

Greetings from the Western Placer Amateur Radio Club:

I hope everyone flew their flag and honored a veteran yesterday. Our freedom is contingent on the brave men and women who defend our democracy.

We have three nets every Wednesday (Today!) with 2 on 2 meters and one on HF. On 2 meters we have one at 10:00 AM and one at 7:30 PM. They are both on the 146.640 (-) 156.7 repeater. Katy KJ6YCP is the AM net control and this week, being that it is the 2nd Wednesday of November, Bill KJ6YCO will be net control on the evening net. The AM net looks like it is growing and the PM net made a strong come back last week. There is an HF net 5 minutes after the 2 meter net ends. As this is the 2nd Wednesday in November we will be on 15 meters at 21.355 MHz and as usual I will be net control. The schedule for the next 4 weeks is:

November 12 – 15 Meters (21.355 MHz)

November 19 – 40 Meters (7.225 MHz)

November 26 – 80 Meters (3.855 MHz)

December 3 – 10 Meters (28.410 MHz) A great chance for our Techs to get on HF!

The November Board Meeting was last night and we have some exciting news about the 2015 Kickoff Meeting. We will have a special drawing prize – an MFJ-259C Antenna Analyzer. For those of you who aren't familiar with the 259C, it has a retail value of \$299.00 and, according to the MFJ web site:

Instantly read SWR and Antenna Impedance from any antenna!

No Transmitter or Radio hookup needed, Built-in Frequency Counter!

2 Line LCD Display! Dial in your frequency & it displays the SWR instantly!

Great for Amateur Ham Radio Antennas, Two Way Radio, & other uses from 0.53-230Mhz!

New MFJ-259C with HF/VHF/70 cm frequencies replaces older MFJ-259B model

The MFJ-259C SWR Antenna Analyzer Instantly gives you a complete picture of your antennas performance!

You can actually read antenna SWR, Complex Impedance & more, from 0.53 to 230MHz without a radio attached!

Read Complex Impedance as series resistance and reactance ( $R+jX$ ) or as magnitude ( $Z$ ) and phase (degrees).

You can actually determine the velocity factor, coax cable loss in dB, length of coax and distance to a short or open in feet with this device!

No calibrating, read SWR, return loss, and reflection coefficient at any frequency, simultaneously at a single glance!

Also read inductance in UH and capacitance in pF at RF frequencies.

Large easy-to-read two line LCD screen, and side-by-side meters clearly display your information.

Built-in frequency counter, runs on 10 regular or NiMh 'AA' Batteries, internal charger circuit ( AA Batteries & AC/DC adapters optional), battery saver, low battery warning, smooth reduction drive tuning, and much more!

Super easy to use! Just set the band-switch, and tune the dial to the desired frequency. SWR and Complex Impedance are displayed instantly!

Replaces older MFJ-259B MFJ259B model.

10 'AA' Batteries Not Included.

We have set the date and location for the 2015 Kickoff Party. It will be Saturday January 10th at 6:00 PM at the Woodcreek Oaks Golf Club in Roseville (our usual meeting place). We need help coordinating the event. If you would like to help out email Katy or me. We are working on a menu and should have it available soon. It should be similar to the one we had last year and we will email it and post it on the web site. Woodcreek Oaks requests that everyone who plans to attend to RSVP by Monday January 5th. ARRL Section Manager Ron W6KJ and Assistant Section Manager Jo Anne N6YLO will be our honored guests for the evening. If you don't know Ron this is a good chance to meet him and ask any questions you may have about the ARRL. Ron works hard for our section and it is always a pleasure to see him.

The November meeting is next Tuesday the 18th and the presentation will feature Dennis KI6HHA covering traffic handling. Dennis is an old hand at this so it should be an interesting presentation. You can bring your 2015 dues to the meeting and save yourself a stamp. We need to be more careful about how we state the dues. One new member hesitated to join because he thought the dues were \$24 a month instead of \$24 per year! **DON'T FORGET – WE WILL BE BACK AT THE WOODCREEK OAKS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS!**

Also at the November meeting we will be taking nominations for club officers for 2015. The officer positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, 3 Board Members, and an Alternate Board Member. Please email nominations to either me or Katy KJ6YCP. You can also make nominations at the November meeting. The elections will be at the December meeting. The November Board meeting is the 11th this month at 7:00 PM at the Pizza Roundup and the November Club Meeting is the 18th at 7:00 PM the Woodcreek Oaks.

We received some nominations to date. They are:

President – Jim W6JMF

Vice President – Bill KJ6YCO

Secretary – Michael K6BUK

Treasurer – no nominations yet

Board Member – Dennis KI6HHA

Board Member – Clay K6AEP

Board Member – open

Alternate Board Member – Harvey KD6LND

As you can see, we are recycling pretty much the same group of officers. The same core group of people have been serving for several years. We want some new people to take part in the Board and bring some fresh ideas on how to grow the club and make membership worthwhile to all members. You can nominate yourself!

We will be supporting the Holiday Parade in Lincoln on December 6th at 4:30 PM so add this date to your calendar. Dennis KI6HHA will be coordinating the event. Fortunately, we have a full crew so no more volunteers are needed.

In addition, we will be supporting the Lions Club food distribution on Saturday, December 20th. We have provided communications for the traffic in and out of the pickup point for several years. This is a pretty big event with around 800 cars every year. Each car will have an authorization letter that needs to be checked for them to pick up their box of goodies. Frank KB6KYK is the organizer of the event and has done a great job for many years. Thanks for your dedication, Frank! You can catch him on the 2 meter nets, at a club meeting, or at [papabeardohunt@yahoo.com](mailto:papabeardohunt@yahoo.com).

We need a presentation for the December club meeting. With elections and other business this can be a short presentation if you want to try out your presentation skills. Club VP Jim W6JMF ([mtnredhed@gmail.com](mailto:mtnredhed@gmail.com)) is the person to talk to if you have a suggestion for a presentation or would like to give a presentation. If you have a suggestion of a topic you would like to hear about at a club meeting or if you would like to present on a topic please contact any board member. I think one of the things that is helping to increase membership is the quality of the presentations we have at meetings.

December 6th is SKYWARN Recognition Day. This is an annual event when Amateur Radio operators visit the National Weather Service offices and contact other operators around the world. The purpose of the event is to recognize the vital public service contributions that Amateur Radio Operators make during NWS severe weather warning operations. More information is on the ARRL web site.

The club repeater, K6PAC, is not very useful at its current location. The altitude is not high enough and there is some terrain blocking for a lot of areas. Thursday we are moving it to Gary's WA6IKE QTH at approximately 1,200 to 1,300 feet altitude. We will have to reapply for coordination but we have done that a few times. If you were at Gary's for Field Day this year you may have seen the monster antenna tower he has.

I am brokering the sale of a Kenwood TS-990S for \$6,500 for another club member. If you are interested let me know. It is in great shape with just a minor scratch on the right side. The TS-990S will blow your socks off – it is a stunning engineering tour de force from Kenwood. The Kenwood site is <http://www.kenwood.com/usa/com/amateur/ts-990s/> It is available at a fair market price and only has very light use.

The Sierra Foothills ARC will be sponsoring their first annual Ham Swap on March 15th 2015 in Loomis which is handy for WPARC members. More info as it becomes available.

If you know of any other Ham Swaps, Hamfests, or any other ham related events in northern California or western Nevada, email me and I will add them to the newsletter.

Thinking of the events in the Sacramento Valley Section reminded me that there are lots of nets in the area that are sponsored by other clubs. There are many different kinds of nets including HF, VHF, UHF, digital, and SSTV. For a full listing go to this link maintained by Assistant Section Manager Les W6TEE. Les does a great job of keeping the page updated: <http://www.qsl.net/w6tee/nets.html>.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or complaints about the club please talk to a club officer. The club officers are:

Katy KJ6YCP – President [entertainangels@surewest.net](mailto:entertainangels@surewest.net)

Jim W6JMF – Vice President [mntredhed@gmail.com](mailto:mntredhed@gmail.com)

Michael K6BUK – Secretary [mr buck@pacbell.net](mailto:mr buck@pacbell.net)

John NQ6Q – Treasurer [1jkgriffin@gmail.com](mailto:1jkgriffin@gmail.com)

Clay K6AEP – Board Member [abramsc@pobox.com](mailto:abramsc@pobox.com)

Bill KJ6YCO – Board Member [entertainangels@surewest.net](mailto:entertainangels@surewest.net)

Dennis KI6HHA – Board Member [ki6hha@aol.com](mailto:ki6hha@aol.com)

Roger K6OU – Alternate Board Member [rbrunnquell@yahoo.com](mailto:rbrunnquell@yahoo.com)

The first of many reminders – don't forget that the annual membership dues are due by December 31. I think Harvey KD6LND was the first to pay this year, handing in his check at the October meeting. We aren't planning an increase this year so the fee structure will be the same as it always has - \$24 for single membership, \$36 for family membership, and \$14 for active military personnel and members under 18. We haven't raised the dues. Ever.

The International DX Convention in Visalia will be April 17 – 19 this year. This is a big event and a lot of people from the WPARC attend. If you are interested in carpooling let me know and I will start a list. The web page is <http://www.dxconvention.com/>

The move to pass HR 4969 is gaining a lot of traction. HR 4969 is the “Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014” and is important to the ham community. The ARRL is pushing support and will have a webinar tonight for ARRL members. They also have information on their web site – <http://www.arrl.org/hr-4969>. Many hams across the country live in new development which are governed by CC&Rs. CC&Rs are Codes, Covenants, and Restrictions and they are killers for ham radio. Most CC&Rs prohibit the installation of ham antennas and as you all are aware, you can't operate HF without a good antenna. The FCC determined that states, counties, and cities can't prohibit the erection of antennas but did not carry their edict to cover CC&Rs, leaving that change for guidance from the U.S. Congress. HR 4969 currently in the House of Representatives will allow a reasonable accommodation for a ham antenna for someone who is governed by CC&Rs. We all know someone who is affected by the restrictions but now we can do something to help. There is a petition at [change.org](http://change.org) that requests that the House pass the bill and we need every ham in the country to sign it. Please forward this link to all your ham friends (or anyone else you think might sign it). You don't need to be a ham to sign so please enlist the help of all your friends. Several members of the House of Representatives have also signed on to support the ham community. You can sign the petition at:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/u-s-house-of-representatives-co-sponsor-hr-4969-the-amateur-radio-parity-act-of-2014>

47 U.S. Congress members have signed on as co-sponsors but we need many, many more. I also noticed that CA, the state with the most hams (nearly twice as many as any other state) and the largest Congressional delegation only has 2 representatives signed on as co-sponsors. This is abysmal and we need to change it. Please write to your representative and let them know that they need to sign on to pass this important bill.

There is a problem brewing caused by some people who oppose HR-4969. They are trying to spread a poisonous rumor that the bill will eliminate ALL CC&Rs. We need to write our Congress people and let them know the truth and that thousands of hams are counting on their vote. Check your email for a form letter to send.

The ARRL does a lot for the ham community, especially when it comes to spectrum preservation. They

are always working to keep the ham frequencies in our hands. There is a lot of good information on the website [arrl.org](http://arrl.org). They also send out weekly letters on various topics which are very interesting. In addition, Ron W6KJ sends out a monthly newsletter with information about and from clubs in the Sacramento Valley section. Definitely worth subscribing to for good information. This is the 100th year of the ARRL. Join today to make sure it is still here for the next 100 years and fighting to protect our share of the spectrum. The ARRL is also leading the fight to pass H.R. 4969.

The ARRL has a presence in social media and you can find lots of information on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Here are some sites where you can connect with the ARRL:

For Facebook go to: [www.facebook.com/ARRL.org](http://www.facebook.com/ARRL.org)

For Twitter there are several addresses. Try @arrl for primary information. If you are interested in community events, emergencies, and disaster communications follow: @ARRL\_ARES

For the latest on ARRLs media and to follow the ARRL Public Relations Manager follow: @ARRL\_PR

If you are interested in DXCC follow: @ARRL\_DXCC

For the young people in your family have them follow: @ARRL\_Youth

To find out what's new with the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, follow:

@ARRL\_W1AW

The ARRL offers lots of YouTube videos on a variety of topics go to:

[www.youtube.com/ARRLHQ](http://www.youtube.com/ARRLHQ)

I also discovered that the ARRL has a presence on LinkedIn and there are several ham oriented groups too. If you use LinkedIn log in and search for ARRL or ham/amateur radio groups. Club past president Kent K6AXP is active on LinkedIn. This week there is a discussion about Logbook of The World (LoTW).

If you know of any upcoming events in the area let me know and I will add them to the newsletter.

Here is a recap of upcoming club events (not much left for the rest of the year!):

Lincoln Holiday Parade – December 6

Lions Club Food Distribution – December 20 (I think – add it to your calender and I will let you know if there is a change of date. Frank KB6KYK manages this event so please let him know if you can help out. We manage the traffic control for lots and lots of cars!)

Many new members have been asking how to purchase the club ID badge. There is new information on the club website WPARC.US that covers how to order, how to specify the correct badge, etc. Thanks to Herman KD6BQH for putting this info together. I once belonged to a club where if you didn't wear your club badge to the meeting you were fined \$1.00 at the door!

Speaking of club ID, we now have official club business cards. The board decided that with the growth of the club we needed them and they will be available at club meetings. I banded up sets of 5 to hand out at meetings. The cards have club information on the front and have lines for name, call sign, and phone number on the back for handing out to prospective members or for any other use. We have 1,000 of them so we shouldn't run out any time soon.

There is an unofficial club breakfast every Saturday at Kim's Country Kitchen in Lincoln at 7:30 AM. The new address since the renaming of Highway 65 to Lincoln Blvd. is 490 Lincoln Blvd. It is opposite the (now closed) Ace Hardware which I saw today is being turned into some sort of dollar store or similar business. Lots of members show up for breakfast and there are lots of interesting topics discussed. Bright and early at 7:30 AM. Kim's has good food at good prices and is a strong supporter of the club (Kim's was our original meeting place until we outgrew it several years ago).

Remember, our website is [wparc.us](http://wparc.us).

Regards,

Michael

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Michael Buck  
K6BUK