

JUNE 2006

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



Software Defined Radios

We are happy and fortunate for Kristen McIntyre, K6WX as our SCCARC Speaker for the June 16 meeting. Kristen will be speaking on Software Defined Radio. This talk is always well received wherever Kristen, an MIT graduate, presents it. All are invited to attend. A pre Meeting dinner is planned, with rendezvous at the front parking lot of Dominican Hospital, Soquel Ave in Santa Cruz at 5:30pm. Spread the word...Hope to see you there... Dave, W8FLL, will also give the latest update on K6BJ Club Field Day plans...

Here is a Bio for Kristen:

Kristen has been interested in radio since she was about 5 years old. When she was small she built many radio kits including her favorite: the one tube radio kit. She started in Amateur Radio around 1979 while she was at MIT by getting her technician's license. She built a 2m repeater with an autpatch to use while on campus at MIT. Somewhere in the middle of all this life intervened and her license lapsed. She has recently been re-licensed getting her extra ticket. She has recently held the call signs KG6OGQ and AE6KJ in rapid succession just prior to K6WX, a vanity call. She is now active on 2m and is active on HF with an Elecraft K2 she built while on vacation visiting her mother. Kristen does most of her HF-ing mobile with the K2 and a screwdriver antenna. She is also a big fan of PSK31 and can be found on 14.070 near sunset in the pacific time zone as time permits. Kristen is an ARRL Technical Specialist covering Alameda County in the East Bay Section. She is also a member of the following clubs: Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, South Bay Amateur Radio Association, USS Hornet Amateur Radio Club, Northern California DX Club, Northern California

Field Day—June 23-25



Aerial view of the SCCARC Field Day site at Ben Lomond CFD Camp, Empire Grade

Are You Ready For The Big Emergency Preparedness Test?

Come out for Field Day, Friday through Sunday, June 23 through 25.

We're looking forward to having a lot of people to set up and operate and to consume the delicious barbecue and fixin's. If

Contest Club, FISTS CW Club (10232), and Young Ladies Radio League. Kristen is also net control twice a week for the 9 am talk net: <http://www.9amtalk.net>

Kristen is a long time denizen of Silicon Valley and has worked at or consulted for many of the usual suspects.

Kristen McIntyre is currently a researcher at Sun Microsystems Laboratories where she is leading the investigation of new image compression and network protocols for remote computing. Her career has spanned many diverse areas. She started in the early 80's designing high power linear amplifiers and then spent about 5 years in Japan architect-

you haven't already signed up, contact Dave W8FLL and indicate your preference for band and time period; call him at 588-5291.

Field Day details will be provided via the K6BJ reflector and the Monday night net, as well as at the June 18 Club meeting.

—Dave W8FLL

ing and designing precision analog test systems as well as learning Japanese language and culture. Upon returning to the states Kristen joined Adobe Systems and became one of the architects of PostScript Level 2 and its RTOS underpinnings as well as the principal architect of AppleTalk networking for PostScript printers. In the early 90's she became a consultant and later founded an internet service provider and a network consulting firm. In 1999 Kristen decided to hang up her entrepreneur's hat and landed at Sun where she's been since. Kristen holds a B.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

—Pat AA6EG

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY JUNE 16 7:30 P.M.



CAKE MEETING 5/13/06:

This day our CAKE participants included Reed Cotton KG6RQH, Dave Stoddart W8FLL, Ron Baldwin K6EXT and his XYL Margery Morgan, Chris Angelos KG6DOZ, Rich Olsen W1WUH, Mike Furman N6IL, Art Lee WF6P, Bob Wolbert K6XX and his daughters Sarah "K1D" and Emily "K2D", and yours truly, Kathleen McQuilling KI6AIE.

The featured radio equipment this morning was Dave's Elecraft T-1 antenna tuner, a small package with big performance. Once hooked up, this baby requires only one finger on one button. Runner-up in the Show and Tell was Bob's CrossPad Portable Digital Tablet which he'd just picked up at the flea market. (We'll expect a full demonstration at a future CAKE session, Bob.)

Topics of conversation veered sharply, starting with some jokes which won't be repeated here for various reasons and continuing through pressing social issues to other serious matters such as static and hydroelectric power. As usual, there was some discussion of computer operating systems, and then talk turned to code, with some interesting tidbits about wartime intercept operators, Russians and Koreans, and German CW ops who could be easily identified by their fists. Another couple of turns had us riveted to our seats, hearing about nuclear weapons lost at sea and the physics of "walking" in space.

After a stimulating interchange about metric system conversion, we were informed that the 100th anniversary of the first audio broadcast (by Reginald Fessenden) is coming up on December 24 (no word yet on whether Hallmark is planning to put out a card for this event). In a related story, World Radio has reportedly printed a piece on how to use your car to send CW in an emergency; you start by tearing the wiring out of the tail lights...

Before the attendees scattered to the four winds, Bob appealed for some help with

getting an antenna back up and provided some graphic details about the big wind ripping out rivets and breaking the bolts off his rotator!

Special thanks to all at this session who helped with the Short Skip mailing by folding, labeling, and stamping; we also saved a bit of postage.

CAKE MEETING 5/27/06:

Present were Frank and Julie Wyatt N6FW and KC6DLE, Mike Furman N6IL, Dave Stoddart W8FLL, Reed Cotton KG6RQH, Chris Angelos KG6DOZ, Rich Olsen W1WUH, Vic Linderholm AE6ID, Ron Baldwin K6EXT, Eric Pearson K6EP, and your intrepid reporter, Kathleen McQuilling KI6AIE.

The biggest piece of radio equipment today was Dave's Index Labs QRP Plus, which back in March was used to work a station in Brazil with 5 watts (okay, also using the big beam at N6IJ). This small box doesn't have many buttons and knobs but delivers the goods!

The first featured problem concerned Mikey's K2, which reads 200 KHz off on its built-in frequency counter; possible causes included oscillator, crystals, and maybe too many turns on a toroid. During the discussion, we all got to look at the circuit diagram on the Internet. Ain't wireless great!

The second featured problem was the push-to-talk button on Reed's handheld transceiver: simplex is no problem, but in order to trip the repeater, it requires hard pressure on the bottom end of the button. There was no clear-cut solution arrived at, although the old standby "boot" and "hammer" remedies were suggested.

Speaking of handheld transceivers, Kathleen's 2-meter problem came up for further discussion; there as no consensus as to the solution to her inability to trip the K6BJ repeater, although various avenues are being considered, including raising the J-pole by 20 feet and upping the wattage. Maybe she should just move out of the Soquel Creek Valley Radio Pit.

And now for something completely different: The subject of identification systems was brought up, whereupon the talk began to range from branding to RFID tags on cattle to sheep in Wyoming. Hey, it's technical, so it's "on topic" for CAKE, right?

Back to radio equipment, Ron brought out his tiny NORCAL keyer, built in a Brown & Haley Extra Strength Cinnamons tin, and pocket-sized paddles.

Speaking of wildlife, we heard some startling tales of animals audibly eating insulation under a house and under a car during a camping trip. One wrong munch on a live wire could put a quick stop to that! In related news, the increasing price of copper and other metals is resulting in unusual pilferage, including the theft of some bronze cemetery gates!

After some brief discussions of airport security and the federal budget, and mention of laptops to be available for Field Day logging, the assembled masses dispersed to enjoy the rest of the sunny day.

Next CAKE Saturday, June 17

If these abbreviated descriptions whet your appetite for the whole enchilada (or, for that matter, one of Gigi's delicious breakfast burritos), please join us for Coffee Assisted Knowledge Exchange next time: Saturday, June 17, at 10 AM, at Gigi's on River Street. We'll look forward to seeing you!

--Kathleen KI6AIE

HRO Discount

SCCARC members are eligible for a 5 percent discount at HRO in Sunnyvale on any purchase over \$20 excluding radios. Show them your current membership card once and they will update their database for future discounts.

ARRL Membership

A Cut For Your Club

You can save yourself 39 cents and make a "painless" donation to your local Club at the same time by joining ARRL or renewing your ARRL membership through the Santa Cruz Count Amateur Radio Club. Just bring your check, made out to "SCCARC" instead of "ARRL," along with your ARRL membership form, to the next Club meeting. We will send ARRL your paperwork and dues (less \$15 for a new membership or \$2 for a renewal).

Kathleen McQuilling, KI6AIE

SCCARC Treasurer

Remembering Memorial Day

"Only one flag besides the Stars and Stripes that represents the United States has ever flown over the White House in Washington, DC. Only one flag is ever displayed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. That flag is not one that represents an individual state, branch of service, or other select group. It is the POW/MIA (Prisoners of War/Missing In Action) Flag that calls to mind the sacrifice and plight of those Americans who have sacrificed their own freedom, to preserve liberty for all of us.

It's presence serves to remind us that, while we enjoy the privileges of freedom, somewhere there are soldiers who have not been accounted for and may, in fact, be held against their will by the enemies of Freedom."*

http://www.homeofheroes.com/hallofheroes/1st_floor/flag/1bfb_disp9c.html

To all of my fellow vets out there on this day of remembrance, regardless when, where, and how you served:

Welcome Home.

—Jim / N6MED

Greeting from W6WO/4

Greetings to all from Horse and Buggy Country KY where haircuts are only \$8 and a dozen eggs cost \$1. Having a busy time on the farm but have set up a station using a 135ft off-center-fed wire pending getting my beam in shape. Worked K6RB in Soquel but no sound from Santa Cruz. Will be looking for K6BJ during field day. 73 to all BCNU eventually

Newest Extra

Last Saturday, 6/3/06, I passed my Element 1 (code), and Element 4 exams. I had passed my Element 3 exam on my previous attempt at flunking the code test. The FCC will hopefully make my new Extra status official sometime

this week, (hopefully by tomorrow). The waiting is worse than the stuying!

Until then,

—Reed Cotton KG6RQH\AE

By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

It's always fun to go to COSTCO. If you hang around the computer area for a few minutes you will see someone you know. On Saturday it was Barry Norris, NR6S, buying a converter for his TV set to tape shows on CDs. On the way out I ran across long-time club member Herb Scaroni, AI6D. I first met Herb in 1980 at one of the club's Field Days up at the Bonny Doone airport. Royce Krilanovich, AC6Z, Ron Shannon, KD6BD, and he used a pickup truck to raise a 60 foot tower with a big beam already mounted. They staked the tower's legs in place, raised the tower up a few feet, then pulled it upright with the truck. I was impressed. We operated all night using Herb's industrial sized generator. There were so many trailers and tents that it looked like a wagon train had stopped. Eddy Pollock, W6LC and a club member I remember only as Ozzie, worked CW most of the night in Ozzie's trailer. During the 1989 quake, Herb's wife prepared wonderful freshly cooked, still hot, Italian dinners and brought them

to the watch standers in the basement of the County Building. They were very tasty at midnight.

With reluctance and thanks, I returned the sextant and nautical almanac I borrowed from Jeff Liebermann, AE6KS. During my visit, Jeff told me some very interesting stories of boats at sea. Friends had made the trip to Hawaii and had more than their share of excitement. I had toyed with the idea of crewing on a yacht to Hawaii. I wanted to be able to do some celestial shots if our GPS quit on us. I hate to depend on a single electronic black box to function if we were hit by a bad storm. One little nearby lightning strike could ruin our day. I did get my son Randy, N6UZI, to give me a quick refresher. He is an aircraft navigator, now retired from flying world-wide in P3C aircraft while in the U.S.Navy. As it turned out, the yacht skipper elected to cancel the trip and preferred to do coastal cruising.

Speaking of boats, my former ship, the USS Oriskany (CVA-34), now rests on the bottom off the coast of Florida. I think she was in operation for over 35 years in the Navy. I served aboard in 1961. It only took 37 minutes for explosive technicians to blow holes in the hull and sink her. A friend sent me the website for impressive photos of the sinking. The hull is now a site for a fish habitat and viewing by scuba divers.

ARES Van —Watsonville Airshow



SCCARC Board - 2006

President	Christopher Angelos	KG6DOZ	688-3562
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	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

SCCARC Meeting	Friday	June 16
Field Day	Fri-Sun	June 23-25
Short Skip Deadline	Monday	July 10
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	July 21

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.

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

6/12	Allen WB6RWU
6/19	Chris KG6DOZ
6/26	Tom K6TG
7/3	Cody KG6YPK
7/10	Phil KE6UWH

Short Skip is published 12 times per year. Free to members.

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Treasurer's Report

At the May 2006 Board of Directors meeting, SCCARC Treasurer Kathleen McQuilling, KI6AIE, reported that the SCCARC treasury had \$6,339.03 in cash and bank accounts. At that time all financial obligations had been met.