



Nevada County Amateur Radio Club

Nuggets

Nevada County Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

ncarc.org

April 2017

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submissions: ncarc.news@gmail.com

Officers and Ranch Hands

President	K6LRL	Larry Latta
Vice-Pres.	N6HNS	Walt Hammontree
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	KD6GVO	John Yarber
	W6AI	Dan Patterson
ARES	K6TM	Richard Vizcarra
Webmaster	AI6MC	Cal McKitrick
Newsletter	W8BIT	Mark Graybill

Next Meeting
Monday April 10, 2017
doors open 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm

MARCH MEETING NOTES

Since the club is still without an official Secretary, the following is an entirely unofficial account of the events of the March meeting. Which is OK, because, to the knowledge of your intrepid reporter, no official business occurred at that meeting. Hopefully we will have an officially elected Secretary soon.

There were 29 attendees according to an unofficial count, and a great presentation on receivers by Walt N6HNS.

Club Net

Tuesdays at 7:00pm
147.285 + offset PL 151.4 or 136.5
Members / Guests are encouraged to check in.
After 2m Net: Informal 10m Net@ 28.453 USB

Coffee Chat (Ham n' Coffee)

Thursdays, 8am at Valentina's Bistro
841 Sutton Way, Grass Valley

License Exams

At the Salvation Army Meeting Room
10725 Alta Street - Grass Valley
Contact John Morris W6EXX
jf-morris@usa.net

RECEIVERS

Walt gave us a great history of receivers and the history of amateur receiver construction and the development of receivers toward the modern superheterodyning receiver.

Among the books he pointed us toward were Building Radio Outfits from 1909, and Civilian at Risk by our own Keeper of Shaggy Dog Stories, Ken Blue, K06H. Amazon link:

<https://www.amazon.com/Civilian-At-Risk-Kenneth-Blue-ebook/dp/B00H0JBDNW>

Walt took us from early coherer units and magnetic detectors to the Marconi Multiple

Tuner (with tuning performed at each stage of the receiver) to the Audion and crystal units to the regenerative radio, the TRF, and finally our familiar modern superhet. Which uses a tunable front end that produces a fixed beat frequency for a fixed frequency intermediate stage before the audio finals. This improves the selectivity of the front end while allowing for the following stages to be designed to work well at the chosen intermediate frequency.

NEVADA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MINUTES

No minutes submitted for the last meeting.

NEW HAM BANDS COMING SOON!

The FCC has proposed adding new bands to the amateur radio service spectrum. One is a Low Frequency (LF) band from 135.7 to 137.8KHz, which would be allocated on a secondary basis (with power utility PLC systems being primary.) This band is known as the 2200 meter band, and once operation is allowed to begin, amateurs would be required to register their station's location, and only fixed location operation would be allowed. This is to ensure a physical separation between amateur stations and PLC (Power Line Control) systems that use this frequency. Output on this band would be limited to 1W EIRP.

Since most antenna systems will be of very low efficiency (Unless you have about a kilometer of space for a half-wave antenna), this means transmitter output will probably be on the order of 25-100W at least.

The other band will go from 472 to 479kHz in the Medium Frequency (MF) range, aka the 630 meter band. This band will be limited to 5W EIRP under the current proposal. Again, transmitter output will likely be significantly higher for most antenna systems.

Both bands will likely carry a number of restrictions such as antenna height and transmitter power in addition to the restrictions already mentioned.

The low frequency of these bands make

them, in my (W8BIT) opinion, excellent bands for homebrewers and electronic builders to make their own rigs.

As a club, we stand to be in a good position to assist local amateurs interested in operating in these bands in figuring out the way to work through the restrictions and limitations on their use (such as assisting with knowing whether a particular location is likely to be approved for a station, and with antenna types and expectations.)

1990: MFJ INTRODUCES COMBINED UNIT ANTENNA ANALYZER

In 1990, MFJ took their MFJ-207 HF SWR Analyzer and combined it with a frequency counter in the same unit to produce the new MFJ-247 Antenna Analyzer. It covered from 1.8 to 30MHz to make antenna testing far simpler than with earlier two-box testing (one reading SWR and the other your current frequency.) It was priced at \$190, that would be about \$360 today.

<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/support/MFJ-247/MFJ-247.pdf>

Upcoming Hamswaps:

**VALLEY OF THE MOON ARC HAMSWAP
SATURDAY APRIL 29th, 8am to Noon
Sonoma Veteran's Memorial Building
126 First Street West
Sonoma, CA
Info: 707-935-7441
<http://www.vomarc.org/hamfest.pdf>**

**North Hills Amateur Radio Club Hamfest
Sunday, 21 May 2017 7am-Noon
Carmichael Elks Lodge #2103
5631 Cypress Ave
Carmichael, CA
<http://www.k6is.org/>
Talk-in: 145.190 pl 162.2 or 224.4 pl 162.2**

**Northern Nevada 12th Annual Swap Meet
17 June 2017, 7:30am to ???
Brad Hollander Ranch
Minden, NV
http://www.w6thw.com/n7rca/main_page.html**