



THE MONITOR

NEWSLETTER of the RIVERSIDE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol. 12

October 2003

No 10

AN APPROACH TO AN 80M ANTENNA

de Fred, w6TKV

Most of us who live on small city lots seem to couple a pair of diametrically opposed words together when we consider 80M vertical antennas. The two words are "efficient (or effective)" and "small".

The only somewhat serious antenna thought I had a while back was to put up a quarter-wave 80M vertical right at the edge of my front sidewalk. It would probably have a top hat and a small coil somewhere in the middle. And, it would be installed during a contest or to chase a DX-pedition, but other times it would be stored along side the house - and that would be most of the time.

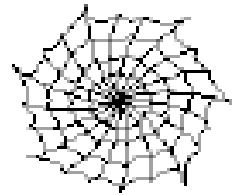
Insofar as radials are concerned, some would certainly be run back towards the house and along either side of the house. BUT, if I drilled through the curb and ran a copper pipe under the sidewalk and connected it to the vertical "base" (likely a pipe in the ground), I could then run radials down, across and along the street - just nail

them down to the street and pour tar over the radial wires (I know from experience the time to do install radials like this would be in the middle of the night when no neighbors are out and about (they would likely be named "stradials", an acronym for "street radials").

When operating it would probably be necessary to put some of those orange traffic cones out in order to meet (or at least approach) the FCC's "radiation rules", and maybe I might have to

dump some dirt on the sidewalk so as to justify the orange traffic cones when my neighbors see them in the morning. And then ...

Amazing what hams who live on city lots spend their waking hours thinking about, isn't it?



Patrick Smith KF6NYR will present a program on the Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS)

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POST CARD FROM ENGLAND - Steve (KF6BNP) and Melva Evans while vacationing in England made a visit to fellow amateur radio operator Roger (G4SEF) and wife Sally Jenkinson, in Immingham, England. Roger has been a visitor at our club meeting during the various visits to Southern California and a guest of Art (KQ6HF) and Alice Sutorus.



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The purpose of the **MONITOR** is to provide information and news about association activities. Material may be reproduced in whole or in part in any form, provided credit is given to the **MONITOR** and the RCARA.

Subscriptions are included with membership to the RCARA. All articles submitted for inclusion in the **MONITOR** must be received by the 25th of each month. Items should be sent to the editor by email at: bmerrill@linkline.com.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the La Sierra University Church, Riverside, CA 92501.

The repeater is 146.880 with a negative shift and a PL of 146.2. Packet BBS is 145.030.ARRL

Affiliate Club, No. 1720

President's QSO

This was a busy month for me. I attended the 2003 Southwest Division HamCon in Long Beach with Jeff W6HGS, his son and Fred W6TKV. Great programs and a fairly good vendors exhibit hall. I saw other club members at the convention, Ted KQ6U, Joe W6UBQ, Joe KG6SAK and Art KQ6HF but I was disappointed that I didn't see more Riverside club members there. Preparation for our club meeting, updating the Inland Empire Council of Amateur Radio Organizations (IECARO) treasurer's records and work completed the second week and delayed Gail and my well deserved vacation to Santa Fe, MN and Denver, CO.

Unfortunately the vacation took me away from amateur radio. It's not that I didn't have good intentions, I was lazy. I didn't get a chance to program my FT-817 with the two meter and 440 frequencies for northern Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah. Now I did try, I spent three hours one night with the laptop trying repeatedly to program the radio with the frequencies from the ARRL Repeater Handbook and another hour or so in Denver. It was after that that I realized that I had brought a PC to Mac serial cable rather than the serial to data port cable for the 817. The PC and 817 wouldn't talk to each other. I could have manually input the frequencies, repeater offset, pl and alphanumeric identifier but I didn't! I decided I was on vacation from more than just work and set the radio aside for the rest of the trip. Besides, I hadn't yet convinced Gail to let me drill a hole in the (her) new car for a real antenna and I didn't think the little mag-mount behind the luggage rack was working too well anyway.

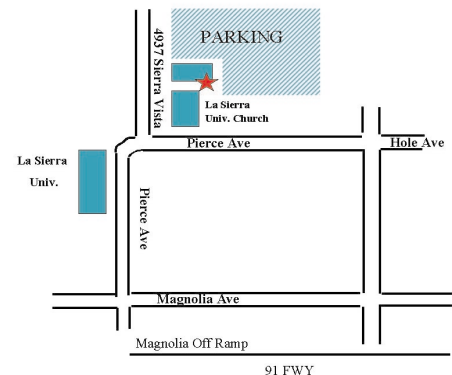
Now that I am back RCARA and I need your help to get in the swing of things. The club needs to put together its Technician and General amateur operator's license classes, we have been asked if RCARA can host a local Boy Scout troop for JOTA,



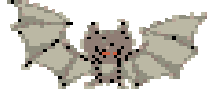
we need officer nominations for the upcoming elections, someone is needed to help coordinate our picnic, we need nominations for the Harry J. Crawford Memorial Award, and we need volunteers to help IECARO plan and set up committees for the 2005 Southwest Division Conference in Riverside. I don't know if an 11 day vacation was enough to get us through till the next one.

Your full support and attendance at our next RCARA meeting on October 9th will help. Patrick Smith KF6NYR will present a program on the Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS) and hopefully bring us as observers for their Thursday evening net. As an additional incentive, I was told that a RCARA club member has won the grand prize in the IECARO raffle. Not having attended the September IECARO meeting they won't even disclose the winner to me but will instead announce the winner at our October meeting. Come out to enjoy our program on MARS and the comradery with our members.

73's, Don kd6uvt



KA6ABL BREAKFAST REPORT



A RCARA MONTHLY EVENT

Due to an unforeseen computer glitch and "attack of the killer virus" while setting up a new computer, Tony was unable to provide his monthly breakfast report. It will be included in next month's issue, barring any other mishaps. Good luck Tony!

For those of you who are interested in joining fellow club members for a great breakfast with fantastic camaraderie. . . .

NEXT BREAKFAST:
Saturday, October 18th
(the third Saturday of
each month)

**WHERE: BAKERS SQUARE
RESTAURANT**
3650 Tyler Avenue
Riverside
(909) 689-2160

DIRECTIONS: From the
Tyler Avenue off-ramp of
the 91 FWY, north on Tyler
Avenue to the SPORTMART
parking lot. Turn left into
the parking lot and turn left
again you should be facing
the BAKERS SQUARE
RESTAURANT.

Your host and hostess: Tony
(KE6RUT) and his lovely
wife Vivian (KF6GZK)

If you have questions about
this RCARA monthly event
contact us on the W6TJ
repeater (146.880 MHz PL
146.2 OS (-))

As long as there is a
gathering of AM's and

friends, those that came
before us will not be
forgotten! Remember it is
the spirit in which we come
together

See you there, 73



Don Williams, KD6UVT presents Joe Brown, W6UBQ the RCARA Life Service Award for Exemplary Service to the Amateur Radio Service.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

September 11, 2003

President Don Williams, KD6UVT, called the annual 'Past President's night' meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The meeting was held at the La Sierra University Church. There were 34 members and guests in attendance including Past President's Ted Hudson, KQ6U; Bob Mann, W6LKN and Art Sutorus, KQ6HF. Don Williams led the pledge of allegiance followed by self-introductions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Fred Roberts gave an overview of planning efforts underway for the 2005 IECARO sponsored ARRL S/W Convention to be held in Riverside. Ted Hudson, KQ6U reported that he has received enough sign ups for all of the checkpoints for the September, American Diabetes Assoc., Riverside Walk. Ron Braley, KE6RYX encouraged members to help themselves to used serviceable batteries donated by area hospitals. Arlo Myers, WA6UDR announced that he had spoken with Past President Dick Cupp (1971; '72; '74) and he sends

his greetings. Don Williams, KD6UVT announced he had raffle tickets available for the IECARO drawing of a FT-894 and Garmin StreetPilot GPS unit.

NEW BUSINESS: Joe Brown, W6UBQ presented a Life Service Award to commemorate for his many years of exemplary service to our association and the amateur radio community. Ted Hudson, KQ6U was appointed as the W6TJ Repeater Trustee.



Life Service Award Plaque presented to Joe Brown, W6UBQ on the occasion of his moving to the Veterans Retirement Community in Washington, D. C.

OLD BUSINESS: None

PROGRAM: Steve Jensen, W6HM presented a demonstration of a rare vintage Spark Gap Transmitter, a family heirloom once used by his grandfather to broadcast the daily crop report in Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM, a reception with cake and refreshments followed.

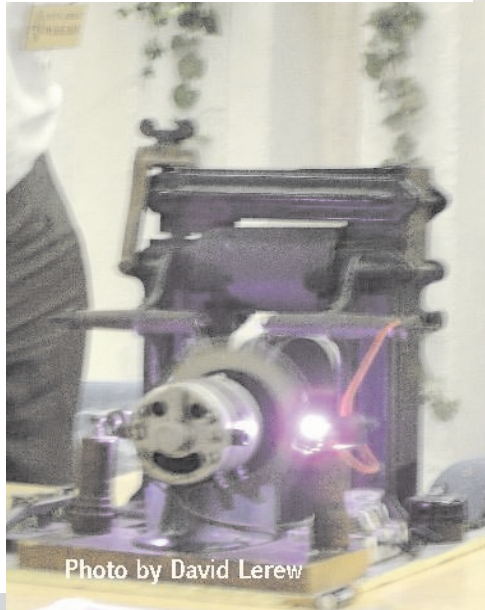
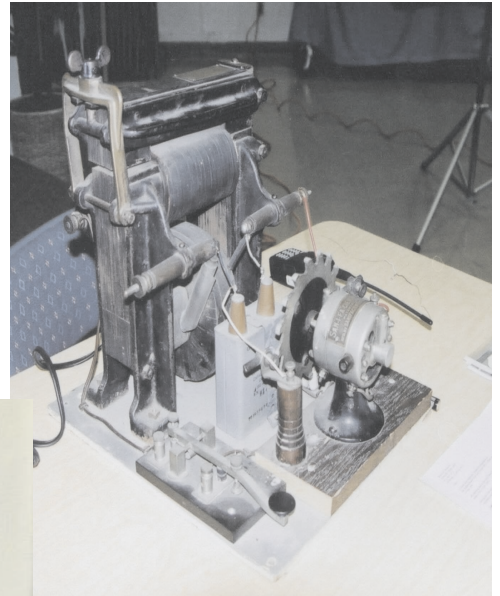
Respectfully submitted by
Steve Evans, KF6BNP
Acting Secretary



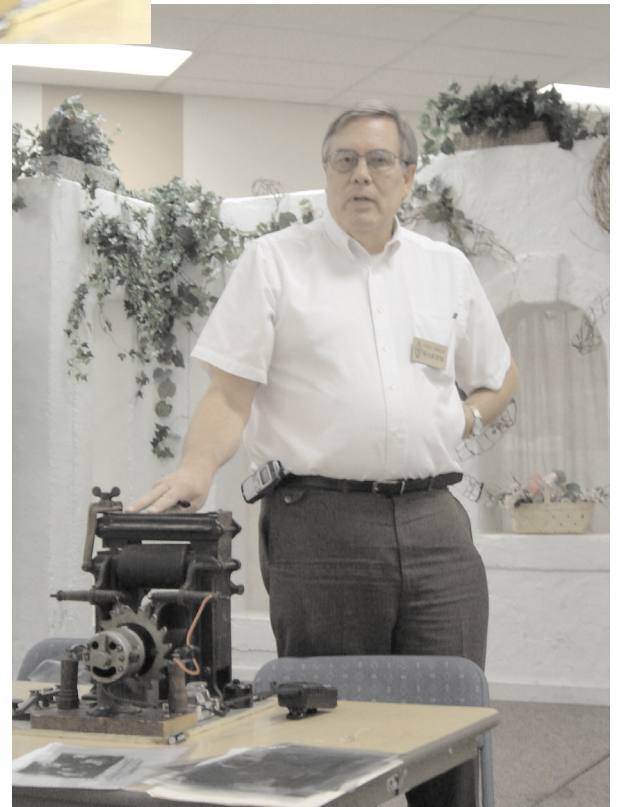
IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR

Our September meeting was an evening filled with radio nostalgia as we celebrated 'Past President's Night 2003'. The presentation by Steve Jensen, W6RHM, with his near extinct spark gap transmitter gave us a rare look at amateur radio in the days of Marconi. We were able to share his personal enthusiasm as he authenticated his vintage family heirloom transmitter. He shared with us a photograph of his grandfather John Jensen, 9YD, operating the very same device, circa 1919 with his friends. The brief impressive demonstration provided an explosive light and sound exhibition adding to the jubilant celebration of the evening.

73, Steve, KF6BNP



HEAVY ENOUGH TO BE A BOAT ANCHOR-Clair Cessna, K6LG and Art Sutorus, KQ6HF assist Steve Jensen by carrying in the spark gap transmitter.



Steve Jensen, W6RHM, addresses the RCARA membership by explaining the history of a spark gap transmitter once used by his grandfather to broadcast daily crop reports in Nebraska.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 6 KB6RBA – Phillis
- 8 W9GGS –Dennis
- 9 KE6HSS – Eric
- 10 N6UUL – Nick
- 11 N6SRD – Ednae
KD6FTA- James
- 13 W6ACQ - Jack
- 14 W6KEE – John
W6LKN – Bob
- 16 K6BSC - Maureen
- 25 N6QVE – Steve

Don't count the days-make the
days count.-*Ed Agresta*

73, Steve, KF6BNP

America's Walk for Diabetes, Riverside 2003

On September 27th 2003, these members of RACARA performed another great job for the American Diabetes Association, in a fund raising walk in the City of Riverside. The Walk raised \$100,000 for diabetes research and our operators performed flawlessly in their efforts to support the function. The operators who supported this event were as follows: Ron Braley, KE6RYX, John Davidson, KC6TFS, who were the net control operators, Tony and Vivian Blackwood, KE6RUT and KF6GZK, who operated the Fairmount Park station, Harold and Joanell Ellis, who operated the Mission Inn Ave. and Redwood Drive Station, and Bill Allen, KD6VAE, who operated the Brockton and Mission Inn Station, and of course yours truly, who was kind of stove up, but still operated the Mission Inn and Market St. station nicely. We are proud of our ability to maintain a viable and vital radio net in support of most any given function and the job we did for this one.

Yours, Ted Hudson, KQ6U.

AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION WALK

The Saturday, 27 American Diabetes Association walk was a fun and fast event for Riverside County Amateur Radio Association members. With an unofficial estimate of 800 to 1000 walkers that strolled from downtown to Fairmont Park and back proved successful for event organizers. The communications team was made up of Team Leader Ted Hudson, KQ6U; Ron Braley, KE6RYX; Bill Allen, KD6VAE; Joanel Ellis, KD6MAO; Harold Ellis, KD6MAN; Tony Blackwood, KE6RUT and Vivian Blackwood, KF6GZK. A free tee shirt and lunch was provided for participants.



SCOOTER MOBILE - Ted Hudson, KQ6U monitors walkers pass his check point at the American Diabetes Association Walk.



NET CONTROL - Ron Braley, KE6RYX and John Davidson, KC6TFS stationed at the American Diabetes Association Walk start /finish line.

Editor's Note



Well another issue is out the door. As you can see RCARA continues to be active in all sorts of public events. Is Ted turning the walk-a-thons into "scooter-a-thons?" I'll really be impressed when he mounts an antenna on that thing. . .he'll really be a mobile unit then. He'll have to add an extra battery pack for the radio though. Great job guys!

As Don stated, we have quite a number of items coming up on the club's agenda, Christmas party, nominations, etc. The club really needs your support in all of these and especially as club officers. Many of the officers have served more than their share of terms and we really need club members to step forward and take an active participation in running the club. Please contact the nominating committee if you'd like to volunteer -- PLEASE!

Also, don't forget those Crawford nominations for those members who have contributed throughout the past year.

Till next month!

73, KC6ING

NOTICE

Business Card Ad rates are \$40 per year with a \$5.00 discount to club members.

Moved?

Don't miss getting your monthly issue of The MONITOR!

CALL _ _ _ _ _
NAME _ _ _ _ _
ADDRESS _ _ _ _ _
CITY _ ST _ ZIP _ _ _

Mail to: Frank Vanderpoel, Membership
c/o RCARA
P.O.Box 1412
Riverside, CA 92502-1412
or 686-1873 or packet K6UIZ @ W6TJ
or frank_v@email.msn.com

Chino Hills High School Electronics Swap Meet

Where: Chino Hills High School -- Main Parking Lot

When: 1st Sunday of every month starting Sept 7th, 2003

Times: 6:30 a.m. Through 11: 30 a.m. (Rain or shine)

For further details regarding vendor space use/agreements, application and announcements see:
<http://www.chhsmusic.com>

Salvage Engineering



I will be unable, at this writing, to attend the November meeting and will therefore be unable to take the bottle and can donation. I have an important function I must attend, that is scheduled for that night. I will attend the January meeting and will be glad to accept all donations at that time. Thank you for help in keeping the club dues as low as they are with your donations. If there is a change I will let you all know as soon as possible. Vy 73, Ted, KQ6U.



TUNE IN AND JOIN IN!

Wednesday Night
Rag Chew Net
145.520MHz Simplex
2030hrs.

Grace & Jeff Lloyd
N6WPA/N6FRW

The NiCd Lady Company

O.E.M Assembly - Rebuilds - Batteries - Lead Acids
Replacement Packs

20585 Camino Del Sol Unit B
Riverside, CA 92508

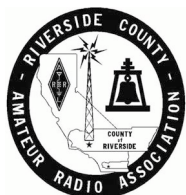
www.nicdlady.com

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Expiration: 12/31/03

Calendar page



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