

APRIL 2007

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



ARE HAMS OBSOLETE?

The following article appeared in the September 1992 issue of Worldradio. Everything I discussed then still applies. It is even a greater concern today. To update the article merely substitute Vonage, Skype, or Digital Voice for the word cellular. Keep in mind that the next disaster will mean vast numbers of residences, businesses, and government agencies will be at the mercy of the power grid. All cordless phones will be useless when the power fails even if the telephone network is intact. Certainly much of the cell phone network will be paralyzed by power outages. The Internet and Internet based telephones will not work without AC power. Neither will Comcast's digital phone net.

The number of folks with POTS is shrinking. Just think of the additional communications burden which will result from the fact that all those telephone users will be cut off. I am also talking about hams.

One of those old technical terms applies. KISS should still be the number one criteria for emergency planning.

ARE HAMS OBSOLETE?

Wayne Thalls, KB6KN

I'm sure you too have heard the observation that with the proliferation of cellular telephones, particularly portable units, hams will be needed during future disasters. Don't you believe it! The telephone network is subject to disruption, and cellular phones are part of that system. They can't work without the wired network. In a large disaster the telephone companies place surviving resources under controlled access. Not everyone with a cellular, or other telephone, is able to place or receive calls. The 1989 Loma

Prieta Earthquake was centered in Santa Cruz County, California. Devastation was wide-spread throughout the area, and resources were overloaded to the breaking point. Amateur Radio played a key role, beginning within minutes of the trembler. Twenty-four hours later portable telephone sets had been brought in by generous cellular service companies. Here is what happened. After a few hours, many units became unusable when their batteries ran down--provisions were not made for recharging or replacing batteries. Many sites were still without power and chargers couldn't be used, even if available. (Unfortunately, the same thing happened to many hams.) Stricken remote rural areas didn't have access to the cellular network. Disaster sites are not determined by a market viability study. Organization discipline suffered when those with access to a telephone could talk to anyone. Confusion, conflicts, and mistakes resulted, because decisions were not being coordinated through the responsible operational managers. In any disaster it is vital that all efforts be controlled through defined channels. In Santa Cruz County the RACES/ARES organization is an integral part of the County Office of Emergency Services and the American Red Cross. These agencies are legally mandated with disaster relief responsibility. Communications, and essential resource to these groups, is not an independent activity. There is a role for cellular phones, as they are potentially useful adjunct to other systems. They should, however be viewed as telephones not two-way radios. Amateur Radio is still a vital resource for disaster relief. So keep your batteries charged--you will be needed next time too!

New Ham-Old Radio



The club has a special welcome for Don Taylor KI6HST. Don is the son of Dave Taylor K6GHA now SK. At the recent CAKE meeting Don brought an old Kenwood TR 7930 radio of his Dads that had some problems. With the help of Reed N1WC the problems have been corrected. Don helped adjust the microwave link to BJ and provided Larry WB6MVK with the user manual for that Kenwood radio. Don also presented a TEE shirt to Dave KO6RS with the famous Maxwell formulas on it.

ATTABOYS for cooperation all round.

Field Day R U Ready



CLUB MEETING FRIDAY APRIL 20, 7:30 P.M.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK part II

Well, three plus years have come and gone since the **W6WLS 147.180 VHF** repeater was put on the air, and, to this fine day it still is, thanks to help, from many.

I remember so well how it all came about and what help was needed. I swore I would not do this again, in fact what I said was "I will most likely never build one of these things again! My head hurts" (see October 2003 Short Skip, front page)

Well, my head got all better and I indeed built another repeater, not nearly as big or powerful as the first, but another none the less. It is the **W6WLS 444.000 UHF** repeater. Its located in Scotts Valley off of Scotts Valley Dr. to the North end. It covers all of Scotts Valley city limits, and not much more.

OK, so what is it all about,

The north area of Scotts Valley, (namely my home) is somewhat shadowed from the W6WLS 147.180 machine, I and a few others were not having any good signal to the main system.

Now there is!!!! **444.000 (+) PI-94.8**

This is linked to the W6WLS 147.180 full time, and can even be linked to other machines like K6BJ or WR6AOK.



And speaking of links, it has come to my attention that some folks haven't heard what all has transpired during the three years, and there has been plenty.

For starters, "The Boss of The Bay" W6WLS VHF/UHF, has joined forces to master the air waves of the Monterey Bay Area with "The Big Dogs" "W6MOW" UHF 1 and 2. (sounds like a top 40 radio station promo from the 1970's doesn't it ??)

Hear is what there is::

W6MOW-1 located in the Monterey area on

K6BJ Email Reflector Protocols

Because there has been controversy about what is and what is not appropriate email for posting on the K6BJ email list, often called the club email reflector, the SCCARC Board has adopted by majority vote the policy shown below that was drafted by Ron, W6WO, one of our Board members. Remember it is up to everyone use there own discretion in deciding what emails to send via the email reflector. We should all try not discourage anyone sending emails or remaining a recipient of emails sent via the club reflector.

Thank you.

—Chris, KG6DOZ, SCCARC President

Background

Occasionally the Board hears concerns about the content and amount of messages delivered to members via the K6BJ group email service. Kamal KA6MAL provides this amenity for all amateurs but expects the SCCARC community to determine what uses are, and are not, acceptable. Your Board of Directors is expected to facilitate exchange of information and to make necessary rules and regulations. The Board, with the intent of improving the way our valuable group email facility benefits users, has approved the following guidelines.

Etiquette

This means being considerate and respectful of other users. For example a topic initially transmitted (one-to-many) to the email reflector may find the volume of its reply messages growing substantially. In consideration of others, the topic originator can transition further discussion from the whole club email reflector list to a subset of those most interested. To assist users in filtering uninteresting topics, considerate originators and participants will clearly describe their message content in the subject line of each message.

Content

Guidelines for acceptable content are the same as over the airwaves on our ham bands ie, any subject that meets FCC restrictions. Though the email reflector's intended focus is our Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club community, content is not limited to any notion of what is, or is not, "Ham Radio". Occasional offers of products and services likely to be of interest to members are permitted. Sensitive subjects such as sex, religion, race, and politics are best avoided on the email reflector. Tolerant users accept that some topics will hold little or no interest for them. Profane language and flaming are not appropriate on the club email reflector at any time.

Mt. Toro **443.600 (+) pi-110.9**

W6MOW-2 located in the Santa Cruz Mountains above Ben Lomond **441.900 (+)**

pi-123

W6MOW-3 located in the Santa Cruz Mountains above Ben Lomond **927.925 (-)**

pi-123

W6WLS-1 located in the Santa Cruz Mountains above Ben Lomond **147.180 (+)**

pi-94.8

W6WLS-2 located in the North End of



Scotts Valley in Scotts Valley **440.000 (+)**
pi-94.8

All these work together to give the user the best option to be heard no matter where you are in the entire Monterey Bay Area, all in all, the system has proven to be very useful during events in our towns or around the bay, 24/7.

Give these a try and any questions call or write W6WLS@aol.com



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

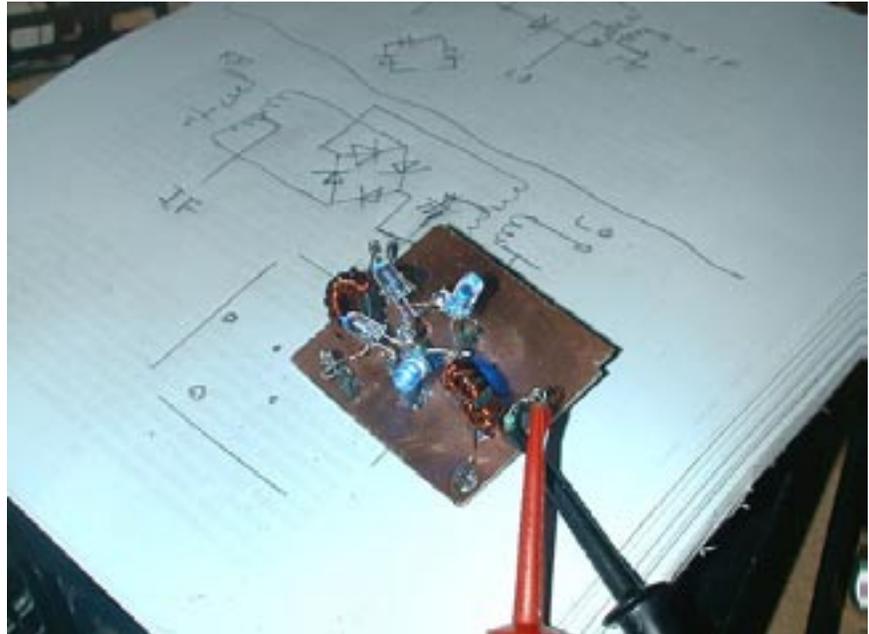
Donna, AB6XJ, and I just returned from being sworn in as Emergency Communicators. The ceremony took place in the County Communications Center after a relaxing time meeting and chatting with fellow ham communicators. About a dozen of us had our photos taken, then lined up against one wall for the actual swearing in. "Twas" exciting, sorta like when I enlisted in the Navy in San Francisco and obligated myself for six years. Cap, KE6AFE, met all of us in the parking lot and escorted us to the Comm Center. Although I had been there before (we used to give our Volunteer Exams in a conference room), this was the first time I had a short tour of the premises. While in the ham operators' room, I had a nice VHF QSO with Jim, N6MED. The room was well laid out and should be comfortable during a disaster.

Talked to Bob Boscarelli, W6TQP, about his adventures hunting (and finding) dinosaur bones in Wyoming. I remembered that while he was in the U.S. Marine Corps, he worked on the same aircraft I did -- the Chance-Vaught F8U Crusader and F4B Phantom fighters. Bob was an electronics technician.

Oh, and a big thanks to Cap for his work in setting this up.

I was saddened by the news that Royce Krilanovich, AC6Z, is a SK. Years ago, Royce played the bass fiddle in my little band "all hams". Norm Peterson, N6DAC, (SK) on piano, me on organ, Don McCalsion, ex-ham, on sax and once, Sal Basile, N6WSR, on trombone. After I put up my beam, Royce, who taught Construction Technology at Cabrillo, advised me to strengthen my tower support by extending 2"x8" struts into my attic. When I was working on my Extra class license, Royce would get on the air, nightly, sending CW. As my speed grew closer to 20 wpm, I urged him to increase his sending speed. I

Strange Lights in Capitola



Strange Lights seen in Capitola. During the recent visit by David WN5Y from TEXAS he told me about a mixer he was using that employed blue LEDs instead of normal diodes. David referred me to the US Patent 6,111,452 that defines one of their advantages as producing very low IMD products. So we nipped down to Radio Shack and bought their entire stock and set up a test on my bench. Well it turns out that the amount of LO power required increases

with frequency and was beyond what I have from any of my generators until the frequency was reduced to 1 MHz. We could then see the sideband and harmonic products on a SA. They were not too impressive and the conversion loss was about 10dB. We ran out of time and were unable to conduct any two-tone tests. So bottom line is we had nothing more than a fun afternoon but then if your not having fun with ham radio what are you doing ?

—Ron W6WO

can't, he said, "I'm using a computer and I can't type that fast."

I received a card from Ron, KD6BD, and Miggles, N6FAC. They are moving to Sequim, WA. It is nice country up there. I have their new address if anyone wants to contact them. Rich Hanset, KI6EH, and XYL Lee, KC6BML, have moved to Discovery Bay. Their new QTH is equipped with a dock for their cruiser, "Seaweed."

Roy Brayshaw, KF6KVD, called me for information about renewing his license over the internet. He had to follow the not-too-easy instructions to change his address, obtain his FSN number, provide a password, then renew. I'm sure he was successful. It's amazing to think how quickly ten years can go by when you are having fun.

Honorary Life Memberships

The Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club has awarded honorary life memberships in the Club to two individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Club: Ron Baldwin, K6EXT, for consistently maintaining the highest standards in producing Short Skip and helping to maintain the Club's web site over many years, and Kamal Mostafa, KA6MAL, for providing and maintaining the server for the Club's web site as well as email reflector and email forwarding.

—Chris Angelos, KG6DOZ,
SCCARC President

SCCARC Board - 2007

President	Christopher Angelos	KG6DOZ	688-3562
Vice President	Pat Barthelow	AA6EG	
Secretary	Cody Adams	KG6YPK	
Treasurer	Kathleen McQuilling	KI6AIE	476-6303
Board	Mike Doern	KM6IKE	477-1161
	Allen Fugelseth	WB6RWU	475-8846
	Bruce Hawkins	AC6DN	
	Vic Linderholm	AE6ID	476-5567
	Ron Skelton	W6WVO	477-1021
K6BJ Trustee	Royce Krilanovich	AC6Z	475-4798

MONTEREY BAY REPEATER ACTIVITY

Santa Cruz County ARC	K6BJ 146.790- PL 94.8 Santa Cruz KI6EH 147.945- PL 94.8 Watsonville K6BJ 440.925+ PL 123.0 Santa Cruz • SCCARC Net Monday 7:30 PM 146.79- /147.180+ /440.925+ linked • SCCARC 10 Meter Net 28.308 MHz USB Monday 7:00 PM
San Lorenzo Valley ARC	WR6AOK 147.120+ PL 94.8 Ben Lomond • SLVARC Net Thursday 7:30 PM
Loma Prieta RC	WR6ABD 146.640-(PL 162.2) • LPRC Net Tuesday 8:00 PM
Naval Postgraduate School ARC	K6LY 146.97- PL 94.8 / 444.700+ PL 123 (Linked) Monterey • NPSARC Net Wednesday at 8 PM on K6LY/R • Monterey ARES Net Wednesday 7:30 PM K6LY 146.970- (PL 94.9)
ARES Nets	SC County Wide ARES Tuesday 7:15 PM on AB6VS 440.550- W6WLS 147.180+ AE6KE 146.835-(Linked repeaters / PL 94.8)
Followed directly by	• SLV ARES W6JWS 146.745-(PL 94.8) & WR6AOK 147.120+(PL 94.8) on alternate Tuesdays • South County ARES K6RMW 147.00+ (PL 94.8) • LPrieta ARES AE6KE 146.835- / AB6VS 440.550+ (Linked /PL 94.8) • Santa Cruz ARES K6BJ 146.79- / (PL 94.8)
	• Newline (Ham News) Broadcast Wednesday at end of NPSARC Net • Santa Clara Valley Section Traffic NET Tuesday 9:00PM 146.640- (PL 162.2)

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

SCCARC Calendar of Events

SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Apr 20
Board Meeting	Wednesday	Apr 25
Short Skip Deadline	Monday	May 7
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	May 18

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.

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

(Subject to Change)

4/16	Cody KG6YPK
4/23	Phil KE6UWH
4/30	Allen WB6RWU
5/7	Chris KG6DOZ
5/14	Tom K6TG

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Treasurer's Report

At the March 2007 Board of Directors meeting, Treasurer Kathleen McQuilling, KI6AIE, reported that the SCCARC treasury had \$5912.01 in cash and bank accounts. At that time all financial obligations had been met.

Don't Need Short Skip In Your Mailbox?

If you're getting Short Skip by postal mail but would rather just read it on the Club's web site, just let me know at ki6aie@k6bj.org and I'll take care of it. If you're on the K6BJ email reflector, you'll get notification when each month's Short Skip has been posted to the Club web site.

HRO Discount for Club members

SCCARC members are eligible for a 5 percent discount at HRO in Sunnyvale on any purchase over \$20 excluding radios. Show them your current membership card once and they will update their database for future discounts.

--Kathleen, KI6AIE