

# Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club



ARRL MEMBER

P.O. BOX 690271 STOCKTON, CA 95269-0271

March 2012

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## PRESIDENT'S QST

**QST QST QST** Wow! What a crazy few weeks on the air! It's a great time to be in Amateur Radio!

First, I hope everyone who attended our March club meeting was as impressed as I was with the City of Stockton E911 Center Tour. It sure would be nice to have ham station there!

The higher bands have started waking up. If you're on the HF bands and CW-active, did you enjoy the ARRL DX Contest – CW on the 18th & 19<sup>th</sup>? I sure enjoyed even the few hours I got on – snagging 200 QSOs and new countries on 40 & 80 Meters. 100 watts and simple antennas can only get better as the sun churns out more of them good ol' spots! This upcoming weekend (March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>) is the phone contest. Get On The Air!

A hearty "Great Job" to everyone who came out in support of the Blind Center Bike Event on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We had all our bases covered early, manned 5 SAG wagons and kept it moving. Joni & her team were very grateful. Read more in this month's flysheet.

I would like to encourage everyone coming out our public service events, club meetings and training sessions to bring your digital camera or even keep your camera phone handy. As active as this club is, we can't have enough pictures. Not just club events, but if you help with a fellow ham, take a quick picture and send it in – you might see it in the newsletter, on the website or at the annual Christmas Dinner.

Our March meeting is just around the corner. Invite a non-member ham friend as our speaker's presentation will be very interesting.

73 de John, NZ6Q President..



## MARCH MEETING NOTICE MARCH 8TH, 7:30pm

WE ARE BACK AT OUR SAME TIME AND PLACE  
BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH  
11171 LOWER SACRAMENT RD

**QST QST QST** ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS. The March meeting of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club will be held on Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30PM. Our meeting program will feature Dick Decker, K6SUU from Modesto and the SARA Club. Dick has a very interesting program on the ins and outs of the new Chinese handhelds and power supplies that have been gaining in popularity within the ham community. Doors open at 7:15 PM for meet and greet. 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.

## CLUB WEBSITE UPDATE

The new club website is coming along at [www.w6sf.org](http://www.w6sf.org) . Look for even more improvements soon. Thanks to Glen, **K6KJQ**, for all your hard work.

# PEDDLING PATHWAYS TO INDEPENDENCE A SUCCESS

<http://www.communitycenterfortheblind.org/PedalingPaths.php> .



It was Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30AM when Dave, N6DCH put out the call on the W6SF repeater announcing his arrival at the Linden site of the Peddling Paths for Independence Bicycle Event. Dave was the first of \_\_\_ club members to arrive and support the Blind Center on what proved to be a very busy event. Bright sunshine and mild temperatures early in the day led to a last minute influx of OVER 100 additional riders who took advantage of late registration option. The net was opened at 8:50 AM as the bulk of the riders began to hit the course. Thank you Dave, N6LHL who brought out his portable mast, stand and 5/8 wave antenna to give the mobile "impromptu" command post plenty of signal. The sudden increase in riders required closer monitoring of the course overall, close monitoring of rest stop supplies & additional coordination between rest stops, net control and SAG Wagons. Each rest stop was staffed by at least two amateurs. Hams were also in place in each SAG Wagon allowing for immediate communication between responders.



Michael, W6WAV on Motor-1

As the morning progressed, a change in the weather would soon test nearly every rider on the course. Two riders experienced falls with minor injuries. They were transported back to the start-finish by SAG Wagons and seen by EMS at net control. Motor-1 Michael, W6WAV was a big help sweeping the course for tired riders and making sure no one got lost along the way.

A steady wind developed later in the morning which made several spots along the course very difficult to navigate. This was especially apparent along Milton Rd between the Woodward Reservoir and Rest Stop 2 in the town of Milton. At one point, multiple SAGs were dispatched to Rest Stop 2 to transport riders who were exhausted from their fight against the wind to get to that point. At least 8 riders took SAG rides back to Linden from Rest Stop 2.

Rest Stop 2's position also proved difficult to reach the repeater with a handheld. Next year, we will want to make sure that the rest stop team here has higher power mobiles or some kind of antenna improvement. Thank you to Fred, WB6ASU for the use of the Lodi Club repeater without much warning and for allowing us to "commandeer" the frequency several times during the event.

During it all, Devinci's Deli cooked up a fantastic lunch of salad, ravioli's, pesto & bread. No one went hungry. SAG 4, manned by Dave, N6LHL and his neighbor took stand-by duties at Rest Stop 3 to allow Dave, N6DCH and Mike, W6MRM to come into Linden and eat before 3PM.

Many thanks to a great team.

Rest Stops: Eric, W6INP; Lynette, W\_xxx; Ron, W6RPM; Bob, N6TCE; Dave N6DCH; Mike, W6MRM;

SAG Wagon Radios: Bob, W\_xxx; Ed, N6XMA; Frank, KG6EYC; Dave, N6LHL; Dean, KJ6EML

Motor-1, Michael, W6WAV

Net-Control & Joni's Shadow; Paul, N6KZW

## KIT BUILDING IS ALIVE AND WELL

<http://www.radioshackdiy.com/project-gallery>

And sponsored by Radio Shack - This is a cool website featuring dozens of DIY (Do-It Yourself) ideas from a wide variety of kit builders – not just for radio - Check out what other creators have submitted, get inspired by project ideas from Radio Shack build your skills with how-to videos.

Then vote for the ones you "Like" or submit your own.

There are only two rules: it has to feature RadioShack parts and it has to be something you'd call a Great Creation.

## BOB & TED's HIGH SIERRA ADVENTURE

### By Ted, K6XN

Bob, K6YN, and I decided Saturday morning while rag chewing on 2M to take a spur of the moment trip up to our cabin in the Sierras. We wanted to see how the antennas, towers, solar panels, batteries, radio equipment, roads etc., were holding up and to perform any needed winter maintenance. We also wanted to have some fun in four wheel drive in the snow and the mud. The weather reports indicated it would only get down to 25 degrees Saturday night and there was only a predicted 20 to 30 percent chance for more snow Saturday night or Sunday morning. Last year this time there was almost 11 feet of snow at the cabin. We couldn't pass up another "snow trip" adventure in the Sierras....and I think we were both bored Saturday morning.

Just to be prepared, I threw a chain saw and extra fuel, tools, food, a 12-gage shotgun and a .45; and winter clothing into the Jeep. Within an hour and a half from the time Bob and I were first talking about this, I had the Jeep packed and I was on the road heading for Bob's QTH.

The weather was great on the way up and around 4000 feet we started to see snow. By the time we reached Nevada County and our Highway 20 turnoff at 5000 feet elevation, the snow on the road was less than six inches deep with some drifts a foot or so deep.

It was beautiful driving through the forest with the snow on the ground.

When we finally made it to our front security gate, it was pretty clear that nobody had been there for quite a while...just beautiful snow and a few small animal tracks. It was a toasty 43 degrees when we arrived...it didn't drop down to 25 degrees until Saturday night.



All the towers were OK, all the guy wires were as they should be and the only visible antenna damage was minor... The 24 large two volt commercial batteries for the 48 volt battery array were fully charged from the solar panel array on the roof of the cabin and the solar panel arrays and charge controller were fully functional. Before sunset we had water, power, heat and Bob, K6YN was already on the air chasing DX on the HF bands and rag chewing.

By the time it hit 25 degrees out side we had the inside cabin temperature at 63 degrees

The band conditions were fantastic from the cabin Saturday night. The four element 40M beam combined with a background noise level of S0 made working DX on 40M a piece of cake. We also chased DX on 20M and 15M with the KLM tri-band beam on another tower and later in the evening I chased the last two states I need for 5BWAS, I still needed QSLs from WV and DE on 80M to complete all 250 QSLs needed for 5BWAS. Bob-2, K6ON, had suggested that I try the 3905 Century Club net to make my last two needed 80M contacts and confirmations. You guessed it.....a Delaware station was on the Century Club net Saturday night and I was easily able to make a good contact with an XYL in Delaware. Wow!!! Thanks Bob-2.

We also were able to rag chew with Paul, N6KZW on 80M Saturday night. The 540 ± foot horizontal loop antenna up in the pine trees really did the trick.



On Sunday morning, Bob found the Museum Ship Destroyer USS Turner Joy on 716MHz and we had a long rag chew with several operators on the Turner Joy about operating from a Museum Ship during Museum Ship Weekend. I almost fell out of my chair when they asked us if we knew the guys operating from NN7NN during Museum Ship Weekend events!!!! They really liked our club call sign NN7NN and they remembered us from prior MSW events. The USS Turner Joy operators were very excited and pleased to hear that the USS Lucid should be operational by this summer as a Museum Ship on the ham bands

Later Sunday morning Bob and I shut everything down, packed the Jeep and headed for our favorite breakfast restaurant for a classic "Sierra breakfast" in Grass Valley.



I hope you guys had as much fun as we did this weekend! 73, Ted, K6XN



## A HAM'S CALENDAR

**March 3-4, 2012** – ARRL International DX Contest Phone

**March 8, 2012** – Monthly membership meeting of the Stockton-Delta ARC, Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 Lower Sacramento Rd, Stockton, CA – 7:30PM

**March 23, 2012 - HamCram** (Sutter Tracy Community Hospital, Tracy, Ca) 0815-1600 hours One-day Amateur Radio licensing events – new hams and Tech-to-General upgrades. Testing also available. [www.hamcram.org](http://www.hamcram.org)

**April 12, 2012** – Monthly Membership meeting of the Stockton-Delta ARC, Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 Lower Sacramento Rd, Stockton, CA – 7:30PM This month's training is on radio direction finding, "fox hunting" and simple antennas you can build. Presentation by Mike Sacula, K6MDS.

**April 21, 2012** – Stockton LDS Church Preparedness Fair, 800 Brookside Rd, Stockton, CA 9AM to 12:30PM - Portable operating event and educational opportunity. YLs are encouraged to come to this event as the LDS Preparedness Fair is sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary of the LDS Church.

**April 28, 2012 – HamCram** (Dameron Hospital Annex, Stockton, Ca) 0815-1600 hours Stockton-Delta ARC first sponsored "ham-cram" training and testing session. One-day Amateur Radio licensing events – new hams and Tech-to-General upgrades. Testing also available. [www.hamcram.org](http://www.hamcram.org)

**May 6, 2012** – Delta Century Bike Ride – supporting the Stockton Bicycle Club, Jessie's Grove Vineyard, Turner Rd in Lodi \*\* more details at the next club meetings.

**May 10, 2012** – Monthly membership meeting of the Stockton-Delta ARC, Bear Creek Community Church, 11171 Lower Sacramento Rd, Stockton, CA – 7:30PM

**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

**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.

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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)

## 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, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

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

**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. We thank you for your continued support!