

APRIL 2000

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP

APRIL 15 - DID YOU UPGRADE?

April 15, the new rules go into effect.

Please expect to spend some time in line if you go in for your upgrade in the next couple of months. The ARRL session in Cupertino had over 100 people testing on April 1st. We expect 2-4 times that many people on the 15th!

If you have already passed the required elements and are waiting for April 15 to upgrade, you will need to go to a VE session and fill out the required forms and pay the fees (if required by the VEC).

Please help out by bringing: 1) Two forms of ID (e.g. drivers license and credit card) 2) The original AND A PHOTOCOPY of your license. 3) The originals and PHOTOCOPIES of any CSCEs. 4) The correct change (\$6.65 for ARRL VEC, call for others).

Continued page 5, col 3

MEETING ROOM CHANGE

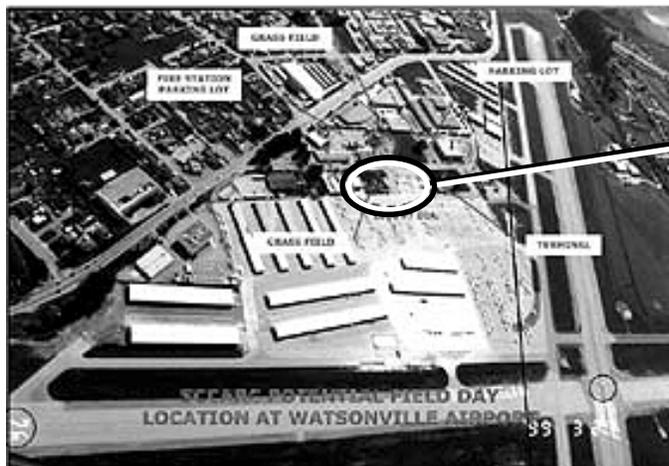
The good news is that we have meeting room reservations for the next three months.

The bad news is that it is downstairs in the main building.

They are reconfiguring the rooms in the education building, and they will be out of service for construction. Heidi hopes that they will be done in three months.

— Don, KF6KGO

FIELD OF DREAMS



PROPOSED SITE AT AIRPORT

WATSONVILLE AIRPORT A "NEW" FIELD DAY SITE?

I surveyed the Watsonville Airport facilities with Bob Wisner, and I am enthused about it as an alternative site. This is coming from someone who absolutely LOVES the CDF Nursery site we have been visiting the past few years. The Airport site offers good public exposure and more convenient accessibility, and good HF propagation. (maybe not quite as good as a mountain top, but unquestionably solid cross country propagation)

While this is not as nice a camping setting as the CDF nursery site, I think it would still afford a quite pleasant experience as the Airport traffic dies in the evening and early morning. In terms of emergency preparedness, this site offers a much more realistic environment for what a communication set up would be like in a real emergency. If SC County were to be cut off from the rest of the world, the Watsonville Airport probably would be

the center of emergency relief activity. The specific area at the airport that seems best suited for us would add the challenging factor of airport noise to our operations, but at the same time it is far enough removed from the runways to not be debilitating.

So, the airport definitely would be different. It would emphasize different aspects of Field Day than the CDF site. I'd like to give it a try. I think it would be fun, and I think more club members would visit us due to the more convenient accessibility. But the bottom line is if we procure it, will the operators come? I know that for some (myself included) the woody camping experience is a large part of the attraction of Field Day. Are we willing to exchange that experience for a different one: an environment that offers another side of Field Day, that of public exposure and emergency preparedness? I'm willing to give it a go. How about you?

— 73, Tom, KQ6DV

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY APRIL 21, 7:30P.M.

SHORT SKIP

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Prez Sez

Prez Sez At our March Board meeting we discussed ways in which we might make our club more interactive. We are working on scheduling a Fox Hunt, and we are considering a club construction project. Also we are committing to participate in this Fall's Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air. Anyone who would like to help in the planning of any of these events please contact me via e-mail, landline, or the radio waves.

The Watsonville Airport is under consideration as an alternative Field Day site this year. Tom Ginsburg, K6TG, and I are soliciting your views on this site. Please include in your communications to us whether or not you intend to participate in Field Day, and if so in what capacity and for what time period? We need bodies for Friday afternoon set up and Sunday afternoon break down, in addition to operators and stations for the main event. If we choose to go with the Watsonville Airport we will also need volunteer docents to staff an information booth. Field Day this year is scheduled for Saturday, June 24 through Sunday June 25, with set up help also needed on Friday afternoon, June 23. The K6BJ keyword for Field Day is FUN! We hope to see greater participation than ever this year: see you there, wherever there may be. Stay tuned.

— 73, KQ6DV

A Club Home Brew Project ?

Is there a project that club members might be interested in working on? Any ideas?

In a recent QEX magazine there was a fancy ferrite antenna that could be fun and useful in various ways including isolating local noise sources. treasure hunts and so on.

This (club project) is an idea that Jeff AC6KW and Ron K6EXT and Al KM6VV have talked about and would like to promote too. I'm sending them a copy of this message.

— 73, Cap

High Voltage -No Danger

Most electric fields we encounter in Amateur radio are at the level of a few volts, millivolts or microvolts per meter. There is one place however where the level is an amazing 30 million volts per meter. Fortunately this enormous field intensity is nicely contained inside a Zener Diode where it is required to cause the valuable Zener effect to occur.

— Ron W6WO

INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY

APRIL 29, 2000 - 0000Z-2400Z

Over 40 International Marconi Day Special Event stations will be participating world wide. These Marconi Day Stations will represent Historic Guglielmo Marconi transmitting and receiving stations and will commemorate milestones in the development of worldwide wireless communications. Certificate available see...

<http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~straff/>

The Marconi Radio Club, W1AA/IMD of Massachusetts will represent the Marconi Transatlantic Station where Marconi completed his first spark gap radio transmission between the United States and Europe on January 18, 1903. The Marconi Radio Club will have several stations on the bands for the event.

Marconi Radio Club W1AA at:

<http://personal.tmlp.com/k1vv/w1aa/>

— 73 Bob "Whitey" Doherty K1VV
President - Marconi Radio Club W1AA



Trade or Sell Table

Bring your surplus radio gear to sell or trade. The table will be set up before the club meeting. Put a price on your goodie and have fun trading or selling: mics, connectors, handhelds and related equipment, receivers, transmitters, etc. Let's have fun!

—Dan AA6GD

Hallicrafters S-107; Works Well
General coverage AM/CW receiver, plus 6 meters!

Phono input, (I have no idea why)

Many original tubes (Hallicrafters)

I may have a copy of the manual

Average cosmetics for a used unit

Incorrect knobs

Includes a "wrong" .375" hole on the rear panel.

Please e-mail for digital pics

Entertaining offers in the \$80.00 range

George Badger/W3AB w3ab@arrl.net

WATSONVILLE AIR SHOW

It is fast approaching that time of year when the Watsonville Fly-In and Air Show rolls around. There may be some of you that are new to the radio club or even new to Ham radio, and haven't any idea what I am talking about. So let me take a moment to explain.

Every year on Memorial Day weekend, the city of Watsonville holds a Fly-In and Air Show at the Watsonville Airport, currently home to some 300 aircraft. With an average weekend attendance of around 10,000 to 15,000 there is an overwhelming need for public safety support and a big part of that is communications. For the past six years Ham Radio operators from around the area, managed by the local ARES management team, have been providing communications personnel and a structured system for passing traffic between various government agencies such as the Watsonville PD and Fire, the FAA, CDF, the CAP, as well as with local Air Show management. We do this on a variety of networks and frequencies from Police and Fire 150 MHz channels, Amateur 2 m and 70 cm bands and on commercial business frequencies.

We become the eyes and ears of the show that help keep the people and the props from mixing it up. This year's event starts on Friday, May 26, with a full night time air and fire works show that will be advertised to the public for the first time. Next is a full day of operations on Saturday, May 27, with the field closing for arrivals at Noon and the show running from 1:00 pm to about 3:30 pm. Sunday, May 28, will be a mirror of Saturday with the acception of one interesting event Sunday morning. There is going to be an attempt to set the worlds speed record for a human powered vehicle (a bicycle). Sound interesting?

We will, once again, need somewhere on the order of 30 radio operators for Saturday and Sunday and about 15 operators for the night show on Friday. Activities for the Amateurs will begin on Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 am with check-in followed by the first briefing at 8:30 am. There will be some time for viewing the air craft and the vendor booths before the final safety briefing at 11:00 am. Assignments will be made following the safety briefing and we will take up positions until given the stand down order from Fly-In Command. The Friday operation poses an interesting

twist in that it is at night (in the dark!) and other equipment such as flash lights and jackets are usually needed. One other thing concerning Saturday and Sunday's operations, we are going to be sponsored this year by the local McDonalds restaurant. They will be providing lunches for all of our Amateur staff on Saturday and Sunday free of charge.

If you are considering helping out this year but have some questions please feel free to get in contact with me at one of the numbers or the email address listed at the end of this email. To sign up I will need the following information:

1. Your name
2. Your call sign
3. Your phone number, with area code
4. When you can help (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

To assist in signing up we have established a web page that you can use. Just fill in the boxes at the bottom of the page and the requested information will be sent in via email.

The web page is located at <<http://www.kjssl.com/wvi>>.

As further enticement let me tell you something of what else will be here this year. You may remember the Lockheed Constellation from several years ago. It will be back along with a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress. Also there will be the world's only German Junkers 111 bomber still flying. Kind of interesting; the US plane that bombed Germany and the German bomber that bombed England, both flying at the same field at the same time. Kind of interesting? For those of you that like things that go Flash Bang there is scheduled to be Pyrotechnics this year as well.

So get your info in as soon as possible. We will be sending out further information as soon as it is firmed up. Thanks for your help and I hope to see you at the Watsonville Fly-In and Air Show this year.

Regards,
Bob Wiser, KD6FXQ
Emergency Coordinator (EC)
Watsonville ARES
PHONE: 831-728-4198
WORK: 831-460-3800 ext. 3844
CELL: 650-302-0776
EMAIL: bobwiser@aol.com
bwiser@network-alchemy.com
kd6fxq@arrl.net

Amateur Radio Satellite

The Phase 3D next-generation Amateur Radio satellite has been tentatively scheduled to launch in late July. The launch is listed in the "Provisional Ariane Launch Manifest" for February through July of this year appearing in the February edition of the Arianespace newsletter, (http://www.arianespace.com/news_espace.html).

If the schedule holds, the Phase 3D satellite would be sent aloft on Ariane 507, flight V132. A specific date in July was not available.

The Phase 3D satellite now is at the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. Phase 3D will be stored in its shipping container, housed in an air-conditioned integration building at the launch complex until launch preparations commence. All systems have been shut down and the batteries left uncharged.

A launch contract accepting Phase 3D as a payload for the first suitable Ariane 5 launch vehicle was signed last October.

For more information about Phase 3D, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site, <http://www.amsat.org/>.



ARES REPEATERS

The Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Services furnishes three repeaters to ARES. The repeaters are operated by ARES. All repeaters require a PL of 94.8. The frequencies and locations are as follows:

KD6FXQ	147.015+	Watsonville
N6IYA	146.745-	Bonny Doon
W6FKD	146.835-	Summit

Watsonville ARES Net meets each Thursday night 8:30PM on the K6BJ and K16EH (linked) Repeaters at 146.79- / 147.945- Mhz.

The **Santa Cruz ARES** meets the second Tuesday each month at the Santa Cruz Red Cross on Soquel Avenue at 7:30PM. Net meets each Monday at 8:30PM on 146.836 - PI 94.8



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

When last visiting my son and his family, his XYL Cybele, KC6ZQS, casually mentioned that their long unused ICOM 730 was going to be, once again, emanating RF back into the airways. "That's great!" I said, congratulating her on cleaning five-year's worth of dust from the gear. She had it neatly arranged on a desk, polished and hooked up. "The only thing stopping us from transmitting is that the antenna is down." No problem, said I, envisioning an easy hour's worth of work. The bonus was that Cybele AND our grandson Beckett could come up on the air with Donna and me. Beckett is 4 years old and anxious to be on ham radio. With that incentive, we made ready for some antenna rigging.

With a 20 foot extension ladder in place, I bounced up to the rooftop to see what could be done to restore the downed 40 meter dipole to its rightful position. The nylon guys had long since parted due to the sawing action of the Oak tree branches and UV rays of the sun. Cybele handed me the 10-foot long tree trimmer and I began to cut away enough foliage from the nearby trees to string new antenna guys. Even though it is not yet summer, a few minutes of snipping and sawing up on a shingled roof in the hot sun had me panting. Have you ever worked in the Sacramento sun? It gets kinda warm at times. By the time I had enough branches cut away, I was sweating as hard as playing 3 sets of singles tennis on Maui. "Watch your footing," yelled Cybele from the ground as I stepped on a cylindrical insulator. It rotated under my foot like a roller bearing. Barely regaining my balance, I reflected upon the possibility of a headfirst trip to the ground via the shortest route. (Gee, those bones take a long time to mend after age 40!) From then on I stepped pretty lightly, especially on a shingle or two loosened by last winter's winds.

With the coax inspected and the antenna rigged with fresh new guys, we were ready for a test. The ICOM fired up nicely and after a few minutes for me to refamiliarize myself with its operation, we gave it a try. I broke in on a QSO from a couple of guys who sounded ultra friendly. They were up in Utah or Idaho and happy to give me an S9 signal report. The SWR was about 2:1.

Next, we turned on the faithful Radio Shack power supply for the 2-meter rig. For an antenna, we sat an old mag mount antenna on a large cookie sheet near the desk. The little rig came alive as we went on Simplex for a test. Out in my car, I gave Cybele and Beckett a call on my outmoded Kenwood TR-2600A. The excited 4-year-old came back, using his mother's call sign! The goal here is for Beckett and his mom to be able to communicate with his dad, N6UZI, in his daily afternoon bumper-to-bumper commute. The five o'clock traffic is heavy on highway 50 in Sacramento. Cell phones are good, but heck, why not exercise the privileges of our licenses?

Upon our return to Santa Cruz, we have had a daily 40-meter QSOs with each other. Beckett is a natural on the air. He says "over" when appropriate and has memorized his mom's call sign as well as mine. Morse code? He already knows that "E" is dit. Hey! Ain't ham radio fun!

The month of April was good for me. 73 Magazine published my piece "The Long-Lost Art of Conversational CW." I have mentioned Marsha Messer, AB7RJ, and her family many times in these columns. You can see photos of her and her son Brad, KC7KTL, on pages 18 and 19. OK, I know, CW is not a popular mode, but it is still a unique part of the hobby. Monitoring Times Magazine featured "There Are Antennas and There Are Antennas," in which I described using a "wet noodle" antenna to get out on 40 meters. Accompanying my piece was one written by our daughter Joyce, KN6RR. "The Queen of Communications," about her daughter Cheri, KE6BOP. QST. The Shriners Hospitals for Children offer free medical care for children suffering with orthopaedic or burn problems. If you know of a child who needs expert orthopaedic or burn care, contact your local Shriner Temple at 1-800-237-5055, or call Art Lee at 426-5279.

MARCH REPEATER REPORT

Bob KD6FXQ asked me to pass this along. I too very much hope that annoying intermod problem has finally been licked! Credit for the fix goes to Bob and Jeff WB6SSY (who built the low-pass filter that Bob tested and installed). Thanks, Bob and Jeff!

73, Cap KE6AFE

As most of you know we have been experiencing some intermod problems with the KI6EH repeater down in Watsonville for some time now. The problem has been related to the GTE Cell Phone site that is located on the same tower as our antennas. In fact, for many of you new club members, the GTE antennas are located on the top of the antenna tower located next to the Watsonville Fire Station #2 at the Watsonville Airport. Our antennas, which were there first, are located near the top just between two of these cell antennas. We have been experiencing a problem with one of the GTE frequencies mixing somewhere with our 147.9450MHz output frequency and generating a signal right on our 147.3450 MHz input frequency. At times the problem has been so strong that the cell call has been heard over our repeater system. About two weeks ago we added an additional LO PASS filter between the duplexer and the external preamp that feeds our 2 m receiver. This filter has an estimated roll off point of around 172 MHz and the cell frequencies we are dealing with are in the 800 MHz band. This filter seems to have worked to knock down the 800 stuff getting down to our equipment. What we would like to know is, has anyone heard any of this intermod noise from the KI6EH repeater since two weeks ago? The way you can tell the problem is from the EH repeater is when the noise finally drops and you are listening on the K6BJ repeater, you will hear two beeps, indicating that what you were hearing was coming over the link from Watsonville. If you hear the usual intermod noise and then only one beep, then the problem is coming from the local 2m receiver at the K6BJ site and not from KI6EH.

If anyone hears this "CellPhone" intermod noise from the Watsonville end of the system please let me know with an email to <kd6fxq@arrl.net or <bobwiser@aol.com and let me know when you heard it and what it sounded like. Also, please let me know what machine you were listening on when you heard the noise (on K6BJ or KI6EH).

Thanks for your help on this and lets hope we have put this one to rest!

73, Bob Wiser, KD6FXQ Emergency Coordinator

SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALIA TO ADOPT 5 WPM FOR FULL HF ACCESS

Two more countries have joined a small but growing list of administrations that have adopted a 5 WPM Morse code test requirement for full access to the HF bands.

South Africa has approved a full HF-access license plus what it called "a practical based student license"—both requiring a 5 WPM code test. The new Class A3 ticket—with a distinctive ZT call sign prefix—provides "full license" privileges at up to 100 W output. The new entry-level Class B license aimed at school-aged youth, requires completing what's called a "modular syllabus"—essentially a construction project that results in a completed station. Licensees will be assigned ZU-prefix call signs and be able to operate at up to 25 W output on selected band segments. The 12 WPM Morse code requirement remains in place for the Class A1 "full license," which carries the ZS prefix, privileges on all bands and a maximum output of 400W.

Meanwhile, the Wireless Institute of Australia is claiming a substantial victory in its efforts to get the Australian Communications Authority to lower the Morse code license test speed for full access to HF bands there from 10 to 5 WPM. The ACA has said it plans to merge the privileges of the current Intermediate and Unrestricted licenses. The change will take place by mid-year, just in time for the expected influx of visitors for the Olympics in Sydney.

Under the plan, Australian Intermediate licensees will get the same HF privileges as so-called "full call" licensees. The two license classes and their distinctive call signs blocks would remain, however, as would the 10 WPM code requirement for the Unrestricted ticket. The Intermediate License currently requires a 5 WPM Morse test and has restricted access to 80, 15, and 10 meters at 100 W output. So-called "Full calls" get access to all Australian amateur allocations at up to 400 W. Once the ACA upgrades the Intermediate license, holders would have full HF access and privileges.

The general issue of Morse code licensing requirements is expected to be a topic for debate at the IARU Region 3 conference the WIA will host later this year. Discussion of the International Radio Regulations regarding the Morse code requirement is not expected to come up prior to the World Radiocommunication Conference set for 2003.

South Africa and Australia join the US, the UK, Sweden, and Gibraltar among countries that have lowered the Morse code requirement for full HF access to 5 WPM. A reduced Morse code requirement is under consideration in Canada, India, and Germany.—thanks to Jim Linton VK3PC, President WIA Victoria,

Upgrade

This will greatly speed up the paperwork processing! Some other tips for speeding up your processing: If you are claiming credit for having a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987, please bring your license showing an effective date prior to that date or a letter from the FCC stating that you held a Tech license prior to that date AND A COPY. Some VECs accept callbook listings, but some may not. Please call and check prior to coming down to avoid long delays.

The FCC is accepting a novice license, expired or not, for 5WPM code. If you are claiming code credit, please bring the license and a copy. If you are a tech plus, but your license shows tech, please bring in your CSCE (expired or not) and a photocopy to show that you have code credit. If you lost your original license, some VECs accept a printed DETAILED page from QRZ.COM. Please print out the DETAILED page which shows your license class, effective dates, and expiration dates. Please call the VEC to see if they will accept the QRZ.COM printout.

QRZ.COM has put its 1993 database on their web site. You can access it at: <http://www.qrz.com/search1993.html> Some VECs accept a printout from this web site as proof of being licensed previously.

15-Apr, 6-may, 20-may, 3-June, 17-June 2000

Sponsor: SILICON VALLEY VE GROUP
Time: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: EMMETT F FREITAS
(408)243-8349 VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: TANDEM COMPUTER CO
19333 VALLCO PKWY BLDG #2 ME-
AE6Z@WORLDNET.ATT.NET
CUPERTINO, CA 95014

Other web sites with test information:
Laurel VEC (Monterey): <http://www.sp.nps.navy.mil/npsarc/k6ly.html>
Sunnyvale VEC (Fremont/Mountain View/Sunnyvale):

<http://www.amateur-radio.org/>
ARRL VEC (All over the country):

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

W5YI VEC (All over the country):
<http://www.w5yi.org/vol-exam.htm>
Don, KH6HOU



THIS MONTH:
The New Proposed FCC Reg
Constructing the Quad
Results CQ's DX Contest
TVI Shielding Experiment

WHAT CLUB MEMBER, AND WHAT IS IT?

SCCARC Officers - 2000

President	Tom Johnson	KQ6DV	464-3120
Vice President	Don Hennese	KF6KGO	438-1486
Secretary	Cap Pennell	KE6AFE	429-1290
Treasurer	Allen Fugelseth	WB6RWU	475-8846
Board	Bruce Hawkins	AC6DN	
	Bruce Wade	W6FKD	423-0575
	Bill Walters	W6PAD	688-0557
	Lauren Hardy	KC6TPW	462-0247
	Ron Skelton	W6WO	477-1021
K6BJ Trustee	Royce Krilanovich	AC6Z	475-4798

MONTEREY BAY ACTIVITY

K6BJ / KI6EH (Linked) • SCCARC Net Monday 7:30 PM 146.79- /147.945-
146.79- /147.945- • SC ARES Net Monday 8:30 PM 146.835-
(PL 94.8) • Watsonville ARES Net Thursday 8:30 PM 147.945-

K6BJ / UHF
440.925 (PL 123)

K6LY (Monterey) • Monterey ARES Net Wednesday 7:30 PM
146.97- (PL 94.8) • NPSARC Net Wednesday 8:00 PM
444.700+ (PL 123) • Monterey Bay Traffic Net Nightly 9:00 PM
(Linked) • Monterey Bay Swap Net Wednesday 8:15 PM
• Newline (Ham News) Broadcast Wednesday 8:30 PM

N6IYA (Felton) • SLVRC Net Thursday 7:30 PM
146.745- (PL 94.8) • SLV ARES Net Monday 7:30 PM
• Newline (Ham News) Broadcast Sunday 9:00 PM

6 Meter Local Net 52.8 MHz (PL-114.8) Sunday 8:00 PM
SCCARC 10 Meter Net 28.308 MHz USB Monday 7:00 PM
Mont. Bay Chapter 191 QCWA :Tuesday, 7:30PM, AA6T repeater, 146.700-(NO PL).

SCCARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SCCARC Board Meeting 6:30	Friday	Apr. 21
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Apr. 21
SHORT SKIP deadline	Monday	May 8
Santa Cruz ARES	Tuesday	May 9
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	May 19

Visit the SCCARC Website at

- www.fireclay.com/k6bj

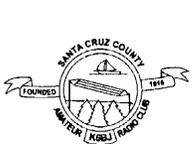
NEW! – CLUB E-MAIL: k6bj@arrl.net

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The SCCARC Meets at 7:30 PM, on the THIRD FRIDAY of the each month (except December). Meeting are at Dominican Hospital, 1515 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz.

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

4/17	Allen WB6RWU
4/24	Phil KE6UWH
5/1	Ron W6WO
5/8	Dave W6TUW
5/15	Tom K6TG



SHORT SKIP

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 238
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0238

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

Next Meeting April 21

FIRST CLASS