

JULY 2004

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# SHORT SKIP



## Field Day 2004

Once again, another ARRL Field Day has come and gone. Conditions were very windy on Friday and Saturday, and attendance was down a bit (23 people, including visitors). We enjoyed a somewhat spartan BBQ dinner Saturday evening; we had plenty to eat, but no pies or cakes for dessert. For antennas, we had two towers with HF Yagis, a mast for VHF-UHF Yagis, and 40 and 80m dipoles supported by trees, thanks to ace archer Tom, KQ6DV. Bruce, AC6DN, also used his vehicle antennas, and Dave, W8FLL, put up phased verticals for 40m. Two of "the Toms" voted unanimously not to set up the military masts; I think I might have inadvertently voted twice. A special thanks goes to the perennial behind-the-scenes hero, Don Henneuse, KF6KGO. Don mowed the field, brought a tower trailer, provided and erected the VHF-UHF mast, and provided a really nice gas grill for the BBQ. He was also there for set-up Friday and tear-down Sunday. Club Pres Vic, AE6ID, hauled up the ARES generator, gas, and most of the Field Day stuff from the repeater shed. Bob, K6XX, modified a Yagi mounting plate for us on Friday, copied the ARRL Field Day bulletin (100 points) Saturday, and made a bunch of CW contacts. Speaking of CW, 73% of our contacts were made on CW this year. We made 690 CW contacts out of a total of 946 total contacts, for a score of 4,120 points. Thanks to all for another fun Field Day . . .

—Tom, KG6AO

Our Field Day enterprise was modest this year but the bands were in great shape, the WX cool and we all enjoyed ourselves. Special thanks go to Tom KG6AO for all

his efforts which included organizing the whole event and cooking the food. Much appreciation goes to Don KF6KGO who mowed the site and supplied a very useful crank-up tower. The "E" prize for effort goes to Tom KQ6DV for his determined archery in the face of a vigorous breeze. The "P" prize for performance goes to Bob K6XX who showed what 20 meter CW is all about with QSOs peaking at 128/hour. Dave W8FLL used his trusty K2 and demonstrated his fishing-pole vertical for 40 meters. Next year we will plan for extra antennas on HF and a satellite capability to boost our score.

A white van mysteriously appeared and was put to good use accommodating two stations very comfortably—we hope that it will become a permanent asset.

—Ron, W6WO



15 meter portable tower



## Museum for You

by AA6ZG, Leon Fletcher

You'll get a remarkable surprise if you visit the impressive Western Historic Radio Museum, in Virginia City, NV.

There, displayed prominently, is an about 4x5 foot photo of the control board of--KSCO!

The photo was apparently taken in about 1950. It is black-and-white, and shows vividly the station's controls only--there are no announcers or such in view.

Although there are more than 10,000 museums in the United States, this museum is unique. One reason: it's located in the former rectory of the adjacent Saint Mary's in the Mountains Catholic Church. But despite that religious heritage, within but a few blocks of the museum there used to be more than one hundred saloons, more than a score of gambling dens, and about a dozen houses of ill-repute.

### Tour Guide

There are hundreds of radios on display--the museum's owner/operator/curator Henry Rogers (WA7YBS) told me, "I'm really not

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**CLUB MEETING FRIDAY JULY 16 7:30 P.M.**



Published 12 times per year.  
Free to members.

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## Strawberry Field Bike Ride

Hams provide communications for Strawberry Fields bike ride on May 16.

Fifteen radio amateurs polished their emcomm skills while providing communications for the 25 mile, 100 kilometer, and 100 mile rides at the Strawberry Fields Forever event.



Phil KE6UWH and Ray KE6WHG operate the NCS command center in the Santa Cruz County ARES van at Aptos High School

## Greetings from NF6Z

Greetings to the ( SCCARC) from your retired X-vp james(nf6z) formerly(kf6yrd). We are enjoying, FLORENCE OR. and have become members of the Central Oregon Amateur Radio Club in Florence. The club here is about 80 members strong and we meet every wed. morning for breakfast. great group of people, not quite as active as the worlds finest radio club that all you "santa cruzins" get to enjoy. I miss all of you and perhaps we will meet on "hf" down the log. 73 to all and happy trails from james (NF6Z).

## THE FCC TURNS 70!

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) <<http://www.fcc.gov>>, the agency that regulates the Amateur Radio Service, turns 70 years old on Thursday, July 1--the effective date of the Communications Act of 1934. Passed by Congress on June 19 of that year, the Act established the FCC as an independent US government agency.

Although amended since, the Act--all 333 pages of it--remains in effect today and establishes the authority of the FCC to, among other things, issue license grants. It also spells out the official definition of an amateur station: "The term 'amateur station' means a radio station operated by a duly authorized person interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest."

Upon its creation 70 years ago, the FCC directly inherited the personnel, funds and records of the Federal Radio Commission (FRC), then just seven years old. The FRC had shared regulatory duties with the Department of Commerce and the Interstate Commerce Commission. The Communications Act of 1934 put all the responsibilities under one roof. Most of the significant changes the Communications Act of 1934 introduced affected broadcasting.

Directly responsible to Congress and charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable, today's FCC jurisdiction covers all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and US possessions.

When the FCC came into being in 1934, QST expended surprisingly little ink announcing the regime change to the Amateur Radio community.

"The radio part of the law is almost exactly the same as before, and there is no change in any amateur regulation," said a short article in the August 1934 issue. "The League kept in close touch with this legislation as it progressed, and is assured that nothing in the new law adversely affects Amateur Radio."

The original FCC was authorized to have seven members and up to three divisions. Today's FCC has five members--all appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate--and six bureaus.



Another Cake Session is history.

The main topic: small, high efficiency, broadband antennas.

The Attendees: W6ZZZ Marc; K6GEE Hank; K6BDK Frank; W8FLL Dave; AE6KS Jeff; K6EXT Ron; N1IPP Jim

K6GEE Hank brought in a very small antenna which was likely a military broadband aircraft band antenna. Hank said it was resonant at 2m. and was airfoil shaped and about 1 foot long. It looked as if it was meant to be bolted to an aircraft. For purposes of ID this antenna was manufactured by R.A. Miller Antenna AT-450/ARC 5985-00-545-6235. I would really like to see a characterization of this type of antenna. Wind drag would likely be minimal. This would work well on a car I would think.

Dave W8FLL described an antenna designed by John Reinartz K6BJ SK that was vertical had loops spaced about 1/4 wavelength at 90 degree intervals around the axis of the vertical. I would like to see this antenna resurrected if for no other reason than John Reinartz is the patron saint of the club.

The ever informative Jeff AE6KS described the vertical colinear antenna with horizontal shorting stubs and shortened overall height. After thinking about this: Is the Reinartz antenna of the 1920's actually a colinear antenna? Jeff AE6KS gave us the conventional wisdom that antennas shorter than 1/4 wavelength increasingly lose efficiency as they get shorter. This will be a stern test for new innovative antennas like the ones that we have been hearing about of late.

Other topics of conversation: From Jeff AE6KS. Point contact diodes and early semi-con that used .32 and .22 caliber cartridge brass for the package. The use of a sweep generator and an oscilloscope instead of a spectrum analyzer for many measurement tasks. Active antennas and Fractal antennas (Which no claimed to understand) phased array antennas and Wireless and various cell phone technology.

Charging technology and why batteries fail. Alkaline vs. Heavy Duty dry cells is the recent article in QST wrong Consensus: probably yes. Regular dry cell batteries probably leak about as much as the alkaline and without stats such a statement is pretty much meaningless. AE6KS has some interesting ideas concerning the charging of rechargeable batteries. Digital radio was discussed with most of the attendees not comprehending all that was discussed especially N1IPP. Dave W8FLL showed his Antenna "Scope" which indicates resistive load at low power and Dave discussed how it might be used to tune an antenna. Dave built the device about 1952 and it still works! The discussion of this device led to the discussion of all sorts of point contact diodes. Ron K6EXT brought his 40 meter direct conversion receiver and there was discussion of the merits of direct conversion. A fine time was had by all.

--- James Koger --- pv544@earthlink.net

## Museum for You

quite sure myself how many there are."

The displays are well-labeled, but Henry likes to give personalized narrations to visitors. He's a keen and quick reader of tourists' interests and levels of knowledge. For example, he knows I'm a ham, so during my most recent visit (last month) he started telling me a lot of technical details about the artifacts that I stopped to look at. But after only a few exchanges he realized I'm not a tech type--he spotted that much of what he was saying was over my head. So he eased up, shifted to telling me about historic aspects of the equipment.

### Variety

The range of the museum's old radios is impressive. One of the most imposing is a 1940 Scott Radio Laboratories "AM-FM Philharmonic." It has 33 tubes, 60 watts audio power, three speakers. "Even by today's standards, this receiver provides absolutely incredible performance at a thunderous volume," Henry said.

Also displayed is a General Electric model G-106, introduced in 1938. It has 96 preset switches--"Certainly designed to impress the radio enthusiast's friends."

Then there's the "amazing" feature of Philco's 1939 Model 39-116--its "Mystery Control." That's a wireless remote that tunes in stations and also controls the volume through a motorized component.

### Ham Station

But for hams, the highlight of the museum is a complete "Wireless Station," built in 1912 by Marion Henry "Hank" Dodd. He had no call sign; the government had not yet started issuing them.

The station was discovered in several boxes in Reno in 1999. Hank homebrewed nearly all of the units in his radio station--there were very few companies that manufactured electronic equipment that could handle the high power of Dodd's station--"Probably in excess of one thousand watts," according to Henry.

The station is displayed virtually exactly the same as it was nearly a century ago. Most parts of the station are originals; others have been rebuilt or replicated by Henry.

More information about the museum is at <http://www.radioblvd.com/> <http://www.radioblvd.com>.



By Art Lee WF6P

## CHATTER

Did you ever try to get the top off a medicine bottle with one hand? After surgery on my right hand, I needed some pain medication. Home alone for a short period, I finally found a chair covered with a rough material, inverted the bottle, pressed down hard and turned. Ah, relief. On July 1st I had the opportunity to get rid of a problem causing my fingers to curl. Dupuytren's Contractures it seems, is an inherited feature limited mostly with those of Viking blood. I checked it out on the internet. Interesting. Scott King, AH6KL, and I share this malady. The surgery is fairly simple, with a 4 to 6 week therapy treatment to return the hand to 85% mobility. In the meantime, typing with a pencil taped to my cast on my right hand and wrist is slow work. I will not be able to use my paddle for CW so will resort to "pounding" brass on the old straight key with the two-pound cast or maybe use my foot. We'll see. I might add that treatment at the Sutter Hospital was top flight.

When undergoing an EKG prior to surgery, I had a conversation with my nurse, Emily Holder, at the Santa Cruz Medical Clinic. She was great but even greater

when I mentioned that I was a ham radio operator. Emily is the Chairperson for the Board of Directors for Cyclists for Cultural Exchange. From ARES help in the past, she knows Bob Wiser, K6RMW. Our ARES group, under Phil, KE6UWH, helped with their Watsonville Strawberry Fields Forever bike ride. "Cell phones didn't work in all our areas so the hams were great in providing vital communications for us," she said. Her biking group visits foreign countries and hosts foreign riders when they visit here. "Do you know Mary Duffield, WA6KFA?" I asked. Of course she did. Everybody knows Mary and of all her good works with people and children over the years.

Bill Fravel, WB6DBA, (SK). It is with deep regret that we note the passing of one of our lifetime club members. I knew Bill best back in the 1980s when I first joined the club. Bill was quite active on HF and our 2 meter net. He was also a member of the Santa Cruz County Genealogical Society when I was a member.

In 1952, he took a position as the superintendent of maintenance and construction for the Boardwalk and worked there until his retirement.

He died on June 19th at age 81 of respiratory failure and complications from diabetes. A lengthy obituary was carried in the Santa Cruz Sentinel on June 21st (<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2004/June/21/robit/stories/01robit.htm>)

also (<<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2004/June/24/local/stories/11local.htm>)

## MARLON BRANDO, KE6PZH/F05GJ

He was one of the towering giants of stage and screen, and was also one of us. We are referring to the late Marlon Brando, KE6PZH, who died in Los Angeles, California on July 1.

Marlon Brando was born April 3, 1924, in Omaha, Nebraska. Best known for his inward looking method acting rolls in such cinema classics as "On The Waterfront," "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "The Godfather," Brando's interest in ham radio first became known in the November of 1977. This occurred when he passed by a booth set up by the now defunct Palisades Amateur Radio Club of Culver City in the Pan American World Airways terminal at Los Angeles International Airport.

He broke away from his group, introduced himself under his F05GJ call sign and complimented the PARC crew for their volunteer effort.

Soon, word that Brando was a ham became common knowledge in the Los Angeles area, but few people ever reported hearing him on the air. When they did, he gave his name as Martin not Marlon and there are no reports of him ever using his 6 land call which the FCC database shows listed to a Martin Brandeaux -- spelled B-R-A-N-D-E-A-U-X -- in Beverly Hills.

It was not until an interview with Larry King in the mid-1990's that Brando let the world outside the hobby know of his love of ham radio. He told King that being a radio amateur gave him the opportunity to just be another anonymous human being. To be himself. A voice on the air, making friends from his home in French Polynesia using his F05GJ call.

—Amateur Radio Newline

## SCCARC Board - 2004

<b>President</b>	Vic Linderholm	AE6ID	476-5567
<b>Vice President</b>	Scott King	AH6KL	688-2296
<b>Secretary</b>	Cap Pennell	KE6AFE	429-1290
<b>Treasurer</b>	Elaine Pennell	KE6FRA	429-1290
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	Mike Doern	KM6IKE	477-1161
	David Shoaf	KG6IRW	462-4605
	Rich Wadsworth	KF6QKI	722-7005
<b>K6BJ Trustee</b>	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

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

LPRC Repeater WR6ABD 146.640-(PL 162.2)  
 • LPRC Net Tuesday 8:00 PM

NPSARC Repeater K6LY 146.97- PL 94.8 Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey  
 • NPSARC Net Wednesday at 8 PM on K6LY/R

6 Meter Local Net 52.8 MHz (PL-114.8) Sunday 8:00 PM  
 ARES Nets • SC ARES Tuesday 7:15 PM K6BJ 146.790-(PL 94.8)  
 • SLV ARES Tuesday 7:00 PM W6JWVS 146.745-(PL 94.8) & WR6AOK 147.120+(PL 94.8) on alternate Tuesdays  
 • South County ARES Tuesday 7:15 PM K6RMWV 147.00+ (PL 94.8)  
 • LP ARES Tuesday 7:15 PM AE6KE 146.385- (PL 98.4) & AB6VS 440550+ (PL 94.8) linked  
 • SC County ARES Tuesday 7:30 PM 146.79- / 147.945- / 440.925+ / 147.180+ (all PL 94.8) (linked)  
 • Monterey ARES Net Wednesday 7:30 PM K6LY 146.970- (PL 94.9)

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

## SCCARC Calendar of Events

SCCARC Board Meeting 6:30	Friday	July 16
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	July 16
Short Skip Deadline	Monday	Aug 9
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Aug 20

## MONTHLY MEETINGS.

The SCCARC Meets at 7:30 PM, on the **THIRD FRIDAY** of the each month (except December). Meetings are at Dominican Hospital, 1555 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz.

**SCCARC Website at - [www.k6bj.org](http://www.k6bj.org)**

**CLUB E-MAIL: [yourcall@k6bj.org](mailto:yourcall@k6bj.org)**

## NET CONTROL SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

7/12	Tom K6TG
7/19	Allen WB6RWU
7/26	Joseph KG6NRI
8/2	Ron W6WO
8/9	Phil KE6UWH
8/16	Tom K6TG

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# SHORT SKIP

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

## SCCARC Meeting: July 16, 7:30PM



Dave W8FLL running a K2 at SCCARC Field Day 2004

## First Class