

of Amateur Radic

by Brad Wyatt K6WR ARRL Div. Director

Congressional Legislative Report (BIG NEWS!):

The BIG NEWS is that President Clinton signed Public Law 103-408 (Senate Joint Resolution 90) into law on Oct. 22, 1994.

The language of the new law asks all government entities to support, as national policy, "reasonable accommodation" in the operation of Amateur Radio stations in homes, automobiles and public places. We would not have gotten this far without your grassroots letter writing and personal contact support to help the Washington activities by ARRL!

The next step is to get House Resolution 4522, the FCC Authorization Act of 1994, passed by the Senate on Nov. 29/30, 1994, in the lame duck session of

Congress. The House passed the bill in the closing hours of the session on Oct. 7 before leaving for the election campaign. Keep your fingers crossed. There is a great deal of behind the scenes work going on by the ARRL and many others.

HR 4522 contains various technical provisions desired by the FCC and other provisions desired by ARRL, including one related to "vanity calls." Congress had previously authorized a \$7 per year fee for "vanity calls," but in HR 4522 it is changed to a ONE TIME application fee of \$150. If both these items become law, 1994 will go down in history as a banner year for Amateur Radio in terms of long term national support for our service!

Again, many thanks for all the 1994 grassroots work!

Brad Wyatt K6WR, ARRL Pacific Div Director, 18400 Overlook Rd #5, Los Gatos, CA 95030-5850 408-395-2501 Packet: K6WR@NOARY.#NOCAL.CA Internet: bwyatt@arrl.org

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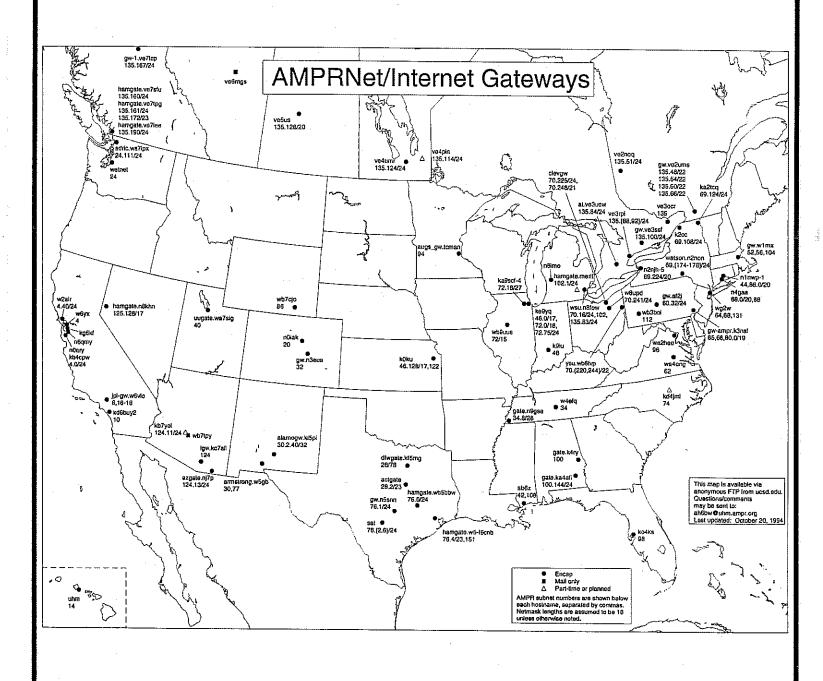
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

DECEMBER 1994 W6LFJ

P.O. Box 116 Santa Rosa, CA 95402 Repeater Station WB6PVS

VOL 19 #12

Some of the US amateur packet nodes connected to the Internet:





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Pre-printed inserts: \$32/sheet

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

Club Meetings:

7:30 PM, 1st Wednesday each month except December at the Hewlett Packard plant in Santa Rosa. (See map below.) All welcome.

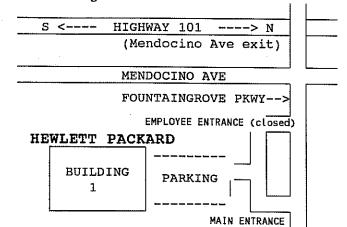
Christmas party: December 7, 1994
PLACE: Cattlemen's Restaurant

TIMES: Social hour 6 PM, dinner 7-7:30

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. Membership in SCRA is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. If you would like to join, there is a membership application on page 11. Hope we can have an "eyeball" QSO with you at the next meeting! 73 ...



Twas the Net Before Christmas

By Kathy Mahan, KC6UXJ

Twas the net before Christmas And all through the house Not a radio was on To the delight of my spouse.



The mic's and ht's were all hung with care Not a single squelch from anywhere. The Icoms and Kenwoods were all in a line So I just layed back sipping my wine.

When out on the roof there arose such a clatter I sprang from my seat to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash Tore open the shutter and threw up the sash.

The moon shone so bright on the top of my quad It gave a luster of midday to my neighbor's sod.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear But a miniature sleigh filled with radio gear, With a little old driver exactly on course I knew in a moment t'was ole Samuel Morse.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came And he whistled and shouted and called them by name, A Kenwood, an Icom, a Yaesu for starters An Ameritron, Santec & Alinco for barter.

To the top of the porch to the top of the wall I could only hope he wouldn't fall.

And then in a twinkle he was on the roof

And the dits and dahs were certainly proof.

As I drew in my head and was turning around, Down the antenna ole Sam came with a bound.

He was dressed in cognito from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of radios he had flung on his back And he looked like a salesman just opening his pack.

The radios how they sparkled, all clean and new I only hoped he would just leave a few.

Then he turned on an ht - 2 meters was free He hoped to say a few words on 146.73.

He gave his call sign, WB6SAM Hoping for a contact with any ham Then he sprang up the antenna Without a dilema

And pressing his finger on the PTT
He gave a memorable QST.
And I heard him exclaim has he drove out of sight
Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night.

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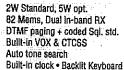
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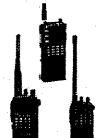
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Irritation! Everybody has experienced it from time to time. And with it comes the intense desire for retaliation. We all seek revenge. However, hams are notoriously famous for being polite. Hams don't do anything immoral, illegal or fattening. At least, not on the air.

When an intentional jammer plies his trade, we simply ignore him in the knowledge that he will soon tire and go away. It may take anywhere from an hour to a week, but eventually he is gone and we are no more the worse for wear. Except that the knowledge that we did the "right thing" gives no vent to our deeper frustration.

Nevertheless, we go on, upholding a tradition that is longstanding and proven. And we do so willingly, until we are presented with another source of irritation that we cannot ignore. I am speaking, of course, of what I call the "legal" jammer.

We all know him/her. Every repeater has one. This is the person who has passed his license exam, received his call sign, and proceeded to tie up the frequencies with nonsensical QSOs and repetitive useless information. We try to be helpful and inform this person of proper radio procedures. Sometimes the person will agree with you. More often than not, the person will become hostile. After all, he did earn his ticket same as you. He has the same right to use the radio as you. Now you have become the sole source of irritation. you're the one who's wrong. Now he wants revenge. What do you do?

You can topple his antenna (not a recommended procedure). You can put a pit bull in his garage (not recommended, either). Or you can verbally bash him among your fellow hams (a practice I am guilty of, I must admit). Unfortunately, none of these solutions offer much in the way of practicality.

I originally became a licensed ham to broaden my world. In many respects ham radio has more than fulfilled this. Then, I encounter L.J. (legal jammer) who made me wonder whether it was worth the effort. L.J. constantly broke

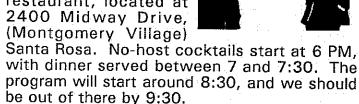
in on conversations, ignoring whether his two cents was welcome or not. He would often answer a call for help knowing there was absolutely no way he could be of any assistance. He was, in fact, a major source of irritation! Then, something unique happened.

I met L.J.! Whereas I had become a ham to broaden my world, Amateur Radio was his world. L.J., you see, is one of those special individuals who came into the world with less tools than the rest of us. I could yell at him until my face turned blue, or I could grin and bear it. It would make no difference to L.J. either way. Life hadn't been fair to him. And, being a ham, I wasn't about to make it worse.

So what do we do when we encounter the L.J.'s of the world? I can't say for the rest of you, but for me, I would prefer a hundred L.J.'s over a single illegal jammer any day!

Christmas Party!

In lieu of the December meeting, we'll hold our I annual Christmas party Dec 7 at Cattlemen's restaurant, located at 2400 Midway Drive, (Montgomery Village)



There's a choice of a 9½ ounce sirloin, teriyaki chicken or salmon for \$14.95, gratuity included. Please RSVP to N6VUC or on the Tuesday net, so we know approximately how many are coming.

Jim Pelmulder **N6PTM**

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SCRAPS: SCRA Public Service

By Marie Mappus KI6QY

1994 in Retrospect

All of the 1994 public service events are now behind us. We had a busy Spring, Summer and Fall in which we participated in sixteen different walks, runs, bike tours, triathlons, and river events. We contributed 1,444 hours of volunteer work for such fund raisers as the March of Dimes, Easter Seals, Multiple Sclerosis, Special Olympics,, Human Race, Society for Independent Living, etc..

I would like to say a special thanks to all the amateurs who participated in these events: Mark KO6AP, Colleen KE6ARL Betty AG6C, Gary KD6BOF, Kelly KD6CJQ, Hoppy WD6CKP, Chuck N6DDK, Bob WD6DPE, Richard KE6DRV, Hank W6DTV, Lee KE6EAQ, Greg KC6EAD, Jim WA2EWE, Sarah N6FAX, Jim KE6FSK, Greg KE6FXK, Jim KD6GCD, Bob K6GEV, Bill N6GHG, James KD6GSF, Ken N6GXI, Georgia N6GZU, Andrew KE6HID, Brian N6IIY, Jack KN6IO, Clarence W6IZR, Peter N6JBV, Bill KA6JLP, Rudy N6KLU, Matthew KD6KVK, Dave KD6KWM, Dave KD6LSA, June KD6LSU, Bill KD6LTA, Mike KD6LYU, Ken N6MHG, Wilbur N6MGY, Michael KC6NDS, Steve KC6NEO, Bill WA6OLW, Phil N6OOA, Ronald KD6OTC, Adam KC6POC, Ted KB6PTA, Jim N6PTM, Doug KC6RHA, Bob N6RMW, Tim KD6TXK, Pat KD6TYJ, Clark KD6UHH, Kathy KC6UXJ, Rick KC6UXI, Pete KC6UXM, Ross KD6VBV, Larry KC6VJI, Merl N6VUC, George KD6WIR, Nadine KC6WUI, Steve N6WMW, Harold KD6WYF, Tony KD6WYH, Fred N6YEU, Mark KM6XV, Dave AA6YX, and Rick K6ZWB without whose enthusiastic participation K6ZWB without whose enthusiastic participation the events could not have functioned as flawlessly and effortlessly as they did.

The sponsors of the public service events are already busily preparing for the upcoming 1995 season. Shortly after the first of the year we too will begin working on our calendar of events. Many of the same events will be repeated again and perhaps, as with this year, there will be additional events added to our regular program. Hopefully all of you will participate again next year. We also encourage new Hams to get involved. It is an interesting and rewarding experience.

Again many many thanks for all of your help. We look forward to another busy year in '95.



In re: Sunday, Oct. 16, 1994

At approximately 1630 hrs., Anthony (KE6EIO) was near the top of Mt. St. Helena when he was approached by a distressed person who declared that his son had been in an accident resulting in the loss of the boy's finger. Anthony put out an emergency call on the 146.730 repeater.

Adam (KD6POC) responded to the call and despite Anthony's low batteries on his hand-held, was able to determine the location of the boy and the extent of his injuries and relayed the same to the appropriate authorities. All this was done with the utmost professionalism despite all parties concerned being obviously under considerable pressure.

As a ham who became involved in the hobby primarily because of my interest in the community, was highly impressed with their performance and would recommend a special award for these two highly dedicated radio amateurs.

Yours truly, James B. Durkin KE6FSK

1994 Field Day Results — San Francisco Section

John Wallack W6TLK, SF Section Manager

Class	Call	Club/group	Points
1 A	WN6W	Non-club group	3308
1 A	KE6WC	So. Humboldt ARC	728
2A	N6OJ	Redwood Empire DX Bedega Bunny Club Willits ARS Stanford ARC Anchor Bay ARC Lake County ARS Humboldt ARC	4854
2A	K16OI		3496
2A	K6WC		2592
2A	W6YX		2082
2A	W6MN		1932
2A	K6AYD		1910
2A	AB6TR		1220
3A	AB6XR	Sonoma Mt. Rptr. Soc.	2562
3A	W6PW	San Francisco ARC	2410
3A	WB6DWY	Valley of the Moon ARC	1744
4A	W6LFJ*	Sonoma County RA	5174
4A	W6SG	Marin ARC	2778
1B	N1AL	Al Bloom	2148
1B	KB6GV	Vincent Henley	658
1E	W6JTI**	Frank Letton	6720

^{*} W6LFJ, highest CLUB score ** W6JTI, highest TOTAL score

HSC ELECTRONIC SUPPLY

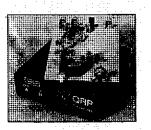
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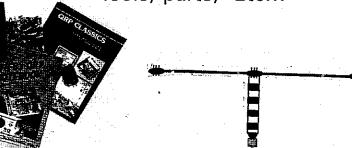
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SCRA MINUTES

November 2, 1994

Submitted by Secretary Al Bloom N1AL



The meeting was called to order by President Merl Pfeiff N6VUC at 7:40 PM. Other officers present were Vice President Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ, Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Treasurer Mike Michlig KN6JQ, Repeater Chairman Jim Rutherford WB6PER, and Members-at-Large Marie Mappus KI6QY and Kathy Mahan KC6UXJ.

VISITORS: We had 1 visitor. UPGRADES: AC6FR has upgraded to Extra and KH6GJV is now an Advanced.

The MINUTES for last month should have said the elections are in November, not December. They were approved as amended m/s KB6PTA/? The TREASURER'S REPORT was approved as read. m/s WD6DPE/K6ZWB

REPEATER: WB6PER noted that there is no way to adjust the volume of the time announcer's voice. You can avoid it if you realize it comes on right after the squelch tail.

The AUTOPATCH CODES have been changed since the membership packet was printed. Make sure you have the update sheet, as printed in July Short Skip. They are supposed to be passed out with the packets.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Marie KI6QY noted that club members put in 1444 hours on SCRAPS activities this year.

EDUCATION: Education Chairman Steve KK6VY reports that Jim WA2EWE is in his 5th week of the Technician class. It is meeting now in the EOC.

PUBLIC RELATIONS information can be reported via the SCRA Information Hotline to PR Chairman Steve KK6VY. The Hotline is getting 35-40 calls per month.

VE EXAMS Dave AA6YX and the other tri-county VE teams met recently to coordinate exam sessions next year. SCRA sessions will generally fall on the second weekend of the month. Claude AB6OL will be the Chairman next year.

An SCRA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY is being worked on by Rick K6ZWB and Kathy KC6UXJ. Look for a form in the January *Short Skip* for everybody to fill out.

The PACKET BBS will be transferring to Jim KC6PJW when John WX3K (now a Lt. Commander) is transferred. You can now access both WX3K and KC6PJW via the Internet.

NET CONTROL STATION for January is Jim KE6FSK.

The 1994 FIELD DAY competition between SCRA and REDX was son by . . . SCRA! N6YUE, who holds dual citizenship, acknowledged SCRA's victory on behalf of REDX.

ELECTIONS: Nominating Committee Chairman Rick K6ZWB presented the nominees for 1995 officers: President Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ, Vice President Dave New AA6YX, Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Treasurer Joel Nadler KJ6LF, and Members-at-large Steve Feil KD6CJR and Marie Mappus KI6QY. Angela Dickey KC6OCD was nominated from the floor for Treasurer (m/s WB6PER/KD6KWM). She was also nominated for Member at Large (m/s WB6PER/KE6FSK) along with Greg Cowles KE6FXK (AA6YX/KD6VUM) Jim Andrews KC6PJW (WX3K/KOMQT), and Joel Nadler KJ6LF (KK6VY/K6ZWB). The following table lists the winners and the persons moving and seconding that nominations be closed:

Office: President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Members at Large Winner: KD6CJQ AA6YX N1AL KC6OCD KI6QY KC6PJW

Moved/seconded: WB6PER/KB6UCM N6PTM/KK6VY N6DDK/KK6VY KE6FSK/KB6UCM KB6UCM/W6TLK

For the MEMBERSHIP LOTTERY this month, we drew continuously until the winner was present. Bill WD6DXW was the lucky winner of \$52.55.

In view of the upcoming elections, it was pointed out that Mr. Dave Berto was the only Santa Rosa City Council member who voted against us in the recent antenna vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM. m/s N6DDK/N6KLU Respectfully submitted by Al Bloom N1AL.

Board Meeting Minutes

November 9, 1994

The meeting was called to order by President Merle Pfieff N6VUC at 5:32 PM in the meeting room at the Northbay Savings Bank. Other officers present were Vice President Kelley Cureton KD6CJQ, Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Repeater Chairman Jim Rutherford WB6PER, Member-at-Large Marie Mappus KI6QY, and President Emeritus Rick Reiner K6ZWB. Also present were 1995 Treasurer Angela Dickey KC6OCD and four other SCRA members.

The CHRISTMAS PARTY dinner will be \$14.95 for steak, chicken or salmon. Service awards recipients were discussed.

TOYS FOR TOTS: Jim WB6PER moved we again donate \$200 to this worthy organization for Christmas. (second K6ZWB) Unanimously approved.

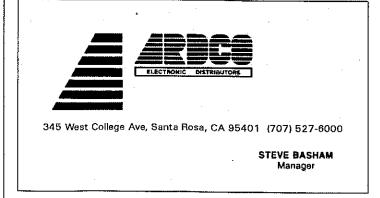
Jim also spoke to the need to get more member-written articles for *Short Skip*. Bob WA6MXI and AI K6QXY could give a talk on moonbounce at some upcoming meeting. The new repeater firmware is not yet installed.

The TREASURER'S AUDIT as required in the constitution must be done soon. Jim N6PTM agreed to be auditor,

STORAGE LOCKER: N6PTM needs to know how big a locker to ask for. Before the next Board meeting, everyone get Jim a list of any club equipment they have or know about.

ANTENNA COMMITTEE: Joe Senft KM6TN reported on a meeting with Santa Rosa City Attorney Bruce Leavit. He received a good education about antennas, why they need to be a certain size, etc. Mr Leavit will prepare a proposed ordinance to present to the Planning Commission. Meeting adjourned. m/s WB6PER/K6ZWB

Respectfully submitted by Al Bloom N1AL.



Send Short Skip Articles by Packet!

It's easy to send in newsletter articles by packet. It's easy for you, since there is nothing to print and mail. And it's easy for me since I don't have to re-type the article!

Here's how: First type the article on your computer using your favorite word processor. Store the article as an "ASCII file" on disc.

Now log onto a Packet Bulletin Board System (PBBS). Either KC6PJW (RPBB) or WX3K (ROCK*) are convenient from Sonoma County. If you can't hit them directly, try connecting via the SONOMA node on Sonoma Mountain.

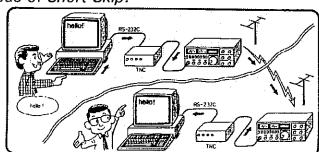
C WX3K
or: C KC6PJW
or: C SONOMA
C WX3K

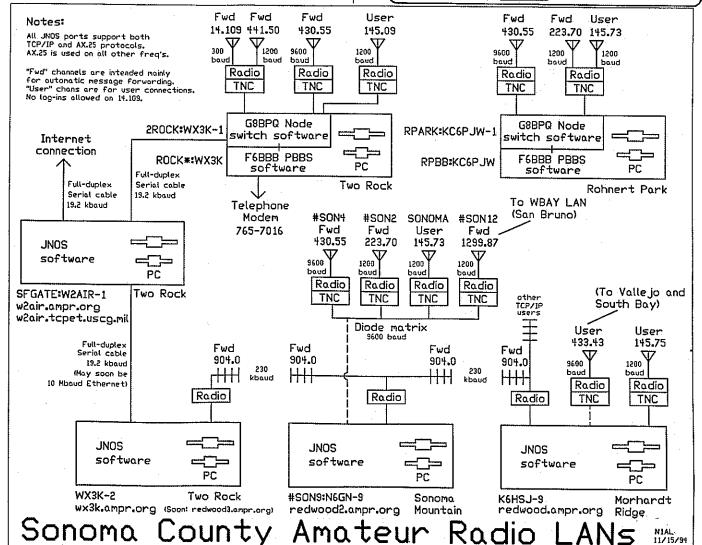
[145.09 MHz] [145.73 MHz] [145.73 MHz] [while connected to SONOMA] When you see the BBS's prompt, **S**end a **P**ersonal message to me:

SP_N1AL@WX3K

The BBS will ask you first for a message title, and then for the text. At this point, do an "upload", or whatever it is called in your terminal program, to send the ASCII file to the TNC. When done, type the character control-Z (^Z) or "/EX" to terminate the message.

That's it! I'll acknowledge receipt by packet (or other method if you prefer), and you'll see your name appear in glorious print in the next issue of *Short Skip!*





SFGATE established!

by John Zantek WX3K



Some long-planned initiatives to the network in the NCOAST LAN have finally made it to the deployment stage and we felt it was time to put out the word on these strategic improvements.

- 1. SFGATE:W2AIR-1 has been established. This is a JNOS computer at the USCG site of WX3K BBS. The JNOS box and the WX3K AX.25 BBS with it's G8BPQ node switch (2ROCK:WX3K-1) are tied serially together via wire. SFGATE has three hardware ports:
- a. to 2ROCK:WX3K-1 (the G8BPQ switch) and ROCK*:WX3K BBS.
- b. to wx3k.ampr.org [44.4.40.104], another JNOS TCP/IP box.
- c. to the Internet. SFGATE:W2AIR-1 is also fully TCP/IP capable as w2air.ampr.org [44.4.40.138] and reachable from the Internet, and can reach out TO the Internet. We have encapsulated several AX.25 links to other gateways, including (as a sample):

OLUOLU (Hawaii)
MBGATE (Manitoba)
RYEHAM (Ontario)
UUGATE (Utah)
RENONV (Nevada)
ANCHOR (Alaska)
MEMIP (Tennessee)

These and other encapsulated Net/Rom routes to sites all over the planet will appear.

- 2. #SON9:N6GN-9 has been established. This is a JNOS computer atop Sonoma Mountain. #SON9 has two hardware ports:
- a. to the existing Net/Rom nodestack (SONOMA, #SON2, #SON4) via a diode matrix, which allows both the TCP/IP network and the conventional AX.25 NCXPN network to gateway into each other.
- b. to a 'fast' radio port. #SON9 (redwood2.ampr.org) is additionally tied to SFGATE and other TCP/IP sites in Northern

California via a 230kilobaud RF linking system (yes, I said 230 KILOBAUD). The higher speed hardware involved in the system uses the 10W, 904MHz digital radios designed and built by N6GN and previously reported in the Autumn 1993 edition of NCPA's "Downlink". The TNC-2 controllers which had previously limited speeds to 38.4kbps have been replaced with Ottawa Amateur Radio Club PI2 cards hosted by the 386 JNOS computers at our sites. N6GN has modified these cards and their drivers so that they can support the higher speed. Antennas at these 'fast port' sites are 5 foot yagis but the hilltop sites use two of them fed with a power splitter to allow tailoring of the coverage area to fit our architectural needs. Performance of the system is good. File transfers on large files is up to 75% of the channel capacity or better than 18,000 bytes/sec over a single hop and around 34,000 bytes/sec over the longest radio path, which is currently 3 hops for a total path length of about 75 miles.

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We hope to soon add (this week):

- a. A 1.2GHz link between the Sonoma Mountain nodestack and the San Bruno nodestack of WBAY LAN. The southern terminus is almost complete and all equipment is on hand for the northern end.
- b. A 430MHz link between our most northern 'fast ported' site at redwood.ampr.org, another mountaintop JNOS box, and one or more southern IP stations, at Vallejo and/or South Bay.

What does this offer to network enhancement? In the case of the 230 kbps links, a digital pipe that can handle amazing bandwidth. What does this offer the generic packet user? Lots!

- a. The NCPA IP networks and AX.25 BBS networks are now a single, interoperable network.
- b. Additional servers. From SFGATE, you can (among other things):

Access Net/Rom sites throughout the world.

Access the online callbooks of SAM, QRZ?, and others.

Access the DX spotting networks of other spots on the planet.

Access the International Converse Server.

Access and get the latest NOAA weather forecast for your selected area, where ever that may be.

Access all Northern California amateur TCP/IP hosts.

We're running the system as open as Part 97 allows. There ARE some restrictions we must deal with (third party international, et al), but we're attempting to provide as broad a customer service as possible.

Take SFGATE for a test drive. Remember, throughput to/from your station will probably only be limited by the speed of your 1200 baud TNC link. Everything else is running at much higher speeds. We also offer dial-in capability to and gatewaying capability from the WX3K BBS, but that's left for coordination on a user-by-user basis.

For further details, feel free to contact any of the following addresses:

AX.25 BBS: wx3k@wx3k.#nocal.ca.usa.noam

kc6pjw@kc6pjw.#nocal.ca.usa.noam n6gn@wx3k.#nocal.ca.usa.noam

Amprnet: w

wx3k@w2air.ampr.org jim@w2air.ampr.org glenn@santarosa.ampr.org

Internet:

jzantek@tcpet.uscg.mil jandrews@sr.hp.com glenne@sr.hp.com

73 from the NCOAST LAN team

Glossary of Packet Terms in This Issue:

Amprinet A set of Internet addresses, for nodes that connect to the amateur packet radio (ampr) network.

AX.25 The traditional protocol used on amateur packet radio.

<u>G8BPO</u> node switch A PC program that mimics Net/Rom routing between the ports connected to the computer.

Gateway A connection between two dissimilar networks, such as the Internet and the amateur packet network.

IP Internet Protocol. Same as TCP/IP.

JNOS WG7"J" Network Operating System. An operating system based on the KA9Q system that allows TCP/IP connections.

LAN Local Area Network. Normally refers to a group of computers connected by wire or fiber optic cable, but now the term is often used for similar radio networks.

NCPA Northern California Packet Association.

NCXPN The sysops (system operators) of NCPA packet bulletin boards.

<u>Net/Rom</u> A program that replaces the normal software in a packet TNC. It allows easier connection to distant nodes (stations).

Nodestack A group of packet radio nodes connected together by wire.

<u>PBBS_Packet Bulletin Board System. Like a telephone BBS, except connected by radio.</u>

<u>SFGATE:W2AIR</u> This format indicates an alias (SFGATE) and callsign.

TCP/IP Transport Control Protocol / Internet Protocol. The protocol used on the Internet "information highway" and now also used on some packet radio links.

<u>USCG</u> United States Coast Guard. The USCG has a training center at Two Rock.

wx3k.ampr.org [44.4.40.104] This format indicates an Internet (IP) address. The numerical address in brackets is used if the "English" one doesn't work.

wx3k@wx3k.#nocal.ca.usa.noam This format indicates an amateur packet address on the AX.25 network.



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