Minutes of Pacific Division Meeting, 12/1/2007

- 1. Meeting called to order by Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, at 9:33 a.m.
- 2. Director Vallio presented a Certificate of ARRL Affiliation to the Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System.
- 3. Regarding the Pacific Section QSL Bureau, the ARRL is working with the existing bureau manager to come to an amicable transition and solution.
- 4. CA SB 33, which goes into effect on July 1, 2008, contains provisions that require hands-free operation by drivers and additional restrictions on those under 18. Reference to "push to talk" applies only to "wireless telephones". ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay has provided a legal opinion that the lay does not apply to us. (Note: Subsequent to the meeting, the DMV put an example on their website that showed that their interpretation was that all two-way radios were included as "wireless telephones" the law itself includes no definition of what is or is not a "wireless telephone." However, after pressure from the ARRL and other sources, that example was changed and the DMV page now states that any device that is used solely as a two-way radio does not fall under the restrictions in the new law. -- A. Oppel 2/23/08).
- 5. Art, W6VV noted that call sign listings in QST are not always in the same sequence. Silent Keys, for example, are in the generally accepted sequence (Call Area, suffix, then prefix). However, other lists are sometimes in other sequences. For example, participants in 2007 Straight Key Night were sorted as full words, left to right. And the A1 Operators and Nominees lists were sorted differently.
- 6. Mike, KI6PR, and Fred, K6RAU, noted that the Pacificon program did not include call signs.
- 7. Richard, NU6T, asked to have contest scores put back into QST. It was noted that the top 10 are still listed in the story text. Director Vallio offered no promise, but said he would ask. Discussion: Mitchell, W7POR, pointed out how useful web searches are. Andy, N6AJO, (Pacific Division Vice Director) said that NCJ could possibly list them all. Al, W6VZT said they should go back into QST even if it took a dues increase to pay for it.
- 8. Ron, W6KJ (Sacramento Section Manager) stated that not enough members get division/section e-mail bulletins. Andy, N6AJO, noted that at one time the default was "opt out" and the option was difficult to find; the default was changed to "opt in" several years ago and changes to the member data update page have made these options more obvious and easier to find. We'll continue efforts to get more members to opt in.
- 9. Gerry, K6MD, said the new QST format is colder and much more commercialized.
- 10. Richard, NU6T, requested more depth on the contest in QST write-ups rather than re-hashing what is already included in the printed tables. Contesters claim that printing call signs can be a recruiting tool.

- 11. Discussion on Section News in QST (removed some years ago to save space). The sentiment is that QST is the league journal, and therefore Section News should be there. Gerry, K6MD, noted that seeing their call sign in QST is important to a lot of our members.
- 12. During discussion of LOTW (Logbook of the World), it was noted that there has been a lot of press on the number of QSOs recorded, but that the more important metric is how many matches were made (which are the ones confirmed to be valid).
- 13. The FARS (Fresno Amateur Radio Society) representatives asked what other clubs/sections are going to increase membership. (What works and what doesn't?) What are the effects of the new cram license courses and how can we improve morale and esprit de corps? Participants recognized that Elmers are the key to getting new hams involved. Look at the new ham packet how well does it point new hams to local clubs? Texx, KG6ATH, described EBARC's system, which has been quite successful.
- 14. Bob, W6RGG, asked if there was interest in again pursuing an entry-level license? When he asked how many would support funding such an effort, very few hands went up. However, more wanted the ARRL to revisit existing licenses and privileges.
- 15. More discussion on new ham packets. Can they be customized to include contact information for the new ham's section (SM, SEC, Clubs, etc.)?
- 16. When asked if we should explore Technician class license privileges, such as adding HF privileges similar to what novice licensees have, the consensus was that such a change has to be sold to the membership first.
- 17. Whatever became of a membership chairperson for each section?
- 18. From the floor: Can the ARRL Forum at Pacificon be held so there is no pressure to blast through it so people can get to the prize drawings and go home?
- 19. Another comment: The ARRL Bulletin seems to contain less information that it has in the past.
- 20. Discussion of Pave Paws situation (not recorded in these minutes because it is such a fluid situation).
- 21. Field Day GOTA Station: Per the latest rules, the GOTA coach cannot operate for credit on any of the other field day site stations. We get why they should not count QSOs on the GOTA station, but why are they otherwise restricted? Or is this perhaps just overly broad wording in the Field Day Rules?