

**JUNE 1999**

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# SHORT SKIP

## Field Day 1999 – Get Ready!

By Tom Ginsburg, K6TG

Folks, it's almost here! Field Day '99, our fun-in-the-sun, outdoors, overnight, radio operating and camping extravaganza! Field Day takes place on June 26-27 at the former nursery site adjacent to the CYA/CDF camp at the top of Empire Grade in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We will have access to the site on June 25 at 11 AM for getting a head start in setting up. There will be water, flush toilets and an



outdoor shower available at the site, and we are looking forward to having numerous stations in operation. I am still in the process of tracking down operators and equipment for the event. For those of you who have talked to me about operating, I should have contacted you already to confirm your attendance. If you have not spoken to me already about bringing your

station and equipment to Field Day, please call me ASAP at 464-2498. I need to have the station and equipment list finalized soon. I also will be at this Friday's club meeting, looking for last minute recruits. We would love to have you operate, and we will have plenty of room for you to set up camp as well!

We really could use some folks to come and help us setup antennas and stations of Friday. Once again, our goal this year is to have all stations up and ready to go when Field Day starts on Saturday morning. If you can help out this way, that would be great!

Here is some of the equipment still on our wish list. Let me know if you can bring these items, or let us borrow them:

- VHF/UHF FM or all-mode radios
- VHF/UHF beams
- Old computers or laptops for logging
- 12 volt batteries
- 10 meter beam or ground plane (suitable support to go with it is a plus)
- Cable, guy wires, related accessories

By the way, if you want to just come and operate for a few hours or even a half-hour, we would love to have you come up and do so! Even our most gung-ho operators will

*Continued page 5*

## "Callsigns and Colonies"

Our newest SCCARC member, Ron Skelton W6WO, offered to give a talk about his amateur radio experiences entitled "Callsigns and Colonies" at our June 18 club meeting. His offer was quickly accepted!

Growing up in Great Britain and first licensed in 1949, now recently retired, Ron has had a lot of adventures during his 50 years with amateur radio.

Ron says that, during his career and travels to many strange parts of the globe, he's often BEEN the "rare DX" that we've sought from our Santa Cruz shacks!

Ron's career was in IT and communications R & D and most recently he worked on Cyber Security. Ron says his heroes include Shannon, Maxwell, Marconi and Clarke! He adds, "I have been very fortunate and owe a great deal to Ham Radio and we are once more entering a golden age of wireless. Why would this be of interest? Nostalgia for some and hopefully encouragement to others."

I hope you can come to the meeting on Friday. It sure sounds like Ron can tell us a few things, and it'll be a good chance for us to welcome our newest club member!

— Cap KE6AFE

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**CLUB MEETING FRIDAY JUNE 18, 7:30P.M.**

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# SHORT SKIP

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## Geo. Miller, W6QPQ, SK

While not recently a member of SCCARC, George Miller W6QPQ was a long-time area ham.

From the "Santa Cruz Sentinel" newspaper, Tuesday, May 18, 1999:

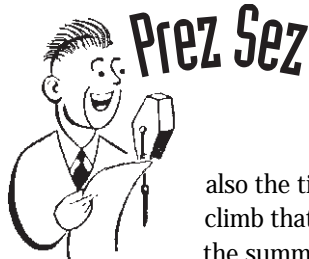
Private services at sea are planned for George Miller, who died Saturday in Santa Cruz. He was 85. He was born in San Francisco and had lived in Santa Cruz County for 52 years. Mr. Miller worked for 52 years as a retail meat cutter in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Watsonville. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and had been a licensed amateur radio operator since 1938. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jewel Miller; son Ken Miller; sisters Lillian Thom and Elsie Edsel, both of the San Francisco Bay Area; four grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

— Cap Pennell

## Dean Litts, WA6YOV, SK

On the 8th of June, Dean Litts, 83, WA6YOV, died in the Watsonville Hospital. For many years, Dean, a resident of Watsonville, was the faithful and ever cordial northern Net Control Operator for the Baja California Maritime Mobile Net.

—Art Lee



Are you ready for field day? This is the big summer event in HAM Radio. It is also a club sponsored picnic so plan to attend. No matter what your licence class, you can have a lot of fun.

It is a camp out with lots of ham radio. Summer is also the time to get you antennas in shape. If you need to climb that big tree or put up a new pole, it is a lot more fun in the summer. It is also safer that trying to do it during a driving rain storm. I know. I tried some really bad things in my early days of HAM radio. Club breakfast are back so watch for the announcements. Special events need help during the summer. Say yes. It is a lot of fun and you will help the sponsor make their event go a little smother. Do not forget that we will continue to have meeting during the summer so keep that third Friday open on you calender.

— 73 W6FKD

## QRP Works (again)

I thought I would try something new again this year. After reading messages on the QRP-L newsgroup about folks playing in the big guy contests with QRP, I decided to try working the CQ WPX contest QRP. I was really out to try to see how many countries I could pick up QRP. Just to make it a little more difficult, I would do it maritime mobile from my sailboat in the Sacramento Delta.

The equipment to be brought along would be the multi-band dipole that was written up in shortskip last year, my homebuilt Elecraft K2 with its internal battery, homebuilt paddles, and a solar panel to charge it. Who said home brewing is dead? We arrived at the marina to find a nice warm sunny day with a light breeze. We quickly provisioned the boat and set off on the 6-mile sail to a quiet anchorage near Prisoner's Point on the San Joaquin River. It was a downwind sail. We relaxed as we sailed with the main and jib wing and wing and had a nice lunch.

After setting the hook and getting everything set up for the family, I began setting up my equipment. The first step was to erect the antenna. The dipole was hung from the main halyard to the top of the mast. The ends of the dipole were tied off at the bow and stern pulpits. Due to the configuration of the boat, this turns into a cross between an inverted Vee and a vertical. I am always amazed that it works at all. The coax feed is then routed into the cabin. The solar panel was lashed to the top of the boom to give it a clear shot to the sky. Everything was connected to the K2 and I was ready to go. Upon powering up the rig on, I found a very active 15M band. Well let's give it a try. The



first station I came to was a JA. He came back to the first call. Most of the activity that I heard was from Japan or the South Pacific.

The wind was picking up and the boat was starting to swing on the anchor from north south to east west. I began to notice that stations would fade as the boat swung and began timing my contacts. I would make the call as the boat began swinging south, and complete the QSO as the boat was again swinging north. That way I would be operating mostly when the time the boat was north south. This strategy seemed to work well, but next time I think I will put out a stern anchor and keep the boat still.

In the evening the bands opened up to Europe and Russia. I continued into the evening in the dark, with headphones after everyone went to sleep. A nice thing about CW is it doesn't make much noise. There were a lot of distractions during the weekend, kids, kayak adventures, reading breaks, and nap breaks. I did manage to get in about 5 hours of operating. I made 80 contacts to about 60 countries. Worked much of Europe, Russia, Kaliningrad, the Pacific, Alaska, and some South Americans. That is not too bad of a haul for 5W and pretty crummy antenna.

— Jeff AC6KW



By Art Lee WF6P

## CHATTER

Who says CW is dead? Last week, while banging away trying to contact my pal Marsha, AB7RJ, in Washington, it was nearly impossible to find a clear frequency in the CW portions of either the 40 or 20 meter bands. The bands were literally alive with the dits and dahs of hams "pounding brass." We made a brief contact, squeezed in between two "very close together" stations, QSYd to our alternate freq on 20 meters — but no joy. Propagation was good, too good. We had to give up for the night. The next night was better, and we were able to carry on our regular 45 minutes or so of CW practice. Just about the time we were signing, we received a "BK" from Len, N2LR/6 from the Monterey Peninsula. Pacific Grove? Len exchanged a few remarks with us, telling us he enjoyed our stories. We invited him back anytime whereupon he told us he checks in on our club 10 meter net on Monday nights! I will try to check in on 10 to say "hi" to Len and others.

The May club meeting was great, as they all are, as they give us a chance to have eyeball QSOs with our members. George Fisk, K6TAM, showed us his home-built 10 meter hand-held rig, mounted inside a Plexiglas box! I'm going to take a few photos for QST — maybe they will run them. George built it in 1955. George brought in some test equipment to our hand-held 2 meter rigs. Mine was great but the old Kenwood TR2600A could only muster up less than 1 watt of power output. I think it was stuck on low power as the hi-low switch was sticking and had no effect.

As always, Bruce Hawkins, AC6DN, rounds up a gang of us for Pizza after the meeting. Thanks for asking, Bruce.

Congrats to Bruce Wade, W6FKD, our club President, who conducted a one day class for 2 no-code tech candidates. That's a lot of learning in a single day. Both candidates are also Red Cross volunteers and will use their licenses during emergencies.

I was helping bring up a Cal 34 sloop from Moss Landing last week. The weather was terrible and the seas sloppy and unpredictable. Things can happen out there and that water is mighty cold. I always take my 2 meter hand-held along, just in case. We have a Marine VHF radio tuned to channel 16 but it is dependent upon power from the boat's batteries — if you get clobbered by a whale, sea water can easily short them out before you can get a Mayday signal out. Hence, my hand held. I gave Donna, AB6XJ, a call on the K6BJ repeater phone patch. The phone rang and rang but she had gone to Safeway to pick up something for a late dinner after I got in. Earlier, she had made up a nice lunch for us. Ham and cheese sandwiches, with fresh crisp lettuce and slathered in mayonnaise, with pickles, onions and fresh tomatoes. Sure tastes good on a cold afternoon at sea. A bag of chips and avocado dip, topped off with chocolate cake and hot coffee ... mmmm, it sure did hit the spot. Still, I wish I had contact as a maritime mobile.



## BOARD MINUTES

Minutes of the SCCARC Board,

**April 16, 1999**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by the president, Bruce Wade.

Attending were Vice President, Cap Pennell; Treasurer, Allen Fugelseth; Secretary, Don Henneuse; and board member Bruce Hawkins and Member, Elaine Sandusky.

### Old Business

The minutes for March were approved as corrected.

The treasurer reported a checking account balance of \$1325.02.

The budget for 1999 was presented by Cap and Allen, seconded for a vote by Bruce Hawkins and passed by vote.

\$650 postage for short Skip  
600 printing of Short Skip  
300 refreshments for meetings  
500 repeater maintenance  
725 insurance  
300 field day  
300 miscellaneous  
(\$3375 total)

The Dominican Education Services room has been reserved through the August meeting, and the reservation needs to be updated quarterly with the Dominican Hospitality Services. Contact Heidi at 462-7724

Cap has name tags that were made for the newest members and he is handing them out.

### New Business

Elaine reported that the price of the refreshment cookies, that are so good, went up from \$2.19 per dozen to \$.25 each (\$3.00 per dozen). She was able to negotiate with Lucky Stores and get them for \$1.99 with a letter of proof as a nonprofit organization. With the consumption of six dozen cookies per meeting it adds up (approx. \$66 per year). Another item of note is that she is buying cups and napkins from Costco in large enough quantities to last into next year.

Adjourned 7:10

— Don Henneuse



## ARES REPEATERS

The Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Services furnishes three repeaters to ARES. The repeaters are operated by ARES. All repeaters require a PL of 94.8. The frequencies and locations are as follows:

<b>KD6FXQ</b>	<b>147.015+</b>	<b>Watsonville</b>
<b>N6IYA</b>	<b>146.745-</b>	<b>Bonny Doon</b>
<b>W6FKD</b>	<b>146.835-</b>	<b>Summit</b>

Watsonville ARES Net meets each Thursday night 8:30PM on the K6BJ and KI6EH (linked) Repeaters at 146.79- / 147.945- Mhz.

The Santa Cruz ARES meets the second Tuesday each month at the Santa Cruz Red Cross on Soquel Avenue at 7:30PM. Net meets each Monday at 8:30PM on 146.836 - PI 94.8

## Extraterrestrial Intelligence

The answer is out there: Interested in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI)? Have a computer in your shack? Then perhaps you might be willing to give up some CPU cycles to participate in the SETI@Home project. The idea is this: You download a client application from the SETI@Home Web site, <http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/>, and after a little configuration, your computer is analyzing 2 MHz of radio spectrum that was recorded at Arecibo.

The best part is that you can configure the application to run only when your system is idle. You can also interrupt the application at any time, and it will pick up where it left off the next time you start it. Who knows? Perhaps your computer will be the one that detects the signal that confirms the presence of other intelligent life in our universe.

— Mark Downing, WM7D

## Email news?

Our Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. now has its own email address! [k6bj@arrl.net](mailto:k6bj@arrl.net) Any email sent to [k6bj@arrl.net](mailto:k6bj@arrl.net) will be forwarded to me, and I will distribute it to whoever needs to see it.

If you're a ARRL member, you can setup the same thing with your own callsign ([callsign@arrl.net](mailto:callsign@arrl.net)). Email sent to that address will then be forwarded to your regular email address. Sign-up info is at: <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/emailfwd.html> ARRL members who do not have Web access can also sign up for the E-Mail Forwarding Service via email, although it will take up to several days for sign-ups submitted this way to be processed. Send a message to [subscribe@arrl.net](mailto:subscribe@arrl.net) for details.

Again, if you want to send anything to "the club", send it to [k6bj@arrl.net](mailto:k6bj@arrl.net)

— 73, Cap KE6AFE

## Morse Debate Makes Page 1 of Wall Street Journal

Hams checking the prestigious Wall Street Journal for the latest business news and stock quotes June 2 also found some Amateur Radio news--smack in the middle of page 1 and above the fold. A story by Staff Reporter Lee Gomes headlined "TO HAM OPERATORS, MORSE CODE TEST IS LIKE LATIN EXAM; Does It Keep the Barbarians At Bay, or Is It Fueling The Decline of a Culture?" discusses the current code versus no-code debate in Amateur Radio.

"Morse Code is a dying language in the Digital Age, but it's still required reading for amateur radio buffs," Gomes' story begins. His report outlines the broad strokes of the controversy and the impending FCC streamlining that is expected to address future Morse code requirements for amateurs. It also quotes the FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, as

## International Morse Code

I just placed online a chapter on "International Morse Code" from a 1967 Navy Radioman training manual. Not only is it a nostalgic piece for ex-Navy operators, but some of the info may be useful to hams. In particular, there's some good information on the proper adjustment and sending techniques for straight keys and bugs. Plus, some general advice on learning the code.

I scanned in the graphics and converted the text to HTML format for easier browsing. You can get to it from the "Ham Radio" section of my homepage at:

[http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/LaBarge\\_C/](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/LaBarge_C/)

There's a chapter on antennas and propagation that I will probably put on line in the future.

— 73, Craig WB3GCK

"the FCC's lead staff person on the question," and reports that the FCC "is contemplating relaxing the Morse Code requirement."

Gomes cites Bruce Perens, K6BP, of No Code International, who--in Gomes words--considers Morse code "an antiquated technology" and "a turnoff for young people." "Perens is in the minority," Gomes asserts. "Most licensees don't want any change in the requirement--especially since they have already passed the test themselves."

Taking the opposite viewpoint in Gomes' article is Nancy Kott, WZ8C, of FISTS, which Gomes describes as a "militant pro-Morse group." Gomes says Kott "all but accuses the no-coders of taking bribes from ham radio makers" and claims they want the code requirements dropped to attract more hams and sell more equipment.

Gomes reports that FISTS members fear a lot of bad, on-air behavior "without the screening provided by the Morse Code requirement." Perens, Gomes says, is not concerned about a "post-Morse ham world inhabited by barbarians." Perens points out for the article that applicants still will have to pass "rigorous tests" to get a ticket. Besides, Gomes quotes Perens as saying, "The riffraff have no reason to leave the Internet."

The article is silent on the issue of ITU regulations requiring a demonstration of Morse proficiency for HF operation and on the fact that a codeless class of Amateur Radio license already exists. And, at one point it refers to Morse code as "dits and duhs."

In the course of researching his article, Gomes contacted the ARRL for background information. The complete article is available via the Web for a fee to registered users of the Wall Street Journal's interactive page, <http://www.wsj.com>.

— ARRL Newsletter



**Trade or Sell Table**

Bring your surplus radio gear to sell or trade. The table will be set up before the club meeting. Put a price on your goodie and have fun trading or selling: mics, connectors, handhelds and related equipment, receivers, transmitters, etc. Let's have fun!

—Dan AA6GD



Livermore Swap Meet - 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, 7:00 AM to noon, all year. e-mail: larkswap@hotmail.com.

Foothill Flea Market - 2nd Saturday of each month from March to October at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA.

ARRL Field Day, June 26-27. For complete details see May QST pages 95 and 96. General contest rules are on the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>.

**HELP WANTED**

The Santa Cruz County ARC Repeater Committee needs your technical help in support of our repeater system. If you are experienced with repeaters, transmitters and/or receivers and would like to help with the maintenance and upkeep of the repeater system, we could use your help. If you have (or have access to) test equipment (shop-in-a-box, spectrum analyzer, etc.), that is all the better. To get more information or to volunteer, call or email Rich Hanset KI6EH (Hm: 831-423-6682, [rhanset@NovaControls.com](mailto:rhanset@NovaControls.com)) or Jeff Liebermann WB6SSY ([jeffl@comix.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:jeffl@comix.santa-cruz.ca.us)).

**FIELD DAY cont**

need some relief, and this will give you a chance to experience the fun of Field Day without having to bring a full-fledged station. Even if you don't want to operate, you can still help out with logging. Also, those of you who want to just come up and observe the action are welcome as well, especially for those unfamiliar with Field Day who just want to see what its all about.

As usual, we will be having our big Barbecue on Saturday for those at the site! If you can help out with the BBQ (which is always the highlight of our club,s Field Day), please let me know. In any case, It will definitely be worth it to come up and participate this year!

Directions to the Field Day Site: The site is approximately one mile past the Crest X-mas Tree Ranch but on the left side of the road. Look for the "K6BJ Field Day" sign at the entrance of the property (DO NOT enter the CDF or CYA property, please). Please see the map later in this Short Skip for more information.

The accent on SCCARC's Field Day operations has always been on having fun. Once again, we hope to continue that tradition, and also score more points than ever before! Let's make this the best Field Day our club has this millenium! I hope to see you there!

— Tom, K6TG

**Field Day 1999 – How to Find It!**

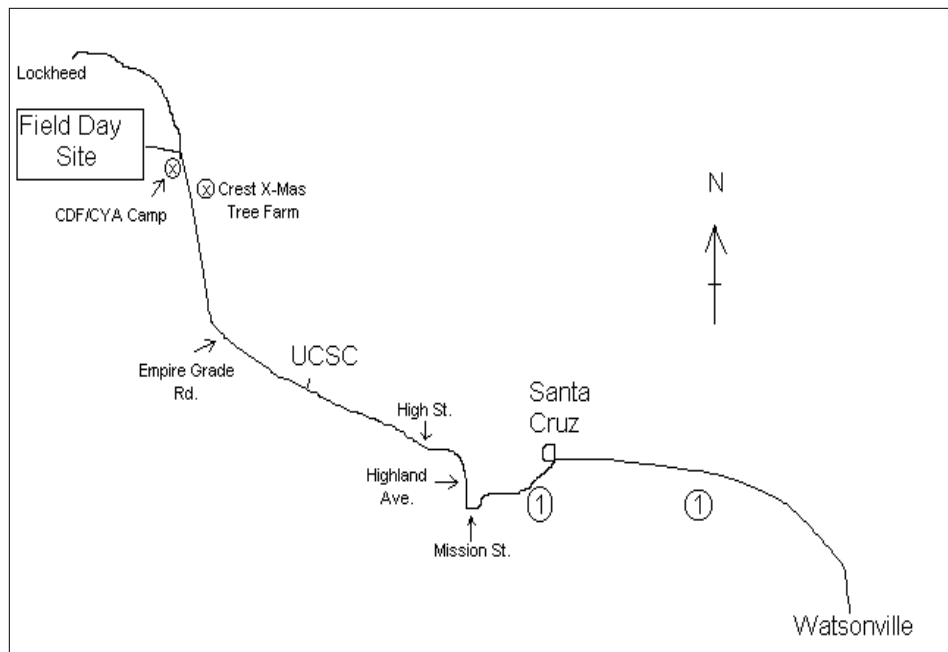
When: 11 AM Saturday June 26 ==> 11 AM Sunday June 27

Where: The site of the former CDF Nursery just past the CDF/CYA camps at the top of Empire Grade Road in the Santa Cruz mountains.

Directions: Hwy 1 North towards Half Moon Bay. At the second traffic light, turn right on Mission St, and immediately turn right again on Highland Ave. This street becomes High St., which in turn becomes Empire Grade Rd past the UCSC main entrance. Continue 13 miles, watch for Crest Xmas Tree farm on right. Within one mile CDF/ CYA camp will be on left side. Look for "K6BJ Field Day" sign just past main entrance to camp, and turn left into the nursery site. Do not enter the CDF/CYA camps, please.

Talk-In: K6BJ 146.79(-) / KI6EH 147.945(-), from 11 AM to 5PM Saturday.

Bring: Sunscreen, hat, insect repellent, old shoes. \*\*\* REMEMBER! Make at least one contact, assist an operator to make a contact, or help out in any way, and your reward will be our fabulous BBQ on Saturday night!



**SCCARC Officers - 1999**

President	Bruce Wade	W6FKD	423-0575
Vice President	Cap Pennell	KE6AFE	429-1290
Secretary	Don Hennese	KF6KGO	437-1486
Treasurer	Allen Fugelseth	WB6RWU	475-8846
Board	George Badger	W3AB	476-5363
	Bruce Hawkins	AC6DN	
	Gene Bokmeier	KD6DSB	688-6703
	Tom Ginsberg	K6TG	479-1471
	Lauren Hardy	KC6TPW	462-0247
K6BJ Trustee	Royce Krilanovich	AC6Z	475-4798

**MONTEREY BAY ACTIVITY**

K6BJ / KI6EH (Linked) • SCCARC Net Monday 7:30 PM 146.79- /147.945-  
 146.79- /147.945- • SC ARES Net Monday 8:30 PM 146.835-  
 (PL 94.8) • Watsonville ARES Net Thursday 8:30 PM 147.945-

K6BJ / UHF  
 440.925 (PL 123)

K6LY (Monterey) • Monterey ARES Net Wednesday 7:30 PM  
 146.97- (PL 94.8) • NPSARC Net Wednesday 8:00 PM  
 444.700+ (PL 123) • Monterey Bay Traffic Net Nightly 9:00 PM  
 (Linked) • Monterey Bay Swap Net Wednesday 8:15 PM  
 • Newslite (Ham News) Broadcast Wednesday 8:30 PM

WR6AOK (Felton) • SLVRC Net Thursday 7:30 PM  
 147.12+ (PL 94.8) • SLV ARES Net Monday 7:30 PM  
 N6IYA • Newslite (Ham News) Broadcast Sunday 9:00 PM

440.850+ (PL 94.8) (Linked)  
 6 Meter Local Net 52.8 MHz (PL-114.8) Sunday 8:00 PM  
 SCCARC 10 Meter Net 28.308 MHz USB Monday 7:00 PM  
 Mont. Bay Chapter 191 QCWA :Tuesday, 7:30PM, AA6T repeater, 146.700-(NO PL).

**SCCARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Jun. 18
Short Skip Deadline	Friday	Jun. 28
Field Day	Sat. and Sun.	Jun.26-27
Santa Cruz ARES	Tuesday	Jul. 13
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Jul. 16

**Visit the SCCARC Website at**

- [www.fireclay.com/k6bj](http://www.fireclay.com/k6bj)

**NEW! – CLUB E-MAIL: [k6bj@arrl.net](mailto:k6bj@arrl.net)**

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

The SCCARC Meets at 7:30 PM, on the THIRD FRIDAY of the each month (except December). Meeting are in the Education Building, Dominican Hospital, 1515 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz.

**NET CONTROL SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)**

6/14	Jeff KF6BKG
6/21	Tom K6TG
6/28	Phil KE6UWH
7/5	Jeff KF6BKG
7/12	Tom K6TG



**SHORT SKIP**

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
 P.O. BOX 238  
 SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0238

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

**Next Meeting June 18**

**FIRST CLASS**