

NOVEMBER 2005

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



November Club Auction!

The SCCARC has its annual auction at the November 18 meeting. Dave, W8FLL, has volunteered to be our auctioneer. Come buy, donate, or sell your surplus radio gear at auction. Collect all those mics, connectors, handhelds, and related equipment, receivers, transmitters, etc. Bring them down to the meeting, and let's have fun.

Hamming it up

Radio operators practice for potential disaster

By J.D. Hillard of the Register-Pajaronian

When disaster strikes Santa Cruz County, phone lines could be down and cell phones might not work, but a group of hobbyists plan to take up the slack. During a drawn-out emergency such as a multi-day flood or an earthquake as severe as the Loma Prieta in 1989, emergency responders will need information about where people are injured, where shelter is available and the status of road repairs and river levels. Where the agencies themselves find they haven't the staff to gather and disseminate such information in the face of more pressing emergency duties, volunteers among the ham radio community can pitch in, said Cap Pennell, a retired fire captain who organizes an annual simulated disaster for amateur radio operators. This year's simulation took place on Saturday. During the event, radio operators went to locations throughout the county to help emergency agencies, pretending a major disaster had occurred. Operators responded to "flooding in the hills" as a result of a large storm following three weeks of steady rain. "There were landslides; there were roads closed; there were homes threatened," Pennell said. About 30 radio operators participated, including some in the Pajaro Valley. The event gives radio operators practice so they'll know what to do in an actual disaster. Ham operators also learn weaknesses in emergency response, he said. This year, Pennell said, participants did not coordinate effectively for the entire exercise, which lasted from 8 to 10 a.m. In another instance, three radio operators working in close proximity interfered with each other's transmissions. Despite the problems, however, the operators performed well, Pennell said. In addition to exercising the radio operators, the event provides a test for the equipment, said Brad Baker, a San Lorenzo Valley-based ham operator. In an effort to see how well transmission repeaters run during a power outage, Baker spent a few hours the day before unplugging a repeater on a nearby hilltop, he said. Baker also said the event had been beneficial. "We had a little meeting afterwards," he said. "Pretty much every one agreed that we (should) do more of these things."



AE6QE discussing the Naval Postgrad School's assistance in Mississippi following the Katrina Hurricane.

AE6QE at October Meeting

Lt "Rickey" Clement AE6QE held an audience of about 60 totally engrossed and handled the many questions skillfully and with a great sense of humor. While generally complementary of the contribution by radio amateurs his comments illustrated strengths and weaknesses of our ability to respond in both technical and human terms.

—Ron, W6W0

7th Annual Statewide Disaster Exercise

The 7th Annual Statewide Disaster Exercise for California hospitals, health care providers and government agencies will be operated on November 17th from 8:00 a.m. to about 11:00 a.m. For details and a link to the exercise plan, see our ARES Events Calendar listing. If you can participate with us, please notify Cap KE6AFE to be added to the list. We intend to staff and assist with communications from 6 facilities including hospitals, the County EOC, and others.

—Cap, KE6AFE

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18, 7:30 P.M.

AMQRP Club Reviewed

The club distributes 4 CDs a year absolutely packed with valuable material, Cost \$15 US \$25 DX

IN THIS ISSUE

Contained in more than 500 pages of full color, high resolution graphics, we have a mixture of easy and complex, quick and extended, antennas and radios, digital and analog something for everyone to build, and educational for everyone even if you don't build up a given project.

modify their kits and Bruce wrote up a nice article for Homebrewer explaining how he went about designing the mods.

And speaking of quadrature sampling receivers, we had a surprising contribution from a pair of wonderful designers from Finland, Juha Niinikoski OH2NLT and Matti Hohtola OH7SV. These guys designed and built an award-winning, 0-8 MHz DDS-based QSD receiver called the JUMA-RX1 that has nice specifications

Grey Bears

If you need to get rid of old computer junk I recommend the Grey Bears for they will do it for free. They will take monitors TVs and all other electronic and computer junk. They do not take large appliances like stoves and refrigerators. I unloaded a real pile there yesterday. They will also take other excess household items. They also repair and recycle computers. The address is 2710 Chanticleer Ave. in Santa Cruz. (The east side of the freeway) Phone 831 479 1055

While they do this for free I would also recommend a donation of money. This very worthy group helps senior citizens and others in need.

—N1IP

Fire Dispatch Web Site:

<http://www.firedispatch.com/>

Select "Santa Cruz County" from the drop down menu at the upper left, select "Radio" from the narrow light blue menu bar just underneath the header. From there you can click on the appropriate link to monitor the channel on-line. (Red mic icons indicate inactive channels.)

— Greg Yehling, KD6UCE

Incoming QSL Cards

If you have worked some DX (hems in other countries including Canada and Mexico) you should have an account at the "ARRL Sixth (6th) District DX QSL Bureau" just in case you get some QSL cards sent to you.

1. Go to <http://www.kqlz.com/qslbureau6.html> for instructions Send these folks \$5 and 10 address labels with your call sign on it. It's cheap preparedness for the next couple of years.

2. Read all about it at <http://www.arrl.org/qsl/qslout.html> and <http://www.arrl.org/qsl/qslin.html> and FAQ at <http://www.arrl.org/qsl/qsl-faq.html>

—Marc, W6ZZZ

KB9YIG
KD5TFD

SoftRock-40 Receiver



Inexpensive & easy "software defined radio" with stunning performance!

The highlight of the issue, and the cause of a great deal of excitement in the QRP community during August-September, is something called the SoftRock-40 Receiver. This little 1"x2" board from designers Tony Parks KB9YIG and Bill Tracey KD5TFD plugs into the USB port of your computer and works together with a powerful software application from FlexRadio called "PowerSDR" to provide a 40-meter receiver with absolutely stunning performance. The exciting quadrature sampling detector enables the software on the PC to pull out signals as low as 40 dB, thus rivaling some higher-end commercial receiver performance.

Bruce Beford, N1RX provided a nice service to many on QRP-L by experimenting with a different crystal to move the SoftRock to 30 meters. He obtained some crystals in quantity and supplied them at cost to SoftRock owners wishing to

- and I'm currently in the process of building this one up myself!

Software Defined Radio (SDR) radios are becoming quite popular these days, much due to the excitement and interest generated by FlexRadio Systems' SDR-1000 transceiver. We had a review of this radio way back in in Homebrewer issue #1, but QST recently published a wonderful review of this same radio and covered the many new features that have been added since we saw it here. So in joining with the surge in popularity of SDR, we re-published our original SDR review written by designer Gerald Youngblood K5SDR. We also have included the well-done QST review. And lastly we have added the technical overview of SDR technology that software radio guru Bob McGwier N4HY did for us in the Atlanticon 2004 Forum. This is a one cool collection of SDR reference material!



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

A fellow crewmember on the Wednesday night Beer Can races is buying a 46ft Hunter sloop. It was trucked from Florida and being fitted out by the dealer in Alameda. He has asked me to crew on some blue water jaunts. Honolulu, while a fabulous place and a former hometown of mine is still 20-25 days from Santa Cruz if we made 100 miles per day. That may be more than I want to undertake. He is putting radar and the necessary navigation gear on board and wants to use Marine SSB and ham frequencies while cruising. He has until the spring to get his General license. I have a pile of

SWL on 3900 KHz

Listen up on 3900 khz AM for a broadcast station. From 0000 GMT it is S-7 here (noise S-5) and always playing music.

The music is American, and from the 40's just before the big band era. I never am able to hear an ID. I did do some searching on the internet and came up with it might be an American services station in Iraq.

We have good greyline propagation into Iraq now. Take a listen, and let me know what you hear!

—73, and good DX!

Scott WA6LIE

Congratulations to all...

K6BJ is first in the 6A category of Field Day for the Pacific Division (and also 1st in the SCV Section, of course). Sixth overall.

If you are an ARRL member, you can view the numbers at

<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/scores.html>

—73 de Bob, K6XX

Gordon West tapes around here somewhere gathering dust I can give him. With only a code speed of five wpm required for the General and Extra class tickets, it shouldn't take him long to get his license. I told him that if he waited another year or two, the code requirement will probably be dropped. The question pool can be downloaded from the ARRL web site.

I picked up a book at the library last week. *China Clipper*, by Ronald W. Jackson. In it he describes the 1930s efforts of Pan American Airlines in establishing the trans-Pacific air routes to China. This involved making treaties for some bases, plus setting up seadromes on Oahu, Midway, Wake, Guam and Luzon. It was fun in the 1950s and 60s to visit the ruins of these former installations. The pilings and piers are still in evidence after all the years since 1936-41. The *China Clipper* was one of several Martin flying boats used on the route to the Orient

from Alameda, then Treasure Island. The flight engineer sat in the wing root in his own compartment managing the four engines. As a former PBV flight engineer, I occupied a somewhat smaller station, also in the wing pylon. The twin-engine PBV design dated back to the early 1930s. We carried a radioman who banged out hourly position reports on a straight key to our home base. With a cruising speed of 100 knots, we didn't go very far between reports. The *China Clipper* was faster at about 130 knots. Jackson described, briefly, how Amelia Earhart attempted to give the vessel *Itasca* a radio transmission they could take a bearing on. Her messages were confusing, incomplete and too short to allow the *Itasca* to get a fix. From Earhart: "KHAQQ calling *Itasca*. We must be on you but cannot see you. But gas is running low. We (with her navigator, Fred Noonan) are flying at altitude 1000." She was transmitting on 6210 kilocycles and her voice was shrill. Some sources claim that hams in the United States heard her attempts to contact the ship. I think my voice would have been shrill too, it's a big ocean out there and it looks the same in any direction.



When Rich Hanset, KI6EH, and I took his 53 foot *Navigator* cruiser *Seaweed* up to San Francisco last month we got aboard before sunup. Rich, the great skipper and host that he is, presented me with a hot cup of coffee as soon as I got aboard.



Rich, in the wheelhouse of *Seaweed* before our departure. Note the absence of sunlight!

I had the opportunity to make the October meeting of the Santa Cruz Astronomy club. They meet at 7:30 PM at Harvey West Park in the Boy Scout Building. Their speakers are always interesting. The last two were from NASA's SETI Institute, based near Moffett Field. Their secretary is our very own Vice President, Chris Angelos, KG6DOZ. Chris emailed me with the following: Dr. Lawrence Doyle, SETI Planetary Scientist is scheduled for Nov. 10th (per the SCAC website at <http://astro.santa-cruz.ca.us/>).

SCCARC Board - 2005

President	Vic Linderholm	AE6ID	476-5567
Vice President	Christopher Angelos	KG6DOZ	688-3562
Secretary	Allen Fugelseth	WB6RWU	475-8846
Treasurer	Kathleen McQuilling	KI6AIE	
Board	Mike Doern	KM6IKE	477-1161
	Rich Hanset	KI6EH	438-0615
	Ray Matteis	KE6NHG	688-6668
	Allen Fugelseth	WB6RWU	475-8846
	Bob Wolbert	K6XX	426-5699
K6BJ Trustee	Royce Krilanovich	AC6Z	475-4798

MONTEREY BAY REPEATER ACTIVITY

Santa Cruz County ARC	K6BJ 146.790- PL 94.8 Santa Cruz KI6EH 147.945- PL 94.8 Watsonville K6BJ 440.925+ PL 123.0 Santa Cruz • SCCARC Net Monday 7:30 PM 146.79- /147.180+ /440.925+ linked • SCCARC 10 Meter Net 28.308 MHz USB Monday 7:00 PM
San Lorenzo Valley ARC	WR6AOK 147.120+ PL 94.8 Ben Lomond • SLVARC Net Thursday 7:30 PM
Loma Prieta RC	WR6ABD 146.640-(PL 162.2) • LPRC Net Tuesday 8:00 PM
Naval Postgraduate School ARC	K6LY 146.97- PL 94.8 / 444.700+ PL 123 (Linked) Monterey • NPSARC Net Wednesday at 8 PM on K6LY/R • Monterey ARES Net Wednesday 7:30 PM K6LY 146.970- (PL 94.9)
ARES Nets	SC County Wide ARES Tuesday 7:15 PM on AB6VS 440.550- W6WLS 147.180+ AE6KE 146.835-(Linked repeaters / PL 94.8)
Followed directly by	• SLV ARES W6JVS 146.745-(PL 94.8) & WR6AOK 147.120+(PL 94.8) on alternate Tuesdays • South County ARES K6RMW 147.00+ (PL 94.8) • LPrieta ARES AE6KE 146.835- / AB6VS 440.550+ (Linked /PL 94.8) • Santa Cruz ARES K6BJ 146.79- / (PL 94.8)
	• Newline (Ham News) Broadcast Wednesday at end of NPSARC Net • Santa Clara Valley Section Traffic NET Tuesday 9:00PM 146.640- (PL 162.2)

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

SCCARC Calendar of Events

ARES/Hospital Drill	Thur	Nov 17
SCCARC Board Meeting 6:30	Friday	Nov 18
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Nov 18
SCCARC Holiday Brunch		TBA
Short Skip Deadline		TBA

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.

SHORT SKIP

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Free to members.

Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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CLUB MEETING FRIDAY NOV. 18, 7:30 P.M.

BPL Presentation

Please be advised (and let your people know!) that the BPL Presentation which will be given by Jamie Ramie will be presented at the Good Samaritan Hospital Auditorium on November 16th, 2006 beginning @ 7:30pm.

The Auditorium is located on the Samaritan Drive side of the Hospital, with parking available both in the Front and Back Parking Lots.

—73 Bill N6FFC