



From the Sierras to the San Joaquin Valley

Volume XV Issue 4

December - January - February 2005/2006

Web Site:

www.w6bw.org

Email:

w6bw@w6bw.org

Monitor:

147.180 + No PL
441.175 + PL 146.2
147.450 Simplex

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Preparedness Minutes

Another year is drawing to a close, seems as if this year was just getting started. I want to thank the board members for all of their help in making things happen. I also thank the many loyal members that attend the meetings and are available to help when asked. The last item on the agenda is our Christmas Dinner, if you missed out this year plan on attending next year. Thanks to Robbie, W6GME, there will be many door prizes, about one third to one half of those in attendance at this years dinner will go home with a door prize worth more than the cost of the meal.

I have been reelected as president for the coming year, Bob Guldstrand, N6EPJ, as the vice president, Alan Gil, W6LSU, has accepted another year as secretary and Dean Mason, KG6MXZ, is assuming the treasurers position. The directors this year are continuing on for next year.

A special thanks to Jeff, KF6CNV, for another year of outstanding newsletters as well as maintaining the web site, he doesn't get enough thanks. Many thanks to Mike, KF6WYH, for paying the fees and providing the technical support associated with the web site. I don't like giving thanks to individuals in writing because there are many that deserve the thanks that do not get mentioned, so if you are one those I missed please accept my apology and thanks.

Reminder for honorary members. Due to rising costs and a greater percentage of honorary members, dues of \$5.00 have been imposed on each honorary member. The new dues are effective for 2006 membership and subsequent years.

*Jerry Thompson, WA6ONA
MARC President*

Field day results are in and our score placed 34th out of 114 entries in the Pacific Division and 11th for the 2A category. If you wish to view our listing in the December QST you can find it on page 94 near the top of the third column. A full report and pictures of our operation is available at www.w6bw.org/fd.

2006 M.A.R.C. Officers

President: Jerry Thompson WA6ONA
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Vice-President: Bob Guldstrand N6EPJ
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Secretary: Alan Gil W6LSU
Phone: (559) 683-8095 Email: agil@sti.net

Treasurer: Dean Mason KG6MXZ
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Board of Directors

Tom Canton WB6GXQ
Dick Rekart W6RFR
Robbie Robinson W6GME

Committee Chairpersons

Call Sign Trustee: Chuck Alessi W6IEG
Phone: (951) 352-1388 Email: callessi@dslextream.com

Emergency Preparedness: Dick Rekart W6RFR
Phone: (559) 642-6230 Email: w6rfr@sti.net

Historian:
(Position is open)

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Public Relations: Clariss Cassin KG6PBF
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Sunshine Chairperson: Sharon Craig
Phone: (559) 683-5728 Email: skimed94@sti.net

VE Liaison: Ed Hamilton N6XOH
Phone: (559) 642-2789 Email: anneed@sti.net

Club Meeting Schedule

The MARC holds monthly meetings the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00pm at the Sierra Senior Citizens Center in Oakhurst on Road 425B (See map on page 6). Talk-in is on the 147.180 Repeater. Due to the holidays, November and December do not have any meetings.

Anyone is welcome to attend!

Membership Dues

Dues are payable by January 1st of each year. Dues are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. Students under age 21 are free. Make checks payable to Mountain Amateur Radio Club and send to P.O. Box 457, Oakhurst CA 93644

*Due to popular demand, the following recipe
From the club picnic is being included in this issue.*

Marinated Squash Salad

By, Ellie K6MZE

3 medium green zucchini (about 3/4 lb), thinly sliced
3 small yellow crookneck squash (about 1/2 lb), thinly sliced
3 green onions, thinly sliced
1/2 cup finely chopped red bell pepper
1/3 cup chopped parsley
1/4 cup sugar
1 tsp salt
1/4 tsp seasoned pepper (like Lawry's Garlic Pepper)
1/4 cup red wine vinegar
1/2 cup cider vinegar
1/3 cup olive oil



In a large bowl, mix zucchini, yellow squash, onion, bell pepper, and parsley.

In a medium bowl, mix sugar, salt, pepper and vinegar, stirring until sugar dissolves. Using a whisk, gradually beat in oil.

Mix dressing lightly with zucchini mixture. Cover and refrigerate 4-6 hours or overnight to blend flavors, stirring periodically.

Because the dressing will collect at the bottom of the bowl, I think it's best to do this before serving: stir mixture several times and remove with a slotted spoon to another bowl for serving.

Makes 6 servings.

Oakhurst VE Session

Time: The next exam will be held Sunday, December 11th at 1pm.

Location: Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 50690 Road 426 in Oakhurst.

Directions: From Hwy. 41 turn onto Road 426. Go approximately 2.7 miles up Road 426 to Road 423 and the church will be on the right-hand side of the road. Talk-in will be available on the 147.180 (+) repeater.

Information: Bring: two forms of personal identification one of which should have a photo. Your Taxpayer ID (Social Security Number) or FRN (FCC registration number). Original and a copy of your license (if any) and the Original and a copy of any CSCE's that you possess. The test fee will be \$14. No preregistration required.

Contact: Ed Hamilton N6XOH at (559) 642-2789 or via e-mail at anneed@sti.net

Exam Information Numbers

Fresno (559) 297-8478
Madera (559) 432-6526
Sonora (209) 962-7146
Stockton (209) 465-7496
Turlock (209) 632-6825

More information including future exam dates, searches for exams in your local area, and links to online tests are available at the club web site: www.w6bw.org/ve

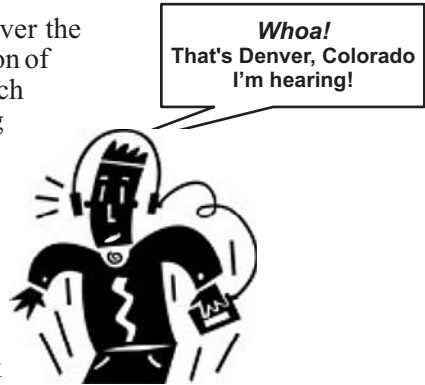


AM DX'ing In The Modern Day

Many of you remember the thrill of turning around with that old radio and marveling at the signals you would hear and from great distances. That thrill still exists albeit much more crowded and fewer stations in the clear.

No longer is that huge table top radio needed nor that 200 foot wire running out the window. You can use a small clock radio, your car's radio and even that small 5 dollar walkman you bought!!!

The broadcast AM band has changed much over the last 40 years. The FCC has taken away the notion of the powerful "clear channel" station, which makes DX a little more difficult. Just tuning around with the radio in our car, I'm able to hear 9 western states with little or no effort and hear fairly clear signals. Using my portable ShortWave radio, I am able to hear 16 states with no external antenna. Some are clear, and some obviously take effort.



Simple steps such as turning around your clock radio, moving your car to a new position, or maybe even tilting that walkman on its side will produce nulls' causing some stations to disappear and others to pop up out of nowhere! Your mileage may vary. Each radio has its own properties and you will have to experiment a little to see what is best for you.

There are online resources available for helping to identify those stations you hear and where they are. My favorite is www.radio-locator.com. They also list TV and FM stations as well. If you search with Google, I'm quite sure you could find hundreds more resources.

I write this as many of us caught the 'radio' bug from these humble beginnings, and that excitement is still available if you want it. No 2,000 dollar radio required. Only your time and your patience. Take the time to relive that! Tune around the AM dial at night. You will be surprised! I sure was!

By, Mike KF6KDA www.kf6kda.net

Bob Tauxe W6JTA - Silent Key

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Robert (Bob) Tauxe, W6JTA at the age of 86. Bob, a retired electrician, joined MARC in 1989, served as president in 1991 and as a director in 92, 93 & 95. He held an Extra class license, served as a volunteer examiner and was always helping new hams or anyone in need. Having a gift for CW operating, Bob was a mainstay during the club's field day operations. He will be remembered as the "Jolly Tall American," the phonetics he used for his call sign. Also he started the "Play BALL" tradition given after the pledge of allegiance at every club meeting, that is still continued today. Due to health reasons, Bob was recently forced to move to Sun City West, Arizona with his wife Evelyn. Despite the distance, he was able to keep in frequent contact with friends here in California via HF.

Jeff KF6CNV

EVENTS CALENDAR

December

Saturday, 3rd:
MARC Christmas Dinner

Saturday, 3rd:
SKYWARN Recognition Day
The Clovis ARP members are once again manning a special event station at the Hanford Weather Service using the call W6H and will operate on local repeaters and HF

Saturday, 10th - Sunday, 11th:
ARRL 10-Meter Contest

Sunday, 11th:
VE Exam in Oakhurst
(See page 2, or www.w6bw.org/ve)

January

Saturday, 22nd - Sunday, 23rd:
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

Thursday, 26th:
MARC Club Meeting
Program will be presented by Alan W6LSU on a homebrew CW decoder project.

February

Sunday, 5th:
VE Exam in Sonora
9AM at Tuolumne County Library
Email: ni6z@bigvalley.net

Thursday, 23rd:
MARC Club Meeting

Saturday, 25th:
Radio Fest 2006
Hosted by Naval Postgraduate School ARC
More information at: www.radiofest.org

Coffee Klatch

Mountain area hams meet every Thursday morning at 10:00AM at the Sierra Senior Citizens Center in Oakhurst on Road 425B. Come by, enjoy some coffee and discuss the latest DX or show off your newest gadget.



www.w6bw.org/ares

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

On October 15th the Fresno Cycle Club and several other local clubs hosted the Double Century Bass Lake Powerhouse Ride, A Time Trial & Endurance bike ride. The Mountain ARC worked with the San Joaquin Valley Amateur Radio Society to provide communications between the rest stops along the route and the command station located in Clovis at the Elks Lodge.

Communications took place on the 146.820 repeater which gave us good coverage along the route. Back up frequencies were the 146.745 & 147.180 repeaters. The 200 mile route started at Clovis and roughly followed a route through Auberry, Northfork, Bass Lake, Mariposa, Raymond, and back to Clovis. While the ride lasted from before sunrise until around midnight, climbing over 15,800 cumulative feet over the route, the actual rest stops were only staffed for setup and during the time riders were coming through.

MARC members staffed 5 stations in Madera and Mariposa Counties, while SJVARS members covered the command post along with the rest of the stops. Those participating were: Alan W6LSU & Sammy KG6ZAE at Bass Lake, Tom WB6GXQ & Jeff KF6CNV at the Madera-Mariposa County Line, Joe K6BUD & George W6RFL at the Mariposa Fairgrounds, Ed KG6UDT & Dean KG6MXZ at Raymond, Dick W6RFR & Jerry WA6ONA at the Spring Valley School in O'Neals. SJVARS participants were: John KG6AWB, Pat KG6BXZ, Jim KF6GKC, Mark K6ORJ, Gene W7POR, Mike KG6RZW, Jan KG6SUL, Carole KG6TTF, Kim KF6ZSW.

All the operators wore orange emergency communications vests and looked quite spiffy. If you would like to see some pictures of the SJVARS side of operations; they can be found at www.sjvars.com.

Jeff KF6CNV

Madera County ARES supported the Mountain Heritage Days Parade by providing communications at key positions along the parade route on Saturday, September 7th from 0800 to 1200. The following operators participated with communications on 146.745 frequency: Staging - Ernie Hoge, KD6TRV & Ed Schiller, KG6UDT, PC Shadow - Jeff Wandell, KF6CNV, Judging/Announcer - Jerry Thompson, WA6ONA, and Net Control - Dick Rekart, W6RFR. The operators performed successfully and without incident. The operators also looked sharp in their club clothing and orange vests. Thanks to all the operators for volunteering, and donating their time for a job done well.

*Dick Rekart W6RFR
EC, Madera County*



www.w6bw.org/vip

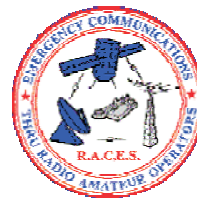
CDF-VIP/MARC Communications

Bob Guldstrand, N6EPJ was appointed as CDF-VIP/MARC Communications Coordinator by Dick Rekart, W6RFR,

Chairman, MARC Emergency Preparedness. Bob is a long standing member of MARC, a season veteran in Emergency Services, and a contractor for the CDF. Bob replaces Skip Reymann, W6PAJ who moved out of the area. Thanks to Skip for a job well done, and good luck to Bob on his new assignment.

Dick Rekart W6RFR

Chairman, MARC Emergency Preparedness



www.w6bw.org/races

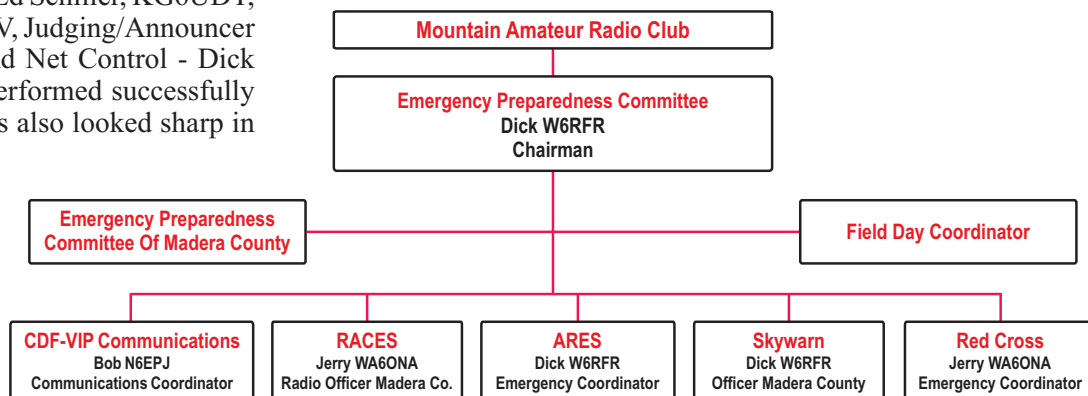
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

There will be drill in early December, requiring six + operators to man a shelter, command center staging area etc. There

will be minimal communications with most of the drill being a table-top exercise. You must be registered as a RACES member in Madera County, if you are interested in working this drill sent me an e-mail (wa6ona@w6bw.org). If you have limited experience in emergency drills I will place you with a more experienced operator.

Jerry WA6ONA

Radio Officer, Madera County





Eastern Madera County Emergency Preparedness Committee

Synopsis of the October, 2005 Meeting - www.sierratel.com/emergency

Sharon Martinez (American Red Cross Director Emergency Services) reported that to-date 118 families have relocated here (221+ people). There have been 150 volunteers deployed and there will be a first debriefing session scheduled for the first of these support groups who are returning from Katrina event. Sharon stated that it is time for "communities coming forward to support their own..." Some displaced families are waiting to return home to L.A. County. Social Services and Mental Health have been assisting these families. It is taking time to locate permanent housing... Housing ranges from 2 weeks to 30 days in hotels.

Rhonda Catherina (Community Medical Center) reported on the Disaster Drill exercise to be held in December - to create an environment to close access out of Oakhurst. The goal at the end of this is to establish the beginning of our own evacuation plan. The drill will consist of a table top exercise - followed by a drill with victims.

Ed Guzman (Sierra Ambulance) reported for Shirley Finneman (PUBH) that she will be preparing a letter to be sent to local groups requesting blankets, etc. for church group shelters. Ed reported (not yet official) they would be switching dispatch service from CDF to EMS Regional Dispatch in Fresno - primarily financial - not because of service. A rate increase from the CDF will double beginning 01/06. Using Fresno dispatch will be at no cost to Madera County. This change will bring the three-county regions under "one roof". This will also increase SAS technological capabilities. The target date is Jan. 06. MED 14 channel will be used exclusively - 451.425.

Sharon Fitzgerald (SPCA) reported that after the North Fork fire they were overwhelmed - no cooperation from Madera County. They had to scramble to find locations for displaced animals. After this fire, they put together an operation plan offering location, facilities, etc. Transportation has proven to be the biggest issue. They are accepting donations for crates, etc. - The storage building has exceeded its limits and they now have a second storage facility. It was mentioned that the Mariposa Fairgrounds could also be used in the time of an emergency.

Amateur Radio Word Search

By Jeff KF6CNU

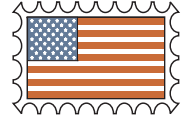


Grid of letters for word search:
A M P L I F I C A T I O N E P M A L I C O M P U T E R
F G S E S O P T O I S O L A T O R K C A B D E E F J E
I N T E R F E R E N C E B I P O L A R P B A U D O T D
E M N N U M H R O T C E T E D N D A R A F O N A N E L
L R R A R E T E M O T N I O P E B K I R C H H O F F C O
D E T O T D S A R A C N N D T O S D A I W A C O V H S
D S C T A W U O B E W U Z U R U B X H T Z D O L E N E
A O A A M V M T D I L A D N O N R E S O N A N T V I D
Y N E L A O I N S A L U R N P C O R A R W H T C A C C
D A R L T E C E B G L I O D O E E T N C O T R I W I I
F N O I S S I M S N A R T J S C V N G M O G O L O A R
T C V C A R T U M I C O A Y P P I E E N C N L O R N C
R E E S C E E R M N I E U H H A T M R A I E L B C T U
E G K O D V N T Y T R V N C E D A N E W T L E A I E I
V N Z C A N G S A H E I E O R D G G J S A E R R M N T
I I R O O I A N E G M T T P E L E I E G M V E A A N N
E D Z K R S M I S I U I T E A E N L C J E A T P D A E
C A L L B O O K U L N S A U T O P A T C H W E D M O R
E F R E Q U E N C Y P O R T A B L E I X C C M Q X T R
R T T E L E G R A P H P T N E R E H O C S Q M U H C U
D O P P L E R E L T S U H A I R P I N P E G A S U S C

- Alignment
Amateur
Ammeter
Amplification
Antenna
Asynchronous
Attenuator
Autopatch
Award
Azden
Balun
Baudot
Beacon
Bipolar
Broadcast
Callbook
Capacitor
Circuit
Coherent
Computer
Controller
Current
DXCC
Daiwa
Darlington
Desolder
Detector
Doppler
Electromotive
Epoch
Fading
Feedback
FieldDay
Frequency
Geomagnetic
Hairpin
Homemade
Hustler
Instrument
Interference
Inverse
Joule
Kirchhoff
Lamp
Lightning
Magnetic
Microwave
Moonbounce
Nanofarad
Negative
Nonresonant
Numerical
Optoisolator
Oscillator
Paddle
Parabolic
Pegasus
Permeability
Pointometer
Polarization
Portable
Positive
QCWA
Reactants
Receiver
Rejection
Resonance
Schematic
Semiconductor
Socket
Student
Swan
Technician
Telegraph
Transmission
Troposphere
Wavelength
Yaesu



Mountain Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 457
Oakhurst, CA 93644



MARC Membership Application

Membership is \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. Make checks payable to Mountain Amateur Radio Club and send to P.O. Box 457, Oakhurst Ca 93644

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Spouse's Name _____ Anniversary _____

Phone _____ Don't list in the roster Birth date _____

E-Mail _____ Don't list in the roster

Hobbies _____

License Class _____ Year Licensed _____

- Interested In:
- RACES/ARES
 - VIP
 - DXing
 - Digital
 - Contesting
 - ARRL Member

Map to MARC Meeting and Coffee Klatch

