

Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club

W6SF FLYSHEET



ARRL MEMBER P.O. BOX 690271 STOCKTON, CA 95269-0271
October, 2013

SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTES

There were 11 members and guests at the September 12 club meeting. Visitor, KJ4BIB, Mike, from Fayetteville, NC was introduced by President, Charlie **WB6NVB**. Paul **N6KZW**, gave a brief report on members who provided radio support for the Kingdon Drag Races where they aided security. Paul further reported there is no action on removing the beam antenna from the USS Lucid and he needs some help doing so. There are work parties beginning in September to assist in restoration efforts, and willing volunteers are needed.

A new newsletter editor will be needed beginning January 2014 with Dave **N6LHL**'s "retirement" after running it for 10 or more years. It is suggested we start work on our Christmas dinner. **WB6NVB** wants to put together a group to contact K9W, the Wake Island Commemorative DXpedition October 5 thru 18. He is interested in putting up 80 and 40 meter verticals in phase. Further he wants to try out his triplexer that will allow 3 radios to go into one triband antenna and operate at the same time.

The California QSO Party will be held on October 5 and 6. Charlie will have his DeVries Road vineyard available, with its beam antenna. John **NZ6Q** reported that he and friends will be going to Butte County to operate.

Guy **W6MSU** reports that he will be teaching a class on emergency communications at this year's Pacificon on Saturday, October 12. He reports that the Friday, October 11th antenna class is well worth making the effort to attend. Also, on October 17, at 10:17am we will participate in the Great Shake Out event on the W6SF repeater. All who can make the time are encouraged to check in.

It is suggested that we hold our Monday night net on one of the 440MHz repeaters we have in the area.

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

A list of net control operators for this month's Monday night net follows:

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October 7	Charlie WB6NVB
October 14	Eric W6INP
October 21	Dave N6LHL
October 28	John NZ6Q
November 4	Bob KJ6SVX

If you have an interest in improving your traffic handling skills and moderating the Monday night net, please contact me at 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.

CQP COMING OCTOBER 5 AND 6!

The California QSO Party (CQP) is the premier state QSO party held every year on the first weekend of October. The Northern California Contest Club ([NCCC](#)) has sponsored CQP since 1974. CQP has traditionally opened the annual contest season by providing an opportunity for contesters to prepare for the ARRL November Sweepstakes since the format is similar. Stations outside of California, worldwide, work stations in California only. The 58 counties of CA are the [multipliers](#). California stations work all stations in or out of CA. The 50 US states and 8 Canadian provinces are the multipliers. Stations outside of Canada and the US add to one's QSO total but do not count as multipliers. See the full set of [CQP Rules](#) for more details.

This is a fun contest for club members who want to see how operations are done on high frequency (HF) radios, even if your license restricts you to non HF bands.



Charlie **WB6NVB** makes contacts and Dan **KI6FTT** logs, while Guy **W6MSU** waits for his turn.

We will be gathering at Charlie WB6NVB's vineyard on DeVries road on Saturday morning October 5. The contest runs from 1600UTC (9am) to 2200UTC (3pm) on Sunday October 6. We will be trying to make contacts with all 58 California counties, all Canadian provinces and all

50 states. We will need people to operate the radios, and to log contacts on computers. If you plan to participate with us, please drop Dave **N6LHL** an email telling him so. Contact him at n6lhl@softcom.net.

GET READY TO SHAKE OUT!

At 10:17 a.m. on October 17, 2013, millions of people will “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” in The Great ShakeOut, the world’s largest earthquake drill ever! All volunteer radio groups are encouraged to participate in the drill (or plan a more extensive exercise). Major earthquakes may happen anywhere you live, work, or travel. The Shake Out is our chance to practice how to protect ourselves, and for everyone to become prepared. The goal is to prevent a major earthquake from becoming a catastrophe for you.



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I suggest everyone who can do so plan to meet on W6SF at the date and time above to discuss what we will do when a quake occurs. Check out www.infor@shakeout.org.

PACIFICON IS COMING!

Pacificon 2013, the West Coast Amateur Radio Convention, will take place Friday, October 11th through Sunday, October 13th, at the Marriott Santa Clara Hotel at 2700 Mission College Blvd. in Santa Clara, CA. Please check the website for tickets, vendor registration, and schedule updates. www.pacificon.org.



Scouting’s Jamboree on the Air 2013 Coming Soon

The 2013 running of Scouting’s Jamboree on the Air (**JOTA**) is just weeks away. The 56th JOTA will take place the weekend of October 19-20, from 0000 local time Saturday to 2400 local time Sunday. JOTA gives members of the **Boy Scouts of America** a chance to experience Amateur Radio firsthand, perhaps planting the seed for a lifetime of hamming.

The world’s largest Scouting event, JOTA attracts nearly 750,000 Scouts participating from 6000 stations in 150 countries. Not a contest, JOTA’s goal is to foster Scout-to-Scout communication across borders.

“The idea is to contact other Scout stations and allow as many Scouts as possible to talk to other Scouts and learn about who they are and what they are doing,” the BSA says in its **JOTA guidelines**, which offer

suggested frequencies. Licensed mentors often open their stations to Scouts on JOTA weekend, serving as control operators. Radio operation will be on 80 through 6 meters and 2 meters and 70 centimeters FM simplex, all modes.

Through its Radio Scouting sponsorship, **Icom America** is providing stations for JOTA and other Scouting events, including the loan of five stations that will be on the air for JOTA 2013.

Last year more than 18,500 US Scouts took part in JOTA from more than 200 stations -- up by nearly 500 percent from a year earlier.

Wheels for Meals Ride Oct. 19 Needs Volunteers

For the 5th year, Tracy ARC is providing communications for the annual Wheels for Meals Bicycle Ride as it rolls over the Altamont on Patterson Pass and until leaves the Altamont via Corral Hollow. We need at least 20 volunteers for this event. It takes place Saturday, October 19 and runs from 0700-1300, with some people arriving a little later and others leaving a little earlier. To volunteer: <http://wheelsformealsride.eventbrite.com> and be sure to select VOLUNTEER and Ham Radio Operator so your registration is sorted properly.

COAX AND CONNECTOR INFORMATION

Here is an interesting site for information about coax and connectors:

www.k0bg.com/coax.html.

DX CONTACTS FOR THE CW CHALLENGED

See the last 2 pages below, contributed by Shirl **AA6K**, for some good advice on how to make contacts with CW operators when your CW copying and sending skills (like mine) show a lot of room for improvement.

A HAM'S CALENDAR

October 5 & 6 – **California QSO Party** at WB6NVB's vineyard on DeVries Road.

October 10 – Monthly **membership meeting** of the Stockton Delta ARC at Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 Lower Sacramento Road, just north of Eight Mile Road. It's time to nominate officers for 2014. Election of officers will be held at the November 10 meeting.

October 11, 12 & 13 – **Pacificon 2013**. The West Coast Amateur Radio Convention. Santa Clara Marriott. See www.pacificon.org.

October 17 – at 10:17am. **The Great Shake Out**. Meet on W6SF 147.165.

October 19 - **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!**

October 19 – Meals for Wheels Bicycle Ride - : <http://wheelsformealsride.eventbrite.com>

October 19 & 20 – **JOTA** – Jamboree on the Air

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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, October 10, 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:	WB6NVB , Charlie Johnson	wb6nvb@arrl.net
Vice President:	N6KZW , Paul Engelman	n6kzw@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer:	KD6CPA , Peter Hine	selkied@earthlink.net
Secretary:	W6INP , Eric Chapa	perrla1@aol.com
Call Sign Trustee	AA6K , Shirl Rose	rosesl@prodigy.net
Repeater Trustee:	KD6FVA , John Kester	jbkester@att.net
Member At Large:	K6KJQ , Glen Pitts	kjq45@att.net
Membership Chairman		
Newsletter Editor	N6LHL , 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!

Tomorrow – a mystical land where 99% of all human productivity, motivation and achievement is stored.



DX Contacts for the CW Challenged

Do you wish to rack up some DX on CW but lack the poise and confidence (not to mention proficiency) to dive in and “have a go at it”? If that is the case then here is how to start getting those DX CW QSL cards rolling in.

The first thing you need is a viable HF station that is capable of making DX contacts. That would be a transceiver that can put out 100w, has a CW mode, a decent receiver, and preferably a built-in keyer. You will also need a reasonable antenna, a CW key or paddles, and comfortable headphones.

Now you must have a rudimentary knowledge of CW and at least be able to recognize your own call (N6LHL) and 599 at 5 wpm (-. -.... -.. -..) (.... -. -.) Also note that DX and Contest operators actually send 5NN. You really need to be able to recognize your own call at a faster rate but 5 wpm should keep you from being too much of a speed bump. If you cannot send and receive your call and 599 then you must practice until you can.

Now you check the magazines and ham web sites for scheduled CW contests. Once you select a contest go to the contest rules and carefully read the required exchange so that you can give a proper response. As a beginner it is recommended that contests using a contact serial number be avoided (the DX super stations that you will want in your log will be in the 3 digit numbers in a couple of hours). This leaves you two major contests to get into;

1. The CQWW DX CW which has an exchange of your RST and your zone. For California we are in zone3. So the reply is 599 3 (.... -. -.). This contest is usually the 4th weekend in November.
2. The ARRL Int DX CW which has an exchange of your RST and your state. For us in California it is CA. So the reply is 599 CA (.... -. -. -.-. -.). This contest is usually the 3rd weekend in February.

Now you write out in plain text and in CW your reply to a contest station when he answers you. Put this page directly in front of your key/paddle and you're ready to go after some DX on CW!!!

As a beginner you should generally avoid the first hours of a contest. Also avoid the lower portions of your band as that is where the speed burners hang out.

Tune around until you hear a DX station calling -.-. --.- - - (CQ Test) repeated and followed by a call sign. Select a station who is getting few (if any) contacts. Since this guy needs contacts the odds of him working you are very good. You may need to listen for a few minutes to get his call but it is an extremely important step...you may get only one letter (or number) each time he sends his CQ TEST Call but you will get it all eventually.

Your next step is to send your call sign one time at the end of a CQ Test. When he comes back with your call sign you send your pre-scripted - . - . (599) plus any other required exchange (zone, state, etc). If he comes back with .- -. -. (AGN) repeat your call sign. When he comes back with your call and 599 send your pre-scripted exchange. He will either send - ..- (TU), CW for thank you, or resume calling CQ. Now log him and go for more!!!

DXpedition CW

When trying to work a large DXpedition the procedure is basically the same but there are some major changes required in your approach.

1. Do some research on the internet on scheduled DXpeditions that you need for your CW DXCC award. The larger the group is and the longer they'll be at the DX location greatly increases your chance for success.
2. Once you have selected an event you should study propagation to the country you will be working. If you are using a wire antenna you need to assure that you get it oriented to the DX target. In the weeks prior to the event you need to listen on various bands to get a good idea of what band (or bands) are open to the DX target and the times of the openings.
3. When actual operation of the DXpedition starts you need to check the DX spots on the internet to know where they are operating. Then you must **listen, listen, and listen some more!!!** There will be massive pile-ups with lots of rude people and you must learn to ignore these idiots and concentrate on the DX.
4. Most DXpeditions operate split frequency on all modes (CW,SSB, RTTY, etc). You need to know where he is listening so you'll know where to transmit. In the CW mode the operator usually sends ..- .-. (up) which means he is listening up 1 to 10 Kc. As time passes and the pile-ups abate the split will become less and less. After a couple of weeks he'll probably send ..- .-. ..--- (up 2) and mean it. If the DXpedition is there for 3 or more weeks they'll be begging for QSOs the last few days, then you got'em!!!
5. The K9W DXpedition to Wake Island is scheduled for the month of October this year. The duration has yet to be published but it'll probably be 2 weeks. Your mission is to work them on at least 2 bands on CW. You can also work them on SSB too.

Good Luck,

Shirl/AA6K

