

# Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



ARRL MEMBER

P.O. BOX 690271

STOCKTON, CA

95269-0271

April, 2013

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## MARCH MEETING NOTES

There were 18 members and guests at the March 14 club meeting. President Charlie **WB6NVB** opened the meeting by introducing Joni Bauer from the Community Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Joni came to our meeting to thank us for providing ham radio operators and sag wagon drivers at the February 23 Pedaling Paths to Independence bike ride from Linden and return. In a letter to the club, Judi Howell, President of the Board of Directors of the Blind Center also graciously thanked the club and pointed out the ride raised a record \$14,900 for the Center's support. Joni gave the club's support a "Well Done!" Joni also reminded us of the May 5 Delta Century bike ride from Lodi to Clarksburg. Ham operators will be needed in sag wagons and at the rest stops.

In other business, Shirl **AA6K** has his tower listing about 10 degrees because a neighbor's horse ran into one of his tower's guy wires in a bid for freedom. He will be looking for help when he figures out how to straighten out his tower.

Charlie **WB6NVB** is working with Fred Coe **WB6ASU** to put on a demonstration of amateur television, possibly for the April meeting. We will see the demonstration when the ATV repeater is up and operating.

Brett **N6VIA** is helping Ray **KC6WYD** get set up with an HF rig and needs some help with setting him up with an antenna.

Charlie **WB6NVB** put on a presentation on batteries, power supplies, both regulated and switching, invertors and how they can be used, and why we love them. He encouraged us to read the recent QST article on how you can power you home from your Prius in an emergency.

### 2013 DUES

. Thanks to the many members who paid up at the January, February and March meetings, and through PayPal, but now we need all the rest to do their part, and dig out the check book and mail their contributions to:  
Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 690271  
Stockton, CA 95269-0271

Dues paying are now even easier. You can do so by going to the club website [www.w6sf.org](http://www.w6sf.org), clicking on PayPal, and sending your dues to the treasury electronically. Individual dues are \$20, family dues are \$30

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 11, and Treasurer Peter **KD6CPA** will be pleased to receive your dues in check (preferable) or cash. Again, note that you can now pay your dues through **PAYPAL**. Sometime in the near future we will be dropping folks from the mailing list who are not supporting the club with their annual contribution.

## NET CONTROL OPERATORS

A list of net control operators for the next months from those that indicated an interest in doing this function is:

April 1	<b>N6KZW</b>
April 8	<b>N6LHL</b>
April 15	<b>W6MSU</b>
April 22	<b>NZ6Q</b>
April 29	<b>KJ6SVX</b>
May 6	<b>KI6FTT</b>
May 13	<b>AA6K</b>
May 20	<b>KD6CPA</b>
May 27	<b>W6INP</b>
June 3	<b>N6KZW</b>

If you have an interest in improving your traffic handling skills and moderating the Monday night net, please contact me at [n6lhl@softcom.net](mailto:n6lhl@softcom.net). The script to follow is right on the website, and all you need is a pencil and paper to write down names and calls of the members who participate. The more people who participate, the easier it is on every one.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MAY 5 DELTA CENTURY!

The Stockton Bike Club is once again calling upon the club members to provide radio communications in support of the Delta Century bike ride. Funds earned by the ride help support charities in Sacramento and San Joaquin counties. The ride runs from Jessie's Grove east of Lodi to Thornton, Walnut Grove, Courtland, Clarksburg and return. We need radio operators at each rest stop and in as many sag wagons as possible. A lunch/dinner is supplied by DeVinci's restaurant. So, if you will make the time to support this worthwhile event, please contact Dave **N6LHL** at [n6lhl@softcom.net](mailto:n6lhl@softcom.net) as soon as possible.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MAY 19 AVENUE OF THE VINES RUN!

The organizers of the Sunday, May 19 Avenue of the Vines run through the grape country east of Lodi are calling on the Stockton-Delta ARC to supply operators at rest stops and in a sag wagon. Operators should be on site at 6:30am and the run should be over by 11am. An operator with a 4 door sedan may be helpful. Lunch will be provided by the sponsors. If you can make time to support this event, please contact Dave **N6LHL** at [n6lhl@softcom.net](mailto:n6lhl@softcom.net) as soon as possible.

## HOW TO LIGHT A CIGARETTE WITHOUT A MATCH!

I was on watch one morning when the captain came into the shack asking for a light for his cigarette. I didn't have one so rolled up a piece of paper and got a lead pencil and, holding the key down with my right knee as I reached up to the antenna feed at the base of the porcelain insulator, drew a nice two-inch arc on 518 Hz. The paper, when inserted in the arc, caught light. The captain thought this was marvelous and I had to repeat it many times. You had to hold the pencil sharp end towards the copper feeder, thumb pressed against the flat end. It was observed that the arc would change color according to frequency. MF was orange, but 4, 6 and 8 MHz tended towards mauve. Higher frequencies went blue-ish. The only side effects at the time were numerous tiny RF burns on the thumb.....de Paul **N6KZW**

## K6KJQ GETS HIS TOWER UP!

After 30 years as an amateur radio operator, Glen **K6KJQ** finally put up a tower. On Saturday, February 16, three willing workers hauled 17 wheelbarrow loads of concrete to the five foot hole, creating the new tower base for his Rohn 25G. Once all the sections are installed, the tower will reach approximately 42 feet. (Can you hear me now?) Ten feet above the base, the tower is bracketed to the house and a set of guy wires will be added twenty feet above the bracket. When it comes to towers, the word overkill does not exist. Thanks to Dave- **WB6JMM**, Tom- **N6TMA** and John-**KD6FVA** for their willingness to give up a Saturday morning for this project. Yes, now it's their turn to get their towers up and operating.



Waiting for the cement to come down the chute: Dave **WB6JMM**, John **KD6FVA**, Tom **N6TMA**, and helpful neighbor Jason.



**WB6JMM** and **KD6FVA** fill the 5 foot deep hole for the antenna base.



Happy tower owner **K6KJQ**

# FERRETING OUT NOISE SOURCES

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About three months ago, I put up a 20m antenna—an end-fed, half-wave antenna (<http://www.kb6nu.com/kb6nu-finally-builds-an-end-fed-half-wave-antenna/>). Right off the bat, I was flummoxed by the high noise level. It was nearly S9, obliterating all but the strongest signals.

The strange thing about this noise was that I was only experiencing it on 20m, and only using this antenna. If I switched to my 40m dipole, the noise dropped back to the S1 - S2 noise level that I usually experience here. (Yes, I know. I'm really lucky to have such a low noise level here.)

It didn't really make any sense to me that this antenna would be so susceptible to noise while my other antennas weren't, but I just couldn't come up with any other explanation. I was not experiencing any noise on any of the other bands, after all. Sometimes 40m is so quiet here that I check to make sure that the antenna is connected to the radio.

As luck would have it, I stumbled upon the noise source a couple of days ago. I had taken the laptop I normally use in the shack somewhere one day last week, and when I returned it to the shack that evening, I switched the rig over to 20m before connecting the power supply back to the laptop. No noise! When I plugged the power supply into the laptop, the noise jumped up to S9 again. The problem noise source was found!

I posted about my experience to my blog and to the Ham Radio Help Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup/>). Mark, K5LXP, one of the gurus on HRHG, advised me to throw the main circuit breaker in order to determine if it was something inside the house generating the noise. Bob, K0NR, commented on my blog post, "I have found that flipping off circuit breakers in my house is a good first step to try and find a noise source. Usually ticks off the family, but what the heck :-)" Either of these methods will help you determine if a noise source is inside or outside of your house.

I'm still thinking that the way my antenna is positioned may have something to do with its picking up the noise generated by the power supply. I plan to play around with the positioning of the antenna once the snow melts and see if that makes any difference. Until then, I can work 20m with the power supply disconnected and run the laptop off the battery.

So, the next question you might ask is how does the antenna work? It seems to be putting out a very good signal. One evening last week, I worked several DX stations, including 6W/HA0NAR in Senegal. It's not a beam, but I'm pretty happy with it.

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When he's not worrying about his signal-to-noise ratio, Dan, KB6NU publishes the "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides. The latest in this series is the No-Nonsense Extra Class License Study Guide. For more information, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## PASSWORD SUGGESTIONS

In case you haven't been watching, passwords are getting hacked left and right. Twitter, Apple, Facebook, and yesterday Evernote have all come out saying hackers got access to data on their servers. Here are some tips that will help you craft a password strategy that the bad guys (probably) won't be able to break.

Make your password as long as possible. An excellent way to do this is to just think of four unrelated words that are at least five letters long, say "evilbuttontoadsdestroy". That's a password that's 22 characters long — it would take 106 trillion years to crack through brute force methods. It's also memorable.

Having a hacker gain access to your Spotify account isn't a huge problem — it's annoying that they now know how much you REALLY listen to Carly Rae Jepsen, but it's not the end of the world. But imagine if you used that same password for your email, your bank, your credit cards, and your work account — that's a huge mess. Don't use the same password for everything (Excerpted from an article by Jon Xavier)

## RF POWER AND YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

Are your almonds being toasted? Does your wife accuse you of glowing in the dark after a lengthy qso? Have you ever wondered what your RF does to you? How much danger are you in and what are you doing to your family and neighbors? Wonder no more. Here is a calculator that will answer all those questions. Since 10 meters seems to present the highest danger levels, that is what I used to calculate my safety zone. The result is surprising. Check it out for yourself. Oh, and BTW, depending on your power output, you may be required by FCC R&R's to perform this calculation. Here is a test all hams who run HF should perform to be assured they are in compliance with FCC guidelines. [http://hintlink.com/power\\_density.htm](http://hintlink.com/power_density.htm)



## A HAM'S CALENDAR

April 11 – Monthly **membership meeting** of the Stockton Delta ARC at Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 Lower Sacramento Road at 7:30pm. Socialization may start at 7pm.

April 20 - **VE Testing** at Fire Station #14 on McNabb Street off Thornton Road at 10am. Contact Mike Zane at [N6ZW @ Comcast.net](mailto:N6ZW@Comcast.net) at least 3 days prior to test day. No walk ins!

May 5 – **Delta Century Bike Ride** from Lodi to Clarksburg and return. OPERATORS ARE NEEDED! Contact Dave N6LHL at [n6lhl@softcom.net](mailto:n6lhl@softcom.net).

May 19 – **Avenue of the Vines Run**. 13 Mile loop from Woodbridge Winery. 6:30am to 10:30am. OPERATORS ARE NEEDED! Contact Dave N6LHL at [n6lhl@softcom.net](mailto:n6lhl@softcom.net).

June 1 & 2 – **Museum Ships Weekend** aboard the USS Intrepid, a minesweeper anchored at the Port of Stockton. [www.nj2bb.org/museum](http://www.nj2bb.org/museum). OPERATORS ARE NEEDED! Contact Paul N6KZW at [n6kzw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n6kzw@sbcglobal.net).

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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](mailto:n6lhl@softcom.net)

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear to be bright until you hear them speak. ...Unknown

## 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 11, 2013**

**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 operates a 440MHZ repeater at **442.250 +** with a PL of 107.2 Hz. Locally, the club also operates a **444.575+** repeater with a PL of 107.2 from East Main Street.

**CLUB SIMPLEX FX: 147.51 MHz.**

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

### 2013 CLUB OFFICERS:

President:	<b>WB6NVB</b> , Charlie Johnson	wb6nvb@arrl.net
Vice President:	<b>N6KZW</b> , Paul Engleman	n6kzw@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer:	<b>KD6CPA</b> , Peter Hine	selkied@earthlink.net
Secretary:	<b>W6INP</b> , Eric Chapa	perrla1@aol.com
Call Sign Trustee:	<b>AA6K</b> , Shirl Rose	rosesl@prodigy.net
Repeater Trustee:	<b>KD6FVA</b> , John Kester	jbkester@att.net
Member At Large:	<b>K6KJQ</b> , Glen Pitts	kjq45@att.net
Membership Chairman:	<b>KJ6RGE</b> , Bryan Moulton	b.moulton@sbcglobal.net
Newsletter Editor:	<b>N6LHL</b> , Dave Hardwick	n6lhl@softcom.net

**CLUB DUES:** Individual dues are \$20, family dues are \$30, payable to Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club at the address on the masthead. We thank you for your continued support!

Without money we'd all be rich....de unknown



