

\\ Ham Radio Classes begin in September 12 //

Earn your FCC Amateur Radio (HAM radio) license and get on the air! The classes are free, the book cost is \$35. Classes start on Monday, September 12, from 7pm to 9pm. Classes are held at the Eureka down town fire station located on the corner of 6 street & C street. Contact for the classes is Don Campbell, email ke6sls@arrl.net, or call him at 707-834-0042. If you are interested, or know anyone that is interested in ham radio this is the perfect time to get started with amateur radio. Classes are open to all ages and wheel chair access is available.

There's a new 146.910 repeater in town

Joe nu6o, calibrated/repairs backup 146.910 repeater and tuned the former portable set of cavities for this frequency. In the process, he also programmed in the new "w6zzk" call sign. Last thing he did was to remove the expensive solder-in type of back up battery and install a real button style battery holder so batteries don't need to be soldered! Thank you so very much Joe!

I brought the repeater to my shop and found ID would go off each time the repeater was keyed up. Finally found a pot on the logic board and switched it to another mode and now it acts better.

Remember, this is almost a 30 year old repeater. After a week long burn-in in the garage, it was time to move it up to Rainbow Ridge vault. Don ke6hec, Dexter ag6da, and myself drove up to the site and removed the old machine (now covered in mouse/rat stuff) and installed the new machine. The old cavities are much better than the portable units, so they are still in use. We did find coax needs repair and that the SWR is too high. So another visit, probably for a whole day will have to happen soon. We need to add a deep cycle battery so the unit will function when the generator fails (usually a few times a month). Once the rest of the work is complete, we should have a very well mannered repeater on a stand-alone basis that links northern and southern Humboldt. Thank you to all who were so kind to help in this work, especially Joe!

FWRA Picnic Sunday, 11 September

One of the best gatherings of ham radio folks and flea market in all of Humboldt county. Win prizes and help us support the Far West Repeater Association and all the linked repeaters we all use and depend on every day. Bring the gear you want to sell or trade. Bring your money to buy other gear you need! Bring your pot luck goodies to share and don't forget to bring plates and silverware. The picnic is in Scotia at the Fireman's Park. Use the 146.760 repeater if you need directions. Hams start showing up by 10AM and lunch starts around noon. After the feast, we have the raffle! Be sure to mark your September calendar for Sunday the 11th and enjoy meeting a bunch of your fellow hams and families!

Trinidad Head Lighthouse activation

For August we are in the final stages of working with the BLM to get access to the Trinidad Head Lighthouse, (the actual, historic one) for International Lighthouse Weekend. We will just be doing Sunday, 0900-1700. BLM will supply a truck for us to schlep our gear up the hill. They're going to have a press release about the event as well. More details to follow. The last time this lighthouse was activated was over ten years ago when Boyd w6dsb, Mark aa6dx, Randy w6ra, and Jaye ke6sls ventured up the hill with Boyd's RV! This place offers a whole new perspective of the bay and fog horns.

Cheers!

Anthony

KG6LightHouseWeekend...

FD results

The official points from our Field Day weekend was 1280 points! Even with a logging program, we somehow managed to miss many qso points. Kai n6zzo was kind enough to take all the paper logs and compare it to the digital logs and collate them into the final count. Once in hand, I copied the logs and sent them into ARRL HQ with the usual documents. It is unknown if our results will be published or not since your editor did not note the deadline date!

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Jaye Inabnit ke6sls, ke6sls@arrl.net

For more information, please visit our website <http://www.humboldt-arc.org>
or write to:

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club
BOX 5251
Eureka, CA 95502-5251

The ORCA Digital Net

Something very exciting has been underway, quietly every Tuesday evening for over a year now. ORCA, or the Oregon California Digital Net is a training ground for all operators that are interested in learning more than just simple psk31 contacts on the HF bands. Every net begins with operators from Washington to Utah, to Nevada checking in with Net Control Station (NCS). Once checked in, NCS begins the net and sends a digital picture, then net instructions, followed by one

official message. Following the message transmission, NCS does a roll call making sure all operators were able to fully copy the message, but if one or more receiving stations didn't copy the whole message, NCS will direct a relay station to fill the message. But unlike sending messages over voice, we use our software and automate the process making it easy for every operator to have a 100% perfect copy of the original message! The more we practice, the faster we can do it, even in rotten band conditions! We all can send traffic, and right now, much of the traffic is field reports of the current fires burning in the country near us. Last, we send our reports of how well we copied each station during the net. It is fascinating how diverse the field reports can be, even with operators in the same town! NCS then compiles a full report and sends each of us an email link to the ORCA web site so we can see how well we were copied by NCS.

ORCA is our training ground to learn all the tools, the radios, the interfaces, and finally how to pass traffic, or RELAY traffic. We are looking for new operators to join the net since the more operators we have, the better the odds are that we can communicate during emergencies like earthquakes, forest fires, major storms, or flooding. The software is free of charge and runs on all operating systems. Even though the net only runs for an hour, it's an hour the flies by. So if you are HF digital ready, make it a point to monitor and check into the ORCA net! ORCA frequency is listed under NETS on each addition of RAIN. <http://orcadigitalnet.com/>

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of Meeting - August 2, 2016

Officers Present: Jim Armstrong **KW6JIM**, Pres. / Peter Esko **W6IES**, V.P.
Marcy Campbell **KE6IAU**, Treasurer / Dan Eaton **KB6DE**, Secretary /
Jaye Inabnit **KE6SLS**, Newsletter Editor Pro Tem. , /Anthony Weise **KG6LHW**,
Events Planner

Jim called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM at the Eureka, 6th Street Fire Department meeting room.

Intros were made and the log book was and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Marcy reported as of July 7th: Beginning Bal.: \$1920.58, no income, Expenses \$415.15 for equipment and Ending Bal.: \$1505.43
As of August 2nd: Beginning Bal.: \$1505.43, Income from Dues: \$40.00, no expenses and Ending Bal.: \$1545.43. The report was accepted unanimously. Jaye advised he needs reimbursement for R.A.I.N. newsletter expenses so far this calendar year in the amount of \$118.00.

Health and Welfare: We were saddened to learn Iris J. Mattes **KD6AXL** became a silent key recently, date uncertain. Her memorial date is uncertain. The status of the publication of obituaries for Sally Marx **KG6WWK** and Ralph Marx **KG6UUF** pends.

Secretary Report: July 5th meeting minutes were reviewed by members. Peter said he would like to make some additions to his report and we agreed to delay review and approval until September meeting.

Vice-president's EMCOMM Report:

- a) There will be a 1-3 day California statewide FEMA Reg. 9 type exercise sometime in November.
- b) Members at the meeting acknowledged feeling the recent low intensity earthquake but Peter did not monitor any radio activity after the event.
- c) Peter will look into getting a speaker to talk to us about uses and licensing of commercial radio in Humboldt County.

Old Business:

- a) The Trusteeship transfer for the Club's call sign **W6ZZK** pends. Jim needs to scan some documents.
- b) Jim is trying to contact Christine at the Red Cross about using their empty former headquarters building.
- c) No update about an intended meeting with Reg Kennedy at the U.S. Weather Service about Skywarn.
- d) Jaye reported the Communications Van (former Bloodmobile) has an estimated value in the range of \$5000-5500. For a replacement, the club is looking for a donation and not a purchase. Jim and Dan suggested a trailer instead. Forrest told us a bit about the trailer converted for Sheriff's Posse use. Jim will collect some photos of Ham Communications trailers to show at the next meeting. Peter moved to sell the Comm. van on *Craig's List* with an asking price of \$5000. Steve Isherwood **KK6MPV** seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Past Event Report: Bike race on Saturday, July 30th :

Forrest Schafer **KI6GRU** told us about the **Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association** (RCMBA) **Stormy Saddle Enduro** mountain bike race at Lacks Creek BLM Management Area. Forrest, Don Nelson **WA6NBG**, John Olson **KG6MAR**, four other out of area hams (one from HSU), the Sheriff's Posse members and the BLM folks also attended. They could have used more Ham help. Forrest said radio communication was spotty and he would like to see more club participation next year. They saw one bear, noted one injury and enjoyed the 85 ° (in the shade) weather. The race was very well attended. The racers were professional or expert class riders.

Future Events:

- a) Anthony told us our next planned event will be at the (former) Coast Guard Lighthouse on August 21st for International Lighthouse Weekend. We are encouraged to meet at the Trinidad Head parking lot at 9:00 am. We will set up radios and antennas and stay all day. There will be shuttle transportation to the lighthouse and the Coast Guard will give public presentations a 12:00 and 2:00.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Lighthouse_and_Lightship_Weekend
- b) Anthony is planning an activation at the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area (U.S. National Park Service) on September 24th-25th. He will provide more details later.

c) Jaye reminded us the Far West Repeater Association (FWRA) will have its annual Pic-Nic in the Scotia Fireman's Park on Sept. 11th. As usual, THIS IS A POT- LUCK event so be sure to bring something to share. Everyone is encouraged to attend the swap meet, lunch and raffle with HUUUGE prizes. This is an excellent time for newly licensed Hams to introduce themselves and become dues-paying members of the wonderful and useful FWRA.

New Business:

a) There will be a series of FREE Ham Technician classes, lead by Don Campbell **KE6HEC**, starting September 12th at the Eureka Fire Station, 7:00pm.

The ARRL Technician book will be required and the cost to students will be \$35.

b) (FWRA) Jaye told us Joe Lowe **NU6Ø** refurbished a repeater (??) with a new logic board. A new 12v. battery pends.

c) Jaye advised the Field Day logs are finished and we made 1900 points.

Acknowledgement of our accomplishment pends.

Presentation: Jim gave us a slide show of adventures at Sea-Pac in Seaside Oregon in early June. The 80M antenna supported by a piloted quad-copter was amazing. Steve **KK6MPV**, Sherry Eaton **KK6MPY** and your secretary enjoyed Sea-Pac this year too. Jim also showed us some great Field Day photos provided by Kevin Bayless **KK6MPT**.

Nano Swap Meet:

Howard Lang **KB6NN** brought his near new but unneeded police scanner and some antenna doo-dads for sale.

Break and raffle: Great cookies Marcy! Raffle winners were: Dexter **AG6DA**, Steve, Greg **AA6GD**, Charles **KK6MPU**, Forrest and Anthony. _

Presentation: Jim Falls **K6FWT** gave a talk with pictures explaining his interest in getting his BC-375-E Tx/Tuner set on the air and *in the air* installed in a B-17F Flying Fortress bomber after receiving an invitation from the Collings Foundation. He and his buddy Mark Miller **KE6F** met at "Bomber Camp" at the Stockton airport and made it happen. With an output of 60W on AM mode or 100W CW, it was nearly state of the art in WWII and was very reliable. It had frequency range of "0-7mc" and required a power supply providing a solid 1000v @.2A or else it would be prone unwanted FM behavior. Using the included tuner for this outing, the useful frequency range was was 200-500 kc. Jim also provided his BC-312-L receiver as part of a BC-191 ground station at the same time.

Thanks Jim for sharing your experiences with us.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm.

de KB6DE

HARC Membership Dues are DUE

Help keep Humboldt Amateur Radio Club going and join as a full member. Dues are only \$20 per year single, and \$25 per year for family membership. You can download the form from the website here:

<http://www.humboldt-arc.org/forms/membapp.pdf>

Fill out the form and send it in with your payment. We really need you and your help and this is a great way to add to our club and maintain our repeaters and gatherings.

News

VEC FCC Testing in Fortuna

Ready to become a ham? Time to upgrade your license? Make sure to bring your ID.

FCC Amateur license testing by our wonderful VEC, **Sunday August 28**

Location: Fortuna Volunteer fire Dept Fortuna CA 95547

Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Dan Dan.AG6JW@gmail.com, 768-9147

RARC MEETING JUNE 28, 2016

The Redwood Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order at 1910 by President Lonnie Harvey, KJ6WDL, with eleven in attendance. New to the group, Ferndale resident Lee Shoblom, K6ADA.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's Report for the 4/26/2016 meeting was accepted as read. There was no May meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Frank Cope, K6BMZ, reported \$390.63 in savings and \$ 2657.31 in checking, the PO Box is paid for the year and there are 18 paid members. The report was accepted as read. Frank pointed out that RARC needs an equipment inventory for insurance purposes. Lonnie and Dan, AG6DA, will provide the inventory.

OLD BUSINESS

Trailer Issues:

Dan had pictures of the 6'X12" trailer the Club is considering purchasing for \$2000. Frank introduced a motion to establish a committee to inspect the trailer. Motion passed – the Committee consists of Lonnie, Spencer, KF6HBY, Bernie, WA6HZG, and Dan. A 3/4 majority can decide on the purchase.



NEW BUSINESS

RWS owner Wayne Shaw, K6RWS, will let RARC store the trailer in the RWS yard complete with an electrical hookup. A motion passed to move the trailer to that location after the inventory.

Dan reported that the Far West Repeater Association has lost the Dinsmore site – the property has sold. In other FWRA news, a work party to Mt. Pierce is still needed to replace siding (still needs painting) and investigate the intermittent noise users are experiencing. The FWRA picnic and Swap Meet will be held September 11 at Fireman's Park in Scotia.

Frank Cope suffered a stroke on July 15 and as of this mailing he is in rehab in Eureka. There will be an update at the meeting.

The Trailer Committee referred to in the minutes took a look at the trailer on Sunday and were in agreement that RARC should make the purchase. A picture is attached.

PROGRAM

Dave Carr, WZ6S - a Ham since 1954, gave a talk, with lots of project demos, on the Arduino Micro Controller. Dave's handout is included with these minutes.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Don Campbell, KE6HEC, Secretary

HARC Com Van Hits The Road



It's been a great Communications Van for the club and served us very well. The club voted to sell the Com Van at this month's meeting to avoid the high costs of attempting to maintain the unit. Dan kb6de and Jaye ke6sls cleaned out the stuff for recycle and garbage, then sorted through the remaining items found in the van—some of which is really neat and will be available for the picnic in September. Jaye stowed all the antenna gear into our club trailer, as well as the chairs. Dan was kind enough to provide dry and safe storage area while we search for a replacement Com van or trailer.



After the Thursday ham lunch, hams descended on the storage site to help remove the club decals. Steve kk6mpv, Jim kw6jim, Saroj km6bqd, Keven kk6mpt, Dan kb6de, Del w6koz, and Jaye ke6sls made themselves available to do the muscle work. Jim was grumping about how hard this was going to be, however, we discovered the decals came off quite easily with just a bit of heat from the heat guns and a little scraping. We used the club generator and Del's generator to power the heat

guns and keep the work noise down for neighboring offices. In just a few hours, all the decals were removed and the adhesives carefully removed. The van will be advertised for sell next week.

Amateur Radio Sleuthing Pins Down Source of Strange RF Interference

Police in Evanston, Illinois, contacted the ARRL Lab, after an apparent interference source began plaguing wireless vehicle key fobs, cell phones, and other wireless electronics. Key fob owners found they could not open or start their vehicles remotely until their vehicles were towed at least a block away, nor were they able to call for help on their cell phones when problems occurred. The police turned to ARRL for help after striking out with the FCC, which told them it considered key fob malfunctions a problem for automakers, although the interference was affecting not just key fobs but cell phones, which are a licensed radio service. ARRL Lab EMC Specialist Mike Gruber, W1MG, believes the FCC should have paid more attention.

“This situation is indicative of what can happen as a result of insufficient FCC enforcement, especially with regard to electrical noise and noncompliant consumer devices,” Gruber said.

Evanston authorities worried that a serious situation could develop if someone were unable to call 911, putting public safety at risk. They also were concerned that the RFI could be intentional and indicate some nefarious or illegal activity. Given the seriousness of this situation, Gruber contacted Central Division Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA, to ask if he could look into the matter.

On June 2, Carlson met with an Evanston police officer, her sergeant, a local business owner, and the local alderman, and he quickly confirmed that the 600 block of Dempster Avenue in Evanston was plagued with an odd RFI problem. Carlson determined that the problem prevailed along a set of eight on-street parallel parking spots in the downtown commercial district of the North Chicago suburb.

Carlson employed a Radar Engineers 240A Noise Signature Receiver and UHF Yagi antenna to survey the affected block. Since key fobs typically operate at around 315 MHz and 433 MHz, he looked on both frequencies. The survey identified several noise sources in the affected block, but in particular a strong signal in the middle of the block. The interference source turned out to be a recently replaced neon sign switching-mode power supply, which was generating a substantial signal within the on-street parking area just across the sidewalk, between 8 and 40 feet from the sign.

The problematic power supply interference also disabled Carlson’s cell phone when he was within a few feet of the device. Carlson anticipated that further investigation would show that the harmful interference could disrupt licensed radio services in close proximity. The troublesome transformer was not replaced, but the building owner agreed to turn off the sign should problems arise.

Carlson called the Evanston case “a particularly alarming example of radio interference,” especially since local authorities considered it a public safety matter. “This situation demonstrates the electromagnetic compatibility problems that are evolving in an atmosphere of noncompliant, unintentional RF-emitting devices,” he said.

A return visit to the area with calibrated antennas and equipment capable of measuring the radiated signal strength with quasi-peak detection is planned for later this year. Since the initial visit, several other instances of unexplained key fob malfunctions have been reported in the Greater Chicago area. — Thanks to Kermit Carlson, W9XA, and Mike Gruber, W1MG
<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-sleuthing-pins-down-source-of-strange-rf-interference>

RAIN
Box 5251
Eureka, California, 95502-5251

North Coast Nets

Sunday	0800	North coast emergency net	3.855 MHz SSB
Monday	1900	Arcata Emergency simplex net	146.430 MHz
Monday	1900	Eel River Emergency net	147.090 PL103.5
Monday	1900	Eureka Emergency simplex net	146.460 MHz
Monday	1900	Southern Humboldt Emergency net	146.790 PL 103.5
Monday	1915	Eureka & north UHF Emergency net	444.400 +5000 PL103.5
Monday	1930	Humboldt county Emergency net (nearest FWRA repeater to you)	146.700 PL1031.5 147.000 PL1031.5 146.760 PL1031.5 146.610 PL1031.5
Monday	1945	Humboldt County HF emergency net	3.955 MHz SSB
Monday	2000	California State net	3.992 MHz SSB
Monday	2005	Humboldt HF Digital emergency net	3.582 USB
Tuesday	1930	ORCA digital operations net	3.581 MHz USB
Tuesday	1930	California-Mendocino net	3.915 MHz SSB
Wednesday	1000	California State net	7.230 MHz SSB
Wednesday	1930	FWRA net	146.760 PL103.5



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