

# Spurious Emissions



*The Newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Society*



**Volume 1 Number 3**

**Summer 2012**

## **From the Editor**

By John Wright, K6CPO

Summer is over and it's time to start looking at the Holiday Season. SOBARS had a few activities this summer, some of which have already been reported on.

Field Day was covered in our last issue. SOBARS participated in the Chula Vista Firefighter's Foundation's 4th Annual Pancake Breakfast on July 4th. Our members manned the city communications trailer and passed out information about amateur radio.

This issue includes another column by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, about amateur radio and EMCOMM. In somewhat the same vein, we have an article by John Markham, KD6VKW, about simple portable HF antennas.

As always, contributions to the newsletter are always appreciated. Send them to me at [k6cpo@sobars.org](mailto:k6cpo@sobars.org).

## **New Members**

SOBARS wishes to welcome the following new members:

- **Kevin Schultz, KJ6TRH**
- **Michael Todd, K6WD**
- **Benjamin Flores, KJ6ZCW**
- **James Kosbiel, KJ6WKB**
- **James Joachim, KJ6YAP**
- **Bill Honaker, KJ6YZI**
- **Ronald Handrop, K6RSH**

Welcome to the club and we'll see you on the nets.



The Chula Vista City Emergency Communications trailer was on display at the Firefighter's Foundation's Pancake Breakfast on July 4th. Left to right: Tracy Froetscher, AG6OQ, Rene Cenicerros, KJ6GOP, Steve Froetscher, N3NB and John Markham, KD6VKW (in doorway.)  
*John Wright Photo*

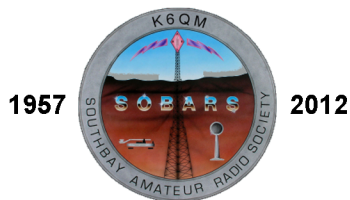
## **From the President's Desk**

By John Markham, KD6VKW

I'm pleased to announce that SOBARS helped to facilitate the first all-day training and exam session held in the South Bay. The Commodore of the Chula Vista Yacht Club offered the facility on Saturday, October 22, for J Goldberg and his team to teach a class for Technician hams upgrading to the General Class license. After the class, the SANDARC VEC conducted an examination for the fourteen students who attended the class. Thirteen of the candidates advanced to General. SOBARS thanks the CV Yacht Club for their

help. We offer a special tip of the hat to Jim Ply, the Yacht Club Treasurer, who guided us in the setup and tear-down.

As we get into the fall season, expect to experience some nasty weather. Luckily, here in San Diego, no matter how nasty the weather gets, at least we don't have to shovel it. Even so, we do experience strong winds when the rainstorms move through, so this is the time to inspect our antenna systems. We should all check and see what needs attention. If you



**SOUTHBAY  
AMATEUR RADIO  
SOCIETY  
(SOBARS)  
K6QM**

PO Box 121132  
Chula Vista, CA 91910

E-Mail: [k6qm@sobars.org](mailto:k6qm@sobars.org)  
Website: [www.sobars.org](http://www.sobars.org)



SOBARS is an ARRL-affiliated ham radio club with members from San Diego, National City, La Mesa, Chula Vista, Bonita, Imperial Beach, and San Ysidro, California.

Club Repeater: 146.085 (+)  
PL: 100.0

SOBARS meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month at 7 PM, at the Chula Vista Yacht Club, 642 Marina Parkway #83 Chula Vista, CA 91910

**OFFICERS**

**President:** John Markham, KD6VKW  
[kd6vkw@sobars.org](mailto:kd6vkw@sobars.org)  
**Vice-President:** John Wright, K6CPO  
[k6cpo@sobars.org](mailto:k6cpo@sobars.org)  
**Secretary:** Fred Curtis, K16GRO  
[k16gro@sobars.org](mailto:k16gro@sobars.org)  
**Treasurer:** Steve Froetscher, N3NB  
[k7fro@sobars.org](mailto:k7fro@sobars.org)  
**Call-Sign Trustee:**  
Jim Beckman, N6RSL  
**Emergency Coordinator:**  
Dick Cupp, K6SJA

**CLUB NETS**

Club nets are held every Tuesday evening on the following bands:  
1830: (PT) 449.980 (-) PL 88.5  
224.200 (-) PL 107.2  
1900: (PT) 146.085 (+) PL 100.0  
1930: (PT) 28.480 USB  
7.183 LSB

correct any weaknesses now, you won't discover, as I did one past morning, that an antenna mast had come down and my valuable antenna was tangled in a tree. Inspect guy wires and/or guy ropes. Check clamps, brackets, nuts and bolts for rust and corrosion. Replace any guys or hardware showing signs of deterioration. Although rope is a reliable guy material, it may age quickly in sunlight. Polyester rope is rated Excellent for sunlight resistance but read labels carefully and beware of any rope sold simply as "Poly." Polyethylene rope is only Fair in sunlight resistance and polypropylene rope is rated Poor. Nylon rope is

"Good" in sunlight.

Our December 6 meeting is the Annual Potluck Dinner. Every year, we have a feast to celebrate the religious and secular holidays that fall in December. Again this year, I'll take the lead and coordinate the dishes, so we don't have eight pies and no vegetables. This method seems to work well. If your situation is such that you can't easily bring a dish, then just bring your bib, 'cause you're welcome to eat, anyway. There has always been plenty of food. Again this year we will provide takeout containers for leftovers. Mangiare bene! [Eat well!] ☞

**Is Amateur Radio Too Focused on EmComm?**

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup, a Yahoo Group mailing list for anyone looking for help with anything related to amateur radio, one ham asked "Over lunch today I read the September issue of QST, which is heavily EmComm oriented. The articles were interesting, but the op-ed piece on page 98 seemed a little over the top to me... Has this focus of this intensity always been a part of ham radio and I just wasn't expecting it? How has it evolved over the years?"

To answer the question, another replied by posting Section 97.1, namely the principles behind the amateur radio service:

**Sec. 97.1 Basis and Purpose.**

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement

of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

He went on to say, "I think that 97.1(a) addresses your question."

I like that reply a lot. First, it shows that providing emergency and public-service communications has been a part of amateur radio since its beginnings. Some hams are extremely focused on this, and I applaud them. In my opinion, the piece referred to in the latest QST was not over the top.

I think, however, that some hams do sometimes go overboard on emcomm, and act as if it's the only reason that ham radio exists. It's not. As you can see, the rules describe five different "purposes" for amateur radio. Emcomm might be the first, but it's only one of five. We need to keep in mind the other four as well. I personally like (e), and would like to see amateur radio actually do more to promote international good will.

What do you think? ☞

## Going Portable

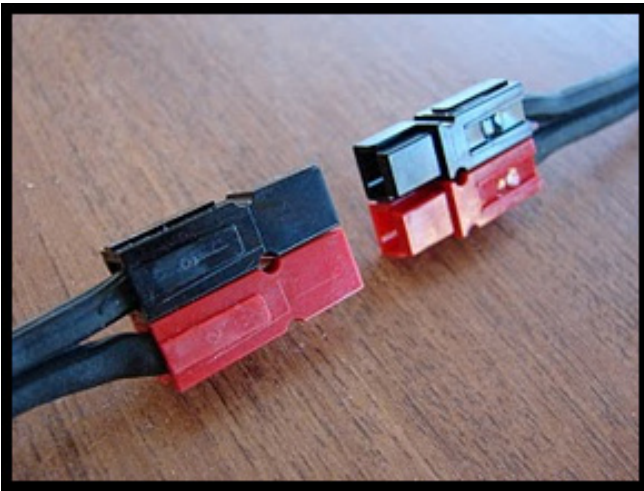
By John Markham, KD6VKW

The “portable radio” to my generation, meant an eight-transistor AM receiver in a plastic case with a tinny speaker. They worked fine and they lasted at least until you dropped them.

Give a person a ham ticket and a portable radio became our familiar dual-band H-T, like my trusty Yaesu FT-530. We nearly all have our handhelds, some with belt clips and some that are small enough to fit in a pocket. With the pocket-size models, their tell-tale rubber duck antenna is the only thing that gives them away.

But is VHF/UHF the only way to go portable? Certainly not! I usually take some HF gear with me when I travel and many hams have permanent HF installations in their vehicles. I’ll admit that HF isn’t down to pocket-size yet, except for a few novelty CW transceivers. However, I have a nice HF rig that I carry in the back of my vehicle and I can be on the air in a few minutes from a cold start.

My radio runs on 12 volts, which matches my car battery, so I took some used-to-be jumper cables and put a set of Anderson Powerpole (R) connectors on the loose end. I plug in my radio’s matching Powerpole connector and the radio has power.



**The Anderson Powerpoles provide a convenient polarized connection for DC Power connections. These connectors click together quickly and firmly. They eliminate most polarity errors.**

*John Markham Photo*

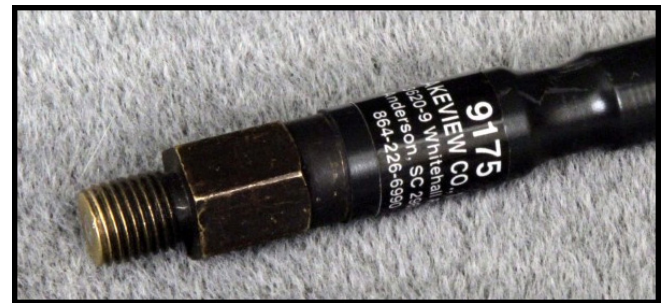
Since you know where your mike is and how it works, we’ll ease into the last item, an antenna. My preference is for dipoles, but they like to be elevated, so I usually go with a shortened whip, like a Hamstick ® a Hustler ® or an Outbacker ®. These antennas, which generally measure between five and eight feet tall, are happy being ground-mounted but they really, really need a ground plane (later, below).

My hamstick HF whip antennas each screw into an

MFJ magnetic base. It sticks to any convenient hunk of steel that won’t move. I favor a metal paint can full of rocks. So obvious and available, it practically begged me to use it. My ground plane consists of a few quarter-wave radials firmly bolted to a disposable aluminum foil roasting pan or pie pan. I sandwich the pan between the magnetic base and the paint can and then stretch out the radials. Because the cheap pan is very thin, the magnet sticks nice and tight.



**Hamsticks are available for individual ham bands. If desired, the length of the upper whip section can be adjusted to optimize the antenna for a particular portion of the band. Hamsticks range in overall length from six to eight feet, excluding the mount.** *John Markham Photo*



**The Hamstick will screw into many common antenna mounts with the 3/8-24 threaded socket. The mount must accommodate some way to attach radials, as the Hamstick must have at least a few of them.** *John Markham Photo*

I have considered some alternatives to the radial arrangement. I could permanently attach the radials directly to the lip of the paint can lid. Another possibility involves attaching the radials to the can itself, turning the can upside-down and sticking the magnetic mount to the bottom of the can. There are many different ways to do the radials, with or without an aluminum foil pan.

At the radio antenna connection, I use two short coaxial jumper cables to route the signal through a VSWR meter and a tuner. Because each location is different,

even if my gear gets a good match on my lawn, it probably wouldn't be the same on your lawn. That's where the tuner plays a crucial role. It compensates for a modest mismatch, the transceiver stays happy and the signals are better in both directions. Tuners are fairly easy to adjust after a few minutes' practice.

This past summer, on the lawn at my daughter's house in Livermore CA, I needed less than ten minutes to get on the air with this setup. I immediately began working 20m stations in Washington who were doing the Salmon Run Special Event that weekend. I also worked over to Montana and Colorado.

There are other portable HF antennas, such as the Buddipole (TM) and its companion, the Buddistik (TM). These are a bit more elaborate, probably best suited for longer-term installations, perhaps a vacation camp or Field Day. I haven't used them, yet.

Here are web addresses for the commercial products mentioned in this article. Nothing on old paint cans filled with rocks, though. You're on your own there.

<http://www.powerwerx.com/anderson-powerpoles/>

<http://ronald.ipower.com/products.html> (Hamstick)

<http://www.dxengineering.com/search/brand/hustler-antenna>

<http://www.outbackerantennas.com/>

<http://www.buddipole.com/> 📶

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## QSO on Top of Half Dome

By Fred Curtis, KI6GRO

On September 29th, I had the pleasure of hiking in the Sierra Nevada mountains with Boy Scouts from Troop 816, chartered by Paseo del Rey Church, Chula Vista, California. All together the scouts and adult leaders hike 31 miles from Tuolumne Meadows to Yosemite Valley. Along with the fresh air and beautiful scenery, the highlight of the trek was climbing Half Dome. Half Dome is a granite dome in Yosemite National Park, located in northeastern Mariposa County, California, at the eastern end of Yosemite Valley—possibly Yosemite's most familiar rock formation. Half Dome is 8,835 feet high and climbed by thousands every year. Climbing to the peak involves traversing a set of steel cables and planks that "assist" you in making it to the top.

So, what does climbing Half Dome have to do with ham radio? Well... On this back packing trip I decided to include my VX-7R tri-band HT in my 47 pound pack; to see how well it worked at different locations on my trek. I programmed my radio with local frequencies that I found on the internet and had 6 meters, 2 meters, 440MHz and 220 MHz frequencies programmed to

cover as much spectrum as possible. On my second day of the trip, I was able to hit a 440 MHz repeater, but no one answered my call.



The route up Half Dome consists of cables and wood planks.  
*Fred Curtis Photo*

Day four was our day to climb Half Dome and we hiked 2.5 miles from our camp to the base of Half Dome. After negotiating granite steps, steel cables and planks, I finally made it to the top! After picture taking and



On the top of Half Dome.

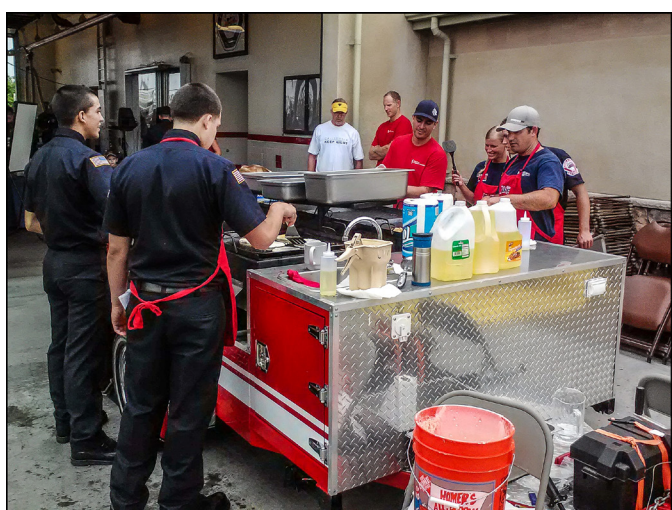
*Fred Curtis Photo*

eating snacks, I assembled my HT and started working my way through the frequency list and was able to hit the 440 MHz repeater (444.700 (+), 107.2 Linked). I made contact right away (it helps when you tell people you are transmitting from atop Half Dome!) and was so excited I forgot to write down the name and station ID of my first contact! The four Scouts and others watched as I continued my QSO. After finishing my first QSO, I was contacted by Michael Germino, AD6AA. We had a great QSO and Michael told me that he climbed Half Dome 20 years ago. After our QSO it was time to make our decent down the steep face doing everything in reverse and stepping down very SLOWLY!

I had a great time on this trek and was happy that I included ham radio. On future hikes, I will again pack my HT and see who is listening! 📡

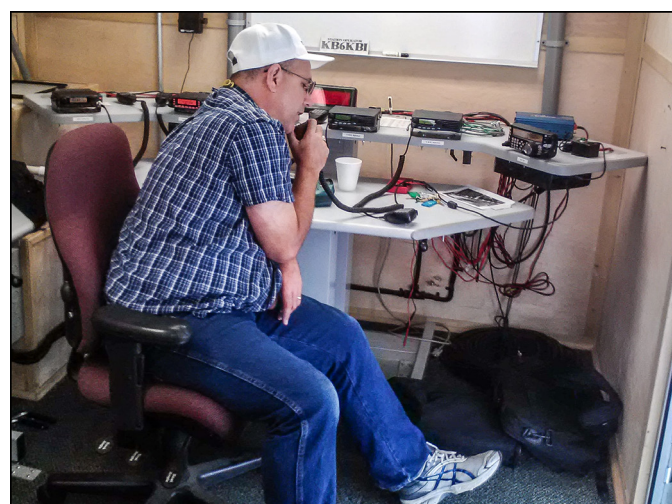
*“America’s quiet warriors are the legion of ham radio operators, 700,000 of them, who are always at ready for backup duty in emergencies – amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian radio operators, during and after floods and fires and tornadoes. After the 9/11 attacks, hams were indispensable in reuniting friends and families. Most recently it was they who expedited the search for debris after the Columbia Explosion, and right now, at this moment, they are involved in homeland security to a greater degree than you would want me to make public.” — Paul Harvey News and Comment, ABC Radio, March 19, 2003*

### More CVFD Pancake Breakfast Pictures:



Members of the Chula Vista Fire Department Explorer Post prepare pancakes on the fire department’s mobile kitchen.

*John Wright Photo*



SOBARS Secretary Fred Curtis, KI6GRO, working a little HF from the emergency radio trailer.

*John Wright Photo*



SOBARS President John Markham, KD6VKW, helps Shannon, Dane and Ryder von Guenther make a QSO with Fred Curtis in the emergency trailer.

*John Wright Photo*

### Show Off Your Shack

By the Editor

I’d like to start a new feature for the newsletter. I’d like to feature a photograph of a member’s shack each issue.

Anyone wishing to show off their shack feel free to send me a photo at [k6cpo@sobars.org](mailto:k6cpo@sobars.org). Please include the image as an attachment to the e-mail.

To start off, here is my shack:



## Chula Vista Yacht Club, October 20, 2012

Chula Vista Yacht Club, October 20, 2012



Congratulations to Bill Honaker, KJ6YZI who successfully upgraded to General at the class held October 20, 2012 at the Chula Vista Yacht Club. Way to go, Bill! 🍀

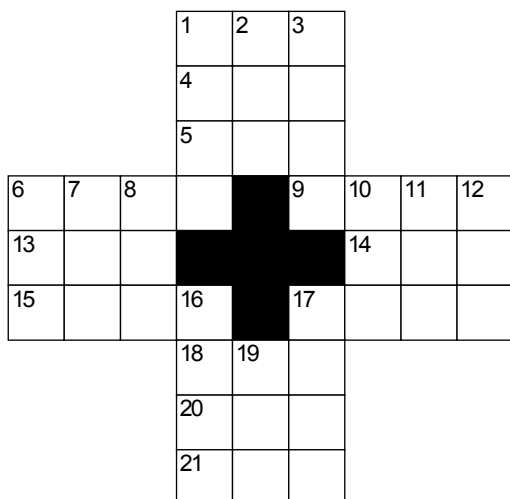


Another new feature starting with this issue is the Ham Radio Crossword Puzzle. The puzzle is courtesy of Jeff Dinkins, AC6V. For other interesting ham radio related material visit his website at [www.ac6v.com](http://www.ac6v.com).

The solution will appear in the next issue. 🌬

## HAM RADIO PUZZLE NO. 1 WORKED EVERY ONE EVERY WHERE

by Rod Dinkins / AC6V



[www.CrosswordWeaver.com](http://www.CrosswordWeaver.com)



### Across

- 1 Award from ARRL
- 4 Beam direction
- 5 1950's Golden \_\_\_\_ of DXing
- 6 Candle cord
- 9 A dirty linear does this
- 13 50 wpm CW: I stand in \_\_\_\_
- 14 A type of connector (on HT's)
- 15 Pileups
- 17 \_\_\_\_ effect where current flows near the surface of a conductor
- 18 Scriptural your
- 20 Required time to make Honor Roll (hi hi)
- 21 Award from the IARU, administered by ARRL.

### Down

- 1 Time period
- 2 Automatic send receive
- 3 Big /MM's go here
- 6 Award from CQ magazine
- 7 The other half of Jima
- 8 Corporate Big Gun
- 10 A newer digital transmission mode
- 11 Electromagnetic interference
- 12 Worked everyone in your block
- 16 Missed the DXpedition
- 17 In \_\_\_\_ (phase)
- 19 Antenna banner

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# The Desert Radio Amateur Transmitting Society

invite you to attend the 4th annual \* \* \* Palm Springs HAMFEST!



Saturday, January 26  
9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

<http://www.desertrats.am>

Bring your ham gear to sell, no fee charged for selling if you bring own table and chairs. Or bring it to the club table (commission to the club) ...we'll handle the sale.

**Talk-in frequency:**

**146.940- PL 107.2**

**WD6RAT Desert RATpeater**

**Daily Nets Thursday thru Sat.**

**8 A.M. - Noon - 6 P.M.**

**Food! Fun! Admission only \$2 Bucks!**



## HAMFEST!

Email us for more info:

Susie & Gary:

[sboskovich@dc.rr.com](mailto:sboskovich@dc.rr.com)

or Ricki deRat:

[ricki.d.rats@gmail.com](mailto:ricki.d.rats@gmail.com)

Riverside County ARES

[riversidecountyares@gmail.com](mailto:riversidecountyares@gmail.com)

~Check ze Tweets @hamradio

@RivCoARES

**Lots of vendors and exhibits!**

**D-star**

**Rouend Industries**

**Ham Radio Outlet**

**Quake Safe Kits**

**Alpine Antennas**

**Hi Tech Liquidators**

**Hi-Q Antennas**

**Alinco & GRE AMERICA**

**Survival Mode Kits**

**Hipham T-shirts**

**Omnitec Antennas**

**Bud's Engraving**

**Impulse Electronics**

**Nifty Accessories**

**ARES-CERT-RACES-MARS-CAP**

**Gordon West W5YI Group**

**Amateur Television Network**

**KA6PGN - Military Radios**

**Check website for the most up to date list.**



**Jan 26, 2013. follow the rat @ desertrats.am**

Event Coordinators Gary Boskovich  
KD6QLT and Susie Boskovich KD6TVO  
760-328-9662 [sboskovich@dc.rr.com](mailto:sboskovich@dc.rr.com)

Nearby Hotel: Saguaro

Sunrise & E. Palm Canyon, Palm Springs  
760-323-1711 call for best room rate.

RSVP: RV Dry Camping reservations for  
vendors: [sboskovich@dc.rr.com](mailto:sboskovich@dc.rr.com)

Vendor Set-up time 7:00-9:00 AM

**Driving Directions:**

**Take I-10 to Palm Drive exit**

**Go South on Gene Autry tr.**

**Cross Hwy. 111**

**(turns into Matthew Dr.)**

**Follow the RAT...**

**4193 Matthew Dr. is on left**

**map @ desertrats.am**

# ***2013 Arizona State Convention***

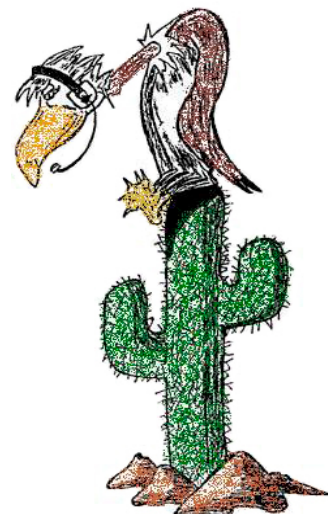
***9<sup>th</sup> Annual***

## ***Yuma Hamfest***

***Yuma, Arizona***

***Feb. 15 & 16, 2013***

Yuma County Fairgrounds  
2520 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Yuma, Arizona



***[www.yumahamfest.org](http://www.yumahamfest.org)***

Check the Website for Additional Information  
and a Current Schedule of Activities and Seminars

Gates Open for Camping Thursday, 2 pm Vendor Setup Friday, 7 am - Noon	Event Hours Friday, Noon - 5 pm Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm	Buzzard BBQ & Grand Prize Drawing Saturday Night 6:00 - 8:00 pm
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**Vendors & Exhibitors  
Consignment Sales  
License Testing  
Hourly Door Prizes  
On-site RV Camping  
Famous Buzzard BBQ  
ARRL Speaker  
\$5.00 Admission**

**Tailgating (Swap Meet)  
Full Seminar Schedule  
DXCC Card Checking  
Incredible Grand Prizes  
Emergency Preparedness  
Admission Prize  
Hospitality Area  
Antenna Clinic & T-Hunt**

Hamfest Talk-In Frequency: 146.840 (-) PL 88.5 Hz

Email Contact: ***[info@yumahamfest.org](mailto:info@yumahamfest.org)***



We are proud to have the Amateur Radio  
Council of Arizona (ARCA) as a sponsor of  
our event.

The Yuma Hamfest is an American Radio  
Relay League (ARRL) sanctioned event.



Presented by the Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization

# SOBARS

South Bay Amateur Radio Society

## Application for Membership

I, the undersigned, having a bona fide interest in amateur radio, hereby apply for membership in the South Bay Amateur Radio Society.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amateur Callsign (if any): \_\_\_\_\_ License class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date first licensed: \_\_\_\_\_ (approx. OK) Current license expires: \_\_\_\_\_ (approx. OK)

Are you an ARRL member? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you an ARES member? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a RACES member? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a full time student? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a family member of a SOBARS member? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, give member's callsign: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark any committee assignments which interest you:

\_\_\_\_\_ Research and Development

\_\_\_\_\_ Activities

\_\_\_\_\_ Refreshments

\_\_\_\_\_ Safety

\_\_\_\_\_ Education

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ Field Day

\_\_\_\_\_ TVI

\_\_\_\_\_ Publicity

\_\_\_\_\_ Raffle

\_\_\_\_\_ Council Representative

I agree to abide by the SOBARS Constitution, by-laws and such other rules as shall, from time to time, be enacted by the society.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of application)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date and amount of dues paid)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Treasurer's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of approval vote)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(President's signature)