



Volume XVII Issue 4

December - January - February 2007/2008

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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A Note From Your President

What a great year! It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as the president of the Mountain Amateur Radio Club and so at this appropriate time I would like to take a look back and also a look forward.

Looking back, I can say without reservation that this year has been a great time to be involved in the club. We had a super time at Field Day and the Picnic, seen some new activities such as the T-Hunt and have had some very interesting presentations at our meetings. I would also like to thank all of the officers and board members for helping make this year a most enjoyable and successful one. The one remaining activity for this year, the Christmas party, looks like it is also going to be a smashing success with many door prizes to be given away.

With sadness, I also must say goodbye to the members that have passed on this last year. They will be missed. Luckily, we have experienced no disasters that have required the services of our ARES folks, but vigilance and preparation are still required.

Looking forward, I first want to welcome two new officers for the coming year – Simon, KB6CLV as vice president, and John, WB6JAY as secretary. They take over from Dick, W6RFR and Glen, W6NDR whom have done a real bang up job for us this past year. The same board members and other officers have volunteered to serve again next year and their service is appreciated.

There are already some interesting programs lined up for next year's meetings and I, for one, am looking forward to them. The T-hunt (transmitter hunt) is looking like a real interesting upcoming activity and I want to encourage more members to participate. The Field Day activity will most likely be at the same place this coming year and their may be some new wrinkles included. The hobby is continuing to evolve with advances in technology and the future for ham radio looks bright.

Just a reminder that the Christmas party is Friday, December the 7th at the Chukchansi Casino at 12 noon. Hope to see you there.

I want to thank all of the people that have helped make a success of this year's club activities and I look forward to working with all of you in 2008.

*73 and Season's Greetings,
Alan, W6LSU, President*

2008 M.A.R.C. Officers

President: Alan Gil W6LSU

Phone: (559) 683-8095 Email: agil@sti.net

Vice-President: Simon Elman KB6CLV

Phone: (559) 877-3643 Email: simon4gates@yahoo.com

Secretary: John Youngquist WB6JAY

Phone: (559) 683-3381 Email: cruiser@sti.net

Treasurer: Chuck Banks W6HYY

Phone: (559) 683-0729 Email: chuckb@sti.net

Board of Directors

Tom Canton WB6GXQ

Robbie Robinson W6GME

Jerry Thompson WA6ONA

Committee Chairpersons

Call Sign Trustee: Chuck Banks W6HYY

Phone: (559) 683-0729 Email: chuckb@sti.net

Emergency Preparedness: Dick Rekart W6RFR

Phone: (559) 642-6230 Email: w6rfr@sti.net

Newsletter & Web Site: Jeff Wandell KF6CNV

Phone: (559) 683-0737 Email: kf6cnv@w6bw.org

Public Relations: Clariss Cassin KG6PBF

Phone: (559) 683-6328 Email: clarissa@sti.net

Sunshine Chairperson: Sharon Craig

Phone: (559) 683-5728 Email: mtquiltde@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 7:00 pm at the Sierra Senior Citizens Center in Oakhurst on Road 425B (See map on page 8). 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

2007 Grizzly Century Bike Run - 100 Miles

This event was a community support function and not under RACES or ARES. The community of North Fork puts this event on every year with 600 riders participating. The task for us was to provide radio communications from the base (North Fork School) to six rest stops all located in the mountains. Cyclists left the North Fork school between 7 & 8:30 AM depending on the course they were taking, and all riders were expected back by 5 PM. Due to a snow storm the night before, the route had to be changed necessitating moving some of our operators around. The radio communications proved invaluable for helping get the rest stop supplies redirected to the updated locations. Two repeaters were used for the event, 147.180 (PL 146.2) Deadwood Mt., and a portable repeater placed on Musick Mt. by Don Pearson W6WWT, 147.180 (PL 136.5). Don really saved the day for us by providing communications on the east side, and even stayed on top of the mountain till the end of the run. Thanks Don, you are our hero, and a important asset to the Ham community.



The Rest Stops were manned by the following Hams: North Fork School - Jeff KF6CNV, Lion's Point - Simon KB6CLV & Mike KF6POU, Mile High Vista - Alan W6LSU, Clover Meadow - John WB6JAY, Four Corners - Chuck W6HYY, Cold Springs Summit - Ernie KD6TRV, and Little Denver Church - Dick W6RFR. The Ham operators were praised by the Grizzly people for doing an outstanding communication job. A job well done by all. They want us back next year.

*Jerry Thompson WA6ONA
Grizzly Communications Coordinator*



Taming That Illusive Fox

Members of the Mountain ARC held their first Fox Hunt (transmitter hunt) on August 25th a few days after the regular meeting. This project was the brain child of Harry W6HMH and with the help of John WB6JAY, it was a great success. John met with the eager participants in the Sierra Star parking lot and handed out instruction sheets and took down the odometer mileage of each team. Harry and his wife waited at the hidden transmitter site located behind the Ahwahnee fire station and provided refreshments to the excited teams as they arrived. The requirement for winning was lowest mileage traveled. Time of arrival was used only to resolve a tie, so safe driving practices were observed by all participants. It has been decided that the winning team will then hide the transmitter for the next t-hunt along with providing refreshments.

There were four teams participating in addition to the team hiding the transmitter. Listed in order of lowest mileage:

- 1st place team: John WA6LTO & Fenton KF6GNA with 9 miles
- 2nd place team: Mike KF6KDA & Jeff KF6CNV with 10 miles
- 3rd place team: Alan W6LSU & Ed KG6UDT with 11 miles
- 4th place team: Jerry WA6ONA & Chuck W6HYY with 14 miles

At our September club meeting Harry W6HMH presented an informative program giving an overview of the art of finding transmitters. He covered many topics as well as sharing some funny experiences.

On November 4th John WA6LTO and Fenton KF6GNA took up the task of hiding the transmitter. Fenton and his wife Dawn met the teams at the Hitching Post restaurant in Ahwahnee and provided maps and refreshments to the participants. John and his wife Del waited at the hidden transmitter and recounted a story (see below) to the teams as they arrived.

Once again there were 4 teams participating and listed in order of Lowest mileage they are:

- 1st place team: Marc KE6HGO with 3 miles
- 2nd place team: Alan W6LSU & Ed KG6UDT with 3 miles
- 3rd place team: Mike KF6KDA & Jeff KF6CNV with 5 miles
- 4th place team: Simon KB6CLV & John WB6JAY with 8 miles

Hopefully this will be an on-going activity well into the future. All participants had a great time and anyone who wishes to is welcome to join in. Much effort has gone into the planning, from testing the route ahead of time to producing maps. Congratulations to all for a job well done.

The story John told at the end of the hunt was as follows: (There was a long distance automobile race across an African desert that was to be so grueling that only two countries were willing to participate. A team from Russia and a team from the USA signed up. The race was held and after a long, tiring 3 days the USA team won. However the next day in Moscow the front page of the newspaper read: Russia Wins Second Place, USA Comes In Next To Last.)

73, Jeff KF6CNV

EVENTS CALENDAR

December

Friday, 7th

MARC Christmas Dinner
Chukchansi Resort in the Sunrise Room 12-2PM

Saturday, 8th - Sunday, 9th
ARRL 10-Meter Contest

Sunday, 9th

VE Exam in Oakhurst
(See page 4, or www.w6bw.org/ve)

January

Sunday, 6th

VE Exam in Fresno
At the Fig Garden Regional Library
Email: kdavis@gotnet.net
www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.php?zip=93711&dist=20

Saturday, 19th

1-Day Amateur Radio Class in Modesto
(See page 6 For details)

Saturday, 19th - Sunday, 20th
January VHF Sweepstakes

Thursday, 24th

MARC Club Meeting

February

Saturday, 16th

VE Exam in Fresno
At the Bonaventure Mobile Home Park
Information at www.w6to.com

Saturday, 23rd - Sunday, 24th

Santa Clara Valley Section Convention
More information at www.radiofest.org

Thursday, 28th

MARC Club Meeting

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.

2007 World Radiocommunication Conference - Wrap Up

The final working session of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) in Geneva drew to a close November 15. The principal achievements and disappointments, as they relate to the Amateur Services, of the conference are:

Achievements

- Maintain all existing amateur allocations, including the 7.200-7.300 MHz allocation in ITU Region 2 (the Americas) that had been somewhat at risk in connection with consideration of additional allocations for HF broadcasting (see below).
- A new worldwide secondary allocation at 135.7-137.8 kHz with a maximum radiated power limit of 1 W e.i.r.p. (given the low efficiency of practical antennas for this frequency range, this limit is not as severe as it may sound).
- Inclusion of an item, "to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services" on the provisional agenda for WRC-11 (set for 2011).
- Avoidance of future agenda items that pose serious threats to key amateur allocations.
- Some improvement in the so-called "country footnotes" that provide for different allocations by country in all or part of the 1.8, 3.5, 50 and 430 MHz amateur bands.

Disappointments

- No new allocation for the Amateur Service in the vicinity of 5 MHz, and no agenda item to consider such an allocation at a future conference.
- No future agenda item to consider an amateur allocation at 50 MHz in ITU Region 1 (Europe, the former Soviet Union, Mongolia, Africa and parts of the Middle East).

"No Change" for Amateur Allocations, HF Broadcasting:

The amateur issues were of course a minor part of the WRC-07 agenda, however one of the most contentious agenda items was dealing with allocations between 4 and 10 MHz. A series of European Common Proposals had proposed for an increase of 350 kHz in HF broadcasting allocations, with a footnote for administrations to allow the Amateur Service to use 5.260-5.410 MHz on a secondary basis; however, HF broadcasting had no support from the other regional organizations and no compromise acceptable to all parties could be found. Ultimately the European administrations had to accept "no change" for broadcasting, effectively scuttling our chances for a 5 MHz allocation.

Next WRC Tentatively Set for 2011:

The IARU had hoped that if an allocation could not be achieved at WRC-07, an appropriate agenda item could be included for WRC-11. The 2007 conference however, had little interest in taking up HF issues at the next conference, having little to show for a great deal of effort expended on HF in preparing for WRC-07.

The ARRL Letter

Oakhurst VE Session

Time: Sunday, December 9th 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 Checks, exact change needed. 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

Licensed Amateur Radio Operators

1 Year Ago		Current
Tech.....	308,268	+1523
Tech Plus..	43,148	-10914
Novice....	29,880	-2729
General...	143,011	+12211
Advanced..	77,567	-3707
Extra.....	111,273	+3979
Total US..	723,344	+745
		Total US.. 724,089

Since the last newsletter, there have been 6,059 new amateurs, 4,808 hams upgraded their license class, and 4,635 people are no longer licensed.

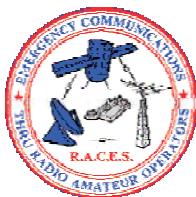
California still ranks the #1 state with 101,462 or 14.01% of all US amateur radio licenses. Texas holds the #2 spot with 6.64% followed by Florida at 5.86%

Data from www.hamdata.com



Flu Shot Clinic Emergency Preparedness Exercise

The Madera County Public Health Department conducted a Flu Shot Clinic at Oakhurst, North Fork and Coarsegold on Tuesday, November 13. As part of the effort, they conducted an Emergency Preparedness Exercise. RACES was called upon to provide communication support during part of the exercise. WA6ONA arranged for operators before leaving on a vacation.



www.w6bw.org/races

Operators were stationed at Oakhurst (Tom Canton, WB6GXQ), North Fork (Dick Rekart, W6RFR) and Coarsegold (Chuck Banks, W6HYY). The Base station was at the Public Health Department in Madera, and was operated by Bob Smith (W6GR). No emergency (or urgent) traffic was passed, but a number of status reports were handled.

The Madera County Health Department did a great job. The clinics were well staffed, and the waiting time was very short. The best part was the great luncheon (catered by El CID) provided to all the participants.

73, Chuck W6HYY

Modification To Make A Long Life LED Flashlight

Parts list:

Cheap LED key-chain flashlight that runs on 2 CR2016 batteries. (One with an on/off switch is best but momentary will work also.)

CR2032 watch battery

5mm 8000+mcd 3.5v ultra bright LED



Instructions:

Take apart the flashlight case. Depending on type it may use a screw or snap-catch.

Replace the 2 batteries with the one CR2032 watch battery.

The 2 CR2016 batteries together over drive the LED, in both current and voltage, in order to achieve its high brightness and if left powered on will burn itself out.

The single CR2032 provides 180mAh. That is twice the capacity of the two CR2016 in the same amount of space.

The new battery will be slightly under-driving the LED and giving a dim output. That is where the new ultra bright LED comes in, and when sold in a red color it is quite cheap.

Replace the old LED with the new red ultra bright LED. When inserting the new LED you may need to trim and bend it's leads to fit. Using the old LED as a guide can be helpful.

Finish reassembling your new flashlight keeping in mind the battery's polarity. The larger capacity battery will give you a much longer run time with no danger of ever burning out your LED.

Motorola To Buy Majority Stake In Vertex

Motorola to acquire controlling interest in parent company of Yaesu. Motorola Inc. will purchase an 80 percent stake in the Japanese maker of two-way radio equipment for \$108 million (74.5 million EUR).

MI Inc., a Motorola subsidiary, will launch a tender offer to acquire Vertex Standard Co. and will form a joint venture with Tokogiken, a privately held company controlled by Vertex Standard's president and chief executive officer. Tokogiken will control the remaining 20 percent of Vertex Standard.

"This joint venture will enable Motorola and Vertex Standard to deliver an enhanced combined product offering to new regions and customers worldwide," Mark Moon, senior vice president of Motorola's government and commercial markets said in a statement.

PRAVDA.ru

AARP Endorses Amateur Radio

AARP Endorses Amateur Radio: Amateur Radio and the ARRL received a significant public relations boost from the AARP this week. Promoting life-long learning for their members, Susan Ayers Walker wrote "Finding Your Hobby Online" for the AARP Web site. What's the first and most prominent activity listed to keep the mind active and functional? Amateur Radio!

Here's what the article had to say: "Long before the internet was created, the Amateur Radio network was the way people from all over the world could connect. Amateur, or ham, Radio operators created vast social networks by talking long distances to other radio enthusiasts, making distant friends and exchanging calling cards. It is this linkage of radio enthusiasts that is ready to help communication flow in case of a disaster or weather emergency. The ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio, has an informative website with lots of news and information, plus info on getting started or finding a chapter in your area."

The ARRL Letter

MARC's Field Day scores
can be found in the
December QST
on page 83 in the 4th
column near the bottom.

QST

BASS LAKE POWERHOUSE Double Century

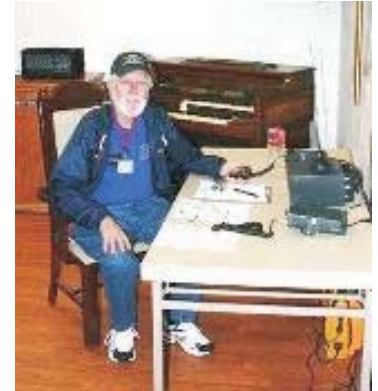
This event was sponsored by Fresno Cycling Club, and communications were provided by the Amateur Radio Association of Central California, and the Mountain Amateur Radio Club (ARES). The two hundred mile course ran from Clovis to Orange Cove, through the mountains to Redinger Lake, Bass Lake, down to the Powerhouse on Kerchoff Reservoir and back to Clovis. Again hats off to Don W6WWT for providing a portable repeater on Musick Mountain. We could not have been successful without the portable repeater, and his support. Thanks again Don, you're the greatest. The Base Station was in Clovis and operated by Gene W7POR and Kim KF6ZSW. There were seven Rest Stops, four of which were staffed by ARACC, and three Rest Stops staffed by MARC. Riders from far and wide departed Base in Clovis at 04:30 hours Saturday and ended Sunday morning at about 01:30.

MARC's Rest Stops were staffed by: Redinger - Dean K6MXZ & Ed KG6UDT, Bass Lake - Alan W6LSU & Tom WA6GXQ, and Powerhouse - Chuck W6HYY, Jerry WA6ONA, and Dick W6RFR. ARACC members covering the other positions were: Taylor W2LDS, Richard K6RCV, Charlene, John KG6AWB, Pat KG6BXZ, Bud KI6KAP, Daryl KI6JCY, Gene KI6JCX, Kim KF6ZSW, Gene W7POR. The event was a success, and a job well done by all.

Dick Rekart W6RFR
MARC/ARES Coordinator



www.w6bw.org/ares



Photography by Gene/W7POR, John/KG6AWB,
Daryl/KI6JCY, Dick/W6RFR



One Day Amateur Radio License Class - Study & Testing Session



Last name _____ First name _____ Initial _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Ham Call (If you have one) _____ License class _____
Home Phone () _____ Day Phone () _____
E mail _____

I want to be tested for _____ license class. (Technician, General, Extra)
(Technician is entry level)

Are you licensed now? (check) Technician _____ General _____ Advanced _____ Extra _____

ID Type (DL) _____ Other _____ Checked by _____

Return this form and personal check for \$30.00 ASAP payable to:
(Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association)
and mail it to:

K6SUU
1453 Circus Ct.
Turlock, CA 95380

- Please print legibly -

Any questions please contact:

Dick Decker K6SUU dickdecker@hotmail.com
Paul Owen W6UHF W6UHF@aol.com

January 19, 2008, 8 AM to 5 PM

Modesto Police NE area substation
3705 Oakdale Rd.
Modesto, CA 95357
Logistics Room

Morse code is no longer required for an amateur radio license

The \$30 class fee includes all materials, refreshments and the federal licensing fee. Testing only (not study session) is at 4 PM and the cost is \$14.00 by check with this form.

If this enrollment form and your check are not received by 2 weeks before the class your reserved seat will be given to a person on the waiting list.

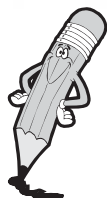
You must bring to the test session: A photo ID, any CSCE'S (original and one photo copy) for previous exams passed, AND any amateur Radio License you have (original and one photo copy)



Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler

- What say, Old Man? -

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX



*What DO you say? What DID the other guy say?
Everybody has those little "huh?"
moments, so this puzzle dabbles in the jargon basket
of ham radio along with the usual
collection of oddities and surprises.*

Answers are at: www.w6bw.org/puz

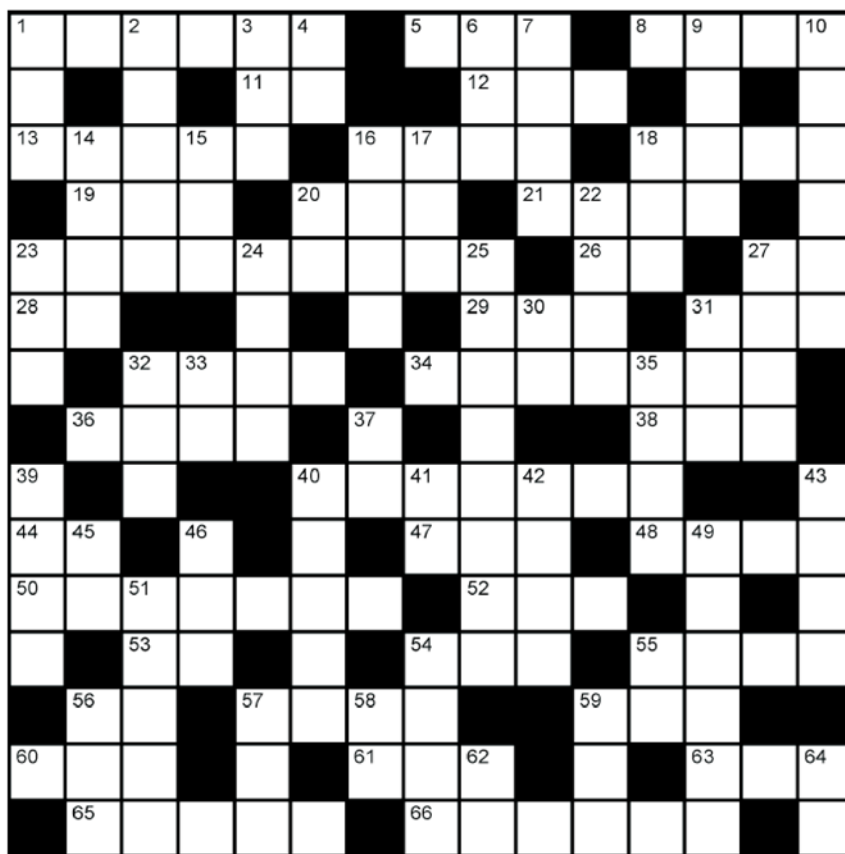
- Across -

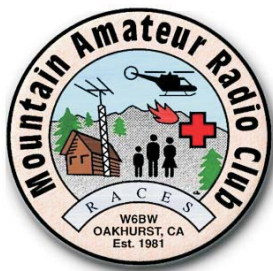
1. Paper from the FCC
5. Q-signal for fading
8. Steel-core wire is copper....
11. Populous continent (abbr.)
12. It's world wide!
13. Means "Let me in!"
16. Be healthy
18. Sponsor of Kid's Day (abbr.)
19. Most important part of the operator
20. Discovered resistance law
21. What kind of line is the telephone?
23. Another word for kids
26. Battery-type power
27. Bane of multi-operator
28. Width of a pipe (abbr.)
29. Greek letter that rhymes with "Pi"
31. Goes with feathers
32. Prearranged contact
34. Radio messages
36. Some capacitors look like this kind of knob
38. Before transmitting
40. Rapid fading on a mobile signal
44. Who makes the radio go? (abbr.)
47. Award certification without submitting QSLs (abbr.)
48. Primary power wire or bus
50. Repeater
52. The best kind of radio
53. Third port of a mixer besides RF and IF
54. Cheat
55. Unit of land area
56. Machine intelligence (abbr.)
57. Smear

59. Location (Q-signal)
60. Abbreviation for radio club
61. No or not
63. What do man, boy, and chap have in common?
65. Filter response just outside its passband
66. The bell that ends a QSO

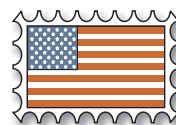
- Down -

1. Keystroke that jumps a few spaces
2. Means "I am leaving the frequency"
3. A mouse!
4. Thanks (CW abbr.)
6. These folks listen only
7. The ASCII character CTRL-G rings this
9. Accept and radiate power
10. Tinker or repair
14. What you do to the mail
15. Activate or make ready
16. Flexible mobile antenna
17. Electromagnetic compatibility (abbr.)
18. Popular RF connector style
20. Powered up
22. File format for Logbook Of the World
23. Bounce off the ionosphere
24. Transmission is finished
25. Means "Your signal is mixed with noise"
27. Scatter that reverses a signal
30. Prefix for the country which makes paprika
31. The ARRL service that provides technical material to hams
32. CW emergency signal
33. Knock-out (abbr.)
35. A collection of antennas
37. Unmarried woman (abbr.)
39. What kind of brew is it when you make your gear yourself?
40. The last transmission of a conversation
41. Prefix for RF connector types
42. Tuned circuit that isolates portion of an antenna
43. How many times do you touch a live wire?
45. Amplifier (abbr.)
46. Unit of conductance
49. The kind of boat you buy at a hamfest
51. Spurious emissions on a CW signal
54. The square you live in
55. You are ... a location or odds
56. Abbreviation for ham radio organization
57. Katie does this to the door
58. Goes with 'bal'
59. Atmospheric static (Q-signal)
62. Roman numeral for one less than a dozen
64. Logarithmic ratio





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 ☐ Interested In:

Hobbies _____

License Class _____ Year Licensed _____ ☐ ARRL Member

- ☐ RACES/ARES
☐ VIP
☐ DXing
☐ Digital
☐ Contesting

Map to MARC Meeting and Coffee Klatch

