

- HANK'S SWAP SHOP

Hank Davis, W6DTV 7822 Washington Ave Phone 823-7885 Sebastopol, CA 95472 (Noncommercial ham ads are printed for free)

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JUKI COMMODORE daisy wheel printer with IBM and C64 interfaces, manual \$50. SEIKASHA SP-1200 9-pin printer, manual, IBM parallel port \$50. John KB6DJY 544-5330.

ICOM IC-04AT 440 MHz HT \$150. HEATH HD-1515 phone patch, man. new \$20. 450 COMPACT LINK repeater, tubes, man. \$20. 19" B/W MONITOR with zoom camera \$100. 12V44W NV 858 Panasonic cam adapter \$10. All sorts zoom lenses. Fred W6LOU 277-7377.

KENWOOD 631A 2M/220 mobile \$400. ICOM IC35AT 220 HT \$150. Kam KC6NDU 578-7296.

TRADE for ham gear: Steelhead pram and motor, 3 rifles, fishing gear. Steve Whitelaw 869-2257.

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MFJ dummy load \$25. Bill KA6JLP 823-5652.

KDK-2015R 2M 20W base transcvr, 4 memory VFO, center cont. pwr sup manuals mic \$175. MOBILE MOUNTS, quantity 2. \$25. Don W6CPE 795-1269.

BUTTERNUT HG5B butterfly beam 10/20M \$100. Bill N6GHG 431-8636. Continued page 8

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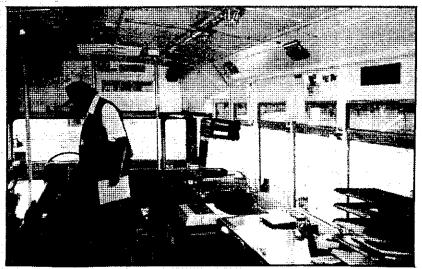
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Club Station

DECEMBER 1991W6LFJ

P.O. Box 116 Santa Rosa, CA 95402 Repeater Station
WB6PVS VOL 16 # 12

SONOMA COUNTY HAMS FEATURED IN DECEMBER 1991 ISSUE OF *WORLD RADIO* MAGAZINE:





VIP members on line at the Geysers fire

The Santa Rosa Ranger Unit of the California Department of Forestry Volunteers in Prevention were called out October 20, 1991, at about 0900 hours. The Geysers fires took off with high winds, high temperatures and very dry fuel. The VIP organization is an auxiliary communications unit to the California Department of Forestry. •The fires of about 5,700 acres started at 0600 the morning of October 20. Communications van 1429 was dispatched to Healdsburg, CA. Communication was established with the ECC



at CDF headquarters in Santa Rosa, CA. •Twenty-six individual amateurs so far have been involved in approximately 400 hours of service; several were on location for three days steady. Three voice circuits and one packet circuit were used. Three repeaters had to be used to keep communications viable. Some 99 messages were handled. One early packet message consisted of 600 computer lines of resource requests. Sure glad packet can take this load off the voice circuits. •A communications link was established with the Oakland fire for information services. •Communications van 1429 was built from an old 42-passenger crew bus, plus 3,000 hours of volunteer labor as well as donations. It has 2,220, 440, HF, ATV and packet, as well as two CDF circuits plus maps and work space. The cost was about \$20,000 and a lot of hard work. It has 800 pounds of battery power plus a generator and accessory items. — We thank Henry Davis, W6DTV, for getting this information to us as we went to press. Next month we'll have more on the Amateur Radio Service during the fires.

S

N

CIRCULATION MGR:

ADVERTISING MGR:

EDITOR:

SWAP SHOP:

Jim Pelmulder NGPTM 823-7947 Brian Torr N6IIY 575-5871 Alan Bloom N1AL 538-7115 Merlyn Pfeiff N6VUC 584-3898 Lou Schneider N6YMO John Wallack W6TLK

REPEATER CHAIRMAN: Jim Rutherford

833-1873 WB6PER 526-2972

Alan Bloom 1578 Los Alamos Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95409 (d) 577-3981 Bill Splaine John Wallack Hank Davis

N1AL (e) 538-7115 N6GHG

W6TLK 833-1873 W6DTV 823-7885

ARRL Liaison: Alan Bloom N1AL 538-7115 Ast. Director: Chuck Sabin N6DDK 795-2371 Badge Chair: Connie FreitasN6FYV

Activities Committee:

Pub. Service: Bill Splaine N6GHG 431-8636 (days) 577-2913

John Wallack W6TLK 833-1873 QSL Mgr: TVI/RFI: Al Bloom N1AL 538-7115 Awards: Steve Lund WA8LLY 823-4544 VEC Exams: Steve Lund WA8LLY 823-4544

+N1AL WN6D W6DTV WB6FRZ N6OLD AA6RD K6UXO AA6YX

Education: John WB6FRZ838-6398 +N1AL KC6RHA KC6RHB KK6VY KF6WV K6XZ K6ZWB

Refreshmnts at meetings: Bob Olsten WD6DPE Greeter at Meetings: Jane Vanderslice N6NTB Philip Gaul KC6BSI Raffle at meetings: Membership lottery: Bob Scolnick K6GEV Gary Gouger KC6WTE Club Flyer:

Repeater Control Op's:

WB6PER Jim 526-2972 N6PTM Jim 823-7947 WD6CKP Hoppy542-6750 W6TLK John 833-1873 N6VUC Merlyn 584-3898

SHORT SKIP ADVERTISING RATES:

Business cards: \$10

\$11 First 1/4 Column \$3 Additional 1/4 Columns (\$32 Full Page, 1 side)

Pre-printed inserts: \$32/sheet

Guaranteed circulation: 200/month AD DEADLINE: 10th of previous month

ARE YOU NOT AN SCRA MEMBER?

If so, then this is a complimentary copy. Our club is involved with almost every area of Amateur Radio: Repeaters (13/73), Field Day, license classes (Novice through Extra), volunteer exams, RACES, DX programs, packet radio, hidden xmtr hunts -- you name it.

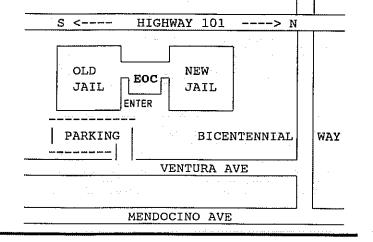
We invite you to attend our next monthly meeting (see below)or check into the Tuesday night SCARS net on the 146.13/73 repeater at 7PM. You will hear the latest Amateur Radio Newsline broadcasts, announcements of SCRA activities and a Swap Shop. If you would like to join SCRA, please refer to the dues listed below. Hope we can have an "eyeball" QSO with you at the next meeting! 73 ...

Club Meetings:

7:30 PM, 1st Wednesday each month at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center). Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Dec 11, 1991 (No meeting in December)

DUES: \$12 per year, plus a one-time \$4.00 initiation fee. Dues are pro-rated \$1/month for new members who get an SCRA call/name badge. Family memberships are \$18 per year.



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VAN NUYS, CA 91411 6265 Sepulveda Blvd. (818) 988-2212 (800) 854-6046 Jon, KB6ZBI, Mar

Rob Ferrero W6RJ lim Rafferty N6RJ

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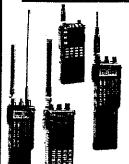


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SCRA MINUTES

November 6, 1991



The meeting was called to order by President Jim Pelmulder N6PTM at 7:33 PM. Other officers present: Vice President Brian Torr N6IIY, Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Treasurer Merlyn Pfeiff N6VUC, and Repeater Chairman Jim Rutherford WB6PER.

VISITORS: Jane N6NTB introduced the visitors

UPGRADES since last time include Irma KF6YX to Extra, Shelly KD6AFZ, Steve KD6CJR and KD6CJQ to Tech, & John KC6YFH to KM6LI.

The October meeting MINUTES were approved as read by N1AL.

The TREASURERS REPORT shows \$3692.08 in the General Fund and \$755.43 in the Repeater Fund.

Repeater Chairman WB6PER was present. Jimcannot normally make club meetings because of a conflict with Kenwood FD meetings.

EDUCATION: John WB6FRZ reports 3 classes in progress: John's Novice class is into its 6th week with 13 students. Al N1AL's Technician class is in week 3 with 5-6 people. Steve KK6VY's two DOS classes have 16 students.

<i>OFFICE</i> President:	NOMINEE Merlyn Pfeiff N6VUC	NOM. BY
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Steve Carniglia KK6VY m/s KK6WN/KC6VJI	K6ZWB
Vice Pres:	Rick Reiner K6ZWB	*
	Walt Burandt KC6RHB	*
	m/s KK6WN/KC6VJI	
Secretary:	Al Bioom N1AL	*
•	m/s KK6WN/KC6VJI	
Treasurer:	John Gauger KK6XT	*
	Walt Burandt KC6RHB	WB6FRZ
	m/s N6DDK/KC6CJR	
Members-at-	Bill Splaine N6GHG	*
Large:	Gary Gouger KC6WTE	*
Ü	Brian Torr N6IIY	*
	m/s KK6WN/KD6HQ	

ELECTIONS The Nominating Committee of Bill N6GHG and John WB6FRZ presented their choices. A separate vote was held for each

office except Secretary, (single nominee approved by acclamation.) Each candidate gave a brief biography before the vote. In the above table, the winner of each office is listed in boldface. An asterisk (*) means nominated by committee. Nominations were closed by motion of the members listed (m/s).

DECEMBER 1991

In addition, WB6PER nominated Jim N6PTM for Member at Large and K6GEV nominated Bill N6GHG for Treasurer, but both declined. While balloting was taking place, other business was conducted:

Jack W6NGZ mentioned the new upgrade for the Yagimax program that runs 60% faster.

AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE is in financial trouble again, according to Hoppy WD6CKP. Expenses run \$1000/month. Several ideas were kicked around to enable Newsline to obtain a source of regular income. The club voted to donate \$250. m/s W6DTV/WD6CKP

The CHRISTMAS PARTY is December 11 at Cattlemen's restaurant in Santa Rosa. Cost is \$11.60. About 3/4 of those present raised their hands to express interest in going.

N6OLD just renewed his ARRL MEMBERSHIP through SCRA. This earns the club a couple bucks with no additional cost to the member.

NET CONTROL STATIONS: The 10 meter net is now run by KK6WN -- we need a new NCS. Ditto the 2 meter net run by KC6PJW. KC6UXJ volunteered for December.

The ARRL SWEEPSTAKES is Nov. 16/17, says Steve WA8LLY.

A DONATION by Dave AA6YX of a HW-101 and accessories will be handled by K6ZWB.

The MEMBER OF THE YEAR Committee seeks (preferably written) nominations. N6GHG notes the cutoff date is Wednesday.

We need A BIGGER MEETING HALL, noted Wilbur N6MGY. (75 attended tonight.) Pass along any suggestions to Jim N6PTM.

The RAFFLE was run by Phil KC6BSI. The MEMBER LOTTERY took 12 drawings by K6GEV before KC6PJW won the \$44.80.

Meeting adj. 9:12 PM. m/s WA6ACX/K6ZWB Respectfully submitted Sec. Al Bloom N1AL ...

THANKS TRAINING **SUPPORTERS**

by John Breckenridge WB6FRZ

Thanks to all of you who made training a great success this year. I think 1991 was a banner year for classes and it took many good folks to make it all happen.

First, a BIG thank you to Lennice Ambrose of the California Spinal Cord Injury Network for the many hours of donated use of her building. Having a no-cost location for classes was a big factor in making training this year a success. I can't say enough good things about this lady; she is one in a million.

Second, thanks a bunch to all the instructors who stepped forward to share some of the knowledge they have acquired over the years. The willingness of these folks to conduct classes was outstanding. The following list in date order shows volunteer instructors and the classes they taught:

Instructor(s)	Class	Dates	
Walter Burandt KC6RHB	Novice Tutoring	1/1	
John Breckenridge WB6FRZ	Novice Class	1/4	
Al Bloom N1AL	Technician Class	2/19	
Bob Craig K6XZ	Code Upgrade	3/8	
John Breckenridge WB6FRZ	Novice Class	4/22	
Rick Reiner K6ZWB and	Assembly Class	8/12	
Larry Rau KF6WV			
Doug Carter KC6RHA	PC Board Etching	9/20	
John Breckenridge WB6FRZ	Novice Class	9/30	
Al Bloom N1AL	Technician Class	10/15	
Steve Carniglia KK6VY	Computer DOS	10/23	
Doug Carter KC6RHA	PC Board Etching	11/22	

Third but certainly not last, I want to thank those who were (or will be) guest speakers during the classes. Subjects are always more interesting when a quest speaker can attend and share their insight and experience. Jack Reeder, W6NGZ, gave a presentation on antennas to the Novice class on 11/18. Likewise, Jim Rutherford, WB6PER, will give a RACES presentation on 12/9.

RENEW YOUR ARRL MEMBERSHIP THROUGH THE CLUB AND THE CLUB GETS TO KEEP \$2 (no expense to you). Make out your check to SCRA, and send with the ARRL renewal form to the club PO box or give it to the Treasurer.



UPCOMING VEC EXAMS

SANTA ROSA:

The next SCRA exam session will be Tuesday. Jan. 7 at 7:15 PM at the EOC (see map p. 2). All license classes Novice through Extra. Bring your signed original license (if any) AND a photocopy. Also bring a photo ID (Calif-driver's license is best), your checkbook pen, 5.4 pencil(s), calculator (optional), and any CSCE's (Certificates of Successful Completion of Exam elements). Headphones will be provided for code exams, but you may bring your own if desired (stereo, 1/4" plug.) If you have further questions, call Steve WA8LLY 823-4544.

WILLITS:

There will also be an exam session Saturday, Dec. 21 at 10:00 AM at the Brooktrails Fire House in Willits. Novice through Extra. Talkin on 145.130. For more information, contact Don WA6ACX 459-3980.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

As usual, the December meeting is replaced by the Christmas Party, which will be held on Dec. 11 at 7 PM (no-host coctails start at 6:30.) Location is Cattlemen's restaurant. 2400 Midway Drive (in Montgomery Village) in Santa Rosa. Cost is \$11.60 (payable after the meal) for a 9-1/2 oz sirloin, chicken teriaki, or salmon, plus potato, salad bar and bread. We'll have our traditional Christmas gifts/door prizes, but no gift exchange this year. The grand finale is the presentation of the club Member of the Year award. Only 3 people now know who the winner is, so come to the party and be among the first to find out! •

MEETING DATE CHANGED!

Because the first Wednesday in January falls on New Year's Day, the January meeting will be on the *second* Wednesday: January 8.

REED'S DANGLER

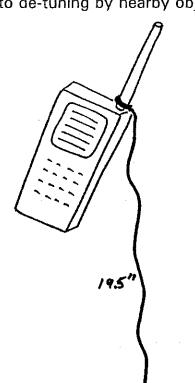
Double the range of your HT for ten cents ...

by Reed White, N6ZME

Rubber ducky antennas are not the greatest radiators. 1/4, 1/2, and 5/8 wave replacements are better, but their length and rigidity tend to stress the HT beyond its mechanical design limits. Sooner or later, the connector will break off, you'll poke someone in the eye, or someone will take you for a CB operator.

One day after hearing "You're a little scratchy, but I can copy almost every other word," the idea hit me: Why not turn my rubber ducky into a half-wave system? I had a hunch the trick would work, but the results far exceeded my expectations. Here's how:

Attach a 19.5 inch wire (for 2 meters) to the antenna connector's ground at the base of your rubber ducky. I used a paper clip wound like a spring, which clings tightly around the connector. To this, I soldered a 19.5 inch wire. (Pruning tests indicated that 19.5 inches was about right for my rig, antenna, and habits.) The wire should be flexible, say 19-strand hookup wire or test lead wire. When transmitting, just let the wire dangle over your hand and HT. The un-connected end is most sensitive to de-tuning by nearby objects.



I tested the dangler with a field strength meter. The mod nearly doubled the rig's line-of-sight range! This is like quadrupling the rig's power. If you want even better performance, hold your HT at arm's length and use a speaker mike.

Tuning is not critical, so 19.5 inches is likely a safe bet. Perfectionists may use a field strength meter or a distant buddy's S-meter for fine tuning. Your biggest challenge will be to find an aesthetic, strain-relieved means to connect the wire, so it doesn't break off after several weeks of use.

DIRECTOR ELECTION

From ARRL Bulletin #51:

The ARRL Committee of Tellers ... met at ARRL Headquarters November 20 to count ballots. Here are the results.

Pacific division for director, Charles P McConnell, W6DPD, 2434. Glenn G Zumwalt, KJ6EN, 1266

Pacific division for vice director, Bradley W. Wyatt, K6WR, 1850. Joe Lambert, W8IXD, 1844

The terms of office are for two years, beginning at noon January 1, 1992.

A CURE FOR WEAK AUDIO

by Don Pompiun K2BIO

Here's a neat item that slipped into the Radio Shack 1992 catalog on page 50. Noted as "NEW" but with no other fanfare is an amplified speaker for mobile use. It will boost the puny 1/2 to 1 watt audio output of your HT or mobile rig to an audible level, even in a noisy vehicle.

Stock number 21-541 is a 4" speaker and 7 watt amp in a conpact case with a swivel mount. Just attach the power wires to 12 volts -- tha amp shuts off when there is no audio coming in. There are no controls, and a mini phone jack brings in the audio. At \$24, it beats doing it yourself. (Tnx The Lark, Livermore Amateur Radio Klub.)

HSC ELECTRONIC SUPPLY

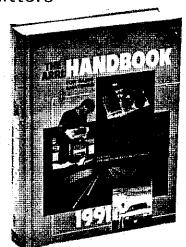
GOODIES FOR THE RADIO AMATEUR:

RAMSEY KITS:

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- 2 Meter 30 Watt Amplifier
- All-mode HF receivers
- QRP CW Transmitters
- Etc...

ARRL BOOKS:

- ARRL Handbook
- License Manuals
- Antenna Books
- Etc...



POPULAR BRANDS:

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- Etc...

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George Shedore Manager KS6W

6819 REDWOOD DRIVE COTATI, CA 94931

PHONE: (707) 792-2277 FAX: (707) 792-0146 a control operator turning the repeater off because of "blatant obscenity", topic of discussion, etc...

You can always turn off your radio or change frequency. If the operation on 147.435/ 146.400 bothers you, I suggest this as the solution to all those offended. ;-).

Love, Roger Bly (ka6mwt)

From Alan Bloom, 12:38 pm Oct 20, 1991:

I have never even heard this repeater, and I am still offended! I have received a lot of satisfaction from Amateur Radio over the years, and the hobby means a lot to me. It bothers the hell out of me to see it torn down by people who apparently don't give a damn.

I am not at all offended by foul language when used in person-to-person private conversations. And if people want to prove their manhood by having macho shouting matches, that's fine by me as long as they do it in private. But it is very destructive to our hobby when people pull this kind of shennanigans over a wide-coverage repeater (or international shortwave band, for that matter.)

I know of at least one instance where a tape of this kind of operation was played by a representative of a third-world nation at a World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC), to the great embarassment of the Amateur delegation present. The point was that scarce frequency resources should not be wasted on a group with no more self-control than this.

It also gives a very poor impression of Amateur Radio to any potential new hams who might be listening in on their scanner. A CB license is much easier to get, if this is the kind of operation you are looking for. (No flames, please -- I realize not all CB'ers are like this.)

I was going to suggest that the (ab)users of the 147.435 machine take their garbage to a simplex frequency. Then I realized that the whole point of this kind of operation is the large audience. Exhibitionists can't get their jollies if nobody is listening. If they did it on a street corner they would be arrested. Apparently they can do it on Amateur Radio with impunity. AL N1AL

HANK'S SWAP SHOP (From p12)

DECEMBER 1991

HENRY CLASSIC 2 KW linear, console model. pair 3-500. \$850. Chuck W6JOX 542-0348.

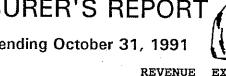
COCO computers w/color monitor, good for packet, \$50/\$350. Jack WB6ZRP 578-1937.

KENWOOD TS-950SD, new in box \$2800. HY-GAIN W51 self-sup tower, HAM-M rotor. HY-GAIN TH6 tri-band beam \$600. IBM-XT computer, printer, color monitor, 32M hard disk, V20 chip \$500. Warren AE6H 527-7955 home, 527-9372 work.

CUSHCRAFT R5 vertical \$200. Gary KC6WTE 575-9119.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For month ending October 31, 1991



ACCOUNT	REVENUE	EXPENSE
Refreshments at meetings	8.95	7.20
Raffle at meetings	63.00	
Dues and Initiations	62.00	
Misc	31.00	125.00
Short Skip Newsletter		81,05
Amateur Radio Newsline		15.37
Officers' Expenses		11.88
Flea Market	135.00	998.79
	299.95	1239.29
ASSETS:	•	
General Fund Account	3565.87	-
Cash/checks on hand	126.21	
Total General Fund	3692.08	
Total Repeater Fund	755.43	
FLEA MARKET UPDATE		
Income/expense	2888.15	1793.68
Net Income	1094.47	

Jim Pelmulder

N6PTM

(707) 823-7947

NOB HILL ELECTRONICS REPAIR

(1991 Flea Market budget: +\$600.00) -N6VUC

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NORTH COAST REPEATERS

by Don Osborne WA6ACX

NORTH on HIGHWAY 101:

P/L MARIN COUNTY: FREQ

Mt. Tamalpais 146.700 K6GWE? 145.110

East Bay Puerto Suello Hill 147.330 K6GWE 167.9

+203.5,192.8,179.9,173.8 depends on your location

SONOMA COUNTY:

146.910 WB6SXC 88.5 Sonoma Mt. (Linked to 145.17- coast) 146.73 WB6PVS 88.5 145.350 WA6YGD (Linked 6AM-10PM, to Anchor Bay 147,000) 145.190 KD6LC Mt. Jackson 88.5

Mt. St. Helena 147.180 WA6ZQH

MENDOCINO & LAKE COUNTIES:

Mt. Kanocti 146.775 KA6JJW 88.5 145.470 WA6RQX Sanel Mt. (Hopland) 146.880 WA6QXV Upper Lake 147.675 NØEDS 88.5 (Hunter Ridge) Willits-Ukiah 145.130 K7WWA 103.5. (Laughlin Ridge) 88.5 Anthony Peak 147.210 WB6KFA 103.5 (Covelo) (Linked to 147.21, East Bay) Cahto Peak 145.430 WA6RQX (Laytonville)

HUMBOLDT COUNTY:

146.790 KE6WC Garberville 146.610 N6VA 3 linked Scotia 146.760 N6VA Willow Creek 147.000 N6VA (Horse Mt.) 146,670 ? Eureka Humboldt Co. 146.940 N6VA Humboldt Bay 146,700

DEL NORTE COUNTY:

147.180 K6HY

OREGON:

Brookings 146.970 K7VPL

NORTH ON COASTAL HIGHWAY 1:

146.700 K6GWE? Mt. Tamalpais 145,170 K6GEV Point Reves (Linked 146.91 Sonoma Mt) Sea Ranch 147.945 WA6RWM 147.825 WA6HGH Anchor Bay 147.000 W6MN (Linked 6AM-10PM, to Sonoma Mt. 145.35) 146.820 WD6HDY Mendocino (Ft. Bragg) Cahto Peak 145.430 WA6RQX

BETWEEN HWY 101 & SACTO VLY:

Weaverville	146./30	WD6FHX	
Lake County	146.775	KA6JJW	
Mt. St. Helena	147.180	WA6ZQH	
Vallejo	145.310	WA6YXV	
Mt. Vaca	147.000	WA6UGY	
	147.270	W6AEX	
Berryessa Peak	146.970	WB6VKH	
Siskiyou	146.820	W60MR	2 linked
	146.790	K6ZZA	17
Anthony Peak	147.210	WB6KFA	103.5

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RADIO RENEGADES

Excerpts from the lead article in the "View" section of a recent *Los Angeles Times*:

It was nearly midnight, and the argument between two ham radio hobbyists, Richard and Darin, was heating up faster than a transceiver with a short circuit.

"Wait till I see you," yelled Darin, of Watts, accusing Richard, of Orange, of interfering with his radio transmissions. "You're gonna eat your words ... You're gonna get a taste of South-Central in your face. I swear to God -- you haven't the slightest idea of what you're dealing with here. You just read about it in the news."

"Just look over your shoulder," shot back Richard, who contended that Darin was running interference of his own. "Your homeboys are statistics every night in the news ... Why don't you go stand on the corner and they'll take care of you, part of their population control? They'll be coming around the corner with their automatics."

Finally both men's microphones went silent, giving another operator the last word. "This is what amateur radio is all about!" the anonymous voice laughingly told shortwave listeners from Goleta to Mexico.

Another day of broadcasting was coming to an end for the Mt. Wilson Repeater Assn., home to the Hells Angels of hams.

While most of the 500,000 amateur radio hobbyists in the United States are viewed as genteel, eccentric electronics tinkerers, those using the ham radio relay station atop a Malibu ridge have become the bad boys of the airwayes...

Insults are routinely tossed at whites, blacks, Latinos, Poles, and other groups. Comments about women's anatomy and about other radio operators' masculinity are common... During one five-minute period last month, various hams heard themselves labeled on the Mt. Wilson repeater as "a lying scumbag," "pothead" and "drunken fool." And those are the milder descriptions.

Hams who use the other 320 mountaintop repeaters in Southern California to amplify

their low-powered, 2-meter walkie-talkies and transceivers grumble that such talk is outrageous. But users of the "4-3-5 repeater," as they call Mt. Wilson, claim it's all good, clean fun.

The debate between [Darin and Richard] went no further than the airwaves. But other radio disputes have landed Mt. Wilson repeater users in court and in jail... Richard A. Burton, a Harbor City electronics engineer, was sentenced to federal prison in 1982 after being cited for using obscene language and jamming other operators' signals on the channel. The FCC also suspended his ham license... Burton is on one year's probation from a second conviction last year for operating without a license... Ironically, he serves as editor of the Mt. Wilson Repeater Assn. newsletter...

Excerpts from comments from hams on the "Usenet" (international computer-linked BBS): > Arrows at the beginning of a line indicate > a quote from a previous posting.

From James N. Price, 8:28 am Oct 3, 1991:

Oh boy, just the kind of publicity we need....

This repeater has been a dumping ground for some of the worst things I've ever heard on ham radio, for over 20 years. And yet the FCC apparently feels relatively powerless to determine what's obscene, and night after night this thorn in our sides continues on...

--Jim, K6ZH

From Brian Kantor, 10:38 am Oct 3, 1991:

> And yet the FCC apparently feels relatively > powerless to determine what's obscene, and > night after night this thorn in our sides > continues on.

Apparently you would like the government to tell you what you are and are not allowed to talk about? I'm not aware of any clause in the First Amendment that exempts ham radio from freedom of speech...

I don't believe the FCC should try to regulate the content of transmissions - amateur or otherwise - and I advocate removing all regulations which would attempt to restrict what can be said on radio. (over) From Phil Karn, 6:38 pm Oct 7, 1991:

Having monitored 147.435 on occasion, I think I can say that it does serve a useful purpose: it keeps the crazies in one place. Turn off that machine and you scatter them all over the bands.

It's similar to the practice in some cities to concentrate the red-light district in one particular spot, e.g., "The Block" in Baltimore, my home town.

From Alan Bloom, 11:53 am Oct 10, 1991:

As the trustee of a local high-level 2 meter repeater, I have never understood how a repeater group can allow blatant obscenity, music, intentional interference, etc. to continue unchallenged on a repeater...

For one thing, the trustee is legally responsible (along with the repeater user) for any transmissions the user makes. I know I don't want to put my license on the line for someone else's illegal operation.

Why not just have a control operator turn off the repeater whenever illegal operation occurs? Of course, this means that legitimate users can't use the machine either, but they can't anyway when the chaos is going on. Hopefully, over time, the jammers will realize that they can't have their audience, and will move on to less destructive pursuits. Even if they don't, at least their damage to Amateur Radio would be limited.

What am I missing here?

AL N1AL

Fron Brian Kantor, 11:19 pm Oct 11, 1991:

>Why not just have a control operator turn off >the repeater whenever illegal operation >occurs? Of course, this means legitimate >users can't use the machine either, but they >can't anyway when the chaos is going on.

I recall one repeater in Arizona that the local old farts were just SO proud of. They even had someone monitoring it 24 hours a day some retired dude, I assume, since people with a life would have had something better to do.

Anyway, the control operator had standing instructions to shut off the repeater without warning at the slightest infraction, and he did.

So, with about half-a-dozen pranksters randomly interjecting the odd curse or rude noise, that repeater started spending most of its time off the air. Soon it got to the point that even the cleanest of operators wouldn't use it, because you could never depend on it being there when you needed it...

No, real repeater owners learn quickly that the only time you turn the repeater off is when it breaks. Otherwise you're just playing repeater baron, you're not serious about it.

From John Moore, 10:28 pm Oct 12, 1991:

Real repeater owners take the regulations seriously and try to abide by them. If that requires shutting down the repeater, then they do that...

This doesn't mean I believe that every time someone belches, the repeater should be shut down. To do so is to encourage the idiots (it gives them power over the repeater because they can get it shut down). It also causes us T-hunters to lose the signal we are tracking:-) However, to consistently allow illegal operation on one's repeater is ... irresponsible.

John Moore NJ7E

From Roger Bly, 1:17 pm Oct 16, 1991:

...The ONE rule of the Mt. Wilson Repeater Association is that there are no rules... Operating convention dictates that all users duplex so that others can make comments over top of them, they won't double and so they can tell when they are being jammed...

All I ask is for a place where I can be myself and not worry about some clown turning the machine off because I say [deleted] or something. 147.435 is such a place.

> What am I missing here? > AL N1AL

The whole point! A group of people have banded together to fund and support a repeater where they don't have to worry about (over)