

DECEMBER 2003

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



SCCARC HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Thanks to all for sharing your fun at the SCCARC holiday luncheon on Saturday! The event was a complete success, with good food and fun with some friends we haven't seen enough of recently. 56 attendees paid to share a meal with the rest of us, and three of them won great raffle prizes.

The generous contributions toward raffle tickets repaid the club's cost for the raffle prizes and generated an



Vic AE6ID receives the presidential gavel from Richard KG6AXD



We hope dues renewal payments will soon provide new income to get us through 2004 too. <hint, hint>

Until this additional income appeared, we'd spent slightly more during 2003 than we'd taken in, but with this generous help from the luncheon attend-

additional \$264! Of these proceeds, \$132 has been sent to the ARRL Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Fund for Spectrum Defense. The other \$132 has been added to the K6BJ Club's coffers. That income is very welcome, especially at this time of year when our Club's balance is always at the lowest point of its annual cycle.

ees that's no longer the case and now we'll end the year with a slight net gain.

Thank you for helping your club's activities and for defending our spectrum.

—73, Cap and Elaine, secretary and treasurer

RENEWAL TIME

Time to renew your club membership again. Dues for the 2004 calendar year are payable as of December 1. Regular memberships are \$25, memberships for additional family members at the same address are \$6 each, and full time students under the age of 18 can become members for \$10. This has got to be one of the best deals going, dues prices haven't increased for over 10 years! We look forward to having you as a member again in the coming year.

We hope to try an experiment to help us reduce postal costs in 2004.

Shortskip is available on the internet at <http://www.k6bj.org> if you can easily download and print an Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) file.

If you wish to continue receiving your printed copy of Shortskip in the postal mail, please "opt-in" by notifying the club secretary Cap KE6AFE before April 1, 2004 that you'd like to continue receiving your issue in the postal mail. Those who do not "opt-in" will no longer receive Shortskip in the mail beginning with the April 2004 issue.

For your convenience we have included a renewal card and a return envelope. Please fill out the card and enclose your check. Check the box to "opt-in," if you want to receive a copy of Short Skip via the Postal Service.



Wayne KB6KN, Leon, AA6ZG, Art WF6P

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



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CAKE MEETING

It's getting to be quite a challenge to cover all the ingredients that surface at our 2 hour CAKE bakeoffs but here goes.

Today's topics of antennas like the Windom and baluns are certainly perennials. Propagation featured highly today including real-time web sites such as <http://salsawaves.com/propagation/index.html>, long path modes and losses, cracks in the ionosphere, the current low HF noise levels and how the heck can Bob K6XX and Peter AB6WM work well over 100 countries on a weekend.

Bob suggested that we invite propagation expert N6BV Dean to a club meeting in the New Year and hopefully we can back this up with a CAKE meeting the following day. (over to you VP Scott)

We touched briefly on the touchy topic of allocations within our Ham bands and we should return to this no doubt.

Quality (or lack of it) seemed to be high on the list today and screwdriver antennas, wire insulation, PLL259 connectors, guy "wire" materials, and sealing of coax all generated some experiences good and bad.

Other topics included RF propagation via power lines and quadrature mixers. The most controversial question came from Amara KF6TEJ. "What is a good rig to buy these days?" Kind of a Chevy-Ford discussion then ensued. I offered a rational, objective and unemotional case for TenTec big-knob radios Hi Hi. Incidentally Amara often shows up with a fancy laptop with wireless internet access, as we waffle on she pulls up useful information, quite impressive.

Hope to see you at the XMAS feast and I look forward to winning the brand new HT or the latest ARRL antenna handbook. \$20 for lunch, raffle tickets and fellowship all in a good cause. Where can you have so much fun!

—73 Ron W6W0

The past profiles of members were based on interviews but it seemed to me that an informal stealth and candid camera approach was best with Dave W8FLL. I bet anyone could identify his hearty Heh Heh Heh laugh anywhere. W8 Foxtrot Lima Lima is his original call from the "50 s when he was first licensed in Detroit. Dave is another stalwart of our club who has a wealth of experience which he willingly shares with all. What I find remarkable about Dave is his can-do and up-to-date approach to Ham Radio. He a great fan of

building the latest Elecraft kits and adds to them in unique ways. Ask him to describe how he constructs screw driver antennas from scratch and you will appreciate his many talents for finding solutions and flea market bargains. Handicraft talent must run in the family, note the home brew patch on his jacket that his daughter sewed for him. Whether it is coffee at McDs, Club meetings, CAKE sessions or trips to N6IJ Dave will be there to lighten up our day. What a neat guy !!

—73 Ron W6W0

A Note from Dan Anderson Family

*Dear Members of the Santa Cruz
County Amateur Radio Club,
My family & I thank you for
the beautiful flowers you sent to
the Church for Dan. Also thanks
to all the members that attended
his service. We appreciate your
thoughtfulness.
Thanks again,
Merilyn Anderson
& Family*

FIND THE BREAKS



I finally decided it was time to fix my Kenwood TM-732A mobile. The problem was no transmit power on VHF. VHF receive worked fine. UHF transmit and receive also worked fine. Obviously, something is wrong in the VHF power amplifier module.

I removed the snap-on plastic lid from the power amp, inspected the components, checked the voltages, but found nothing obviously fried or broken. Eventually, I noticed that the collector voltage at the driver transistor was zero VDC, while the applied voltage to the module driver was the correct 10VDC. There is a direct wire trace between the terminal and the collector so it must be an open trace. It was easy enough to slide the voltmeter probe along the trace until the break was found. Actually, there were two breaks. I could just barely see the breaks with a large magnifier and my reading glasses. I microscope might have shown the breaks better, but I didn't have one handy.

They can easily be identified by my sloppy soldering in the photo above. However, don't blame me for the poor quality. The aluminium oxide substrate and large heat sink makes soldering very difficult. I had to use a 1/4" 850F chisel tip soldering iron and it was still difficult to obtain a decent connection.

—Jeff Liebermann



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

I missed the last club meeting, shucks. It's always good to have eyeball QSOs and the meetings are always fun. After some meetings, there is even lively discussion on the K6BJ reflector on club speaker topics.

The 40 and 80 meter bands have been good for the past month. However, I was getting some bad reports on the quality of my signal from my trusty Kenwood 930S. One maritime mobile operator told me to try my compressor. When I did, the signal cleared up - the opposite of what should happen! Switching back and forth isolated the problem down to the mic gain. After exercising this pot a few times, the problem vanished and my signal came through great! When I told him he could not locate the instruction manual for the rig, he even talked me through the Set Compressor procedure. Hey, nothing like a little on-the-air trouble shooting. I secured power and ran every switch and pot through a dozen or more times to clean up contact surfaces. I guess that having the rig sit idle in XYL Donna's bird house for a couple of years was not beneficial to the working parts.

Also the readout memory wasn't doing its job. Maybe I need new batteries? I slipped the small cover plate at the top of the rig to one side, exposing the battery case. Without dropping it, I unscrewed the hold down screw for the battery pack. I had my fingers crossed that the batteries hadn't leaked all over the place. What a nice surprise! The batteries had not leaked --- because there were no batteries in the holder. Four new AA batteries took care of that little oversight. Oh, I did finally locate my rig's operator's manual. Whew!

Good news department: I received a land line from Rick Ricketts, N6GOW. He was happy to inform me that the City had backed down on their eviction notice for the Veteran's ham shack. Not being banished to the basement was the reward for all the volunteer hours spent by veterans who manned the table in front of the Veteran's Memorial Building for over a month. They collected about 2000 signatures. Rick saved a copy of their newsletter for me. When I went to the Vet's building to get my copy I had a chance to see the antennas Rick has up on the rooftop. Rick has served the veterans for many years, probably over 20. One of the nets Rick participated in from the shack was the Destroyer Sailors' net. Members of that net were mostly WWII types who served with him in the South Pacific. He operates most Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings starting at 1000. Stop in and view the shack --- it's on the second deck.

INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE GETS NEW NEW CHARACTER

The 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) may have eliminated the treaty requirement for prospective amateurs to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to gain HF access, but the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) hasn't forgotten Morse code altogether. In Geneva on December 5, the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 8 agreed on the wording of a Draft New Recommendation ITU-R M.[MORSE] that specifies the international Morse code character set and transmission procedures. It also includes a new Morse code character to cover the "@"; symbol used in e-mail addresses.

To keep up with the times, however, the IARU proposed adding a new character--the commercial "at" or @ symbol--to permit sending e-mail addresses in Morse code. The draft new recommendation proposes using the letters A and C run together (---.) to represent the @ symbol. —From ARRL Newsletter

SCCARC Board - 2004

President	Vic Linderholm	AE6ID	476-5567
Vice President	Scott King	AH6KL	688-2296
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	Chris Angelos	KG6DOZ	688-3562
	Mike Doern	KM6IKE	477-1161
	David Shoaf	KG6IRV	462-4605
	Rich Wadsworth	KF6QKI	722-7005
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)
KI6EH 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)

SLVARC Repeater WR6AOK 147.120+ PL 94.8 Ben Lomond
• SLVARC Net Thursday 7:30 PM

SLVARES 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
• Newline (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, NS6G repeater, 146.700- PL 151.4

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

SCCARC Calendar of Events

Short Skip Deadline (Jan.)	Monday	JAN 5
SCCARC Board Meeting 6:30	Friday	JAN 16
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	JAN 16
Short Skip Deadline (Feb.)	Monday	FEB 9
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	FEB 20

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

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

12/22	Allen WB6RWU
12/29	Joseph KG6NRI
1/5	Ron W6WO
1/12	Jeff KF6BKG
1/19	Phil KE6UWH



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

MEETING FRIDAY JANUARY 16, 7:30PM

Notice to all members and friends of the great "SCCARC"
The meeting on January 16th will be our first club meeting for 2004 and that event will happen at the Dominican Hosp., Conference Rooms 1,2,and 3 in the basement. This January meeting will be directed by your new president and vice president, (Vic AE6ID and Scott AH6KL). I wish all of you the best of Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year!

Respectfully, (NF6Z) james your vp

First Class