## Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

WWW.W6SF.ORG

# **JANUARY 2024**

Welcome to the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



# GET ON THE AIR WINTER FIELD DAY JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>-28<sup>TH</sup>





# JANUARY ANNUAL-GENERAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

# THURSDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> 7:00 PM STOCKTON SAILING CLUB

QST QST QST... The January meeting of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club will be held at the Stockton Sailing Club Auditorium, 4980 Buckley Cove Rd in Stockton. The Sailing Club is located at the west end of March Lane, west of Interstate 5 on the left-hand side of the road just before you enter Buckley Cove Park. This is our Annual General Meeting. The 2024 Board of Directors will report on the budget for 2024, ask the membership to set the dues for 2024 and install any chairpersons for 2024 All members are strongly encouraged to attend and vote on club matters for 2024.

The meeting training program will be presented by Mark W6SXA.

Grab your spouse, significant other or just that friend that wants to "see what the ham radio club is all about" and join us for our first club meeting of the new year!

Zoom Meeting Information: Topic: W6SF MONTHLY CLUB MEETING ON ZOOM Time: Jan 11, 2024 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8715741939?pwd=alRiTFhydFNtMlBQZXAwOUd2YTN1UT 09

Meeting ID: 871 574 1939 Passcode: 147165

One tap mobile +16699009128,,8715741939#,,,,\*147165#



#### **JOIN US!**

Get the most out of your Amateur Radio experience by being a member of our club.

- Find a Mentor
- Enjoy the camaraderie!
- Participate in Events

"Ask us about Ham Radio"



# DECEMBER MEETING REPORT THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> 6:00 PM

QST QST QST... The December meeting of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club was held at the Shipyard Restaurant at the Port of Stockton. This was our annual Christmas Party and Year-End celebration. As you can see by the picture the club has sure grown over the last few years and it was great to see so many people there.

There was lots of comradery and catching up as members gathered into the dining area. Thank you to the great staff at the Shipyard who kept the bar open and just enough good times flowing. Dinner was served about 6:30 or so and was fabulous. We had to set a couple of extra tables. No one was left out, but there wasn't much food left either – which is a good thing. Annie N6ACL outdid herself again with dessert and table decorations where you could make your own sugar cookies!

The raffle was a huge hit with everyone> A lot of smiling faces as people claimed prizes, t-shirts and wine.

A great night of fun and ham radio!





# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

- Charlie, WB6NVB

The President has been on holiday and will join us in the February Flysheet for his first remarks on the new year.

# VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Steve, KN6ZJJ

Happy New Year 2024 to the Stockton Delta ARC & fellow hams.

Last year was busy with some really

exciting events and the new year promises to be even better. The club Christmas dinner was an evening full of wonderful food, lively conversation and fellowship, along with an energizing prize drawing. A big thanks to everyone that organized and planned the event along with everyone who donated gifts. The evening was a huge success.

2023 saw new hams licensed and new club members. We also had a group of high

school students become licensed Technicians; I look forward to hearing them "on the air" in 2024. Additionally, several license upgrades in the club took place.

In 2024 let's invite a new (or experienced) ham to a club meeting or event – a great way to get new club members!

2024 promises to be full of ham activity and participation opportunities. Starting in February the calendar is full of events;

Club Meeting on 2.8, Ham Cram on 2.10 and Pedaling Paths on 2.24.

There will be a sign-up sheet for Pedaling Paths at both the January and February monthly club meeting.

March has a club meeting 3.14, Loomis Hamfest 3.16 and the STEAM Event 3.23.

Rolling into April we'll have... Ham Cram on 4.6, club meeting 4.11, DX Convention 4.13 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stan Joaquin Swap Meet/BBQ on 4.27.

Mark your calendar now for these great events.

The January club meeting is 1.11 at the Stockton Sailing Club @7:00 pm. We'll vote on the 2024 budget, look for event chairpersons and event volunteers. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

73 Steve KN6ZJJ



# MONDAY NIGHT NET

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

Additional volunteers are always welcome for net control duties. It's not very difficult to run a net and will help to share the load.

Check <u>www.w6sf.org</u> for the current list of net control stations.



## Hamz & Eggz W6SF WEEKLY BREAKFAST MEETING THURSDAY'S AT 9:00 AM

Members AND GUESTS gather weekly to enjoy Hamz & Eggz at the Omelet House, 3455 Cherokee Rd off Hwy 99 in East Stockton. Club members start gathering around 8:30 so come early if you want a good seat!

Check in on the W6SF repeater
Thursday morning to find who is
coming out and make sure you ask
someone to save you a seat! Everyone
is invited to attend; you don't need a
license. Bring an interest to discuss all
things Amateur Radio and a hearty
appetite and you'll have a good time.

Refills are free!



#### SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY ARES (SJCARES)

#### MEETINGS HELD ON TUESDAY NIGHTS STARTING AT 7:30 PM 147.090 WB6ASU REPEATER

**ARES Notes** 

As always anyone interested in ARES, contact me or visit:

#### Join San Joaquin ARES

HamCram is coming up on February 10<sup>th</sup> at Fire Station 2 in Downtown Stockton. This will be our first study session for 2024. Share the word about ham radio to your family and friends...



# ARE YOU PREPARED FOR PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY

Make sure you and your family are prepared for all winter has to bring by following these important steps.

#### COMMUNICATION

- Make a Family Communication Plan that will let everyone know how to get in touch with each other and what to do during an extreme weather event.
- Make sure your cell phone has been charged and you have a portable charger on hand.
- Keep a battery-powered radio with plenty of spare batteries.
- Check on elderly family members and neighbors as they may need assistance.



#### **KEEP WARM**

- Do NOT use the stove as a heater. This can be dangerous.
- Have plenty of blankets, coats, and other items that can keep you warm.
- If you are using an electric heater, make sure it has an automatic shut-off. Keep it at least 3 feet away from any furniture or water.
- If you are using an electric generator, do NOT bring it inside your home or near an intake of your home as this could cause carbon monoxide poisoning.



#### Follow these steps in case of power outages.

#### LIGHTING AND COOKING

- You should use lantems or battery-powered flashlights.
- Do NOT use charcoal grills or camp gas stoves as the fumes can be harmful.
- Use extreme caution when using candles as they should never be left alone because they could cause a fire.



#### SAFETY AND FOOD

- Store a week's worth of food and safety products.
- Include drinking water, baby food and formula, a hand can opener, canned foods, and bread in your food stock.
- If you live far away from town and other people, keep more supplies on hand.
- Include batteries, flashlights, a first-aid kit, sand and rock salt in your safety supply stock.



#### **EMERGENCY**

- Minimize any travel during an extreme weather event.
- Include a windshield scraper, booster cables, extra hats, gloves, and blankets, and a tool kit in your car.
- Include items like snack foods, water, and paper towels as well.



#### WATER

- Leave all faucets dripping to avoid frozen pipes.
- ☐ Keep the inside of your home warm.
- Open your kitchen cabinets so the warm air can reach the pipes under the sink.
- If your pipes do freeze, use warm air from a hairdryer to try and thaw them. Do NOT use a torch.

"http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/beforestorm/supplylists.asp



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#### THE FIRST HAM SWAP OF THE YEAR IS COMING!



# BTH ANNUAL LOOMIS HAMFEST



#### Join the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club for HAMFEST 2024!

Get your gear, grab your wallet, and get ready for a super swap. We'll have coffee and donuts, awesome prizes, Elmer tours, a test table, presentations, and so much more.

SAVE THE DATE: March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 More information can be found @ hamfest.w6ek.org

Sellers need to bring their own tables, chairs, pop-ups, generators (no shore power available)

No equipment will be provided.

SELLERS \$10 Setup at 0600 FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING TALK IN FREQUENCY 146.535

When

Saturday, March 16, 2024 0700 to 1100 Hours PRIZES COMING SOON

<u>Where</u>

Historic Loomis Train Depot 5775 Horseshoe Bar Rd, Loomis

#### PAST SUPPORTERS







Special thanks to:
Brian Gohl (Al6US)
Jeff Morgan (KM6RGO)
Aaron Bond (W1ATB)
for your donations.



















### WINTER FIELD DAY JANUARY 27TH & 28TH

The Winter Field Day mission is to encourage emergency operating preparedness during the winter months when the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards may present unique challenges to amateur radio operators in the field. Fortunately, here we do not encounter much snow or ice, but January can be an active weather month.

The Winter Field Day Exercise to encourage you to test your emergency preparedness capabilities in various conditions and push yourself to new levels. Operating out in the field, away from the comforts of home, is the best way to increase your preparedness for disasters and improve your operating skills in subpar conditions.

WFD is a learning experience, and we hope at the end of this year's WFD exercise, you will feel more confident about your ability to adapt and overcome adverse weather conditions. Please read through <a href="the rules">the rules</a> thoroughly.

WFD is an EMCOM exercise, so don't get too hung up on the rules. At the end of the day, your total points don't matter. What you learn during WFD and your ability to adapt and overcome sudden obstacles will help you during unexpected emergencies. As we continue with another year of the WFD exercise, we want to encourage participants not to chase the contacts or the points but to test their abilities and equipment. If you want to exchange signal reports, please give each other accurate information so the other station knows how well their station is working.

One thing you will notice this year is our "Bonus Points" have changed to "Objectives." These rotating objectives will change slightly from year to year. One of your goals should be to achieve as many objectives as possible during the event.

Finally, have fun with the Winter Field Day, talk about the temperature, meet new friends, and make memories as you continue to enhance your skills as an amateur radio operator.



The Lodi Amateur Radio Club is also hosting WFD at the campground at Hogan Dam Observation Point in Valley Springs. Set-up starting at 0800 hours, radio ops starting at 1100 hours.

More info at www.lodihams.org



# The Green Energy Technology Academy Ham Radio Story

The Green Energy Technology Academy (GETA) at Laguna Creek High School in Elk Grove, CA, began in 2008 with the goal of introducing students to the technology of energy conversions: Solar Arrays, Wind and Water Turbines, Hydrogen Fuel Cells, and Biomass. An academy is a program within a school, where a themed CTE (career Technical Education) course is supported by two to

three academic core classes each year. For example, in the sophomore year, GETA students take our hands-on CTE class (shop class) and also take GETA English, GETA World History, and GETA Physics. The other non-academy schedule slots are for our students to take their Health, PE, Language, and other graduation required courses.

As a bonus to our GETA students, we offer after school extracurricular club and leadership opportunities. On Mondays, Leadership, on Tuesdays, Solar Regatta, (A regional solar and battery powered boat racing competition sponsored by our local utility company-SMUD). On

Wednesdays. Satellite and Rocketry activities (much more about this later) and on Thursdays (Hydrogen Powered RC racing- an international competition run by Horizon Educational call the H2GP- Hydrogen Grand Prix).

Two years ago, we were challenged to bring satellite technology into our curriculum. I did not know the first thing about satellites, but energy propagation, energy management, energy conversions, and energy storage all seemed to be a perfect fit into what we already did, so we accepted the challenge.



Back in 2003-2006, my AP Physics students launched rockets with Amateur Rocketry Clubs in the TARC (Team America Rocketry Challenge) and with NASA in the SLI (Student Launch Initiative), and in that season, we met Bob Twiggs. Bob was a Stanford professor who invented the CubeSat and used it as a platform to teach satellite basics to his Stanford grad students. So, with the challenge in front of us, we reached out to Bob, and he was excited to hear from us. It had been nearly 17 years. He explained that he had retired and started his own educational company (Twiggs Space Lab) specializing in STEM modules that took students from simple soldering and circuitry on up to their first micro satellite (CanSat, CubeSat, PicoSat, QB2 PocketCube). During that phone call, Bob asked if we would be interested in being a BETA school for his STEM modules. We said "YES!" immediately.

As we worked though and documented our experiences with the Jiggy Bot, the CricketSat and the AlphaSat modules, we soon realized that we were going to need to the ability to transmit to these devices, not just receive. This brought us to the Amateur Radio community.

We reached out to various clubs in the area (Sierra Foothills ARC, Elk Grove ARC, River City ARC, Lodi ARC, Stockton Delta ARC). In this season we met some very helpful Elmers (Dave-

KK6MVJ, Jojo-KN6HTD, Nelson-K6VDU, John-NZ6Q, and many others) The lead teacher, the author of this article, and a student received their Technician licenses early, and then...

An ARRL grant opportunity opened for us. In writing the grant, we proposed funds for our own HAM Shack, the necessary antennas to track and communicate with satellites and the ISS, funds to support the teaching and Technical Level licensing of our students and a chunk to support a launch of our eventual



pico-satellite in association with the NREP Initiative (NanoRacks External Platform) aboard the ISS. Matt Craft and Bob Twiggs of Twiggs Space Lab have been helping us move in this direction.

We were awarded the grant and off to the Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) we went. We set up our Ham Shack and antennas, purchased the study materials and studied and reviewed a little from meeting to meeting. Unfortunately, because our students are so involved in other activities on campus, very little studying was done between meetings, so we reached out to John-NZ6Q of the Stockton Delta ARC to see if he would be willing to host a HamCram, and he said 'yes'. In addition to the Satellite and Rocketry Club members, I opened up the HamCram opportunity to other GETA students. On the day of the HamCram, twenty-four students showed up and twenty passed the exam on December 2, 2023. The four who didn't pass, had to leave early, challenged the exam, and the test won. Otherwise, those who stayed to the end had a 100% pass rate. Thank You John!!

Since that day, other contacts have been made. Most notably David-WB6TOU, who does research with pico balloons. David came by on December 7<sup>th</sup> to speak with a handful of our students concerning opportunities in space weather research and WSPRnet technology (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter).

As of the writing of this article, final exams are underway, so decisions for the pico-balloon opportunity have yet to be discussed or made. This opportunity is incredible. What you don't know is that the GETA program already has an international footprint all around the globe with their solar suitcase program. The GETA sophomores learn solar technology using the solar suitcase as the learning platform and then, because grants are used to fund these units, they are sent to energy poor nations, villages and families with contacts we have with humanitarian and faith-based organizations. To date we have 175 of these solar suitcases in 27 nations and

10 more will be going to Uganda in January 2024. This footprint might-well be extended into space if the students decide to pursue the pico-balloon opportunity and push towards the NREP program.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

73- Eric KN6TNH





### 15th ANNUAL PEDALING PATHS BIKE RIDE IS COMING SOON FEBRUARY 24, 2024 YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Pedaling Paths is more than just something we help out with. Your Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club is the hosting sponsor of this event.

Club members have been hard at work getting ready for the event. Now is the the time to start organizing volunteers. We've been securing corporate sponsorships (Comcast is contributing \$2000 again this year), and taking in the registrations for the 2023 event. Thanks especially to Annie N6ACL, Joyce K6QBQ and Joni KN6WVX who have been the driving force getting things together.

Pedaling Paths is an annual fund raiser to support activities for The Community Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired ( www.ccvbi.org ) Early registrations have been coming in for weeks along with donations and offers for sponsorship. Everything indicates this will be a very good and very busy event!

This year we will staff operators at Rest Stops in Linden, Farmington, and Milton. We anticipate supporting as many as 5 SAG (Service and Gear) wagons with communications and vehicle location utilizing APRS. We will be coordinating other volunteers and making sure everyone is checked in – proper waivers are signed, and everyone stays safe! This is the second ride since COVID shut down the event after the 2020 ride. If you remember last year we were hampered by rain and very cold temperatures the morning of the ride which kept numbers down. This year we are optimistic that the weather will be great and we will have a much larger ride! We will be using our "Central Dispatch" phone number of 209-227-0724 (227- 0SAG) Each rider will be given this number to call directly to the Net Control Station in the event of an emergency or break down. Using APRS in each of the SAG Wagons, Net Control will be able to track the locations of SAGs and 'dispatch' the closest SAG Wagon to the reported break-down or other incident.

After the ride, riders and volunteers can share a delicious meal provided by DeVinci's Deli in Linden. We need you! Sign up today on the <u>Event Sign-Up</u> page of the website. Pedaling Paths isn't just about radio anymore – the club is investing in the community and the CCBVI.





#### 2024 CLUB MEETING DATES & SCHEDULED TRAININGS

January 11 ..... Annual General Meeting, Pedaling Paths, Training TBA

February 8..... Meeting – Pedaling Paths

March 14..... Meeting - TBA Meeting - TBA April 11 .....

May 9..... Meeting – Museum Ships Week
June 13..... Meeting - Field Day Final Prep Meeting - Museum Ships Weekend

Meeting - TBA July 11 .....

Meeting - (1800 hours) RDF - Fox Hunting & Club BBQ August 8.....

September 12..... Meeting – CQP Prep

October 10...... Meeting - Nominations for Officers 2023 - Shake Out

November 14..... Meeting – Elections – TBD

December 31.....Straight Key Night

#### HamCrams for 2024 - 7:45 AM - Stockton Fire Station #2 or LDS Church Ham La in Lodi

February 10th April 6th August 10th October 12th December 14th

#### Ham-U Training Day - 8:30 AM Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints Lodi, CA

#### September 28th

#### Club Events 2024

January 6<sup>TH</sup> – Kids Day On the Air Event January 27th - Winter Field Day On the Air Event

February 12th - 16th - School Club Roundup On the Air Event

February 24<sup>th</sup> – Pedaling Paths Bike Ride Linden and surrounding areas March 2<sup>nd</sup> - LDS Church Preparedness Stockton LDS Church near UOP

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> ARRL DX Contest Phone On the Air Event

March 23rd - STEAMFEST 2024 LIVE EVENT - Lincoln High School

April 21st - Rookie Round-up, SSB On the Air Event

April 27<sup>th</sup> - STAN-Joaquin Event Northgate Park - Manteca w/SARA and other clubs April – May – Weed-Whacking on the hill Fiddletown Repeater Site - Exact Date TBD

May 4th - Delta Century Ride Jessie's Grove Winery

Parade Assist & Demonstration Booth May 18th - Linden Cherry Festival

Jun 1st - 2nd - Museum Ships Weekend USS Lucid, Stockton, CA

June 8th - 10th ARRL VHF Contest On the Air Event

June 15th Kids Day

Stockton, Lodi, Galt Library Demonstrations June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – ARRL Field Day Site TBD, Stockton, CA

 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Downtown Stockton September 28th - Ham-U Location TBD October 5th - 6th - California QSO Party On the Air Event

October 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> NFPW Event On the Air Event W6SFD as N6F

October 12th - Walk to End Alzheimer's Swenson Park, Stockton

October 14th – 18th – School Club Roundup On the Air Event October 17th - Great Shake-Out Earthquake On the Air

October 18th - 20th - Pacificon 2024 San Ramon Marriott Hotel

November 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> ARRL Sweepstakes SSB On the Air Event

November 28th - Run Against Hunger Waterfront - Downtown Stockton

December 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – ARRL 10M Contest On the Air Event

#### 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, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 19:00 hours – Stockton Sailing Club, 4980 Buckley Cove, Stockton... Members and guests are welcome.

**WEEKLY NETS:** The club meets weekly on Monday nights starting at 2000hrs on the W6SF repeater. **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.** 

San Joaquin ARES Net: Tuesday evenings 1930hrs on 147.090+ PL 114.8 Hz

**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

#### 2024 CLUB OFFICERS & LEADERSHIP:

President: WB6NVB, Charle Johnson Club Officers can be reached at

Vice President: KN6ZJJ, Steve Cranny sdarc@w6sf.org or

Treasurer: **K6QBQ**, Joyce Marciel

Secretary: KN6IOK, AI Hill board@w6sf.org

Member At Large: W6SXA, Mark Cloud

Call Sign Trustee: WB6NVB, Charlie Johnson

Repeater Trustee: NC6R, Steve Allred

Membership Chairperson **OPEN** <u>membership@w6sf.org</u>

Event Chairperson **OPEN** 

Newsletter Editor **NZ6Q**, John Litz

#### **CLUB DUES:**

\$25 SINGLE and \$30 FAMILY Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club, P.O. BOX 690271, STOCKTON, CA 95269-0271

We thank you for your continued support!