

MARCH 2009

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



W6WO's Nonplus Omnidirectional Radiator



Would you be interested in a compact, efficient, low-cost antenna that covers all bands from 2MHz to 2GHz with optimally flat VSWR ?

I thought so, but first a few words of theory. It is accepted science that electric and magnetic fields in space are in-phase and behave like a pure resistor of 377 Ohms. As amateurs it is our goal to get as much RF power into that 377 Ohm load as possible. Another scientific fact is that for maximum power transfer the resistance of a source must equal the resistance of a load. It is unfortunate that our 50 Ohm radios waste a lot of power due to the 50-377 Ohm mismatch. This is where the unique properties of the NOR

antenna come into play. By careful selection of resistive and reactive elements this antenna can be made to look like 50 Ohms to a radio and 377 Ohms to space. Its like having an auto-tuner built into the antenna.

An early prototype was demonstrated at RadioFest 2009 and further experiments are expected to be completed by the end of March. Contact me then for more results.

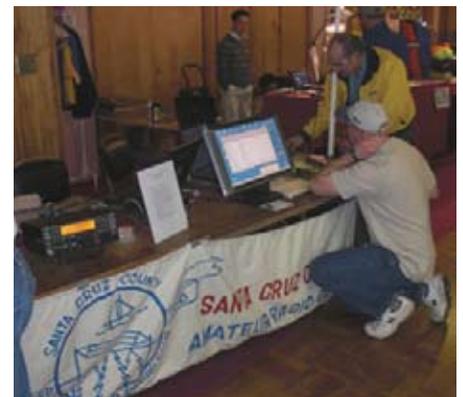
Incidentally our Club rightfully claims this invention as our own but there are rumors that the French invention Radiatore Omnidirectionale Nonplus is likely to challenge our prior art.

—Ron W6WO

A Day at Radio Fest



Don K6GHA satellite tracker



Jeffs AE6KS, KG6YPS demo 4NEC2

General License

The San Lorenzo Valley ARC is offering an Amateur Radio General Class License preparation course.

Classes will be held on Wed. evenings, from 7:00 pm (sharp!) to 9:00 pm. The first class will be Wed. April 1, 2009. We anticipate between 6-8 class sessions, depending on the needs of the students.

Location will be St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 101 Riverside Avenue Ben Lomond.

For information: <http://tinyurl.com/be52bn> or rich@richseifert.com

—Rich KE1B (408) 395-5700

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY MARCH 20, 7:30PM

Vet's Emergency Radio Room Update



Cap, KE6AFE receives a check from Bob, KI6TKH

The "Emergency Radio Room" at the Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Santa Cruz has been a fixture on the amateur radio scene for many years. The station is staffed by volunteers, most notably Maurice "Rick" Ricketts N6GOW, who keeps tabs on local radio traffic on 2M FM and is a member of the California Rescue Communications Net on 40m SSB. Rick makes his way down to the shack at the VMB in his electric scooter from the Westside to check into the HF "Gordo" Net weather permitting. At 86 years young you can still find him on the straight key looking for "Charlie Whiskey" contacts. Rick says this is how he keeps his brain sharp.

The radios span several generations and include a Swan 500 which Rick lovingly refers to as his "old boat anchor". Rick, a WWII "tin can" torpedo mate plied the waters of the North Atlantic in the destroyer US Winslow protecting the allied convoys and recalls the sinking of the "Reuban James", the first allied warship to be sunk by German subs. There is also a Kenwood TS-520, a Kenwood TS-480 sat and the most recent addition, a Kenwood TS-440SAT donated by Gordon West WB6NOA on a recent visit to the Emergency Radio Room. Gordon's visit was featured in a November 2008 "SHORT SKIP" article.

The antennae include a 20M Bazooka and a Cushcraft MA6V HF vertical.

Local hams led by "Cap" KE6AFE, JV K6HJU, Jeff KG6YPS, Jerry AE6I, and Kent AB6KB to name a few have contributed time and material to improving the station.

The radio room is historically sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 5888, and is sanctioned by the United Veterans

Council of Santa Cruz County. The UVC is the overarching advocacy organization of a consortium of veterans service organizations including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans. At its February meeting, the UVC donated \$700 to the Emergency Radio Room, calling on the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club as the fiscal intermediary and domain expert to assist in the continued upgrade to the station.

We are actively seeking additional volunteers to keep this important downtown station on the air. The central location, designated shelter space and an industrial kitchen make this station an important resource for Emergency Preparedness.

Continuing its recent patriotic holiday tradition, the station will be designated "K6V" for the upcoming Memorial Day holiday special event on Monday May 25. Save the date; come on down; and operate the station. Stay tuned for further.

Contact "Cap" or me for details if you are able to give some time to supporting the stations activities.

—73, R.G. "Bob" Spencer KI6TKH

Net Worth Report

The February 25, 2009 Net Worth Report presented to the Board of Directors showed that the SCCARC treasury had \$3159.70 in cash and bank accounts. At that time all financial obligations had been met, including the annual equipment insurance premium. The full Net Worth Report will be available for review at the March 20 Club meeting.

WGZZZ, SK

Dear Friends of Marc Ziegler and Sue Pierce, Marc has died as a result of the cerebral hemorrhage which he suffered on Wednesday night. Late Saturday night the transplant team removed his organs, which his wife, Sue, had courageously agreed to donate. At least four people will receive a direct life-saving gift, as his lungs, liver and both kidneys will be transplanted. Others will benefit from research and tissue donations.

There will be a memorial for Marc later in the spring or early summer, when the weather is better.

Marc was active in contesting, and a member of a number of ham groups, among them the Loma Prieta Amateur Radio Club, of which he was Secretary. He was active in Loma Prieta ARES, and would often pick up the ball when it was dropped by the EC.

Sue will be needing love and support of her many friends and the community over the next days and months. There is no family left, so the community is her family.

Please feel free to forward this message to other lists or hams and/or to call me if you need any further information.

George Smith AE6KE
EC, Loma Prieta ARES
408 353-1384, 408 438-3462 (c)

KI6FJQ, SK

We are sad to report the passing of Katherine E. Williams, KI6FJQ, of Salinas, California. What separates the death of this ham operator from others that we have reported over the years is that Katy -- as she was known by her friends -- was only age 19. She was also the daughter of one of the unofficial members of our Amateur Radio Newsline family, Scott Avery, WA6LIE.

In a note from Scott we learned that Katy died at about 4 p.m. Pacific time on Tuesday, February 24th from complications with pneumonia. Scott tells us that this might have been the result of staph infection contracted from a visit to a dentist.

Scott tells us that Katy got interested in becoming a ham after he let her say hello to an astronaut on-orbit during a space to ground contact. Scott says that Katy thought it was neat to talk to astronauts and cosmonauts. He told her that she could do it on her own by getting her ham ticket.

So Katy studied hard and finally got her license and the call KI6FJQ. And eventually she did get to talk to someone in space when she hooked up with Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP. That's when Simonyi was a space tourist visiting the ISS. She also attended many radio events with Scott and thought it was all "kinda cool."

Katy Williams is survived by her dad, her mother Mary, KG6LGS, and three brothers and sisters.

—from Amateur Radio Newsline



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Ham radio is fun and certainly unique. Granted, computers and cell phones are handy and riding the wave of popularity now – and certainly useful and necessary. But ham radio remains the good old hobby that so many of us enjoy. Speaking to the choir now, we all enjoy the various opportunities ham radio presents: building our own rigs, antennas, making friends, etc. Was reviewing some old notes on the Pacific Maritime Nets, circa 1980. Lots of names and call signs have changed but boaters and RVers still use amateur radio to keep in touch.

When talking to Terry Parks, N6NUN, on 40 meters aboard his 53' Hatteras yacht in Sausalito, we can't copy each other, yet stations in San Diego and Oregon copy me solid. Their "You're booming in here, Art," is always reassuring. Through relays, we QSY to 3815 and do fine. My poor 20-year-old ICOM IC-761 is only putting out 50 watts of a possible 125 or so. It quit on me a year ago so I sent it into ICOM for repairs. They fixed the problem but said the autotuner was kaput. I talked to the tech who worked on it and he said that there were no longer any parts available. Ah yes, technology moves on. He said he'd do his best with the tuner. I don't think he took it out of the circuit, however. Being limited to 50 watts won't hurt CW anyway and as long as the gang of boaters are happy with my signal, that should suffice. I have a spare rig in the closet which I will stack on top of the ICOM, switch the cables and see if that 100 watts out will improve my signal reports. I suspect not but it will be fun trying. I asked Jeff, AE6KS, if raising my 80 mtr wire from its present height of 30 feet to 50 feet would make much difference in signal output. He said it wouldn't unless really up a half wave. So – I'm leaving it alone.

I received a nice email yesterday from the editor of Monitoring Times. She has

accepted my ham article, "Ain't Ham Radio Grand!" for publication in May or June. The same day the editor of Heartland Boating said she'd use my "How To Fold Sails" piece in June. We have several successful writers in SCCARC who are published. It is good to see our words in print.

We should all be delighted to learn that SLVARC is offering a 6-8 week class for General Class licenses. Yea! Students will be instructed by top-notch hams Rich Seifert, KE1B, Donald Kerns, AC6RF, and Steve Petersen, AC6P. What a lineup! Class starts on 1 April in Ben Lomond. Good going gang.

On a terribly sad note. We have lost Mark Zeigler, W6ZZZ, due to a cerebral hemorrhage. He was a frequent participant in our CAKE meetings. Mark is an organ donor, giving life to those who are in severe need. He was a nice person.

The Future of HF Communications

We have ubiquitous and high quality internet, world-wide fiber optical cable, wi-fi and satcomm communications. What the future holds for noisy and chancy HF communications and technology are fair questions. Anyone who has contacted stations worldwide with the power of a small light bulb and a short length of wire will tell you-HF combines science and mystique. Today the opportunity to apply new hardware and software to old challenges are unprecedented. Moreover we do it for fun and what comes easy isn't fun for long.

Nowadays there is a deep concern about the survivability of communications hence it should be no surprise that the military have not overlooked the unique advantage of HF, namely independence of infrastructure of any kind. Take a look at a modern HF radio http://www2.rohde-schwarz.com/file_10902/Serie4100_bro_en.pdf and compare it with the start of our art. You will find many areas where we are certainly equals and some where we need to catch up. Notice one thing in particular the Rohde & Schwarz radio still includes a jack for a Morse key. When almost everything fails; use CW. Those are my answers what are yours?

—W6WO

The Koger Report

W6ZZZ got me to thinking I should post this information.

For those of you finding your self in Our Fair City (Cambridge, Massachusetts)there is the MIT Flea Market heldevery 3rd Sunday of the month from April 19th to October 18th2009.

The NEARfest AKA Deerfield Hamfest located at the Deerfield, N.H. fairgroundsMay 1stand 2nd2009and October 16th and 17th.(Tentatively) This is New England's answer toDayton and Rochester.It is where Yankee skinflint hams buy stuff!

Antique Radio Swap Meet SaturdayApril 18 and Saturday October 172009, Manchester, N.H.

Last weekend I took in a show in Westfield, Ma calledRadio XL .Lots of antique radio stuff and a small amount of antique ham stuff. Everyone was invited to visit the private museum of John Terrey.John is the editor of Antique Radio Classified.The collection seems to cover the beginnings of radio to about 1930.Included in this very large collection is a lot of very early wireless equipment including an operating replica ofMarconi's 1896 receiver.There was also a replica of the 1902 vintage Marconi magnetic detector.The Marconi 1896 receiver uses a Branley Coherer. It was surprisingly sensitive.The transmitter used to demonstrate the coherer was a piezoelectric sparker from one of those barbecue lighters.Among the unusual things was an original RCA Theremin.This was the original electronic musical instrument.About 250 were made in the late 20's.You could probably write a book on this collection.John Terreybuilt a large post and beam barn to house this wonderful collection.

At the Westfield meet I purchased a book on the life of Ernst F. W.Alexanderson.What an amazing man.He made many contributions to radio, television, and possibly every electrical field.About 1920 RCA, for worldwide wireless communications purposes, erected on Long Island, NY a 12 antennaarrayof Alexandrson design for the 10-30 khz 200 kw high frequency mechanical alternators. Not surprisingly this station was called Radio Central as it could contact just about any spot on earth so equipped.This antenna was an 8 wire flat top 2800 meters long, 125 meters high and was divided in 5 sections with a tuned circuit to ground every 560 meters.The separate tuned antennae made me think of the director elements in a yagi.Of course it does not resemble it at all.Is anyone familiar with this work?

—73 de N1IPP

SCCARC Board - 2009

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	Bruce Hawkins	AC6DN	
	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+ 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) • 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	Mar 20
Board Meeting	Wed	Mar 25
Short Skip articles due	Friday	Apr 6
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Apr 17

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

The SCCARC Meets at 7:30 PM, on the THIRD FRIDAY of the each month (except December). Meetings are at Harbor High School, Campus Library (off of the upper parking lot. Map at <http://tinyurl.com/sccarc-meeting-location>

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

(Subject to Change)

3/16	Diane KI6IFS
3/23	Cody KG6GPK
3/30	Phil KE6UWH
4/6	Tom K6TG
4/13	Chris KG6DOZ
4/20	Allen WB6RWU

SHORT SKIP

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Free to members.

Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0238

SCCARC Membership Renewals

If the date on your mailing label isn't in 2009, your membership renewal has not been processed for this year. The renewal deadline to be included in this year's member roster is March 31 (this is also the deadline for address/phone/email updates), but please renew early if you can. Annual dues are \$25 for full members, \$6 each for each additional member at the same mailing address, and \$10 for full-time students age 18 or under. Dues may be paid in cash or check (payable to SCCARC) at regular Club meetings, or checks may be mailed to SCCARC, P.O. Box 238, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0238. Remember, ARRL dues may also be paid through your Club.

—Kathleen KI6AIE, Secretary, SCCARC

Flea Market

- Livermore SWAP: Robertson Park, Livermore
1st Sunday of the month, March through November
- ASVARO Electronics Flea Market: De Anza College, Cupertino
2nd Saturday of the month, March through October