

Squelch Tales

A Publication of The San Diego Repeater Association, Inc.
May/June 2014

Ahead in Squelch Tales

The second Ham Radio Operation Day was held at Fry's Electronics in San Diego and San Marcos on April 6th. Despite the cold weather more than 150 people visited the event at the San Diego Fry's store and learned about the benefits of amateur radio to the community.

The **Poway City Council** is about to enact a new antenna ordinance that will provide a mechanism to allow antennas up to sixty-five feet and potentially higher.

The **June 5th SANDRA Membership Meeting** will feature Gene Swiech, WB9COY, presenting D-Star Physical Layout Protocol. The meeting will be at the San Diego County Office of Education, 6401 Linda Vista Road, Room 306 at 7:00 pm.

SANDRA meeting minutes. SANDRA BOD meeting minutes will resume next month.

Errata, mistake and updates to previous issues of *Squelch Tales*.



Not all portable ham towers are small. This one is only cranked up part way.

Amateur Radio Operators Day Fry's Electronics Parking Lot

Saturday April 6th was a somewhat cloudy day with cool weather and no sun, but it did not detour San Diego hams representing local amateur radio clubs from setting up and operating in the parking lots of the San Diego and San Marcos Fry's Electronics stores. The San Diego store located in Murphy Canyon just off the 15 freeway had ten different ham organizations operating from trailers and portable tents. This is the second Fry's Operating day, the first took place last November. The event is an initiative of the Palomar Amateur Radio Club as a planned event to take place in the parking lot of the San Marcos Fry's store. The Palomar ARC invited San Diego Six Shooters to host the event at the San Diego Fry's. A small competition developed between the two groups to see which could attract the most number of visitors. The winner has not yet been announced, however, San Diego was reporting more than 100 visitors before noon and expected to be well over 150 by the end of the day.

The objectives of this semi-annual affair are to expose the public to the benefits of amateur radio

activities, potentially stir interest in participating in amateur radio and to expose newly licensed amateurs to the various clubs available in the area.

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Poway Close to having a new Antenna Ordinance

On May 6th, the Poway City Council held another workshop to gain public input and attempt to work out the provisions of a new antenna ordinance specifically directed at amateur radio. Poway currently has among the most severe antenna restrictions of any city within San Diego County. Amateur antennas are classified with satellite antennas, requiring a Minor Development Review Application (MDRA) and a Building Permit (BP) for any antenna more than six feet above the ground. This limit applies to all antennas including wire antennas. The MDRA requires the applicant to secure his/her neighbors approval and submit design documentation along with a \$721 fee for staff review. City staff has the responsibility to review the application and can approve the application, approve the application with alterations or reject the application. No antenna of any kind is allowed more than 35 feet above the ground. The current ham radio antenna restrictions are not consistent with either California or Federal law.

It was brought to the city council's attention in 2005 that Poway did not comply with Federal PRB-1 requirements and it has since been brought to their attention that they are out of compliance with California Government Code Section 65850.3 which to some degree mirrors PRB-1. Due to the organizing efforts of Charlie Ristorelli (NN3V) the issue was again brought to the council last September and twice this year. As a result, the council is well on the way to developing an ordinance that accommodates amateur operations.

Poway Director of Developmental Services, Bob Manis, presented six options for council consideration as the raw material for constructing an ordinance. The options were drawn from council discussions, held since

last September. Each option considers six basic elements: a) Setbacks, all options except for one did not allow support structures with the building setbacks, however, antenna booms were allowed to penetrate into 50% of the setback width; number of support structures (towers); number of antennas, there was no limit to the number of antennas on each support structure (tower), but a limit on the number of antennas separate from the tower; public notice, some degree of public notice will be required for all options; special findings for support structures over sixty five feet in height, increased demonstration of need and a more rigorous process; and elimination of the maximum height limit, however, a much increased level of support for the need for the higher antennas. The six proposals use three proposed height thresholds to trigger one of five potential approval processes. These height thresholds are thirty five feet or below, thirty five to sixty five feet and above sixty five feet. The possible processes that can be utilized are: 1) a building permit which is required for all anticipated structures; 2) Minor Development Review Application (MDRA), the process that is currently required for a structure up to 35 feet in height; 3) Minor Antenna Permit (MAP), a new process that is not completely defined but envisioned to require less work than the MDRA with a consequent reduction in cost; Minor Conditional Use Permit (MCUP) which is an existing process for non-conforming uses; and 5) Antenna Permit (AP) another new process not completely defined but envisioned to require less work and be a lower cost version of the MCUP. Both the MCUP and the AP would require city council approval. Table 1 lists the potential processes by threshold trigger.

The height thresholds of thirty five feet, thirty five to sixty five feet and over

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Amateur Radio Operators Day – cont.

The event is envisioned to take place semi-annually in the spring and late fall. Ed Felter (AI6O) and Joe Acevedo (N6SIX) organized the San Diego Fry's event for the Six Shooters ARC.

The Six Shooters Amateur Radio Club is a active amateur radio club founded in 2001 by a group of five hams with a particular interest in the six meter amateur band. The founders were Gary Richardson (N6LRV), Stacy Macintyre (KC6STT), Phil Goodwin (W6BAS) now SK, Rich Hall (KF6ARX) and Joe Acevedo (N6SIX). The group grew quickly, initiated a weekly six meter simplex net and developed a reputation for advancing six meter operation.

In 2003 Ranger Communications (RCI) asked them to field test their new RCI-5054DX-100 equipment before submitting it to the FCC for type acceptance. Six shooters hold monthly meetings which average 45 – 50 attendees, a feat which they credit to hard work and good programs. They maintain a focus on both educating new hams and mentoring them so that they become successful and maintain their interest in amateur radio. Six Shooters operates a six meter repeater located on Mt. San Miguel with a frequency of 53.580 MHz, a negative offset of 500 Khz and a PL of 103.5. This repeater is linked to the N6LXX repeaters system connecting throughout the southwest US, Texas, and Oklahoma. There are four weekly Sixshooter Nets, Monday at 8 PM local on 50.200 USB, Wednesday at 7 PM local using the 53.580 repeater (offset – 500 Khz, PL 103.5), Friday at 8 pm local on the 53.580 repeater and Sunday at 9 pm local on



Visitors to Fry's San Diego Amateur Radio Operator's day..



Ed Felter, AI6O, explains the objectives of event.

146.910 (negative 600 Khz offset and PL of 100.0) all amateurs are invited. - {SQ}



Talk up amateur radio

Poway Antenna Ordinance – continued

sixty five feet have been worked out in prior workshops. Charlie Ristorelli and the Poway hams performed a NEC propagation analysis that said that a 150 foot height would be required to reach 90% effectiveness throughout Poway but that a sixty five foot height would come in as a close second. The thirty five foot height is what is currently allowed. The Green Valley Civic Association (GVCA) also contracted a study from a North Carolina consulting company that indicated that a thirty five foot height was sufficient for amateur use. The GVCA study was done by people that had not set foot in Poway, seemed to have mischaracterized the topography as low rolling hills and performed no propagation analysis, possibly because they didn't have the topographic data to complete an analysis.

Option	Height		
	Up 35 feet	35 feet to 65 feet	Over 65 feet
A	Building Permit (BP) Only		MDRA
B	BP	MDRA	MCUP
C	BP	MAP	AP
D	MDRA		MCUP
E	MAP		AP
F	MAP (Two Structures)		AP (2 Structures)

The meeting chamber was filled to capacity with an overflow crowd into the hallway outside the room. The majority of all attendees were hams supporting the allowance of higher antennas. Twenty people were allowed to give a three minute speech to the council. The first speaker was Charlie Ristorelli (NN3V) who explained that Poway was out of compliance with both Federal and California regulation, explained the need for amateur radio in emergencies, that conventional communications become non-functional in most emergencies leaving amateur radio as the only communication option, and the effects of topography on antenna height needs. He also pointed out the flaws in the GVCA study. Most of the speakers supporting higher amateur antennas reiterated these same points. The final speaker of the night was Bruce Krypton (KG6IYN) who explained that as part of each monthly emergency drill they switch from repeater usage to simplex because repeaters become unreliable in emergencies due to fire and power outages. At every drill Poway hams could not communicate via simplex because their antenna heights do not allow them the required propagation. All of the ham speakers supported staff's option A.

Speakers against higher antenna installations spoke of the adverse visual effect and property values. One speaker suggested that the city council survey the real estate agents before enacting a change. Speakers representing the GVCA attempted to support the study they had commissioned by saying it was done by a reputable firm but could not talk to it technically.

At the end of the night, council gave instructions for an ordinance to be drafted that would allow an antenna structure up to thirty five feet to be granted with a building permit only, a structure up to sixty five feet to be granted with a MAP process that allowed for notification of neighbors up to 500 feet away, and antennas over 65 feet to require an AP which would require council approval. The final ordinance is expected within the next month. - {SQ}

SANDRA Membership Meeting

June 5, 2014

County Office of Education

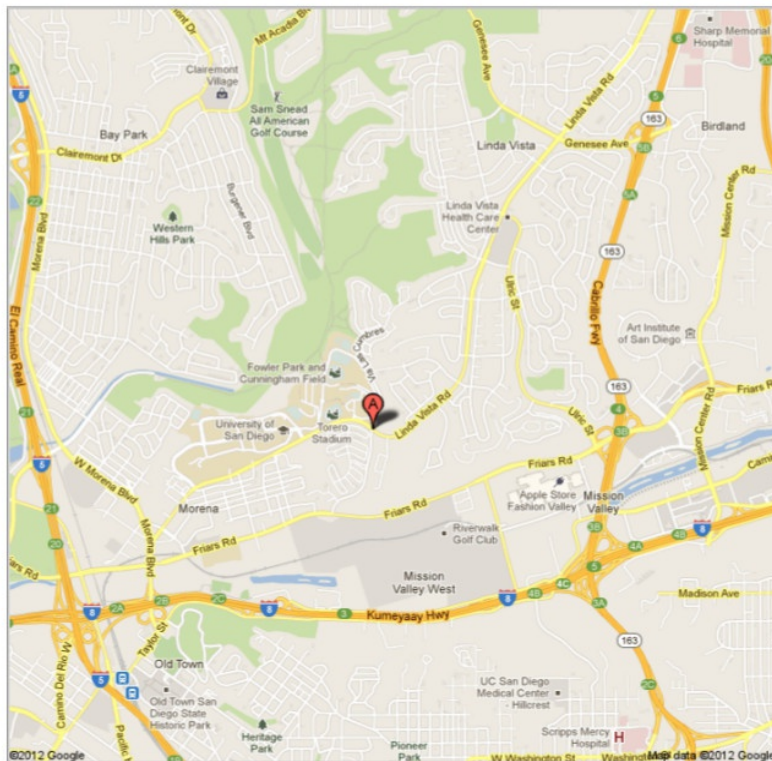
6401 Linda Vista Road, San Diego CA 92111

Room 306

Gene Swiech – WB9COY

D-Star Physical Layout Protocol

Refreshments Provided



The San Diego County Office of Education is located at 6401 Linda Vista Road at the intersection with Via Las Cumbres. Going north (up the hill) on Via Las Cumbres from Friars Road places the County Office of Education on the right and it can be accessed from either Via Las Cumbres or Linda Vista Road. Via Las Cumbres is about half way between Highway 5 and highway 163 and is easily accessed from Friars Road.



2014 Southwestern Division Convention



September 12-14, 2014

Sheraton Four Points Hotel

8110 Aero Drive, San Diego CA, 92123



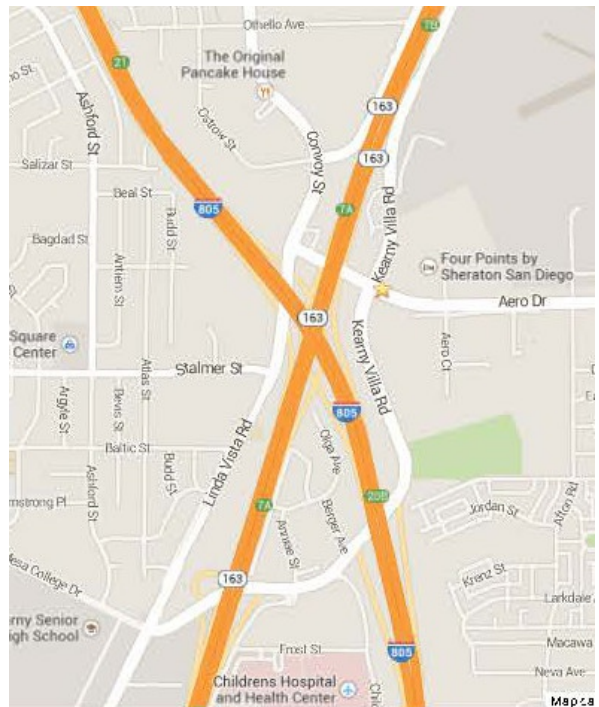
**Keynote Speaker
Ward Silver, N0AX**

Editor of the ARRL Handbook and Antenna Book. Author of Hands on Radio and Contest Corral.

**Early Bird Registration
Register before May 31, 2014
Early Bird prices \$18.00
Be eligible for the the Early Bird
registration prize
FTDX 1200**



GRAND PRIZE ICOM IC 7600



Errata, Corrections, Amplifications and Shorts: This sections acknowledges errors and omissions or allows additions to previous *SQ* issues. We rely on feedback from the readers – please write.

There is a new swap net at 9:00 pm on Sunday nights, directly following the SANDRA Sunday Night Net. The swap net is hosted on the Otay KN6KM repeater at 146.91 (minus) with a pl of 100. This is not a SANDRA repeater. This net is hosted by the San Diego Six Shooters.

Repeater Status:

Otay UHF 449.200 repeater – SANDRA is experimenting with a new Yaesu DR-1 dual mode Analog/Digital repeater. The repeater is on the air in test mode running both analog and digital modes but not available for linking into the Sunday Night Net.

Analog users should set their radios to PL encode/decode with a 107.2 tone to block digital transmissions.

Otay 1270.300 packet repeater has been replaced and is in service.

Lyons: No change.

Sharp: No change.

Laguna: No change.

HiPass: Baird, K6GAO reports that the building will be needing a paint job soon.

San Diego: This repeater has been removed from service for repair.

Callsign	Location	Input	Output	Callsign	Location	Input	Output
WB6WLV	Mt. Otay	146.040	146.640	WB6WLV	Mt. Laguna	444.500	449.500
WB6WLV	Mt. Otay	222.460	224.060	K6GAO	Hi-Pass	144.680	145.280
WB6WLV	Mt. Otay	444.200	449.200	W6SS	Lyon's Peak	146.865	146.265
WB6WLV	Mt. Otay	1270.300	1282.300	WA6AIL	Sharp Hospital	147.285	147.885
WB6WLV	Mt. Laguna	147.750	147.150	WB6WLV	San Diego	442.320	447.320
WB6WLV	Mt. Laguna	222.600	224.200				

All SANDRA repeaters use PL 107.2

SANDRA NETS

Sunday 8:00 P.M. Mt. Otay Repeater
 Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Mt. Laguna Repeater

GUIDELINES SUMMARY

SANDRA, Inc. operates their repeaters for service in the San Diego area. The policy of the organization is that the repeaters are available for all licensed amateur radio operators to use so long as applicable rules and regulation are observed, whether members of SANDRA or not.

SQUELCH TALES

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The SANDRA membership meets the first Thursday in the Months of March, June, September and December. Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. and are located at the San Diego County Education Center, 6401 Linda Vista Road, San Diego. Board meetings take place on the first Thursday of January, February, April, May, July, October and November. All SANDRA members are encouraged to attend.

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