

The Bulletin

January through
July, 2011

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and Reports in
this issue

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- *A Message From Your President*
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ARACC Presents Special Event Station W6M At The Fossil Discovery Center



April 22, 23, 2011 - Fairfield, CA

Who knew that right in the middle of the San Joaquin Valley, there's a fossil site that has revealed clues to life some 700-thousand years ago. You can share in this unique experience by visiting the recently-opened Fossil Discovery Center of Madera County. It's situated just off Highway 99 near Fairmead, and is opened to the public. Log on to their web site to view the history of the area and the animals that roamed the rich grasslands and waters of the region.

<http://www.MaderaMammoths.org>

Students, visiting the center can even search for fossilized bones and other artifacts at a set aside area next to the main building.

Inside, you will marvel at assembled skeletons of a Dire Wolf, Long-Toothed

Cats, The Columbian Mammoth, and a native species of Horse which used to live right here on the same land that we now occupy.

ARACC member Gerry McDougal inspired the club to set up a Special Event Station at the Center, calling attention of hams across the country to the facility. It just so happens that Gerry/KI6JDG serves on the Fossil Discovery Center Board, and was instrumental in putting the operation together.

After successfully applying for the call letters W6M, the club organized the event with two stations operating on 75 and 40 meters. Operators included Mark/W7JAG (Now N6IB), John/KG6AWB, Randy/K6VAU, Hank/W1HFB, Richard/K6RCV, Scott/KJ6KQG, Gene/W7POR, Dennis/KI6NVG and Belva/KB4JCL.

The club provided free coffee, tea and water to holiday motorists. Lew/KI6YWX, Kim/KF6ZSW, Judy McDougal were among those tending the concession table. For the operators and support staff, pizza, sandwiches

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SPECIAL EVENT STATION

(Continued from Front Page)

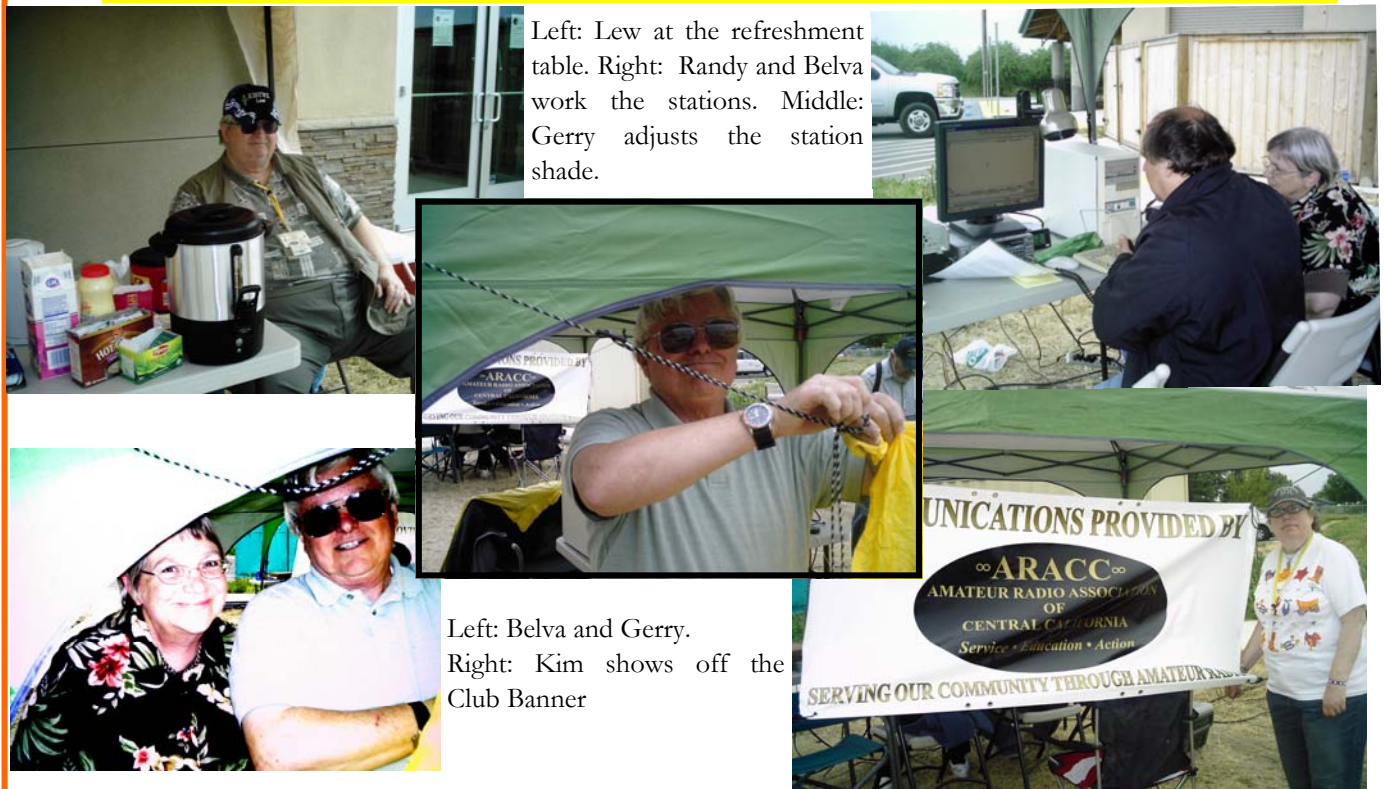
and pastries were in abundance. Scott's XYL sent up a supply of delicious homemade burritos. Mark's XYL, Janelle also took pictures so we could remember what we did..

The operation looked like a tent city with logging computers, lots of lights and HF antennas.

Each station recorded many contacts and explained what the event was all about both to on-air contacts and curious visitors,



ARACC PUTS W6M ON THE AIR



Left: Lew at the refreshment table. Right: Randy and Belva work the stations. Middle: Gerry adjusts the station shade.

Left: Belva and Gerry. Right: Kim shows off the Club Banner

From The President's Desk



**Kim
KF6ZSW**

I want to thank all of you again for your help and support over the past four years. We are well under way for another busy and exciting year in 2011.

ARACC's Holiday Awards Meeting on December 11th was filled with great fellowship. For all of their hard work in 2010 awards were given to:

Lew/KI6YWX presented programs at our general meetings, a soldering workshop, kit building, a home brew code key contest, and much more.

Randy/K6VAU presented programs at our general meetings, a mentor to our membership, antenna and repeater support, net control at base for the bike events ARACC helped with health and safety communications and much more.

Gerry/KI6JDG and Judy McDougal have hosted the ARACC picnic at their beautiful home for the past two years. In 2010 we had over 40 people there. We had lots of food, fun, swimming, the search for Heidi The Hidden Fox, and much more.

Daniel/KI6FLR has helped club treasurer Richard/K6RCV at meetings and has acted as acting secretary when needed and much more.

Richard/K6RCV has been our club treasurer, net manager, radio support at bike events and more.

Charlene/KI6NDJ has been our club secretary, radio support at bike events and much more.

On December 4th Gene/W7POR and I attended The ARRL Pacific Division Cabinet Meeting. Lots of good information was shared. One important topic discussed was how to keep hams involved through mentoring programs. I am happy to say that for the past four years our club has done that and will continue to assist members and others.

Again this year we are involved with youth projects, work shops and much more. In April, ARACC was invited to give CART School students an opportunity to see Ham Radio in action. Two of them and their instructor already have their tickets. They joined several others talking to local Amateurs on the air, sharing ideas and questions. It followed some videos and a demonstration of a radio setup using ARACC's club call, KI6GIL.

This was the second time ARACC was asked to do a Ham Radio Presentation at the school. It was also the second year our club has offered a scholarship to a deserving student. Club members attended the presentation ceremony.

Vice President Randy/K6VAU will be having many informative programs in 2011. At our January General Meeting his presentation was on antennas. The G5RV was highlighted in his power point presentation. It was very informative. There were a lot of good questions from our members and guests.

Shane/W8GWP demonstrated the Buddi-Pole. He showed us how portable the BuddiPole is and how easy it is to set up to operate in an emergency or just to make fun ham radio contacts.

Our January General Meeting was on Gene's/W7POR birthday. Members wished him a very "Happy Birthday"! We also want to thank Gene for all of his work on the web site and work on all of the ARACC projects he is involved with. Don't forget — if you haven't paid your 2011 club membership dues, please put it

at the top of your "support list" for the club. Application/Renewal forms are available on the web site www.aracc.org.

April is always a busy month. April 22nd and 23rd highlighted our Special Event Station W6M at the Fossil Discovery Center. We want to give special thanks to Gerry/KI6JDG, Judy, Gene/W7POR and Lew/KI6YWX. Two stations were set up, and members pitched in to operate their shifts, and to greet visitors. There were a couple of side benefits, namely a talk-in operation on the club repeater (147.105) and a Citizen Band station to attract non-Hams to the site. We had free hot coffee, chocolate, tea and bottled water for Easter weekend travelers who needed a safety break. This was a lot of fun and good experience.

Health and safety radio communications at bike events are also important in 2011. So it was at this year's 35th Climb To Kaiser in June. More than 230 riders signed up and ARACC members again did a stellar job.

We are planning more educational projects for both club members and the public.

Don't forget the ARACC Net on Thursdays at 6:30 PM. Richard/K6RCV starts monitoring at 5:45 PM and stays on frequency until about 7:30 PM or so. You can also check in early or late if you can't make it at 6:30. IT IS ONLY ONE NIGHT A WEEK AND IT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES TO CHECK IN ! :)

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

73,
Kim/KF6ZSW
287-9051
kdavis@gotnet.net

CART STUDENT WINS ARACC SCHOLARSHIP

May 10th, 2011 — ARACC awarded another \$250 Scholarship at CART's 2011 Senior Recognition Night.

Tony Vang was this year's ARACC Scholarship winner. He is studying for his Tech Ham License. Tony is a graduating student in the Network Management Lab.

Tony's CART teacher Halbert Bynum gave a big THANK YOU to ARACC!!! Tony will be attending CSUF this Fall. He will be majoring in Music Technology.



CART student Tony Vang receives his ARACC Scholarship award from President Kim/KF6ZSW

CART Members Take To The Air

April 7th, 2011 — ARACC Members had a chance to talk with students over the air, using a two meter transceiver set up in Mr. May's electronics class lab room.

We delivered an Amateur Radio demonstration at CART School, beginning with a video presentation. Some of Mike May's students participated by speaking on the local repeater and asking questions.

This is the second year the club has had the opportunity to share ham radio with the class. Several students have gone on to earn their entry grade licenses.

ARACC Aug 6th Annual Picnic

We will see you there at Gerry and Judy's. This will be another fun ARACC picnic with swimming, great food, a fox hunt and much more!!! Please bring your friends and family :)

Richard will be our great cook again this year!!! Please RSVP to me by Aug. 3. Please bring your favorite side dish, dessert, veggie, dip, salad, or snacks. ARACC will provide the meat, sodas, water, place settings and coffee.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS TO REMEMBER

October 8th, 2011 Double Century
Please contact me if you would like to participate in communications.

Field Day, 2012 — ARACC needs a Field Day Chairman and a Committee for the last full weekend in June 2012

The 36th Annual Climb To Kaiser, 2012 will be on June 30, 2012

Health And Safety Communications at the CTK

June 25, 2011 -- More than 230 riders signed up for the 35th Annual Climb To Kaiser bicycle event. ARACC teams set up a base station at a Clovis school as riders began the run through Wildcat Pass, Sierra School, Shaver Lake, Huntington Lake and Kaiser Pass. The run circled back through Shaver to Big Creek, along Auberry Road to Pine Ridge School, Millerton Store and back to Base, ending late in the day. Kim/KF6ZSW (Shown on the right), James/KJ6OPO, Lew/KI6YWX and Gene/W7POR (pics not available) operated the Base station, linking the various Rest Stops to Incident Commanders.



Running the radio at the Wildcat Rest Stop, James/KJ6OPO takes a quick breakfast break



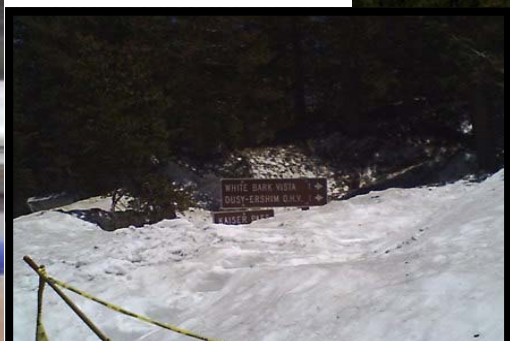
Leroy/KG6VWI operates from the popular Sierra Rest Stop. This is where The Filipino American Cycling Club served authentic food!

Others who did radio communications (no pictures available) included John/KI6GRX at Shaver Lake, Gene/KI6JCX at Millerton, Richard/K6RCV and Charlene/KI6NDJ -- both at Huntington Lake. John/KG6AWB and Pat KG6BXZ shared duty at Pine Ridge School.

Thanks to all ARACC members who moved over the course to do double duty at other Rest Stops.



Here's the goal for those who did the entire "Climb To Kaiser Pass". Gene/W7POR did event COMS from the top of the ride.



HIGHLIGHTS OF ARACC MEETINGS

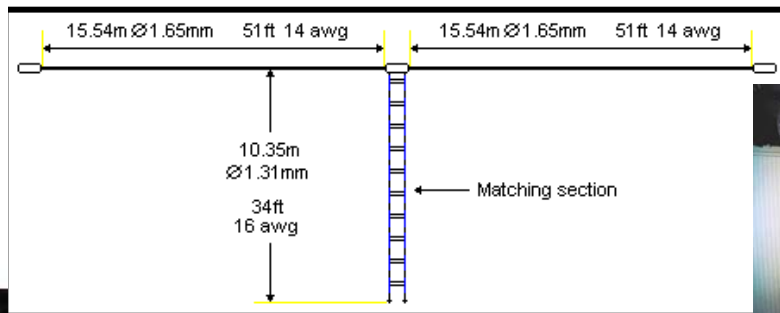


At the ARACC Meeting on May 14, 2011, Lew/KI6YWX gave an outstanding demonstration of Anderson Power Poles. He presented a host of fittings as well as optional tools to put them together. These handy little gadgets make it easy to interchange equipment and power sources both at home and in the field.

The July 9th meeting featured another excellent presentation by Randy/K6VAU. We learned more about coax and open wire feed lines, along with methods of matching the rig to your antenna. Increasing efficiency and getting the most from the antenna system was the main focus. We examined samples of several coaxial cable types, ranging from smaller flexible to larger rigid examples.



On Saturday, February 12, 2011, ARACC members and guests received an update on the hot topic, "NARROWBANDING -- The truth about FCC narrow-banding of Amateur Radio equipment; dispelling rumors and misguided directives."



On Saturday, January 8, 2011, members and guests were treated to a presentation focusing on the G5RV Multiband HF Antenna. Several people requested that we post a copy of Program Chairman, Randy's/K6VAU program on the website. Randy wants us to say that the information was obtained from various resources, referenced inside the article. Randy also brought several VHF/UHF Antennas as examples of some commercial types.

Shane/W8GWP demonstrated his BuddiPole Portable HF antenna.

Thanks to both for sharing and mentoring those of us who are unfamiliar with some of the concepts of antenna design and use.

EDITOR'S NOTES



We would like to welcome our new members to the club.

We are proud to announce the induction of James/KJ6OPO, Felix/N6VQL, Mark/N6IB, Belva/KB4JCL and

John/AG6BP into the ranks of ARACC.

These fresh faces come with excellent credentials and a good diversity of personal backgrounds. But they all share a common thread. The minute the ink was dry on their application, they were ready to leap into a club activity! Even when there was a prior commitment, these people have indicated they're ready to step into a future roll.

James jumped into the Climb To Kaiser event, manning two rest stops. Belva and Mark did great work at the ARACC Special Event operation. John has expressed his intention to support the club and Felix wants to join the Valley ARRL VE Team as a Volunteer Examiner.

Most of our members are attracted to ARACC because of its emphasis on "activity," and have little interest in the classic

"good ol' boy, coffee and donuts bunch" who are content just to sit and criticize.

Take a look at the ARACC web site. Look carefully through the newsletters that recount our accomplishments and goals. Our meetings are filled with mentoring and information. Those we serve are grateful. And, you know what? We still have fun and respect for one another.

73,
DE Gene/W7POR

NEW MEMBERS



Belva/KB4JCL



Mark/N6IB



John/KG6BP



James/KJ6OPO

Sorry we are missing a picture of Felix/N6VQL.

We're proud to welcome these new members to The Amateur Radio Association Of Central California.

Spotlighting Our Members' Birthdays



BEST BIRTHDAY WISHES TO.....

	March:		May:			August:					
	Pat/KG6BXZ		Richard/K6RCV			John/AG6BP					
	Leroy/KG6VWI		June:			Dennis/KI6NVG					
	April:		Daniel/KI6FLR			Hank/W1HFB					
	Randy/K6VAU		July:								
	James/KJ6OPO		Gene/KI6JCX								
	<i>We're Sorry if your Birthday is missing. Please update our list on your application/update sheet, and share your special day</i>										

Mark Your Calendars!

Thursday Night Net —

Don't forget to join us each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. for the ARACC weekly net on 147.105 (offset +600, PL 141.3). It is a great way to stay in touch with other members and it takes less than 30 minutes!

August 6, 2011 —

Annual ARACC Picnic in lieu of The Regular Meeting

Club Meetings —

Except for special dates, we meet on the Second Saturday of the month, Check the website for information. (<http://www.aracc.org>)



**There's something
for every one in
ARACC!**



THE BULLETIN

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