

February Meeting

Friday, February 15—7:30 pm
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA

Meeting Program

"I have my license—what do I do next?" We will hold a "panel discussion" on topics that would be a help to new operators. Experienced hams are invited to bring equipment and answers. New hams are invited to come with lots of questions!

V.E. Testing

6:00-7:00 PM, prior to each meeting at *Our Saviour's Lutheran Church*.

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President's QRM

by Jason Legate, W6SN

This year, although still new, has proved to be quite fruitful for MDARC. Our Pacifcon 2007 numbers were superb, and we are already looking forward to 2008.

We also, with the consent of the general membership, have purchased a service monitor. It will greatly assist the club's technical committee with tuning and aligning our gear on the hilltops. We hope to be able to use it very shortly to help us isolate and identify the problems with interference to our 2m repeater.

In other news, I would personally like to thank Bill Mullen, KG6OBS. He recently donated a bunch of ham gear to the club. Among the items were some radios, power supplies and microphones. Hopefully we can put them to good use very soon!

Of course, one good possible use is for this year's Field Day. Preliminary planning has already begun for field day, with Trevor, KG6MDW, leading the way. If anyone has any ideas or

suggestions for this year's event, please email him at traty13@hotmail.com.

On the flip side of the coin, it's another year, and another round of letters! As many remember, last year there were numerous letters sent out to repeater owners regarding the UEWR (Upgraded Early Warning Radar) system. The ARRL recently published news that there was an updated list with about 75 stations listed. This list is being said to have been compiled by monitoring the band and listening for identifications. If we end up getting further notification, we will take corrective action at that point.

With that, I'll wrap this up by just saying that I welcome anyone, member or not, to contact me with suggestions, comments, complaints, pats-on-the-back, or whatever else for the club. I definitely want to hear from people who would love to be more active in the club, but may not be able to get involved in club activities due to time or distance issues. So, if you think we are doing a great job, let me know. If you have any ideas for the club, let me know. 73 de W6SN

MDARC Repeater Operation Rules

The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club maintains and operates high-quality, wide-coverage repeaters for the use of all amateur radio operators. Operation and use of these repeaters

shall comply fully with the Amateur Radio Service (Part 97) regulations of the Federal Communications Commission's Private Radio Service, and the following rules of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club:

1. The repeaters are provided for the purposes of contacting and passing information between fellow

amateur radio operators, and providing service to the public as a voluntary, noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

2. In the spirit of the Amateur Radio Service, users shall respect and support each other in a courteous and positive manner.

Mt. 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 space is available. All material must be submitted to the editor by the last day of the month prior to publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to carrier@mdarc.org or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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paulr33@earthlink.net

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bobgreen@sbcglobal.net

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wa6jau@sbcglobal.net

Trevor Raty, KG6MDW

Dave Gordon, N6SWE

Membership Chair

Tom Deeble, KA6SIP
mdarcmembership@mdarc.org

Carrier Editor, PIO

Jeremiah Blasi, K6BQ
carrier@mdarc.org

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W6CX Repeaters

147.060/+ (100 PL)

224.780/- (077 PL)

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ATV: In 1289.25 Out 427.25, 1241.25

APRS: 144.39

TCP/IP: 145.71

MDARC Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2008

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Lafayette, CA

President Jason Legate, W6SN, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were about 75 members and guests present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the Carrier.

Treasurer Don Anthony, N6SIA, reported that the treasury contained \$43,308.87 in CDs and \$18,425.70 in checking, including the \$12,400 received from Pacificon.

EC Bob Green, K6GD, reported that tomorrow there would be a RACES training session on digital communications, beginning at 0800. He also noted that RACES now has the mission of liaison with CERT. Bob asked for ideas and suggestions as to a RACES 6m repeater location, since Mt. Diablo is not suitable.

Fred Lothrop, K6REQ, of CERT Lamorinda announced CERT classes running February 7-March 30 (Walnut Creek begins February 5).

Dick Brown, KT6X, reported that 8 hams passed their VE exams.

He noted also that there will be a Pacificon meeting on Saturday, February 9 at 0800 at the Concord PD community room.

Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, reported for the Tech Committee that all repeaters were up and running ok, but that there were some interference problems being followed up. He advised that one antenna needed replacement—for 1.2 GHz ATV transmitter. He and Trevor Raty reported on the request for approval for purchase of a service monitor and a bid of approximately \$7300. The members present approved the purchase, with one negative vote.

Jason adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm for a 15 minute break, and reconvened the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Steve Carlson of *Your Safety Place* in Dublin delivered an interesting presentation on earthquake and disaster safety and supplies.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary

Solar Cycle 24 Begins

Solar physicists have been waiting for the appearance of a reversed-polarity sunspot to signal the start of the next solar cycle. The wait is over. Recently, a magnetically reversed sunspot emerged at solar latitude 30 N, shown in this photo taken by Greg Piepol of Rockville, Maryland (*Photo details: Coronado SolarMax90 CaK, Lumenera SKYnyx 2-2 CCD*).

For reasons explained in a recent Science@NASA story, (http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2007/14dec_

excitement.htm) this marks the beginning of Solar Cycle 24 and the first step toward a new solar maximum. Intense solar activity won't begin right away. Solar cycles usually take a few years to build from solar minimum (where we are now) to Solar Max (expected in 2011 or 2012). It's a slow journey, but we're on our way!



MDARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2008

Fuddruckers, 1940 N. Main St., Walnut Creek

President Jason Legate W6SN, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Other Board Members present: Vice-President Dave Mulkearns, K6OH; Secretary Paul Dickey, N6JOX; Treasurer Don Anthony, N6SIA; and EC Bob Green, K6GD. Also present were Directors Dave Gordon, N6SWE; Trevor Hall, WA6JAU; and Trevor Raty, KG6MDW; as well as Past President Marty Heyman, W6MDH. Also present were members Herbert Cole, KI6ATB, and Lauren Styles, WA6CIE.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the *Carrier*.

Treasurer Don Anthony reported \$43,251.32 in CDs, and a \$17,988.18 checkbook balance (including the Pacificon check of \$12,000), not including recently received bills nor membership dues.

He received authorization from the Board to renew a maturing CD.

Committee Reports:

- *Tech Committee:* Trevor Hall presented a proposal for the Club to purchase an IFR service monitor, not to exceed \$7500. The Board agreed that the proposal for expenditure be presented to the membership for approval at the next meeting.

The Committee is considering moving its meeting time and/or place; to be determined.

Because of an incipient move, the Committee recommended approval to move the Club telephone location to the Hill. The Board agreed with the concept, pending details of cost, number change, etc.

- *Emergency Coordinator:* Bob noted

that RACES training would be held the third Saturday (19th), using attendee's computers.

Old Business:

- The Board discussed feasibility of preparing a one-page Carrier for distribution (as at HRO), and flyers for training classes (if needed). Jason will check with the Editor.
- Herbert is working on the IRLP project, and will have information on the website.

New Business:

- Jason presented his thoughts on goals for the Club for 2008. These include:
 - *Organize and publicize Field Day (Trevor Raty will coordinate this).*
 - *Clean-up, remodel, and organize the trailer.*
 - *Complete installation of the East Bay Hills voter.*
 - *Begin the Mt. Vaca voter.*
 - *Establish an outreach program to schools.*
 - *Attain membership of 350.*
 - *Hold annual auction.*
 - *Clean-up Mt. Diablo site.*
 - *Present Club meetings in real time on ATV.*
- The Board appointed Herbert to the position of Director (vacancy because of Jason's election as President).
- Jason announced that the March meeting would be held on March 14th because of the conflict with Good Friday activities of the church. The meeting place will be moved upstairs.

Jason adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary

MDARC Repeater Operation Rules (continued)

3. Due to the wide coverage of the repeaters and the club's large membership, the length of QSOs should be kept to a minimum. Conversations shall be limited to 10 minutes during commute hours; 6:00--9:00 AM and 4:00--7:00 PM. Operators should always pause before transmitting, to allow another station to break in. Please use simplex frequencies or HF bands for rag-chewing.

4. Operators shall announce their call sign before transmitting any touch-tone commands, at the end of each communication, and every ten minutes or less during a communication.

5. There shall be absolutely no communications containing obscene, indecent, or profane words, language, or meaning. Discussion of political or potentially sensitive social issues shall be avoided.

6. No one shall cause or condone the malicious or intentional interference of anyone's communications on the repeaters.

7. Operators shall not communicate with, or discuss the actions of, anyone who violates these rules.

8. Control Operators are required to turn off a repeater to terminate improper operation or use.

9. The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors reserves the right to forbid the use of the repeaters by anyone who repeatedly violates these rules, or anyone who facilitates or encourages others to violate these rules.

W6CX Echolink and IRLP Use

by Herbert Cole, K16ATB

Amateur Radio is for many of us not only a hobby, but a way of life. Our daily conversations with friends, family, and HAMs over the hill and around the world define not only our hobby, but who we are. We are a large and diverse community of individuals, and each is drawn to Amateur Radio for different reasons. For many of us, DX communications are the primary draw.

As a newly minted Technician back in 2005, I came to Amateur Radio strictly for local Emergency Communications. However that soon changed when I discovered that there was more to my Technician privileges than local repeater contacts. I discovered Amateur Radio VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) through IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) and EchoLink that let me reach out to the world with little more than a hand held FM transceiver. My long distance contacts over VoIP inspired me to get my General License so that I could pursue true DX on the HF bands. But to this day, VoIP still plays an important role in my daily Amateur Radio arsenal of communication tools.

The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club supports both IRLP and EchoLink on the clubs 2m (147.060 + PL100) repeater located atop Mount Diablo. If you haven't heard or tried out this mode of communication, we encourage you to give it a try. And if you have had the pleasure of speaking with someone using VoIP, I'm sure you will agree that this extension of Amateur Radio provides a unique and innovative method of long distance communication. Use of the MDARC Repeaters and VoIP is open to all qualified Amateur Radio Operators

that abide by the clubs published rules for repeater operation. The following primer will help get you started using VoIP, and serve as a reminder to the proper use and rules governing VoIP on the MDARC Repeater System.

Before we get started on how to access and use the VoIP functions, please read and review the rules governing repeater usage. [*Ed. note: The rules are published in this edition of the Carrier beginning on page 1. They can also be found at the club website mdarc.org*] These rules are the foundation upon which your VoIP experience is built, and adherence to these rules provides for an efficient and enjoyable experience for all amateur operators on the MDARC system.

How to Access IRLP and EchoLink

The access of distant VoIP nodes is easy. For an IRLP connection, make sure the repeater is clear of traffic. Announce your intentions by transmitting, "This is 'your call sign' accessing IRLP Node xxxx." Press the PTT button on your radio and enter the 4 digit node number of the station you want to connect to. Release the PTT and listen. You will be greeted by a "now connecting to" message. Wait for approximately 3 Seconds after

this greeting has finished before you begin to make a call. Please remember you may be connecting to a repeater in the middle of a conversation, So waiting to make sure is the rule. Enter 73 on the touch tone pad to disconnect. A list of active nodes can be viewed at <http://irlp.net>.

The access for EchoLink is similar to that of IRLP, but you must start the touch tone command with the "A" button first, followed by the node number. In the case of EchoLink, the node numbers can be up to 6 digits. The remaining procedure is identical to that of IRLP connection. Enter 73 on the touch tone pad to disconnect EchoLink.

Please remember to ID before you run any touch tone commands.

Please limit IRLP and EchoLink Contacts to 10 minutes or less as a courtesy to others that may wish to use the repeater.

To connect to the W6CX 2m repeater from another location, you can connect to IRLP node 3057, or EchoLink node "W6CX-R" (number 133896).

The system is designed to not allow cross connections between the two services.

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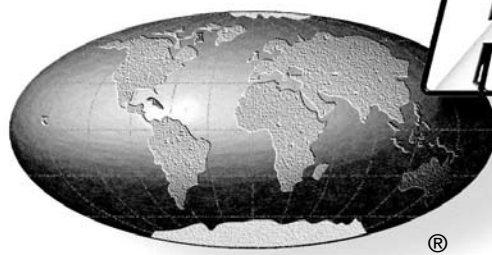
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MDARC Club Net

Thursday 8:00 pm

General ATV Net

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East County 146.535 Simplex
Drew Hanson, KD6GLY

South County 146.355/+ (100 PL)
Ed Ritchie, K6SFD

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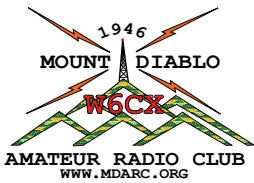
February Events

February 15 7:30 pm **MDARC Monthly Meeting**
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Lafayette

February 27 **February Carrier Deadline**

March 3 7:00 pm **MDARC Board Meeting**
Fuddrucker's, 1940 N. Main St., Walnut Creek

March 14 7:30 pm **MDARC Monthly Meeting**
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Lafayette
Note that the March meeting is on the 2nd Friday, rather than the 3rd Friday, due to a scheduling conflict with the meeting place. Please mark this on your calendar!



The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 23222

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

www.mdarc.org



Next Meeting—February 15
