



General Meeting

Friday May 20, 2011 7:30pm

**Our Saviors Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane Lafayette**

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President's QTC - May Meeting

To help get us ready to operate at Field Day next month, our erstwhile Field Day Chairman Lauren Styles, WA6CIE, will brief us this year's operations.

Following WA6CIE will be K3ZJJ who will give a demonstration of portable operations.

Meanwhile, we all know the W6CX repeater site has been experiencing problems. Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, has been working with the American Tower engineer in charge. I believe the idea is to locate two receive antennas.

I will be in touch with Trevor and either he or I will report back to all of you.

The 220 amplifier has been received by the company in Los Angeles who will make repairs.

The Board has authorized \$600 specifically for these repairs in addition to the \$2,500 repeater repair and upgrade budget line, approved with the rest of the 2011 Budget by the MDARC members.

Trevor has put in a great deal of time and effort working with the ATC Project Engineer to resolve the ATV and other problems.

— John Ronan, K3ZJJ



June 25 and June 26



Each year, the East Bay Amateur Radio Club (EBARC) provides communication support for the BSA Mt. Diablo Silverado Council 20 mile hike known as "FAGES II" on the first Saturday in June. This requires providing a Net Control station and about 10 checkpoints in Tilden Park area of the East Bay Regional Parks. Communication uses the CCC 145.110 repeater and consists of reporting the number of hikers reaching a checkpoint and any requests for assistance.

This year the hike falls on June 4, 2011 and several of the usual volunteers are unable to help. EBARC needs to recruit 2 to 4 Amateurs to establish checkpoints or act as Net Control. Amateurs who have been involved with Boy Scouts or are currently Scouters are especially desired. Some of the checkpoints are morning only between 0800 and 1200 while others are afternoon checkpoints between 1230 and 1800. Most, if not all, of the checkpoints are reachable by vehicle on public roads. Lunch will be provided at the Net Control area.

For more information, please contact me at ko6no@arrl.net

Thanks and 73. Ken Fowler, KO6NO, President EBARC



**Joint Camping Trip June 10-12, 2011
with San Francisco Amateur Radio Club.
See Page 5 and 6**

**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
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.

President - John Ronan K3ZJJ jtronan@aol.com
Vice President - Dale McIntire AD6HD ad6hd@arrl.net
Secretary - Richard Fletcher AF9RF
Treasurer - Ray Gaschke W6FYA
Emergency Coordinator - Tom Kramer WA6NYP

Director & Technical Committee Chair
Trevor Hall WA6JAU wa6jau@sbcglobal.net

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

Directors At Large
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

Membership Chair - Tom Deeble KA6SIP
mdarcmembership@mdarc.org

The Carrier Newsletter
Editor, Matthew G. Vurek N4DLA n4dla_cs245@yahoo.com
Printing & Mailing: Jim Siemons AF6PU af6pu@arrl.net

Webmaster - Marvin Miller WA6GBW
Assistant Webmaster - Patrick Rigney N6UPS
Repeater Trustee - Jay Caldis KT6Y
Youth and Education Programs - Bill Ryan KJ6IGX
Volunteer Examinations - George Tickner K6NHY
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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>

Club Board Meeting Minutes May 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order by MDARC President John Ronan K3ZJJ at 1915 hours. In addition to K3ZJJ, the meeting was attended by Vice-President Dale McIntire AD6HD, Trevor Hall WA6JAU, Ron Luttringer K6XC, Jay Caldis KT6Y, John Primus AF6RJ, Treasurer Misa Siemons KJ6BUE, Jim Siemons AF6PU, Mary Siemons SWL, Gene Sylls KG6EYE.

Misa Siemons KJ6BUE presented the Treasurer's Report. She indicated that there was a certificate of deposit that matured, and requested direction from the Board as to how to proceed with the funds. The Board discussed the matter and determined that the best course would be to hold the funds in savings in order to have a liquid position to fund near term expected Pacificon expenses. The CD is approximately \$5,400. The Board voted on the Treasurers report, and it was accepted as presented.

John Ronan discussed the difficulties that he has had with the Pacificon web page, particularly in regards to the "shopping cart" and PayPal sales. He indicated that he almost has everything up and running, but is looking forward to additional help from Gene Sylls KG6EYE and Andrew Clakley KJ6OGT, in addition to other members.

Misa Siemons mentioned that she received a check from American Tower as a refund of overpayment of tower rental costs. She investigated the check with ATC, and was told that it was an overpayment from several years ago.

John Ronan discussed that we might have a large deposit with the Santa Clara Marriott that needs to be made shortly, and we might be short in the Pacificon account. He requested that the Board authorize the transfer of monies to the Pacificon account, if necessary, in order to cover the deposit. The Board discussed the matter and voted to approve the transfer of money, if needed.

John Primus, the MDARC Education Chair, presented information to the Board in regards to grant money that may be available from Alameda and/or Contra Costa counties for the expansion or operation of repeater equipment and rental. John Primus' contact in Alameda County, Captain Morgado, is away on business, but upon his return in late June or July, the matter will be discussed with Captain Morgado.

John Ronan discussed the possible relocation of MDARC's 440 MHz repeater to an alternate location due to PAVE/PAWS. Sites at the old Navy site on Mt. Diablo and on Yuerba Buena Island are being discussed. Letters need to be received from local politicians explaining the need for such locations and how that would benefit emergency communications in the event of a disaster. NARCC has indicated that we will lose coordination of the 440 MHz repeater at a point in the future if we do not relocate the machine and bring it back up to full operation.

John Ronan presented information in regards to NARCC coordination of our new D-STAR repeater. There are groups and individuals that have discontent with the new NARCC coordination of frequencies. John is planning attending the upcoming NARCC meeting, and will be carrying the Club's proxy vote. John presented the Board with a treatise on NARCC and repeater coordination, which will be attached to the minutes.

Field Day is going to happen at Heather Farm Park on June 25 and June 26 (Saturday and Sunday). Dale McIntire will be working on the availability of shirts for Field Day.

Trevor Hall WA6JAU presented the Technical Committee report. Item #1 220 MHz repeater: currently is not functioning at full strength. Trevor is planning on heading up to the repeater site and troubleshoot the issue. A motion was made and passed that up to \$600 could be spent at the discretion of Trevor towards the repair of the 220 MHz machine, if necessary. Item #2 Tech Committee Meeting: No Tech Committee meeting this month due to conflict with NARCC meeting and EmComm West. Item #3 ATV Pre-Amp: with the changes that have recently occurred on the tower, the ATV Pre-Amp has been omitted from the receiver. This has been a serious problem for ATV, but ATC is going to install the device and add an additional receive antenna.

Trevor also indicated that our mail box annual fees would be due. Misa acknowledged that information and would be sure to take care of payment.

Vice President Dale McIntire AD6HD made a motion to adjourn at 2047 hours. The motion was properly seconded and the motion carried.

*Minutes faithfully submitted by
James "Jim" S. Siemons AF6PU,
MDARC Board Member at Large,
In absentia of MDARC Treasurer Dick Fletcher AF9RF*

FIRST ANNUAL ARRL EAST BAY SECTION CONVENTION

The ARRL East Bay Section and the California Historical Radio Society are co-sponsoring the first annual ARRL East Bay Section Convention.

Date: Saturday June 4th 2011 Time: 0900 - 1300 hrs PDT

Where: 601 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley CA 94710

Admission: Free

Activities:

- **Swap meet in Parking Lot: Set up 0800 - Open 0900 - Close 1200**
- **DXCC checking + VUCC, WAS, WAC cards in Parking Lot**
- **Presentations in Second Floor Meeting Room**
- **Door Prizes**

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**0900 - 1200 DXCC (& VUC, WAS, WAC) card checking
Bruce Croskey, AH0U (parking lot)**

**0900 - 1000 ARES Leadership Meeting (DEC / EC) John
Rabold, KS6M**

1000 - 1100 PSK 31 on iPad - Kristen McIntyre K6WX

**1100 - 1200 Next Generation Digital Voice Codec2 -
Bruce Perens K6BP**

**1200 - 1300 ARRL Forum / Open Section Meeting -
Jim Latham, AF6AQ**

Contact person: Jim Latham af6aq@arrl.net

A 2011 Camping Adventure"

June 10th, 11th, &12th

Introduction

The joint SFARC-MDARC campout will take place starting on Friday, June 10th and end on Sunday, June 12th at the Sugar Pine Dam Recreation Area. It is one of the most beautiful spots in Placer County. This will be a joint venture between the Club and another group of radio amateurs who have meeting for this annual event for the last 30 years. We are limited to 50 people at this site so get your reservations in early.

What The Campsite Provides

At approximately 3,000 feet above sea level, the campground has water and restroom facilities, no hookups, but nice spaces for trailers, tents and motor homes. There are three large barbecue pits available at our site as well as a large recessed pit for a grand campfire. There are plenty of trees as well as open space for stringing a G5RV and a double extended zepp for your HF station if it is your desire to bring one. However there are plans for at least one active HF station from WA6UHA (weather permitting). We will be using the club call, W6PW. Tentatively our stations will be active on 40 and 75 meters, during the day on 7253 khz and the Noon Time Net frequency of 7268.5 khz (Friday afternoon and all day Saturday) and at night (Friday & Saturday) on 3908 khz (the [WARFA](#) frequency). It's time to pack up and enjoy the great outdoors and warm up for Field Day coming three weeks later. VHF and UHF paths for both Bay Area and Sacramento television and FM stations are quite good even with simple antennas. Obviously, working 2 meters and 440 into Sacramento and the Bay Area repeaters is not difficult especially during the early morning hours when path conditions are ideal.

The Sugar Pine Lake is just a 1/2 mile from the campsite. A hiking trail leads to the water and connects to another trail that follows the perimeter of the lake. The main swimming area is located on the opposite side of the lake and is accessible by hiking or by a 10 minute drive.

A Chronological Look At The Planned Activities

Friday, June 10

Between 12 noon and 1 PM, the forest ranger will arrive to unlock the gate for access to our site. The gate will remain open through out our stay. Also during this time and throughout the afternoon and the early evening the 145.43 repeater (PL 162.2hz), K6MDD-B D-star, and 146.49 simplex will be monitored. When you arrive, park at any of the available spaces. There are plenty.

That evening, you are on your own for dinner. Use your Weber or the barbecue pits provided at the site.

Saturday, June 11

In the morning, you are on your own for breakfast after which, if you desire, join us for a hike to and around the lake. Weather pending, the view will be picture postcard as we make our way around. We will pass the swimming area and cross the dam as we make our way back to Rocky Ridge. The hike should take approximately 2 hours.

After arriving back at the campsite, you are on your own for lunch if you desire but most of us would probably settle for a tall cold one. Later on you can scrounge around for wood for the campfire that night. Around 4:30 the full socializing begins and the bar is open. Bring out the appetizers and munches which is part of the pot luck. Also during this time, the host supplied charcoal will be prepared and the barbecue pits will be lit. However, before dinner as an idea conceived by Fred Townsend AE6QL, we will have a champagne cork popping contest. To participate in this event, bring your own champagne ...**AND NO BOTTLES WITH SCREW-ON CAPS...CORK ONLY.**

As for dinner that follows, the hot coals will be provided for cooking your choice of meat. Please bring out a side dish, salad, rolls for dinner and dessert to share, and don't forget there will be great music for everyone's taste provided by Dave, WA6UHA.

After dinner, the camp fire will be started so bring your own marshmallows. The sticks will be provided by the campsite. Enjoy the fire as we sing, chat, or whatever you would like to do at this time. Plus we will have a real space odyssey with a few astronomical telescopes set up.

Sunday, June 12

At approximately 8 am, preparation will be underway for the host provided barbecued pancakes. Two kinds will be provided, plain and Oregon Blueberry. After many years of research we were able to come up with a process that prevents the pancake batter from seeping through the grill and on to the charcoal. Supply your own beverages and sides and share if you like.

In the late morning, it's cleanup time and we say our good-byes until next year.

Looks Great...Now How Do We Get There??

From San Francisco, drive east on Interstate 80 through Auburn and exit at Foresthill. Head east on Foresthill Road crossing the mile long panoramic American River Bridge. Continue heading east for about 20 miles and you will reach the town of Foresthill. After passing through town continue east for another 10 miles and turn left at Sugar Pine Dam Road. There should be sign just before you reach the junction. Once you are on Sugar Pine Dam Road (Route 10), follow the road carefully, there are a few turnoffs that can possibly throw you off course. If you have any questions while on Foresthill or Sugar Pine Dam road, you should be in simplex range. Monitor 146.49. The 145.43 (PL 162.2) Auburn repeater should also be available and it will be the primary talk-in to get you to the site. In any case, stay on the blacktop. Eventually you approach a junction with the main road going slightly to the left and a road going slightly to the right with a gate which should be open for us. This is also the junction where route 10 ends as indicated by a sign even though the road continues. As you go past the gate, there is a sign posted there marking the reserved group campsites. Follow the signs for the Rocky Ridge site which will be reserved for us. The total drive time from San Francisco to the campground should be approximately 3 hours if you avoid the Bay Area and Sacramento rush hours.

Cost To You

Just \$40 per family!! The more the participants...you might not have to dig so deep into your wallet...

How To Make Reservations

E-mail your name, home QTH, type of vehicle, and number in your party to Dave, WA6UHA at youha@pacbell.net .



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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

May — June 2011 Club Calendar

Friday May 20, 2011	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting <i>Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i>
Monday June 6, 2011	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting <i>Buttercup Bar & Grill 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek</i>
Saturday June 4, 2011	9:00 am	MDARC Technical Committee <i>Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg</i>
Friday June 17, 2011	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting <i>Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i>