

Prez Says April 2009

Greetings to all our loyal members! It has been hard to get the word out so while I have your attention, PLEASE check our www.k6is.org web page and our K6IS Yahoo Group to find out what is happening, even when you don't get *On Frequency!*

Our annual Hamfest (swap) will be held on Sunday, May 17th at Natomas High School, south off I-80 and Truxel, See the flyer in this paper for the details.

NOTICE: Due to a Special Election in May, we lost that Tuesday night and will meet the night before, Monday, May 18th. Don't miss our program that night! Larry Sutter, WD6FXR, Sacramento County EC, and North Hills Radio Club Net Manager, is giving a talk on, "Easy Emcomm". Everyone is welcome to attend! Larry plans to (1) review emcomm needs & programs (e.g. ARES, OES, CERT & SHARP); (2) describe emcomm net participation & public service needs; (3) Show n/tell his emcomm equipment. The emphasis will be that: (1) you can easily do emergency communications, with a few basic skills, using a handheld transceiver and that (2) emergency power & and basic procedures are most important.

We don't have anyone organizing the meeting programs yet this year, but we have done OK. We had the second part of our Digital Audio DVD in January, about VHF/UHF techniques, D-Star and P25. In February, we had Glenn, WA7SPY, our Trustee, talk about improvements made on the K6IS repeaters, followed by an ARRL DVD about New England Hams out Fox Hunting (hidden transmitter hunts). For our March meeting, John Harris, AE6VQ, talked about the annual Ham campout to be held in July at Golden Pines RV Resort and Campground near Calaveras Big Trees and Arnold. In April, we had an interesting DVD about Ham-linked communications between the International Space Station and school kids.

Despite the programs falling in place, we do need a Program Chairman. When it gets to the point where Board members sit and look at each other to see who will take on yet another duty, something is wrong. It is time for the regular members to step up and take on some of these jobs. If the present Board members suffer the same burn-out that some highly respected previous leaders have, the Club will be in trouble. There is a list of the important vacancies on the web page, www.k6is.org, under Members. Pick one or more jobs and contact me ASAP.

What are we doing to keep up interest? This Club started by covering all Amateur Radio interests. Over the years it has specialized a little, but the goal has been to keep up on all subjects. I attended a few NHRC meetings over the years, and even gave a talk in 1974 about the first repeater rules, but did not join until 1996 after my son got his license. At that time, repeater activity was a big draw for the Club. It didn't dilute the Club so that it became another repeater club, but the repeater was a forum for Hams of all interests, occupied commute time, and furnished the spouse's shopping list on the way home. I miss the mobile exchanges to and from our meetings. A few get on, but usually the silence is ominous. We have a start with the repeater update, and the autopatch will be back soon. (It was never gone but codes are changing). The nets are doing well, and we will finally have IRLP soon. If we can have good repeaters and good meetings, maybe we will have more volunteers for our committees.

Les Cobb, W6TEE, 2009 President