

JULY 2009

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# SHORT SKIP



## Joint Effort Yields Big Score — FD 2009

Up to seventy Santa Cruz County hams braved temperatures in the nineties for this year's record breaking Field Day effort. The Santa Cruz County and San Lorenzo Valley Amateur Radio clubs joined to put together a 6A effort, which had nine stations on the air at the same time.



Donald Kerns (AE6RF), the Field Day Event Coordinator, said "If success has many parents and failure is an orphan, we should have LOT of proud parents out there."

The Field Day period started Friday about



noon, with up to thirty people gathering at the Ben Lomond Training Center to help with set-up. That crew put up a number of

masts and antennas including: a three-element 40m inverted-vee yagi (that swamped KQ6YV's receiver over two miles away), a five-element 15m yagi (that took 5kHz out of the Saratoga Amateur Radio Association's receivers), a 20m mono-bander, a 10m mono-bander, a tri-bander, a 80m extended double-zepp, a 2m beam, a 6m beam and a Beverage for 80m.

Operations began at 11:00AM PDT on Saturday and lasted twenty-four hours. The 20m/80m CW station with Jim (K9YC), Bob (K6XX), Greg (N6CK) and Jeff (N6GQ) managed to get in over 23 hours of continuous operation. The four operators combined for over 1000 QSOs.

Rich (KE1B) and Donald (AE6RF) staffed the



15m/40m CW station working well past the midnight hour and then "rising from the grave" at zero-dark thirty for more Morse code fun. Those two stalwarts combined for over 600 QSOs.

Tom (KG6AO) headed up the 20m SSB station. Tom jumped into that position very

early in the Field Day effort. He figured that since 20m dies down at night, it would allow him to sleep. Others such as Tom (K6TG), Eric (N6EP) and Greg (N6CK) also contributed to over 400 QSOs.



Robert (KB6QXM) lead the "Fun SSB" effort on 15m and 40m. Every year Murphy sets into one of our stations and Robert played "host" this year. Fighting through issues such as temperatures high enough to "cook" a laptop and take their Elecraft K3 out of alignment they managed to work over 250 QSOs. Greta (KI6NTL), Carrol (KG6YPH), JV (K6HJU) and numerous others contributed to that score.

Rich (W1WUH), his son and Kent (AB6KB) stood patient duty on the 10m station. The station lived up to its billing as "the quiet-

## Next Club Meeting...

This month's speaker will be Donald Kerns, AE6RF, returning to talk with us about the results of Field Day. I would like to extend a massive THANK YOU to Donald for the incredible amount of work he put in to make Field Day the success it was, along with everyone who operated and helped out. An excellent job was done by all.

—G

**CLUB MEETING FRIDAY JULY 17, 7:30PM**

## Field Day continued

est and then the busiest" spot on the Field Day site. The station was desolate until 10m opened up early Saturday evening. They quickly worked about 60 stations before the band closed up for the evening. Donald (AE6RF) made a "wonder" contact. 10m CW at 9:00AM Sunday morning... To Western New York. We all "wondered" how that one happened.

Jack (KG4GWB) and his dog "Rockey" worked PSK31 as our site's "digital" station. Jack had heard several people discussing our Field Day on the repeater, and as a full-time RVer decided it sounded like fun and joined in.

JV (K6HJU) headed up the VHF/UHF station in COM2 (provided by SCC EOC and driven by



Cap (KE6AFE)). Brad (N6BHT) provided the 2m and 6m antennas. JV, Ryan (KI6UAP), Josh (KI6UAQ) and Cece Kerns worked the bands for every possible contact, winding up with over 100 contacts and almost twice the number worked last year. Both Ryan and Josh discovered by they call 6m "the magic band" during a strong opening late Saturday afternoon into the evening. Cece proved that a YL voice is indeed worth 10dB, as she out-produced the licensed twins (combined).

John (KJ6ZL) was our satellite captain. Building on last year's success he put together a completely automated satellite ground station with ax-el tracking and automatic Doppler correction. With that station the K6WC site was able to make satellite contacts at will. One even showing up on YouTube, from the OTHER END.



Reed (N1WC) and Tom (W6TJK) headed up the Get On The Air (GOTA) station. Struggling with interstation interference, they none-the-less doubled the activity from last



year, with TWO people reaching the magic 20 contact threshold.

Many others contributed to the Field Day magic. John (AC6SL) flew by in an airplane, provided aerial photographs of the site and a 1C contact. Dr Bob (KI6TKH), representing the United Veterans Council put up a medical station on Saturday afternoon. He provided many, much appreciated, cold drinks and shade. Byron (KI6NUL) served similar duty with an ice chest full of cold water, Gatorade and Coke. Dona (KI6DAR) worked NTS traffic, netting us an additional 200 bonus points. Bev, Josh and Ryan's mom, had a meeting of the Santa Cruz County 4H Radio Project which supplied us many

youth contacts. Kerry (K6RRY) provided logistical and recycling support and we're looking for him to play an increasing role in future efforts. Nicki (Donald's XYL) headed up the food efforts, BBQ and pot luck.

## W6TUW Field Day

Santa Cruz County, ACS Club station, W6TUW, operated Field Day for the first time as a 1F station. A "F" class station is operated at a EOC. W6TUW is located in the ARES radio room at the Santa Cruz County EOC. The call is in memory of Dave Harbaugh, W6TUW, SK a long time volunteer ACS operator.

AES members, K6EXT and KE6AFE operated for over 5 hours with a score of 286 points. Coffee and buritos were served.

Many thanks to Bill (AF60H) and Dave (WS2I) our Public Information Officers. Bill's work yielded a beautiful 2:30 second spot on KSBW. Dave's work wound up getting us several column inches in the Press-Banner and Aptos papers. Fine Business guys!

While we're still missing a log or two our



final score will break the Santa Cruz County record. At last estimate our score was 10442 with 1700 CW QSOs, 906 SSB QSOs and 1830 bonus points. Excellent work everybody!  
—73 de Donald





By Art Lee WF6P

# CHATTER

Steve Petersen, AC6P, and his VE Team had a successful session on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> of June at UCSC. Nice to see a local test taking place, certainly beats going over the hill. Congrats to Suellene, KG6MBT, for upgrading to General. She has submitted the FCC required paperwork and (so far) her new call sign is pending --- K6CPA. (Suellene is a highly skilled person of that profession.) The candidate turnout was far greater than Steve expected. Stats are:

- 20 candidates took exams with the following results,
- 8 Techs
- 8 Generals
- 2 Extras
- 2 fails

Eight of these were UCSC students.

FIELD DAY! Greatest ever! Or was one of the greatest. Proper planning by Donald Kerns, AE6RF, and others certainly bore fruit. When I arrived on Saturday night,

there was plenty of chow on hand and lotsa good hams to chat with. I had not seen Jamie Finch, WI6F, for several years. She was as hard working as ever and a loyal Field Day advocate. Nikki Kerns, bride of Donald, was there helping. Kinda wished she brought along a keyboard to entertain us as we ate our beans and burgers. Maybe next time? For those of you who have not heard her, she is fantastic on the piano. Cap, KE6AFE, and I and others strolled around to check out the various operating stations, of which there were many – and all highly impressive. There were many fine antennas as well as tents and motorhomes for comfort while operating. The Red Cross trailer was interesting with a going-to-town CW station. Cap and I watched as the earphoned operator sent out CQs with the touch of a computer key, all the while watching his screen. Even his 73 was sent with the touch of the keyboard. I think he did actually send one .\_. with his paddle. Nice! and should have helped us rack up some big Field Day points. As Cap and I stepped out of the trailer, some miscreant dropped the 80 mtr dipole while CW was in mid-sentence. Bummer, but the wire came back up almost immediately. Of course, the big news is the TV coverage we received. Good interviews of Cece Kerns (isn't she cute!) 20her father and others. Ample picture coverage of the site, also. It doesn't hurt to have a bit of good PR for amateur radio.

I stuck around until after dark and after seeing that all was well, headed down the

hill to home. I had not been up to our Field Day site for a couple of years so was careful on the many twists and turns. I was truly amazed at the number of homes nestled back in the woods, their lighted presence very homey.

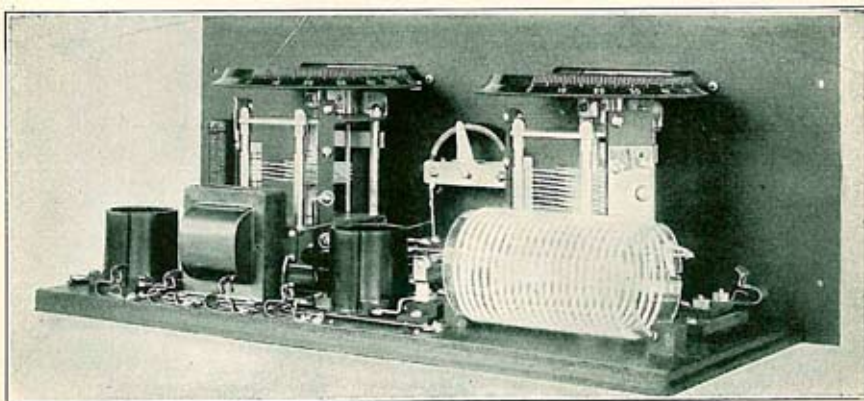
On Sunday morning I hiked up to the UCSC Field Day Site to visit Steve, AA6P, and his group. They had erected several tents and stations with some impressive accompanying antennae. Steve had been expecting me as I have made it to their site in years past. Suellene arrived with thermos bottles of hot coffee and tea to serve the overnight operators. She and I=2 Ohad a nice chat about the book she and Steve are publishing. Suellene is a great illustrator of children's stories. Steve, as I recalled, was a Navy Electronics Technician (ET) serving aboard a cruiser many years ago. My niece's husband, Keith Tone, is a Sonar Operator on a like ship. Always good experience and fun.

My XYL Donna and I just returned from a July 4th four-day stay-over in Fresno. Hot! Hot! 101 deg F. Fortunately we had the benefits of air conditioning. In our driving around town, I noticed a great absence of ham towers and antennas. Only a few years ago, this was not the case. Don't know if antenna and tower restrictions are to blame as new neighborhoods are being built everywhere. It's good to be back in 78 deg Santa Cruz. My weather reports on the Baja Maritime Mobile Net usually starts with "60 degrees=2 0and fog." Good sleeping weather!

## Early Radios by Reinartz K6BJ

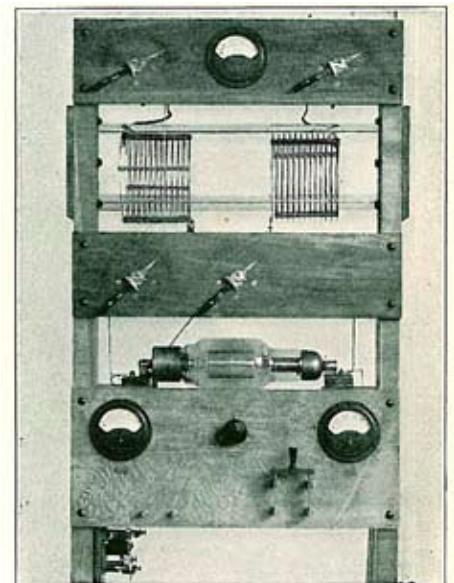
I Received these photos and captions from Patrick Henry, our member up in Gold Beach, Oregon. Think our Shortskip readers might like to see K6BJ's early radio work.

—Art WF6P



**A SHORT WAVE RECEIVER**

The coil is made of a few turns of heavy wire and is mounted on glass. This is to reduce the losses in the coil.



**AMATEUR SENDING SET**

Designed by John L. Reinartz of Reinartz circuit fame, and operated by him on the *Bosdoin* during the 1925 MacMillan expedition to Greenland.

## SCCARC Board - 2009

<b>President</b>	Rich Olsen	W1WUH	464-7474
<b>Vice President</b>	Greta Steinbruner	KI6NTL	
<b>Secretary</b>	Kathleen McQuilling	KI6AIE	476-6303
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Copp	WS2I	
<b>Board</b>	Christopher Angelos	KG6DOZ	688-3562
	Reed Cotton	NIWC	460-1801
	Mike Doern	KM6IKE	477-1161
	Bruce Hawkins	AC6DN	
	Jeff Watson	KG6YPS	
<b>K6BJ Trustee</b>	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	Jul 17
Cake Meetings	Sat	Jun 11, 25
Board Meeting	Wed	Jul 22
Short Skip articles due	Mon	Aug 10
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Aug 21
Board Meeting	Wed	Aug 26

## 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)

7/13	Greta KI6NTL
7/20	Phil KE6UWH
7/27	Allen WB6RWU
8/3	Tom K6TG
8/10	Chris KG6DOZ

## SHORT SKIP

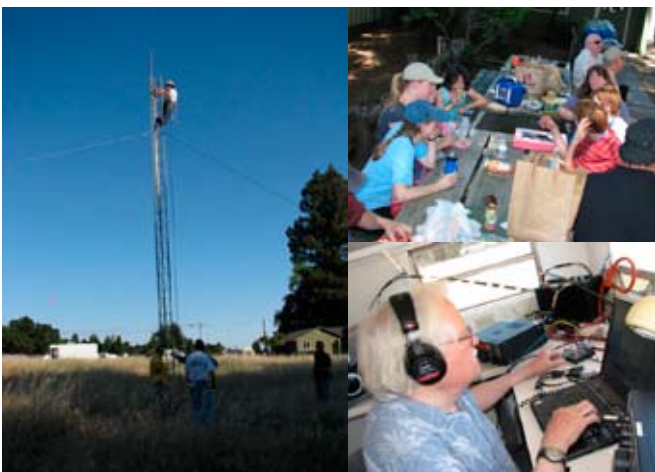
Published 12 times per year.  
Free to members.

**Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

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All field day photos: K6GPH, Greg Harbustan. More FD photos at <http://k6gph.org/photo/>