Nevada County Amateur Radio Club

Nuggets

Nevada County Amateur Radio Club Newsletter **ncarc.org** **November 2017**

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Officers and Ranch Hands

President	K6LRL	Larry Latta
Vice-Pres.	N6HNS	Walt Hammontree
Secretary(pro tem)	W8BIT	Mark Graybill
Treasurer	KE6FIQ	John Hart
Director	KI6CM	Chuck Murphey
Director	AA7C	Al Helberg
Past-Pres.	N6HNS	Walt Hammontree
Repeater	AB6LI	John Everson
	KD6GVO	John Yarber
	W6AI	Dan Patterson
ARES	K6TM	Richard Vizcarra
Webmaster	AI6MC	Cal McKitrick
Newsletter	W8BIT	Mark Graybill

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

Next Meeting: Monday Nov 13, 2017

doors open 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm

NOVEMBER MEETING

Election time!

We will be selecting a new leadership slate for the club. Please come prepared to serve and help our club continue to be the great place that we all enjoy!

Also have a look at and buy tickets for the Yaesu digital HT that is the drawing prize for the December meeting, and hear the latest on our plans for our annual holiday dinner.

NEVADA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MINUTES

No official business was conducted at the October meeting.

21 Attendees

Mark Graybill, W8BIT, nominated himself for the position of club secretary for the Novement meeting elections, and agreed to serve as secretary pro-tem until the invocation of the new officers.

Ike, KI6IUI, reported that he made his first HF contacts during the California QSO party on Oct. 7th at Cal, AI6MC's mobile station set up along Hwy 20. We all wish him well in his

further operations. As Obi-Wan says, "You have taken your first step into a larger world."

Other members reported on their operations over the prior month, including antenna snafus from Peter, N6ERL and Cal, AI6MC. Ray, K6YIN, inquired about antennas for QRP 40m ops, and received what may have been more advice than is actually useful, but was very polite about it.

John, KE6FIQ, had photographs of the McCourtney fire published in The Union.

Members were asked to consider their ability to serve as officers of the club for the upcoming year. Elections will be held in November, and any nominees can expect to count on the support of their fellow club members in taking on their duties.

Respectfully submitted by secretary pro-tem Mark Graybill, W8BIT

Two New Amateur Bands Open for Communications

The new 2200m and 630m bands are now available to amateurs for operation. As secondary users of these bands, there are restrictions, but a process for approval for operation is in place now, so these bands are out of regulatory limbo!

Operation on these bands is only allowed with fixed stations, no mobile or portable operations. Prior to operation, amateurs must submit their location to the UTC for review. If the UTC does not deny the amateur's application within 30 days, the amateur is free to operate.

Application is easy, through a page on the UTC website (below.) Amateurs may apply to operate on either band or both--the consensus at this point is that is is best to apply for each band separately, as applying for both together may result in a blanket denial, when applying separately may result in one of the two bands being approved even if the other is denied. There is also an appeal process in the event that a denial appears to be an instance where operations should have been approved.

The UTC will be checking the geolocation of the station as given in the application against known locations of power lines using PLC (Power Line Control) signalling in these bands' frequencies. If the given antenna location is over 1 mile from all power lines using PLC signals (usually only major trunk lines), then operation will normally be approved.

In some cases, it appears denials have been given when the actual distance is over 1 mile, which may be from errors in the estimation of distance from the power lines. In these cases, some amateurs have been successful in either appealing on the basis of measurements from satellite mapping tools, or by reapplying with a more accurate antenna location or adjusted antenna location.

THE BANDS

The 2200m band goes from 135.7kHz to 137.8kHz. Maximum power output is 1W EIRP. The entire band is open to General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra licensees.

Note that it is Effective Isotropic Radiated Power, not power from the back of your transmitter, as we're used to using otherwise. Since antennas in this band are likely to be very inefficient, you will be putting far more power into the feedline and antenna than this to get any power out. The same is true of the 630m band.

The 630m band goes from 472 to 479kHz. Maximum EIRP is 5W, unless you're within 496 miles of Russia (in Alaska). This band is also open to General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra licensees.

The ARRL's amateur band reference sheet on their website at http://arrl.org/ has been updated to show these bands, and provide the URL for the UTC page to apply for operation on these bands.

The UTC application website address is: https://utc.org/plc-database-amateur-notification-process/

My personal recommendation is to apply for these bands even if you presently have no plans to operate on them. Our access to bands as amateurs is in many cases determined by the apparent interest and use of them that we make. Also, events may occur where another amateur who does operate on these bands needs another location for temporary or emergency operation on these bands, and if your site is already approved, then there will be no delay in opening up your QTH for someone else, or for having a visitor use these bands from your station. The application is a simple web form, and results will be received in email.

Also, having more locations "mapped out" in the database will assist other amateurs who want to operate in these bands near you, by letting us know what possible interferences there are in our area, and where they are located.

THE PROCESS

You will need to submit your name, call sign, email address, phone number, and the latitude and longitude of the proposed antenna location. The form requires latitude and longitude in degrees/minutes/seconds. If you have GPS/decimal coordinates, you can convert them at this FCC website:

https://www.fcc.gov/media/radio/dms-decimal

Then you select the band(s) you are applying for. I applied with one band selected, submitted, then used the back button to go back to the form (with all the info in place), then selected the other band and resubmitted.

The whole process took about 5 minutes, including picking a location for my antenna (one corner of my house) on the map at this site:

http://www.mapcoordinates.net/en

If I get a denial back, then I plan to reapply by putting my antenna location at one corner of my property or another depending on where the interference they identify is located (and assuming they don't tell me I'm only a few hundred feet from their power lines.)

Side note: the UTC web page appears to be a bit flaky. I have loaded it twice without getting the web form, just a page title and all their site navigation boilerplate. You should see fields where you can enter your information (image below). If you don't, either reload the page, or go back to your original link (like the one at the ARRL site) and follow it again.

73 de W8BIT