

JULY 2008

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



K6WC Initial Field Day Score Estimate

QSOs CW: 1175
SSB: 717
Digital: 174

Total QSO points: 6830

Special teams: 1480

Total points: 8310

This is based on electronic logs submitted, I still have several paper logs to add to these numbers.

59% of the QSO score came from the CW stations.

19% came from the SSB stations.

10% came from the digital station.

I'll let the "no coders" and "know coders" ponder those numbers.

Based on last year's submissions that puts us in the upper 97th percentile of all reported Field Day sites.

It would put us 6th in the nation of 5A sites. It also would put us 6th in the Pacific division of all sites.

That said, there is always room for improvement. It is too soon to start planning for next year?

—Very 73 de Donald



Alternative Power next Club Meeting

Friday July 18th, the SCCARC meeting will feature the topic of 'Alternative Power'. In light of the recent events, are you ready for your power needs after PG&E has been cut?

We are pleased to have had our guests speakers reschedule, after working the Trabing Fire and postponing our last meeting. Mr. George Badger (W3AB) and Thomas Tengdin (WB9VXY) will share their expertise and experiences on preparing of the days when the power goes out, or how to use other power sources!

Attend next Friday night (July 18th) to hear how you can make the right moves to have power when others don't!

For the August 15th meeting Ron Skelton will be presenting "Experiments with near-end-fed wire antennas."

—Don K6GHA, SCCARC VP



CLUB MEETING FRIDAY JULY 18, 7:30PM



Photos: K6GPH, NI6NUL and Michelle





By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Writing this from Fresno after a great family reunion for the 4th of July. Bro-in-law Frank, KB6TZA, is returning the old Yaesu FT-301 I loaned him over a decade ago. It works fine. I'm happy to get the excellent tuner back as the built-in tuner on my ICOM has gone kaput. ICOM folks say that they no longer have parts for that 15 year old model. Shucks. It was always nice to simply hit the "Auto Tuner" button. The 30 year old Yaesu tuner will require some knob twisting. The ICOM functions well on my 40 meter dipole, also the 80. I originally cut these antennas for the lower end of the band with a 1:1 SWR. Fine for CW. I have been having some trouble with the antenna switch for the 80 meter hookup. At one time I cross-threaded the lead; it's probably time to replace it. The coax itself is bent badly at the switch end. I leave it all coiled on my deck and when needed, feed it in through the patio door. Terry Parks, N6NUN, and I regularly work on 3818 khz, voice. He's living aboard his Hatteras 53 up in Sausalito. His house, high up in the Watsonville hills was spared from the early forest fires.

Last week Leon Fletcher, AA6ZG, and I enjoyed a nice chat while having lunch in Felton. We get together every few weeks to discuss ham radio and writing, plus anything else that interests us. As both of us are ex-Navy, we have plenty of stories (and lies) to tell. Leon was a communications officer aboard LCI(R)s during all (less one) the landings in the South Pacific in WWII. After the war, I visited many of these island battle-grounds. Jungle explorers still have to avoid contact with unexploded ordnance, both Japanese and American. "The older it gets, the more unstable it becomes,"

SCCARC Starters #4

Key, Hesitate, Talk

One of the first things I was taught* as a new ham about using a repeater system was the concept of "key, hesitate, talk". When keying up the repeater with the PTT button, wait half a second before talking. If you talk as you push the PTT button your first syllable gets clipped off and lost (or the prefix of your call sign gets lost if you are checking into a net).

Search the web with Google and the phrase "key hesitate talk" to find more information about this concept.

New User Tips for VHF-UHF Operation

The very useful web page <http://www.accesscom.com/~dave6592/usertips.html> by local San Jose ham Dave Schultheis WB6KHP has this to say about "KHT".

"One of the most important things for new hams to learn is to "K-H-T." That is "key, hesitate, talk." You must consciously learn to push the microphone button, pause slightly, and then begin speaking. If you push the button and speak simultaneously, the first word or the first part of a word may be cut off. This does not facilitate effective communications. Hopefully, if you learn to do it correctly from the first day, it will become subconscious and you will do it automatically. If this is the case, you will earn the respect and admiration of your peers. If not, you will be forever labeled as a sub-standard operator."

* = taught by Trudy Maxwell, KC6NAX

"SCCARC Starters" is a column designed to get you "started" on expanding your ham radio knowledge/usefulness/fun by showcasing information that I have found on the Web.

—W6ZZZ

is the advice given by EOD personnel. A couple of years after my family and I left Guam (1966), the last (?) straggler of the Imperial Japanese army surrendered. His hidden cave was at Talofofa Falls where we used to swim.

In the '50s, my folks lived on Love Creek Road, in Ben Lomond. Ever fearful of fires in summer and land slides and falling

trees in winter, my dad advised me to remove my old Shopsmith saw and Hali-crafters S-20-R receiver from storage in their basement. I did as he requested. When I drove by their old cabin last month it reminded me of days gone by. The cabin has been improved and I still have the receiver and my (very rusty) Shopsmith. Ah yes, nostalgia.

SCCARC Board - 2008

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MONTEREY BAY REPEATER ACTIVITY

Santa Cruz County	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 Monday 7:00 PM 28.308 MHz USB
ARES Nets	SC County Wide ARES Tuesday 7:30 PM on 147.180+ PL 94.8 443.600+ PL 110.9 (Linked repeaters)
San Lorenzo Valley	WR6AOK 147.120+ PL 94.8 Ben Lomond • SLV Net Thursday 7:30 PM
Loma Prieta	AB6VS 440.550+ / AE6KE 146.835- PL 94.8 (Linked for net 94.8) • LP Net Tuesday 7:15 PM
Monterey	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) • Newsline (Ham News) Broadcast Wednesday at end of NPSARC Net
LPRC	WR6ABD 146.640- PL 162.2 / 442.900+ PL 162.2 (winsystem) • LPRC Net Tuesday 8:00 PM 146.640- (PL 162.2) • 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	July 18
Board Meeting	Wed	July 23
Short Skip articles due	Monday	Aug 4
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Aug 15

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)

7/14	Cody KG6YPK
7/21	Phil KE6UWH
7/28	Allen WB6RWU
8/4	Chris KG6DOZ
8/11	Tom K6TG
8/18	Diane KI6IFS

SHORT SKIP

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Free to members.

Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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Net Worth Report

The June 2008 Net Worth Report presented to the Board of Directors showed that the SCCARC treasury had \$3,740.65 in cash and bank accounts. At that time all financial obligations had been met, including the annual equipment insurance premium. The full Net Worth Report will be available for review at the July 18 Club meeting.

--Kathleen, KI6AIE