



ARC-OVER

February 2021 Edition

CHASING THE SACRAMENTO POLICE RADIO JAMMER

The Sacramento City Police Department had a serious problem with a jammer on their frequencies. It endangered the lives and citizens and police alike. They reached out to the California State Police and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Telecommunications Branch in Sacramento. Since I was the station manager for their Amateur radio station, I was asked to get a few volunteers with direction finders and report to the Sacramento City Police command center on Richards Blvd.

A Police Lieutenant gave us a brief history of the interference which had occurred about an hour earlier. The Interference has appeared in all areas of the city. The jammer would go to the frequency where the action was and make a sound like rubbing your hand back and forth across the microphone. They wanted to catch him and catch him quick. The jamming had appeared on the repeater which is on the water tower off I-5 in the Pocket Area. I was assigned that area and the Executive Airport. We also had a ham in the airport tower. After several hours the jammer never showed and the operation was terminated for the night. An operation was scheduled for the next evening which I couldn't make due to a conflict.

The next evening after the briefing the crew left for their assigned areas Bob (call sign?) with the State Police was driving their comm-van with their direction finder on the elevated section of I-80 over the residential area of Sacramento. The DF unit came alive and indicated the jammer was in one of the houses below. He exited the freeway and worked back to the area and the detector indicated a house with a police car in front. He called for a Sargent to respond as he thought he had a renegade officer. The Sargent arrived along with two other police cars. The wife of the officer was doing dishes and saw the police cars out front and told her husband. He grabbed his hand held off the table where he was eating and dashed out the door and attempted to climb into his patrol car. He was thinking he was in trouble for going home to eat instead of eating in his patrol area.

The Sargent yelled at him to come back so he could talk to him. After giving the officer the third degree decided he had nothing to do with the jamming. The officer explained that he brought the hand held in the house with him and put it on the table in case he got a call. Since the hand held was on the table and not touched when the interference was occurring, they decided to have their radio tech check it out. Bob of the State Police said there were so many heads over the tech's shoulder he could hardly work. He took the back off and found the mike wire was not routed correctly but across where the case pinched it.

JAMMER

When an officer went on duty, he would take a hand held from the charging rack with him. When he returns, he puts in back on charge. Another officer going on duty would take a hand held that was charged with him. That explains why the jamming occurred at intervals and in different locations in the city. The officer would go to the channel where there was action since his mobile must stay on his assigned channel. I don't remember the year but it was before the State Police was merged into the Highway Patrol in 1995. The Chief of Police sent all involved a nice framed thank you certificate to hang on our walls.

Les Ballinger, WA6EQQ
State Office of Emergency Services
HQ ACS Station Manager
Caltrans Auxiliary Radio System
Assistant State Radio Officer

DIRECTION FINDING

Les mention of the above brought back numerous fond memories... We used to have frequent transmitter hunts hidden in some places you would not even imagine... Remember running one down hidden in a black plastic bag inside of a rented construction outhouse hidden by the SARA club... Lots of chuckles when small outhouse trophy presented... I got the last laugh, a couple of months later an inspection of the radio revealed the acidic environment had taken its toll, the radio was totally eaten up...

Remember hiding one in a corner storm drain one block from the starting point at the war memorial... In the TARC hunts the operator was required to remain with the transmitter... Here I was stuffed down in this storm drain with Jerry Sharp standing on the grate above kicking sand down my collar, saying "HE'S GOTTA BE HERE SOMEWHERE" my "S" meter is pegged. One of the largest attended hunts occurred in Los Banos... I scouted out the Los Banos detention reservoir from the air... Noted the south side of the lake was a high bluff with a single path down to the water not real visible from the top road... If transmitter not found within 2 hours hider got to hide it again... At one hour and fifty five minutes, Jim Cary stumbled across me carrying a radio shack patrolman receiver... Most of the mob converged in the campground across the lake... Calm water allowed audible conversation across the lake... Got a real kick out of giving false clues... I. E. LONNIE "a little more to the left etc... Had nearly 60 people show up at the Wool Growers for dinner...

Finally stopped participating... I had a well equipped dune buggy with all the electronic amenities. Ray Mills, W6WIM was an accomplished hunter as well... Our competition progressed into a dangerous automobile race and it came time to call it off before someone got hurt... Lots of fond memories though...

K6IXA EDITOR

Meeting of the Turlock Amateur Radio Club February 9, 2021 @ 7PM Google Meet Online Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) with 20 members and guests in attendance.

Secretary's Report:

President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) entertained a motion that the minutes of the January, 2021, membership meeting be accepted as published. Motion by Dan Sohn (KL7COO) and second by Walter Schmidt (KI6PBL). Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Report presented by Treasurer Mike Smith, (KG6VFL). Current balance is \$1,053 in checking and \$7,963 in CD. Paid \$49.99 to PG&E for power at Mt. Bullion, \$120 for DSTAR power for year, \$20 and \$80 reimbursement to Grady Williams (K6IXA). \$215 in dues collected with 36 paid members as of February 1.

Membership Chairman's Report:

John Sims (N6JCS) was not present.

Vice President's Report:

Vice President Dick Decker (K6SUU) – no report.

Repeater Chairman's Report:

Grady Williams (K6IXA) was late to join, but Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART) reported that all is good.

ArcOver Publisher's Report: Grady Williams (K6IXA) reported items for the March ArcOver are due by February 20, 2021.

Old Business: President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) reminded members that 2021 dues are now payable. Please download a renewal form from the website and mail in with your check. The membership roster on the club website is now current as of February 1.

New Business: No new business.

Motion to adjourn by Ed Darrah (K7ERD) and seconded by Greg Back (WA6LGS). Meeting adjourned by President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) at 7:15pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Greg Back (WA6LGS).

Program: Videos on the COVID vaccination centers being established.

OOPS

Yesterday I got my permit to carry a concealed weapon.

So, today I went over to the local Gun shop to get a 9mm handgun for home/personal protection.

When I was ready to pay for the pistol and ammo, the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me."

Making a mental note to complain to the government about gun control wackos running amok, I did just as she had instructed.

When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the card reader!

As a senior citizen, I do not get flustered often, but this time it took me a while to get my pants back on.

I've been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

They need to make their instructions to seniors a little more clear.

I still don't think I looked that bad! I just need to wear underwear more often.

IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED...

A friend of mine has 2 tickets to the 2021 Super Bowl in Tampa, both box seats. He paid \$21,500 each. It comes with a ride to and from the airport, lunch, dinner, and a \$400 bar tab. Also, backstage pass to the winner's locker room.

He didn't realize when he bought them, it was going to be on the same day as his wedding. If you're interested, he's looking for someone to take his place.

It's at St Paul's Church in Orlando at 3 pm. Her name is Ashley. She's 5'4", about 115 lbs. She loves to fish and hunt. She'll be the one in the white dress.

Bob Ringwald
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My neighbor rang my doorbell at 3 AM. Can you believe that?
Luckily, I was still up playing my drums.



Just a subtle reminder to you keyboard operators who desire to enhance your skills a tad. Then again learning to type is a skill that is useful as well especially if one becomes a proficient typist.

During my hi-school days, boys DID NOT take typing, the only thing worse for the gentlemen was to take Home Economics and learn to make Eggs Benedict. Don Russell and myself were the only know guys in the class of 55 to have taken typing... Don was a farm boy and I had previously lived on a farm having recently moved to town...

The move to town was a significant adjustment to my environment and ways of doing things... Most of my younger life was on a dairy where my dad was a hired milker... This was one of the occupations where a house was provided and post war housing being at a premium often dictated what jobs men were inclined to seek in order to obtain housing... On the dairy my duties consisted of keeping the isle behind the cows cleaned and hosed down... Got to wash the udders and then strip the cow after removing the milking machine to obtain the last parcel of milk... Well as you might or might not know a cow uses her tail to ward off annoying flies which are constantly present... We had an old cow that one of the aggressive dairy dogs had bitten her tail off just at the beginning of the long hair line, thus leaving a 24 -28 inch stub.. Without the hair on the tail there was NOTYHING to slow down the momentum in the attempted disbursing of the flies... It provided a most effective way of being awakened from a sleepy stupor by being whacked up the side of the head by a hairless stub of a cows tail on a cold winter morning... During my childhood development I readily decided I did not want to be a cow milker or a mechanic...

Entering hi-school now in town I had to come up with a couple of elective classes... I took AG Science and AG Mechanics during my freshman year prior to switching towards an electronics vocation... I met my AG instructor at a reunion several years later.. I mentioned to him that he had given me the best advice that I had ever received... It was "Williams seek another vocation, you will NEVER make a farmer... I DIDN'T SAY THAT SAY THAT DID I ? Yup and it was good advice... At our 50 year class reunion I reminded the Portuguese dairy kids in my class about all the crap they gave us for taking typing... Reminded them that if they were not one fingering a computer now they were not in the dairy business... One of the dairy guys told me later you sure got that one right... I made an effort to locate Stan Hall my typing instructor to thank him for his efforts... I located his wife in Lodi... Unfortunately Stan had just recently passed, but she was sure he would have enjoyed hearing from me...