Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

WWW.W6SF.ORG

March 2018

Welcome to the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Ham Radio is a place to listen to your favorite bands.... Anonymous



STOCKTON-DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's that time of the year when all members of the club look forward to dipping into what is left of the Christmas fund and write that check to the radio club. Again, as in the past, the club has bills to pay — site and shack rental at the repeater site in Fiddletown, insurance, PO Box, Website costs (when's the last time you checked into www.w6sf.com?), NARCC dues and

church donation – to name some of the larger ones.

At our Annual General Meeting in January, we voted to continue the present level of dues for this year. \$20 for a single membership, and \$30 for a family membership, when the family lives under the same roof. We have a PayPal account, and you may go to the club website, click on the PayPal icon, and pay at that point with your credit or debit card. You can also send a check for dues to:



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

ARRL MEMBERSHIP

The ARRL is our lobbing group and membership is what keeps them active. Since 1914 and Hiram Percy Maxim, the American Radio Relay League has been serving radio enthusiast in the United States and around the world. This is the greatest hobby on earth where we can dig deep into transistors or tubes, wires or resistors, but in the end the goal is communications with other humans whether across town or



around the world. There are only two hobbies in the world that require licensing and testing prior to starting. Can you name them?

Be sure to let our secretary, Eric W6INP know about your ARRL membership status. As an ARRL affiliated club, we are required to report annually on the number of club members who are also ARRL members.

Mark, W6SXA

(Editor's note: ARRL Membership is just \$49.00 per year with discounts for 2 and 3 year terms. Life Membership is \$1225.00 and can be paid in installments over a 2 year period. www.arrl.org)

FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT FEBRUARY 8TH 7:30 PM BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH



The February 2018 meeting was held at the Bear Creek Community Church. The meeting started at 7:30 PM with Vice President Mark **W6SXA** asking for members and guests to introduce themselves by name and callsign.

Treasurer Report: John **NZ6Q** stood in for the Treasurer Paul **KC6RR**who was absent. While he did not have exact numbers for the report, he did remind members that dues are open and those

who have not paid by March 1 will be removed from the roster. There was a discussion and a request to distribute a roster electronically to paid members to include names, addresses and phone numbers. The roster will only be emailed to paid members of the club.

Event Committee: Ed **N6XMA** and Mark **W6SXA** reported that the <u>Pedaling Paths Bike</u> <u>Ride</u> roster was pretty full and an initial assignment list would be emailed to all who signed up after Joni had an opportunity to review and provided us with the final route map.

The <u>Lodi Amateur Radio Club</u> will be hosting a mobile radio Cruise In and swap meet on April 28th at the McDonalds on Lower Sacramento Rd at Kettleman



Lane. This event conflicted with our own club Saturday breakfast meeting. The club voted to move our meeting to a later date to allow members to attend this event.

New Business: Ed **N6XMA** and Mark **W6SXA** reported on their meeting with organizers of a new 4th of July parade in Stockton. The organizers were supposed to be at the club meeting. The club voted to add the event to the event calendar pending more information at the next meeting. John **NZ6Q** reported that Steve **NC6R** had discussed with Paul **KC6RRR** the need for an early strike on the weeds at the repeater site. John **NZ6Q** will get more information from Steve on what he feels is the best course right now from an application of round-up, to weed whacking by club members or hiring a bush-hog driver.





Jim **WB6BET** presented a fun and interesting history of the Phonetic Alphabet. This was followed by Emilia **KI6YYT** and her report on the YL Group **KM6CIR's** Activation of the USS Hornet. Both presentations were very well done.

After the presentation we discussed the YL Group joining the club on the USS Hornet for Museum Ships Weekend.

The meeting concluded at 8:40 PM. Because of the full program, there was no raffle.









MARCH MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT MARCH 8TH 7:30 PM BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

The March 2018 meeting will be held at the Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 N Lower Sacramento Rd, in North Stockton. The meeting will start at 7:30 PM. After a short business meeting agenda, Vince **KM6IRY** will present a 'how to' on DMR – Digital Mobile Radio. DMR is gaining new traction in the Amateur Radio community with the introduction of modest priced interoperable mobiles and HTs from Chinese manufacturers. You should check out this new way of communicating around the world from your HT or mobile. The meeting will conclude with a 50/50 raffle.

Tytera (TYT) MD-380 Single-band 5W HT Available from Amazon for less than \$100 Most common DMR radio in amateur use Modified firmware available (see md380tools) MD-390 also available (waterproofing, GPS) Rebranded by others (Retevis RT3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -

We Are Cool...

As many of you know, I travel a lot for work and typically carry an HT with me in my work backpack. It breaks up the day a little to hear activity on local repeaters and occasionally I get a chance to talk about ham radio, what a great



hobby it is and how much I love what we do and represent. We do a lot on the air as a club that shows this. This last weekend bike ride for the Community Center for the Blind, we helped raise over \$26,000 for programs for the Blind in San Joaquin County – that's pretty cool. And, generally we have lots of fun.

But something is missing – does anyone see any "kids" around our club? Are we getting new hams at any age and keeping their interest like we should? Don't get me wrong, we are doing much better than we were with membership a few short years ago. But are we stuck? Or could we do better?

Is Amateur Radio not cool? Over the past few months, we've talked about introducing Amateur Radio at a Middle School for next year, at the new Senior Center opening soon in Stockton and doing more "cool stuff" with our neighbors in Lodi, Manteca and Modesto. Kid's Day at the Galt Library was cool. Great job Bob **K6DGQ** for coming up with that. Now Bob **K6DGQ**, Mark **W6SXA**, Ron **KG7OR**, Bob **N6TCE** and others want to take that to the next level by doing the next Kids day at Libraries in Lodi, Stockton and Manteca in June. Are we all in to help?

Pretty soon it will be Museum Ships Weekend and Field Day – are we getting the word out?

But what about The Community Center for the Blind? Would they be interested in Amateur Radio? Could we teach a "traditional" Amateur Radio Class at the Blind Center? At the bike ride, lots of people stopped by the Net Control Station and said "thank you for being there" - that was good. A few saw the APRS on the big screen and said, "wow, we didn't know you could do that" and a few took flyers we had placed out – that was better. But only one person stopped to specifically ask HOW to get their license. Time to stop and think. Are we the last practitioners of the hobby? Is Amateur Radio not cool? How do we get more people, especially the younger crowd involved?

All of the call for change at the ARRL, the grumbling about how this guy or that guy uses the repeater won't matter at all if there are no new people. I still hear people bemoan the appliance operator or the HamCram Ham. I welcome him or her! We need to spend some real time encouraging our friends and progeny that Amateur Radio is every bit as cool as text messaging. I feel strongly that giving FT-8, PSK, RTTY and other digital privileges to our newly licensed Technicians on the HF bands furthers that rally cry – This new digital stuff is way cooler than text messaging. DMR is cooler than an internet chat room - oh wait, those are pretty much gone now, so DMR is WAY cooler!. We do a good job spreading the word that "when all else fails, Amateur Radio gets through." But we need to put our best foot forward at bike rides, parades, fund raisers, etc., to show not only our peers, but also our children & grandchildren, that radio is not only important, but it's fun as well. Do you have APRS or Echolink on your phone? They are free apps – why not?



Amateur Radio is an important part of our lives and the lives of our communities. We are more than just antennas and old guys in the basement. We give more than we take and are happy to serve when called upon. Radiosport (contesting) is home to the biggest games in the world – don't believe that? Get on the Air March 24th and 25th and hear the stations from around the world playing that game – some to the tune of millions of points. (CQ Worldwide Prefix Exchange) We play with more technology than most people know exists and we make it fun. And Above it all, we are cool.

73...

John, NZ6Q



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 5 Eric W6INP March 12 Dave N6LHL March 19 Ron KG6OR March 26 Mike K6AAN

ARRL KIDS DAY SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH PICTURES FROM THE K6DGQ EVENT AT THE GALT PUBLIC LIBRARY















Thanks to Dan & Ron for their pictures from this cool event.

Pedaling Paths to Independence Bike Ride Saturday, February 24th 0700 – 1500

The 2018 Pedaling Paths to Independence Bike Ride benefiting the Community Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired was held on Saturday, February 24th in the in Linden and the surrounding foothills of Eastern San Joaquin and Western Calaveras counties.



We arrived to set up Net Control at the start-finish line in front of Davinci's Deli in Linden at 0700 hours. Operators starting checking in from Rest Stops in Farmington, Milton and Bellota as early as 0830. This year we used the **WB6ASU** repeater (147.090Mhz +PL 114.8) located on Fowler Peak in Western Calaveras County. The repeater worked flawlessly across the entire course. APRS coverage for SAG vehicles was on the 144.390 MHz APRS channel with NCS connecting APRS at Net Control using an xFinity HotSpot in downtown Linden.

The Net went live at 8:00 AM.

Mark **W6SXA** took the majority of the on-air traffic while John **NZ6Q** set-up and monitored APRS units. The use of the big desk monitor for APRS not only made seeing everyone easier but also became a great demonstration piece.

Jeff **KK6VXB** shadowed Joni throughout the day as her radio operator. No easy task. Many hands make light work as Dan **N6ZDH**, Mike **K6AAN**, Ed **N6XMA**, Paul **N6KZW** and others assisted in the set-

up and break down of the NCS before being

dispatched to their various duties.

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SAG wagons were staffed with Amateur Radio Operators and APRS for real-time position reporting along the course. This along with the hotline number 910-SAG0 was a very effective tool in 'dispatching' SAG resources to the needy as quickly as possible. Fortunately, there were no major incidents - just a few malfunctions and minor scrapes. Thank you to Ed N6XMA, Mike K6AAN, Todd KM6EPL, Gayle and Cecil KK6RAO & KK6QXQ (manning their own SAG-4 together), Dustynn KM6HDY and Randy K6TVT for manning support vehicles.

Rest stops were fully manned as well. A course change also led to the decision to add radio operators at both ends of the new route. Paul **KC6RRR** and Charlie WB6NVB were busy this year at Farmington. Eric **W6INP** and Jamison AJ6AP were at the Milton stop. Jamison used the flashing lights on his Volt to help direct riders from the main road to the rest stop. Bob **N6TCE**, Lucky KM6OYV and Karen **K6KSO** manned the Shelton Rd-Bellota stop.

Bob K6DGQ, along with Dave N6LHL took up a newly created post along Milton Rd where the new route took riders onto a private road called Ameil Rd. A few riders opted past this and took the old route along Hwy 26 where we have lost riders in past years, but most riders followed the arrows and direction and took the new route. On the other side of this hill was Ron KG7OR and Bob KM6ONS both "newbies" to the PPIB ride. Judging by reports and a few pictures it looks like they had a good time shepherding bicycles back onto the route.













Lessons learned? We should have a better invitation for interested bike riders to get their licenses, HamCram and join the club. We had some information about ham radio available, but nothing driving folks to come join us. APRS - we need to improve our APRS reliability and get connected without the internet link. More Training - more net control operators and training on emergency communications.

Joni from the Community Center for the Blind expressed her sincere gratitude for our help again this year "couldn't do it without SDARC" and reported since the event that donations topped \$24,000 to support programs at the Community Center for the Blind in 2018. When asked if she would be back next year, she said "we'll see".



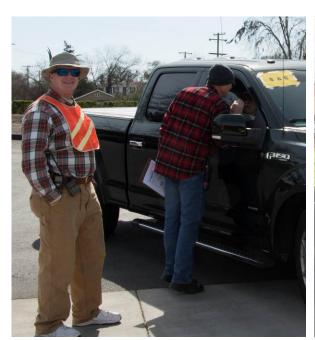
Many thanks to everyone who gave up their Saturday and helped out with this great event. The day would not have been complete without lunch catered by Davinici's Deli. As in years past, the food was excellent! The influx of 'last minute' registrations (almost 100) didn't seem to put a strain on the food until there very end. Net Control tear down was started after about 3:30 when the last two riders left the Shelton-Bellota rest stop headed back to Linden. We were wrapped up and ready to secure upon their arrival in Linden at about 4:30 PM.





Community Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired







Thanks to Dan N6ZDH for the great pictures!





STOCKTON-DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MARCH 8, 2018 MEETING 7:30 PM AGENDA

- Introductions, Vice-President Mark W6SXA
- Financial Report, Treasurer Paul, KC6RRR
- Standing Committee Reports, John NZ6Q
 - a. Membership Annie N6ACL
 - b. Event / Training Ed N6XMA
 - i. 4th of July Parade
 - ii. Report on PPIB
 - iii. March of Dimes Walk
 - iv. Elmer University
- New Business
- Training & Betterment –

Vince - KM6IVR

Digital Mobile Radio Premier

• Adjournment / Raffle



PPIB Ride - Milton Rest Stop

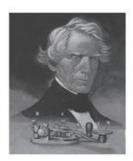
Photo by Dan, N6ZDH



The 69th Annual International DX Convention sponsored by the Southern California DX Club and held at the <u>Visalia Convention Center</u>.

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.

Don't forget your YL! We have planned another great <u>Saturday Tour</u>. Bring the kids, there is even a prize for the youngest ham at the convention.



W6SFM

Samuel F. Morse Amateur Radio Club (SFMARC) Sacramento, CA



The W6SFM CW Beginners course will be 10 weeks long held once a week for 2 hours (7PM until 9PM-ish) each Wednesday evening in Carmichael. If you, your club members, or someone you know are interested in taking our CW class we encourage you to sign up **NOW**. This class is made available to EVERYONE that wants to take it. You do NOT need to be a licensed operator to join our class. We have locked a start date for the class, we will begin Wednesday evening **April 4th** (Ending June 6th).

Everyone can benefit from this course! For those with no Morse Code knowledge this is an excellent course where you or your friends will be taught the complete International Morse Code alphabet, numbers, pro-signs, how to adjust and send on a Morse Code straight key and more interesting general information than one brain can store! The goal of our course is to have all students up to speed around week 6, and on the air! This is also a great opportunity for those of you who may have already taken our course before. This class offers a chance for returning students to brush up on their code, increase their speed, build on-air confidence and get a better understanding of the 'pro-signs' that CW radio ops use on-air.

The CW class is \$50 for new members, and only \$20 for returning members who bring their previously supplied Morse Key and Oscillator. As always, as a new student you will receive a **FREE**Morse Code straight key and a Code Oscillator to keep at the completion of the course. These items are worth more than \$40 by themselves.

Now for the important part... This is a **FIRST COME FIRST SERVE** COURSE! We will Limit the amount of students who are able to take this course. Therefore it is very important that you make your payment AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to secure your seat in this class. We do not take walk-ins at the door.

To make payment by check you must FIRST send an email to admin@w6sfm.com to indicate that you are interested and you are going to make your payment. We will hold your seat for 7 days from your email while we await your payment to come:

If you prefer, you may also pay via PayPal or Credit Card. PayPal and CC payments will be charged an extra \$2.00 for credit card processing fees. If you would like to make your payment this way please send an email to admin@w6sfm.com to request an electronic payment you can make on-line.

If you have ANY questions please do not hesitate to email us back at your convenience. Thank you and we hope to see you at our next class! 73,

Michael, N6MQL SFM ARC Club President



ELMER UNIVERSITY SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH, 2018

Elmer University is coming up on Saturday March 17th. We have two classrooms and instruction this year in two tracks – Novice/Operational and Technology. Now is your chance to sign-up for this FREE program that every ham – from beginner to Extra Class can get something from.

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 have come together to help teach new hams how to get started and offer this "personal guidance".

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

The class is structured with a 50 minute "classroom" session in the morning, 4 50-minute break-out sessions follow for the morning; lunch for an hour, then 4 50-minute break-out sessions in the afternoon. Students can pick two sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon. Break-out sessions include: Setting up an HF station, Intro to CW, digital modes, NTS, Operating, Picking your Radio Club, Programming and using HTs, Principles of Radio Frequency radiation, Using Anderson Power poles, building simple antennas and antenna theory, contesting, chasing DX, Intro to Morse Code and HF operating.



SIGN UP FOR **ELMERING SESSIONS HERE**.

THEY ARE FREE

STOCKTON FIRE STATION #2
TRAINING DIVISION CLASSROOM
110 W SONORA ST
STOCKTON, CA 95202
(CORNER OF W SONORA ST/COMMERCE ST)
STARTING AT 8:00 AM

Saturday March 17th, 2018



Lodi ARC Mobile Roundup Saturday, April 28th, 2017, 8 am to 10 am McDonald's parking lot - Wal-Mart 1613 Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi

GPS 38.113309 121.306483

Talk in; 147.090 Mhz, +600 khz offset, PL is 114.8 Hz.



All mobiles are encouraged; HF & VHF installations.

Anyone can attend, so hams that haven't installed a radio/antenna in their vehicle can get ideas on how to do it. No club affiliation is required.

Please make sure your vehicle is clean; inside and out. You will be representing the ham radio hobby. If you have a name badge or call sign hat, please wear them.

<u>Mobiles</u>; please park next to the fence on the south side of the lot. Let's keep all mobiles parked together, so we don't impact regular customers at McDonald's.

Non mobiles; please park on the Wal-Mart portion of the lot, just west of the McDonald's lot.

You are <u>not</u> committed to the entire 2 hour period and can leave anytime you want. This is a no fee, rain or shine event.

Each mobile is encouraged to put an 8"x10" paper in their side window with the antenna(s) manufacture(s) and radio(s) in and on the car. If the vehicle has a HF

installation, we encourage the ham to also post a list of all DXCC countries and USA states worked mobile.

Everyone can get a drink and/or a carry out breakfast sandwich/burrito at McDonald's and stroll back to the vehicles. We encourage everyone to patronize McDonald's. There are bathrooms at both McDonald's and Wal-Mart, if you need one.





AMATEUR RADIO



A HAM'S CALENDAR

March 3rd – 11th, 2018 – Novice Rig round-up – On the Air The old rigs come to life. See details at www.novicerigroundup.com

March 8th, 2018 – W6SF CLUB MEETING – Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 N Lower Sacramento Rd, North of 8 Mile Rd – 19:30 Hours Regular Meeting, Training Program on DMR – Don't miss it.

March 17th, 2018 – Elmer University – 0800 Fire Station #2, 110 W Sonora St, Stockton. Get details in this issue of the newsletter or at http://www.w6sf.org/hamcram.html

March 25th – 26th, 2017 – CQWW WPX Contest SSB (starts 0000UTC on Saturday March 25th which is 4:00PM Friday PST) – The biggest contest on HF, every station can work each other and your prefix counts as a multiplier. Info: http://www.cqwpx.com

April 12th, 2018 – W6SF CLUB MEETING – Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 N Lower Sacramento Rd, North of 8 Mile Rd – 19:30 Hours Regular Meeting, Training Program TBA – Don't miss out.

April 14th, 2018 – HamCram – 0800 Fire Station #2, 110 W Sonora St, Stockton.

April 21st, 2018 – March for Moms & Babies – Caldwell Park, Pacific Ave/Alpine Ave near UOP – 8:00 AM Registration opens and set-up – Public Service EVENT will need operators. Come to the March and April meetings for more information. Sign-up on the Event Volunteer page on the W6SF website.

April 28th, 2018 – Lodi ARC 'Cruise In' Mobile Rig show-off – Lower Sacramento Rd at Kettleman Lane McDonald's in Lodi - 8:00 AM Information in this month's Flysheet newsletter.

May 6th, 2018 – Delta Century Bike Ride Event – Jessie's Grove Vineyard Start/Finish - 6:00 AM Information coming soon.

May 10th, 2018 – W6SF CLUB MEETING – Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 N Lower Sacramento Rd, North of 8 Mile Rd – 19:30 Hours Regular Meeting, Training Program TBA

W6SF CLUB INFORMATION

MEETINGS: Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 Lower Sacramento Road, just north or Eight Mile Road. Members, guests, and people having an interest in Amateur Radio are invited to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Mach 8th 2018 STARTING AT 7:30 PM at the Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 N Lower Sacramento Rd in Stockton. Members and guests are welcome.

WEEKLY NETS: Held each Monday evening at 1900hrs is the W6SF Digital Net hosted by Paul N6KZW. Then at 2000hrs the regular club net starts. Both are 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 28.457MHz. 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

2017 CLUB OFFICERS & LEADERSHIP:

President: **NZ6Q**, John Litz iohn@litz.com Vice President: W6SXA, Mark Cloud w6sxa@arrl.net Treasurer: KC6RRR. Paul Croci kc6rrr@vahoo.com W6INP, Eric Chapa perrla1@aol.com Secretary: N6TCE, Bob Officer Member At Large: n6tce@arrl.net Call Sign Trustee: wb6nvb@arrl.net WB6NVB, Charlie Johnson

Repeater Trustee: K6SCA, Steve Allred k6sca@arrl.net

Membership Chairman N6ACL, Annie Lewis-Dopkus annettel@westwayfeed.com

Event Chairman N6XMA, Ed Stevens n6xma@comcast.net

Newsletter EditorNZ6Q, John Litzjohn@litz.comWebmasterW6SXA, Mark Cloudw6sxa@arrl.net

CLUB DUES:

\$20 SINGLE and \$30 FAMILY (REDUCED TO \$10 AND \$15 JULY THRU DECEMBER) Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club, P.O. BOX 690271, STOCKTON, CA 95269-0271

We thank you for your continued support!