

JANUARY 2000

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP

Repeater link repaired! Finally!

Thanks to the long and hard work of Bob KD6FXQ, George K6TAM, and Bruce AC6DN the flaky 422Mhz link radio at the Santa Cruz repeater site was replaced today. There is now, once again after a long time without, a dependable full-time link between the Santa Cruz and the Watsonville 2 meter repeaters. This repair has been a long time coming but it's now finally done. Thanks for your patience.

The new repeater system priority is fixing the cell phone intermod that's intermittently getting into the Watsonville repeater. I hope we can get this fixed soon too. Meantime though, we do have dependable communications back between the two ends of our system.

On 2 meters we have K6BJ/R 146.790-pl 94.8 (S.Cruz) linked full-time to KI6EH/R 147.945- pl 94.8 (Watsonville)

Also, on 70 centimeters, we have K6BJ/R 440.925+ pl 123 (Santa Cruz)

73, Cap KE6AFE (keeping my fingers crossed for good luck)

— Cap Pennell

Amateur Restructuring is Here: Three License Classes, One Code Speed

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 30, 1999--Amateur Radio will get a new look in the new millennium. The FCC today issued its long-awaited Report and Order in the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97--more commonly known as "license restructuring." The bottom line is that starting April 15, 2000, there will be three license classes--Technician, General, and Amateur Extra--and a single Morse code requirement--5 WPM.

"We believe that an individual's ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," the FCC said.

Besides drastically streamlining the Amateur Radio licensing process, the FCC said its actions would "eliminate unnecessary requirements that may discourage or limit individuals from becoming trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts."

Although no new Novice and Advanced licenses will be issued after the effective date of the Report and Order, the FCC does not plan to automatically upgrade any existing license privileges. The ARRL had proposed a one-time across-the-board upgrading of current Novice and Tech Plus licensees to General class, but the FCC declined to adopt the idea. This means that current licensees will retain their current operating privileges, including access to various modes and subbands, and will be able to renew their licenses indefinitely.

Starting April 15, 2000, individuals who qualified for the Technician class license prior to March 21, 1987, will be able to upgrade to General class by providing documentary proof to a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, paying an application fee, and completing FCC Form 605.

The FCC's decision not to automatically upgrade Novice and Tech Plus licensees means the current Novice/Tech Plus HF subbands will remain and not be "reformed" to higher class licensees as the ARRL had proposed. The FCC said it did not reform these subbands because there was "no consensus" within the amateur community as to what to do with them.

As it had proposed earlier, the FCC decided to lump Technician and Tech Plus licensees into a single licensee database, all designated as "Technician" licensees. Those who can document having passed the 5 WPM Morse code examination will continue to have the current Tech Plus HF privileges. "If documentation is needed to verify whether a licensee has passed a telegraphy examination, we may request the documentation from that licensee or the VECs," the FCC said.

In addition to reducing the number of license classes from six to three and eliminating the 20 and 13 WPM code tests, the FCC also will reduce the number of written exami-

Continued page 3

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



SHORT SKIP

Published 12 times per year.
Free to members.
Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 238
Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0238

Editor and Publisher
Ron Baldwin, K6EXT
(408) 427-0565
K6EXT@fireclay.com

Columnist
Art Lee, WF6P
Production and Distribution
Dave Harbaugh, W6TUW

Prez Sez

Club - 1. a heavy stick, usu. thicker at one end than the other, suitable for use as a weapon; cudgel. 3. a group of people organized for a social, literary, or other purpose: an athletic club. 8. a. a black trefoil-shaped figure on a playing card. 11. To unite; join together. 12. to contribute as one's share toward a common expense.

— Webster's Collegiate Dictionary

Above are just a few of the sixteen definitions of club offered by my trusty desk side dictionary. What does SCCARC mean to you? How would you like to see it defined, or redefined? Let your club officers and board members know: your input is invaluable and welcome. We're all ears. Think not only of what you want, but what you can contribute: "Ask not what your club can do for you, ask what you can do for your club!" What's in store for SCCARC 2000? I don't know, but I'm excited at the prospect of helping it to happen.

First up is membership renewal. Please take a moment to pull out your check books and "contribute as one's share toward a common expense." We've experienced a progressive decline in membership and revenue at SCCARC the past few years and I hope we can turn this around. It begins with you; our current members. Please renew promptly and encourage those hams you know who are non members to check us out. Remember that at the very least as a member of SCCARC you are supporting a sophisticated linked emergency communications system which is much appreciated by your local government. Money talks, and for us hams emergency preparedness is the currency that our congressmen and senators listen to when they are busy divvying up radio spectrum.

While SCCARC is by no means broke, we have fallen into a pattern of expenditures exceeding revenues, and I would like to make a millenium resolution to try and reverse this trend. For those of you for whom the world of commerce has treated well, remember that you may enclose an extra gift with your membership dues if you feel so moved. I would like very much to hear club member's ideas on fun ways to increase revenue. Some that were floated around the Holiday Brunch were:

- 1) A Field Day "QSO-A-THON" where the participants in Field Day would petition sponsors to pledge a donation amount to the club for each Field Day contact.
- 2) Donating all or part of the sale price received for items sold at the meeting "auction table" to the club.
- 3) Holding another major club auction

Have other ideas? Let us know. We're all ears.

One thing we definitely have to look forward to in the year 2000 is a new Amateur Licensing Structure. I feel the FCC is to be commended for their sincere interest in addressing and listening to the Amateur Radio Community's comments on the issues at hand. I thought it was especially nice that they actually listed the names of each and every individual and organization who contributed their comments to the FCC during the period opened for public input. Even yours truly, Thomas P. Johnson, is immortalized on page 54 of the Report and Order, FCC 99-412. No, they did not adopt my solution, but I know they listened. And boy, did they listen! If you haven't yet read the entire Report and Order, I urge you to do so: it is difficult not to respect the reasoning of the FCC after reviewing this document. Well, enough said; the "long and winding road" has come to an end. Time to bury the hatchets, and Time to Upgrade!

Now is the time for us to "come together" and turn the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club into the best club it has ever been. We can do it!

—73,
KQ6DV

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

Mailing List

Are you already on the K6BJ list? The K6BJ email mailing list is a good way to keep up with what's going on around here in a more timely manner. News? Announcements? Questions? Answers? Kudos? Complaints? Locate? Buy? Sell? Trade? Anything you want to say?

Anybody with an email address can join but if they're not interested in Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio they probably won't stay subscribed to our list for very long. There are more than 100 of your Santa Cruz County ham friends on the list already. Ray KF6GPE has just obtained some hardware and software upgrades for his server so with his help the list should continue to run smoothly in 2000.

If you're not yet on the list but think you might like to be, simply let me know.

— Cap <ke6afe@arrl.net>

License Classes cont.

nation elements from five to three, authorize Advanced Class hams to prepare and administer General class examinations, and eliminate Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) station licenses. RACES will remain, however. "After review of the record, we conclude that we should eliminate RACES station licenses because RACES station licenses are unnecessary for amateur stations and amateur service licenses to provide emergency communications," the FCC said.

Under the new licensing scheme, there will be four examination elements. Element 1 will be the 5 WPM Morse code exam. Element 2 will be a 35-question written test to obtain a Technician license; Element 3 will be a 35-question written test to obtain a General license, and Element 4 will be a 50-question written test for the Amateur Extra license. The FCC has left it in the hands of the National Conference of VECs Question Pool Committee to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective in April.

The FCC's new licensing plan means someone will be able to become a ham by passing a single 35-question written examination. The plan also simplifies and shortens the upgrade path from the ground floor through Amateur Extra--especially since amateurs will only have to pass one Morse code test.

Elimination of the 13 and 20 WPM Morse requirements also means an end to physician certification waivers for applicants claiming an inability to pass the Morse code examination due to physical handicap.

The effective date provides a window of upgrade opportunity for current Tech Plus and Advanced class licensees. Between now and April 15, current Advanced licensees who pass or hold a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for the existing Element 4B, will meet the new requirements for Amateur Extra when the new rules become effective. Likewise, current Tech Plus licensees who pass or hold a CSCE for Element 3B will be poised to upgrade to General class when the new rules go into effect April 15. Any CSCEs must be dated on or after April 17, 1999, to be valid April 15, 2000.



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

A few days ago I received a landline from Terry Parks, N6NUN. He had been on the Baja Maritime Mobile Net and overheard someone calling me. It was Marilyn Bruner, KR6CX. She was calling from her Morgan 46 sloop in La Paz. I met Marilyn a few months ago on P dock in the Santa Cruz yacht harbor. She was single-handing her boat down the coast. Invited aboard for a beer, I spent an hour or so handing her tools as she replaced the fuel pump to her Onan generator. I stood in her shower as she expertly swapped pumps in the somewhat confined engine room space. When I asked if she was going to use ham communications on her trip, she replied in the affirmative. "I had my license a long time ago and let it lapse. I'll get it back when I'm in San Diego before crossing over to Mexico." Further conversation revealed that she holds a Ph.D. in Astro Physics. "I tried to retire, but NASA keeps calling me back for consultations." On what? "The X-ray spectrum in space," was her answer. OK! (It's fun meeting people who are hams - and sailors!)

Got an email from my Washington State CW buddy Marsha, AB7RJ, setting up a

new sked. She had been working some horribly long hours as manager of a café. She also had two of her grown children home for the holidays. Exhausted, she begged off on our CW practice sessions. A couple of nights ago we got back on - for two hours. We normally run for about an hour or an hour and a half at night or until her eyelids start to close. Is CW still alive? You bet it is. Many times we have a hard time finding a clear freq in the CW portion of the 40-meter band. Propagation is great with sigs from all over the world coming in strong.

In the November issue of QST, there was mention of on-line QRZ. I typed it in on the search mode and it was great! I could look up call signs, names, and other gud stuff. Now I see that on-line practice exams for all license classes are available. The exams include instant scoring and diagrams from current VEC question pools. Neat!

I received a summary copy of the new License Restructuring: ARRL Pacific Division Update, Special Edition, Dec. 30, 1999. It was quite interesting in that it kept the code requirement, but at 5 wpm. A piece of cake, really. There will be three license classes only, Technician, General and Extra. New exam materials will be established for these licenses. The rules go into effect on April 15th, 2000. A copy of the entire Report and Order (FCC99-412) is available on the ARRL Web site in Adobe PDF format at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf>. There are 70 pages of text so, happy reading!

The FCC disagreed with the League's suggestion that it undertake a restructuring of operating privileges along with licensing restructuring. "We believe that in light of ongoing discussions concerning implementation of new and more modern communications technologies within the amateur service community, we should accord the amateur service community an opportunity to complete such discussions and possibly reach a consensus regarding implementation of new technologies before we undertake a comprehensive restructuring of the amateur service operating privileges and frequencies," the FCC said in its Report and Order.

In its amendments to Part 97, the FCC's

Report and Order refers to a "Club Station Call Sign Administrator," something that does not exist under the current rules and which was not explained in the R&O itself. An FCC spokesperson said the Commission plans to issue a Public Notice soon to explain the program and to solicit qualified entities to serve as call sign administrators for club station applications.

A copy of the entire Report and Order (FCC 99-412) is available on the ARRL Web site in Adobe PDF format or from the FCC Web site in plain text.

See also: Questions and Answers about Restructuring

RADIOFEST 2000

Saturday, February 19, 2000, 7 AM to 3 PM

Sponsored by the Naval Postgraduate School Amateur Radio Club, RadioFest 2000 will be one of the largest gatherings of Amateur Radio Operators to ever be held in the area. The event will be held at the Stillwell Hall POM Annex, located at 4260 Gigling Road, on the former Fort Ord. RadioFest 2000 will feature demonstrations, presentations, guest speakers, forums, a flea market, many vendors and the opportunity for the public to find out what Amateur (Ham) Radio is all about.

Among the guest speakers will be ARRL Pacific Division Director Jim Maxwell W6CF and KSBW TV Channel 8 Lead Weather Forecaster/Meteorologist Jim Vanderzwaan.

One of the highlights of the event will be showing how Ham Radio Operators support the community during times of disaster. Members of Amateur Radio Emergency Services (A.R.E.S) will show how their "hobby" can become a vital resource to many agencies in time of an actual emergency. RadioFest 2000 is FREE and open to the public.

January 2000 - How do I Renew?

How does one renew their club membership? It's easy! Come to the club meeting on the Third Friday of the month at 7:30 PM. Bring dues money or a check to our treasurer, Allan WB6RWU. Or if you would rather renew by mail make your check out to SCCARC and send it to the club mailing address:

SCCARC PO BOX 238 SANTA CRUZ CA 95061-0238

Annual dues amounts are unchanged again this year. Regular full memberships are \$25. Each additional family member of any age at the same address can join for only \$6. Full-time students 18 years old or younger can become members for \$10. All memberships were due for renewal as of January 1, 2000.

When you renew please let us know if any of your information is different this year, especially a new phone number or address. The MEMBERS ONLY roster that will be printed in April can then include your correct: callsign, name, "Handle", mailing address, home phone number, work phone number, autodial slot number, Spouse name, year first joined, whether a ARRL member or not, and email address.

Your new club Membership Card with repeater codes for 2000 will be sent to your home by postal mail.

— Cap KE6AFE, club secretary

WI6F and Group Given Red Cross Award

I was given their Volunteer of the year award for the work that the communication committee is doing on the radio station. To me this is a group award. It was given to me in November. The award is for all the work we have been doing to try to bring the radio station up to the standards we should have had for the earth quake.

The members of the communication committee are: Art Snow, Bob Prater, Bob Wisser, Bruce Hawkis, Bruce Wade, Dave Paylor, Dave Peters, Jim Piper JV Rudnick and Kristin Dyer.

— Jamie, WI6F

Earle E. Pollock WA6OSQ – SK

TO: Santa Cruz Amateur Radio Club Members - -

My DAD, Earle E. Pollock — WA6OSQ, passed away on Thursday afternoon January 6, 2000 (1:25 PM), at Watsonville Community Hospital. He was 94.

Earle died of Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) and pneumonia following a heart attack on January 3, 2000. He had been at the Sun Bridge Convalescent Hospital since July 20, 1999, following a stroke. He was a resident of Blue Pacific Mobile Home Park (#30) in Aptos, CA for 26 years.

WA6OSQ was member of the Santa Cruz ARC for 25 years.

Dad wanted to see the year 2000 and he did it !!! He enjoyed ALL the TV programs from around the world on New Years Eve.

He would have been 95 years old next month on FEBURARY 13th — 2000.

His Amateur Radio LOG BOOK showed his last "on the air" contact March, 1999.

Dad wanted any contributions to go to:

Santa Cruz County ARC (K6BJ)
PO BOX 238

Santa Cruz, CA 95061

—73,

Eddy Earle Pollock — W6LC — and family (831) 476-1937

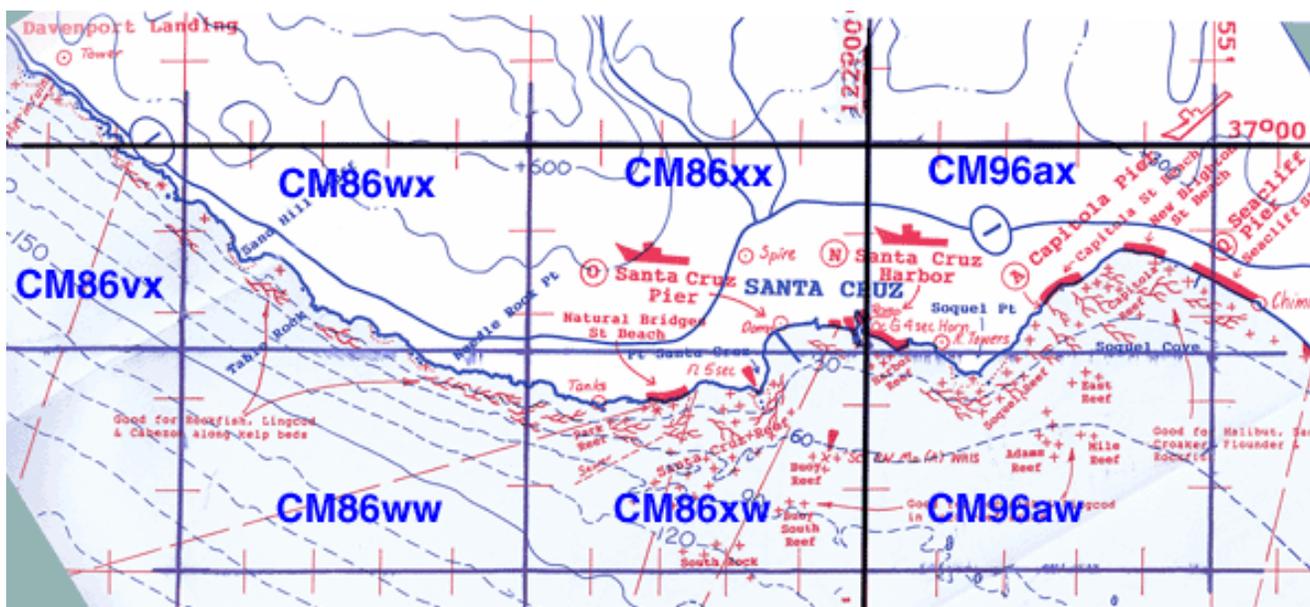
(Past President and 40 year member, Santa Cruz County ARC)

PO BOX 97

Capitola, CA 95010-0097

Added note from Cap KE6AFE: After his 25 years as a dedicated club member, Earle WA6OSQ became a LIFE MEMBER of our Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club at the beginning of this year.

Santa Cruz as Rare DX ?



I was looking at the ARRL Grid Locator the other day and was intrigued to see that parts of our coast are in blocks that would make them "Rare DX" for the VHF/UHF Century Club awards. For example note that in blocks CM96aw, CM86ww and CM86vx we have tiny parts of the coast.

If you want find your exact location I recommend obtaining your lat and lon from <http://MapsOnUs.com> and converting these coordinates to a grid location using the ARRL site. <http://www.arrl.org/locate/grid.html>

Remember to multiply decimals by 60 to get minutes and seconds.

Maybe we can put this to good use one day !

ARES Report

The big none-event of the year has come and gone: Y2K. Whether or not one wants to argue that Y2K is the beginning of the new millenium or Y2K+1 is, it turned out to be much ado about nothing. Though ARES was on the alert to be on the alert, activities were minimal. The EOCs of the City and County of Santa Cruz were partially activated, the local hospitals had their ears pricked up, all prepared for a great breakdown in society (well, at least for "opportunistic civil disobedience"). Watsonville had the party of the century at the fairgrounds (booze-free, fortunately). Santa Cruz had its First Night. And all was quiet on the Western Front, er, Coast.

So ARES used the opportunity as a communications exercise. A section-wide net was set up on the 440.100 Santa Clara County ARES machine. Traffic was passed and communications links maintained from Boulder Creek, SC, Watsonville, and Monterey on local. HF check-ins to Sacramento OES on 3.992 Mhz and the Sacramneto Hospital net on 146.060 Mhz assured paths existed if needed to Sacto. All-in-all, Y2K was a good readiness exercise.

And, now that we're ready, the weather guessers are predicting rain as I keyboard this. And, looking over the MFJ ad in the latest Amateur Radio Trader, I see that MFJ has 1300 mA Ni-MH batteries available at \$3 apiece (\$24 for 10 of 'em). Not a bad price for some juicie that'll run your HT virtually all day when on an ARES assignment. Oh, you don't need batteries? Good. But, are they charged and ready to go in your grab-'n-go kit?

— 73, Jim Piper / KD6YKL

UK to allow Amateur Radio-Internet links

The Radiocommunications Agency in the UK has announced that it will allow interconnection between Amateur Radio and the Internet starting in late January. The action followed consultation with the Radio Society of Great Britain and a number of interested individuals. David Hendon, the Agency's Chief Executive, made the announcement in response to requests from the Amateur Radio community to be permitted to link their radio equipment through the Internet. The RA said it recognized the need to encourage young people to become involved in Amateur Radio as "a valuable training ground for future careers in radio and electronics" and expressed hopes that its decision would "open up whole new avenues into Amateur Radio." Connection of ham equipment to nonamateur networks in the UK will require written permission from the Secretary of State.--RA via Ian Abel, G3ZHI

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	
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
• Newsline (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
• Newsline (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	Jan. 21
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Jan. 21
SHORT SKIP deadline	Monday	Feb. 7
Santa Cruz ARES	Tuesday	Feb. 8
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Feb. 18

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 in the Education Building, Dominican Hospital, 1515 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz.

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

1/17	Ron W6WO
1/24	Jeff KF6BKG
1/31	Tom K6TG
2/7	Allen WB6RWU
2/14	Phil KE6UWH



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

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

Next Meeting Jan. 21

FIRST CLASS