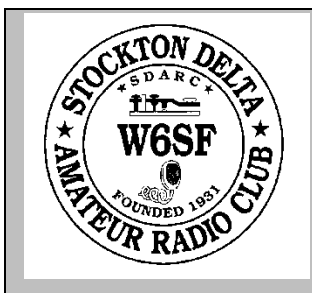


# Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



## W6SF FLYSHEET



ARRL MEMBER

P.O. BOX 690271 STOCKTON, CA 95269-0271

November 2012



### PRESIDENT'S QST

**QST QST QST** - November is here and it's election time! All eyes and ears are on the national and state elections and how the results might shape our fortunes and our future – at least for the next four years.

Work and family commitments the last month have done a good job of keeping me off the air and missing the October Club meeting. I heard that Bob did a great job in his presentation and I'm sorry I missed it.

In a few days, we will be having our own club election. On Thursday, November 6, 2012 we will vote a new slate of club officers to lead the club in 2013. It has been my great privilege to serve as your club president the last two years. We have worked together and accomplished a lot. I hope you are as proud of your club as I am – for the great work we do in the community; for the love of the hobby we share; and for the great people – each and every one of you. I thank you. Our slate of candidates were nominated in the October meeting.

Our next meeting is just around the corner. Let's get started.

73,

John, NZ6Q

### ***W6SF 2012 FIELD DAY RESULTS POSTED ON ARRL WEBSITE***

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	W6SF	1,730	2A	450	2		SJV	26	Stockton-Delta ARC



# **NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE**

## **NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> 7:30pm**

### **2013 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**



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

**QST QST QST** ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS. The November meeting of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club will be held on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012, beginning at 7:30PM.

The meeting will open with a review of club business to date.

We will then call for the vote and the election of officers for 2013 will be held. The candidates are:

President	-	Charlie, WB6NVB
Vice President	-	Paul, N6KZW
	or	Bob, K6DGQ
Treasurer	-	Peter, KD6CPA
Secretary	-	Eric, W6INP
Member at Large	-	Glen, K6KJQ

We will also be discussing and voting on our new bylaws and constitution for the club.

Afterwards, be sure to put in a few bucks for the after meeting raffle and take home a little bit of ham radio treasure. A unique collection of items will be available to compliment any station. Don't miss out on your chance to win some great prizes.

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 to the meeting:

From Stockton – You can now take Lower Sacramento Rd as the new underpass is open between Hammer Lane and Eight Mile Rd. Check it out!

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 church complex in one of the classrooms.



# Get Ready to ShakeOut.

October 18, 2012 Register Now at [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org)



## THE GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKE-OUT DRILL

**OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 10:18AM**

Thank you to everyone who took time out from their work and other responsibilities to check in for a daytime activity. The Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club participated in the Great California Shake-Out Drill on Thursday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 with a directed net starting at about 10:20 AM.

Thanks to Ed, N6XMA, who acted as net-control for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year as we establish a simulated disaster net on the W6SF 2M & 440 repeaters. Club members checked-in at that time, giving their location, disaster status (simulated) and their communication capabilities.

Once again, I was in Fresno for work, but I did manage to check into the Fresno ARES net from our Fresno Office and give a report. The Fresno ARES group had about 10 check-ins. I understand from Ed, N6XMA that we exceeded our count of 14 from last year with 18 or 19 check-ins.

Drills like this, especially one held during the day should serve as the corner-stone in planning for greater emergency preparedness for us all. Consider the ramifications of a real mid-day earthquake. Are you prepared? How would you check-in with a loved one to tell them you're alright if the cellular and wire-line networks both failed? How quickly could you respond to assist others? One of the early reports from "Super Storm" Sandy was that the cell phone network completely failed and that landline phones survived better than their wireless cousins.





## SATURDAY OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> BIKE RIDE EVENT IN TRACY

Ed, N6XMA and I volunteered on Saturday morning October 20<sup>th</sup> for the Wheels for Meals Bicycle Ride between Tracy and Livermore. The Tracy Amateur Radio Club supports a large portion of this ride which spans both sides of the Altamont Pass. LT, KJ6YBF & Tobin, KJ6YBH were also part of this multi-club volunteer effort taking their position near the top of Tesla Pass. Ed and I manned the long straight-away between Patterson Pass and Tracy along Schulte Rd.

This is the fourth year that the Tracy Club has supported the ride.



***W6SF CHRISTMAS DINNER***  
***Marie Calendar's Restaurant – March Lane, Stockton***  
***Thursday December 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM***



## 2012 TURKEY DAY RUN & WALK AGAINST HUNGER NOVEMBER 22, 2012

Join us in supporting the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Run & Walk Against Hunger on Thanksgiving Day morning starting about 6:30AM. The club will be providing communication support for the event which benefits the Stockton/San Joaquin County Emergency Food Bank. The event starts at Stockton Ports Baseball Park and Stockton Arena, with goodies and food provided inside the scenic Stockton Ports Ballpark.

Join 4,000 runners and walkers, burn calories, have a great time on the scenic Stockton waterfront, and help raise money for holiday nutrition programs of the Emergency Food Bank!

### Schedule

8:00 AM, Kids 1/4 Mile Run

8:20 AM, Opening Comments

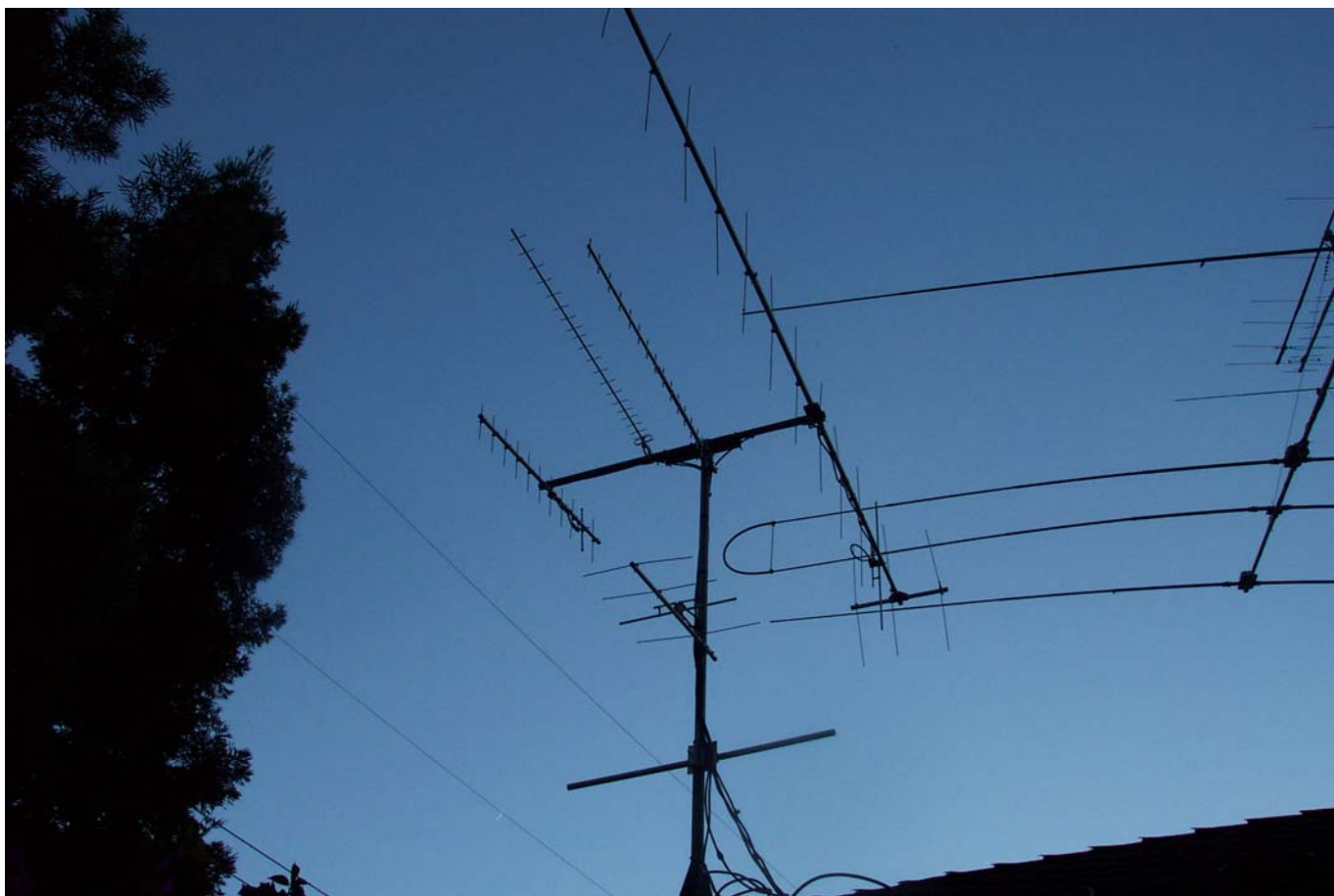
8:30 AM, 5k Run, 5k Walk (Walk not timed), 10k Run

Scenic, flat and fast 5k Run, 5k walk and 10k run begin at the Stockton Ports waterfront Ballpark and proceed along both sides of the Stockton Deepwater Channel past the Weber Point Event Center and out the Deepwater Channel along Weber Street, returning on the same route, finishing by circling the beautiful Stockton Arena, with Finish Line at the Stockton Ports Ballpark. Walkers have their own scenic waterfront course along the promenade.

Contact Paul, N6KZW to sign-up for the event and provide your shirt size. A great "annual volunteer" long sleeve shirt is always a highlight of this event. [n6kzw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n6kzw@sbcglobal.net)



## ANTENNA WORK AT K6XN'S SARATOGA QTH



Ted, K6XN (dateline: Saratoga, CA) writes: When I heard about the bad weather starting early next week I decided it was time to complete a number of long delayed VHF/UHF tower, rotor and antenna projects and delayed maintenance here in Saratoga before I head up to the cabin. I also decided that I want to seriously engage in the upcoming 2013 ARRL January VHF contest from Saratoga.

This past week, for the last three days, I have repaired and replaced sections of rotor cable, installed and repaired VHF and UHF antennas, replaced coax feed-lines, fixed the VHF/UHF Tail Twister rotor, etc. I am one pooped but happy old fart.

So what is the result?

Looking at the attached picture and the VHF/UHF tower on the left there is now mounted and operational the following VHF/UHF antennas:

On the top left is an 11 element 440MHz antenna vertically polarized

Next to it there is 23 element 1296MHz antenna horizontally polarized

Next to the 1296 MHz antenna there is a 17 element 903 MHz antenna vertically polarized

On the right of the 927 MHz antenna there is a 14 element 147 MHz antenna vertically polarized

Below these four antennas there is a 4 element 220MHz horizontally polarized yagi (this is being replaced with an 11 element M2 220 MHz antenna)

Looking at the HF tower and the SteppIR antenna on the right which is 30 feet higher than the VHF/UHF tower:

Above the four element SteppIR antenna there is a 9 element 145 MHz antenna horizontally polarized

Below that there is an 11 element 430 MHz antenna horizontally polarized

And below that the 4 element SteppIR includes among other options the 6 element 54 MHz option for 6M, horizontally polarized

Some assembly was required! Whew!!! I don't want to do this again for a while but these antennas really make a difference when running low power as I will be doing in the upcoming VHF and UHF contests! I will be on six VHF/UHF bands for the 2013 ARRL January VHF contest and only running 10W for example on 1296 MHz and 927.5 MHz and less than 100W on the other four bands. See you guys in the VHF/UHF contests coming up. I hope you will be having as much fun as I will be having running low power but with great antennas from Saratoga !!! J

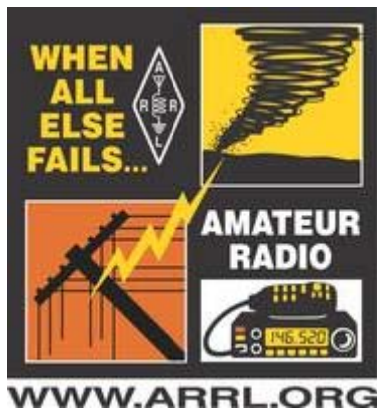
73, Ted, K6XN

***Editor's Note:** The ARRL 2013 January VHF Contest will be held on January 19-21, 2013.*

## OCTOBER "HAM CRAM" NETS 9 NEW HAMS & 2 UPGRADES

David, N5FDL reports that Saturday's HamCram at Dameron Hospital resulted in licensing of nine new hams, and two upgrades to General.

So, who are the new hams? Well, I hope we will meet them at the November club meeting. Glen, K6KJQ continues to spread the word about the hobby and our web presence through [www.hamcram.com](http://www.hamcram.com) is bringing prospective hams from as far away as Merced and the North Bay Area.



## AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES AND DISASTERS

(Reprinted from Electronic Design.com) The second morning after Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast seems like a good time for Electronic Design readers to think about ham radio and emergency response issues.

I got involved in these issues myself when my neighbor, Dave, told me about his experiences after the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989. Dave's a lawyer, so he was down at the Courthouse when the quake struck. At the time, the courthouse and the police station were co-located. The police station had (still has) a ham radio station (HF, VHF, UHF) on the premises. Those were both good things, because what there was of a public safety communications structure in Northern California came down with the quake, and for all anybody knew, so had the overpasses on 101 and I-280, the main north-south corridors. (They hadn't, but were rumored to.)

For the first long hours, the mayor and the police and fire chiefs had no idea what was going on. During that period, Dave, who was part of a trained and drilled ham radio emergency services organization, got on the air, into an emergency net and filled them in.

You're probably thinking: *That was 1989. All they had was spotty Gen-1 cell coverage. Today, the mayor and the chiefs would be communicating on their iPads before the first aftershocks rippled under their feet.* So here's Important Thing #1:

1. *Even today, the infrastructure for cellular communication runs mostly on underground fiber.* Fiber breaks. I know a place around here where, a few years ago, some persons not yet publicly identified, went down some manholes and cut a few fiber links. In the ensuing hours, people in hospitals, ambulance services, police and fire stations, all thought, "Gee, this is a slow night."

Citizens who were calling those emergency-response guys couldn't get through by voice, so they did what? *They texted.*

Texts looked like they were getting through, but they were actually just being buffered in the cell towers. Fortunately, it *was* a slow night. Eventually, hams did play a part in getting things straightened out, but it took most of the night and into the morning. Now, here's Important Thing #2

2. *Ham radio has changed; many citizens' desire to serve in emergency communications is a big part of that.*

When I got my general license in 1960, I had to take a bus and a subway to the Federal Building in downtown New York, demonstrate an ability to send and receive Morse code at 13 words/minute, draw a Hartley oscillator, and calculate some simple resonances and stuff. Today, the code requirement is gone, and most of the questions are about differences among various operating modes and regulations. Most people can sit through a cram course and pass the test the same day.

In my experience, the reason many of them are doing that is to get involved with emergency communications. (Amusingly, some of them also go on to become CW DX-hounds for the sport of it.)

Now here's the *most* important thing.

3. *One can't just get a license, wait for a disaster, and show up.*

You're a liability if you haven't had training. The guy behind the glass at the police station won't give you the time of day. This is not a decision you make and sit on until the stuff hits the fan.

You have to work at it. The best place to start is with Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. That's because it's more important that you and your neighbors work together to secure your home and neighborhood and collect some information about damage and injuries to communicate to the public safety people than that you show up and immediately get cluelessly underfoot. CERT training will also introduce you to the Incident Command System, giving you some idea of what might need to be communicated, and by whom and to whom.

There's a choice of potential organizations. The classic is the Amateur Radio Relay League's (ARRL's) ARES and RACES organizations. They're explained [here](#):

But that's not the only option, and you may find that, in your area, other groups are better organized, or have better leadership, or for whatever reason are more compatible with you. I'm a member of the local ARES group, which has excellent organization and a wide range of practice activities. (For example, you have no idea how challenging it can be to participate in a networking operation until you have been involved in keeping up with all the groups participating in a city Fourth of July parade. Or with a day-long bicycling event for hundreds of participants over a hundred-mile course with sag-wagons, aid stops, lost bikers, and terrain that challenges the use of repeaters.)

Alternatively, in some areas, the Red Cross may be the most interesting group. When one of our communities had a major gas main explode, killing eight people and leveling 35 homes, there was a massive evacuation, and the job of the Red Cross was to manage the task of finding food and shelter for all those people. It was a massive logistics effort that the trained Red Cross hams executed brilliantly.

Locally, we also have a special unit of volunteer communicators who work with the county Sheriff's organization, particularly on Search-and Rescue activities. These are all good alternatives, but you wouldn't have time to work with them all. It's a good idea to look around before you decide where to commit your good intentions...

4. *You will learn useful stuff.*

Quick! What's the most unexpectedly dangerous kind of common vehicle in a highway crash? My CERT trainer, a Sheriff's deputy, says it's a pool-services truck. Mix those chemicals and you can send out a cloud of chlorine gas across a whole neighborhood. That's good to know any time you're out on the freeway.

Maybe more importantly from a ham radio perspective, is that you learn where stuff is. Most of our local hospitals, schools and firehouses, even the manager's office at the local general-aviation airport, have ham antennas, at least for 2-meters and 440-MHz. Where are the antenna drops? The local volunteers know, and without that knowledge, the drops are useless.

Then, what's the drill for getting into the police station? What do you say at the intercom by the door? Once you get in, where's the ham radio equipment? How does it work? How do you run a net with simplex, if that's what's called for? What are the fallback plans when Plan A is a bust? What's it like to "shadow" a politician or an incident commander during an event? There's stuff you learn from being taught and stuff you learn from doing.

If you're reading this blog, you're probably an alpha geek. You may or may not have a ham license, or if you once had one, it may be defunct or out of date. Or you may be young enough to have decided that ham radio is just too "twentieth-century," too much "getting the serum through to Nome" to be relevant. Well, yeah. Until the next time the text messages start backing up in the cell-tower buffers and the freeways are blocked by fallen overpasses. . . *or the subway tunnels are full of seawater.* Give it a thought. You're needed.



**DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> HAM-CRAM**  
**0800 – 1600 HOURS**  
**DAMERON HOSPITAL ANNEX**  
**Lincoln & Acacia Streets, Stockton**  
**(Across Lincoln St from Dameron Hospital)**

If you are not a volunteer examiner, but 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> . **We NEED MORE VEs.**

Tell your friends... No tedious preliminary home study. No long, 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. Just in time to get your license or upgrade before Christmas.

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



## A HAM'S CALENDAR

**November 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> - ARRL November Sweepstakes – Phone** from Nov 17, 2100Z to Nov 19, 0300Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28. Exchange: Serial, category, call, check, ARRL/RAC sec. Logs due: Dec 4 – rules are available at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests> SEE YOU ON THE AIR

**November 22<sup>nd</sup> Turkey Day Run & Walk – 6:30 AM** Operators are needed to support this event with over 4,000 runners participating in 5K, 10K, kids run and 5K walk. Contact Paul, N6KZW to volunteer. [n6kzw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n6kzw@sbcglobal.net)

**November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 2<sup>nd</sup> – ARRL 160 Meter Contest** - Starts 2200 UTC Friday, ends 1600 UTC Sunday (November 30 - December 2, 2012). This is a forty-two hour period with no time limitation. CW only. Rules can be found on the ARRL website at [www.arrl.org/160-meter](http://www.arrl.org/160-meter) .

**December 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> – ARRL 10-Meter Contest** – Second full weekend of December. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday (December 8-9, 2012) Rules can be found on the ARRL website at [www.arrl.org/10-meter](http://www.arrl.org/10-meter) .

**December 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00PM – W6SF Christmas Dinner & Holiday Party** – Marie Calendar's Restaurant, 2628 W March La, Stockton, CA 95207.

**December 15<sup>th</sup> 8:00AM – HAMCRAM** – Dameron Hospital Annex (across the street from the main hospital) Technician & General class licenses. Extra Class testing available. Sign-up at <http://sdarc-eorg.eventbrite.com/>

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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, October 11<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>KJ6RGE</b> , Bryan Moulton	<a href="mailto:b.moulton@sbcglobal.net">b.moulton@sbcglobal.net</a>
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!