

Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club

AN
ARRL



AFFILIATED CLUB

WWW.W6SF.ORG

March 2020

Welcome to the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club

MARCH MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH Meeting starts at 7:00 PM



RADIO FOR THE REST OF US

STOCKTON SAILING CLUB

4980 BUCKLEY COVE RD

**FOLLOW MARCH LANE WEST FROM I-5 AND TURN
INTO THE GATE ON THE LEFT JUST BEFORE YOU
ENTER BUCKLEY COVE PARK**

QST QST QST... The March meeting of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club will be held on Thursday, March 12th starting at 19:00 hours. The meeting will be at our new home – the classroom at the Stockton Sailing Club, 4980 Buckley Cove at the very west end of March Lane west of Interstate 5. When you go through the gate, we are in the very first building on your right. There is lots of parking.

Following the business meeting – we will have our speaker, Alan Thompson W6WN presentation on **Radio For the Rest of Us!**

For years, Amateur Radio Operators have stood ready to use Radio during emergencies like the Camp Fire Disaster in Paradise to help restore communications when normal communications fail. This has worked well to aid First Responders. However, it has become increasingly critical for the average citizen to also have alternative methods to communicate when cell phone and Internet services fail. Getting an Amateur Radio license requires passing a technical exam

beyond the interests or capability of most average citizens. But there are viable radio alternatives that average citizens can use without passing a test or getting a Ham Radio license. Radio For The Rest of Us highlights these cell phone and Internet service vulnerabilities, and how our unconscious over-reliance on cell phones for virtually everything puts us at serious risk. The presentation suggests ways how Amateur Radio Clubs might help "the rest of us;" our families, our friends, and our community, stay safer in the face of cell-phone and Internet service failures.

Tell your friends about this exciting meeting and plan on attending!

STOCKTON-DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES REMAIN JUST \$20 SINGLE AND \$30 FAMILY



The Board recommended no dues increase for 2020. \$20 for a single membership, and \$30 for a family membership - when the family lives under the same roof. Click on the **PayPal icon**, and pay at that point with your credit or debit card.

Joining SDARC is a great value and a great investment in your hobby.

You can also send a check for dues to:

**Stockton-Delta A.R.C.
P.O. Box 690271
Stockton, CA 95269-0271**

Loomis Hamfest 2020 **Saturday, March 21st**

First Swap of the Year - Rain or Shine

Historic Loomis Train Depot
5775 Horseshoe Bar Road, Downtown Loomis

[LEARN MORE](#)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

- Bob, N6TCE

This has been an exciting month.

I was sorry and shocked when I got the call that the tour for the 9-1-1 center had to be canceled due to complete computer failure for several hours. I talked with several dispatchers. When these types of incidences occur, the dispatchers are reduced to keeping track of calls on index cards. With so many cars and officers on patrol at any given moment, it is hard to manage resources properly and efficiently. The dispatchers were swamped, and cancellation was the safest course of action for the good of the department and public at large. We shall reschedule for a later date.

This last weekend saw the culmination of weeks of planning. The Net Control for Pedaling Paths to Independence Bike Ride came up as planned and the event took place without a hitch. Currently, I have one written after report with a suggestion. I would like to see any other written comments and concerns. A short debrief will be held at the March 12th meeting.

We have been offered and we provisionally accepted the opportunity to provide some demonstrations of Amateur Radio for the Stockton Sailing Club annual Opening Day event on April 25. The current line of thinking is setting up a simple HF station with a wire dipole or the club's Spider Beam and a portable VHF station. Any ideas will be welcome. This is less than eight weeks away and we need to make plans and mark the event on your calendar. SDARC committed last year to providing demonstrations at the Lincoln High School's STEAM Expo. This was a great event and we are invited back this year – Saturday, March 21st starting at 9:00 AM. If you have an idea which you think would be exciting to teenagers and would encourage an interest in Technology, contact either John, NZ6Q or myself. We have three tables and this event spans 6 hours. If several of us can be there, it will only need a short hour or so commitment on your part.

Steve, W1SRD, and the South Orkney Island DXpedition have made landfall and some club members have already worked them. I have seen them spotted a few times on FT-8 and CW. Tried but too many Big Guns and my Peanut Whistle station will have to wait until later. Beware there has been at least one pirate sighted, using the call VP8PJ. The Lid was so poor at this, he forgot to change his grid square.

Quick reminder: Clubs dues for the year 2020 are now due. We have managed to hold the line and not raise the dues. The \$20 for single memberships and \$30 for family memberships is a bargain – lower than some of our neighboring clubs. The club has a fixed set of costs, and to meet those costs we need dues paying members. We finished 2019 with about 90 paying members. This surplus allowed the club to buy the new spider beam for events. One of the 1st major purchases in years.

Thanks go to Peter, K6PH, our club Treasurer, for our new meeting place at the Stockton Sailing Club. Our meeting time is moved to 1900 Hrs. The board has received requests to move the stated meeting time from 1930 to 1900 permanently. Many of our older members have voiced a desire to have the meeting earlier in the evenings.

I am looking forward to the next meeting, our speaker will be: Alan, W6WN, Radio for the Rest of Us. How Amateur Radio can interact with non-Amateur Radio operators in an Emergency. Good Stuff!

Bob, N6TCE
President Stockton Delta ARC



MONDAY NIGHT NET CONTROL OPERATOR'S SCHEDULE

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.



If you would like to learn how to be a Net Control Operator, contact one of the club Officers! We will happily mentor you during a Monday night net. This is a great opportunity to improve your operating skill in a "minimal" pressure environment. The Schedule and Net Control Script are 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	Mike K6AAN
March 9	Paul N6KZW
March 16	Bob N6TCE
March 23	Charlie WB6NVB
March 30	John NZ6Q





HAM-U
SATURDAY, MAY 16TH 2019
FIRE STATION #2
110 W SONORA ST, STOCKTON, CA
8:30 AM TO 3:00 PM

The next session of Elmer University, now called "HAM-U" is scheduled for May 16th at Fire Station #2 Training Division. This is where the newcomer begins the journey of discovery and the seasoned veteran

keeps informed of the latest technology in this huge hobby we call Amateur Radio.

Regardless of where we are on our ham radio journey our local radio club is where we find our friends.

The term "Elmer" means someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams. The term first appeared in QST in a March 1971 "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (now also VA3ZBB). Newkirk called them "the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio."



Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club, the Manteca Amateur Radio Club and the Lodi Amateur Radio Club want to help teach new hams how to get started and offer this "personal guidance".

These sessions are an opportunity for the new and experienced ham to discover some of the many opportunities there are in Amateur Radio to "find your world". There are also opportunities just to ask questions and get on the air.

Elmer University starts with a 30 minute "session-overview." This is followed by break-out sessions of various topics such as "Using DMR" "Digital Modes", "Building Go-Boxes", "Morse Code Basics", "Understanding & Building Antennas", "Ham Radio Contesting", "Good Operating Practices" and more depending on the volunteer instructors. The day concludes with a Q&A panel made up of several of the instructors. Attendees may select those sessions which are of most interest to them.

During the day, radio programming help and radio testing will be available to those who want assistance in programming or to check out their radio. Bring your radio.

There is ample parking at the Fire Station but we ask you to be mindful of "no parking" areas especially around the apparatus bay. Elmer University is held in one of the classrooms behind the training ground (mock city street). Register for Elmer University by clicking on the link below.

HAM-U

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH, 2020
FIRE STATION #2
110 W SONORA ST, STOCKTON, CA 95202
8:30 AM TO 3:30 PM



Next HamCram is....

APRIL HAM CRAM
STOCKTON FIRE STATION #2
110 W SONORA ST, STOCKTON
SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH, 2020
DOORS OPEN 7:45 AM ... Sign up
for the next HamCram clicking the link [here](#).



THE WORLD OF S.T.E.A.M
IS COMING TO LINCOLN HIGH
SCHOOL
SATURDAY MARCH 21ST 10:00 AM –
3:00 PM
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF
OUR BOOTH

The Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club is a returning presenter at the Lincoln High School World of STEAM EXPO coming soon on Saturday March 21st.

We will be setting up 2 HF stations running SSB and FT8. We want to have a 2M/440Mhz station set-up, a DMR station set-up, raffle prizes and working with Lodi ARC and the Mount Diablo ARC, we will have a demonstration of Digital Amateur Television.

More will be discussed during the Monday Night Net and at the March Club Meeting. Almost 200 youngsters and their parents visited our booth last year and we got several new licensed hams the following months through the HamCram program.

Please email John NZ6Q that you're available to help out at nz6q@arrl.net



In case you were wondering what the Prime Meridian looks like in Greenwich, England...

This is the point where UTC (formerly called Greenwich Mean Time or GMT) is counted.

Greenwich Mean Time is the mean solar time at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London, reckoned from midnight. Currently 8 hours ahead of us here in California (16:00 PST is 00:00 UTC – the next day).

Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday March 8th - set your clocks forward one hour and 00:00 UTC will start at 5:00 PM here!



N6FRG Calaveras Amateur Radio Society Event

Sunday March 22nd in Valley Springs – looking for volunteers

The Calaveras Amateur Radio Society CARS is looking for a few volunteers to help out at this years Ride & Walk 4 Art.

This will be the 5th annual installment of this popular cycling event at Hogan Reservoir in the Valley Springs Area. This Fundraiser supports the Arts Education in our Calaveras County schools.

A 25 mile-45 mile and new 75-mile bicycle route are offered. Not a cycling enthusiast no problem a 4 mile walk along Hogan is also offered.

Radio coverage is needed along the routes and check points. WB6ASU has offered the use of the Bear Mountain repeater site to aide in our coverage areas. Volunteers are needed and please bring you HT and extra battery. Always dress for weather conditions and bring fluids. Radio Amateurs will be reporting on bike riders passing check points, and calling for assistance when needed for the Riders.

Those interested in volunteering for this event, should contact Ken Sanders via email at ae6la@aol.com



APRIL 24TH – 26TH VISALIA DX CONVENTION IS COMING!

The 71st Annual International DX Convention sponsored by the Southern California DX Club and held at the [Wyndham Hotel](#) (formerly Holiday Inn).

The International DX Convention is the world's foremost DX convention. If you are a DXer or interested in any aspect of ham radio you need to be at Visalia. Top DX operators from around the world will be there. Meet the big guns from the US, Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania. Meet the people on the other side of the mic or key. Shake hands with the person you have had that sked with for the past 10 years. Renew friendships.

Top DXpeditioners from every continent tell you how they did it. Learn the secrets for big signals on the top band, how to have fun and adventures chasing IOTA, contest forum, DX forum, seminars for everyone from the seasoned pro to the beginning DXer. Bring your latest QSL card arrivals for checking. Attend the traditional Saturday night banquet where great friends and good food are met with lively presentations. The Sunday breakfast buffet has ample selection and variety. Visit the manufacturers' midway where you can talk to the people who design and use the latest and best equipment. More info at <http://www.dxconvention.org/>

Community Center for the Blind
& Visually Impaired



PEDALING PATHS TO INDEPENDENCE BIKE RIDE 12TH YEAR BIG SUCCESS!

The Community Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired hosted its 12th annual Pedaling Paths to Independence Century Bicycle Ride in Linden on Saturday February 22nd. The ride is an annual fund raiser to support activities for its San Joaquin County clients. Last year's ride saw nearly 400 participants and raised over \$25,000 for the Community Center. The fundraising count is going on for this year, but we saw almost 300 riders on the course and over 325 registered.

This is one of our biggest operating events and we tested our plans and systems several times. We had some minor issues at the start with APRS tracking of SAG wagons, but John NZ6Q and Dustyn KM6HDY at Net Control figure it out and we had excellent APRS coverage this year. One of the board members for the Delta Century Bike Ride spent some time at Net Control and was very impressed with the APRS map and information.



Brent W6YNO and Sierrah K6WYF as well as Ron KG7OR and Dave WB6TOU provided much needed support and coverage as Riders crossed and recrossed Hwy 26 along the route. We will be looking into providing coverage at the intersection of HWY 4 and Milton Rd next year as well as we were approached by local residents in that area concerned for rider safety. SAG Wagons were busiest along the Milton Rd stretch assisting riders with SAGs into the next rest stop, fixing flats along the roadside and occasionally bringing a rider back to start-finish. One rider at the Farmington Rest Stop was SAG'd back to start-finish and a few minutes later transported by ambulance to a local hospital after being evaluated by EMS and Linden-Peters Fire first responders. (*editors note... just precautionary and at last report Saturday was doing fine in the ER*) For the last 12 years, the Stockton-Delta ARC has provided radio communications between rest stops, the start/finish line and sag wagons.

Our "Central Dispatch" phone number, was used several times by riders needing SAG support but thankfully no emergencies. Using APRS in each of the SAG Wagons, Net Control was able to track the locations of SAGs and 'dispatch' the closest SAG Wagon to the reported break-down or other incident.

Riders and Volunteers enjoyed a tremendous lunch hosted by DeVinci's Deli. Net Control was placed in front of the restaurant on Front Street.

Thank you to the Lodi Amateur Radio Club for the use of their repeaters on Fowler Peak (WB6ASU) and Gopher Ridge (N6GKJ) for the event. Our HWY 26 "watchdogs" used simplex to give each other a heads-up (great idea guys) on riders to help keep that stretch safe. We were able to monitor that at Net Control which tells us that we could potentially try adding ATV camera there in the future.

Bike rides like this one for the CCBVI give us an opportunity to demonstrate the capability of ham radio to others and teach us how to handle radio traffic of varying priority while in the field. We even got press in the Escalon Times! check it out at

www.escalontimes.com/news/vision-impaired-bicyclists-ready-roll-through-countryside/

Thanks to Dave N6LHL for pictures. Thank you ALL who came out and gave up a beautiful Saturday to help this very worthy cause.



Steve AE6SE with SAG Driver Roger Grey



NCS Set-up at DeVinci's in Linden



Mike K6AAN looks on as John NZ6Q activates APRS



Dave N6LHL, Mark W6SXA and Paul KC6RRR

Dayton Hamvention is coming in May!

This year Hamvention will be held May 15, 16 and 17, 2020 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center.

Click [here](#) or on the logo to check out the Hamvention2020 website! Tickets are available now online on the Hamvention website.



2020 CLUB MEETING DATES & PROPOSED TRAININGS

January 9	Annual General Meeting, W1SRD Dulcie Island
February 13.....	Meeting – E911 Center Tour
March 12.....	Meeting – Radio for the Rest of Us Presentation
April 9	Meeting – DMR Basics – Vince KM6IRY
May 14.....	Meeting – Amateur Satellites – Fred K6FVC (tentative)
June 11	Meeting - Field Day Final Prep
July 9	Meeting – TBA
August 13.....	Meeting - T-Hunt/BBQ Potluck – Location TBA
September 10.....	Meeting – TBA
September 26	Club Breakfast Meeting – 9:30 – Location TBA
October 8.....	Meeting - Nominations for Officers 2021
November 12	Meeting - Elections
December 10	Christmas Dinner / Year End Celebration
December 31.....	Cosmic Bowling & Straight Key Night

HamCrams for 2020 – 7:45 AM Fire Station #2

February 8th April 4th August 8th October 10th December 12th

Ham-U Training Day – 8:00 AM Fire Station #2

May 16th 2020 (moved from previously announced date of March 14th)

Club Events 2020

February 22 nd – Pedaling Paths Ride	Devinci's Deli, Linden, CA
March 21 st – STEAMFEST 2020	Lincoln High School, Stockton, CA
March 22 nd – Ride/Walk 4 Art	Valley Springs (Assist N6FRG club)
April 25 th – Stockton Sailing Club Event	Stockton Sailing Club
April – May – Weed-Whacking on the hill	Fiddletown Repeater Site
May 3 rd – Delta Century Ride	Jessie's Grove Winery, Lodi CA
Jun 5 – 7 – Museum Ships Weekend	USS Lucid, Stockton, CA
June 20 – Kids Day	Stockton Libraries
June 27 – 28 – ARRL Field Day	Club Field day Site, Stockton, CA
July 4 – 4 th of July Parade	Downtown Stockton
July 25 th – Stockton Sailing Club Event	Stockton Sailing Club
September 26 – Club Breakfast Meeting	Location TBD
September 26 - Miracle Mile Car Show Event	Miracle Mile
October 3 - 4 – California QSO Party	Club Field Day Site, Stockton, CA
October 16 – 18 – Pacificon 2020	San Ramon Marriott ARRL Convention
November 1 – Giro D' Vino Ride	Woodbridge Winery, Acampo, CA
November 14 – 15 ARRL Sweepstakes Phone	Club Field Day Site, Stockton, CA
November 26 – Run Against Hunger	Waterfront – Downtown, Stockton, CA
December 11 – 13 – ARRL 10M Contest	Club Field Day Site, Stockton, CA



A HAM'S CALENDAR

March 7th – 8th, 2020 – ARRL DX Contest – PHONE – W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

March 12th, 2020 – SDARC March Meeting - 1900 hours, Stockton Sailing Club, 4980 Buckley Cove, off W March Lane – Radio for the Rest of Us Presentation – All members are encouraged to attend. Come check out our new home <http://www.w6sf.org>

March 21st, 2020 – STEAMFEST – 0900 hours, Lincoln High School, 6844 Alexandria PL, Stockton, CA – All members are encouraged to come help out as we exhibit Amateur Radio at this event which draws 2000 – 4000 Students. See details in this Newsletter and at <http://www.w6sf.org>

March 21st, 2020 – 6th Annual Loomis HamFest – 0700 hours, Loomis Railroad Depot, Loomis, CA See details in this Newsletter and at <https://hamfest.weebly.com/>

April 9th, 2020 – SDARC April Meeting - 1900 hours, Stockton Sailing Club, 4980 Buckley Cove, off W March Lane – DMR Basics with Vince, KM6IRY – All members are encouraged to attend. Come check out our new home <http://www.w6sf.org>

April 19th, 2020 – ARRL Rookie Round-up – Rookie Roundup is a contest aimed at Amateurs licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August and December). Rookies can contact anybody, while "Old Timers" make contact with only Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event. <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

April 25th, 2020 – Stockton Sailing Club Opening Day – SDARC will be hosting a booth introducing Amateur Radio with sailing and the Stockton Sailing Club. We should get on the air with HF and VHF / UHF solutions. More details to follow. Peter K6PH

May 3rd, 2020 – Stockton Bicycle Club DELTA CENTURY RIDE – Start/Finish at Jessie's Grove Vineyard, Lodi – 0700 hours to about 1530 hours – More information in the April Newsletter and on the website. <http://www.w6sf.org>

May 14th, 2020 – SDARC March Meeting - 1900 hours, Stockton Sailing Club, 4980 Buckley Cove, off W March Lane – Amateur Satellites – Working the Birds in Space K6FVC – All members are encouraged to attend. Come check out our new home <http://www.w6sf.org>

May 16th, 2020 – HAM-U – 0800 hours, Stockton Fire Station #2, 110 W Sonora St, Stockton, CA - This is a FREE training opportunity for new and seasoned Ham Operators. All members are encouraged to attend. Sign-up on the HamCram page on the W6SF club website <http://www.w6sf.org/hamcram.html>

May 30th, 2020 – USS Lucid Set-Up for MSW – 0900 hours, USS Lucid Museum Ship, Monte Diablo Ave across from Louis Park, Stockton, CA – TENATIVE – Planning and setting up the club HexBeam on top of the ship for MSW the following weekend.

STATE QSO PARTIES – Set a Goal to get WAS in 2020

Idaho	03/14/2020	03/15/2020	Idaho QSO Party
Oklahoma	03/14/2020	03/15/2020	Oklahoma DX Association
Wisconsin	03/15/2020	03/16/2020	West Allis Radio Amateur Club
Virginia	03/21/2020	03/22/2020	Virginia QSO Party
Louisiana	04/04/2020	04/05/2020	Louisiana Contest Club
Mississippi	04/04/2020	04/05/2020	ARRL Mississippi Section
Missouri	04/04/2020	04/05/2020	Boeing Employees' Amateur Radio Society – St. Louis

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.
To submit articles for the monthly newsletter, email N6ACL annettel@westwayfeed.com

W6SF CLUB INFORMATION

MEETINGS: Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month **at the Stockton Sailing Club, 4980 Brookside Cove, Stockton, CA – off March Lane west of Interstate 5.** Members, guests, and people having an interest in Amateur Radio are invited to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 12th at 7:00PM. This meeting is at the Stockton Sailing Club, 4980 Buckley Cove Rd, Stockton, CA** Members and guests are welcome.

WEEKLY NETS: Held each Monday evening at 1900hrs is the **W6SF New Ham/Tech Net** hosted by Paul **N6KZW and Others.** Then at 2000hrs the regular club net starts. **147.165+ PL 107.2 Hz and 442.250 + PL 107.2 are the regular repeaters for these Nets.** Members and visitors are invited to check in. There is also an unofficial get together on Thursday evenings (except meeting night) at 8:00pm **on 28.457MHz.** 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>

2020 CLUB OFFICERS & LEADERSHIP:

President:	N6TCE , Bob Officer	n6tce@arrl.net
Vice President:	W6SXA , Mark Cloud	w6sxa@arrl.net
Treasurer:	K6PH , Peter Hine	selkied@earthlink.net
Secretary:	N6ACL , Annie Lewis-Dopkus	annettel@westwayfeed.com
Member At Large:	NZ6Q , John Litz	john@litz.com
Call Sign Trustee:	WB6NVB , Charlie Johnson	wb6nvb@arrl.net
Repeater Trustee:	NC6R , Steve Allred	nc6r@arrl.net
Membership Chairman	N6ACL , Annie Lewis-Dopkus	annettel@westwayfeed.com
Event Chairman	OPEN	
Newsletter Editor	NZ6Q , John Litz	nz6q@arrl.net

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!