

NOVEMBER 2001

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



CLUB PICNIC A BIG SUCCESS



FOX HUNT

At the SCCARC Potluck we had a FOX HUNT. Approximately eight people participated. The fox was hidden in the hedge near the entrance to the house, near the driveway. The fox was found in about 20-45 minutes.

First place was a tie; Freddie Myers and Alex Matteis (not licensed, yet),

2nd place; Mike, KF6UXB,
3rd; Mike, W6YDG,
4th; Scotty, WA6LIE,
5th, Ben, N6FM,
6th, Skeder, KF6UKO,
7th, Ray, KF6NHJ.

Congratulations to all!!!

—73, Bruce

Jim Welty, KF6YRD hosted the club picnic this October 27. A great time was had by all.

BIG CLUB AUCTION

November Meeting

Help raise funds for the club by bring your surplus radio treasures to be auctioned off. Everyone has closet full seldom used treasures. You know the ones the XYL has been asking you to get rid of. Now is your chance. Help the club and help make more room around the house. For the rest of us, now is our chance to stock up.

Hear Dan, AA6GD, "the Man with golden voice" auction off some of the counties most valuable radio treasures.

Field Day 2002

Howdy Regular Field Day Participants,

W6WO's query for alternate logging programs reminded me that Field Day is ONLY a mere 8 months away, and it is never too early to start thinking about how to improve upon a great event. Yet this is not a plea for help.

You guys have been participating in Field Day for most (if not all) of the seven past years that I have been in charge of organizing it. It is you guys that have made it a success, and I want to thank you for helping to make this one of the most fun events (in my opinion) for our radio clubs.

For 2002, I want you to know that I will be an eager participant, but I have decided not to be in charge of organizing the event. It is time for a break, and I hope that someone else steps forward to bring some new energy and enthusiasm into making our clubs' (SCCARC and SILVARC) Field Day even better. It really is not that hard a job to organize, because most of the pieces seem to fall in place each year. However, someone with good organizational skills can probably make this an even better event for our clubs. I will certainly be available to help out to some extent with the planning and, of course, to operate.

Thanks again for everybody's support, and see you at the next SCCARC club meeting.

—73, Tom K6TG

DECEMBER BRUNCH

Last year 64 or more members and their guests attended and we had a great meal in an elegant setting. Please mark your calendars for noon to 2:30 PM on December 8th and bring your HTs. The cost per head is \$20 and thanks to all for participating in our various fun fund-raisers during the year which help the club subsidize fine events like this.

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY NOVEMBER 16, 7:30P.M.



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By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Propagation has been bad the past few mornings on the 40 meter band. A solar flare perhaps. It was tough to copy the gang down south, especially those cruising the waters of Mexico. Relay stations for the Baja Net filled in the gaps, however. One day, while I was acting as the northern relay from Sacramento, a familiar voice checked into the net. Dan Anderson, AA6GD. It is always good to hear a familiar voice.

My XYL Donna, AB6XJ, and I attended the monthly breakfast meeting of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association held at Country Waffles Café in Watsonville. Our meeting lasted from 1000 to 1200. As we left, the Quarter Century Wireless Club filed in to fill our vacated tables. Donna and I chatted briefly with WayneThalls, KB6KN, and Jim Maxwell, W6CF. "We're full from our earlier breakfast, so can't do two!" we said as we departed. Ah yes, some days go by with nothing to do, others are over booked.

I have been playing men's doubles tennis a day or two a week for a couple of years. On of my tennis partners, Don Schwartz, has a mean serve and a wicked return with so much spin the ball bores a hole in the courts. Last week as we chatted he noticed my WF6P license plate. "Are you a ham?" he asked. After I replied in the affirmative, he wanted to know if I knew another ham named Rich Hanset, KI6EH. Turns out the Don and Rich have been next-door neighbors for 30 years. Small world.

Have you ever undertaken an easy, one hour job that turned out to be three hours? Well, Leon Fletcher, AA6ZG, and I did. All we had to do was change a simple, leaking, toilet flapper valve. Actually, that is a two minute job. As a precaution, we decided to change the

valves on both toilets and, just for good measure, change the water fill valves. Even though I had done this many times in the past, I forgot how hard it was to hook up the metal water inlet lines. The trick is to not tighten the fill valve seats until the threaded fittings on the water inlet line are hooked up. Anyway, we had fun.

I had a bit of good news. Monitoring Times will be publishing my "Ham Radio: More Than A Hobby," sometime this summer. Editor Rachel Baughn, KE4OPD, said she might run it in the Field Day issue.

I would like to mention that we have some very good net controllers on K6BJ. On the 15th of October, Jeff Clark, KF6BKG, was net control. Leon, AA6ZG, and I were chatting away merrily after dinner while mobile on the net frequency. We were unaware that we were operating on net time. Jeff broke in and gently asked us how much longer we would need the frequency. We got off right away. Jeff has a good manner about him. Thanks Jeff and keep up the good work.

N.C.C.C.

The Northern California Contest Club is a group of amateurs who enjoy entering the various ham contests. Some of the top record holders in the world are members of the club. And every month, new members join who have never participated in any contest except Field Day.

A couple of times a year, the club makes a serious effort at entering one or two contests as a club. Sweepstakes is one of those contests. The NCCC has won Sweepstakes 12 times (a record) and almost won last year, but didn't. So this year they are making a special effort to regain the title. The way to get there is to add new members who can get on and operate for a few hours and contribute to the total club score. Sweepstakes is Nov 3-4 for CW and Nov 17-18 for SSB.

If you have ever enjoyed contesting, this is a great group to get to know.

If you are interested in joining NCCC, or learning more about it, come to one of the regular meetings held over the hill.

Check out the NCCC web site at <http://www.nccc.cc>

Peter AB6WM

EVENTS

Livermore Swap Meet - 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas

College in Livermore, 7:00 AM to noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from the west, 145.35 from the east. Contact Cliff Kibbe, KF6EII, (209) 835-6715, e-mail: larkswap@usa.com.

RadioFest 2002. Saturday, Feb. 16, 2002, 7:00AM to 3:00PM

at the General Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community, 4260 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA.

Talk-in 146.97- PL 94.8. Sponsored by the Naval Postgraduate School Amateur Radio Club. See www.k6ly.org/radiofest for additional details.

ELMER 101 GROUP FORMING

I'm forwarding the email below because there may be some interest in kit building and learning about how a cw radio works.

Basically you need to join the qrp-l email list and order a Small Wonder Labs kit (less than \$100).

If you end up doing this, let me know.

—Skeeter, KF6UKO

<http://www.castlemurphy.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Sun, 04 Nov 2001 16:29:09 -0500

From: mikemo@attglobal.net

To: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-l@lehigh.edu>

Subject: [Elmer 101] Class starts soon!

Ok folks. Back by popular demand is the Elmer 101 radio class. So far there have been around 50 people who expressed interest in following along with the class. Let me rattle off some facts for everyone who is interested.

1) The idea of this class is to construct a high quality QRP CW transceiver. During the process you will learn how each section works and why it works. Ask questions! The more questions that are asked the more you will learn.

2) We will be conducting the class using the qrp-l mailing list as a forum. So, all lessons will be posted to the list and all requests for info or help should also go to the list. This will give the students access to the vast technical knowledge of the qrp-l list members.

3) All postings to qrp-l MUST have a subject line that starts with [Elmer 101] (including the brackets). This will allow people to use email filters to sort the classes automatically.

4) I recommend that everyone who wants to participate in the class purchase a kit so they can build along. This is not a requirement, but sure would make it easier to follow along.

5) The original elmer 101 class used the 40 meter version of the SW+ kit from Small Wonder Labs. This class will use the 20 meter version (I've already got a 40 meter version ;-). We will cover the differences between all the versions, 80, 40, 30 and 20 meters, so you are welcome to build whichever you want. We will focus on the 20 meter version.

6) You need to order your own kit. Go here <http://www.smallwonderlabs.com/> under the SW+ section for details. The kit is very inexpensive, only \$55 for the radio kit without the enclosure (you can build your own case, or scavenge something). You can also purchase the kit with the custom enclosure for \$93. Order the band you want, but get the 20 meter version if you want to stay exactly with the group.

7) We will not do a group buy for the radio. There is so much extra work involved, as well as increased shipping costs and delivery delays. It is not worth the few dollars that we would save. Small Wonder Labs is set up for taking orders and delivering kits. Let's let them do their job (they do it well).

8) I will give everyone two weeks to get their kits. If there are delivery delays then we will push back the first class.

9) We will build the kit in small chunks. Each chunk is a functional block. Each functional block will be discussed as to how it works, as well as ways to test and make sure that it is actually working correctly.

10) If you want to look ahead, check out my web site <http://www.qsl.net/kf4trd/> and look at the Elmer 101 section. All the work from the 40 meter kit is there. I will be reusing as much of the original kit as possible.

11) Everyone involved in this class will be treated with respect. This is a place to ask questions and learn. If you can't respond to a question, regardless of the question, with a level headed answer, without "talking down" or belittling the student, then don't bother answering. If anyone on the list posts rude, belittling or inflammatory comments regarding the class they will be removed from the list.

12) This is a hobby, not a business. I'll do my best to keep the classes coming at a regular rate (about one every week or two, depending on complexity). Don't yell at me for falling a little behind ;-). We don't want to rush through this. Take your time and read everything.

Well, I hope that covers enough for us to get started. So, order your

kit and let's get going!

Best regards and 73

Mike Maiorana, KU4QO (ex KF4TRD)

IARU Calls for End to Morse Requirement

Saying that it was "setting aside any previous relevant decisions," the International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council has resolved that IARU policy supports "the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz." The Council further resolved to urge member societies--as an interim measure--to seek Morse code testing speeds "not exceeding five words per minute." The resolution was adopted during the IARU Administrative Council meeting October 6-8 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, which followed the 14th General Assembly of IARU Region 2. The Council's Morse resolution took into consideration the approval--without opposition--of ITU-R Recommendation M.1544. That document sets out the minimum qualifications of radio amateurs. The Council also said it recognizes that Morse code "continues to be an effective and efficient mode of communication used by many thousands of radio amateurs" but that Morse code proficiency as requirement for an HF amateur license "is no longer relevant to the healthy future of Amateur Radio." The principal business at the Administrative Council session was to review the status of IARU preparations for WRC-2003. Agenda items of concern to amateurs include, among others, the harmonization of amateur and broadcasting allocations near 7 MHz, the adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations below 10 MHz, and possible revisions to Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations. Among other things, Article S25 spells out Amateur Radio operator qualifications. It now provides that Amateur Radio license applicants demonstrate the ability "to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear, texts in Morse code signals" for operation below 30 MHz. The IARU Administrative Council supports the revision of Article S25 and the incorporation by reference of Recommendation M.1544. The IARU Council selected the theme of the next World Amateur Radio Day, April 18, 2002, as "Amateur Radio: Continuing Innovation in Communication Technology."

Thanks, ARRL Bulletin.

HF Radio is Hopping

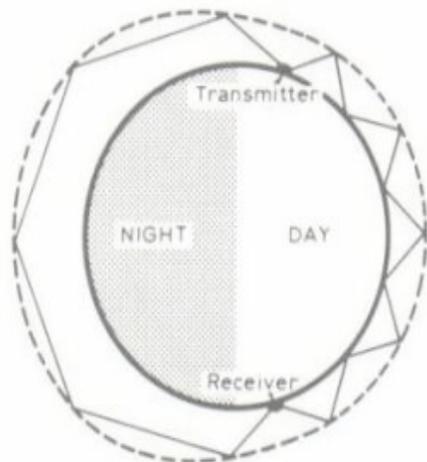
To my mind one of the most exciting modes of HF communications uses an Ionospheric mechanism known as Chordal Hopping. At this time of year an opening on 20 meters of about 30 minutes commences roughly 1 hour after sunrise and it is possible to have regular contacts via the long path to Europe, a distance of over 30,000 km. This distance is equivalent to 7 reflections of the F layer and the ground losses of such a path could not possibly account for the S9 signals that are frequently experienced even with my simple vertical. A low take-off angle and clear local view can result in Chordal Hopping- a mode that avoids ground losses. This diagram illustrates how such a low loss path is established and if there were no losses in the ionosphere there would be zero path loss !!!

If you need a better than average primer on propagation I can recommend <http://www.ips.gov.au/papers/richard/hfreport/webrep.htm>

Also take a moment to look at the wonderful images produced by Proplab-Pro

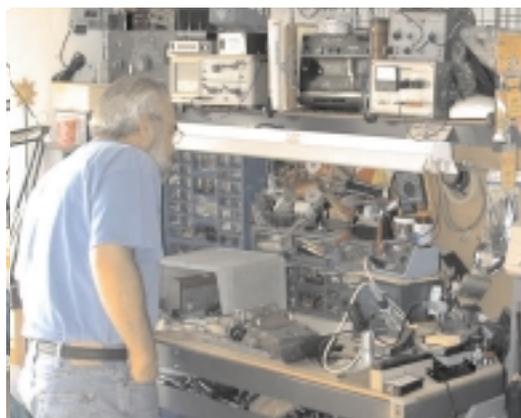
<http://www.spacew.com/www/proplab.html>

—Ron W6WO

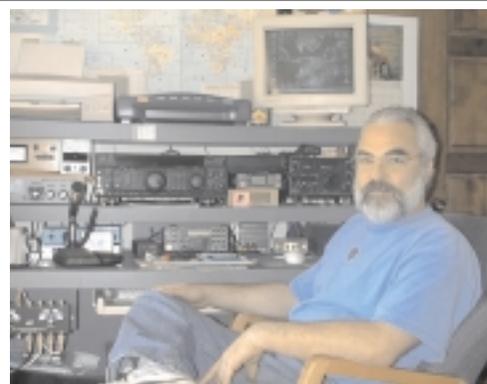


Member Profile Jeff Grudin AC6KW

Jeff is the kind of guy that any new member to Ham Radio likes to meet, he is a most knowledgeable and helpful person. A Veterinarian by profession Jeff did not have formal training in electronics but was encouraged by his father from the tender age of 10. Credit for his success in Ham Radio goes to Art Lee's (WF6P) training classes. Jeff's current interest and proficiency in CW and home brew gear is attributed to AE6FB/0 who became a lifelong friend and mentor. Jeff's multiple interests in addition to Ham Radio include sailing and astronomy and he is an accomplished musician. Impressive is not only Jeff's versatility but the fact that



Jeff's Workbench



Jeff's Operating position

what he does he does superbly well. Just take a look at his web site [HYPERLINK "http://www.vdbs.com/~grudin"](http://www.vdbs.com/~grudin)

Jeff has learned Ham Radio the fun way— by doing. His many projects and techniques testify to his skills and as a beta test builder of the Elecraft K2, Jeff's abilities are recognized by some of the best in the business. Among Jeff's favorite activities are Field Day and QRP events that involve small tents and freezing temperatures, he also seems to have the magic touch when it comes to finding bargains at flea markets.

The more you get to know Jeff the more there is to like. For members who need practical advice there is no better member of our club.

Better Later Than Never

An interesting tip from WB6SSY but it is probably useless now since this was sent Oct 7, but still interesting. -K6EXT

It's that time of year again, when the sun gets behind the Clarke satellite belt and obliterates DBS reception for about 15 minutes per day. It's also a great time to see where to point a satellite dish through the trees.

For a pizza dish, there are two services, DishNetworks/Echostar and DirecTV. The satellites are located at the following longitudes and will be obscured for about 15 minutes *STARTING* at the approximately following times on Sunday and Monday:

Dish	110	11:52PM (PDST)
Dish	119	12:30PM
DirecTV	101	11:12AM
Starband(Gilat) is at:		
GE-4	101	11:12AM
Telstar7	129	1:20PM

The size of the hole in the trees varies with the frequency and the dish diameter. A good rule of thumb is about twice the diameter of the dish with absolutely no branches in the way. The ideal location is where the sun is shining through the trees on your roof at these times.

For additional calculations and references, see: <http://members.aol.com/gjullien/satellite.htm> <http://www.panamsat.com/sat/outage/calc.asp> <http://triple.com/onsat/solar.htm> (pre-calculated tables)

What does this have to do with ham radio? Not much, but it might be of interest when your clueless neighbors decide that hams are experts at anything that has to do with RF.

— Jeff, WB6SSY

Microwave UPDATE 2001

MicrowaveUPDATE 2001 was held in Sunnyvale, CA September 27-30, 2001. Over 100 microwave Amateur Radio operators from USA, Germany, Great Britain, Slovenia, Canada, Japan, and Australia attended the conference. The first day, Thursday was exceptional. Great weather and great surplus deals around Silicon Valley. Participants came back to the hotel with armloads of goodies. Then it was off to Stanford's 150 foot dish! You should have seen the eyes and faces of everyone as they got out of the carpools and looked up at the gigantic dish. Eight CW and SSB contacts were made on 1296 using the dish with about 20 watts. Friday and Saturday were the presentations of papers

ranging from microwave EME operating to equipment design. Friday night was the swap meet (where some of the surplus acquired Thursday, was traded amongst the participants) and Noise Figure testing. The ladies enjoyed trips to Filoli Gardens, Stanford Shopping Center and other SF Bay area sights. Saturday night was filled with dinner and presentation of the prestigious Central States VHF Society John T. Chambers Memorial award to Will Jensby, W0EOM. The conference ended on Sunday morning as an open to all swap was held in the parking lot. It was also show and tell time as a few of the enthusiasts set up their 10GHz portable stations and listened for the Mt. Leeson Beacon! Watch for next year's conference to be held in the NorthEast. Keep an eye on www.microwaveupdate.org for more info. Thanks, N9JIM & W0EOM.



OFFICIAL BALLOT OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

OFFICERS — Vote for one each

President

- Richard Trebbien KG6AXD
- _____

Vice President

- Jim Welty KF6YRD
- _____

Secretary

- Elaine Pennell KE6FRA
- _____

Treasurer

- Cap Pennell KE6AFE
- _____

BOARD of DIRECTORS — Vote for four (4) only

- Bruce Hawkins AC6DN
- Bill Walters W6PAD
- Allen Fugelseth WB6RWU
- Mike Doern KF6UXB
- Ron Skelton W6W0
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Either return this ballot in person to the SCCARC meeting November 16, 2001 or return by mail to Post Office Box 238, Santa Cruz CA 95061-0238. Ballots must be received at the club post office box by 5 P.M. November 16, 2001.

Mail label should accompany ballot.

SCCARC Officers - 2001

President	Tom Johnson	KQ6DV	464-3120
Vice President	Richard Trebbien	KG6AXD	426-0169
Secretary	Cap Pennell	KE6AFE	429-1290
Treasurer	Elaine Pennell	KE6FRA	429-1290
Board	Bruce Hawkins	AC6DN	
	Bill Walters	W6PAD	688-0557
	Allen Fugelseth	WB6RWU	475-8846
	Mike Doern	KF6UXB	477-1161
	Ron Skelton	W6WO	477-1021
K6BJ Trustee	Royce Krilanovich	AC6Z	475-4798

MONTEREY BAY ACTIVITY

SCCARC Repeaters: K6BJ 146.790- PL 94.8 Santa Cruz (linked w/Watsonville full time)
K16EH 147.945- PL 94.8 Watsonville (linked w/Santa Cruz full time)
K6BJ 440.925+ PL 123.0 Santa Cruz

- SCCARC Net Monday 7:30 PM 146.79- /147.945- /440.925+ linked
- SCCARC 10 Meter Net 28.308 MHz USB Monday 7:00 PM
- SCARES Net Monday 8:30 PM 146.835-(PL 94.8)
- Watsonville ARES Net Thursday 8:30 PM 147.945-

SLVARC Repeater WR6AOK 147.120+ PL 94.8 Ben Lomond

- SLVARC Net Thursday 7:30 PM

SLV ARES N6IYA 146.745- PL 94.8 Felton

- SLVRC Net Thursday 7:30 PM
- ARES Net Monday 7:30 PM

NPSARC K6LY 146.97- PL 94.8 / 444.700+ PL 123 (linked) Monterey

- Monterey ARES Net Wednesday 7:30 PM
- NPSARC Net Wednesday 8:00 PM
- Monterey Bay Traffic Net Nightly 9:00 PM
- Newsline (Ham News) Broadcast Wednesday 8:30 PM

6 Meter Local Net 52.8 MHz (PL-114.8) Sunday 8:00 PM
Mont. Bay Chapter 191 QCWA :Tuesday, 7:30PM, AA6T repeater, 146.700- PL 151.4

FOR MORE INFO SEE: <http://www.k6bj.org/freq.html>

SCCARC Calendar of Events

SCCARC Board Meeting 6:30	Friday	Oct. 19
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Oct. 19
SHORT SKIP deadline	Monday	Nov. 5
Santa Cruz ARES	Tuesday	Nov. 6
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Nov. 16

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.

Visit the SCCARC Website at -

www.k6bj.org

CLUB E-MAIL: yourcall@k6bj.org

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

11/12	Dave W6TUW
11/19	Tom K6TG
11/26	Jeff KF6BKG
12/3	Allen WB6RWU
12/10	Phil KE6UWH
12/17	Ron W6WO



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

Meeting: NOV 16, 7:30PM

BALLOT ENCLOSED

First Class