

MAY 1999

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP

QRP To The Field 1999

QRP To The Field is an annual amateur radio contest for QRPers. Every year we take to the field and operate low power radios to a contest theme. This year's theme was "run to the border". Sitting on interstate borders, operators got extra points for bringing two, three, or four states to life with one contact. Along these lines, extra points were given if you had a picture of your operating site in which a Taco Bell restaurant could be seen. "Yo Quiero QRP!" was our call.

Tom Johnson, KQ6DV, his XYL Bobbie, KF6AYH, my daughter Marissa, and I began our adventure on Friday April 23, 1999. With packs on our backs, we began our hike to Lane Trail Camp in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The six-mile hike would take us along several creeks, through an old growth redwood forest, up through chaparral, and into forests of knobcone pine, chinquapin, and buckeye. The park



Tom KQ6DV



Jeff AC6KW, Bobbie KF6AYH and Marissa

lists this hike as strenuous as it climbs 1300 feet over the last 3 miles. The trail was beautiful with vivid wildflowers dotting the many rushing streams and waterfalls.

Upon arriving at our destination, we quickly set up camp and began to assemble our stations. I brought my new K2 with its internal 3 AH battery, a 5-watt solar panel to charge the battery, and a multi-band dipole. Tom brought a Small Wonders 40+, a AA battery pack, and a 40-meter dipole. We used a slingshot and fishing line to place the antennas about 35 feet in the pines. To test my station, I

called Eric, WA6HHQ, on his 440 MHz repeater. Being one of the designers of the K2, he was very interested to see how the K2 would perform in the field. He quickly readied his rig for a K2 to K2 test QSO. 599 was the signal report. I would be ready for the start of the contest in the morning.

Since Lane Trail Camp has no water, Tom and Bobbie set off to get water for the day. The nearest water was about 45 minutes back down the trail. Using their GPS and a topographical map, Tom and Bobbie found a closer source and went off trail in search of it. We kept in touch with little family radio service HT's, just in case they got lost.

Field Day

June 26 - 27

Are You Ready?

For those of you who don't know what it is, Field Day is a great chance to setup and operate your equipment in the great outdoors without benefit of the electric mains. We use generators, batteries and solar panels to provide our power, while we contact as many hams as possible in the U.S. and Canada. It's equal parts operating, camping and eating. Not only is it a lot of fun, but we also have an excellent BBQ for all attending!

This year's Field Day will be held on June 26- 27, the last weekend in June. Once again, our club will look to outperform last year's record score (we finished with the highest score in our ARRL section for our class), and we hope to have a whole lot more fun doing it! But we need your help in planning to make it another successful event!

Help join the Field Day committee. We need help in site preparation, station positioning, equipment loans, publicity and the BBQ

Contact Tom, K6TG at tomg@cruzio.com (preferred method) or at 464-2498. Thanks!

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY MAY 21, 7:30P.M.

SHORT SKIP

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PREZ SEZ

The April showers are gone and the May flowers are here. Of course that old saying does not apply as must here in California as it does back in the mid-west. When I moved to California in 1963 the lack of seasons and warm weather not getting here until the middle of July were the two hardest thing to adjust to.

If you have a Ham radio friend that is not a member of our club. Please ask them to join us. We have a great club and Cap and been working very hard getting great speakers for club meeting. Thanks Cap and thanks to the speaker that have been willing to share with us. Club meeting are a great place to meet new and old friend and get your questions answered. You usually can find someone who can either answer it or get you the answer.

If you have not upgraded yet, get on it. It is worth the effort. For some of us it will take a degree of sweat but HF is really picking up and there is a lot of DX out there to be worked. Have a good summer and do not forget the meeting on the third Friday. We will continue to meet through the summer.

— 73 W6FKD

SWATCH BEATS

AWKWARD RETREAT

SPUTNIK WON'T FLY

Swatch Watch says the "Beatnik" satellite will not be sent into space today from the Russian Mir space station as planned. The watchmaker says "a virtual Beatnik" will carry the messages in cyberspace instead and invited "Beat" fans to "stay tuned and join the first cybermission!"

At the same time, both the Associated Press and Reuters are reporting that a satellite was launched by hand from Mir during a space walk by ESA astronaut Jean-Pierre Haignere, FX0STB, and Russian cosmonaut Viktor Afanasyev. If the reports are accurate, it's not clear whether the satellite launched was the planned "Beatnik" spacecraft or a spare mini-Sputnik that's been aboard Mir since 1997. Reuters said the satellite was one "built by French amateur radio enthusiasts." The report quotes Russian space center spokeswoman Vera Medvedkova as saying, "It is finished. They launched the satellite."

AP said the satellite put into space was one "made by Russian and French schoolchildren" that contained "a recording of their voices." The spare mini-Sputnik aboard Mir--a duplicate of the one launched in 1997 to mark the 40th anniversary of the original Sputnik--is believe to contain only a 2-meter beacon transmitter.

QRP to the Field cont.

Morning began with the yuppie hiker's libation, instant latte. With a quick set up of the station, we were ready to go. The contest began at 16:00 UTC (9:00 am PST) and lasted 8 hours. Contacts were made with 40 other stations in 21 states, including Hawaii, Alaska, Alberta and British Columbia. One border station was at the Four Corners, a junction of Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado. Tom operated under his own call and worked 16 stations on 40 meters. He worked several non-contest ops that were amazed at the quality of his 2-watt QRP signal and started ragchewing with him.

As evening approached, the weather changed dramatically. The coastal fog rolled in along with a 20-degree drop in temperature. Bobbie and I watched as Tom, having a nice leisurely QSO with an OM in Idaho, was engulfed in a frigid haze. Moments later the haze had engulfed us with its bone chilling cold. We quickly ate dinner and retreated to our tents for a warm evening of reading and pac-gammon.

Our morning pace was furious as we rushed in the cold damp air to pack our drenched equipment for the hike down the hill. We took our time stopping for photos and a nice lunch, but still managed to shave an hour off our uphill time. Upon arriving at my truck, it was time for my favorite task at the end of a great backpacking trip, the ceremonial removal of the boots. Then for the ride home and a nice hot shower.

— 73 de AC6KW



Jeff AC6KW

Swatch announced early April 16 on its Web site, <http://www.swatch.com/beatnik/frameset.html>, that the controversial messages the satellite was to have transmitted on the 2-meter amateur band would instead be read by a Russian cosmonaut aboard Mir during an April 22 videoconference, to be broadcast via the Internet.

The controversial messages, gathered via the Swatch Web site, related to the Swatch company's campaign to establish the "Swatch Beat" as a new "global concept of time." Swatch had solicited more than 5000 messages--including voice and text files--for possible transmission on the new satellite. Messages selected for use were supposed to include a reference to the "beat" theme.

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By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Last week, my son and wife were here for a weekend while he attended his Naval Reserve Drill period at Moffett Field. His old patrol squadron, VP-91, was decommissioned so Randal, N6UZI, was reassigned to an Aircraft Carrier Group Staff. We take his XYL, and kids up to Moffett and join them for dinner. This time we followed them up to Sacramento where we stayed for a week. You can say what you want about cellular phones, but you can't beat a pair of 2 meter rigs for communications between caravanning cars or motor homes. Using 146.52 simplex, we had a continuous chat for the entire trip. The normal 3.5 hour trip was reduced to 1 hour (it seemed!).

As I write this, Donna and I are awaiting the arrival of a man who was aboard the USS Pyro, the ship which defended our base, the ammunition depot at West Loch, on the morning of December 7th, 1941. As a young seaman, he was pressed into service as a gun pointer on one of the ship's 5" guns. He fired at enemy Japanese aircraft although he had only rudimentary training in gunnery. He was in the duty section, or skeleton crew, when the attack

began. The few sailors on board had to man all the guns on the ship, no matter how little they were trained. Messmates, stewards, cooks, and storekeepers all loaded and fired whatever guns needed them. The gunnery officer, a warrant officer, had his hands full rounding up gunners and ammunition handlers to ward off the bombers.

I received a nice letter from Gary Baker, N6ARV, down in Perris, CA. Gary said, "I miss all the old gang in Santa Cruz, but I think I will be relocating near the Railroad Museum in Solano County as it is not as expensive as Santa Cruz. (Gary is a railroad history buff as well as ham radio operator.) He said that my deceased mother's home is being rebuilt. Since her death it had fallen into disrepair but is being salvaged by Habitat For Humanity. Gary didn't say that Jimmy Carter and XYL were working on it (they volunteer for that program) — I found out later that they were in the Philippine Islands helping with home construction near Manila. Shucks, it would have been nice to say that Jimmy or Rosalynn had driven those nails in my mom's old place. A new family is happy with the rebuilt home.

I received the following email from Leon Fletcher, AA6ZG: Subject. School Project. "Hello! We are in Grade 5 at Mill Cove District School, which is about 1/2 hours west of Halifax, Nova Scotia. We have 7 girls and 10 boys in our class. We have decided to map an email project. We are curious to see where in the world our email will travel by Internet, between the period of April 9-June 7, 1999. We would like your help. if you receive this message, we ask that you: 1) email back and tell us your location so we can plot it on our world map, and 2) send our class letter on to more people. Thank you for any help you can give. Our email address is: millcove@glinx.com." (These kids are the cyberspace replacements for ham radio! — WF6P.)

A few weeks ago, my CW pal Marsha, AB7RJ, up in Yacolt, WA, gave me a call on our sked, but no joy. She tuned around the 40 meter band and heard Rick, KD6TDJ, sending out a CQ. He and Marsha exchanged pleasantries and when he gave his QTH as Santa Cruz, Marsha asked him if he knew WF6P. Yes, Rick admitted, and replied with his very good fist, sending some FB code at about 10-12 wpm. Marsha wanted to have Rick give me a land line so we could have a three-way but I was on the Internet sending email.

Sputnik cont.

But Amateur Radio operators around the world, citing international regulations, protested the plans because of their commercial connection.

Swatch pinned the blame for cancellation of its Beatnik satellite on the recent failure of the Luch 1/Gelios satellite the Mir crew uses for communication with Earth. "Swatch has decided to assist the Spaceflight Control Centre and donate the batteries supporting the Beatnik satellite to the Mir cosmonauts, thus cancelling the possibility of any radio transmission from space," Swatch said in a brief statement on its Web site.

Full-page Swatch ads in today's New York Times and Los Angeles Times to announce the change in plans expand on the battery swap explanation. According to the Times ads, cosmonauts will use the batteries to run an onboard printer "which is the lifeline to earth through which the Cosmonauts receive their daily instructions and key operations points."

The Luch-1/Gelios, the only geostationary satellite available for Mir communications, suffered a technical failure April 12. Just how the nonrechargeable batteries now in the mini-Sputnik aboard Mir would remedy the Luch-1/Gelios satellite failure was unclear from the Swatch posting.

The ARRL weighed into the Beatnik satellite controversy April 7 by suggesting to Swatch Group CEO Nicolas E. Hayek that the Swiss firm cancel the launch and use a commercial satellite for its project instead. Sumner noted that international regulations define the amateur service as one engaged in by "duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest."

Although Swatch asserted the messages were not advertising, Sumner pointed out to Hayek that the commercial nature of the arrangements to transmit the messages on amateur frequencies was contrary to international law. "I think this was a new thought to him, frankly, because this is not the way they had been viewing it," Sumner said.

It's not yet known what will become of the mini-Sputnik itself. The satellite had arrived on Mir aboard a Progress rocket April 4 and was set for launch April 16 during a space walk.



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:

KD6FXQ	147.015+	Watsonville
N6IYA	146.745-	Bonny Doon
W6FKD	146.835-	Summit

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

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

Santa Cruz ARES	Tuesday	May 11
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	May 21
Short Skip Deadline	Friday	Jun 4
Santa Cruz ARES	Tuesday	Jun 8
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Jun. 18
Field Day	Sat. / Sun.	Jun.26-27

Visit the SCCARC Website at

- www.fireclay.com/k6bj

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.

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



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

Next Meeting May 21

FIRST CLASS