

CONNECTING FIELD BATTERY CHARGERS

*Published in the newsletter of the Central (California) Coast
Chapter of SAM 26, Bob Angel, Editor*

Hooking the supplied big alligator clips directly to a car battery is probably the best bet. And we should probably use the accepted safety procedure of clipping the positive to the battery, then the negative to a remote ground to prevent the occasional battery explosion. But at our field, we often back in, sometimes near a table and work from there. I've been plugging into a cigarette lighter type socket located in the vehicles' rear interior. But lately, some knowledgeable people have pointed out that the wiring to those sockets really isn't adequate for sustained high amperage use and there's usually no fuse. The wire insulation could heat and become brittle over time. If you have a trailer connector socket in back, you can get an extra male plug and bring the hot wire and ground out on short leads to a suitable connector for the charger. I used Anderson Powerpoles (or Sermos), since all my support gear has these connectors. Trailer wiring is normally more than adequate for any of our needs.