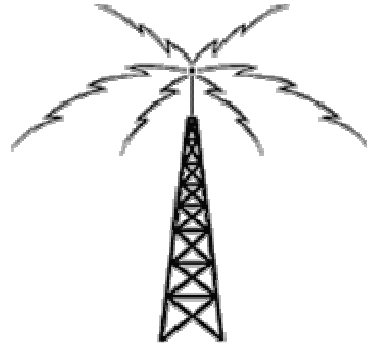
**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS
MARCH OF DIMES WALK FOR BABIES
SATURDAY, MAY 2ND
0800 – 1130**

The March of Dimes has asked for our support with the 2015 March for Babies. We're getting ready to walk in March for Babies! It promises to be a fun day out with people who share our passion for improving the health of babies. This year the route is along the Miracle Mile from UOP to Harding and back.

Join family teams, company teams and people walking with friends for a great cause: making a difference for real families right here in our community.

Plan to join the fun now. Send an email to John **NZ6Q** or Paul **N6KZW** or (new this year) sign up on the club website at <http://www.w6sf.org/eventvolunteer.html>





How to do that HF Thing

Last month, we looked at getting on a repeater and sounding like a fool, or worse creating total havoc. This month, I want to cover three things to help when you are getting on HF. Part of the challenge in HF is it's vastness, and the opportunity for so many operating modes from CW, AM, RTTY, SSB etc, etc etc... This makes it much more difficult to say 'do this, don't do that' like you can when talking about a repeater, 2-Meter or 440 FM or digital voice modes. There are three things I feel when kept in mind can make anyone a good HF operator.

First: "THE AMATEUR'S CODE (Creed)" Common Sense Rules for All of Us Worldwide! The "Amateur's Code" has worked for almost 100 years and works well when used by every ham!

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

*The original Amateur's Code above was written by
Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928 and has had minor word changes since then,
but the meaning remains the same.*

Second: DX CODE OF CONDUCT FOR HAM RADIO OPERATORS

It is no secret that the on-the-air behavior of hams, especially in pileups, has gotten worse in the last few years. Unpleasant, uncivil, impolite behavior of our fellow hams reduces the enjoyment of our hobby. It does not have to be that way nor should it be. Impolite behavior is counter-productive and simply inconsistent with the aim of our hobby, to have fun.

Just as we work to improve our technical skills, we should all aspire to hold ourselves to the highest ethical operating standards.

This DX Code of Conduct is a reminder of the high ideals of which we are all capable.

DX Code of Conduct

(With simple explanations for a better understanding by some)

1. I will listen, and listen, and then listen some more.

Try to refrain from transmitting when you hear another station. Your voice may be among thousands heard at the same time by the DX station. Wait for a pause when you believe the frequency is clear and then try.

2. I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.

Did you copy his call as, XE5JU or was it XE5KU? If you did not hear him clearly, then saying the wrong call sign may not get you the contact without taking up lots of time from others who did copy his call correctly! Listen!

3. I will not trust the cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.

Many DX clusters have wrong or outdated information.... depend only on what you hear from the DX station on the air!

4. I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling him and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.

This could be considered as intentional and malicious interference. If you must tune up on the air, find a quiet frequency nearby....remember, listen, listen, listen before you transmit! Make sure you ID!
QSX: Commonly used on the DX Packet Clusters to indicate where the DX station was listening or contacted during a split operation.

5. I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call him.

Again, listen, listen and wait for him to receive more calls. He will let everyone know he is "ready" for contacts. Most DX stations simply say....."QRZ" when they are ready.

6. I will always send my full call sign.

Does this need an explanation? The DX operator may call for stations by their prefix or suffix, but make sure you identify legally with your full call when it comes time.

7. I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.

The DX operator may be very busy recording log entries and attempting to pull out single calls from hundreds of stations calling him, so give him plenty of time to respond to your call sent only once. Of course you can keep trying, but give others a chance also. Use good common sense!

8. I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.

You may be interfering with the transmissions which is illegal! Don't take that chance! Don't intentionally "double" with any station.

9. I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.

He, the DX station, was unsure of the exact call he heard but only part of it. So if your call or part of it is not like what he is looking for, don't transmit!

10. I will not transmit when the DX station calls other geographic areas other than mine.

The DX station is looking only for other countries, not yours. Don't add to the confusion by transmitting! If he wants your country contacts he will say so!

11. When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.

This is a time saving measure for both him, you and the other stations that want to contact him.

12. I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.

You should be not only thankful, but proud of your DX techniques and your station performance when making contacts outside your countries boundaries!

13. I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

Finally, #3 – Use proper phonetics!

We discourage the use of phonetics on VHF / UHF FM and Digital repeaters because they aren't really necessary. On HF, they are necessary, but we should be using the international standard for all phonetics.

One of the major causes for voice communication errors is the misunderstanding of the spoken word on HF especially when operating under noisy conditions. Using the SSB mode under the assumption that it is a high fidelity mode like FM will surely disappoint you. There are many "accents" to the human voice and being in the sideband mode causes some words at times to be very unclear if the sending station is having technical problems with his microphone or audio circuits in his transceiver or you are operating under high noise levels.

If the other station's audio is extremely distorted, tell him so. He may have his mic gain cranked wide open, compressor full blast or a combination of both causing the background noise in his shack to be as loud as his voice! Or his mic may be causing the problem and he may not know it. Again, let him know that you think he has a problem with his audio.

Ask him to talk "across" his mic with it held close to his mouth rather than directly into it. You will be surprised at how much clearer his voice may sound, and yours, to others using this technique.

Most stock microphones that come with transceivers are designed for "close talking" and not held a foot away! Always try to use the "close talking" and "across" when using voice modes.

Even under the best of conditions, SSB communications can sometimes be hard to understand and if you have a hearing problem, even more so,

.....Enter Phonetics!

Definition: Phonetics - The study of speech sounds.

The Phonetic Alphabet is used to spell out letters in place of just saying the letter itself. By using a word for each letter there is less chance that the person listening will confuse letters. For instance, some letters that can easily be confused are "D" and "B". Using the phonetic alphabet, "Delta" and "Bravo" can be easily understood. The phonetic alphabet is used primarily in two-way radio communications. The effects of noise, weak signals, distorted audio, and radio operator accent are reduced through use of the phonetic alphabet. This system of pronouncing letters is used around the world by maritime units, aircraft, amateur radio operators and the military. This alphabet is recognized by the International Civil Aviation Organization, Federal Aviation Administration, International Telecommunication Union and NATO as the standard for aircraft communications and radio communications.

Many words with certain letters in them or the beginning of them sound much alike when spoken in the presence of noise, and there is plenty of it on HF.

Some examples:

thunder - sounds like under, lightning - sounds like heightening, many - sounds like any, rig - sounds like re, Yaesu - may sound like hayzou, seven like heaven or eleven, eight like hate or ate and on and on.

Using phonetics can help tremendously in the understanding of the more difficult sounding words, numbers, etc.

Here is the Phonetic alphabet and numbers as used in Ham Radio

Letter	Pronunciation	Letter	Pronunciation	Number	Pronunciation
A	Alpha (AL fah)	N	November (no VEM ber)	0	ZEE row
B	Bravo (BRAH VOH)	O	Oscar (OSS cah)	1	WUN
C	Charlie (CHAR lee)	P	Papa (pah PAH)	2	TOO
D	Delta (DELL tah)	Q	Quebec (keh BECK)	3	TREE
E	Echo (ECK oh)	R	Romeo (ROW me oh)	4	FOW er
F	Foxtrot (FOKS trot)	S	Sierra (see AIR rah)	5	FIFE
G	Golf (GOLF)	T	Tango (TANG go)	6	SIX
H	Hotel (hoh TELL)	U	Uniform (YOU nee form)	7	SEVEN
I	India (IN dee ah)	V	Victor (VIK tah)	8	AIT
J	Juliet (JEW lee ETT)	W	Whiskey (WISS key)	9	NINE er
K	Kilo (KEY loh)	X	X Ray (ECKS RAY)		
L	Lima (LEE mah)	Y	Yankee (YANG key)		
M	Mike (MIKE)	Z	Zulu (ZOO loo)		

Note: The syllables printed in capital letters are to be stressed as in the letter "A" , Alpha (AL fah)

Call signs are routinely spelled using phonetics so there is no misunderstanding.

For instance, the call sign X9XX would be pronounced, X RAY NINE er X RAY X RAY

Memorize the table above....you will use it often when getting on HF Voice.

Please try to memorize the standard phonetics above!

They are used by most hams worldwide. Please refrain from making up your own, this gets very confusing with thousands of different phonetics on the air – even more confusing then just using the plain letters themselves.

So, there they are... Three things we can all do to help us become better HF operators!





A HAM'S CALENDAR

April 9th , 2015 – Stockton-Delta ARC Club Meeting – Meeting will be at 7:30PM at Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 N Lower Sacramento Rd, Stockton. Meeting announcement in this issue and on the website.

April 4th – 5th , 2015 – State QSO Parties – Montana, Mississippi, Missouri – State QSO parties are a great time to get hard to work counties or add to your 5-Band Worked All States Award.

April 11th – 12th , 2015 – State QSO Parties – Georgia & New Mexico

April 11th, 2015 – HamCram – 0800 – 1530 Comcast Building, 6505 Tam O Shanter, Stockton – Tell a friend, get your license or upgrade from Tech to General in just one day

April 18th – 19th , 2015 – State QSO Parties – Nebraska, Michigan, North Dakota

April 19th , 2015 – ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB – Rookie Roundup is a contest aimed at Amateurs licensed for 3 years or less. Check out the rules at <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

April 26th , 2015 – Earth Day Celebration / Ham Radio in the Park – Victory Park, Stockton – details at the April club meeting

May 2nd , 2015 – March for Babies – 0800 – 1130 Pacific Ave, Miracle Mile. See the announcement and call for volunteers in this issue.

May 3rd , 2015 – Delta Century Bike Ride – 0600 – 1500 Jessie's Grove Vineyard, Turner Rd, Lodi, CA. See the announcement and call for volunteers in this issue.

May 14th , 2015 – Stockton-Delta ARC Club Meeting – Meeting will be at 7:30PM at Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 N Lower Sacramento Rd, Stockton

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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 john@litz.com



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, April 9th** .

WEEKLY NETS: Held each Monday evening at 2000hrs on **147.165+ PL 107.2 Hz and 442.250 + PL 107.2** Members and visitors are invited to check in. There is also an unofficial get together on Thursday evenings (except meeting night) 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.

The club also operates a UHF repeater located in downtown Stockton **444.575MHz +** with a PL 107.2Hz. Coverage includes the Stockton area as well as parts of Lodi, Manteca, Tracy and Ripon.

CLUB SIMPLEX FX: 147.51 MHz.

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

2015 CLUB OFFICERS & LEADERSHIP:

President:	W6COB , Chuck O'Banion	ncrmc@pacbell.net
Vice President:	WB6NVB , Charlie Johnson	wb6nvb@arrl.net
Treasurer:	N6LHL , David Hardwick	n6lhl@softcom.net
Secretary:	W6INP , Eric Chapa	perrla1@aol.com
Member At Large:	N6KZW , Paul Engleman	n6kzw@sbcglobal.net
Call Sign Trustee:	AA6K , Shirl Rose	rosesl@prodigy.net
Repeater Trustee:	KD6FVA , John Kester	jbkester@att.net
Membership Chairman	open	
Newsletter Editor	NZ6Q , John Litz	john@litz.com

CLUB DUES:

\$20 SINGLE and \$30 FAMILY
Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club, P.O. BOX 690271, STOCKTON, CA 95269-0271

We thank you for your continued support!