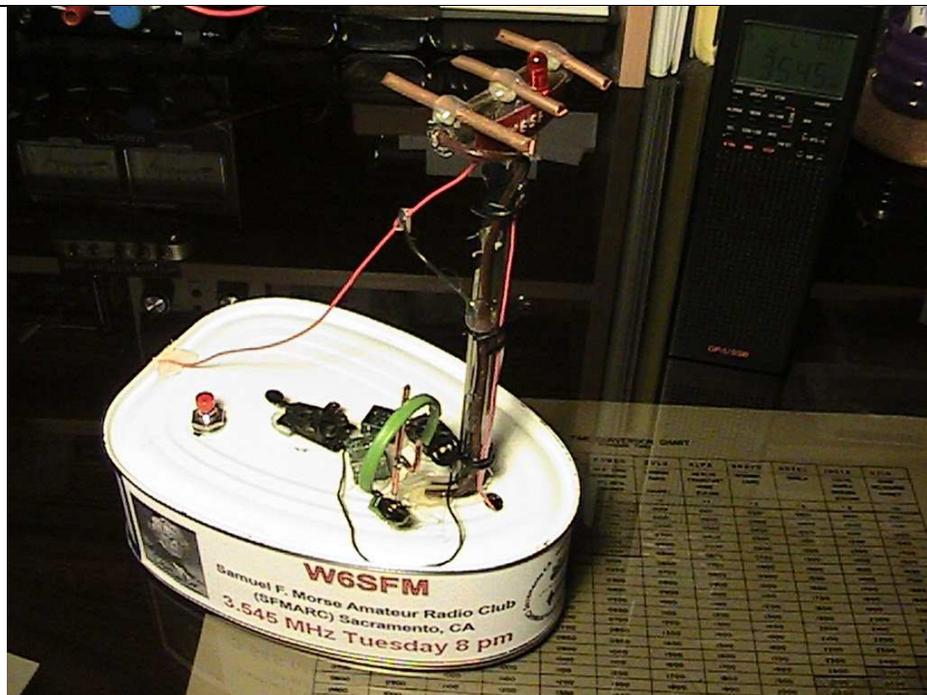
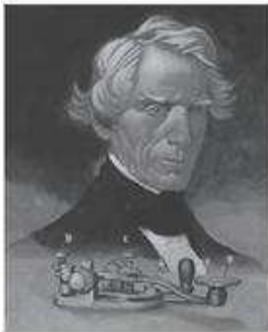


W6SFM

Samuel F. Morse Amateur Radio Club
(SFMARC) Sacramento, CA



W6SFM's Bogus Story Contest Trophy

Bogus Story Contest

Once again, in celebration of April Fool's Day, the much-awaited annual Bogus Story Contest took place. At this month's in-person meeting 5 people presented their stories to the attending members. This year we were treated to something different as Husband and Wife team Bill and Katy read their bogus story as a duo. Other participants included John, W6BUBK, Mike, N6MQL and Chris Ai6U. After all 4 stories were read to the members, ballots were then passed out for everyone to place the name of the person who they believed presented the best Bogus Story to the group.

Continued Page 2

W6SFM April, 2018 Newsletter

Kids' Day in the Park

Each year in April the SFM ARC participates in the annual Cordova Community Council Kids' Day in the park event. This year is no exception. The event is a festival geared towards families of children. A fun day of activities for kids and their families, it is also a health and resources fair with providers on hand to engage parents and provide information. With a focus on the STEM program, the target group is children 17 and younger and their parents. At this event the W6SFM presents Amateur Radio and Morse Code to the public. In order to provide this service, the club requires a group of about 4 (or more) members to represent at our PR Booth. The SFM ARC is asking YOU to please volunteer your time this **April 28th from about 9:15 AM until about 3 PM**. If you're not going to be at the Sonoma swap meet, or don't have other plans for that Saturday we would like to have you out there with us for a good cause. **Continued page 2**

On-Air/On-Line QNI Report

Secretary Chris, AI6U reports this month's Net check-in number at **28** QNI on-air and **4** On-line "Live Feed" viewers. This month on-air check-in numbers were down dramatically due to having a video drop out issue, and 2 of the 4 weeks not broadcast due to new software upgrade technical difficulties. On-air check-ins were down from average numbers in the 30s. This could be due to the conditions of late. Northern stations such as member Steve, K7SF in OR. State and southern California members such as Rick, N6IET had signals that were not as strong as they have been in the weeks past.

Net Control Station suggests that those attending the on-air nets please try to keep their speeds to under 15 WPM as to allow our current CW class students and others new to CW to pick up on everything being sent. Please keep those on-air check-ins coming! We enjoy hearing about member's current happenings. On-air Net Meetings offer a way for club members to get together between in-person meetings and events. Especially for those out of town. Please refer to our W6SFM homepage for on-air meeting times and location.

In-Person Meeting Attendance

The W6SFM Samuel F. Morse ARC club welcomed **13** members with **no guests** to our in-person monthly meeting. Attendees consisted of mostly our regular local crew with no special guests this time out. Member Dennis KG6ZI provided both snacks and coffee, as did the church, amounting to what was about 3 gallons of coffee and plenty of cookies to snack on! Our regular presentation was postponed to allow for time to conduct our annual Bogus Story contest and voting. Club President Mike, N6MQL once again presented the GEARs/W6SFM Application for Volunteer Examiner Accreditation forms to those who completed their ARRL VE manual reading. If you received a badge to be a VE with the W6SFM and haven't yet done so, please be sure to sign your form to complete your accreditation at our next meeting.

W6SFM Wants You...

The SFM ARC misses seeing all of our local members at our club meetings. We would really love to have you all attend more regularly. We know it's not always possible, but we ask that you please try to set aside some time once a month to join us for our monthly in-person meetings and enjoy catching up with other members who enjoy getting together to share news and information on their activities during the month.

W6SFM Live Feed Report



This month the club began to see the effects of its old computer system with new drop outs and crashing problems. despite this happening we did have 2 complete On-air broadcasts for our net meetings. We also enjoyed a full uninterrupted broadcast of the April In-person club meeting. The church announced a new Mesh Network for better internet. Unfortunately, Mike N6MQL didn't have the new password for it, but was able to broadcast over his LTE cellular telephone connection for the entire 1 hour and 45-minute meeting. We did get a 15 minute late start due to the password error. One of the weekly on-air meets was skipped due to our control operator having to make the CW Class announcement at the N6NA meeting. For those unable to make our meetings or view them live, you can return to our website's videos page to view all of our past on-air and in-person meetings. Please be sure to subscribe to the W6SFM using the provided button to receive our notifications when we make a live broadcast. During our live broadcasts please allow up to 1 minute for the broadcast to begin as it buffers through the Youtube video services. Be sure to refresh your internet browser if the broadcast hasn't already gone live.

Kids' Day in the Park

(continued from front page)

All of the necessary items, radios, Antennas, paperwork, keys and oscillators will be provided along with instruction on how to operate our booth. You need not bring anything except for yourself! As with all of our events the club will be providing coffee and some type of morning snack such as doughnuts. If you are able to help the club out with this very important event please be sure to contact Mike, N6MQL **BEFORE the 25th** so he can provide you with a map of our location and directions to get there. There will also be a 'drive-on' pass for parking at the event, which fills up very quickly.



At the event there is a need for 4 positions. The first is a Radio operator keeping the sounds of live on-air Morse code in the air while the kids look and listen on. The second is that of a history of Morse Code instructor. Simply read the provided text to the child to give him/her a good background of how Morse code was and is used today. After that brief lesson the instructor will then ask the child to transpose their written name into Morse

Code using the provided form. Our 3rd position will then help the children by giving quick instruction on how to operate the straight key. After that, the volunteer will listen on and instruct the child (or parent) on the correct technique for sending code correctly. While this happens, our 4th team member will be available to answer questions from the general public as others watch on. We ask that you please wear your W6SFM T-Shirt as we always do at these types of public events. If you do not have a club T-shirt, the club can make one available for you at the time of the event. For more information and to sign up simply email n6mql@w6sfm.com. Please be there for the kids!

Bogus Story Contest

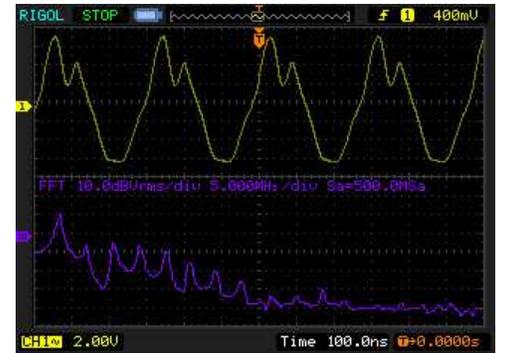
(continued from front page)

Before the event began we were treated to a reading of the new W6SFM Bogus Story Contest user's manual. This is a manual that will be handed down to the winner of each year's event. Although the manual was written in satire by club member and last year's Bogus Story winner Carol, KP4MD, the manual highlights some of the amazing modifications that Carol made to the trophy. Each year the winner of the contest is instructed to implement a new change, or addition to the trophy itself, and, oh boy, did she! Carol

went full out placing an operational 3.545 MHz (W6SFM Net Freq.) QRP Transmitter into the trophy itself.



Carol indicated that with Harmonics, you could actually be transmitting on as many as 4 bands at once. You have to read and see the manual to understand.



This year our esteemed winner by a vote of 7 to 6 was Chris, AI6U with his story entitled "dB Spray". To see excerpts of the new manual, and to read Chris's, and other past winners stories, please visit the Bogus Story Contest web page located on the W6SFM website under the "Club Activities" tab at the top of the page. We hope that Chris's story will inspire ALL of our club members to write one for next year. If you are not a local member, you can still enter the contest by simply sending your entry to the club contact address.

CW Beginners Class Starts

The new W6SFM CW Beginners Class started Wednesday, April 4th. Although it started to look like attendance would be at an all time low, we received a surge of applicants within the week before the class was to begin. Generally, the club sees a signup of between 21 and 28 students within the month before the class start. However, this time around the class only saw about 8 students looking to join us for this session. Typically, the club has had to ask that some 5 to 8 students wait until the next class as to not over crowd the classroom. A constant list of 25 potential students was kept for notification in regards to upcoming courses. Of that list, only about 3 people were able to sign up for this particular course. Regardless of the smaller size, the class was going to move forward knowing that a lower attendance number would do nothing but offer more personal attention to each student. By the night before the class the club had 13 people signed up and paid for. On the evening of the class we had 14 when one "walk in" decided to join us. We still don't know exactly how he knew when and where the class was going to take place, as we generally do not share the location and times with the public and only send that information to the students about 2 weeks before the class begins. Still, because of the low numbers

we were able to accept the new student with enough equipment to spare. This class will continue until about 2 weeks before our ARRL Field Day event. We hope that students who take this class will be encouraged to join us for our Field Day event and get some on-air CW activity. This has always been the goal of the Spring class.

Each student is presented with a brand new W6SFM Modified MFJ-557 straight key and oscillator to use in class and keep at the conclusion of the course. The cost of the key & oscillator is about that of the entire class course itself. The club would like to thank Mike, N6MQL, Andrew KC6O and John WB6UBK for putting on this class for our local, and not so local prospective CW operators. Students need not be familiar with Morse Code, a Key, or even be licensed as an Amateur radio operator. As matter of fact, we have had many non-hams take the course, only to be licensed shortly after completing the course. Club members are always welcome to come to the classroom to observe or help with the class. Please contact Mike or Andrew to make those arrangements.

Need for Speed!

At this month's meeting the members discussed the out-dated computer being used to transmit our on-air Live feeds. It seems that the new OBS software used to do the YouTube broadcasting has

exceeded the limits of the CPU in the computer Mike, N6MQL has been providing to the club.

The current computer running our broadcasting software has been dropping out video, distorting the CW to-Text image, or just altogether crashing while trying to transmit and decode at the same time.

According to the software specifications the new version requires at least a computer running Windows 7 (or MacOS El Capitan) or higher, with an i7 running at 3GHz or faster, 8 GB of RAM and a video card capable of running DirectX 10 to work. This gives us a full 1080p stream. However, because the club is only transmitting a screen image (most of the time) at a lower resolution, we believe we can get away with a Core i5 PC instead. A vote was taken by the attending members of the in-person meeting to begin the investigation of purchasing a new computer for this need. Members also suggested that perhaps a Laptop would better serve our needs. It could be used for other things such as logging at contests and live Broadcasts in-the-field.

A group of members will research prices for this upgrade and present their findings to the club at our next meeting. The members can then vote on moving forward or not with this expenditure. More information will be discussed about this in our next newsletter. Stay tuned.

Future 45' antenna tower?

It was mentioned at the last in-person meeting that a church and board member of the Carmichael Water District spoke with an SFM ARC member regarding the Carmichael water tank/tower. This tank is located behind the church where the SFM ARC currently holds its in-person meetings and Field Day operations. This tank supplies 1/2 of the water to the Carmichael, CA community.



Water tank as viewed from above

It was said that the tank is going to be demolished and replaced in the next 2 years due to damage not economically repairable. The reason for the conversation was due to the club previously asking permission to place an antenna on the tank for club and Emergency operations use. At the time the board of directors approved the placement of the antenna; however, they required a 1-million-dollar insurance policy be held by the club in order to erect and keep it. At the time the club did not have this type of insurance policy. However, thanks to the ARRL, and our SFM ARC being an ARRL Affiliated club by keeping at

least a 51% ARRL membership, the club was able to purchase a yearly liability policy. The Water District board member mentioned that a new tank would be replacing the damaged one, and that we would be asked to propose new ideas on the placement of a permanent antenna atop that tank. The Water District board member indicated that although he will no longer be a member of the board when this happens, he would be happy to facilitate the communications and submission of designs for this antenna placement and construction when the time comes. The club member accepted his very generous offer and suggested that he would discuss it further as we got closer to the demolition of the current tank. With this new information in mind, although very premature, there are hopes to have a super location for what could be a very competitive Field Day antenna in the case the club provides the equipment to the city of Carmichael upon their future request.

Ham Radio Strong

The ARRL reports in its last newsletter that in the year of 2017 over 30,000 new Amateur Radio licenses were issued. This is more proof that our hobby continues to expand. Now, let's just see how many of those we can get into CW! It's up to us to help make this happen.



W6SFM is an Affiliated club

The SFM ARC is an ARRL affiliated club. In order to continue this, we MUST have at least 51 percent of our members current with their ARRL membership. Without this W6SFM will no longer continue to receive the benefits we do from the ARRL. Benefits include the club's ARRL liability insurance policy. The club asks that you please **consider renewing or joining the ARRL through our club**. To do this please use the [Join/Renew ARRL link](#) under the W6SFM.COM "About W6SFM" tab to fill out your application. As a benefit, the SFM ARC receives **\$2** for each membership renewal, and **\$15** for each NEW membership we submit! ARRL membership fees are \$49 per year. You can now pay your ARRL Dues on-line with our cart system. Or, be sure to bring your check made out to "**SFMARC**" to the next club meeting. Remember, early renewals are credited with an additional 12-month period, plus your remaining balance. So, feel free to get your renewal in early to avoid having it laps and losing out on your copy of QST Magazine.

Update your Email

All members receive a W6SFM.COM email addresses. Each member has been assigned a club email address of "your call"@w6sfm.com. You do not need to sign up or change any settings on your computer. E-mail sent to "your call"@w6sfm.com is forwarded to the address supplied to the club when you became a member. **It is very important If you plan to change your main email address PLEASE be sure to provide this new information to the club so we can update our Data Base.** Without this information, you will be unable to receive emails from the club, including this monthly newsletter.

Members Pages

A fun and useful benefit to being an SFM ARC member is your personal Members webpage. On this page, you can proudly display your bio and personal pictures to the public. We encourage our members to post news, photos and other information about themselves as well as their hobbies. Feel free to visit other member's pages found in the 'members' section of the W6SFM website for some examples. If you are interested in updating your own personal page, please contact admin@w6sfm.com with your pictures and bio. Or, if you feel more comfortable with QRZ.com, you may have your QRZ.com page linked to your W6SFM members' page. This means that you can do all of

your own editing and maintenance of your personal W6SFM web space. Those members who do not opt to have a webpage your name and call sign will be listed in the members section without a blue link button.

Members			
To visit an SFM ARC member's page, click on their Name & Call			
To e-mail a member, send your mail to <member's call>@w6sfm.com			
AA6DK Stan	K6GO Andrew	N6UD Wes (SK)	W6CFS Charles
AA6DT David	K6EE Mike	N6UG Bliton	
AB6JY Arnie	K6EVR Kal	N6UOE Chuck	
A6JQ Doug	K6EJF Angie	N6GD Ralph	
A16U Chris	K16KWX Terry	NS3O Jennifer (SK)	
AL7JK John	K16CA Bob	W0CCA Cap	
K5KV Benny	KJ0YCO Bill	W0UFC Tom	
K6GIM David	KJ0YCP Katy	W2RS Ray	
K6DGO Bob	K6GCKR Josef	W6GMU Paul	
K6DQ Rob	K6GESN Keith	W6HN Howard	
K6JJR Mark	K6GGMK Peter	W6JS Tom	
K6KSG Richard	KM6BTD Dana	W6JTA John	
K6LQ Mike	KP6MD Carol	W6KN Kevin	
K6SDW Eddy	KR6AI Kevin	W6PPP Wally	
K7NDE Gene	K26B Alan	W6VFW Tony	
K7SF Steve	N6EV Paul	W6FB Bob	
K9J1J Jon	N6IET Rick	W6FEJ Stephen	
K9MDP Bob	N6KIX Bob	W6NEA Bob	

W6SFM Members Page

New Club Member

The club would like to officially welcome our 2 newest members, Ron Bunch, W4FEK and Cathi Walton, K2CJW from Concord, CA. It's great to have you join the group. Members feel free to welcome them if you haven't already. Simply send an email to their W6SFM email address of w4fek@w6sfm.com and k2cjlw@w6sfm.com



Navy Style Black Mushroom Knob & Screw Set by DSCP

Club Member and owner of DSCP, Wally Jones W6PPP is now offering his American made, new combo set of U.S. Navy key Black Mushroom Knob and Skirt / Disc combo set.

This kit includes 1ea 3/4" tall black mushroom style knob and 1ea black Skirt disc measuring 1 5/8" round. The set also includes an assortment of different length screws to accommodate different thickness key arms.

Use this kit to replace old, worn or broken key knobs, or refurbish your J37, J38 or Navy Flameproof type keys.



For more information, or to order your set, or one of many ham radio related items DSCP produces, please contact Wally using his W6SFM email address:

W6PPP@W6SFM.COM

Wally regularly attends the W6SFM in-person meetings. So, hand delivery may be possible if you request a pick up at one of our monthly meetings.

Club Merchandise

Club Merchandise was announced and distributed at the meeting to those who ordered within the last month. Mike N6MQL reminded the members the club still has stock on all new **T-Shirts** in most sizes. If you're interested in purchasing a new T-Shirt to replace your old, faded or stained shirt, please use the clubs [Merchandise](#) order link on our website. Payment can be made by PayPal, Credit or Debit card.

Because T-Shirts are in-stock there is no delivery fee unless delivered to your home address. Mike also noted the club has very nice **PERSONALIZED** hats and Coffee Mugs as well! Please keep in mind that ALL members receive a **20% discount** on our Club Shirts as we ask that members wear them to Club activities and events. The 20% discount is extended to both the member and their family.

The club asks that if you plan on attending an event that is held in public that you own and adorn your W6SFM club T-Shirt at those events. It is important that we look like an organized team to the general public. As an example, events include ARRL Field Day, Kids Day in the Park and club or organized days out in the park.

GET YOURS TODAY!



*Pictured above: W6SFM
Some of the Items for sale
on our Merchandise web
page.*

April's Meeting Presentation

The scheduled presentation on RigExpert Antenna Analyzers was temporarily postponed until next month due to the time requirement for the Bogus Story contest. Look for that presentation next month, along with detailed information on how

the RigExpert Analyzer can help you maintain and adjust your antennas for optimal performance. The presentation will cover a comparison of the older monochrome analyzers and today's modern day 12 – 16 bit analyzers and their new features. This presentation will be good for both the technical and the non-technical ham radio operator.

RIGEXPERT AA-55 ZOOM



100 KHz to 55 MHz

(To be displayed at our next meeting)

Show and Tell (Tech Portion)



Members listen in as Carol, KP4MD reads us the new Bogus Story Contest Trophy Manual



Members listen on and laugh as Duet Bill KJ6YCO and Katy KJ6YCP read their Bogus Story Contest entry



Chris, Ai6U presents his Trophy winning story "dB Spray"

Treasury Report

Currently our Wells Fargo account contains a total of **\$3,090.04**. The club's PayPal account is currently at **\$3,213.88** for a total of **\$6,303.92**. The Last months increase in funds are due to a generous cash donation by a member, CW Class registration fees, Merchandise sales, and ARRL renewals, Plus 2 new membership dues. This will be offset by Class supplies and outstanding credit card bill payments to the ARRL as well as coffee and doughnuts for members who participate at the Kid's Day in the Park Event.

Next Month's Meeting

Our next SFM ARC in-person meeting will be held at its normal time and location **May. 3rd** (followed by our **Jun 7th** meeting). The SFM ARC in-person meeting will be held in the Howard Crowley room upstairs at the Carmichael Presbyterian Church. Directions, including a Google Map are available at the bottom of the W6SFM.com homepage. At our **May** meeting, we will be discussing ARRL news and events. We will also have a presentation on the benefits and technology of the New Zoom series of RigExpert Antenna Analyzers. As always, we will have our Tech (show and tell) portion. Members and visitors are asked to share their Ham Radio related items they find of

interest. Attend our In-Person meetings with items that you've purchased or were given to you that you would like to share with others in the group. Visitors are always welcome to join us at our meetings.

On-Air Net Meeting

Each Tuesday of the week 8:00 PM on 3.545 MHz the SFM ARC enjoys getting on the air with CW for our weekly Nets. You do NOT need to be a member of the SFM ARC to check into our nets and we encourage you to invite a friend to join us as well. Although our nets usually run around 15 wpm code, we are all happy to accommodate those that are slower and need us to oblige. If you are unable to copy Morse Code or need some code practice, please feel free to visit our on-line LIVE streaming broadcast of both the Audio and a CW to Text decoding of the meeting. The "**LIVE FEED**" link can be found on our website. With our new YouTube Live streaming system, you can now watch the Live Feed on your Apple IOS or Android devices. You do not need to have a YouTube account to access the feed. However, you will to subscribe to our channel.

Tell A Friend

Do you know someone in need of a Ham Club to call home? Perhaps someone that wants to learn Morse Code, are interested in CW or already knows and uses it? The SFM ARC would love to be their new Club home. Our in-person meetings are held each **1st Thursday of the month at 7PM**. Please use the rear parking lot and entry for best access to the meeting. A map and directions can also be found on our website. We hope to see you at our next meeting!

Thank You

If you enjoy this newsletter and would like to contribute to it, we ask that ALL members please send in interesting information, or stories they would like to share with the other members. If you would like to write a monthly (or periodic) news article we would welcome that as well. Please be sure to contact admin@w6sfm.com with your ideas! Until our next newsletter, I thank you all very much for being a member of the SFM ARC, without you this club could not exist. 73.

