

MAY 2000

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP

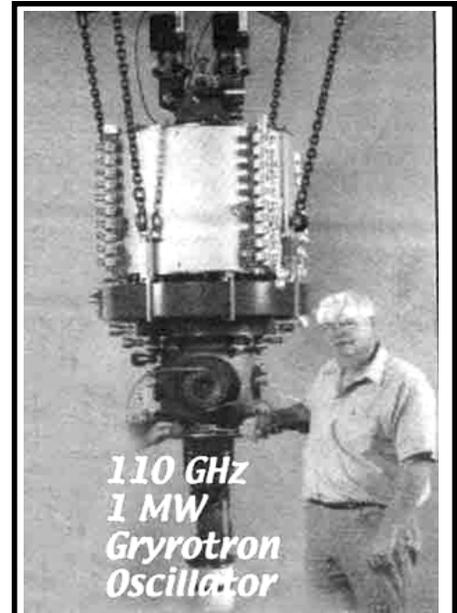
Field Day 2000 - New Millennium, Same Great Site!

By Tom Ginsburg, K6TG

Last month's Short Skip detailed the possibility of Field Day 2000, our fun-in-the-sun, outdoor overnight radio operating and camping event of the year, locating at the Watsonville Airport. The idea is that we would have more public exposure than usual and still have a decent site with room to spread out to operate with. A contingent of local hams went to check out the site, and saw that there were possibilities to this site. The airport site has advantages (public exposure, lamp poles for support, no mowing required) and disadvantages (too many operating distractions, low spots, less room, less of a camping experience). Being in charge of Field Day once again, I spoke with our President, Tom, KQ6DV, and we decided to let the operators and club members give their input as to which site they preferred, and make the decision for us. As it turns out, the airport site made a good impression, but our great old site at the former nursery adjacent to the CYA/CDF camp at the top of Empire Grade in the Santa Cruz Mountains came out the clear winner. So, we are in the process of getting permission to be back at the nursery yet one more time, hoping to break last year's record-setting score. Nevertheless, we want to extend a big thanks to Bob KD6FXQ for making arrangements for us to tour the airport site.

What are we looking for at this year's event, which will take place on June 24-25? To fulfill the desire for more public exposure for this year's event, we would like to heavily promote Field Day to the public throughout Santa Cruz County using whatever means necessary. If you have any media contacts or ideas, please contact Tom, KQ6DV. Also, we need some volunteers to set up and man a public information booth promoting both ham radio and our club. Along the same vein, we could use some folks as guides to orient the general public and give a tour of the site. If you can help out with this, please contact Tom or myself. Of course, our Field Day event is always special because of the Saturday afternoon BBQ. We are looking for some chefs to step forward and help out with, what some would say, is the BEST part of a Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club Field Day!

As usual, we hope Field Day will attract old and new club members out to the site to have fun operating, educating the public about amateur radio, camping out, and enjoying a great barbecue. Won't you come join us.



Is Life Too Short for QRP ?

It was Marconi who said "Never underestimate the potential of wireless" and sure enough we are seeing a surge of interest in QRP these days but then there are lovers of high frequencies and high power such as you see here. Could that be Dave Rank KO6RS ?

—73 de Ron Skelton, W6WO

MAY MEETING

The May 19th meeting place will be back upstairs in the education building.

Ron W6WO will present "the poor mans frequency spectrum analyzer".

— Don KF6KGO

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY MAY 19, 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

WATSONVILLE AIR SHOW

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.

We will, once again, need somewhere on the order of 30 radio operators for Saturday and Sunday May 27 -28 and about 15 operators for the night show on Friday May 26. 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 web page is located at <<http://www.kjsl.com/wvi>>.

Bob Wiser, KD6FXQ

Emergency Coordinator (EC)

Watsonville ARES

PHONE: 831-728-4198

EMAIL: bobwiser@aol.com



Prez Sez

Jeff, AC6KW, and I participated in this year's QRP To The Field contest on Saturday, April 29. We set up our stations on the cliff at New Brighton State Beach, thereby qualifying as an iOCi (ocean) station, as this year's theme was to operate on or nearby bodies of water. Ron, W6WO, dropped by and operated for awhile and helped me with station break down. Also Mike, KF6UXB, stopped by and did a great job of acting as our Public Information Officer, describing what we were up to interested visitors who happened by. Propagation was good and we made contacts from coast to coast and everywhere in between using my 20 meter dipole up about 40 feet, and Jeff's iTrombonei antenna on post next to our picnic table. The weather was beautiful and a great time was had by all.

Field Day this year will be held once again at the CDF site at the top of Empire Grade. Thank you Cap, KE6AFE, for once again procuring the CDF site for us.

Due consideration was given to the Watsonville Airport as an alternative site, and I thank Bob Wiser, KD6FXQ, for pulling the appropriate strings to get us permission to operate from there. The airport site was intriguing, but space was limited, and in the final analysis it was decided that given the size and scope of our Field Day operation we would best be served by returning to the CDF site. Time is flying, so if you intend to participate in Field Day please communicate to Tom Ginsburg, K6TG, in what capacity you will serve, and what equipment you can provide. Field Day entails a lot of hard work, and is also a lot of fun, so hope to see you there!

— Tom

With Appreciation

Dear Friends,
It means so much to me & our children to know how you felt about Roy, and seeing so many of you at the memorial service was heartwarming. Thank you for the beautiful plant many of you sent sympathy cards that I hadn't acknowledged and some gave to the "Mount Hermon Book of Remembrance" in Roy's name. I hope I am forgiven for not saying "Thank you" for all of them in this letter.
It is so nice to have friends like you
With much love,
Jean.

QRP TO THE FIELD



Tom KQ6DV Jeff AC6KW



Tuner, QRP Radio and Key



Jeff AC6KW, Mike KF6UXB and Ron W6WO

Three club members work the 'QRP to the Field' contest at New Brighton State Beach on April 29. See Prez Sez.

SO, WHERE'S MY NEW TICKET?

Despite an infusion of temporary help, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators continue struggling to process the huge influx of exam session paperwork resulting from Amateur Radio "restructuring" that went into effect April 15. As a result, license grants from post-April 15 applications are taking up to four weeks.

"How do y'all spell 'busy'?" asks ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, who, along with his staff, has been putting in a lot of overtime and weekend hours lately. Jahnke jokes about imposing a moratorium on sick leave.

Boxes of applications continue arriving to be logged in at ARRL-VEC, which has added three temporary staffers. Jahnke says the ARRL-VEC now has caught up with the paperwork backlog from pre-April 15 test sessions. The ARRL-VEC served nearly 35,800 applicants between

January 1 and April 14. It continues to deal with the nearly 16,000 applications logged in from April 15 through April 25, most of them from April 15 test sessions. Jahnke points out that while VE teams have 10 days to ship session paperwork to ARRL-VEC, the transit time can be as long as a week.

"At this point, Jahnke said this week, we're just wrapping up the April 18 receipts and moving on to April 19 and 20.

Maia cites a similar number. He said it's taking about three weeks "from receipt to filing" and says that license grants applied for via W5YI-VEC are taking up to a month from the exam date. "Right now, we're filing sessions received at W5YI-VEC April 25," he said.

Statistics to date suggest a total of more than 13,000 new Generals and more than 10,000 new Extra class hams as a result of restructuring—and those numbers undoubtedly will continue to rise. As ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, recently put it: "Amateur Radio is on a roll!"

Don't forget to bring all your surplus equipment for our swap table again this month (and bring some cash!). The swap table was a great success at our last meeting. Let's do it again!



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

I was happy to read Leon Fletcher's latest article in the May issue of Monitoring Times magazine. Leon's piece, "Museum For Monitors" covered the shipboard radio museum adjacent to San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf. The ships' radio museum occupies the second and third floors of the San Francisco Maritime museum. Radio equipment on view ranges from old time "cat's whiskers" receivers to modern Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs). According to Leon, the highlight of the display is the authentic recreation of an entire radio room of a WWII Victory ship. The transmitter on display came from the USNS General John Pope (AP-110) from the mothball fleet of old ships moored in nearby Suisan Bay. For those of us interested in Maritime Radio, Leon offers information as to hours, parking and other essentials to getting to the museum. Several photos accompany the article. Leon, AA6ZG, holds an Extra class license and is a frequent contributor to Monitoring Times and other ham radio publications.

Dan Anderson, AA6GD, and I were invited out to Watsonville to evaluate some ham equipment belonging to Dean Litts, W6YOV, now a silent key. Until his recent death, Dean operated as northern relay and net control for the Baja California Maritime Mobile net. Dean used a Kenwood 440 HF rig for his daily operating but had several pieces of Collins gear, plus a Heathkit or two, and a couple of Swan Transceivers. His widow is trying to sell the equipment before she moves out of state. Dan has details, prices she wants, makes and models. If you are interested, give Dan a call. He is good in the club roster. This might be a good time for all of us to take stock of our own ham gear and perhaps

make a listing of approximate value, location and identification of test equipment, transceivers, power supplies, etc. Not only is this a good idea for insurance purposes but also may help your survivors in sorting things out when the designator SK finds us.

On a more cheery note. My XYL Donna, AB6XJ, and I had breakfast on a rainy morning with Jim Piper, KD6YKL, and XYL Doris, KF6IOW. Well, we almost did. They were just being served when we came into the Country Waffles café in Watsonville. Had a short chat before and after eating. The Quarter Century Wireless Club meets there often. It is a nice place to have breakfast near the airport.

Two-meter rigs. Always nice to have when convoying in two different cars. Chatted with daughter-in-law Cybele, KC6ZQS, all the way down on our return from Sacramento last week. Can't do this on cell phones! Cybele had to break off and return to Sacramento to check on something left undone but we had set up a rendezvous at the Black Oak Restaurant, about 50 miles south of Sacramento. On our trip through Pinole we tried to raise my brother Stanley, KB6SEI, on their club repeater. Without fail, someone hears us and gives Stanley a call and brings him up on frequency. We always stop by for coffee. Nice folks on that repeater. The Pinole repeater (145.110 -) does not have PL, so it is easy to get through to them. Cybele and grandkids stayed with us while our son Randy, N6UZI, served with a Naval Reserve Unit at Dubrovnik, Croatia, for his annual two weeks training.



NEW MEXICO BURNING!

New Mexico ARRL Section Manager Joe Knight, W5PDY, reports that dozens of Amateur Radio operators are assisting in the Los Alamos, New Mexico, fire evacuation and emergency response.

"We had over 100 people involved," said Knight. Amateurs have served as liaison between all evacuation points, and at least one ham is stationed at every Red Cross shelter. "The hams are cooperating beautifully in getting the help where it's needed." Most of the hams are ARES, RACES or search and rescue team members, plus members of Navy and Air Force MARS. Hams also are active in providing emergency assistance in four other major fire situations in New Mexico.

Amateurs in the Los Alamos area have been using VHF repeaters—including one buried underground—to handle emergency traffic. "Communications is going very well," Knight reported. He said the underground repeater—the solar-powered KB5RX machine on 145.19 MHz—has been a mainstay in the Los Alamos emergency response effort.

"It's down in a 32-gallon drum, down in the ground below several feet of dirt," he explained. A piece of Heliac feedline connects the repeater to a fiberglass antenna. "The thing we were worried about was the fiberglass antenna, which is on top of the tower, and the flames were licking up at the tower, but it's still operational," Knight said. "We're still using it for communication, and it's going 24-hours a day."

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have a mailing (snail mail) address change please tell Cap. It costs the club money and someone has to stand in line at the post office if the post office returns your Short Skip. We don't always know to who the returned Short Skip was to until we redeem it for \$.50.

— Thanks, Allen WB6RWU

MINUTES OF THE SCCARC

FEBRUARY 18, 2000 MEETING

A regular meeting of the board was called to order at 1840 hours PST on Friday February 18, 2000 at Dominican Hospital Education Center in Santa Cruz. The president, Tom KQ6DV, was in the chair. Also present were the vice president, Don KF6KGO; the secretary, Cap KE6AFE; and the members of the board, Bruce AC6DN, Bill W6PAD, Lauren KC6TPW, and Ron W6WO. Additionally, Dave KO6RS, Dave W6TUW and Jim KD6YKL were in attendance.

On a motion by Tom, Dave KO6RS was unanimously appointed to the board to replace Bruce W6FKD who resigned last month as he's moving away from the area.

The minutes of the January board meeting were unanimously approved upon motion by Tom.

During committee reports, Cap gave a report for the repeater committee on the status

of the repeaters and the formation of this year's repeater committee. The club repeater system is working and committee members are being sought. Jim gave a report for the emergency coordination committee, including the current status of ARES in our county and the recent brief ARES callout for flood relief assistance due to flooding of Soquel Creek.

During unfinished business, Tom said he'll appoint someone to complete the routine examination of our 1999 financial records. There was discussion of this year's committees and membership. Tom discussed an idea about a club Elmer list but no action was taken. Tom asked for input on increasing and supporting club activities for this year. Tom suggested that committees, membership, and club events would be further discussed at the March board meeting.

During new business, on a motion by Dave KO6RS, the board unanimously authorized reimbursement of Cap's out of pocket costs for the flower arrangement provided in the club's name during the memorial service for Roy Couzin W6LZL (ex W6JET). Cap mentioned that Roy's family had sincerely thanked the club for the remembrance.

Dave W6TUW explained who has been receiving regular courtesy copies of Shortskip.

With the board's consensus, Dave will update (shorten) the list of those receiving the courtesy copies.

The meeting was adjourned at 1928 hours PST.

MARCH 17, 2000 MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Tom KQ6DV. Board members

present were the VP Don KF6KGO, Treasurer Allen WB6RWU, Bruce AC6DN, Bill W6PAD, Dave KO6RS and Ron W6WO. The board acknowledged the regrets from Secretary Cap KE6AFE. Also present were Nathan KC6IRS, Dave W6TUW and several others. The minutes of the prior meeting were approved by all.

Allen reported that the clubs books had been carefully audited by Nathan and were in good order. The board expressed their appreciation to Nathan for his time and expertise. There was a brief discussion on an option to use a different mailbox service but this would cost more and yield no significant benefits so the idea was dropped. The possibility of the club becoming a 501-c3 organization was mentioned but no discussion ensued.

Tom reiterated his call for suggestions to increase the number of events during the year to build interest in the club. A typical fox-hunt was described by Bruce who said he has a 'fox' which could be used in the future. The idea of organizing a fox-hunt possibly coupled to a social activity such as a BBQ seemed to have appeal.

The idea of combining a club activity with a scout event was well received by the board. A proposal that we select some form of a construction project (possibly with some element of whimsey or competition) was also well received.

It was agreed that we needed to re-invent the holiday brunch to be more economical and provide for more interaction among members, a member pot-luck is a possibility.

Visits to nearby sites of interest might be a possibility.

Tom closed the meeting at 7:30 PM by stating that he was keen to obtain more suggestions from members and would solicit their input by e-mail. Tom asked the board members come forward with specific recommendations.

APRIL 21, 2000 MEETING

A regular meeting of the board was called to order at 1844 hours PDT on Friday, April 21, 2000 at Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz. The president, Tom KQ6DV, was in the chair. Also present were the vice president, Don KF6KGO; the secretary, Cap KE6AFE; the treasurer, Allen WB6RWU; the members of the board, Bruce AC6DN, Bill W6PAD, Dave KO6RS, Ron W6WO; and a visitor, Dave W6TUW.

The minutes of the March 17 board meeting were unanimously approved upon motion by Dave KO6RS.

The treasurer's report was a financial statement that showed financial activity for the month prior. The report, showing a balance on hand as of April 21 of \$5325.63, was accepted unanimously.

NASA Demos Internet Protocols

NASA demos Internet protocols for space: NASA recently demonstrated the ability to use standard Internet protocols to communicate with an orbiting spacecraft—as if it were just another node on the Internet. Working with the Operating Missions as Nodes on the Internet (OMNI) project, engineers at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center have completed the first step in extending Internet access to future spacecraft. Astronaut Ron Parise, WA4SIR, is one of the driving forces in the project. GSFC engineers successfully used standard Internet PING packets to communicate with UoSAT-12, also known as UO-36, through a ground station in Surrey, England. This marked the first time that a spacecraft ever had its own Internet address and was a fully compliant active node on the World Wide Web. More information is available at <http://www.spacedaily.com/news/internet-001.html>.—Joseph Fitzgerald via AMSAT News Service

During new business, a discussion of club membership was held. Cap mentioned that we have 124 members and that is fewer than last year at this time. There has been a slight decline in total members each year since 1993. The board would like to have club members present ideas for increasing membership. Tom will appoint some club members to a working membership committee.

The site selection for this year's Field Day was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1923 hours PDT.

Treasurer's Report

As of March 31, 2000

Checking Acct. Balance	\$2,563.63
Checks not returned	71.59
Bill unpaid Telephone	11.57
Bill unpaid Equip. Ins.	152.00
American	
Century Investment	2745.55

— Allen, WB6RWU, Treasurer-May 8, 2000

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	May 19
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	May 19
SHORT SKIP deadline	Monday	Jun 5
Santa Cruz ARES	Tuesday	Jun 13
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Jun 16

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)

5/15	Tom K6TG
5/22	Allen WB6RWU
5/29	Phil KE6UWH
6/5	Ron W6WO
6/12	Dave W6TUW
6/19	Tom K6TG



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. BOX 238

SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0238

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

Next Meeting May 19

First Class