

JANUARY 2004

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



RESTRUCTURING: NO-CODE COMES TO VK-LAND

Major changes to ham radio in Australia were celebrated on the air on New Years Day. Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB, listened in and tells us what he heard:

When 1 January 2004 arrived, so to did a new era for Amateur Radio operators around Australia. At one minute past midnight, amidst the fireworks across Australia, Amateur Radio short wave frequencies lit up, too, as they celebrated the removal of a requirement for Morse Code qualification by getting on air in unprecedented numbers.

A quick scan through the 80 meter band during the first hour of the QSO party showed that there was standing room only with stations of all license levels participating eagerly in the party with some limited and novice limited stations handling high amounts of static and nearby station noise with considerable skill.

All states and territories activated special radio stations for the event. There were plenty of Wireless Institute of Australia stations on the air to help with the bonus contacts with VK5WI, VK6WIA, VK2WI, VK4WIG, VK4WIA and VK4WIT heard during the quick scan around 80 meters.

In the act, the Wireless Institute of Australia's club station VK1WI was activated from the home of their President, Alan Hawes. Way up north long time WIA supporter John Stevens took to the airwaves from the Townsville region.

As the morning wore on the stations operating were fewer but still at a level that veteran operators say rival the heydays of HF operating when Novice licensees were first able to access the HF bands.

From Q-News Australia, Amateur Radio Newline.

ISS COMMANDER GETS ON THE AIR WITH NEW HAM GEAR

Astronaut Mike Foale, KB5UAC, fired up the new Phase 2 Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) equipment December 21 to make a number of 2-meter contacts with amateurs around the world. The Expedition 8 commander completed QSOs with amateurs in Australia, Europe and North America from 1100 to approximately 1700 UTC.

"I heard him at approximately 1100 UTC and also on the next pass." commented Ib Christofferson, OZ1MY, on the SAREX reflector. "He had a large pileup."

A new Kenwood TM-D700E VHF-UHF dual-band transceiver was installed late last fall in the ISS Zvezda Service Module--the crew's living quarters. ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said official permission to use the new gear came December 17. The RSOISS packet system also is back in operation.

"This equipment, including antennas, radios, hardware and software were developed and provided by a diverse set of team members located around the world," Bauer said in a year-end statement. "This was quite a challenge to make happen."

Activation of the new gear means a power boost from 5 W to 25 W for the NA1SS downlink signal. It also means the ISS now has two functional ham stations. Additional Phase 2 equipment--which could go into space this month--is to include a slow-scan television (SSTV) system and a Yaesu FT-100 HF/VHF/UHF transceiver.

"I was able to hear him from as far out as 1200 miles," reported Arthur Rowe, N1ORC, of Lawrence, Massachusetts. "I guess that the new output power was helping."

RENEWAL TIME

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.

We hope to try an experiment to help us reduce postal costs in 2004.

Shortskip is available on the internet at <http://www.k6bj.org> if you can easily download and print an Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) file.

If you wish to continue receiving your printed copy of Shortskip in the postal mail, please "opt-in" by notifying the club secretary Cap KE6AFE before April 1, 2004 that you'd like to continue receiving your issue in the postal mail. Those who do not "opt-in" will no longer receive Shortskip in the mail beginning with the April 2004 issue.

Last issue you were sent a renewal card and a return envelope. If you haven't done so, please fill out the card and enclose your check. Check the box to "opt-in," if you want to receive a copy of Short Skip via the Postal Service.

Foale's operation was part of a special event to honor SAREX/ARISS Working Group Chairman Roy Neal, K6DUE, who died last August. Stations contacting or monitoring the ISS on voice (NA1SS) or packet (RSOISS) through the end of 2003 are eligible for special event certificates. See "K6DUE ISS Commemorative Event Certificates" on the ARISS Web site <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>> for details.

ARISS is an international educational outreach program with participation by ARRL, NASA and AMSAT.

—ARRL Newsletter

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY JANUARY 16, 7:30 P.M.



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CENTRAL CALIFORNIA HAMS RESPOND TO EARTHQUAKE

Amateur Radio operators aided the American Red Cross after a magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck California's Central Coast region Monday, December 22. Amateurs in San Luis Obispo County provided radio links between shelters and the Red Cross San Luis Obispo Chapter office. Santa Barbara Section Manager Robert Griffin, K6YR, said the San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services requested the assistance of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) teams. Griffin said San Luis Obispo ARES/RACES operators helped staff the county emergency operations center and backed-up communication for the Red Cross after cell phone service proved unreliable.

"About 24 operators were involved," Griffin said. "By 10 PM Monday night, the primary American Red Cross communication resources were again reliable, and the ARES net secured." Griffin says a few operators continued communications support at the EOC.

Griffin said the American Red Cross quickly established three shelters for quake victims--one in hard-hit Paso Robles, another in Morro Bay and a third in the southern part of the county. Hams staffed shelters to maintain contact with the Red Cross chapter office. Two people died in Paso Robles, some 25 miles from the epicenter.

—ARRL Newsletter

Member Profile: N6IPP



Jim Koger is an old hand at Ham Radio and was first licensed in 1968 with a W7 call. Like many of us his interest stemmed from science classes at High School and the radio club at Washington State. His first "treasure" was a receiver built from a Lafayette Radio kit. After leaving college in 1974 Jim then moved on to aircraft avionics and business machines and a Volvo repair shop among other things. Much of his career was spent in the field of ultrasonics used in medical procedures and has a dozen US patents for his work. Jim likes antique electronics including a couple of rare gramophone loud-speakers, an HRO junior that predates WWII and about 3500 vacuum tubes some of which date back to the 1920s. I asked Jim how he became a member of SCCARC and it was the result of seeing Bruce's (AC6DN) truck—I knew those antennas were good for something, HI HI. Jim has become a key figure in the restoration of the N6IJ generator and speaks highly of a magic lubricant called AeroKroil.

Jim's rather quiet demeanor obscures his keen interest, energy and ideas. He would like to see a simulated emergency drill performed by a combination of MBARA and SCCARC members. This would demonstrate of the value of Ham Radio to local officials with special emphasis on the value of the N6IJ site and stand-alone power supplies.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: RADIO BRINGS FASTER FAST FOOD

On the emerging technology front, fast food has gotten even faster in southern California thanks to the magic of radio. This as five McDonald's restaurants sign a deal with a communications company to allow motorists to zip through the drive-through line without having to stop and pay cash for their food.

The trick is utilizing the same technology that permits motorists to skip stops

on toll roads. A transponder will emit a signal to a receiver at the food giant that will automatically calculate the food fee. The motorist is then billed. The process is said to cut 15 seconds off the normal 131 second-wait for delivery at the payment window. (Technology Corner)

—Amateur Radio Newsline

AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES PULL PLUG ON BPL PILOT PROJECT

The Austrian Amateur Transmitter Federation (ÖVSV--Österreichischer Versuchssenderverband) <<http://www.oevsv.at/index.shtml>> reports that a Broadband over Power Line (BPL) field test in the city of Linz has been cut short as a result of excessive radio interference. ÖVSV, Austria's International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) <<http://www.iaru.org>> member-society, said in December that the Government Ministry for Commerce, Innovation and Technology closed down Linz Power Company's BPL pilot project because it was generating interference on the HF bands. Shortwave broadcaster Radio Austria's futureZone service <<http://futurezone.orf.at>> says the case that brought the issue to a head was a Red Cross report that emergency services radio traffic during a disaster response drill last May was the victim of massive BPL interference.

"The Commerce Ministry Order not only means the end of the Linz BPL pilot project," the Radio Austria report said, "but the end of the deployment of this technology in Austria, especially given the interference to radio communication in places of business." According to the broadcaster, measurements were said to have indicated that radiation from the BPL system exceeded permissible field strength levels by a factor of 10,000.

ÖVSV says radio amateurs in Austria have opposed deployment of all BPL experiments as neither legal nor compatible with "vital, worldwide shortwave radio-communication." Among other problems with BPL, ÖVSV has cited its potential to disrupt emergency communications and safety-of-life services as well as military operations on HF and navigation and aeronautical communication.

Last fall, ÖVSV representatives and Linz amateurs got together with power company representatives in an effort to resolve BPL's incompatibility with HF radio operation. The meetings followed news reports of interference to emergency service communications and QRM complaints from several area hams. "Because



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Our club Christmas party was great and we had a large turnout. The price was right and the food and service excellent at Marie Callender's restaurant. Club members who put it together deserve a big pat on the back. Our new club officers were installed so 2004 is off to a good start. Oh, the Grand prize, an HT, was won by a guy who really needs another HT, Jeff Liebermann, AE6KS. Atta way to go, Jeff!

Foreign broadcasts are really clobbering the 40 meter band in the mornings. They are loud and clear and override the Baja Maritime Mobile Net on 7.238 (now on 7.233) as well as others. Couple that with the decreasing sunspot cycle and you have poor conditions most of the time. I was working a New Mexico station last night and in the middle of our QSO, he faded out on me completely. He was sending nice code, too. I guess we are about one third of the way down from the peak and headed for worse conditions.

With all the rain and swollen creeks and rivers in Santa Cruz a week or two ago, it was a wonder that we didn't lose power or have mountain-living people cut off and stranded. This seems to happen on a near annual basis. Zayante is always vulnerable and Boulder Creek as well. One of my Bonny Doon friends carried a chain saw in the trunk of her car so she

could get home at night in the advent of a tree across the road. My folks used to live on Love Creek Road in Ben Lomond. Many times they too were stopped by a fallen tree. On several occasions they lugged their groceries up to the cabin from their then- new 1949 Hudson sedan. Fortunately, they lived only a mile from the Ben Lomond market. During the winter they were always worried about mud slides and falling trees; during the summers they were afraid of forest fires. Fifty years later, the house is still as good as new. I wasn't a ham in 1950, but they had plenty of room for antennas on their four acres. I did, however, enjoy being a Short Wave Listener (SWL) on my Hallicrafters S 20 R receiver. A 50 foot long wire brought in an ample amount of foreign broadcast stations.

Stopping me from getting my ham ticket in 1944 was the requirement for cw speed up to about 10-13 wpm. Code tapes, tape recorders or on-the-air code practice sessions from W1AW were not readily available to students in Radio Shop classes at Hayward High School. Forty years later, I worked my old shop teacher, Clarence W. Nelson (cw Nelson!) on 80 meters voice. He claimed to remember me, but a lot of students passed through his class since those WWII days. Mr. Nelson was also my Sunday school teacher, so he had me every day during the week and twice on Sunday. It was a proud moment for me when he presented me with a lapel pin for a year of perfect attendance at church. What a nice fellow he was - but a strict teacher. He became an SK in the late 1980s. He did recommend me to the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company for a job. They started me out as a sweeper. I was advancing up the ranks to becoming a dial phone installer when I left for the Navy.

of the racket, expensive installations, such as a 20-meter monobander on a high-rise building, become totally worthless," ÖVSV said.

The utility agreed to look into the possibility of a 100-meter protective zone around each amateur's location, notch filters for amateur frequencies, network system filters and the use of 5 GHz wireless local area networks.

—ARRL Newsletter

Planning for Field Day??



SCCARC Board - 2004

President	Vic Linderholm	AE6ID	476-5567
Vice President	Scott King	AH6KL	688-2296
Secretary	Cap Pennell	KE6AFE	429-1290
Treasurer	Elaine Pennell	KE6FRA	429-1290
Board	Richard Trebbien	KG6AXD	426-0169
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	Mike Doern	KM6IKE	477-1161
	David Shoaf	KG6IRV	462-4605
	Rich Wadsworth	KF6QKI	722-7005
K6BJ Trustee	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	JAN 16
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	JAN 16
Short Skip Deadline (Feb.)	Monday	FEB 9
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	FEB 20

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

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

1/19	Phil KE6UWH
1/26	Tom K6TG
2/2	Allen WB6RWU
2/9	Joseph KG6NRI
2/16	Ron W6WO



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

MEETING FRIDAY JANUARY 16, 7:30PM

The meeting on January 16th will be our first club meeting for 2004 and that event will happen at the Dominican Hosp., Conference Rooms 1,2,and 3 in the basement. This January meeting will be directed by your new president and vice president, Vic AE6ID and Scott AH6KL.

See the "NEW" ARES WEB PAGE at:
<http://www.k6bj.org/ares/ares.html>

First Class