

Pacific Division Meeting  
 Livermore, CA  
 December 2, 2006

Attending

<b>Name</b>	<b>Callsign</b>	<b>Club or Position</b>
Bob Vallio	W6RGG	Pacific Division Director
Andy Oppel	N6AJO	Pacific Division Vice Director
Don Hay	WB6LPJ	SF – AEC
Glenn Thomas	WB6W	CVRC, SNARS, SIERA, RARA, Nevada ACC
Judy Thomas	KF6MBH	SIERA
Ti Michelle Connelly	NJ6T	East Bay SM
Michael Borkon	KF6CRZ	ACSCT
George Nace	KD6WZY	NALCO President
Art Samuelson	W6VV	SFHRC, Assistant Director
Jack Cooper	KG6LV	MDARC, Assistant Director
Al Gaetano	W6VZT	WPS, Assistant Director
Jack Burris	K6JEB	EBARC/CCCC, PIC
Ron Smith	KE6RS	EBARC
John Street	WB6ETY	LARK, EC
Lee Zalaznik	KI6OY	LARK
Casey McPartland	W7IB	Sacramento Valley SM
Bill Dale	N2RHV	Santa Clara Valley SM
Ron Raines	N6QIY	Assistant Director
Kim Davis	KF6ZSW	SJVARS
Gene Davis	W7POR	SJVARS
Fred Silveira	K6RAU	Assistant Director
Jettie Hill	W6RFF	SFARC, Assistant Director

Called to order by Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG @ 9:30

- Everyone introduced themselves.
- Bob, W6RGG reviewed the issues caused by FCC WT Docket 04-140. Andy, N6AJO described the current FCC process (all published items require review and approval by all the FCC Commissioners and Chairman Martin), which makes corrections and such more difficult to introduce.
- Bob, W6RGG reviewed the current situation vis-à-vis BPL.
- Bob, W6RGG mentioned the new Technician online course and instructor's guide, including slide sets for all the lessons. Bob read (aloud) the ARRL announcement of the new materials. Glenn, WB6W, asked about the same materials for General and Extra class licenses. Bob, W6RGG believes those are forthcoming, but does not know when.

- Ron, KE6RS, noted the hands-on radio projects which are all in PDF format on the ARRL web site. He wondered what other items might be useful on the website.
- Andy, N6AJO mentioned a comment received from Swede, K7UAL, who suggested that all QST articles be made available on the website (members only). In particular, he objected to paying to have reprints mailed to him. Ron, KE6RS thought that would cut into QST CD sales and end up costing the ARRL more money. Others seemed to agree. Ti, NJ6T noted that it could also be a disincentive for advertisers because people could get to the articles without seeing the ads. Jack, KG6LV, suggested PDFs could be available for a fee. Ron, KE6RS, suggested putting QST online for free, but with ads that must be clicked through to get to each new page and/or article.
- Bill Dale, N2RHV, complemented the new search tool. He noted that you should make sure you are signed in before you search because otherwise you won't see items that are restricted to members only.
- Bill, KE6RS, went on to mention that the website could use a new look.
- Some discussion of the PDARRL changes took place. Ron, N6QIY and Andy, N6AJO reviewed the process that went into the redesign, including soliciting direction from the Section Managers. We acknowledge that some active material was inadvertently hidden from view (because of a renamed directory), and noted that the error was corrected as soon as it was made known.
- George, KD6WZY suggested that members only material should appear in search results but with disabled links so that non-members would have an additional incentive to join.
- Ron, KE6RS, suggested a "how to" guide on the use of the web site to help people find things (via the menus or the search engine) and highlighting the kinds of materials that are available.
- Judy, KF6MBH, asked about brochures for potential new hams. Bill, N2RHV, went over some newly available materials that he saw at the SM Workshop. Bill also pointed out the availability of lists of new hams, new members, etc. for SMs and others they designate.
- Jack, K6JEB had positive comments on the Logbook of the World. He asked if the login for it could be put on the ARRL home page. He thinks it is odd to have to login twice. Bob, W6RGG commented on how difficult the sign-up process has been, how much operators in other countries dislike it, and that measures are being taken to remedy the situation.
- Dean, KH6B, wrote an e-mail asking that QST be mailed first class to a subset of members (e.g. Life Members, New Members [1<sup>st</sup> year], etc.) It was noted that members can pay an additional annual fee to get first class postage. Bob, W6RGG noted that the people in Alaska complained to their congressional representatives about slow mail speed and it was much improved thereafter. The

hams in Hawaii have not expressed interest in approaching their congressional representatives. The majority in the room felt this issue was a non-starter.

- Don, KQ6FM, noted that the Red Cross (ARC) MOU is due for renewal in 2007. He suggested that the MOU be modified to allow ARRL volunteers to be considered as such and temporarily attached to the ARC rather than formal ARC volunteers subject to the background check requirement. Just about everyone expressed concern over the ARC policy. Art, W6VV, suggested an approach to the MOU renewal that we may not want to sign one at all unless they make it easier to work with them. There was general agreement in the room to taking a firm stance with them when MOU discussions come up.
- The subject of a national ARES ID was raised. Several were concerned that it would be expensive and would still not be honored by local/state law enforcement. Only a few felt the ARRL should pursue a national ID.
- Bill, N2RHV, commented that there was little overlap between those who had completed the ARRL ARECC courses and those who were signed up to be ARES/RACES volunteers. In general, we need to do more to promote these courses. We should consider scholarships (or another grant) for ARES volunteers.
- Andy, N6AJO, pointed out the state requirement for NIMS and SEMS training and the NERPC recommendations for training ARES volunteers.
- Bill, N2RHV, mentioned a boot camp on how to run to a non-profit organization being offered by Google (details on the Google website).
- In a discussion on Field Day, it was suggested that Field Day proclamation requests be submitted very early to allow time for the legislative process.
- Lee, KI6OY, heard (from Joel Harrison at Pacificon) that there was going to be a section level membership coordinator position, but it has not yet appeared on the website. When can we expect to see it? The group agreed that such a position would be a good idea.
- Lunch was served – thanks to Al, W6VZT for the arrangements.
- Surplus food from lunch was donated to Shepherd's Gate, a local charity.
- Bill, N2RHV, noted a class offered in San Mateo County for new hams, along the lines of "You have your license, now what?" Andy, N6AJO, suggested it as a good model to adapt for other sections or perhaps even nationally. Bill will look into it.
- Tony, N7ACM, would like to see the ARRL assist clubs in educational efforts (handouts, powerpoints, etc.) Standardized training materials for use in club meetings or classes would be very welcome. See e-mail from N7ACM. Bill, N2RHV, noted that Norm Fusaro at HQ has a CD available to clubs with some of this material. Mark Spencer probably has some material as well.

- Tony, N7ACM suggested providing a centralized course catalog on the ARRL website. Allow registration of local courses (ARRL, club, and 3<sup>rd</sup> party) so that individuals can search for them. Include features such as class rosters, student progress reporting, and so forth. The consensus in the room was that while some of the features might be more than the league is able to do, we should look at what can be reasonably done.
- Tony, N7ACM: a more organized Affiliated Club and Teaching Section. (Tony is a professional web designer, so he has some specific ideas in this area). Bill, N2RHV noted that there is a new club page accessible using [www.arrl.org/club](http://www.arrl.org/club) (if you use clubs instead of club you get the club search page).
- Tony, N7ACM suggested more guidance in teaching ham cram sessions, including handouts and Powerpoint presentations.
- Lee, KI6OY asked about the antenna replacement effort at W1AW. Bob, W6RGG stated that all the HF antennas have been replaced. It's all in the December issue of QST.
- More discussion on the 75/80 meter split as specified in Docket 04-140. Fred, K6RAU, commented that the compression of CW down into the new allocation (many nets have already moved) has pointed out how much more CW there is than he thought there was. Glenn, WB6W said something has to be done about the automatic control allocation that now is in the phone band. Only a few in the room thought the ARRL should pursue a formal response to the new allocation. The rest thought it was best to try and live with what we have been handed. Bob, W6RGG, noted that the CW nets have already moved and are all operating just fine – it's more crowded, but good CW operators can easily manage under those conditions.
- Fred, K6RAU, asked about the lawsuit related to BPL. Bob, W6RGG, noted that the NAB is now supporting the ARRL position, along with MSTV.
- Discussion regarding letters written to various legislators and responses received.
- From Ti, NJ6T: Directors are given new publications. SMs should also get them.
- Judy, KF6MBH, asked what an affiliated club receives in addition to a certificate, and what might be appropriate for them to receive, such as guidance for PIOs. Clubs need to know what they can request.
- George, KD6WZY, asked about the ARES organizations. In addition to ID cards, what about insurance issues, interfacing with neighborhood groups using GMRS (including groups encouraged to use them who didn't bother to get a license), interoperability issues including power connectors. Bob, W6RGG, noted that the ARRL does not endorse one particular type of power connector, and probably would not. ARRL is also unlikely to involve themselves with whether a non-amateur organization has proper GMRS licenses or not.
- Bill, N2RHV suggested that the league study RACES (as specified in Part 97) and recommend a future state for it. Should we expand it, eliminate it, what? Does

FEMA really still sponsor it (you can't find references to it on the FEMA website)? Lots of discussion on ARES vs. RACES.

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