

FEBRUARY 2004

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# SHORT SKIP



## Hams Helped Hazarded Hermits

by AA6ZG, Leon Fletcher

Last fall, while strolling the sands of Oregon's beautiful Cannon Beach, I wondered about how life might have been on that remote, rugged, remarkable monolith about a mile offshore--Tillamook Rock.

For 76 years, crews of four men took turns living there as lighthouse keepers. They existed much like hermits.

Visitors were extremely rare--the seas almost always too rough to transport humans via the primitive block-and-tackle delivery system. There were no landing beaches or docks. Even helicopter deliveries were almost always both dangerous and impractical. Supplies often ran out; replenishments were frequently delayed for weeks; new parts for damaged gear usually took months to arrive.

### The Lighthouse

The lighthouse on Tillamook Rick was built nearly 124 years ago. It began operating on January 21, 1881, and was decommissioned in September 1957. Its purpose: to serve as a guide to ships approaching the treacherous entry to the Columbia River, some 20 miles north--one of the most dangerous channels in the world.

The light was positioned on a 62-foot tower built on that 69 feet high rock. The beacon was amplified by a first order Fresnel lens--the largest--and could be seen up to 22 miles at sea.

### A Ham

In the early 1930s, W7DIX, Henry Jenkins, was the head lighthouse keeper. He did not take a transmitter with him to the rock--so during his spare time he built one out of stuff he had in his meager quarters. On a chunk of wood he mounted two No. 30 types he'd taken from his Atwater-Kent

receiver. He used wire from a transformer for a signal bell, wound 14 turns of it around a case from a regular NR6 "A" battery, and thereby built a tank inductance. He used the 3-gang condenser from his broadcast receiver to serve as a tuning condenser. He made series fixed condensers out of foil and wax paper that had been wrappings for bread. And he made a telegraph key from a piece of spring brass.

Even today, storms pound Tillamook Rock frequently. Winds 110 mph often tear at the light. Rocks as heavy as 150 pounds smash against the tower. Sand, seaweed, and dead fish beat against the lens of the light.

### Emergency

One of the most hazardous days of life on the rock climaxed at 6:30am, October 23, 1934, when the head lighthouse keeper had to send a message reporting desperate conditions caused by an especially destructive storm.

The message, in CW, said the rock suffered a "violent storm beginning 21st . . . extensive damage . . . keeper injured . . . main light out . . . fog signal temporarily inoperative . . . telephone cable broken."

The report was addressed to W7CXK, Henry Goetze, in Seaside, Oregon, some 20 miles north, to be relayed to lighthouse officials in Seattle. But Henry couldn't pick up the signal, so W7WR, Merrill Peoples, in Seattle, copied it and relayed it to the lighthouse commander in Portland. In the following days, several other hams also helped by handling messages arranging for assistance for the lighthouse keepers.

### Today

Now Tillamook Rock is a commercial enterprise called "Eternity at Sea"--a

## RadioFest 2004 February 28th!!

RadioFest 2004 is going to happen! It has evolved into a more casual

hamfest with positively NO commercial vendors! We will have VE exams (FREE, of course!) ham equipment swap tables, guest speakers, and technical demonstrations. The location has also changed. The event will now be held at the Monterey Moose Family Center, 500 Canyon Del Rey Blvd in Monterey (Hwy 218).

Talk-in will be provided on the K6LY repeater (146.97 - 94.8 PL)

What has NOT changed is the date (last Saturday in February, the 28th), the great deals on good used Ham equipment, the interesting speakers and demonstrations, and the great fun you will have!

Tables are FREE and available on a first come, first serve basis (limit 2) on the morning of the event. Doors will open FOR SET UP ONLY at 6 am. We will be open to the public from 8 am to 2 pm. Early birds automatically become eligible as test loads for output of kilowatt tube amps. More details as they are brought to our attention.

—73, Brian - W6FVI

---

columbarium with more than 40,000 niches to hold human ashes. Those buried there are called--like the men who used to man the lighthouse--"keepers." In the words of advertisements for the venture, the deceased deposited on the rock have "taken up residency."

And one local ham told me, "There are still a few Oregon operators around who remember working that rock."

---

**CLUB MEETING FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20, 7:30 P.M.**

---



Published 12 times per year.  
Free to members.

**Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

Post Office Box 238  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0238

Editor and Publisher  
Ron Baldwin, K6EXT  
(831) 419-1025

K6EXT@fireclay.com

Columnist: Art Lee, WF6P

Writer: Ron Skelton, W6WO

Distribution: Elaine Pennell, KE6FRA

## Member Profile WF6P



My day began with a visit to Frank K6BDK who was donating some coax for the AO-40 project and he was excited to tell me he had worked ZS on 40 meters the night before using PSK-31. He said times and technology change but the magic of communicating via radio is what our hobby is all about.

Speaking of communications my next stop was to meet Art Lee WF6P at his favorite donut-coffee shop. Art might best be described as a multi-tasking communicator. We are all familiar with his regular "Chatter" articles in Short Skip but he is also a prolific writer for a wide

variety of magazines. One such magazine called "Monitoring Times mirrors Arts very first exposure to Short Wave Listening. That first exciting demo in 1945 of a Hallicrafter S20 R tuned to a South American BC station lead to half a lifetime love of Ham Radio in the wider context.

Following a 30-year career in the US Navy during and after WWII, Art followed a long period teaching Aeronautics and Electronics at Cabrillo College. For 10 years Art ran what became known as "Art's Novice Factory" and many of his students are active members of our club today.

Art is an avid sailor and his love for the sea is expressed in his special interest in Maritime Mobile. He relates stories of danger and disaster at sea where Ham Radio played important roles. Many of Art's family are hams and Donna, Art's XYL holds an extra class license AB6XJ. Art recalls Donna helping Frankie Carrol by handling heavy traffic during our '89 earthquake. Frankie would bringstacks of incoming messages to Donna who made all the local contacts.

Insight into Art's approach to Ham Radio, and I dare say life in general, can be seen from some of his principles. Here are a few that surfaced during our conversation "Maintain self sustaining curiosity", "Can't have enough communications options" "You meet great people rag-chewing on HF", "Avoid controversy on the air, go for fun", "Silent repeaters are superfluous".

Art is quite an active user of HF and I was just a little surprised to learn that his main rig is a Kenwood 930S of 1975 vintage. Art works the world and has never used an amp so this should clearly say to newcomers that fancy and expensive radios are not a requirement. To say the least Art is a real asset to our club and a role model for all of us. Thanks Art.

—Ron W6WO

## County-wide ARES net goes live

Our first county-wide ARES voice net Wednesday evening had 27 amateur radio operators checking in. "I hope we all find it helpful, and it grows in worth as time proceeds," said Cap KE6AFE, net control. "I've already heard others suggest they'll check in next time. We'll try again next Wednesday night, 7:15 PM on the same K6BJ/KI6EH/W6WLS linked repeaters. We'll need everybody's ideas so we can try different stuff. Maybe a quick check-in repeated sequentially on a variety of repeaters to help us learn who can reach which? Plenty of possibilities."

### Other County Nets

**Monday 7:30 PM San Lorenzo Valley ARES:** W6JWS 146.745- PL 94.8 and WR6AOK, 147.120+, PL 94.8 on alternating Mondays

**Monday 8:30 PM Santa Cruz ARES:** AE6KE 146.835- PL 94.8

**Tuesday 7:15 PM Loma Prieta ARES:** AB6VS 440.550+ PL 94.8 (Loma Prieta) linked to AE6KE/Y (146.835- PL 94.8)



## Technical Insight - Ultra Wide Band

Emerging UWB technology will provide wireless personal area network connectivity at Gigabit rates using RF pulses spread over several GHz of bandwidth and hence by definition will share spectrum with primary users. One of the main sticking points in settling on a standard is how much UWB devices might interfere with other users.

IMO (I find it hard to be humble!) this

is a concern to pay more attention to in addition to the use of Power lines that rightly captures our attention today.

—W6WO

## Ctrl-Alt-Delete

The man who spent 5 minutes writing the code that would restart a computer should it fail retired from IBM after 28 years. David Bradley programmed one of the most well known key combinations around, Ctrl-Alt-Delete.



By Art Lee WF6P

## CHATTER

Our club meetings are off to a good start for 2004. We had a nice gathering with several new faces. One of those was Bosco Boscarella, W6TQP, who joined the club. His XYL, Dani, worked with me for many years at Cabrillo College. Bosco and I worked on the same type of airplanes: the F8 and F4 fighters at NAS Miramar and MCAS Yuma Arizona, in the 1960s. Bosco and Dani have been married 10 years. Congrats to you both and welcome aboard the SCCARC.

Vic Linderholm, AE6ID, our club president carried on the tradition started by Richard Trebbien, KG6AXD, last year. As we give self-introductions, we must answer a personal ham question (How I excel as a ham radio operator!" "My Best QSO, Ever!" etc.). This is fun and a good way to learn more about each other. We are limited to a 15 second "sound byte," which may be a good thing - or not. Some of our members have good senses of humor.

Every once in a while we have a unique QSO. Such was the case when on 40 meters voice the other day. Terry Parks, N6NUN, and I just signed when a station gave Terry a call. I listened for a bit as the Op told Terry he was remote from Phoenix, Arizona, and controlling from a computer in Los Gatos! He also said he was a friend of Dave Bradley, W6CUB (SK). Intrigued, I broke back in. It turns out that the Op was Brad Wyatt, K6WR, also a close friend of Jim Maxwell's, W6CF (SK). Brad was the ARRL Pacific Division Director for many years. We chatted about the disposition Jim's vast library of historical ham books. Apparently, ARRL isn't going to assume control but the California Historical Radio Society (CHRS.org) may take the collection. Brad said that the CHRS has taken over the former com-

mercial radio station KRE. KRE was one of my favorite Big-band music stations in the 1940s. This was in the "tubes-that-glowed" days as I attended high school in Hayward. Articles in the November 2001 and 2002 issues of QST explain in detail, the workings of remote operating of ham stations by computer. (Ref: Lamonica.com W4MQ).

Rick, N6GOW, editor, sent me a copy of his February newsletter. In it he includes information about the Veteran's Emergency Ham Radio station operating out of the Veteran's Memorial Building. With the many signatures gathered in a recent sidewalk petition, he was able to ward off, at least for now, the displacement of the station from its present location to the basement. All licensed hams are invited to view the station and operate HF. In addition, Rick needs some technical assistance in maintaining the equipment. If you wish to operate or help in any way with the station, Rick is there in Room 21 on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 0900 to 1100. Rick was a Torpedoman aboard destroyers in action in the south Pacific during the early and dark days of WWII. In his book, "As It Was," he describes his life and his participation in battles with the Japanese fleet. A copy of his book is available in the Santa Cruz Public Library.

## CLUB QRP PROJECT?

We have several new and young members and I suggest that it would be fun to have a group project with an emphasis on "learning through doing".

How about a fully functional transceiver costing only \$25 or a little more. I have in mind the "Rock-Mite" by Dave Benson K1SWL from Small Wonder labs. Another and even cheaper project would be the MRX-40 receiver by K8IDN, this has very low parts count and uses Direct Conversion. A more ambitious project would be the MultiPIG all band CW transceiver by W8DIZ costing in the region of \$250 and of course the Elecraft K1.

I will volunteer to act as the Coach Driver if there are any riders.

—Ron W6WO



Our first CAKE meeting at Gayles Bakery was well attended on a bright sunny day. Good coffee for \$1.50 and more goodies than are good for you.



Much of the session was focused on Freddie KG6ECE's new school project on Active Filters and Operational Amplifiers. The cross polarized Yagi for 70 cm generated a lot of interest. This is part of the antenna set-up for satellite station at N6IJ and is under construction by Jim N1IPP. Amara KF6TEJ distributed extra copies of the Naval Post Grad School research on power-line noise detection and correction. Dave W8FLL showed us the signal generator he has built from an Elecraft kit which is used for checking receiver sensitivity. Eric says they are selling like hot cakes. Because of our linear seating arrangement I missed a whole lot of other topics and



we will try to get a more compact seating plan next time. Please stay tuned for the next date and location.

## SCCARC Board - 2004

<b>President</b>	Vic Linderholm	AE6ID	476-5567
<b>Vice President</b>	Scott King	AH6KL	688-2296
<b>Secretary</b>	Cap Pennell	KE6AFE	429-1290
<b>Treasurer</b>	Elaine Pennell	KE6FRA	429-1290
<b>Board</b>	Richard Trebbien	KG6AXD	426-0169
	Chris Angelos	KG6DOZ	688-3562
	Mike Doern	KM6IKE	477-1161
	David Shoaf	KG6IRV	462-4605
	Rich Wadsworth	KF6QKI	722-7005
<b>K6BJ Trustee</b>	Royce Krilanovich	AC6Z	475-4798

## MONTEREY BAY ACTIVITY

SCCARC Repeaters: K6BJ 146.790- PL 94.8 Santa Cruz ( linked w/Watsonville full time)  
KI6EH 147.945- PL 94.8 Watsonville (linked w/Santa Cruz full time)  
K6BJ 440.925+ PL 123.0 Santa Cruz  
• SCCARC Net Monday 7:30 PM 146.79- /147.945- /440.925+ linked  
• SCCARC 10 Meter Net 28.308 MHz USB Monday 7:00 PM  
• SCARES Net Monday 8:30 PM 146.835-(PL 94.8)

SLVARC Repeater WR6AOK 147.120+ PL 94.8 Ben Lomond  
• SLVARC Net Thursday 7:30 PM

SLVARES N6IYA 146.745- PL 94.8 Felton  
• SLVRC Net Thursday 7:30 PM  
• ARES Net Monday 7:30 PM

NPSARC K6LY 146.97- PL 94.8 / 444.700+ PL 123 (linked) Monterey  
• Monterey ARES Net Wednesday 7:30 PM  
• NPSARC Net Wednesday 8:00 PM  
• Newline (Ham News) Broadcast Wednesday 8:30 PM

6 Meter Local Net 52.8 MHz (PL-114.8) Sunday 8:00 PM  
Mont. Bay Chapter 191 QCWA :Tuesday, 7:30PM, NS6G repeater, 146.700- PL 151.4

**FOR MORE INFO SEE: <http://www.k6bj.org/freq.html>**

## SCCARC Calendar of Events

SCCARC Board Meeting 6:30	Friday	FEB 20
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	FEB 20
Short Skip Deadline	Monday	MAR 8
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	MAR 19

## MONTHLY MEETINGS.

The SCCARC Meets at 7:30 PM, on the THIRD FRIDAY of the each month (except December). Meetings are at Dominican Hospital, 1555 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz.

Visit the SCCARC Website at -

**[www.k6bj.org](http://www.k6bj.org)**

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

2/16	Ron W6WO
2/23	Jeff KF6BKG
3/1	Phil KE6UWH
3/8	Tom K6TG
3/15	Allen WB6RWU
3/22	Joseph KG6NRI



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

Time to renew your club membership again. Dues for the 2004 calendar year are payable as of December 1. Regular memberships are \$25, memberships for additional family members at the same address are \$6 each, and full time students under the age of 18 can become members for \$10. This has got to be one of the best deals going, dues prices haven't increased for over 10 years! We look forward to having you as a member again in the coming year.

## First Class