

Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



ARRL MEMBER

P.O. BOX 690271

STOCKTON, CA

95269-0271

May 2012



PRESIDENT'S QST

QST QST QST - It was great to meet Randy, KJ6TVT at his first club meeting in April. Mike, K6MDS did a great presentation on transmitter hunting and offered some great suggestions for building your own simple directional antenna. The club will be sponsoring a joint transmitter hunt with the Lodi, Manteca and Tracy clubs in July after field day. Plan a Saturday morning of good ham radio fun and then lunch in the park.

The treasurer reports that a few more membership renewals have trickled in, but there are still a few more to go. I thought I'd send out one more reminder – If YOU HAVE NOT paid your dues, bring cash or a check to the next meeting or pay through paypal - send me an email to john@litz.com

April was a very busy month. On Saturday, the 21st we demonstrated Amateur Radio at the LDS Women's preparedness fair, a hamcram at Dameron Hospital Annex saw 5 new hams licensed; Dan, KI6FTT reported a newly licensed ham at the Ham Radio exam session and there were 6 new hams at the New Ham training class. May is here and there is plenty to do. On Sunday the 6th, we are supporting the Delta Century Bike Ride; On Saturday the 12th we are supporting the March of Dimes walk-a-thon in downtown Stockton; there is the area's biggest swap meet in Burson on the same day and plenty of operating opportunities from 7-QSO Party this weekend to Museum Ships weekend just a month away.

I'd like to re-emphasize my challenge from last month and ask each of you to share the Flysheet with an inactive ham, a new ham or an interested neighbor and invite him or to the club meeting. Our next meeting is just 6 days away.

Let's get started.

73, John, NZ6Q



MAY MEETING NOTICE

MAY 10TH, 7:30pm

BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH 11171 LOWER SACRAMENT RD

QST QST QST ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS. The May meeting of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club will be held on Thursday, May 10th, 2012, beginning at 7:30PM.

Our meeting program will feature Bob, K6ON. Bob will be sharing some of his mobile operating knowledge and giving us an overview of some of his travels.

Doors open at 7:15 PM for meet and greet. Club business begins at 7:30PM and after the program we will hold our \$1 raffle. The club made \$33 on the April raffle.

New hams and anyone interested in Amateur Radio are encouraged to attend. Invite a Friend!

Directions: From North or South on I5 - Travel on I5 to 8 Mile Rd and go east on 8 Mile Rd to Lower Sacramento Rd. Turn north onto Lower Sacramento Rd and the church is about 1000 ft north of the intersection on the left.

From North or South on 99 – Travel on 99 to 8 Mile Rd and go west on 8 Mile Rd to Lower Sacramento Rd. Turn north onto Lower Sacramento Rd and the church is about 1000 ft north of the intersection on the left.

Parking: Ample parking is available, we meet all the way in the back of the church complex in one of the classrooms.



22p0083 www.fotosearch.it

Editor's Note: Photo from the internet, this is NOT K6ON's Truck





NEW 440MHz REPEATER ON THE AIR

Point your rubber-ducky in the air and check out the new KC6TTZ repeater on 440Mhz. Running under 20 watts from just east of Stockton, the coverage is impressive. Give Tim your signal reports as he starts to “fine-tune” this fine sounding repeater.

444.675MHz with transmit + 5MHz PL: 123

SDARC MEMBERS SUPPORT THE LDS CHURCH RELIEF SOCIETY PREPARDNESS FAIR

Paul, N6KZW deserves a great deal of thanks and appreciation for taking on this project with very little notice. He delivered a great presentation for the LDS Church Relief Society Preparedness Fair. We tested things out with some refreshments and a few contacts from Paul’s front yard the previous Sunday.

On Saturday April 21st, we began setting up at the LDS Church on Brookside Rd about 8:30 in the morning. Some car problems that week had me in a rental car which I had to return at 9AM which left Paul doing most of the set-up.



As the fair got underway, Paul’s “HF radio in a box” proved to be an eye catcher – raising interest from everyone who stopped by our table. We managed a few contacts on 40-meters and 20-meters with Paul’s portable “slinky ground plane” antenna set up behind the building.

We also demonstrated two other “Go-Kits” featuring mobile and portable radios. Paul has a really nice set-up of portable radios in a “bullet-proof” case along with extra batteries, antennas, etc. This also caught the interest of a couple of “would-be” hams. A few youngsters got a kick out of tapping their names out in Morse Code.

It wasn't all work. Paul and I also got to sample a variety of “food-storage” foods which were quite delicious. Of special note were Brian, KJ6RGE's “clay-pot” biscuits!



APRIL 11TH FUNNEL CLOUDS AND TORNADO IN STOCKTON

It wasn't a call out for Amateur Radio Operators, but it sure could have been.

If you haven't heard, April's unusual weather brought out some very unusual visitors to Stockton. While the tornado's damage path was minimal and only destroyed a few buildings, the fact that a Tornado could happen here, should have us all reviewing our own personal emergency plans and making sure our stations are “EmComm Ready”

Driving around Wednesday and Thursday, seeing the cloud-to-ground lightning and feeling some pretty strong winds made me think about some pretty important aspects of ham radio life.

- 1) What's your station ground like? Do you have surge protection? UPS? E-Power? Lightning Arrestors on your transmission lines?

- 2) Have you tested those systems routinely enough that you know they work?
- 3) Do you have an evacuation plan for your home? Do you know your workplace evacuation plan?
- 4) What's your family communication plan should the cell phone network fail or be hopelessly overloaded in the event of an emergency? What about getting your spouse, significant other or children licensed?

These are just some things to think about and to be better prepared. You never know when this will happen next!!





MAY 6TH
DELTA CENTURY BIKE EVENT
Starting at 7:00AM

The Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club will be supporting the Stockton Bicycle Club's running of the Delta Century. The annual course through the eastern flat lands of the San Joaquin and Sacramento River delta features a 100-mile route, a "metric-century" or 62-mile route and a 25 mile route.

Volunteers are still needed especially to deploy hams with the SAG wagons so if you are free this Sunday the 6th please contact Dave, N6LHL (n6lhl@softcom.net) or myself, (john@litz.com) for an assignment.

We will be using the 147.165 MHz club repeater for primary communication and the Lodi repeater, 147.090 (+ offset, PL 114.8) as secondary communications.

Come show your club support and enjoy a great lunch. The Stockton Bicycle Club has typically made a nice contribution to our club for our "services"

MAY 12th
MARCH OF DIMES WALK-A-THON
DOWNTOWN STOCKTON

Volunteers and equipment are needed from 8:00AM (set-up) to 12:00PM to support the March of Dimes Walk for Babies 2012. Participants will walk from the Weber Point Event Center (Weber & Center St, Downtown Stockton) north on El Dorado St, crossing over to Center St just north of Harding Way and back down Center St returning to the event center.

March of Dimes March for Babies is the longest-running and most widely recognized walking event in the nation, generating more than \$1.5 billion for the March of Dimes over its 42-year history. This fundraiser incorporates thousands of volunteers participating in a fun-filled morning of walking to raise money to support lifesaving research and programs to make sure every baby gets a chance for a healthy start in life.

Please contact John, NZ6Q to volunteer for this fun event. By phone at (209) 910-5489 or via email at john@litz.com . We need about 8 operators for this event. For you new hams, not used to public service communications, this is a great opportunity to get involved. The event is short lived, the pace is comfortable and the people out walking are a lot of fun. Lunch is provided afterwards.

This operation will be on the K6KJQ repeater, 444.325 MHz (+ PL 94.8)



SHIRL, AA6K PRESENTING DX NEWS AND TIPS ON THE LODI AND TRACY NETS

Our own Club Trustee, Shirley Rose, AA6K will offer 2-4 minutes of DX news and tips every week on the Tracy club net, beginning in May. Shirl has been presenting on the Lodi net for quite awhile. I always enjoy listening to his news about what's on-the-air, who he's worked lately and tips for how you can join him at the top of the DXCC. Please join the Tracy net, held Wednesdays at 8:00PM on 146.655 - 100.0 and 146.775 - 100.0. You can hear Shirl's report right at the beginning of the net.

You can also hear Shirl on the Lodi Club Net every Wednesday evening at 7:00PM. The Lodi Club net is on the WB6ASU repeater (147.090 MHz +600, PL 114.8)



MAY 12TH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND TEST

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio Crossband Communications Test in celebration of the 62nd anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May -- May 19 in 2012 -- the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted on May 12 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention, scheduled for May 18-20.

The annual celebration features traditional military-to-amateur crossband communications SSB voice and Morse code tests. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and short wave listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations.

Military-to-amateur crossband operations will take place on the dates and time in UTC on the frequencies listed for each station. Voice contacts will include operations in single sideband voice (SSB). Some stations, depending on propagation and staffing, may not operate the entire period. Participating military stations will transmit on selected military MARS frequencies and listen for Amateur Radio stations in the amateur bands. The military station operator will announce the specific amateur band frequency being monitored. Duration of each voice contact should be limited to 1-2 minutes.

The schedules and frequencies of participating military stations can be found in PDF format on the web at, http://www.netcom.army.mil/MARS/docs/AMC_Test_2012.pdf





2012 FIELD DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

At the April club meeting, Charlie, WB6NVB offered the use of his station at the DeVries Rd wheat field for this year's Field Day Site. The membership agreed that we would hold field day at that site.

Field Day is June 23rd & 24th, 2012, just about 7 weeks from now. It's time to get planning this year's field day. This will be a topic at the May meeting. Dave, N6DCH will be bringing his Yaesu FT-950 and John, NZ6Q will be bringing his also. If Paul doesn't sell his TS-480HX, I think we can count on that radio also. We will be needing lots of hands probably the weekend or two prior to field day for laying out the antennas and just making sure everything is ready for this year's event.

Now is the time to order T-shirts! ARRL Official Field Day T-shirts are \$14.95 plus shipping (\$7.50). Available in sizes from Small to 4X. If the club places a shirt order for \$50.00 or more, then a standard \$12.50 shipping will apply to the entire order.



I will be taking orders for a group purchase between now and the club meeting on the 10th. It takes 4 orders to break the \$50 purchase mark. I'm setting the price at \$18.50 including shipping. That saves each member \$4.00 off the price of ordering the shirt yourself. Any left over money will go to the club treasury. I will be placing the order for shirts on Friday May 11th. I must have your money (cash, check, or paypal) by the May club meeting or you will have to order your own. No exceptions. If you can't make the club meeting and want to paypal me your order, send me an email with your shirt size (Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, 2X, 3X or 4X) and gift me your payment through paypal (john@litz.com) so they do not deduct their 4% fee.





A HAM'S CALENDAR

May 5-6th, 2012 – 7QP 7th Call District QSO party.

<http://www.codxc.com/new/page.asp?content=dryland7s>

May 5, 2012 – New England QSO Party <http://www.neqp.org>

May 5-6th, 2012 – Indiana QSO Party <http://hdxcc.org/inqp>

May 6, 2012 – Delta Century Bike Ride – 0700 – 1500 hours. Supporting the Stockton Bicycle Club. Start/Finish at Jessie's Grove Vineyard & Winery, 1501 W. Turner Rd, Lodi.

May 10, 2012 – Monthly membership meeting of the Stockton-Delta ARC, Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 Lower Sacramento Rd, Stockton, CA – 7:30PM K6ON will be sharing interesting anecdotes from his travels with Amateur Radio. We will be planning Field Day 2012 and taking orders for anyone that wants to purchase field day t-shirts at \$18.50 including shipping.

May 12, 2012 – March of Dimes Annual Walk-a-thon, Weber Point Event Center, Downtown Stockton – operating event supporting the walk-a-thon, 10 operators needed from 8:00AM – 10:00 AM. We will be manning the rest stops, providing “SAG” wagon communications – using the K6KJQ 444.325 repeater. Please contact John, NZ6Q to sign-up. There is lunch and possibly a t-shirt afterwards.

May 12, 2012 - Northern California's second Gold Country Swap Meet and Roast, 5476 Highway 12, Burson, CA - Sponsored by W6OZI, W6RXK and K6GLH. “The most fun boat anchor swap meet west of the Mississippi.” No cost to sellers or buyers, \$3.00 donation for a delicious chicken-in-a-barrel lunch served after the swap. Other features include on-site wine and olive oil tasting and a DJ playing old-time music.

May 18-20th, 2012 – DAYTON HAMVENTION <http://www.arrl.org/2012-dayton-hamvention>

May 26-27th, 2012 – CQ WPX CONTEST <http://www.cqwpix.com>

June 2, 2012 – Weed Wacker Day at the W6SF Repeater Site – Fiddletown, CA *Save the date as this is tentative.* We need to head up to the hill and do some much needed maintenance and brush clearing around the repeater site to minimize the risk of fire on the hill.

June 2-3rd, 2012 – MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND 2012 <http://www.nj2bb.org/museum/>

June 30, 2012 – HamCram & Amateur Radio Study Session (Dameron Hospital Annex, Stockton, Ca) 0815-1600 hours for Ham Cram. One-day Amateur Radio licensing events – new hams and Tech-to-General-to-Extra upgrades. Testing also available. www.hamcram.org

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Do you have any suggestions, comments or concerns? We want to hear from you. Do you have an idea that we, as a club can all benefit from? Let us hear about it. Do you have any topic for discussion that YOU could and would contribute to the club? We want to hear from YOU! To submit articles for the monthly newsletter, email the editor at n6lhl@softcom.net

W6SF CLUB INFORMATION

MEETINGS: Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm, at the Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 Lower Sacramento Road, just north of Eight Mile Road. Members, guests, and people having an interest in Amateur Radio are invited to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 12th at 7:30PM.

WEEKLY NET: Held each Monday evening at 8pm on 147.165+ PL 107.2 Hz Members and visitors are invited to check in. There is also an unofficial get together on Thursday evenings (except meeting nights) at 7:30pm on 28.457. Amateurs with the proper license are encouraged to participate.

CLUB REPEATERS: Located in the Sierra at 2500 feet, the club repeater covers the southern Sacramento and Northern San Joaquin Valleys. The call sign is W6SF, and can be heard on 147.165+Mhz with a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. From the same site, the club also operates a 440MHZ repeater at 442.250 + with a PL of 107.2 Hz.

CLUB SIMPLEX FX: 147.51 MHz.

CLUB WEBSITE: <http://www.w6sf.org>

2012 CLUB OFFICERS:

President:	NZ6Q , John Litz	john@litz.com
Vice President:	WB6NVB , Charlie Johnson	wb6nvb@arrl.net
Treasurer:	KD6CPA , Peter Hine	selkied@earthlink.net
Secretary:	W6INP , Eric Chapa	perrla1@aol.com
Member At Large:	N6KZW , Paul Engelman	n6kzw@sbcglobal.net
Trustee:	AA6K , Shirl Rose	rosesl@prodigy.net
Repeater Trustee:	KD6FVA , John Kester	jbkester@att.net
Membership Chairman:	open	
Newsletter Editor:	open	

CLUB DUES: are \$20.00 per year for a single membership & \$30 per year for a family membership - payable to Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club at the address on the masthead. You can also pay your dues using paypal. Contact John, NZ6Q for details. We thank you for your continued support!