

MARCH 2002

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORTSKIP



I-Link First Impressions

The article by WB2REM in the March QST has stimulated a flood of Hams to try I-link, US hams especially are joining in droves. I like to try new dimensions of Ham Radio myself so after a small amount of effort and delay my cal-sign was validated. I opened up some required UDP and TCP ports in my firewall/router to send and receive audio then my call appeared in a list of "hopefuls". Sure enough shortly I heard W6W0, spoken with a broad Scottish accent, coming out of my laptop speaker. When the mic. was passed over to me a moment of panic then ensued. Finally I figured out how to toggle from RX to TX (full QSK cw it certainly is not).

Along with the GM's call came a window of his personal information that helped get our QSO off to a fine start. The audio was superb with no QRM, QRN or QSB. It was literally fireside, arm-chair copy and we had a long and enjoyable chat. I was tutored on other I-Link features in a very friendly and patient manner.

With that I ventured forth, clicked on a VK cal-sign and was soon talking to a guy in Melbourne. Wait a minute neither of us was using any form of radio, no RF, nada! Well we don't use RF when we meet as a club or for BBQ, coffee or Pizza. Fair enough I-Link is just a cool new dimension to the social side of Ham Radio.

Another section of the index list that appeared contains repeaters from many countries. I selected a 2m repeater near my hometown in UK and called CQ, this was immediately answered by a G station using a HT in his car. We continued to chat for a while with no problems at all and of course one of us was using Ham RF gear.

My next step was to venture into one of the conferences and found a PY, a VE and several

Ws present. I noted an arrow against the call of the ham currently speaking, My call showed up and during a break I announced myself and joined the round table conversation.

Three days have passed and already I am feeling an old-timer giving help to newcomers with serial #s several hundreds higher than mine. I-Link is experiencing very rapid growth indeed.

I-Link is undoubtedly fun but the big question in my mind was whether it would enrich or impoverish Ham Radio in the future. Certainly it lowers the technical and financial entry barriers to our hobby and there are no CC&Rs to be concerned about. I have immensely enjoyed a few dozen delightful I-Link QSOs with individuals, Novice and OTs alike, who for various reasons would not otherwise be active. On the other hand while enjoyable there is not the satisfaction to be gained from personal accomplishment. The challenge of the code and QRP, the rewards of home brew gear, the mysteries and unpredictability of RF propagation are missing, as is the thrill of DX, the heat of a contest and camaraderie of field day.

If your sole objective in Ham Radio is inter-personal communications then that destination is reached with ease via I-Link. My philosophy is that how one travels is equally as important as the arrival. Our hobby is well suited to accommodate both points of view and hopefully both in balance. I believe that adding K6BJ to the I-Link collection of repeaters would do nothing but good for Santa Cruz and our club membership. I invite you try I-Link and to communicate your views to the Club Board.

—Ron W6W0

Last Shortskip?!?

This is your last issue of Shortskip if your address label on this issue shows a date of 12/31/01 and you don't renew your dues before April 1, 2002. If your address label shows 12/31/02 then we know you've renewed for this year. If your label shows 12/31/02 Shortskip should arrive normally next month.

Dues may be brought to our March 15 club meeting or sent to the club Post Office Box.

Dues are \$25 for a regular membership, \$6 for each additional family member at the same address.

Checks made out to SCCARC may be sent to SCCARC PO BOX 238 SANTA CRUZ CA 95061-0238

The March club meeting will be held in a DOWNSTAIRS conference room in the MAIN HOSPITAL BUILDING, access from the front of the hospital (entry through the right-hand front door). Later monthly meetings should be back in our usual upstairs room at the Education Center back behind the main hospital building.

MEETING SPEAKER and ROOM CHANGE

Our guest speaker will James "jim" Maxwell "W6CF" the topic will be "CW,ie: morse code, and it's history.

Next month (April) we will have a, swap shop, show, and sell meeting, and we will meet back in the Education Building Rm. C&D, upstairs.

Be advised that this next meeting, March 15th will be held in the basement of the main building, conference room/A. Talk-in will be on k6bj/with kf6uxb/mike. see you all there.

—kf6yrd "James"

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY MARCH 15, 7:30P.M.



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Here we are again. Another month gone by already (gasp)? Can we keep up this pace? I guess we'll have to-- that's time for you. The weather has been great and radio has been even better! So far this year we have had some excellent meetings, a very fun Winterfest and a couple of information packed CAKE meetings to keep us all busy.

As you will recall from our last meeting, I was very interested in activating our committees. Here is a list of the committees and their chairpersons. The names of the committees might change to fit the titles in our bylaws (thanks Cap). We will work out the details, the point is we need to get RADIOACTIVE. Club Station Committee: Tom Johnson KQ6DV; Repeater Committee: Cap Pennell KE6AFE; Program Committee: James Welty KF6YRD; Refreshment Co mmittee: Sue Ann Van Epps KG6BXD; Newsletter Committee: Ron Baldwin K6EXT; Greeter Committee: Dan Anderson AA6GD; TVI,RFI Committee: Bruce Hawkins AC6DN. If these committees don't fit your interest, we will create one that will!

Keep up the good work.

—73 Richard KG6AXD

Board Minutes

MINUTES of the BOARD from the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A regular meeting of the board was called to order at 1830 hours on Friday, February 15, 2002 at Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz. The president, Richard KG6AXD, was in the chair. Also present were the vice president, James KF6YRD; the treasurer, Cap KE6AFE; the secretary, Elaine KE6FRA; the members of the board Bruce AC6DN, Allen WB6RWU, Ron W6WO, Mike KF6UXB and our guests, Sue Ann KG6BXD, Mike W6YDG, Barry Morris and Claudia Fugelseth.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously with a correction about the auditor volunteer being Sue Ann KG6BXD instead of James KF6YRD.

The treasurer's report was a financial statement that showed financial activity for the period from January 1 to February 15, 2002. The report, showing a balance on hand as of February 15 of \$4420.99, was accepted unanimously upon motion by Allen.

During committee reports, Richard mentioned the club-station committee. The committee has yet to hold their first meeting but the station building is usable.

James will look at the building foundation to determine if it needs support under the SW corner. The refreshments committee was discussed. Volunteers are needed. During the club meeting, Sue Ann will pass around a month-at-a-time signup sheet for assistants. Committees generally need volunteers. Standing committees are Training, Program and Entertainment, Emergency Coordination, Repeater, TVI, Greeters, Membership, Publicity, Newsletter, Refreshment, and the Nominating Committee. Special committees are the Club Station committee and the Field Day committee. Richard appointed James KF6YRD chair of the Program and Entertainment committee, Tom KQ6DV chair of the Club Station committee, Cap KE6AFE chair of the Repeater committee, Sue Ann KG6BXD chair of the Refreshment committee, Dan AA6GD as chair of the Greeter committee, Bruce AC6DN chair of the TVI committee, and Ron K6EXT chair of the Newsletter committee. A motion of the board approved these presidential appointments unanimously.

During unfinished business, it was remembered that the financial records of 2001 still need to be audited. Sue Ann KG6BXD volunteered to assist in auditing the 2001 financial records for the club.

During new business, Ron mentioned the new iLINK software mode as seen in QST magazine's March 2002 issue as

something that might interest the club. The board was interested in investigating the idea of repeater operations involving iLINK. Ron will update the board and the club mailing list about iLINK.

Elaine mentioned the get-well-soon card for Jeff WB6SSY. She will mail it to Jeff after the club meeting signatures are added. (Update: Jeff wishes to thank ALL for the card. He's improving fast.)

The meeting was adjourned at 1920 hours.



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.



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Received a nice e-mail from Bob Brouwer, K7GF (ex-N6HLE). Bob is doing well and wanted to set up some CW practice (ain't e-mail grand!). When Bob lived a couple of blocks from me a few years back, we worked each other on HF several times. I crewed with Bob on his 32 foot sloop Cybele II often. Now, living in Oregon, he is much farther away but the old dits and dahs can still navigate from my antenna to his new one. I recall one or two afternoons, back then, when Tom Johnson, KQ6DV, and I stood on Bob's roof tending lines while Bob mounted his very large and unique antenna. It was quite a project and I was amazed at the strength and stamina Bob had in his legs. He worked astride his tower for hours. Tom and I stood well clear, wearing helmets, and had to dodge nary a dropped tool or bolt. A decade ago, Bob and a crewman took Cybele II to Hawaii and back. Leon Fletcher, AA6ZG, and I worked him during his passage making. Bob is a Pearl Harbor Survivor and was there during the bombing aboard USS Dobbin. The day before, he had been aboard the USS Raleigh, a cruiser, which was bombed and nearly capsized at the dock. A year or two ago I reported working an ex-Navy radioman who served aboard the USS Utah when it was sunk that same morning. I can imagine how good I will feel when I link these two Radiomen up with me on a 3 way. The Utah sailor, Roy Hubbard, lives in Carmel.

One morning last week I worked K7LOH and Chuck, NJ7M, on 15 meters. Both were sending nice code but the LOH station was using a bug. I'm sorry. All you bug users are far too fast for me to cpi. Chuck and I chatted for 45 minutes about the use of batteries for powering HF rigs. He saves the "slightly used" batteries from his vans when they become too weak to depend on for starting engines. He and his XYL, living in Boise, are ardent campers in the

hinterlands where no external A/C power is available. They are "tenters." My XYL, Donna, AB6XJ, only feels safe if we are camping in a Sherman tank or our 17 foot aluminum clad trailer. One night we thought we were being attacked by a bear but that is another story. Scary too!

When I bent over in my kitchen, my reading glasses slipped from my pocket onto the tile floor. Both lenses shattered of course, requiring replacement. Off to the optical shop where I ran into --- guess who? Dennis Adams, WA6FRF, who was there helping his XYL, Martha, select some frames. Dennis and I used to work with Rich Hanset, KI6EH, on the early team of ARES. Dennis used to bring updated club rosters and call signs to my house when I first started this column for Short Skip.

Our son Randy, N6UZI, will be heading out to the carrier USS Stennis later this month. He will serve in a communications capacity on the Admiral's staff for his two week active duty stint in the Persian Gulf. His Naval Reserve unit is based in San Jose where he is the XO. His unit augments the fleet with their personnel for duty in Bahrain. (During the '89 quake, Randy stood ARES communications watches in the basement of the Santa Cruz County Building.)

This question came up over the internet: Why are all of our commercial radio and TV station call signs beginning with "K"? Wayne Thalls, KB6KN, provided the answer. "The prefixes used for radio calls are a part of an international agreement made in the 1920's. Countries can be identified by call signs. They haven't exhausted the supply of W and K combinations for commercial broadcast stations yet so they have never reached N or A." He added, "Of course, they can always go to 5 letter calls and thus stick with W or K."

In checking through an old notebook, I came across this quote: "He who kicks dirt soon loses ground." -- Ralph Evans, W6ENE, Jan 26th 1991.

I missed out on the March 1st meeting of the SLVARC. Their speaker from NASA Ames talked about "Space Communications." I'm sure it was an interesting topic.

Note: Due to a lack of column space, my tech tips will be held hold over till next month.

New Amateur Radio Antenna to be Installed During Space-walk

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, has announced that one of the four new ARISS antennas could be installed as soon as next week. It's anticipated that the "WA3" VHF-UHF flexible tape antenna will be installed on one end of the ISS Service Module during a scheduled January 14 spacewalk--or EVA.

"The Russian team is able to deploy this particular antenna sooner than the others because it is located very close to where the four RF connections go into the Service Module," Bauer said.

Expedition Four Commander Yuri Onufrienko, RK3DU0, and flight engineers Carl Walz, KC5TIE, and Dan Bursch, KD5PNU, are beginning their second month in orbit aboard the ISS. They have not yet been active on Amateur Radio, although several ARISS school contacts are pending. Onufrienko and Walz will carry out the EVA. NASA says the two will move a Russian cargo crane to the Russian Functional Cargo Block for future assembly work. Bursch will operate the Canadarm2 robotic arm from inside the space station."

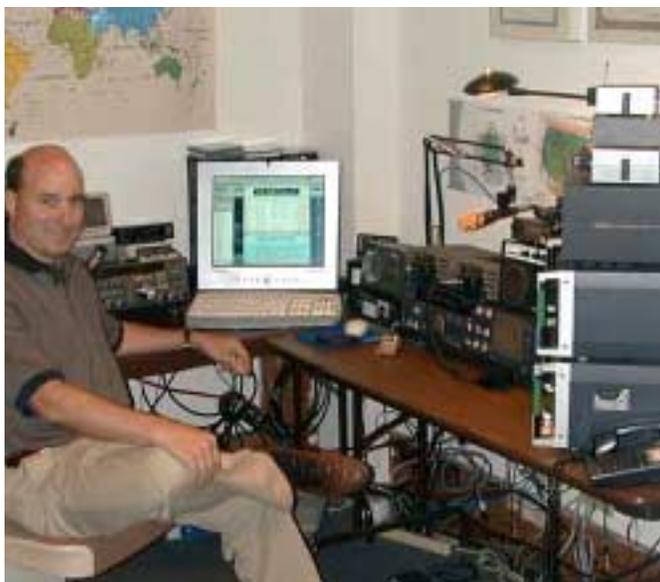
Installation of the new antenna on the Service Module paves the way for two separate ham stations aboard Space Station Alpha. Plans call for a 2-meter station to remain in the Functional Cargo Block using the Russian antennas that had been used to dock the FGB but now used for ARISS. A second 70-cm station will be set up in the Service Module using the new antenna.

—ARRL



Member Profile WA6HHQ

Eric Swartz and Wayne Burdick (N6KR) formed "Elecraft" a few years ago and launched their now-world-famous K2 kit. Eric can also be justifiably proud of excellence in at least one other sphere: underwater photography. The color photos taken with his XYL Lerma (KD6ANH) during their recent trip to Tahiti are simply breathtaking.



WA6HHQ Ham operations

Eric grew up in the East Bay and

was launched into ham Radio at the age of 14. His father taught him valuable lessons by loaning money to pursue his ideas such as designing and building a 2-meter repeater for the Bay Area. By requiring those funds to be repaid through hard work Eric clearly learned a valuable lesson. It is not surprising that

Eric today combines his technical know-how with astute business sense.

Studies at Yale in electrical engineering and applied science provided Eric with broad skills including a smooth presentation style, no doubt the result of running the jazz music station WYBC FM.

Returning to Silicon Valley Eric's professional and entrepreneurial career spanned several successful companies in the computer field. His interest in Ham Radio may just have waned a little during this period until one of those turning point moments occurred. With Stan (N6XU) Eric attended the Winterfest and discovered Wayne's Norcal 40. Eric built one and proceeded to add some of his own ideas to

it. The growing interest in high performance QRP kits ultimately lead to a synergistic partnership between Wayne and Eric and the formation of Elecraft. Wayne's background in engineering and cognitive science brings the bright ideas and much of the design, Eric's engineering and business skills yield the performance. The label ELE-gantCRAFTmanship fits the product exceedingly well.

The direction for Elecraft is clear. Stay on course with steady growth of a



WA6HHQ Professional Operations

range of no-compromise ham equipment and resale of compatible peripherals such as Heil microphones and the Screwdriver Antenna by Vern's (W6MMA) company Super-Antenna. It is also worth mentioning that the success of Elecraft could not have been possible without the Internet and the

avid support of their customer base.

Not much has been said here about Eric's shack, it is a model of efficiency and his professional grade lab is a home-brewers dream; the pictures speak for themselves.

Eric is generous with his time and knowledge and recently came up with the idea of our coffee assisted technology sessions on Saturday mornings. To the local boy who made good and his partner Wayne, go our highest praise and best wishes for a long and successful relationship.

K6RMW (ARES) repeater

The K6RMW repeater, located on top of the Watsonville Hospital, which was on the 147.015/147.615 pair, with a PL of 94.8, has been moved because of a major interference problem with the repeater in Fremont on the same pair. The have installed a new radio that has taken their output power from 30 Watts to an estimated 110 Watts.

The K6RMW (ARES) repeater is now up and operating on 147.000/147.600 with the same PL of 94.8 (CTCSS of 94.8 on the output).

The sanction papers are "in the mail" and should go through as soon as NARCC does what it is they do.

Please let me know if anyone has any questions about this change, or about the Watsonville Air Show and Fly-in Amateur Radio operations. You can look for further information on Amateur Radio at the air show at the web page (www.k6bj.org/airshow/).

—73... Bob Wiser, K6RMW

EC, Watsonville area ARES

Treasurer's Report

March 5 balances:

Money Market	\$2975.05
Checking	\$1667.92
Petty Cash	\$31.23
Total	\$4674.20

101 members paid (including life members and family members)

PROPAGATION FORECAST

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 10
ARLP010 From Tad Cook, K7VVV Seattle, WA March 8, 2002 To all radio amateurs SB PROP ARL ARLP010 ARLP010 Propagation de K7VVV Sunspot numbers are down, and the sun is relatively quiet, although there has been a solar wind stimulating some geomagnetic activity this week. Average sunspot numbers dropped nearly 16 points this week over last, and average solar flux was down over 14 points. Geomagnetic planetary A indices moved out of the single digits this week, and averaged about double last week's average. The most active day was February 28th, with planetary K indices as high as 5. Contesters were grateful that conditions quieted down for the ARRL Phone DX Contest last weekend. There was also some geomagnetic activity on March 5-6, when the K index over several periods was 4. The sun should be quiet over the next week, with solar flux below 200. The first day of spring is less than two weeks away. The equinox is a great time for HF propagation. 10-meters should be good over the next few weeks, and 15-meters will improve as we move later into spring. K9LA writes in to report that subtraction and multiplication were not his high point last week. Here's the correct version of the data he reported. The monthly median critical frequency foF2 at Dyess AFB (Abilene, Texas) for December 2000 was 11.65 MHz. For December 2001, it was 13.2 MHz. That's a difference of 1.55 MHz, and is representative of the increased worldwide ionization in December 2001. With the F2 region MUF for a 3000 km path being about 3 times the critical frequency, that 1.55 MHz difference in critical frequencies translates to a MUF roughly 5 MHz higher in December 2001 than December 2000. This increase was due to the recent resurgence in Cycle 23, and goes a long way in explaining why December 2001 (and the months around it) were so good for 6-meters compared to a year ago. Sunspot numbers for February 28 through March 6 were 188, 153, 153, 169, 197, 168 and 191 with a mean of 174.1. 10.7 cm flux was 204.2, 187.7, 191, 182.7, 174.9, 172.2 and 177.8, with a mean of 184.4, and estimated planetary A indices were 17, 11, 5, 10, 9, 15 and 15 with a mean of 11.7. NNNN

CAKE REPORT

Our meeting this morning was exuberant to say the least, our noise level at times was 20 dB over S9. Those present were KG6AXD, WA6HHQ, KF6QKI, K6EP, K6BDK, W8FLL and W6WO

Eric showed us his 100 Watt K2 that is in an advanced stage of development. It really is a beautiful piece of work. Eric described a few of the many finer points, for example no enamel wire is used in the torroids instead he uses silver plated teflon insulated wire. The heat sink was custom designed and milled out of a block of aluminium, superior power connectors are used and it all goes together beautifully. QSK at 100 Watts is indistinguishable from that of the K2 alone. We can all congratulate the Elecraft gang for their excellence and wish them great success in the market.

Not to be outdone in the linear arena Richard KG6AXD and Rich KF6QKI showed their carefully built 50 Watt amplifiers. We debated whether it is preferable to monitor the drive level or the output level to ensure best performance. The consensus seemed to be that the output matters most. Eric generously offered to put their amps through critical harmonic and IMD tests in his lab.

Rich showed us the QRP tuner that he is building. All I can say is Rich does one of the best jobs of home brew that I have ever seen and digs deeply into the design theory first.

Ron described how noise blanking will work (one day he hopes) in his home brew RX now under construction. The module containing a separate noise RX was shown which lead to a discussion of how the power gain of transformer coupled transistor stages can be adjusted.

We examined the CD called HAMCALC produced by VE3ERP for \$7 which is a gold mine of design info. We all need this CD!

Some discussion took place on the possible impact of I-Link on the Ham community in general and what it would take to make our K6BJ repeater accessible to the world.

KF6N recently reported some strange propagation to New Zealand with his beam pointed in the long path direction. Since the long path would not be open Ron put forward a theory of how this might come about by a combination of site geometry, elevation polar diagram of the antenna and angle of arrival of the short path. Stuff like this is what distinguishes I-Link from "real radio" HI HI

We agreed to meet on average every two weeks but stay tuned for confirmation

— 73 Ron W6WO

Bush Addresses ARES Net

President George W. Bush spoke January 31 via Amateur Radio to members of the Northern Florida Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net (NFAN). The president was in Florida to spotlight five volunteer groups—among them the Volusia County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)—for their value to the new Office of Homeland Security.

"I want to thank all the volunteers who help make sure that Florida is prepared for any kind of emergency," the president said in part, after checking in around 9:15 AM to a regular ARES net session. "I want to thank you all for helping your communities be prepared." Bush spoke on the net for about 30 seconds.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was "extremely gratified" that President Bush recognized the valuable service Amateur Radio operators provide in times of emergencies. "I know that all hams in the United States stand ready to do their part in America's Homeland Security Program,"

—ARRL



TRADE or SELL TABLE at MARCH MEETING

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

SCCARC Officers - 2002

President	Richard Trebbien	KG6AXD	426-0169
Vice President	Jim Welty	KF6YRD	685-9225
Secretary	Elaine Pennell	KE6FRA	429-1290
Treasurer	Cap Pennell	KE6AFE	429-1290
Board	Bruce Hawkins	AC6DN	
	Tom Johnson	KQ6DV	464-3120
	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

SCARES	Tuesday	Mar. 12
SCCARC Board Meeting 6:30	Friday	Mar. 15
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Mar. 15
Short Skip Deadline	Monday	Apr. 8
SCARES	Tuesday	Apr. 9
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Apr. 19

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)

3/11	Allen WB6RWU
3/18	Phil KE6UWH
3/25	Ron W6WO
4/1	Dave W6TUW
4/8	Tom K6TG
4/15	Jeff KF6BKG



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Meeting: Mar. 15, 7:30PM

First Class