

DECEMBER 2009

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



K6BJ On The Air For ARRL Sweepstakes

The first and third weekends of November the K6BJ shack was part of a record-breaking effort during the ARRL's Sweepstakes contest. The Sweepstakes is ARRL's oldest contest, taking place over two weekends, one for Morse code and one for Single Side Band. The contest originated as a test of traffic handling and retains a strong traffic handling flavor. The LONG exchange includes field for message precedence and check. The contest lasts 36 hours, but operators are only allowed to operate 24 of those 36 hours. In general Sweepstakes is not considered a "fun" contest, but rather a test of the operator's endurance over long hours, a complex exchange and heavy QRM operating conditions.

This already epic contest has taken on additional importance as the yearly "National Championship" for radio clubs. Every year for over three decades the nation's largest radio clubs have competed to be the top "unlimited" club. Due to geographic injustices hams on the west coast are underdogs in Sweepstakes. However, the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) established a dynasty, winning the coveted "Gavel" each year between 2003 and 2007. Their arch-rival the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) managed to win the gavel in 2008. Clearly the 2009 Sweepstakes was the focus of hundreds of operators.

Donald Kerns (AE6RF) took to the K6BJ shack as part of NCCC's efforts to win back the gavel. During the Morse code weekend Donald operated from 13:00 until late in the evening. He made 250 contacts into 70 different ARRL sections (35K points). The

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New Board Installed at Holiday Luncheon

Introducing our 2010 officers and board of directors!

President: Bruce Hawkins, AC6DN
Vice President: Greta Steinbruner, KI6NTL
Secretary: David Copp, WS2I
Treasurer: Kathlien McQuilling, KI6AIE
Board: Rich Olsen, W1WUH,
Immediate Past President
Cap Pennell, KE6AFE
Chris Angelos, KG6DOZ
Jeff Watson, W6NA
Mike Doern, KM6IKE



CLUB MEETING FRIDAY JANUARY 15, 7:30PM



Our most recent session was as stimulating and varied as usual. We were pleased to welcome Louis Arbanas (KJ6CAI) who was first lic in 1958 and very recently joined our merry band. The Club has a wide range of activities Louis and CAKE sessions are a great way to get to know members and their interests. Programming hand-held radios continues to be a topic

It was good to see Kathleen (KG6AIE) back on form looking very well. Donald (AE6RF) came along with his two children, Joey and Cece (KJ6BNO). I caught a delightful snapshot of them both being tutored by Jim (K9YC) with Greta (KI6NTL) looking on.

The mystery item was supplied by (as is often the case) by Tom (KW6S don't you just love that call!) in the form of a rotating N connector joint. We understand it uses a Beryllium Copper ball and is good for low microwave frequencies. Tom mentioned that his XYL actually helped him dig the base of his tower, I dunno how that works but it makes you wonder!

Bob (K6XX) showed off his growing expertise in milling blocks of metal this time in the form of tuning knob to place control of his K3 right at the keyboard. It appears this saves him 1.15 microseconds on each contest QSO.

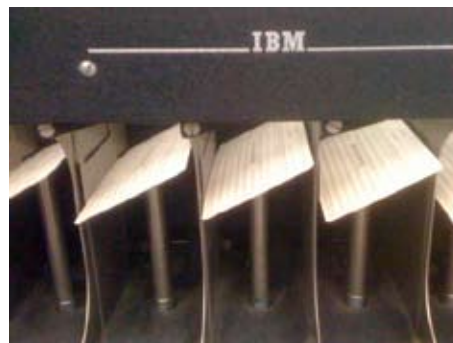
Greta had some questions about feeding wire antennas off-center and about the tuning of a TS820. Ron suggested that she try her hand with the modeling program EZNEC. Jim mentioned Ward (KG6HAF) is an expert on that rig and his web site would be the place to visit. Don (K6GHA) is looking for a multi-band HF beam and had questions about the Sommer Log periodic. Ron (W6WO) has some experience to share on this antenna.

Frank (K6BDK original call) brought along a board from the 60s with lots of useful components on it, and Chuck (W1WUH Cub Pres) knew just what it was used for, thanks Frank.

Ron is struggling up the learning curve building a non-linear amplifier but is optimistic of the end result. He showed a brand new switching power supply with dual 42V 7 A outputs found on eBay for \$60. This is very compact and powerful technology not far removed from the switching amplifiers he is aiming at.

Fine business all round and just a reminder there is an Auction at our next Club meeting on the 20th one mans junk is another man's treasure

—73 Ron W6WO



Dream Beam Team



My thanks to the Dream Beam Team, David / WB6DWP, Greta / KI6NTL, Stuart / KI6TKA, Howard / K6IA, Chris / KG6D0Z, Cap / KE6AFE and Clint / KI6ELJ for their help and assistance installing my Mosley PRO67-B antenna on my tower this month. My thanks as well to my "significant other" Terri aka Ham in Training who spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday as the winch operator.

Without their help and assistance I could have never gotten the antenna installed... it works GREAT!

—Bill Conklin AF60H

CQ CQ....Calling CQ. This is WX6MTR....

WX6MTR, The National Weather Service office in Monterey participated in the annual SKYWARN Recognition Day event. This year marked the 11th edition of SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD), which began at 0000 UTC on December 5, 2009 and lasted for 24 hours. SRD was established in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It was designed to foster relationships between area amateur radio operators and the National Weather Service. Many amateur radio operators are also Storm Spotters and they can be a vital communication link between mobile weather spotters, the general public and the National Weather Service during severe weather emergencies. Around the nation, many National Weather Services active SKYWARN nets during severe weather situations to monitor and receive storm reports. In most instances, storm reports received through amateur radios can provide instantaneous verification of local storm conditions, which would further aid in future warnings.



L-R, Matt KC0TER, Ron KM6DZ, Richard AF6TP

On average, over 100 National Weather Service Offices, including three national centers and one foreign country participate in the special event. Each weather service office used a wide variety of modes and frequencies depending on the stations capabilities. This year, the Monterey Office was able to utilize 40, 20, 15 and 2 meters, 440, Packet (APRS), Echolink and IRLP modes. When the event ended on Saturday December 5th, the Monterey NWSFO had its best year yet with approximately 200 contacts including a half dozen countries and 32 National Weather Services Offices. WX6MTR would like to thank K6LY for use of their radios, John for his antenna, Rocky for his cables and Ron for his tower. Also, thanks to all of the local operators that came out to make this special event happen. See you next year.



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Just got some good news from Leon Fletcher, AA6ZG. His college text, "How To Design & Deliver a Speech", is now in its 9th edition. He gives credit to Wayne Thalls, KB6KN, and me for our contributions to Chapter 13. It's nice to be thanked in writing in the acknowledgement page. His other book, "How To Speak Like A Pro," has been contracted for printing in the Korean language. Leon served as a communications officer on Landing Craft Infantry (rockets) in a multitude of major battles in the Pacific War. He's also a small boat sailor and prolific writer. He and Wayne were our SCCARC Presidents in the 1980s.

Speaking of Wayne, he is the editor and publisher of "About Computers and Genealogy," a monthly on-line newsletter for members of the Genealogical Society. If you are interested in that endeavor, I'm sure he will provide information for obtaining his highly informative writings. Contact Wayne at mailto:waynetha@sbcglobal.net.

Over 40 members and guests attended our November club meeting. It was a great success with the annual auction and election of new officers. To all those who volunteered to serve, you deserve a nice pat on the back.

The auction was a lot of fun with the usual pithy comments made for or by the buyers.

The proud new owners of their treasures were happy and full of smiles (mostly). I have a couple of shelves containing items I purchased at many of our past club auctions—which is so often the case—gathering dust in my workshop. Well, there is a certain pride in ownership, I guess. Oh, we have to hand it to our VP Greta, KI6NTL, for donating one of the most unusual prizes—two live Cornish Plymouth Rock Cross chickens! Cute! She didn't say whether they should be kept as pets or eaten. Among other useful donations were beam antennas and rotors, a couple of Slinky antennas and a model 94 Hallicrafters receiver (1950-55 vintage) donated by Gary Baker, N6ARV.

After the meeting, Gary and I chatted with Greta, while Cap, KE6AFE, Don, K6GHA, and others shut down the meeting room. Gary told of his "adventure" two decades ago when he went with me up to Tandem Computers for the test for his General class ticket. We had been working CW for many months on a daily basis until his ham shack in Watsonville was wiped out in the quake of '89. After passing the General and the 13 wpm code test, the other VEs and I talked him into testing for the Advanced, then the Extra class exams and 20 wpm code. When I told the old timer examiners that Gary was an ex-Navy Chief Electronics Technician and had not brought his calculator for the unexpected exams, they said, "He won't need no stinkin' calculator." He didn't. He was advanced from Tech to Extra in one sitting. When I asked Gary how everything was going at the Perris Streetcar and Train museum (he is one of their engineers), he mentioned that he had to build a power supply to keep the overhead wiring charged after hours. The tingle from the low voltage would act as a deterrent to copper thieves.

K6BJ on the Air continued

intervening week found K9YC, N1WC and K6XX installing a temporary 80m dipole to improve K6BJ's low band performance. During the SSB weekend Donald again operated late into the evening. A failed linear amplifier meant that he was forced to "bring a knife to a gun fight." None-the-less Donald persisted and made 222 contacts into 59 sections (26K points). Both weekends found Donald operating all day Sunday at different shacks in Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties.

The full scope of the effort is revealed in the NCCC's final statistics. NCCC submitted 147 logs with 11.4 MILLION points for the Morse code weekend. The SSB weekend yielded 181 logs with 11.7 million points. While it will be several months before log checking is complete, it appears that NCCC narrowly edged out PVRC for the gavel.

So, the "little shack on the hill" was part of huge effort, involving hundreds of hams and two full weekends. And (most likely) came out the winner. Kilo Bravo Santa Cruz County ARC!



SCCARC Board - 2010

President	Bruce Hawkins	AC6DN	
Vice President	Greta Steinbruner	KI6NTL	325-9482
Secretary	David Copp	WS2I	708-2206
Treasurer	Kathleen McQuilling	KI6AIE	476-6303
Board	Christopher Angelos	KG6DOZ	688-3562
	Mike Doern	KM6IKE	477-1161
	Rich Olsen	W1WUH	464-7474
	Cap Pennell	KE6AFE	429-1290
	Jeff Watson	KG6YPS	
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

Jan Short Skip article due	Mon	Jan 4
ARES Meeting	Friday	Jan 15
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Jan 15
Cake Meetings	Sat	Jan 9, 23
Board Meeting	Wed	Jan 27
Short Skip articles due	Mon	Feb 8
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Feb 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, Education Center, 1555 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz.

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

(Subject to Change)

12/21	Greta KI6NTL
12/28	Phil KE6UWH
1/4	Chris KG6DOZ
1/11	Tom K6TG
1/18	Greta KI6NTL

SHORT SKIP

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All luncheon pictures courtesy JV, K6HJU