

JULY 2006

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



FIELD DAY SURPRISE... a new location

This year's ARRL Field Day was a good test of our amateur radio operating "flexibility." Flexibility is one of the primary advantages amateur radio operators bring to the table in a disaster, and local hams got a very good practical training experience with exactly that.

On the last full weekend in June again this year, the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club joined forces with the San Lorenzo Valley Amateur Radio Club for our emergency preparedness operating event, ARRL Field Day. The planned FD site was the same one we've used each year for the past dozen years, the CDF Ben Lomond Training Facility at the top of Empire Grade.

Friday afternoon saw the usual antenna and station setup and everything was in place, ready to go as usual on Saturday morning.

The 24-hour operating event was scheduled to start at 11 AM. Suddenly, at 9 AM, CDF personnel came by and told us they'd be needing that site to stage some CDF Fire handcrews that had come down from Mendocino County overnight for a wildland fire in Henry Coe State Park and the hams

would have to vacate their site because they needed the space for staging the fire crews. This was confirmed through official channels a few minutes later and the scramble-drill began!

The hams had to quickly de-mobilize all the already setup tents and towers and anten-

nas and move to a completely different operating site! Thankfully, Bob K6XX offered the use of land around his home very nearby. The operation was handled very quickly and smoothly, and everything was setup all over again in short order at Bob's place! Great job and great training!

Field Day operating got underway a little bit late for us this year but we had a great fun time and great food (and more shade under the live oak trees than the open fields of the other site). The change did us good! Thanks to all who helped out and visited.



CLUB MEETING FRIDAY JULY 21, 7:30 P.M.



6/17/06

Present at today's CAKE session were (in no particular order) Reed Cotton KG6RQH, Dave Stoddart W8FLL, Jeff Liebermann AE6KS, Al and Carol Marconett KM6VV and KD6ZXL, Bob Wolbert K6XX and his daughter Sarah "K1D," Pat Barthelow AA6EG, David White WN5Y, and Kathleen McQuilling KI6AIE.

Dave's mystery item, built in a cardboard box whose labeling was unrelated to the contents, turned out to be a field strength meter.

David brought the current prototype of his 7-LED frequency counter, which first appeared at CAKE in March. When asked "why LEDs" he responded that they are brighter than LCDs and they can be seen from any angle. Your reporter, who has the first prototype, can verify that this frequency counter is ideal for use with the Electroluminescent Receiver.

Congratulations were heaped upon Reed, who has passed his Extra exam and is now awaiting his new vanity call. Reed brought back Bob's Morse Machine, which includes proficiency training, random word generation, QSO simulation, and DX contest simulation (although the lengthy manual might prove daunting for some).

Bob brought his Radio Shack Probe Scope, which came out about ten years ago. Jeff brought his wi-fi antenna in a waterproof box lined with aluminum duct tape. Al brought two unusual valves, a Raytheon 2K25 reflex klystron tube and a 2C39 lighthouse tube.

Topics of conversation ranged from keys, keyers, and paddles (including references to "Scorpion" paddles, Vibroplex bugs, and Accukeyers) to the alleged real meaning of "HP"

(high priced) to California cell sites to a VW bug with a jet engine!

7/1/06

Today's attendees included Dave Stoddart W8FLL, Bob Wolbert K6XX, Tom Tengdin WB9VXY, Wayne Thalls KB6KN, Art Lee WF6P, Vic Linderholm AE6ID, Frank Wyatt N6FW, Reed Cotton with his shiny new call N1WC, Rich Olsen W1WUH, Eric Pearson K6EP, David White WN5Y, and Kathleen McQuilling KI6AIE.

Salient quotes from today: "inertial navigation"; "operator malfunction"; "Field Day is over"; "No, it's not"; "RG-58 is the best"; and "RG-58 is the worst" (the context for the latter two quotes was Kathleen's 2-meter "problem" which has now been solved by mounting her "W8FLL Super J" to the top of a 15-foot orchard ladder and adding a length of coax to the feed line). Topics of conversation also included atomic clocks, canned green beans, coax lengths, antenna tuners, and the blackout of '03 (recommended web site on this topic is <http://www.nerc.com/~filez/blackout.html> - particularly the link labeled "Interim report").

Dave's mystery item, in a fine wooden case, turned out to be a CW transmitter with an old-style crystal and a coil which were interchangeable.

Wayne's mystery item looked like a nice old J-38 straight key on a wooden base but turned out to be a lighter. He said it represented two endangered species, smokers and CW! Another mystery item was an elegant crystal set with a beautiful wood case.

—Kathleen KI6AIE



Aptos Parade

Thanks to everybody who came out to help us support the Aptos Parade on July 4 with their ham radio. The practice definitely improved our emergency communications preparedness too!

Bob K6RMW brought out and set up our portable 2m repeater and it worked flawlessly in its first actual "field deployment." Sweet! Thanks for all that work, Bob! Of course, that portable repeater has great potential to be very useful to us in a future real emergency too.

Among the first training operations we found helpful was programming our HTs to operate the portable repeater's frequency, offset, and PL. Even just that was useful practice! When was the last time you actually QSY'd _your_ radio to a new repeater frequency, offset, and PL? Has it been a while? Of course like everything else, it works better with routine practice.

Everybody at scene had that programming accomplished soon enough, and then it was a simple matter to communicate using their HT's low power setting from anywhere along the parade route. During the parade, there were a couple of medical-aid calls (persons "down", requiring fire service and ambulance response) which went quite smoothly with good communications support, especially from the amateur radio point of view.

Our ARES/ACS StepVan, COM2, was serving as the Parade ICP (Incident Command Post) and was used for coordinating between the amateur radio tactical net and the Sheriff's public safety tactical net, with a different transceiver in COM2 operating on each net's frequency. We hams maintained effective liaison between, among others, the parade organizers and the Sheriff's Incident Commander, SO Sergeant Shea Johnson. After the parade, our "new" County Sheriff himself, Steve Robbins, stopped by COM2 to thank each of us personally for our help.

Those hams operating at scene to support the event included Kasie KG6TCW, John KI6EAB, Bob K6RMW, Phil KE6UWH, Ray KE6NHG, Rich W1WUH, Clint KI6ELJ, Greg KI6BJL, Chris KG6DOZ, and me.

—73, Cap KE6AFE





By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Was having a good time working a station in Gresham, Oregon the other night on 7.039.8. Steve was operating an Elecraft K1 and putting out 5 watts. He was sending good code and the rig was nice and crispy clear. He had put the kit together and was greatly impressed when I did a bit of name dropping, saying I knew the developer/designer/owner of the Elecraft company. We chatted a while more until I heard this horrible tuner-upper blasting right on our freq. This was followed by long, overpowering spurts of digital data, perhaps teletype. (How do they send QRL?) There was no way to continue my QSO with the QRPer, but it was fun while it lasted. Checking my logs I see that I had worked builders of two other K1s.

Went to dinner the other night at the Santa Cruz Diner on Ocean Street. Before I ordered I looked up to see Jeff Liebermann, AE6KS, and Bruce Hawkins, AC6DN, arriving. We had an enjoyable dinner together; me with my senior discount rates for which they did not qualify. We did chat, and chat, and chat. Subjects covered: The changing world of ham radio, space technology, the SETI program, religion and the Bible, sailing, philosophy, antenna construction and Bruce's new job. I was quite impressed with his position, it sounded highly technical and involved. After dinner Jeff had to return to his shop to get some work done, and it was nearly 2200! Oh, Jeff is working on a magazine article on his inflatable vertical antenna. I volunteered to take photos. The antenna is collapsible, held rigid with air from a high-pressure pump. Jeff is still experimenting with various combinations of materials. I invited him to future CAKE meetings.

Granddaughter Cheri Rusch, KB6BOP, has received her teaching credential from Sacramento State University and nearing completion of studies for her Master's Degree. She has been doing her teaching internship with students with severe disabilities. When she sold her Taurus sedan, we removed her 2 meter rig and antenna. I'll have to install

the rig in her newest car (no longer an easy task!). We have discussed the possibilities of her using ham radio, somehow, in her classes. Years ago, our club used the Emergency Van to visit various schools and found the younger, early grade students highly interested. Of course, this was before every kid had a cell phone in his or her backpack.

Our July 1st CAKE meeting was fun and well attended. We pushed three or four tables together as we gathered new arrivals. Part of the excitement is in trying to identify various old (and new) pieces of electronics gear. Dave Stoddart, W8FLL, can always be depended upon to have an item to baffle us. Wayne Thalls, KB6KN, presented me with an armload of magazines for my leisure reading: Smithsonian Air & Space; Cars and Parts (featuring the 1948 Diamond T pickup) donated by Harry Kelly, KB6HMX; three issues of The Old Timer's Bulletin; several sets of Studebaker maintenance hints. As I departed, I was greeted by my former therapist (hand surgery, not mental) named Sequoia. She must have done a good job as I can still bend my fingers to depress a straight key and plunk away on the piano and computer keyboards.

Next month (maybe): How to repair SONAR underwater; Tuning the Yaesu FT-301D (1960s vintage) to a stealth random wire antenna.

QST SET Score

Thanks to everybody who operated last October's ARRL SET (Simulated Emergency Test) in Santa Cruz County. That operational TEST directly inspired the 6 ARES training classes we've benefited from since October. We're surely better prepared because of that great "refresher" training, and of course more practice from more of us will help even more.

In the July issue of QST, on pages 97-99, you'll note we recorded the second highest SET activity level in the Pacific Division!

Wish us success this coming October too. Hope to hear you on the radio!

—73, Cap KE6AFE

ARES DEC of Santa Cruz County

Next Board Meeting

The July Board of Directors meeting will be Wednesday, July 26, at 7:30 PM, in the Domination Education Center, room E (upstairs).

The June 2006 Board of Directors meeting was cancelled, so there was no June Treasurer's Report. Look for the "bottom line" from the July 2006 Treasurer's Report in the August issue of Short Skip.

—Kathleen McQuilling, KI6AIE

SCCARC Treasurer



Field Day Photos: Roy, KF6KVD and Eric, K6EP



SCCARC Board - 2006

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|----------|
| President | Christopher Angelos | KG6DOZ | 688-3562 |
| Vice President | Pat Barthelow | AA6EG | |
| Secretary | | | |
| Treasurer | Kathleen McQuilling | KI6AIE | 476-6303 |
| Board | Mike Doern | KM6IKE | 477-1161 |
| | Allen Fugelseh | WB6RWU | 475-8846 |
| | Rich Hanset | KI6EH | 438-0615 |
| | Bruce Hawkins | AC6DN | |
| | Vic Linderholm | AE6ID | 476-5567 |
| 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) |
| | • Newsline (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

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|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| SCCARC Meeting | Friday | July 21 |
| Board Meeting | Wednesday | July 26 |
| Short Skip Deadline | Monday | Aug 7 |
| SCCARC Meeting | Friday | Aug 18 |

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.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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First Class

