

Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

WWW.W6SF.ORG

AUGUST 2015

Welcome to the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club

WELCOME MEMBERS & GUESTS

Amateur Radio gives you 2 Million friends... here are some of them!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – W6COB



August is here. Hot August nights in Reno (August 6th – 8th), August Car Show at Lincoln Center on Friday August 21st, Summer Vacations, and of course there is plenty of ham radio.

If you missed the MLDXCC meeting on Saturday July 25th, you missed a treat. I'm not talking about the lunch, but the fellowship and the presentation. John Miller, K6MM gave a fascinating report on the K1N Navassa Isl DXpedition earlier this year. What an amazing story and accomplishment. If you get a chance to see John at another club meeting share this presentation, it's worth it. Congratulations to Steve K6SCA for his award presented by the MLDXCC

Club.

Thank you to all the club members who made it up to the repeater site and took care of the weeds making the repeater that much safer from what could be a very dangerous fire season this fall.

Speaking of fire season - Are you prepared? GOTA Kit? Portable antenna? Battery power? Do you carry your HT with you when you are on the road? Are you keeping track of new local repeaters and making sure that the county-wide frequency plan is programmed in your VHF/UHF radios? Answering NO to any or all of these questions might be a good reason to sign up for and attend the Elmering session on Saturday August 8th, 10AM at Comcast at 6505 Tam O'Shanter Dr., Stockton.

73,

Chuck, W6COB



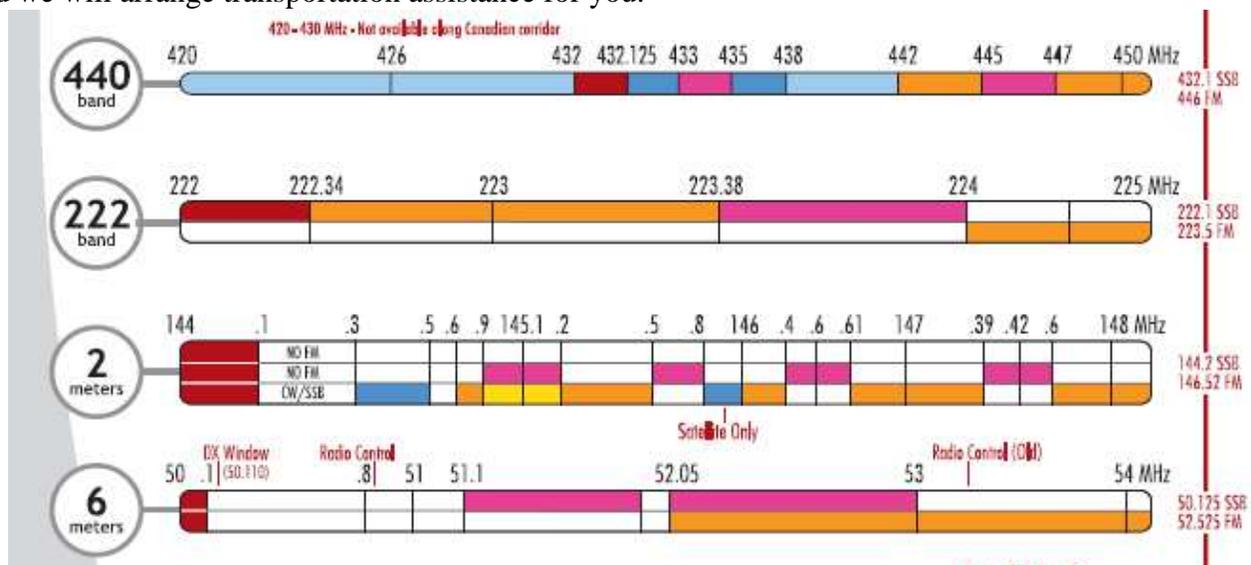
AUGUST MEETING NOTICE
STOCKTON-DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
THURSDAY AUGUST 13TH , 2015
BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH
7:00 PM

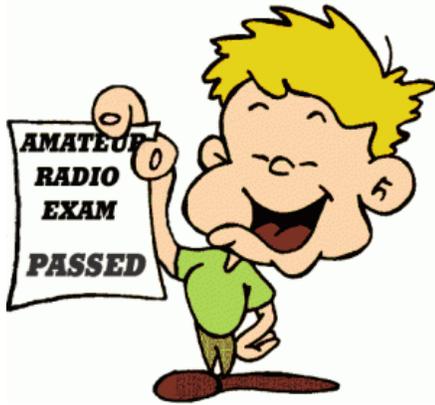
QST QST QST All members and their guests are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club on **THURSDAY AUGUST 13TH , 2015**. The meeting will be held **at Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 N Lower Sacramento Rd, North of Eight Mile Rd in Stockton.**

The meeting will start at 7:00PM with Pizza and drinks served on the Patio

We will be practicing “Fox Hunting” with demonstrations from Mike Sacula, K6MDS. If you have a portable Radio Direction Finding (RDF) or Geo-caching set-up, please bring it with you and share with your fellow club members what works for you.

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.





**AUGUST HAM CRAM
STOCKTON-DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MANTECA RADIO CLUB
LODI RADIO CLUB
SATURDAY AUGUST 8TH, 2015
DOORS OPEN 8:00 AM**

“Get Your License in a Saturday” is the perfect solution to getting your ham radio license in today’s busy world. No tedious preliminary home study. No long, boring once-a-week classes. You attend for just one day, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and you’re done.

Thousands of men and women, aged 16 to 90, have succeeded in getting their Amateur Radio license this way. HamCram is not a class. It is guided study — six 50-minute reading sessions with 10-minute breaks and a 60-minute break for lunch. The FCC exam is given at the end of the day.

Testing-Only Also Available

The FCC exam session at 3 PM is open to the public. We administer all levels of amateur radio exams: Technician, General, and Extra class. One need not attend the HamCram just to take an exam. The cost for the exam-only is the officially-prescribed fee of \$15.00. If you’ve paid to attend the HamCram, the exam fee is included.

[Ham Cram Saturday August 8, 2015 Sign up HERE](#)

**THE ELMER SESSION – FOR NEW HAMS
SATURDAY AUGUST 8TH, 2015
DOORS OPEN 10:00 AM**

The local radio club is where the newcomer begins the journey of discovery and the seasoned veteran keeps informed of the latest technology. 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 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 how to purchase and / or program their first radio, to 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.

Elmering sessions run concurrent with our HamCram testing sessions so that new hams, who got their license at a previous session can come back and learn the basics of the hobby from patient Elmers in each club. the class is structured with a 2 hour "classroom" session in the morning, break for lunch and 1 hour "on the air" in the afternoon using new HTs, VHF/UHF Mobile radios and mobile HF radios.

[SIGN UP FOR ELMERING SESSIONS HERE.](#)



JULY CLUB MEETING REPORT

July 9th, 2015 7:30PM
Bear Creek Community Church

The July club meeting was held at the Bear Creek Community Church on July 9th beginning at 7:30PM. President Chuck W6COB called the meeting to order.

The treasurer reported that the bills were all paid except for a few stragglers and that the club

finances were as healthy as they were last month. The editor apologizes as his notes on the subject were not complete.

Reports were given on the club participation in Field Day and Museum Ships weekend.

Paul **N6KZW** presented a very nice award the club was given by the organizers of MSW. While there were a few bumps in set-up, everyone agreed that this was a great operating event for the club. One of the highlights were the Scouts who toured the ship and got to talk on the radio with Ted **K6XN** who was himself an Eagle Scout.

Field reports were chaired by Charlie **WB6NVB** who stated that the efforts at Field Day went extremely well. Both radios were set up quickly and operated flawlessly for the entire weekend. Log books were still being compiled at the time of the meeting so an exact QSO count was not available.

Shirl **AA6K** gave a very interesting presentation on the art of QSL Cards and passed out a number of representative samples from his collection over the years. This was an excellent presentation enjoyed by all. The meeting adjourned at about 8:45 PM





WEED WHACKING DAY SATURDAY AUGUST 1ST

Every year in recent history, club members have convoyed up to Red Mule Ridge to attack the weeds that grow on the steep hillside below our repeater site. Usually we do this in the April – springtime - cool weather when the weeds are green. However, this was an unusual year. Because of the drought, weeds were sparse in April. May, June and July crews could not be assembled because of family and club commitments.

After the few small rains we had this spring, the weeds took off and by the time we finally got our act together on August 1, the thistles were 6 and 7 feet high.

We had 9 volunteers report for duty, plus site owners Steve **K6SCA** and wife, Sue, **K6SZQ**. Paul **KC6RRR**, Eric **W6INP**, John **KD6FVA**, Dave **KD6SVF**, Charlie **WB6NVB**, Paul **N6KZW**, Cecil **KK6QXQ** and spouse Gayle **KK6RAO**, and Dave **N6LHL**. Starting in the cool of 9AM, we had 5 whacking machines going full time. When someone needed a break, we had personnel to jump in and keep on cutting. After about 2 hours of dust, stickers, heat and perspiration all was done, and our hillside was clean and much safer from this years pending fire season danger.





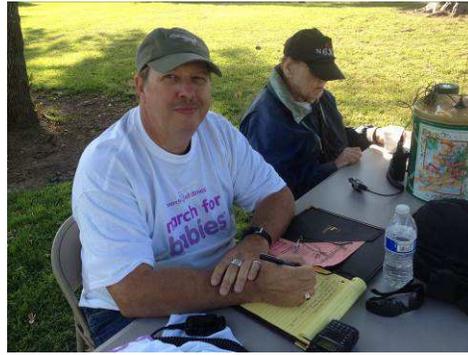
Then came the really good part – Steve, **K6SCA** manned the barbeque, cooking up hamburgers, hot dogs and brats to feed this hungry weed-whacking corp. Sue **K6SZQ** and Gayle **KK6RAO** wrestled up beans, sauerkraut, tomatoes, spam & macaroni salad, several beverages and a host of condiments. No one lost any time digging in and eating our fill.



I also noted Steve **K6SCA** and John **KD6FVA** spent some time in the heat of the repeater shed. They feverishly worked setting the **W6SF 440MHz** repeater right after its performance dropped off in recent weeks. It sounds a heck of a lot better now!

So, here is hoping for a wet winter, and a cool April, and we'll see you next year! *73 de N6LHL*





MONDAY NIGHT NET CONTROL OPERATOR'S SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 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, 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.

August 3 rd	Charlie, WB6NVB	September 7 th	Charlie, WB6NVB
August 10 th	Eric, W6INP	September 14 th	Eric, W6INP
August 17 th	Dave, N6LHL	September 21 st	Dave, N6LHL
August 24 th	Guy, W6MSU	September 28 th	Guy, W6MSU
August 31 st	Paul, N6KZW	October 5 th	Paul, N6KZW



March of Dimes T-Shirts

will be at the August Club Meeting
For pick-up if you did not get yours...



ARRL FIELD DAY JUNE 27TH & 28TH, 2015

Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – and ALL about FUN

We put together Field Day in record time, had a great event and a whole lot of fun. Saturday morning saw the antenna's going up at the DeVries Rd Field Day Site... Two stations on battery / portable power were put on the air.

Operators came and went throughout the day and made a steady stream of contacts while enjoying good company, good radio and good fun. There were plenty of refreshments on hand.

If you didn't get a chance to sit and operate the club's "radio in a box" FT-857D, you missed out. I got to spend some time with this mini marvel on 40M SSB and 80M CW after dark. Let me tell you, it does perform. It does sound nice. Paul **N6KZW** has done a great job assembling this station. This is going to be a real asset to the club. Dave **N6DCH** loaned us his FT-950 and it saw plenty of use on 20, 15 and 10 Meters. Ed **N6XMAS** tables and chairs were a big help here and at Museum Ships Weekend.

Your editor was asked by Ismael **KJ6LVY** (who is blind) if I would take him up to the SARA Club Field Day site near Lake Alpine. We left early on Saturday for the 2 hour drive up the mountain and I was glad to spend some time with my friend and get out to see some different field day operations. On our way, the "contest" began and we managed a dozen or so 40-Meter contacts each trading the microphone back n forth operating 1B. One of those contacts was the **W6DOJ** station at Remington Hill (Thanks, Bob **K6ON** for the QSL Cards)



We visited the SARA Club Site for a couple of hours and while Ismael visited, I walked around to the different operations in their 9A effort. As typical, there was as much “fellowshipping” as there was “operating” especial with visitors roaming through the operation – but that is part of a good Field Day. We were also treated to a Lockford Sausage lunch compliments of Bill **AE6J** and they were fantastic.



After taking Ismael home, I visited the Manteca Club **K6MAN** Field Day Site at Ripon Fire Station #2 on Murphy Rd. So here was a different operation at I believe 3F. The 20 Meter station was in the county EOC trailer in the back lot. They recently added a 50ft Pneumatic tube mast to the Command Trailer and it was adorned with a home brew 2-element Yagi designed by Mike **K6MDS**. The operators inside were very busy.



On the outside Bob **N6TCE** had his motorhome set up on the north side of the fire station and was running the 40-Meter station using an extended zepp dipole. Gary **WA6UXA** had set up a portable tower and 15-Meter beam on the south side using his pick-up truck for the base.



While there are lots of Field Day set-ups, I had hoped to go by the Lodi club site on Sunday morning but never made it, it’s very satisfying – big or small – to operate Field Day amongst the family that is YOUR OWN radio club.



Thank you Bob, K6DGQ for this article....

ATTACK OF THE ZOMBIE SATELLITE !

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2015/07/31/us_navy_satellite_pcsat_no_44_goes_rogue/

A satellite launched by the US military has gone rogue and is causing interference to radio hams across Europe.

The US Navy's PCSat NO-44, which is only supposed to transmit over the US, is now drowning out European amateurs and the USN doesn't know what to do about it. Former head of information security at BT and keen radio ham John Regnault got in touch with *The Register* to explain the problem.

Licensed as an amateur satellite in the Amateur Satellite Service, PCSat was launched 30 September 2001 from the Kodiak Launch Complex on Kodiak Island, Alaska aboard Athena I. It was designed to be a worldwide position, status reporting and message communications satellite for remote travelers. The satellite is on a tight polar orbit and passes over Europe every hour or so.

It uses the APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) protocol to permit hundreds of users per pass to access the satellite. To demonstrate this concept, PCSat augments the existing worldwide terrestrial amateur radio APRS tracking system by providing links from the 90 per cent of the Earth's surface not covered by the terrestrial network, so when it passes over it drowns out other users of the frequency.

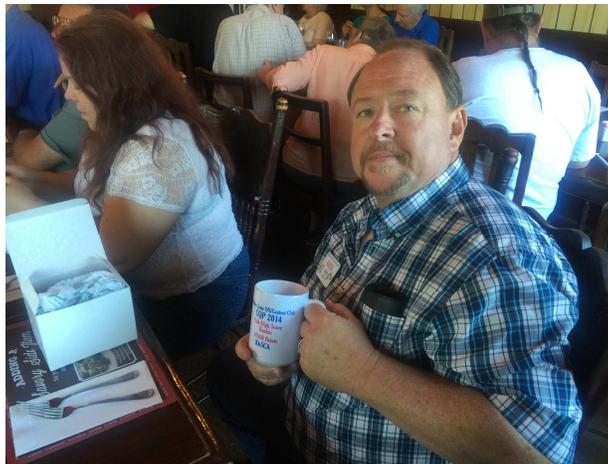
The spectrum it interferes with is around 150MHz, and generally used by radio amateurs for meteor scatter, sending short text messages over distances of up to 2,000km by bouncing them off the ionisation caused when a meteorite breaks up in the atmosphere. The last thing a radio ham wants is to wait for a meteor shower to send a message and then have it drowned out by a passing satellite. Now redundant, PCSat NO-44 should be dead, but isn't. This is because it is designed to use more power than it has on board – a negative power budget – and then reboot when its solar cells generate enough power to wake it up. Robert Bruninga of the US Naval Academy, posted to a Usenet group to explain the problem:

PCSAT (now 14 years old) had a backup fail-safe beacon on 144.39 [MHz] that would activate after any unknown spacecraft reset to give us a backup comm link in case the primary 145.825 channel died. Being on the North American APRS frequency with hundreds of IGates there would always be at least one that would hear this "emergency call home" from PCSAT even though the channel is generally saturated. And it worked. The problem is, that now PCSAT resets on every orbit due to negative power budget and so, on every orbit that beacon comes back on. Even if we did get a command up to reset it, that setting would last only 15 minutes to the next eclipse.

We learned our lesson! That was our FIRST amateur satellite and we sure learned NOT to use a "connected-packet-command link" that needs ACKS and Retries and logon passwords just to LOGON before you can even send a SHUTUP command. All our satellites since operate without the multiple Send, Connect, ACK, retry, ACK, Command, ACK overhead ... just to get one command understood. Now, only the receiver on the spacecraft has to be functional to command it to silence in a single packet. But too late for PCSAT.

We are sorry that we have no good answers. But we hope we can mitigate this instance of "friendly fire" collateral damage so that we don't cause an overall black-eye to amateur radio overall friendly operations?

An extra-terrestrial radio source is outside Ofcom's jurisdiction, but the US Navy may be in breach of International Telecommunications Union regulations, which stipulate that radio transmitters remain under control. In time, the solar cells will stop holding enough charge, and the orbit of NO-44 will decay, with the satellite burning up, but this is many years, perhaps decades away. Until then, the frequency remains very difficult to use. Any option to fix the problem would be pretty over the top. The US Air Force could send up its X-37B space plane or they could ask the Chinese to deploy a satellite killer!



CQP TOP SCORE EFFORT STEVE ALRED K6SCA

Congratulations to club member Steve Alred **K6SCA** who was awarded "Top Score Rookie Effort" from 2014 CQP. Let's start planning early for the 50th Running of the CQP.

California QSO Party

50th Running Of The CQP!

1600 UTC October 3, 2015 to 2200 UTC October 4, 2015



A HAM'S CALENDAR

August 8th, 2015 – HamCram – Doors open at 8:00AM at Comcast Building Classroom, 6505 Tam O Shanter Dr, Stockton. Visit <http://www.w6sf.org/hamcram.html> for registration and sign up information to HamCram for Tech or General or take an upgrade exam.

August 8th, 2015 – The Elmering Session – Doors open at 10:00AM at Comcast Building Classroom, 6505 Tam O Shanter Dr, Stockton. Visit <http://www.w6sf.org/hamcram.html> for registration and sign up information. Elmering sessions are geared toward getting the new ham on the air. We will look at programming radios, basic operations of a repeater, basic HF operation and the Anatomy of a QSO

August 13th, 2015 – Stockton-Delta ARC Club Meeting – Meeting will be at 7:00PM at Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 N Lower Sacramento Rd, Stockton – A very interesting program covering Radio Direction Finding and “Fox Hunting” is planned after enjoying Pizza and drinks on the patio

August 15th, 2015 – North American QSO Party SSB – <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf> This is a good contest to get into when you're getting started.

September 10th, 2015 – Stockton-Delta ARC Club Meeting – Meeting will be at 7:30PM at Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 N Lower Sacramento Rd, Stockton – Program TBD

COMING SOON

Ham Radio In the Park

October 10th Ham Cram & Testing Session

Club Meeting September 10th

California QSO Party Oct 3rd – 4th

October 10th The Elmer Project

School Club Round-up (October)

November Sweepstakes

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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 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 **August 13th, 2015**.

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!