

Pacific Division Meeting  
 Livermore, California  
 December 5, 2009

Attending

<b>Name</b>	<b>Callsign</b>	<b>Club or Position</b>
Russ Bentson	K6KLY	SEC / NCDXC
Dave Billey	WA6UHA	S.F.A.R.C.
Jason Boyer	N6EY	President, SJVARS
Peter Chupity	KI6FA0	Radio officer / SC4ARC
David Counts	KG6WIR	LARK – Vice President
Bill Dale	N2RHV	SCV SM
Gene Davis	W7POR	ARACC Board
Kim Davis	KF6ZSW	President, ARACC
Tony Dowler	KM6DA	President S.F.A.R.C.
Neil Fullagar	K6NCX	AC SCT
Jerry Griffin	K6MD	AD / NPSARC Monterey
Dewayne Hendricks	WA6DZP	AD
Jettie Hill	W6RFF	AD
Richard Hill	NU6T	President, MLDXCC, VE
Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	SM – SF Sec
Peter Hine	KD6CPA	Treasurer, Stockton-Delta A.R.C.
Jim Latham	AF6AQ	SM – EB Sec
John Lee	K6YK	AD / ASM SJV
Al Martin	NI2U	Vice President, SFARC
Bob McClard	N6BOB	ASM, Sac Valley
Norm Medland	W6AFR	President, SFARC
Ron Murdock	W6KJ	SM / SV
Dan Nelson	KI6FTT	President, Stockton-Delta A.R.C.
Dan Pruitt	AE6SX	SM - SJV
Ron Raines	N6QIY	AD
Art Samuelson	WW6VV	AD, SFHRC
Dave Schultheis	WB6KHP	Director, West Valley A.R.A.
Fred Silveira	K6RAU	AD / SJV STM
Chris Tate	N6WM	LARK / NCCC
Jim Tiemstra	K6JAT	Pacific Division Vice Director
Bob Vallio	W6RGG	Pacific Division Director
Tom Walsh	K1TW	SCV ASM
Carole Whitteberry	W6TTF	Secretary, SJVARS

The meeting was called to order at 0908 by Director, Bob Vallio, W6RGG.

- Director Vallio introduced himself and Vice Director, Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, and everyone present was invited to introduce themselves.
  
- Director Vallio then listed three club honorees: the Fresno Amateur Radio Club for 75 years of ARRL Affiliation; the West Valley Amateur Radio Association for 50 years of ARRL Affiliation, and the Nevada Amateur Radio Association for 50 years of ARRL affiliation. Dan Pruitt, AE6SX, accepted the plaque for Fresno, and Dave Schultheis, WB6KHP accepted the plaque for the West Valley A.R.A. Unfortunately, Joe Giraudo, N7JEH, the Nevada SM was unable to attend the meeting and accept the plaque personally due to a prior commitment.
  
- Director Vallio read the notice of the resignation of the ARRL Emergency Preparedness & Response Manager, Dennis Dura, K2DCD, that was published by the League's General Counsel, Chris Imlay, W3KD. Director Vallio noted that there was no other public information available on resignation.
  
- Vice Director Tiemstra introduced himself to the cabinet and briefly described his trip to headquarters in July. While he was there, Jim picked up several copies of *Talk on a Disk* which he made available to those present who did not have a current copy.
  
- The five out of 7 Section Managers present were invited to report on activities in their respective sections:
  - Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, San Francisco Section Manager reported about the RACES organization in Marin County, the ARECC course that was being offered in Santa Rosa on January 19<sup>th</sup>, and other basic training being conducted throughout the Section.
  
  - East Bay Section Manager Jim Latham, AF6AQ, reported that the Napa County RACES organization has disappeared and needs to be reorganized, at least, as an ARES group. He also noted the appointment of Herbert Cole, AI6AT, as the new SEC for the Section.
  
  - Dan Pruitt, AE6SX, San Joaquin Section Manager reported on two Level 1 classes being scheduled in the Section, and the startup of a new public relations program.
  
  - Bill Dale, N2RHV, the Santa Clara Valley Section Manager, reported on the excellent publicity obtained both when the fiber optic cable for telephone communications was cut in the San Jose area and the assistance provided for equine rescue in the wild fires that occurred in the Santa Cruz mountains. With respect to ongoing events, he noted Makers' Fair was scheduled for May 21-23, 2010, at the San Mateo Fairgrounds and the Am Tech Day at the Stanford Linear Accelerator. He also noted the training programs being conducted in ICS, NIMS, and SEMS, followed by basic radio training scheduled in the Section.
  
  - Finally, Ron Murdock, W6KJ, the Sacramento Valley Section Manager, reported on an EMCOM seminar held at the UC Research Center on the efforts to coordinate

California ARES on the internet for the purposes of mutual aid and the like. Apparently, there are still some bugs in the programming, but more information is available at [www.caares.org](http://www.caares.org). He also reported on the variety of organizations that exist in the Sacramento Valley section, and noted that Yuba County amateurs are attempting to establish a RACES organization but do not yet have enough support. Also, Sutter County appears to be a problem.

- Director Vallio reported that Pacificon will occur again on October 15-17, 2010. Parking will be free, and there will be overflow parking available in a parking structure with a shuttle to provide transportation.

- Assistant Director DeWayne Hendricks, WA6DZP, was given the floor to discuss technical developments being supported by the FCC. First, he noted that with respect to the commercialization of Amateur Radio issues which have recently come to the fore, he gave some history of the varying positions taken by the FCC during his tenure on the Technical Advisory Council of the FCC which was disbanded in 2003. He urged the cabinet to spread the word to the educational community that Amateur Radio is permitted to be used for educational purposes under Part 97.113, contrary to prior pronouncements on the subject.

- With respect to the FCC's current mandates, Congress has directed it to implement a National Broadband Plan ([broadband.gov](http://broadband.gov)) within the next 74 days. The government has run out of spectrum to auction and runs into severe political opposition in attempting to take spectrum from broadcasters. Therefore, the FCC wants to direct efforts to more "efficient use of spectrum" by sharing the same frequencies. Therefore, the FCC approached DeWayne as one of their technical advisers, to submit proposals on experimentation in the field of cognitive radio. Cognitive radio which operates on heuristics would allow for multiple users in the same spectrum by rules concerning frequency agility, power and the like which would govern radios' operability. DeWayne described the process as a real opportunity for the Amateur Radio Service to assist the FCC in creating rules to accommodate all users of the radio spectrum which, of course, would help to preserve the Service. DeWayne is planning to submit two plans on the FCC docket in the near future. Director Vallio noted that the amateur radio service should be in the forefront of developments of this nature, get interested in the project and help the Commission.

- Director Vallio then reported on Pave PAWS. Bob noted that things have not changed much and that the Air Force believes that they are being open, forthright and helpful. Round 3 of letters to repeater owners were sent from the League rather than the FCC. Unfortunately, there are some who have outright refused to cooperate and are undermining the Air Force's efforts. Director Vallio noted that such "folks are playing games which could deny the use of 440 for all of us." A lively discussion about enforcement followed about the complexity of the enforcement issue, whether or not the League should be the regulator, problems with unlicensed transmitters, the lack of enough OOs and their need to keep their SMs' in the loop, the need to work together in the Bay Area because of inter-section interference issues and the problem in recruiting new OOs who may have a "badge and gun syndrome" and no experience.

- The next subject raised by Director Vallio was BPL. Bob reiterated that the FCC has been tasked by Congress to improve internet access nationwide. Although many efforts to implement BPL, such as in Manassas, Virginia, have been abandoned, there also have been some technical improvements in the ability to notch the ham bands. Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, noted that BPL was still a threat because of its use as a means to automatically read gas and water meters. Noted that there are various scenarios in different areas such as 500 MHz and 900 MHz mesh networks. Russ Bentson, K6KLY, provided more specific information on the frequencies being used. Gas is read on 470 to 490 MHz; electric is read on 900 MHz with 23 channeled frequencies in all (four of which are in the ham band). In metropolitan areas the data is routed back to a data center by a wireless carrier and, in rural areas, repeaters are used for 60 kilovolt and 12 kilovolt lines.

- The commercialization of amateur radio was raised with Bill Dale, N2RHV, mentioning the blow back he was receiving from EMCOM groups on the FCC policy including Moffitt Air Force Base and Ames RACES Groups. A lot of discussion has centered on the ARRL response. Much of the discussion centered on the needs of various hospitals and NGOs, and whether public service agencies will co-opt the amateur radio frequencies.

- Director Vallio then addressed some organizational matters concerning the League by noting his belief that the ARRL must initiate a grassroots campaign to ensure the future of ham radio in the face of threats to its existence and the licensing of individuals who are not knowledgeable about the Service. Various concerns were raised by members of the cabinet including: the lack of response to e-mail from headquarters staff, the lack of responsiveness from the Contest Advisory Committee and the turnaround time of the DXCC card checking slowing to a crawl.

- Several suggestions were also made: Richard Hill, NU6T, suggested that CQ and IOTA events be added to the LOTW and that the League could get service providers or volunteers to assist. He also suggested that the General Contest Rule 3.5 be changed to permit a mentoring situation allowing multiple operators to use a single transmitter, i.e. – a trainee and a mentor. Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, suggested a rule change to enhance Field Day by creating a rule that would provide a multiplier for using a lengthier exchange containing real information such as name, QTH, transmitter power, etc., so that public observers would recognize real information being exchanged. Richard Hill, NU6T, further suggested that the League assist in coordinating responses to power line noise problems by training locators and identifiers possibly even within the utility. Director Vallio said that such efforts are already coordinated by Mike Gruber, W1MG, the ARRL EMC Engineer. Alternatively, power line noise problems can be directed to the California PUC. Russ Bentson, K6KLY, suggested that Gruber should have deputies in each division to assist on a more localized basis with such problems.

At 1420, the meeting was adjourned.