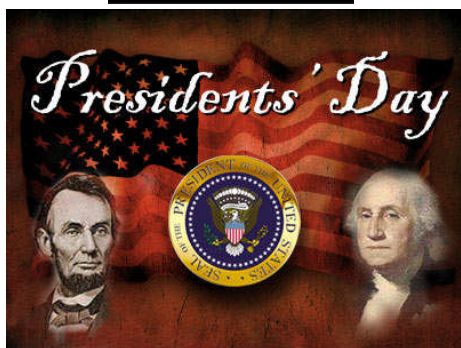


General Meeting	
Friday February 18, 2011	
7:30pm	
Our Saviors Lutheran Church	
1035 Carol Lane Lafayette	
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President's QTC - February Meeting Membership to Vote on Acquisition of D-STAR Repeater System

What is D-STAR?

D-STAR is a worldwide linked network of digitally encoded repeaters simultaneously carrying voice and data through gateways to the Internet. There are at least 170 such gateways.

The principal advantages of D-STAR over FM and other analog modes include narrow bandwidth, higher audio quality for the same signal strength, efficient routing through the Internet utilizing call signs of the station or repeaters to be linked to. Over time these advantages will lead to the replacement of analog repeater modes with digital. The Palomar Amateur Radio Club has conducted tests which indicate that the same audio quality from an FM repeater can be achieved by D-STAR at 10% of the signal strength. While the quality of FM progressively degrades the further a user moves away from the source, D-Star maintains a constant voice quality up to a critical point, then essentially "falls off a cliff" at the threshold at which the signal is no longer correctable.



February Meeting Program Goes Digital

Vice President Dale McIntire will present a program on digital communication.

SATERN Concord will be holding a message handling practice exercise in conjunction with the RACES training exercise on February 19th.

This will be for non-RACES members interested in improving their message handling skills. The SATERN event will be at the Salvation Army Corps, 3950 Clayton Road, Concord in the Fireside Room Both Hams & Scribes are welcome. You do not have to have a Ham License to participate in the message handling. Set-up & training from 7:30-8:00am. Exercise: 8:00am to 10:00am Please bring paper and pencils for your notes and your HT if you wish – preferably with an ear-piece. We will also have radios set up for the group to listen to.

To register email the requested information below to:

SaturnConcord@gmail.com or fax the typed information to 925-465-9554 –

1. Call Sign If you have one (Not necessary for message handling)
2. The best telephone number(s) for you.
3. Your best email address is:
4. Your Name:
5. Your current Street Address
6. Your City, State and Zip Code
7. Do you have any message handling experience?

No cover letter needed. Registering will help us know how many tables and chairs to set-up. There are No Charges for this event.

Amateur Radio Publications Now on Sale at Monthly Club Meetings

At each monthly meeting, a table of amateur radio publications chosen to meet the interests of its members from the newest licensee to the most seasoned operator. The available publications cover a broad range of interests including ARRL emergency communication publications, repeater directories, license class manuals and the ARRL *Handbook*.

Our club has negotiated prices for these publications to save members money. Purchases of the publications may be made with cash or check. Plan to stop by the table of publications on display at the next club meeting.

H E L P W A N T E D

The **Education and Training Committee** is seeking club members that are interested in joining the MDARC/SATERN team of volunteer amateur radio instructors for in-class Technician and General License Course teaching opportunities. We also seek club members that are interested in joining Glen, NO6W's "Elmer" table to help our lesser experienced club members with their amateur radio questions. The club also seeks volunteers to help with Amateur Radio Publications sales at the regular monthly club meetings. Please contact John Primus, AF6RJ, at af6rj@arrl.net for further information.

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX
P.O. Box 23222 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 288-1730

The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

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Emergency Coordinator - Tom Kramer WA6NYP

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Director & Education and Training Committee Chair
John Primus AF6RJ af6rj@arrl.net

Directors At Large
Dave Gordon N6SWE, Ron Luttringer K6XC
Jim Siemons AF6PU

PACIFICON 2011

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Vice Chairs: Paula Costa KI6MPD, Jim Siemons AF6PU
Co-Treasurers: Doug Hinkley KI6VVV and
Rebecca Hinckley KI6VVT
Secretary: Patrick Rigney N6UPS

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Public Service - Pete Harris KE6ZIW
Field Day Chairs - Lauren Styles WA6CIE and
Elizabeth Styles KG6HLV
School Liaisons - Jim Siemons AF6PU and Misa Siemons KJ6BUE
Communications Trailer - Brent Morgan AF6HQ
Amateur Television Help and Information:
John Schuler W6DTV JOHNQRZ@aol.com

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CLUB
YAHOO GROUP. DOWNLOAD FILES, INCLUDING
THE CARRIER IN FULL COLOR AS WELL AS SHARE
INFORMATION WITH THE MEMBERSHIP AT:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mdarc>

MDARC ENTERS THE DIGITAL AGE!

By President John Ronan, K3ZJJ

MDARC is about to join the digital age of the 21st century! We have a unique coincidence of opportunities:

- (1) Seven two meter frequency pairs newly approved and allocated by NARCC for digital voice communication are available for coordination – for the moment. At least four and possibly as many as six of these frequency pairs have either been spoken for or are on the air.
- (2) A two meter D-STAR repeater is available for sale at a \$2000 discount in “turnkey” condition. Repeater transmitter and cavity filters are tuned to the new frequency pair, the repeater is programmed for access to the Internet and the W6CX callsign is programmed into the controller.
- (3) We have the resources of a team of technically qualified members who are ready to install the D-STAR repeater at the Mt. Diablo W6CX site.

The MDARC Technical Committee and the Board of Directors have unanimously approved the acquisition and installation of the D-STAR repeater. The cost of the repeater plus installation is included in the 2011 Proposed Budget. The D-STAR Project will be submitted to the General Membership for approval at our meeting this Friday, February 18, 2011.

SEVEN DIGITAL REPEATER FREQUENCY PAIRS APPROVED FOR COORDINATION

The NARCC Board of Directors at its January 29, 2011 board meeting approved the following seven frequency pairs exclusively for digital repeaters. This approval is final and effective as of January 29.

The time period for establishing priority on frequency pairs began immediately. Priority is established by operating on a frequency for a period of 60 days with the simultaneous filing of an application for coordination.

NARCC will act on pending applications on August 1, 2011.

The new D-STAR frequency pairs are spaced at 12.75 KHz with 1 MHz offsets. The input frequencies are the lower with the output frequencies higher.

Narrow Band Digital Repeaters Only

New Input Frequencies

146.4150 MHz
146.4275 MHz
146.4400 MHz
146.4525 MHz
146.4650 MHz
146.4775 MHz
146.4900 MHz

New Output Frequencies

147.4150 MHz
147.4275 MHz
147.4400 MHz
147.4525 MHz
147.4650 MHz
147.4775 MHz
147.4900 MHz

(The above frequency pairs will be subject to minor adjustments in the range of 2.5 KHz)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MDARC ENTERS THE DIGITAL AGE! (CONTINUED)

By President John Ronan, K3ZJJ

THE W6CX D-STAR REPEATER IS NEED TO SERVE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

The W6CX repeater site at the southern summit of Mt. Diablo provides the largest wide-area coverage of any location in Northern California, if not the world.

The K6MDD D-STAR repeater is in operation from the northern summit of Mt. Diablo on one of the new digital repeater frequencies and provides excellent coverage; however, the coverage from the northern summit is not as extensive as from the W6CX site.

The K6MDD D-STAR repeater has 400 registered users and is now beginning to experience congestion.

The W6CX D-STAR repeater will relieve this congestion and give Northern California D-STAR users a wide area alternative.

Further, the W6CX will provide a second Gateway to the international D-STAR grid.

THE W6CX D-STAR REPEATER IS NEEDED FOR EMERGENCY AND PUBLIC SERVICE

The W6CX 440 MHz FM repeater power output has been curtailed to avoid interference with the upgraded Air Force radar at Beale Air Force Base. W6CX has been left with only two channels for public service and emergency communication.

The W6CX D-STAR not only an additional wide-area channel for voice communication but as well D-STAR provides simultaneous data communication. The volume of data sent is much higher in volume than voice and other traditional amateur modes.

A “TURNKEY” TWO METER D-STAR REPEATER IS OFFERED AT A \$2000 DISCOUNT

Tim Barrett K6BIV has offered MDARC a Two Meter D-STAR repeater plus controller for \$5500. In addition, this price includes a substantially discounted price on the 440 MHz D-STAR repeater which MDARC can use as a remote base to fill in the shadowed area of coverage from Mt. Diablo in the Eastern San Francisco Bay Area. The D-STAR repeater will be tuned to the MDARC D-STAR frequency pair, program for the Internet with W6CX ID and ready to be installed in the W6 CX repeater racks on Mt. Diablo.

There is sufficient space in our repeater racks for the installation and the additional repeater will not increase our monthly rental to American Tower.

Tim has organized a highly technically qualified group to assist in the installation including Trevor Hall, Mitchell Boyce, Keith Latin and Greg Forrest.

THIS IS MDARC’s best opportunity to join the digital age!

The opportunity to secure a Two Meter digital repeater pair will be slim to none for many years to come. MDARC’s best opportunity to join the digital age is today!

Monthly Treasurer's Report

January 1 - 31, 2011

\$13,397.16 Balance on January 1, 2011

INCOME

46.00 Book Sales
16.00 Club Engraved Items
25.00 Club Embroidered Items
170.52 General Meeting (Raffle/Snacks)
0.11 Interest
2,295.00 Membership Dues 2011
180.00 New Ham Memberships 2011
10,000.00 Pacificon
195.00 VE Testing
TOTAL INCOME \$ 12,927.63

EXPENSES

165.00 ARRL VE Testing
20.00 Membership NARCC
190.11 Postage Stamps
750.00 Rent-Church (Paid in full to April 2011)
60.00 Rent-Storage
666.00 Rent-Tower
62.19 Utilities-Telephone
79.95 Wireless Network Service
\$ 1,993.25 TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 24,331.54 ENDING BALANCE

AS OF 1-31-2011

AMOUNT INTEREST EARNED

OTHER INVESTMENTS

CD - 10 months (\$1.44)	10,985.64
CD - 8 months (\$3.02)	10,863.14
CD - 7 months (\$1.94)	5,442.49

\$ 27,291.27 TOTAL INVESTMENTS

MDARC 2011 PROPOSED BUDGET

INCOME AMOUNT

Auction Income 800.00
Book Sales 500.00
Christmas Dinner 1,900.00
Club Engraved/Embroidered Items 500.00
Door Prizes and Refreshments 1,700.00
Dues 16,000.00
Interest 250.00
VE Testing 450.00
PACIFICON 9,000.00
TOTAL INCOME 31,100.00

EXPENSES

Awards 650.00
Bank Charge 80.00
Christmas Party 1,800.00
Club Engraved Embroidered Items 470.00
Education 800.00
Equipment Upgrade 6,000.00
Field Day Expense 500.00
Equipment Insurance 630.00
Liability Insurance 850.00
Membership (Printing/Materials) 500.00
Membership Directory 670.00
Network Service 1,080.00
Office Supplies 325.00
Post Office (Club PO Box) 92.00
Postage For Mailing Carrier 250.00
Printing carrier 100.00
Publications/New Member Material/Ballots, etc...
1,068.00
Raffle Prizes 500.00
Rent - Church 900.00
Rent - Repeater - Mount Diablo 8,700.00
Rent - Repeater - Rocky Ridge 495.00
Rent - Storage Container 720.00
Repeater Maint 2,000.00
Tax Service 600.00
Utilities 1,320.00
TOTAL EXPENSES 31,100.00



February 7, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes - Meeting opened at 7:06 PM

Attendees -	Ron Luttringer	Trevor Hall	Misa Siemons
	Dale McIntire	John Primus	Jim Siemons
	John Deeble	Paula Costa	Jay Caldis

Misa Siemons, Treasurer, presented the January transaction report. She then asked for investment suggestions that would provide better return than the minimums that we've experienced. Suggestions were noted. There was a motion to approve the treasurer's report that was seconded and carried.

A discussion was held about the itemized expenses for 2011. A motion followed to accept the 2011 budget. It was seconded and approved.

Ron Luttringer, the Pacificon audit committee chair, stated that the Pacificon financial reports were in order but there might be more detail in the upcoming monthly reports.

Trevor Hall reported on the D-Star project saying that the cost would be \$5500 which includes all equipment needs and installation. He noted that we would need a new frequency for this upgrade. There follow a lengthy discussion about the value to the club received versus the amount spent. The result was a motion to submit the recommendation to complete this project to the MDARC general membership for their approval. It was seconded and approved.

The Board members reviewed the new member packets with the idea of making sure the information was of the most useful value.

It was suggested that there be a separate budget item created to cover the costs of new member packets, mailings and general printing costs. It was moved to create the budget item with the dollar figure of \$1068. It was seconded and approved.

The subject of Field Day was reviewed. It will be held at Heather Farm but not in the same area, equestrian, as last year due to unavailability. Two other choices were reviewed and the details of them were discussed. A choice will be made at a later date.

Having a future program about EMCOM with Tom Kramer, the club EC, presenting was agreed upon.

John Primus reported that the current General license class, being held at SATERN, has 23 participants. Testing will be available at the end of this session. The next Technician license class will start the 23d of March in the same location. He said that more testing will follow in other locations.

The subject of new hams came up once more and recommendations for making first contacts and descriptions of what one can do and how to do it be included in new member packets.

President John reported that the State of California has been slow to approve our tax exempt status but finally has done so. We are waiting for the certification to arrive in the mail.

Trevor Hall said that the club has been provided with a free table at the yearly EMCOM convention in Reno.

He also reported that the trip to review our Pacificon site at the Santa Clara Marriott hotel is set for March 5th between the hours of 11am and 12n.

Trevor further spoke about the changes to the tower configuration due to the addition of a new TV station at Mt Diablo. He said that the club will not incur any charges due to this transition.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:38pm.

More discussion about web page features followed.

At 8:46 the motion to adjourn was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted

Richard Fletcher, AF9RF
Secretary



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Burbank, CA	burbank@hamradio.com	818-842-1786	877-892-1748	818-842-5283
Denver, CO	denver@hamradio.com	303-745-7373	800-444-9476	303-745-7394
New Castle, DE	newcastle@hamradio.com	302-322-7092	800-644-4476	302-322-8808
Oakland, CA	oakland@hamradio.com	510-534-5757	877-892-1745	510-534-0729
Phoenix, AZ	phoenix@hamradio.com	602-242-3515	800-559-7388	602-395-1244
Portland, OR	portland@hamradio.com	503-598-0555	800-765-4267	503-684-0469
Salem, NH	salem@hamradio.com	603-898-3750	800-444-0047	603-898-1041
San Diego, CA	sandiego@hamradio.com	858-560-4928	877-520-9623	858-560-1705
Sunnyvale, CA	sunnyvale@hamradio.com	408-736-9496	877-892-1749	408-736-9499
Woodbridge, VA	virginia@hamradio.com	703-643-1063	800-444-4799	703-494-3679

Please do not e-mail more than one HRO location in your e-mail, as e-mails sent to multiple locations may be rejected by our spam filter.



The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 23222

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

www.mdarc.org

FIRST CLASS

W6CX Nets

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm General ATV Net 1241.250+

Tuesday 7:30pm Fat City 10 meter SSB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

FM 147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz - EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz

ATV Input: 1289.25 MHz AM/FM. Outputs: 1241.25 MHz AM, 919.25 MHz AM

ATV Internet Stream: <http://www.w6cxatv.net/live>

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets

Every Thursday, 7:00 pm

Central County 145.680 Simplex

East County 146.535 Simplex

South County 146.355/+ (100 PL)

West County 145.110/- (107.3 PL)

HF Net 8pm First Thursday of each month 3.890 MHz LSB

February — March 2011 Club Calendar

Friday February 18, 2011	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting <i>Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i>
Tuesday March 1, 2011	(pending)	MDARC PACIFICON Committee Meeting - <i>Salvation Army Corps, Concord</i>
Saturday March 5, 2011	9:00 am	MDARC Technical Committee <i>Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg</i>
Monday March 7, 2011	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting <i>Buttercup Bar & Grill 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek</i>
Friday March 18, 2011	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting <i>Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i>