

JUNE 2004

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



SCCARC Field Day June 26-27



SCCARC Field Day Site, CYA Camp, Empire Grade

The Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club will once again participate in A.R.R.L. Field Day at the old CDF "tree farm", which is next to the CYA camp on Empire Grade in Bonny Doon. Field Day is from 11:00 a.m. June 26 to 11:00 a.m. June 27, but some folks will show up on Friday to set up. We will have access to the site after 11:00 a.m. on Friday (please don't go on the property before that). Field Day is an emergency preparedness exercise, demonstrating our ability to operate our radios effectively in the field, using emergency power and temporary antennas. For newcomers to the hobby, it's a great way to try new modes and different types of equipment. If the requisite volunteers step forward, there will be a partially club-sponsored BBQ Saturday evening; if not, there will be an equally pleasant pot-luck. Either way, good fun is predicted. Help is needed for set up Friday (late afternoon) and Saturday morning, and tear down

Sunday after 11:00. Items typically needed are extension cords, coax and "barrel connectors", and outlet strips. If you bring an item to loan, and hope to see it again, mark it with your name or call. I hope to see many of you there, if even for a short visit. For questions or more info, contact kg6ao@k6bj.org or k6ep@k6bj.org.

—73, Tom, KG6AO



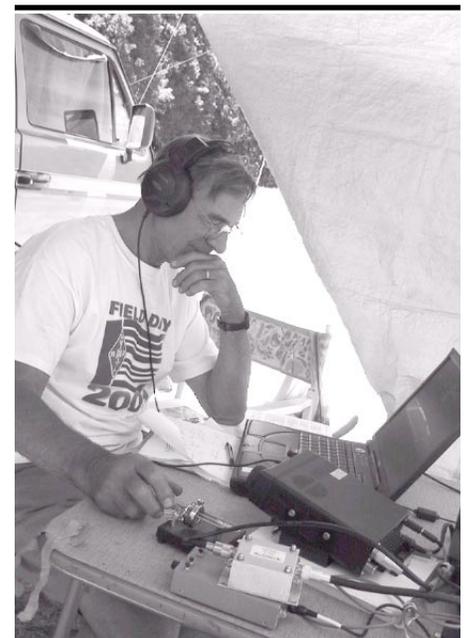
VHF / UHF Station FD2001

Strawberry Fields Bike Ride

Greetings, all! Sitting here at home relaxing after the successful completion of another Strawberry Fields Bike Ride. I've been asked by the organizers to thank & acknowledge all who helped make it a success, and, of course, I also extend my thanks and appreciation to all who participated for volunteering their time and energy and for being flexible enough to be fluid in a changing situation. Here goes!

Thanks to Ray, KE6NHG; Steve, KB6GNG; Dan, N6RJX; Ric, KD6TDJ; Cap, N6MED; Cap, KE6AFE; Tom, KQ6DV; Bobbie, KF6AYH; Allan, WB6RWU; Steve, N6TGM,, and Kasie, KG6TCW. Once again, thanks to all of you for your time and your skills!

—Phil, KE6UWH
EC, SCARES



Ron, W6WO on CW at Field Day 2001

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



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CAKE SESSIONS

May 22 at GiGi's coffee house in Santa Cruz. Attending were, Jim N1IPP, Dave W8FLL, Bruce AC6DN, Dave K6IRW, Ron K6EXT, Bob K6XX, Jeff AE6KS

The main topic of the meeting was antenna tuners. W8FLL brought his SGC tuner which will be used in the vertical he is constructing. K6EXT brought an old tuner for examination as to its power capacity. There was also discussion of K6IRW's new house with its unusual roofing material and the relation to his built in antenna/ground system. Other topics were the use of Deoxit and other contact preparations. The examination of W8FLL's tuner led to discussion of the need for conformal coatings for circuit boards exposed to the weather. The conformal coating discussion was rife with tales of green goo and damage to amplifiers and problems with getting out. There was discussion of old tube stereo amplifiers and how close you need to be for a good WiFi connection. K6XX talked about his tower guy wire problem and what he had done. The biologic activity of alternating current was discussed. At what frequency and current is damage done to the human body. At what frequency and current is nervous system activity cut off? And lastly, there was N1IPP's sad tale of a totally disastrous double blind pizza date while at college.

June 5th at GiGi's coffee house in Santa Cruz. Attending were, Jim N1 IPP, Jeff AE6KS, Bruce AC6DN, Jason KE6IEL, Cap AE6AFE, Dave W8FLL and JV K6HJU.

There was no main topic of discussion but there was a very interesting discussion of the charging, restoration and rebuilding of

QRP, Ham Radio and Computers

Are you tired of small knobs and buttons? Wish you had more memory slots? Do you want easy-to-use scanning? Do you miss the old log tuning scale or want to change the control face, color scheme and button types of your radio with just a few clicks of a mouse? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you definitely need to try the feature pack software package from Simon Brown, HB9DRV, called Ham Radio Deluxe.

This software package started out as a rig control program for the Yaesu FT-817, but what has evolved is the Swiss army knife of operator-computer-radio interfaces. The program now supports many rigs from Elecraft, Icom, Kenwood, Ten-Tec and Yaesu. Features include the typical rig interface duties of controlling radio frequency, filter selection, simulated S meter and memory storage. But Simon has gone way beyond simple rig control and user-defined screens. Among the many features he has added are voice annunciation of frequency and mode, DX Cluster monitoring, PSK31 operation and even his multi-featured Mapper program. Many new features are being added almost weekly. By the way, the software is free!

Two additional notable rig control programs are available. Carl Moreschi, N4PY, produces a Ten-Tec Argonaut V, Pegasus and Jupiter control program that also now includes Elecraft K2 and Kenwood support. Carl also produces an excellent control program for the Ten-Tec Orion and an Icom control program. FT-Manager by Laurent Labourie, F6DEX, started life as a Yaesu control program, but it also has been expanded to cover some Ten-Tec and Kenwood models.

What if you want to use rig interface software, but your rig does not have built-in interface capability? David McClafferty, VE1ADH, has a project you can build to "Interface Almost Any Radio to Your Logging Computer."

From ARRL Newsletter, www.arrl.org, "Software for QRP" by K8ZT

lead acid batteries with the ever informative AE6KS telling how even hopeless batteries may be restored. W8FLL continued his narrative of the vertical antenna he is constructing and open wire feedlines including the use of Romex house wiring for feedline. There was discussion of solar power supplies which led to the battery discussion. Also discussed were wireless microphone technology and internal combustion generating sets.

Les Moxon G6XN SK

I was sad to learn of the passing of Les Moxon G6XN who was one of the towering (no pun intended) voices on the subject of antennas. He combined good science with real practical designs like none other I can think of. A couple of years ago Dave K06RS and I adapted an HF Moxon beam as a twin bander for 2 meters and 70 cm. We received a very nice note of approval from Les which I will keep in a special place.

— 73, Ron W6WO

TEL-PAC NODE

I have set up a Tel-Pac node at my location in Corralitos. For more information checkout www.winlink.org/Client.htm or connect to k6dlw-3 on 145.07 and send H for help. Basically it is an e-mail gateway between packet and the internet. While it accepts keyboard connections it is mainly setup to send/receive messages in a BBS style automatic operation. You can use Airmail or Paclink to compose message traffic offline then connect to the node to automatically send it. The nodes primary purpose is for use during an ARES or RACES situation and by mobile Winlink users, not day to day message traffic. It is not a BBS and contains no bulletins. The web site has information about how it can be used by ARES and other users. Any questions let me know or checkout the web site.

—73, Dave K6DLW

I believe this is in line with the future (and now the present) of amateur radio emergency communications. The ability to use amateur radio to provide email access for the served agency over "the last mile" during a local "internet failure" is going to be considered very valuable during future emergencies. I can foresee completed ARRL NTS Radiogram formal message traffic forms being scanned and then attached to amateur radio email as binary image file attachments.

—Cap KE6AFE

Santa Cruz County-wide ARES Meeting - June 24

Santa Cruz County-wide ARES Meetings will now be held at 7:30 PM on the fourth Thursday of each even-numbered Month in 2004 -- February, April, June, August, October, and December -- focusing on plans and procedures. They will be held at the Santa Cruz County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2960 Soquel Avenue, (831) 462-2881

On Being Numerically Challenged

To better gauge the world around him early man invented numbering schemes that went well beyond his 10 digits. Even now I have difficulty in grasping the significance of very small and very large numbers. A million dollars I can equate to the price of two modest homes in Capitola, a Billion dollars on the other hand is getting harder to adjust to. Consider the initial \$87 Billion (\$1B = 1 thousand million dollars) appropriation for the war in Iraq. What's few \$B here or there so let's call it \$90B which is ninety thousand million— now my Capitola house-price yardstick doesn't help much. The burn rate of \$5B per month however comes out to about \$112,000 per minute and once again I can comprehend the magnitude of the numbers. I don't dare to think of a Trillion dollars. What's this to do with ham Radio do I hear you cry— a fair enough question.

At the dawn of wireless communications anything above about 30 MHz was considered unusable or more accurately noncommercial and it was amateurs with free reign who pioneered these hard-to-use frequencies. Today amateurs can use any frequency above 300 Gigahertz (GHz) which is 300 thousand million Hz and like the \$B metric I am having a hard time relating to something this big. No technology that I know of is available to amateurs at this frequency and even if technology existed its use would face an extreme barrier due to absorption in the atmosphere.

Why then should we care? According to an article in the May/June issue of QEX the preliminary agenda for the ITU 2010 conference includes consideration of frequency allocations up to 3,000 GHz. 1,000 GHz by the way is 1 Terahertz (THz). In keeping with our pioneering spirit the ARRL is seeking input on amateur spectrum requirements and allocations in this region in preparation for the conference.



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Our May meeting was rather impromptu as we had no speaker scheduled. Our attendance was low, about 18 members, but this was attributed to the approach of summertime where folks begin their vacations. We improvised by way of introductions and answering the question, "What can we do to improve our club?" Answers varied from, "Do away with computers" (mine), to "Have interesting speakers." Well, we did just that. President Vic, AE6ID, showed an interesting 15 minute video of Coast Guard communications procedures for San Francisco Bay. This was followed by a lecture by Dave, W8FLL. He described the construction details of his 40 foot vertical antenna. His presentations are humorous, whether he intends that or not, and sprinkled with little asides that make it interesting. It was a learning experience for many of us as Dave discussed his solving of the many problems he encountered. His ground

Even more intriguing are discrete bands like 25THz where atmospheric absorption is low and similarly frequencies close to 1,000 THz, which is 1 Petahertz (PHz). One Petahertz is 10 to the 15th power Hertz. That's a thousand, million, MHz folks! What kind of technologies can be foreseen for this region is a mystery to me but no doubt they will come and evidently we already have the means to assess their mindboggling (Ref1) communications and bandwidth potential.

If you are also boggled by small numbers please send your examples of small numbers for publication in Short Skip.

Ref1 Mindboggling: A useful but non-technical term meaning to be overcome by astonishment or overwhelming intensity.

—W6W0

radial layout consisted of rolls of Reynolds Wrap sandwiched between a covering of plastic netting. These radials were held in place with 10" spikes into the earth. An interesting approach.

Our Short Skip editor, Ron, K6EXT, and I chatted about... well, what else? Short Skip. He has been the editor for a decade. He was not seeking, but he sure deserves a pat on the back for his fine work. We were both happy to see material submitted by Leon Fletcher, AA6ZG, and Ron, W6W0. Of course, submissions from any club member or interested hams are always welcome.

I played tennis last week with Rich Hanset's neighbor, Don Schwartz, who said that KI6EH is out on the briny deep enjoying his new 50 foot boat. Don says that Rich has every kind of antenna aboard, including gyro-mounted dishes for his TV. Rich and Lee are en route to Canadian waters, maybe even Alaska. I haven't worked Rich on any of the Maritime Mobile nets yet.

Last week I attended a noon meeting of the Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz at the downtown library. At first I thought I was in a ham club meeting. The Society president, Wayne Thalls, KB6KN, led the proceedings. I sat with Hank Bond, KG6EE, and Board member Larry Edler, WB6MVK. Don Moore, W6IBM, has also attended in the past. We learned how to preserve old photos and historical documents. It ain't easy. Keep treasured pics away from heat, cold, sunlight and low or high humidity. For anyone interested in Genealogy, contact Wayne on the K6BJ reflector for meeting times.

Where are they now? I had a quick eyeball QSO with longtime friend and club member Sid Clarke, N6UIV. Sid was in a wheel chair and leaving the ophthalmologist's office. His XYL, Dorothy, was doing the pushing.

With the writers: Leon Fletcher, AA6ZG, will have an article appearing in an upcoming edition of Monitoring Times. The June issue of The Writer magazine carries my "Double-duty Vacations" article about writing while on vacation. Wayne Thalls, KB6KN, has been the editor and publisher of the Santa Cruz County Genealogy Newsletter for the past few years.

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
	Chris Angelos	KG6DOZ	688-3562
	Mike Doern	KM6IKE	477-1161
	David Shoaf	KG6IRW	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)
 K16EH 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

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

LPRC Repeater WR6ABD 146.640-(PL 162.2)
 • LPRC Net Tuesday 8:00 PM

NPSARC Repeater K6LY 146.97- PL 94.8 Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey
 • NPSARC Net Wednesday at 8 PM on K6LY/R

6 Meter Local Net 52.8 MHz (PL-114.8) Sunday 8:00 PM
 ARES Nets • SC ARES Tuesday 7:15 PM K6BJ 146.790-(PL 94.8)
 • SLV ARES Tuesday 7:00 PM W6JWS 146.745-(PL 94.8) & WR6AOK 147.120+(PL 94.8) on alternate Tuesdays
 • South County ARES Tuesday 7:15 PM K6RMW 147.00+ (PL 94.8)
 • LP ARES Tuesday 7:15 PM AE6KE 146.385- (PL 98.4) & AB6VS 440550+ (PL 94.8) linked
 • SC County ARES Tuesday 7:30 PM 146.79-/ 147.945-/ 440.925+/
 147.180+ (all PL 94.8) (linked)
 • Monterey ARES Net Wednesday 7:30 PM K6LY 146.970- (PL 94.9)

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

SCCARC Calendar of Events

SCCARC Board Meeting 6:30	Friday	June 18
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	June 18
ARES at Red Cross 7:30	Thursday	June 24
Field Day	Sat-Sun	June 26-27
Short Skip Deadline	Monday	July 5
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	July 16

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.

SCCARC Website at - www.k6bj.org

CLUB E-MAIL: yourcall@k6bj.org

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

6/14 Joseph KG6NRI
 6/21 Ron W6WO
 6/28 Tom K6TG
 7/5 Phil KE6UWH
 7/12 Tom K6TG
 7/19 Allen WB6RWU



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

SCCARC Meeting: June 18, 7:30PM



L to R, Hank KG6EE, Ralph W6ENE, Dave W8FLL, Del KD6KXD, Mendell<nocall>, Larry WB6MVK, Warren WA6EWT. Photo by Myron K6RRU

First Class