

## General Meeting

**Friday June 18, 2010 7:30pm**  
**Our Saviors Lutheran Church**  
**1035 Carol Lane Lafayette**

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Our club will operate the 2010 ARRL Field Day in the parking lot at the Heather Farms Park Equestrian Center, 301 North San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek.

We begin set up around 2pm on Friday June 25. Operations will begin Saturday June 26 at 11am and will run for 24 straight hours through Sunday June 27 at 11am.

### Primary Operators (All Using Our Club Station Callsign W6CX):

15 and 80/75 meters: AF6PU Jim Siemons

40 meters: WW6USA Larry Lacrone

6 meters, 2 meters, 222 MHz and 440 MHz: KG6MDW Trevor Raty

20 and 10 meters: WA6CIE Lauren Styles

Everyone is welcome to visit and observe our club station set up. Everyone who wants to operate will be given a turn on a station. 15 Meters is the primary station to use for people who have little or no operating experience on HF. Each operating position will be open to visiting operators. We certainly need help overnight on Saturday for the late shift on 75. We also need operators who specialize in CW and/or digital communications.

We would appreciate fellow club members working the W6CX Field Day station on as many bands as possible. The W6CX repeater will be monitored from the Field Day site for any questions. We look forward to your visit and/or your QSO from you on Field Day 2010!

*Lauren Styles, WA6CIE, Field Day Chairman wa6cie@arrl.net*

**The next Amateur Radio Technician License Class** is scheduled for Salvation Army Fireside Room at 3950 Clayton Road in Concord.

- Session 1 9-01-10
- Session 2 9-08-10
- Session 3 9-15-10
- Session 4 9-22-10
- Session 5 9-29-10
- Session 6 10-06-10

To sign up email [HamRadioClass@gmail.com](mailto:HamRadioClass@gmail.com)

**PACIFICON VE testing is Friday October 15, 2010.**

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**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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- Vice President** - Dale McIntire AD6HD [ad6hd@arrl.net](mailto:ad6hd@arrl.net)
- Secretary** - Richard Fletcher AF9RF
- Treasurers** - Doug Hinkley KI6VVV and Rebecca Hinkley KI6VVT
- Emergency Coordinator**  
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**Directors At Large**  
Dave Gordon N6SWE  
Ron Luttringer K6XC  
Jim Siemons AF6PU

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Chair Marty Heyman W6MDH  
Vice Chair Paula Costa KI6MPD

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The Salvation Army Canteen on display at the East County Emergency Preparedness Fair on May 22, 2010.

Photos by Jeff Nelson, KG6VMY

Story and more photos on page 3

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>

# East Contra Costa County Safety Fair May 22, 2010 LDS Church Building, 2350 Jeffery Way, Brentwood, California

By Rebecca Hinckley KI6VVT

Photos by David Graas, KI6OUS



Club Secretary Richard Fletcher, AF9AF at the amateur television station.

Brent Morgan, AF6HQ, John Ronan, K3ZJJ, Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, Dick Fletcher, AF9RF, were all instrumental for setting up the MDARC trailer at this event.

Dave Gordon, N6SWE and David Graas, KI6OUS, brought their radio-equipped personal vehicles and did demonstrations at the MDARC trailer.

Lauren Styles WA6CIE, and a crew of Salvation Army volunteers operated their mobile Canteen adjacent to the MDARC trailer.

Delta Amateur Radio members David Graas, KI6OUS, Drew Hanson KD6GLY, Jeff Nelson, KG6VMY and Bob Hanson, W8HIZ manned a booth inside the building.



Club Director Dave Gordon, N6SWE, waves from aboard his Honda pick-up truck near the club trailer.

# MDARC Club Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2010

Presided over by John Ronan, K3ZJJ  
President

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President John.

K3ZJJ announced that 32 persons tested for licenses or upgrades this evening. He called for those successfully tested to stand and be recognized.

There were no guests in attendance.

Two new club members were introduced.

K3ZJJ noted that the club will be represented at the Brentwood Safety Fair the following day, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. He said further that the club trailer was cleaned and ready to go. Rebecca Hinckley, KI6VVT, then gave a brief talk about the fair and it's activities. The President gave thanks to all involved.

K3ZJJ said that Pacificon is moving ahead well and spoke about some of the highlights.

It was announced that that the club logo-wear that was recently ordered had arrived and was ready for pick-up.

K3ZJJ said that our youth education efforts were alive and well and gave some details about participation.

K3ZJJ gave a briefing about the Beale AFB trip saying the detailed demonstrations they were shown showed how 70 cm emissions effect their ability to operate their equipment effectively. He said that the USAF stand is that future operations in the 70 cm band might be possible if the signals are tolerable.

The approval of the 2010 budget was moved, seconded and passed by the general membership.

The club officers and committees were surveyed for any outstanding reports or business.

Steve, KA6SFT reported that Field Day is moving along at Heather Farms Park. It will be held in the equestrian parking lot starting Friday at noon with on-the-air activities from Saturday, noon through Sunday, noon. The President then hyped Field Day briefly.

A general member announced that he knew of a used truck with installed VHF equipment that was for sale.

The Membership chair said that he had some paper copies of the 2010 Membership Directory available for pick-up at the meeting.

Glen, NO6W, then gave the evening's presentation about the numerous club repeaters and their support equipment that is installed at the Mt Diablo site. He presented numerous photos of the installation. He then answered questions from the general membership.

The Volunteer Examiners gave the results of the evening's test session. They showed 11 Technician, 13 General and 2 Extra class licenses passed.

The raffle was held and the meeting was closed at 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted by  
Richard Fletcher, AF9RF  
Secretary

# MDARC BOARD MEETING MINUTES - June 7, 2010

Presiding Officer –John Ronan, K3ZJJ

Recorded by Richard Fletcher, AF9RF

Meeting opened at 7:03 PM

Attendees -	Tim Barrett	The Hinckleys	Marty Heyman	Dave Gordon
	Mitchell Boyce	Ron Luttringer	Trevor Hall	Jim Seimon
	Glen Rickerd	John Schuler	Brent Morgan	Dave Elsea
	The Styles			

A discussion about Field Day accommodations and facilities was held. Lauren Stiles stated the AC power requirements and the Hinckleys volunteered a 45KVA Whisper Watt unit. They asked about being reimbursed for the diesel fuel whereupon Dave Gordon motioned to reimburse them. The motion was seconded and passed. Further discussion about Field Day ensued concerning setup, procedures and band captains. A comment was made about the need for coaxial cable. Trevor Hall made a motion to purchase 500 feet of LMR-400 and make that into cables of appropriate lengths. It was seconded by President John and approved. Lauren said that Field Day was pretty well set to go and asked for maximum participation and publicity. He spoke further about point multipliers.

John Schuler spoke about ATV at Field Day and showing an MDARC club meeting on the stream. There was discussion about safety fairs and public participation. It was noted that the public could be referred to HRADIO.COM.

John spoke further about ATV saying there is no ATV group within MDARC and that ATNC is not club affiliated. He said that the ATV equipment is owned and maintained by the Tech Committee. There was discussion about creating a separate group within the club and the role that group would have. It was summarized that the group of ATVers within the club are not a separate entity but a group of amateur radio operators with a particular interest not unlike others in the fraternity.

The subject of the trailer, it's related equipment and antennae was brought up and discussed. Storage of equipment in the trailer was talked about and it was decided that a fresh view of those needs was required. A motion was made to organize a work party to inventory the trailer property and equipment. Brent Morgan was designated to head the party with help being provided by various members.

Information about the mentoring table was updated at this time. Glen Rickerd asked for help running that operation. He talked further about the need for a banner and made a motion to buy a standing sign for the table that would be more visible than a low hanging banner. The motion was seconded and approved.

The results of the Beale AFB trip were discussed. It was said without further clarification that there were other 'groups' with an eye on our operating frequencies. Trevor Hall said that we were sending a request for a re-calculation of our repeater power profile to ARRL with a 20 db increase in output power shown. It was noted that ARRL says that there is no FCC involvement in this process yet. Trevor explained how the decrease in power was accomplished. President John explained how we would notify USAF about our power increase. Trevor explained again how the power reduction was done. The modeling program was covered.

The subject of repeater usage during emergencies was discussed. It was noted that SATERN and the Hospital Net were the authorized users. How these two entities will use the repeaters during these times was discussed and found not to be determined. President John suggested that there may be an M.O.U. for usage but that was undetermined at this time. It was recommended that this issue be investigated and any M.O.U.s be reviewed and updated.

Marty Heyman briefed all on the County, State and ARRL view of EmComm responsibilities. President John talked about the existence of Homeland Security grants. The extent of these grants is not known yet and the EmComm focus in this county is not widely known.

Glen Rickerd asked for Hams to participate in T-Hunts every Thursday evening until August.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

**FROM Garry Shapiro, NI6T:** Many of us have reported frustration and dissatisfaction in trying to get power line noise (QRN) issues resolved by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). We now have a collective opportunity to get PG&E back on the right track.

**HISTORY:** PG&E divides its territory into divisions, e.g. Concord, which handle service issues locally. At any given time, some handle issues like noisy poles more efficiently than others. As a result, while some of us have reported prompt and efficient handling of noise complaints, most have encountered resistance and inaction from our local yards. Many PG&E managers regard ham RFI complaints as nuisances, and assign a low or zero priority to servicing them. Rotated to the next job within two years, they find it easy to indefinitely postpone action.

Riley Hollingsworth's (K4ZDH) ten-year tenure in FCC amateur enforcement temporarily changed the dynamic. After he was brought in by Jim Maxwell, W6CF and Bob Vallio, W6RGG, PG&E's posture changed. Jeff Butler, a PG&E vice president, was assigned responsibility for servicing languishing noise complaints. Thanks to Mr. Butler, PG&E response to noise complaints improved dramatically--a virtual "golden era". This ended when K4ZDH retired in 2008 and Mr. Butler was unceremoniously removed. It appears to some that the situation now has returned to the "bad old days", pre-K4ZDH.

**PRESENT:** In my area, noise complaints are responded to and sources identified, but the poles are not subsequently serviced. The local compliance officer says he has too many tags and too few crews and equipment to service his huge backlog--but the company apparently has plenty of money for political lobbying [*and plenty of money to pimp a statewide ballot initiative which was rejected by the voters this month—N4DLA*]. ARRL and FCC have a cooperative agreement in which ARRL acts as a front end for noise complaints. ARRL receives complaints and writes to PG&E top management, informing them of amateur complaints and requesting resolution. But ARRL has no enforcement power, and, to my knowledge, the response from PG&E HQ has been little or no response at all.

**PLAN:** I propose that we become proactive as a GROUP. I have spoken at length with fellow sufferers, Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG and Mike Gruber, W1MG, from ARRL. We have a plan. The first step is to gather information from amateur radio operators about recent noise complaints and where they are in the process. This complainant group will be identified to PG&E by ARRL, with PG&E to be given 60 days to respond. If response is inadequate or not forthcoming, Laura Smith, the current FCC amateur radio enforcement counsel, will be brought in. If you have an unresolved power line QRN issue with PG&E, you need to participate in this survey. Some have unresolved problems going back years; report any problem that has not been satisfactorily resolved.

If you suspect QRN originating from PG&E equipment, please answer the questions below in as much detail as you care to provide, and email your response to me at [garry@ni6t.com](mailto:garry@ni6t.com). The sooner you respond, the sooner we can get this ball rolling.

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**NAME, ADDRESS, and CALLSIGN:**

**PG&E facility servicing you, if known:**

**NOISE INCIDENTS and their STATUS:**

*Please include all relevant information, including: complaint dates (especially multiple complaints about the same source), nature of the problem, observations you have made and data you have taken (e.g. spectra, audio recordings, search techniques), trouble ticket numbers (if known), PG&E personnel you dealt with; list both positive and negative, encounters, personal efforts to identify the source and the current complaint status.*

Send your response to me, Garry Shapiro, [garry@ni6t.com](mailto:garry@ni6t.com).  
Questions? Call me at (408) 353-6068

# HAM RADIO OUTLET

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Burbank, CA	bnk@hamradio.com	1-818-842-1786	1-800-854-6046	1-818-842-5283
Denver, CO	co@hamradio.com	1-303-745-7373	1-800-444-9476	1-303-745-7394
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Oakland, CA	oak@hamradio.com	1-510-534-5757	1-800-854-6046	1-510-534-0729
Phoenix, AZ	px@hamradio.com	1-602-242-3515	1-800-444-9476	1-602-395-1244
Portland, OR	or@hamradio.com	1-503-598-0555	1-800-854-6046	1-503-684-0469
Salem, NH	nh@hamradio.com	1-603-898-3750	1-800-444-0047	1-603-898-1041
San Diego, CA	sd@hamradio.com	1-858-560-4900	1-800-854-6046	1-858-560-1705
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Woodbridge, VA	va@hamradio.com	1-703-643-1063	1-800-444-4799	1-703-494-3679

## W6CX Nets

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATURN 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 TV 919.25 MHz AM TV

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

### June and July 2010 Club Calendar

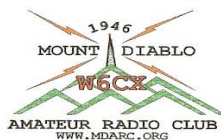
June 18, 2010 7:30 pm MDARC General Meeting  
*Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette*

**June 25-27, 2010 ARRL FIELD DAY - Heather Farms Park, Equestrian Center Walnut Creek**

July 3, 2010 9:00 am MDARC Technical Committee  
*Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg*

**\*July 12, 2010\*** 7:00 pm MDARC Board Meeting - **NOTE DATE CHANGE**  
*Buttercup Bar & Grill 660 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek*

July 16, 2010 7:30 pm MDARC General Meeting,  
*Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette*



### The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 23222  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
[www.mdarc.org](http://www.mdarc.org)



## FIRST CLASS