Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



W6SF FLYSHEET



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

WWW.W6SF.ORG

JUNE 2024

Welcome to the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club Monthly Newsletter













MONTHLY CLUB MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT JUNE 13TH 7:00 PM STOCKTON SAILING CLUB 4980 BUCKLEY COVE, STOCKTON

QST QST... The June 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.

The meeting training program will be prepping for Field Day which is just a couple of weekends away! We will also be planning support of the 4th of July Parade just 10 days later!

Zoom Meeting Information: Topic: W6SF MONTHLY CLUB MEETING ON ZOOM Time: June 13th 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"



MAY MEETING REPORT THURSDAY, MAY 9TH 7:00 PM

Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Organization Meeting Minutes

The meeting was started at 7:04 pm by Vice President Steve Cranny. All officers were present except for Charlie Johnson. There were 19 members present and 5 on Zoom.

Treasurer's Report:

• Treasurer Joyce Marciel, reported on the status of the club accounts. The Stan Joaquin BBQ and swap meet broke even.

Membership Report:

• All members have paid. (Editor's note: a new roster has been uploaded under Club Membership)

Old Business:

- The Linden Cherry Festival has 6 volunteers but could use a couple more.
- Charlie got the club insurance renewed for another year.

New Business:

- Charlie moved out of state and a motion to nominate Steve as President, Mark as Vice President was made, seconded and carried by members present.
- Tim Bernhardson was assigned as Member-at-Large.
- A new Call Sign Trustee needs to be found.
- Bob Officer is going to check for a tower climbing person to help a club member.
- Joni would like a discussion to see if the club would present a ham radio overview to the blind center.
- A new web host needs to be found.

Upcoming Events:

- Linden Cherry Festival (May 18) club event; sanctioned
- Museum Ships Weekend (May 31-June 2) club event; sanctioned
- Field Day (June 22-23th) club event; sanctioned
- 4th of July Parade downtown Stockton club event; not yet sanctioned
- October 19th Alzheimer's Walk at UOP club event; not yet sanctioned

Presentation:

John Litz did a presentation on the USS Lucid with a video. He explained how Museum Ships Weekend works and what a great opportunity it is to work radios in a relaxed atmosphere. All are welcome and there is a sign-up sheet on the club website. The hexbeam will be installed on May 25th starting at 9 am and help is welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm and the next scheduled meeting is set for June 13th at 7 pm at the Stockton Sailing Club.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

- Steve, KN6ZJJ

Hello fellow Hams!

June is upon us, and a very active summer of amateur radio is here! As the logo for 2024 Field Day says – Be Radio Active!

The SDARC provided radio support for the Delta Century bike ride event. Just as we finished setting up net control the rain started. Rain continued throughout the event to the point we offered to SAG drive all remaining cyclists in the starting point. We ended up providing SAG transportation for about 8 cyclists and the event was a success. Net control had to relocate for safety reasons, and the net disruption was minimal. At the end of the day, we all enjoyed tacos inside the vineyard barn & out of the rain!

Next – several club members provided radio support for the Linden Cherry Festival. This year we did not cover the parade route other than Jeff KK6VXB providing parade updates on route.

Cecil set up net control and the school grounds were covered by Gayle, Tim, Paul, Steve, Matthew and Jeff. Several members engaged in ham discussions with attendees and the Sheriff's drone team took a special interest in the ham group.

We gave them an overview of ham radio and the SDARC and in return the gave us a drone demonstration on finding a lost person in a crowd using a drone. The Linden Cherry Festival was another great success for radio support to a community event.

By the time this article is being read the Museum Ship Weekend will have passed. On the weekend of May 25th, a group of members assembled a hex beam antenna on the top of the USS Lucid. For Museum Ship Weekend several members planned to operate, BBQ and spend the night aboard the Lucid. This is a great event for all ham operators to try their skills on various HF bands. Naval enthusiasts around the world reach out to our operators, making this one of the club's premier annual events.

June 22-23 is 2024 Field Day at Charlie's vineyard. We'll have a hex beam antenna, probably a dipole and perhaps an additional antenna or two. Field Day is an opportunity for all members to make several contacts using a variety of bands on HF. Field Day is another wonderful opportunity for all operators to Be Radio Active!

July is another Radio Active month with the club providing radio support for the downtown Stockton 4th of July parade. There will be net control on site and all operators will be on a handheld HT. For those new members that may not have a radio yet just ask, and a loaner radio can be provided to you for the event. The annual club picnic and fox hunt at the Stockton Sailing Club is coming up as well. For new hams, a radio transmitter is hidden and transmitting a tone. You use a directional antenna to find it. It will be great fun and great food.

In closing, there are so many exciting radio activities to be part of this summer. If you are new, we'll partner you with an experienced ham to help you out. I look forward to hearing you on the air!

Steve/KN6ZJJ





VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Mark, W6SXA

Ahoy all you land loving ham radio enthusiasts. June 1st and 2nd was Museum Ships Weekend and I'm glad we had such a great turn out to set up, to operate, to celebrate the life our or dear friend Mr. Ed, N6XMA, to operate some more and then take things down on Sunday. The USS Lucid, MSO 458, is a truly unique experience and operating on board one of the last of the great wooden minesweepers is always a fun event. If you haven't been on board for a while, you'll be impressed with the restoration work that's been done.

The ship is really looking good and it's a whole lot easier to get on board now for all those with mobility issues. I'm especially enjoyed the tribute to the late, great Mr. Ed, N6XMA.

Coming up fast is Field Day 2024. That too will be a very special event since it will be the last time we have it at Charlies vineyard. After that, we will have to come up with a new Field Day site. I know that the vineyard has been a little dusty and hot on occasion, but I think that we are going to miss that site and looking back will really appreciate having all that space and shade. Hope you can be there this year.

Then ... Boom, right after that is the Fourth of July parade event. It should be exactly like all those we've done before and a great chance for those recently licensed to get out there and put your HT to work. You'll have a bunch of us old-timers to help if you need it. Guaranteed you'll have a great time and a front row spot to see the parade.

And lastly, I'd like to thank all those that come out to help make these events a success. I'm so proud to be a member of a ham radio club that does so much for the community. Many thanks to all of you.

Mark/W6SXA





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 www.w6sf.org for the current list of net control stations.

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

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



Join San Joaquin ARES

HamCram is coming up on August 10th 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...



WELCOME ABOARD THE USS LUCID MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND REPORT MAY 31ST - JUNE 2ND

SDARC Members and Friends filled the decks aboard the USS Lucid Museum Ship to activate the ship for Museum Ships Weekend on June 1st.

FIRST! The antenna raising on May 25th successfully raised the club Hexbeam. Many hands made light work, but the wind proved the better of us and plans to hang the End-fed halfwave and 80/40 dipole were scrubbed until Thursday, May 30th. We did get both those antennas and a full size 40-Meter vertical up Thursday morning. Everything got tested on Thursday May 30th and Friday May 31st. Sadly, one of the radios developed an issue with the touch screen and front panel, it was quickly replaced. Also, two of our "cheapie" 13v power supplies



decided that they couldn't do 13v anymore, so they were replaced.

On Friday before the start of the contest, we also decided to put up Annie N6ACL's BuddiHex for the additional stations on the ships fantail to use. For being deployed in a narrow space surrounded by lots of different metal, The BuddiHex proved quite an operating beast! It also survived the gale force winds which picked up on Friday night and Saturday night.





Operating started from 0000Z June 1st (5:00 PM May 31st) and we were on the air through Sunday morning June 2nd. Paul N6KZW and John NZ6Q had a good run of stations on SSB Friday night – Paul again with John KO6DGJ would run again on 20-Meters Saturday night

before our tribute to Ed N6XMA. Bob K6DGQ, Cecil W6CPR, Gayle W6SWT, Dave N6LHL and others took advantage of the radio set-up on the back of the ship opting out of the three flights of stairs needed to get to the observation deck.





Up top, we had John NZ6Q mostly on CW, Joyce K6QBQ, Mark W6SXA, and Colin K6CMM on the air when we could. Also, Duztynn KM6HDY joined us on Friday. Georgia WB6KBZ came on board about 3AM Saturday morning and took over the night shift both nights making lots of contacts.



We paused the operation Saturday night for a great dinner of hamburgers, chicken and potato salad (Thank you Paul, Joyce and Gayle) and afterwards we paused to honor our friend Mr. Ed N6XMA. Ed was a decades long member of the club and sadly passed away on board the ship while we were taking down antennas after MSW 2019. It's been 5 years, but Ed loved the ship and MSW and being a part of getting the ship on the air every year. As a tribute, we opened a bottle of Crown Royal that we found in Ed's apartment after he died and those who chose to could raise a red

solo cup with a shot to Ed. We also had Ed's favorite beer on board – Modelo Especial. It was a solemn salute to our friend and fellow amateur radio operator.





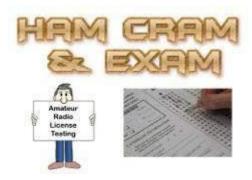




As the ship continues to be renovated, and we get closer and closer to being part of a living history museum, we will need to start adjusting our operating to fit into the ship's completion and operation. Not yet sure what that looks like, but I believe the era of setting up a bunch of radios all over the ship is coming to an end.



Museum Ships Weekend is sponsored by the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station NJ2BB, MSW is a great operating event especially for newer hams with little HF radio experience. It's a great chance to be "the hunted DX station" and improve your listening and operating skills.



AUGUST HAMCRAM VE TEST SESSION SATURDAY AUGUST 10TH STOCKTON FIRE STATION #2 110 W SONORA ST STOCKTON

Our next Amateur Radio license study session will be on Saturday, August 10th at Stockton Fire Station #2, 110 W Sonora St in downtown Stockton. The study session is held in the Bret Lawes Classroom in the back of the Fire Station Complex. Enter the gate on Commerce St and drive straight back toward the portable classrooms.

Doors Open at 7:45 AM. HamCram Study Session 8AM – 2:45 PM and TEST ONLY SESSION

at 3:00PM

To register or for more information visit http://www.w6sf.org/hamcram.html or call John NZ6Q at 209-687-0774

HamCram is for persons seeking their first license (Technician Class) as well as current hams seeking to upgrade from Technician to General Class or General Class to Extra. We ask for a donation of \$20 to cover the Study Session Materials. There is no cost to take the Amateur Radio License Exam. Pre-register at www.w6sf.org/hamcram.html



"BE RADIO ACTIVE" 2024's Field Day Theme!

This year, Field Day will run on June 22 - 23. That's less than 60 days from now. Field Day is one-part contest, one-part emergency communications exercise, and one-part open house -- and 3 parts of fun!

The theme encourages radio amateurs to take advantage of the peak of Solar Cycle 25, which we are nearing. Activity this year is likely to be extremely high thanks to favorable solar conditions. The upper HF bands, such as 15 and 10 meters, should benefit most from the Cycle's peak.



There are resources available already for clubs and individuals to make their Field Day plans. ARRL will publish more information and tools so that hams can

make the most of the event as it draws near. Amateurs interested in learning more are invited to join the <u>Field Day Facebook</u> group to connect with others who are planning for the big weekend. Find links to all of the resources on the ARRL Field Day web page at <u>www.arrl.org/field-day</u>.

SDARC will be setting up at Charlie's Antenna Farm and Vineyard on DeVries Rd. WB6NVB announced at the March club meeting that this will be the last year of field day at the farm. He will be selling the place soon afterwards. Let's start planning a big event now!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to order your Field Day swag! Shirts and hats and more are available at the ARRL Store!













UNITED VETEREN'S COUNCIL 4TH OF JULY PARADE

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED!

SDARC will once again be the primary communications support for the United Veteren's Council 4th of July Parade for 2024.

This year's parade will again start at 11AM which allows the parade to mesh into the WaterFest activities and Fireworks sponsored by the City of Stockton. The Waterfest park will come alive after the parade with vendors, activities, bands and more starting at 12 until fireworks at about 9PM.

Club members are the main support arm of the parade, assisting in organizing the entries and communications between the registration desk, Division Commanders, participants and the Grandstands. We are also the "eyes and ears" of the parade along the route.

The parade route and plan are unchanged from 2023. We will need about 15 to 18 volunteers to staff checkpoints, check-in and registration, ride with Division Commanders and other duties along the route. The parade is a lot of fun – some of the entries are very cool!

Come join us, help the community and get the best seat in the house to see the parade! We will be taking sign-ups at Thursday's club meeting and on the event page at www.w6sf.org.





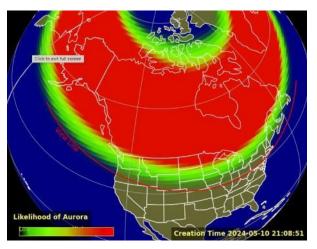




FATHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY JUNE 16TH! DON'T FORGET DAD NEEDS A NEW RADIO!

MOM GOT HERS FOR MOTHER'S DAY, RIGHT??

Solar Activity Significantly Affecting Ionosphere, FCC Opens Docket for Comments on Impact



Aurora Propagation, Northern Lights

The sun has been busy, and it's been a mixed bag for radio amateurs. Earlier this month, millions of people got a chance to see the aurora borealis for the first time, as the northern lights were active farther south than they had been in decades. The brilliant displays, visible as far south as Mexico, were a result of a series of coronal mass ejections. The energy from our star interacted with particles in the upper atmosphere, causing them to glow in dancing curtains of multicolored light.

VHF aurora activity was up significantly, according to DX spotting clusters and activity heard on the air. The 2- and 6-meter bands were especially active, as the aurora acted like a reflector in the sky to enable signals to propagate

much farther than they normally can on those bands.

G5 Storm Significantly Impacted Ionosphere

ARRL Central Division Director Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, is a leading expert on propagation. He's provided the following analysis of the situation:

May 10, 11, and 12 of 2024 may go down as one of the greatest space weather storm periods of our lifetimes. It all started with two big sunspots in early May. These two big sunspots were identified as AR3663 (in the northern solar hemisphere) and AR3664 (in the southern solar hemisphere). AR stands for Active Region. Both of these sunspot regions produced multiple M-class and X-class solar flares, which caused radio blackouts (signals were significantly attenuated) on the sunlit side of Earth. Typically, a radio blackout lasts for an hour or so, is most severe on the lower frequencies, and is due to the x-ray radiation from the solar flare increasing D-region absorption.

Not only did the big solar flares cause radio blackouts, they also caused solar radiation storms due to energetic protons that increased ionospheric absorption in the D region in the polar caps (the area inside the auroral ovals). Solar radiation storms can last for a couple of days and can result in degraded propagation on over-the-pole paths.

But the biggest impact to propagation started on May 8, when AR3664 released multiple Earth-directed CMEs (coronal mass ejections). CMEs manifest themselves as geomagnetic storms by significantly increasing the 3-hour K index. The K index indicates the activity of the Earth's magnetic field and ranges from 0 (quiet) to 9 (extremely disturbed).

The image (from https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/) shows the [data from May 10 - 12]. When the K index is this high for such a long time, the electron density in the F2 region of the ionosphere can be significantly depleted for days, not allowing higher frequencies to be propagated.

On-the-air activity confirmed this.



RENO, NV - MAY 10TH

In summary, early May was a very interesting period. We saw all three categories of disturbances to propagation — radio blackouts (x-ray radiation from solar flares), solar radiation storms (energetic protons from solar flares), and geomagnetic storms (elevated K indices).

FCC Opens Comments About CME Comms Impacts



The Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau wants to know if you noticed any impacts to radio communications during the storm. In a public notice, the FCC wrote:

To better understand the impacts of the geomagnetic storm on the U.S. communications sector, the Bureau is requesting information from communications service providers and the public regarding disruptions in communications between May 7 and 11, 2024, that it believes to be a result of the storm. The Bureau is encouraging commenters to provide any available

evidence, particularly electromagnetic spectrum analyses, imagery, or chronological logs relating the storm's impacts. Where possible, the Bureau asks that commenters include the description of the impacts; make and model of affected communications equipment, which could include transmitters, receivers, transceivers, switches, routers, amplifiers etc.; make, model, and type of affected antennae and their composition; frequencies affected; type and composition of cable adjoining communications equipment and the antennae, if applicable; duration of the impact; and any residual effects observed in the hours following restoration.

The public notice is at this link (PDF). Comments may be submitted using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs and referring to PS Docket No. 24-161. ARRL's guide to filing comments is at this link: https://www.arrl.org/arrl-guide-to-filing-comments-with-fcc





2024 CLUB MEETING DATES & SCHEDULED TRAININGS

January 11 Annual General Meeting, Pedaling Paths, Training TBA

February 8..... Meeting – Pedaling Paths

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

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

July 11 Meeting - TBA

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

September 12..... Meeting - CQP Prep

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

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

December 12 Christmas Dinner / Year End Celebration (1800 hours)

December 31..... Straight Key Night

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

August 10th February 10th April 6th 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 6TH − 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 24th - Pedaling Paths Bike Ride Linden and surrounding areas March 2nd - LDS Church Preparedness Stockton LDS Church near UOP

March 2nd - 3rd 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

- STAN-Joaquin Event Northgate Park - Manteca w/SARA and other clubs April 27th

April – May – Weed-Whacking on the hill Fiddletown Repeater Site - Exact Date TBD

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

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

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 22nd – 23rd – ARRL Field Day Site TBD, Stockton, CA

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

October 6th - 12th 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 16th - 17th ARRL Sweepstakes SSB On the Air Event

November 28th - Run Against Hunger Waterfront - Downtown Stockton

December 13th - 15th - 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, June 13th 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: KN6ZJJ, Steve Cranny Club Officers can be reached at

Vice President: W6SXA, Mark Cloud sdarc@w6sf.org or

Treasurer: **K6QBQ**, Joyce Marciel

Secretary: KN6IOK, AI Hill board@w6sf.org

Member At Large: KN6PYJ, Tim Bernhardson Call Sign Trustee: WB6NVB, Charlie Johnson

Repeater Trustee: NC6R. Steve Allred

Membership Chairperson OPEN membership@w6sf.org

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!