

JUNE 2014

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



Have You Read ARRL's 2014 Field Day Packet?

By Suellene Petersen, K6CPA
Public Information Coordinator
ARRL Pacific Division, Santa Clara Valley

If you pause at the page devoted to the "Field Day Press Kit," you will learn that your PIO can bring in 500 FD points for your group before you ever touch a radio!" Please note that at the very top of the list is this question: "Instead of heading to a mountain top, how about a Wal-Mart lot? Being in a conspicuous public place is good for 100 points." Well, if we substitute "Wal-Mart" with Target Parking lot in Watsonville, we have the location for the 2014 Field Day Site that is planned a member of SCCARC. Bob Wisner, EC for South County ARES, will be demonstrating Amateur Radio techniques along with his group as they simulate emergency conditions. They will be coordinating with UCSCARC to demonstrate how Amateur Radio Operators can send emergency traffic by using a radio station that is powered 'off the grid.'

The points for setting up in a public spot may not be of primary interest to either of these two groups because their main focus is on training and not contesting. However, the SLVARC has carefully planned all of their activities to maximize the number of points that they can accumulate in the contest. We are rooting for them to exceed their last year's score. Oh, by the way, they also receive great training by participating in the contest. There are several other independent groups in Santa Cruz County who will participate in Field Day and I am sure that at least one of them will find a lonely mountain top to as their preferred location. These various approaches to engaging in Field Day is traditional in this nation and there will be variations practiced all across the country. On element will be common among all of the

groups. Each group will be having fun in practicing their radio communication skills.

Yes, the Field Day exercise provides a fun way by which we can hone our communication skills, but Field Day also provides the opportunity to further educate the public about who we are and how we support our communities. This year, our local effort to provide Public Information has included a broad outreach to the local media and to our elected officials. In a concerted effort between our Section's Public Information Coordinator and the SLVARC PIO, Elizabeth Baker (N6FIT), Santa Cruz County has been reminded that we are here and we continue to support the public's interest. We have several of our local government agencies who are Proclaiming that June 23 - 29, 2014, is officially Amateur Radio Week and our local media will be telling our communities all about what Amateur Radio operators will be doing on that weekend.

New Hams

On Monday, June 9, 2014, the Santa Cruz VE Group's Teaching Segment completed teaching a Technician level licensing exam in Felton. There were 20 people registered in the class. On Saturday, June 14, 2014, eight members of the VE Team administered an FCC licensing exam to 18 people. The results were outstanding. Seventeen new Technician licenses were earned and five people also passed the General exam.

Save the Date: Holiday Luncheon Saturday, December 13

This year's holiday luncheon will again be at the Best Western Seacliff Inn in Aptos, in the same banquet room (the Seacliff Room, in the same building as Severino's). Check-in starts at 12:30 PM, and the buffet starts at 1:00.

—Kathleen KI6AIE

Three Painters...Three Colors



Painting the Club Station building
L. to R., San W6RRR, Sam WB6RJH, Becky KI6TKB

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY JUNE 20 7:30PM



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Rats! Always a problem around electrical wiring. Questions came up on our K6BJ reflector asking for solutions to prevent rodent damage to stored equipment in a room-size storage box. For those of us who have had this problem, the best (maybe hardest) defense is to keep the little devils from entering our spaces. Holes, even the smallest, sometimes do not restrict them from squeezing in. In my house, they came in through the attic, climbed down the heater duct to get into our pet food in the utility room. After my telephone went dead, I got serious about eradication. The lead-in had been chewed through, as well as the outer sheath of my house wiring. A search revealed many entrance areas. The problem went away after I sealed all holes and the heater duct passage. In another case on Guam, we had a PBM-5A seaplane grounded while awaiting a new engine. Someone left the aluminum boarding ladder in place with the hatch open. A family of critters climbed aboard, made their way into the gull wing and chewed through our radar, radio and aircraft systems wiring bundles. It took weeks for the electrical gang to get into some very confining spaces to repair the damage. No one would admit to leaving the ladder in place.

I was unable to crew on Misty, going out on the bay for the Wednesday night beer can races. Got a call from our Shortskip editor, Ron, K6EXT. "Can I go?" he asked. "Absolutely!" I replied. I didn't want to leave the crew short-handed but I could not leave my out-of-town guests. Ron is a good sailor and has crewed with us in the past. The boat he regularly crews on was in the upper harbor with a problem with the mast lowering device. Herb Lundin, WA6LOB, and I used to be pretty fast with getting the mast down on his boat. Dipping those masts to get under the Murray Street bridge takes skill, and coordination (and a good electric winch).

Was again whacking my back yard and once again lamented the fact that my tower has been down for a decade. My Cushcraft A-3 antenna lays, disassembled, in a (not-so)



CAKE report by Glen, KG0T

CAKE met at the Abby at 10 AM on May 10. As usual in Santa Cruz, the weather was almost perfect so we met outside.

Attending were Bob, K6XX; Don, K6GHA; David, KG6IRW; Glen, KG0T; Tuck, AF6GQ; Reed, N7WC; Richard, W1WUH; Sam, WB6RJH; San, W6RRR; Tom, KW6S; Vic, AE6ID; and Warren, NROV. Apologies if I missed anyone.

Greatly missed was Rod, W6W0, who is one of the founders and still prime movers of CAKE. He will be back in a few months, we hope.

Warren brought the new ANAN-200D, a remarkable SDR for which he has written a lot of code, esp. the DSP routines. Too bad we did not have an antenna, 12V power supply, and computer, so no demo. Perhaps at a future club meeting...

Glen brought an STM Nucleo microcomputer breadboard that is like an Arduino but far more powerful for only \$10. He also discussed his "Serial Section Transmission Line Matching" program, which is just the thing for deciding what impedances and lengths of transmission line might be best for your particular antenna. Glen is looking for a couple of beta testers.

Someone (sorry - I am not as good at this as Ron is - Ron usually writes the CAKE report) brought a failed magnetron from a microwave oven that failed because there was no load (i.e., nothing in the oven). Discussion ensued



neat pile. My trusty 40 and 80 meter dipoles still serve me well but I do notice that the nylon guys have long since turned green with moss. Must be good nylon as they have been up for years and still haven't needed replacing. Oh well, no need to fix what ain't broke.

about the power output of microwave ovens (600 to 900 watts), and an explanation of the development of magnetrons early during WWII. Over 1B are in use today, almost all in microwave ovens.

Someone (sorry again) brought a QST from Jan. 1940 and a CQ from June 1956. Very interesting - perhaps the club station could start a collection of old ham radio mags. for member perusal? San was asked about a schematic in the CQ - she did know about the schematic symbol for a tube, and she even knows what a tube is, tho it is not clear that she has ever seen one. (San is a very bright and personable young ham who has an extra class license and is active on contests, esp. CW).

Sam brought a mystery audio device. I could never figure out what it was, and did not have a chance to ask.

Reed brought a USB SD card reader. Not an uncommon device, but he got his (new) for the great price of 50 cents at a flea market - I think the one at De Anza College, but not sure.

Someone, I think it was Luck, showed a Fox Delta Antenna Analyzer; perhaps the lowest-cost analyzer available. Everyone should have some sort of analyzer, Glen thinks (but antennas are a big part of his ham radio work, YMMV). The Fox Delta uses a 9830 oscillator, predecessor to the SI570. There was some discussion of the SI570 which has become very successful for various ham radio projects and products including the KX3.

John and Luck talked about their hex beams, which they both like.

There were discussions, if I remember correctly, about the SI570 and KX3 temperature drift, SOTA, the RPi, and a few other things.

CAKE remains my favorite meeting, with more talent per seat than any other I know of. If you are interested in the technical side of ham radio you might enjoy the meetings, and hopefully bring some gadget or info about your current ham radio technical project.

Treasurer's Report

The April 30, 2014 Treasurer's Report presented to the Board of Directors showed that the SCCARC treasury had \$3,866.49 in cash and bank accounts (total undesignated: \$3,148.40). At that time all financial obligations for which invoices had been received had been met. The full Report is available on request from Kathleen KI6AIE at ki6aie@k6bj.org.

SCCARC Board - 2014

President	Suellene Petersen K6CPA	(831) 335-2662
Vice President	Michael Usher AG6MK	(408) 582-2029
Secretary	David Copp WS2I	(831) 708-2206
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(Immediate Past Pres.)	Robert Ritchey KJ6FFP	
K6BJ Trustee	Allen Fugelseth WB6RWU	(831) 475-8846

MONTEREY BAY REPEATER ACTIVITY

Santa Cruz County	K6BJ 146.790- PL 94.8 Santa Cruz (linked to K16EH) K16EH 147.945- PL 94.8 Watsonville (linked to K6BJ) K6BJ 440.925+ PL 123.0 Santa Cruz (not linked) K6BJ D-Star 441.675 +5MHz (D Star link: tinyurl.com/dstar-sc) • SCCARC Net Monday 7:30 PM 146.79- /147.945- /147.180+ linked • SCCARC 10 Meter Net Monday 7:00 PM 28.308 MHz USB
ARES Net	SC County Wide ARES Tuesday 7:30 PM on 147.180+ PL 94.8 and 443.600+ PL 110.9 linked
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) • LP ARES / LPARC Net Tuesday 7:15 PM
Monterey	K6LY 146.97- PL 94.8 / 444.700+ PL123 (linked for net) Monterey • Monterey Co. ARES Net Wednesday 7:30 PM K6LY 146.970- (PL 94.8) • NPSARC Net Wednesday at 8 PM on K6LY/R
LPRC	WR6ABD 146.640- PL 162.2 / 442.900+ PL 162.2 (winsystem.org) • LPRC Net Tuesday 8:00 PM 146.640-(PL 162.2) • Amateur Radio Newsline broadcast Tuesday

• 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

ARES Meeting (prior to club meeting)	Friday	Jun 20
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Jun 20
Cake Meetings	2nd and 4th Sat	
Board Meeting	Thur	Jun 26
Field Day		Jun 28-29
Short Skip articles due	Monday	Jul 7
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Jul 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, Education Center, 1555 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz

Net Control Schedule:

6/16	Lou NJ6H
6/23	Chris KG6DOZ
6/30	Phil KE6UWH
7/7	Tom K6TG
7/14	Lou NJ6H

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