



General Meeting
Friday March 18, 2011 6pm
 Our Saviors Lutheran Church
 1035 Carol Lane Lafayette

March Meeting Program - Auction 1	
\$1,000 Donation to Our Club	2
Officers and Appointees	2
Amateur Radio Publications	2
Help Wanted	2
Club Joins the Digital Age	3
Public Service Opportunities	4
Feb. 18 Club Meeting Minutes	5
PACIFICON HELP NEEDED!	6
Ham Radio Outlet	7
Club Repeaters	8
Club Calendar	8



President's QTC - March Meeting
It's Auction Time !

The ever popular Annual MDARC Action will be held at the next General Membership Meeting, Friday March 18, 2011.

Seller Registration - 6 PM

Auction Begins - 7 PM

We will not offer VE examinations during the Auction Meeting. The next VE Examination session will be held at the Friday April 15, 2011 meeting.

As of March 19, 2011 MDARC has been registered as a charitable trust by the California Attorney General.

MDARC was previously recognized by the federal Internal Revenue Service as a Public Charity under IRC section 501(c)(3) retroactive to February 28, 2009.

Donations of cash, equipment and other items may be deductible from your federal income tax...please consult your tax professional.

Hope to see you then!

— John Ronan, K3ZJJ

Member Donates \$1,000 to Club Repeater Fund

We were honored this month by David Christensen, K6DSC who has donated \$1,000 to the MDARC Fund for New Repeaters.

David's donation brings much closer to realization our project to install a 440MHz D-STAR repeater in the Oakland Hills. The 440 MHz D-STAR repeater would be capable of being linked to the W6CX D-STAR repeater on the summit of Mt. Diablo or could operate independently with its own Internet gateway.

The Oakland Hills repeater will fill in the East Bay Area shadowed from W6CX coverage. An important improvement to our coverage for emergency and public service communication as well as for general users.

David, we can't thank you enough!

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.

HELP WANTED

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
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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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PACIFICON 2011

Chair: John Ronan K3ZJJ
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Co-Treasurers: Doug Hinkley KI6VVV and
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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>

AN HISTORIC DAY - CLUB JOINS THE DIGITAL AGE!

By President John Ronan, K3ZJJ

Thanks to Trevor WA6JAU, Tim K6BIV, Mitchell W8DOD and Curtis Kundred W6FQ, our W6CX D-STAR repeater is fully operational and connected to our Gateway on the Internet. We are now a part of hundreds of repeaters worldwide on the D-STAR grid! K6BIV saved us far more than \$2000 on the D-Star system. The package included six filter can, a computer to run the system, plus the two ICOM RF modules and controller module. I estimate Tim saved us close to \$3000. The six filters cost \$2000 new.

The W6CX D-STAR repeater was on the air in less than twenty-four hours at the QTH of W8DOD after the MDARC membership approved the project at our last meeting on February 18! The repeater was fully operational by Tuesday February 22, 2011 at the South Peak site on Mt. Diablo.. (147.425000 - 1.00000 MHz)

This is a remarkable accomplishment; especially because the road to the summit of Mt. Diablo had been closed save for 4-Wheel Drive vehicles, due to snow and ice. Trevor came close to being struck by falling ice from the radio tower...an heroic which we thank them all!!!

“W6CX D-STAR Celebration” HRO Discount Sale for MDARC and LARK Members Only!

George Varvitsiotes, K6SV, at Ham Radio Outlet has generously offered a “W6CX D-STAR Celebration” Discount Sale for MDARC and LARK Members Only!

Order forms were mailed out earlier in March. You may pick up an order form at our meeting this Friday March 18, 2011. Orders must be submitted by March 24, 2011.



PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Its that exciting time of year when many ham radio operators from our club become involved in doing radio team communications for various public service events that occur nearby. The events include long distance bike rides, bike races, horse trail rides, running races, walkathons, the March of Dimes March for Babies, Alcatraz swims, a half marathon, a triathlon, and the Pleasant Hill 4th of July parade. The locations include beautiful scenic areas such as nearby Regional and Wilderness Areas, municipal trails and parks, and the stunning San Francisco Bay and waterfront. Some of the agencies and causes that we help are: Childrens Hospital of Oakland, the MS Society, the March of Dimes, the American Lung Association, and Save Mt. Diablo. More on these events at <http://www.mdarc.org/publicservice.html> .

We've got 2 radio communications public service events coming up, both on Sunday, April 17, 2011, and really need your help.

To sign up for either of these 2 events contact:

Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, pharris125@comcast.net or phone 925-228-4503.

KE6ZIW will be out of town for about 10 days, but will have email contact.

1. **The Diablo Century Bike Ride**, takes place on Sunday, April 17, 2011, for the Jewish Community Center in Walnut Creek. The radio coordinator is Terry Matzkin, KE6ZIW. This Center provides lots of valuable social services to the entire community. This 100 mile event is a real blockbuster for hams - a great event for ham radio, covering lots of ground. It takes place in the areas of Mt. Diablo, Morgan Territory Rd, Livermore hills, Danville hills, and more. We need approximately 13-15 hams for various shifts and assignments. Hams will be stationed at many aid stations, in SAG vehicles, on bikes and on motorcycles. Don't miss this one.

2. **The MS Walk, for the MS Society** takes place on Sunday, April 17, 2011. It is located out of Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek. The radio coordinator is Eoin O'Donoghue, KK6Q. We need 5 - 6 hams for this event. Hams are stationed at various check points and aid stations along the pretty trails of the walk. One or two may be stationed in SAG vehicles that patrol the course. This is a relatively short event. You will be finished before noon.

For most assignments in either of these events all you need is a hand held 2 meter radio with an extra battery. For some assignments on the **Diablo Century Bike Ride**, a magnetic-mount antenna for vehicles would come in handy (or a mobile radio). These are both great events, and wonderful learning experiences for veteran or new hams. They are lots of fun, and we provide a valuable ham radio service to our community.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday July 17, 2011 - **Alcatraz Challenge Aquathlon, San Francisco Bay and Waterfront**
Radio Coordinator: Barry Bettman, K6ST. Contact Barry at k6st@arrl.net

Sunday August 21, 2011 - **The San Francisco Triathlon Swim at Alcatraz, San Francisco Bay and Waterfront** Radio Coordinator: Barry Bettman, K6ST. Contact Barry at k6st@arrl.net

— *Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, Public Services Coordinator*

February 18, 2011 Club Meeting Minutes

Presided over by John Ronan, K3ZJJ, President

The meeting was held at the Grace Lutheran Church on Carol Lane in Lafayette, Ca. and was called to order at 7:37 PM.

The meeting opened with the introduction of new members, guests, new licensees and those that upgraded this evening. The testing results for the evening were 8 new technician, 3 general and 1 extra class licenses.

Lauren Stiles briefed everyone about Field Day. He covered what it is, when it is and what one does there. It will take place in Heather Farm Park the 4th weekend in June. He announced further that there will be a Ham Radio camping trip the 2nd weekend in June. More details to follow,

Doug Hinckley said that Pacificon needs organizations and contact names that would possibly sponsor advertising for Pacificon. He also put out a call for more volunteers for the Pacificon committee.

Harry Styron spoke about up-coming Emm-Comm message handling drills. He said they would take place on a quarterly basis.

Brent Morgan announced that an Amateur Radio show-and-tell will be held on March 12th in Rossmore. Contact him for the details.

President John detailed the January financial report and the MDARC budget for 2011. He noted MDARC's net worth stands at approximately \$57,000. There was a motion to accept the 2011 budget. It was seconded, voted on with approval.

It was noted to the members that the coming Saturday, the 19th, is "Tech Saturday" at the Salvation Army in Concord.

Tom Kramer spoke about recent changes in the ARES organization as well as what efforts are being taken to get grant support from OES.

President John broached the subject of purchasing and installing, at our Mt Diablo location, a 2 meter/440 Mhz D-Star Gateway. He covered the reasons the club should take this action. The club needs to keep up with new technology, the price is right and it will be installed as a turnkey system by the seller, Tim Barrett. Trevor Hall then talked about the station, it's specifications and the fact that D-Star carries both digital voice and data. Also he noted the need to act now as available frequencies may soon be taken. A brief discussion was held about the location of a temporary antenna. There were questions and concerns voiced by the members. Jim Tittle proposed locating the station in the Oakland Hills to provide coverage to the maximum number of amateurs. Keith Lattin, guest, also supported the Oakland Hills location noting that the gateway can be linked with Tim Barrett's station on Mt Diablo, north peak. President John emphasized the fact that the current D-Star gateway's coverage along highway 680 is shadowed by south peak. Larry Lecrone then spoke about the value of D-Star to our club. There was then a motion to purchase and install the D-Star gateway at our current location on Mt Diablo, south peak. It was seconded and approved by a large margin.

Dale McIntire reminded everyone that next month is the MDARC club auction.

Trevor Hall reminded everyone that the antenna work at Mt Diablo to accommodate a new TV station there will take next week.

After a short break there was a presentation by Dale McIntire on digital communication in general.

There was a raffle and the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Richard Fletcher, AF9RF
Secretary

PACIFICON NEEDS *YOU* TO VOLUNTEER !

Belonging to a great amateur radio club, like ours, has loads of benefits - great repeaters, great meetings, great friendships, loads of fun. But, there in lies a bit of responsibility as well...

Our club runs the singularly great ham event, **PACIFICON**, each and every year. If you would like to give back to the amateur radio community and are wondering just how to do that, volunteering at **PACIFICON** is a great way of doing just that.

We have many Club members and friends of **PACIFICON** that have stepped up and have volunteered to do all sorts of great and necessary functions at the event. We still need more folks to come forward, and help out.

PACIFICON is being held at the Santa Clara Marriott, October 14-16, 2011.

A couple of really key positions where we need your help is in Vendor Coordination and Vendor Acquisition. Vendor Coordination is working with the vendors that have signed up for **PACIFICON** and helping them with their logistics just prior to and at the show. Vendor Acquisition is working with potential vendors and getting them to come out and be part of our **PACIFICON** event.

If you would like to really give back to the ham community and help out with one of these challenging and exciting assignments, please give me a call or send me an e-mail.

Even if you can only give a little bit of time, we always appreciate the help and the effort. You will still be a Ham Hero! Thank you all for your consideration.

73,

Jim Siemons, AF6PU
PACIFICON Staff Manager
jim@siemons.com

925-330-0049 cell



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Salem, NH	salem@hamradio.com	603-898-3750	800-444-0047	603-898-1041
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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

March — April 2011 Club Calendar

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Friday March 18, 2011 | 6:00 pm | MDARC General Meeting - ANNUAL AUCTION !
<i>Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i> |
| Saturday April 2, 2011 | 9:00 am | MDARC Technical Committee
<i>Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg</i> |
| Monday April 4, 2011 | 7:00 pm | MDARC Board Meeting
<i>Buttercup Bar & Grill 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek</i> |
| Friday April 15, 2011 | 7:30 pm | MDARC General Meeting
<i>Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i> |