

SEPTEMBER 2008

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



Greetings all. It was great to be attending the session in August and as usual I could only capture a fraction of the proceedings. Undoubtedly I missed anyone's pearls of wisdom so please excuse me.

I heard a discussion of noise in a car radio that likely was coming from the vehicle electronics, it shouldn't be too difficult to confirm the source, fixing it is another matter.

Some bright spark discovered that what we almost always call a DB9 connector is actually a DE9.

The affects of an open coax shield means that the cable and everything connected to it will spew RF.

How fast a person reacts and how sensitive we are to propagation delay was an unusual topic with many implications that I would like to know more about. I recommend the program RUFZ to anyone wishing to test mental agility and develop their CW skills.

There are a couple of Heathkit KW linears being worked on by members of the group. We discussed peak reading power meters and how much attenuation is required to protect the RX front end. (try this as a challenge question).

We all know that a DDS will produce various kinds of unwanted components and the question posed was whether a PLL or conventional filters are to be preferred. The group believes these are not mutually exclusive and most often will be used together. Oscillator purity is a related and equally challenging subject.

We saw an example of a very fine knurled aluminum knob. Can off-center fed antennas be constructed as a fan of elements for multi-bands as is often the case with center-fed dipoles? It seems likely that they can



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Was reading an interesting novel by James Webb, former Secretary of the Navy. "A Country Such As This." The writing was superb. One principal character was a Navy F4B fighter pilot shot down over Hanoi. Several chapters dealt with his being a POW. The saving grace for them all was communications from prison cell to prison cell. Known as a "Tap Code," the prisoners developed a quick method of communicating. It consists of a grid of 5 letters across the top, 5 letters down the side. First you tapped down, followed by across. I had to look it up on the internet to see why there was no K. The letter C was used.

My morning Maritime Mobile Net is suffering badly from the lack of propagation. A period of zero sun spots? What chance do we have of getting our HF messages out to those boats on the briny deep? Skip Allen, N6NEN, a highly skilled sailor, finished first in his single-handed race to Kauai. I will have to ask him how he got his position reports out. Via

however this may be uncharted territory

We offered small hope to one of our newer members (Jerry AE6I) who currently can not put up antennas of any kind. Without a decent ground Jerry, the flagpole idea is likely to be disappointing. I just learned that the State is planning a whole new set of rules affecting CC&Rs that hopefully will remove some of the more egregious restrictions on life and liberty. I will see if the ARRL knows anything about this.

Knowing that "one man's junk is another man's treasure" plan to bring and buy something when the Club runs it's auction

--73 Ron

satellite, I presume. Almost three decades ago I tracked boats across the pond, diligently recording their positions each night on 20 meters. Made good use of my tower and beam running phone patches. Crews were extremely happy to talk, live, to their loved ones ashore.

Our editor, Ron, K6EXT, is doing fine when crewing on the Hansa 35 from P dock. With the boat's high freeboard, getting on and off is not all that easy. When they came in a week or two ago, Ron leaped to the dock to tie off the docking lines. He tripped and fell flat on his back on the dock. Could have been seriously injured. Take it easy Ron, we can't afford to lose you.

Went out on the Wednesday Beer Can Race a couple of weeks ago. The fog was dense but that didn't deter the die-hards from putting out to sea. Visibility was about 100 yards and we were sorta lost. Trying to find the lighthouse at the harbor entrance was not easy. (Did I mention that I abhor being lost at night in heavy fog?) Each of the 8 people on board pointed in a different direction toward shore. We could hear the fog horn but couldn't see the green light. I went below to fire up the hand-held GPS but the batteries were low. By the time I got a new set installed, we saw the light.

Gess we could have just followed the other boats in but that would have been cheating!

Time to Clean Out the Shack! — Sept. Raffle and Nov. Auction

Just think how nice and spacious your shack will be once you've cleared out all that extra radio gear and brought it for the raffle at our September membership meeting or the auction at our November meeting! We are not limited to radio-related items, though anything someone else might want is fair game.

--Kathleen, KI6AI

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 7:30PM

SCCARC Board - 2008

President	Rich Olsen	WI1WUH	464-7474
Vice President	Don Taylor	K6GHA	k6gha@k6bj.org
Secretary	Kathleen McQuilling	KI6AIE	476-6303
Treasurer	Cody Adams	KG6YPK	
Board	Christopher Angelos	KG6DOZ	688-3562
	Reed Cotton	NI1WC	460-1801
	Mike Doern	KM6IKE	477-1161
	Bruce Hawkins	AC6DN	
	Ron Skelton	W6WVO	477-1021
K6BJ Trustee	Allen Fugelseth	WB6RWU	475-8846

MONTEREY BAY REPEATER ACTIVITY

Santa Cruz County	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 Monday 7:00 PM 28.308 MHz USB
ARES Nets	SC County Wide ARES Tuesday 7:30 PM on 147.180+ PL 94.8 443.600+ PL 110.9 (Linked repeaters)
San Lorenzo Valley	WR6AOK 147.120+ PL 94.8 Ben Lomond • SLV Net Thursday 7:30 PM
Loma Prieta	AB6VS 440.550+ / AE6KE 146.835- PL 94.8 (Linked for net 94.8) • LP Net Tuesday 7:15 PM
Monterey	K6LY 146.97- PL 94.8 / 444.700+ PL123 (Linked) Monterey • NPSARC Net Wednesday at 8 PM on K6LY/R • Monterey ARES Net Wednesday 7:30 PM K6LY 146.970- (PL 94.9) • Newsline (Ham News) Broadcast Wednesday at end of NPSARC Net
LPRC	WR6ABD 146.640- PL 162.2 / 442.900+ PL 162.2 (winsystem) • LPRC Net Tuesday 8:00 PM 146.640-(PL 162.2) • Newsline (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	Sep 19
Board Meeting	Wed	Sep 24
Short Skip articles due	Monday	Oct 6
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Oct 17

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)

9/8	Allen WB6RWU
9/15	Chris KG6DOZ
9/22	Tom K6TG
9/29	Diane KI6IFS
10/6	Cody KG6YPK
10/13	Phil KE6UWH

Net Worth Report

The August 2008 Net Worth Report presented to the Board of Directors showed that the SCCARC treasury had \$3214.10 in cash and bank accounts. At that time all financial obligations had been met. The full Net Worth Report will be available for review at the September 19 Club meeting.

Jim N1IPP's East Coast Happenings

Most importantly is the NEAR fest event at the Deerfield, NH fairgrounds scheduled for October 10 and 11 opening at 9am and running pretty late into the night on Friday and opening early on Saturday. This is New England's answer to Dayton. Lots of old stuff and hoss trading, bull flinging and eyeball QSOing going on. Usually lots of hangovers Saturday morning!

The Flea at MIT: The last two for the year at the Albany St. Garage at Main St. and Albany

St. in Cambridge, MA (our fair city!) Sept. 21 and October 19th. Lots of books, scientific equipment, computer gear, Electric car enthusiasts some ham radio and audio stuff.

The 43rd Annual Yankee Steam Up at the New England Wireless and Steam Museum Sept 29 9am to 4pm. 1300 Frenchtown Rd. East Greenwich, R.I. Home to one of the oldest and largest, operational Corliss steam engines(1870s vintage 1500 hp.single stage) and the Marconi (1902) Receiver and the early day Massie Co. wireless station.

Usually they run the Massie rotary gap spark transmitter (w/o antenna!) a bit to impress the audience. This day celebrates the steam engines but emphasizes the early connection with wireless transmitters. Lots of late 19th and early 20th century steam engines, tools, electrical equipment. For anyone with interests in the history of technology this is most impressive display.

W1GSL maintains a list of New England events of a technical nature on the MIT Amateur Radio Society's W1MX website. (It is even older than Santa Cruz!) <http://W1MX.mit.edu> go to the Flea at MIT

Miss youse guys in SC.... 73 de N1IPP



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