

JANUARY 2009

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



Let's Get on the Maker Bandwagon

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a week ago, I got an e-mail from a ham down in Texas who had attended the Maker Faire (makerfaire.com). "Makers" are people who love to tinker and make things. They even have their own magazine, Make (www.makezine.com).

He was amazed at the lack of any amateur radio content. He wrote, "The Maker Faire was unbelievable. Incredible stuff. Pedal powered carnival rides, robots, computer drive routers, kits. Outside of a table with a Vecronics kit, and a license manual, and a QRP book, the only radio stuff was from a pirate radio group."

I'm kind of amazed at this as well. It just goes to show how disconnected amateur radio is getting from the mainstream. These are exactly the kind of people we want to get interested in amateur radio, yet there was no one there representing us.

Ham radio needs to be at these events and get plugged into the "maker community." The Faire has not yet released attendance figures for this particular Faire, but more than 65,000 people attended the Faire held in May 2008. Dayton, with its attendance of about 20,000, looks anemic by comparison.

I blogged about this back in May (<http://kb6nu.com/why-cant-dayton-be-more-like-the-maker-faire/>). One of the things I suggested then is moving Dayton to some place like Austin. Seriously, if you were a new, young ham, where would you rather go, Dayton, OH or Austin, TX? Let's be real here.

Continued on page 3

QRV (Ready?)

To kick off the New Year, Friday January 16th, the SCCARC club meeting will be featuring a new club meeting location and historical look at radar in WWII.

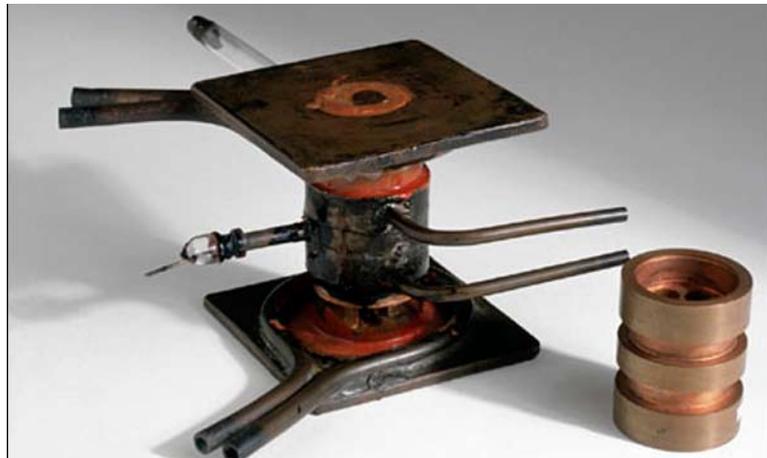
Please read below for detailed information and direction to our new meeting location at the Harbor High Library

<http://tinyurl.com/sccarc-meeting-location>

In addition to introductions and club updates, our guest speaker will be Geoff Thornber. Geoff lives in Aptos and was a microwave scientist in WWII. He came to the USA to develop radar for the war effort, a development that is credited with very much helping win the war. He was a member of the team that continued development of the magnetron. This presentation is highly recommended to anyone interested in one of the crucial elements that enabled the Allies win WWII.



Cavity Magnatron



The cavity magnetron was developed by John Randall and Harry Boot. Radars that could produce clear images of distant objects played a decisive part in WWII, and worked by bouncing powerful, ultra-short radio waves off their targets. This device was a critical, practical development.

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY JANUARY 16, 7:30PM

Notable Members of the Santa Cruz Radio Club

During 1960 to 1969

A very special member of the Santa Cruz Radio Club was Dr. Edmund H. Cordy, WA6GWM. To his family he was Harry, but to radio friends in many parts of the world, he was simply, "Doc".

His station in Santa Cruz was at his home on Graham Hill Road. His equipment included a Johnson Viking Challenger transmitter and a National HRO 60 receiver, with plug-in coils for band changing. He had a Hornet tri-band beam mounted on a mast atop the roof. He also was a licensed private pilot with his own Cessna 140, in which he took me for a ride. Doc built a lot of radio accessories and circuits and I once told him I was trying to build a dual paddle key to operate my homebrew keyer, but had no taps or dies. He said, "Bring the stuff over, and we'll get it set up." Not only did he drill and tap all the proper holes in the steel base plate, but furnished all the rest of the parts, putting the whole thing together in 45 minutes! I still have that paddle set, and though I use a commercially made one now, there is no difference in the way they work.

When I received a request from the famous Howie Bradley, W2QHH in New York to put



San Benito County on the air, as it was the last county he needed for the California Award, Doc volunteered to help. He said that we had all we needed for the "DXpedition" except for a generator. So off we went in his car to look for one. First we tried Sears in Santa Cruz. Next we drove to San Jose, then Salinas. Disappointed at what we found out of town, we returned to Santa Cruz, and he bought the first one he had seen.

So on the previously appointed Saturday, our group consisting of Doc, Chet WA6KUL, my business partner Gerhard and me, drove to Baldy Peak atop Mt. Toro. Chet brought the radio gear and cables, Doc brought his tribander and mast, which he had taken off his roof, and Gerhard and I brought lunch. We tried for hours to hear Howie with no luck. Later we had contacts in KH6, YN, etc. Just as we were about to give up, there was a weak call from W2QHH. The QSO was made, and Howie got his certificate.

Doc was truly a great electronics builder and operator

I greatly miss Doc Cordy. He was a great friend and a great humanitarian. I wish he were still around, as I would trust him with my life.

Gino Campioni WA7NUH

New HF Operators - Things to Do

The upcoming North American QSO Parties are great, friendly ways to dabble in HF contests. The exchange is simple-- your name and your state or province or country. All North American stations can take part, including those in the Caribbean and Central America. Since you can work stations once per band, be prepared for a quick QSY if asked! These are terrific ways to work on your 5BWAS award!

Details at <http://www.ncjweb.com/contests.php>

January/February 2009 Contests:

CW: 1800Z January 10 to 0600Z January 11, 2009 (Second full weekend in January)
SSB: 1800Z January 17 to 0600Z January 18, 2009 (Third full weekend in January)
RTTY: 1800Z February 28 to 0600Z, March 1, 2009 (Last full weekend in February)

—W6ZZZ

Our Weird Wearable Wireless World

For wearable applications a circular antenna that looks like a button on a pair of jeans is being developed at a university in the UK. Implantable medical devices at 30-60 GHz do not look promising because of signal loss in human tissue, however Ultra Wide Band (UWB) techniques at 3-10 GHz are of considerable interest. Sony recently demonstrated using an electric inductive field to give very high data rates at short range and the NSF is sponsoring research on visual light communications. There is already a wi-fi enabled talking rabbit having great potential as a tool for teaching children. I want one Hi Hi.

Incidentally note the acronym UWB as we will hear much more about it in the near future. UWB will be like Power Line Communications on steroids and is expected to use unregulated spectrum. Hams may soon be facing a new form of spectrum pollution.

—W6WO

Ham Hit by Car

Was hit by a car in Felton Safeway parking lot on December 12 and ended up at the Hospital. Injuries to Head-neck-chest-both arms and left leg. Will be sore for 3-6 months. Hopefully will be walking by January.

—Peter, KE6RAX

ARRL Membership

You can save yourself 42 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 County 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).

SCCARC Membership for 2009

If you have already renewed your membership for this year, thank you! If the date on your mailing label isn't in 2009, your membership renewal has not been processed for this year; now's the time to renew (and to let me know of any changes in mailing address, phone number, etc. Annual dues are \$25 for full members, \$6 each for each additional member at the same mailing address, and \$10 for full-time students age 18 or under. Dues may be paid in cash or check (payable to SCCARC) at regular Club meetings, or checks may be mailed to SCCARC, P.O. Box 238, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0238.

—Kathleen KI6AIE, Secretary, SCCARC

Makers continued

And can there be a worse place for an event than Hara Arena? The parking lot, where they hold the flea market looks like a mine field, and it usually rains, making the flea market a wet, unpleasant experience. Is it any wonder that fewer and fewer vendors choose to haul stuff out there? Some of us older hams might fondly reminisce about the bargain we found while traipsing around wearing a trash-bag poncho, but a story like that is not going to resonate with new hams.

Please don't get me wrong. I don't mean to badmouth the Dayton Amateur Radio Association or the Hamvention. I actually think that they do a great job, all things considered. I'm just pointing out that if ham radio wants to again be part of the mainstream, we have to get with the program. Unfortunately, that program probably won't be at the Hara Arena.

Ham radio has got to figure out how to latch onto the Maker phenomenon. At the very least, the ARRL should have a booth at the next one, and in addition to all the books and t-shirts, they need to come up with some kind of demo or display to attract makers into ham radio. I don't know what exactly, but I'm willing to start talking about it.

This phenomenon might also be a boon for clubs who hold hamfests. Just as the computer craze turned ham swaps into ham and computer swaps in the 80s, perhaps ham clubs could turn their hamfests into a combination hamfest and Maker Faire in their communities.

As I said earlier, Makers are exactly the kind of people we want in ham radio. Let's go out and get them.

SUNSPOT GONE

The first sunspot of 2009, which appeared yesterday in the sun's southern hemisphere, has fizzled. The sunspot's dark core coalesced, then dissolved again in just under 24 hours. That was enough time to measure the sunspot's magnetic field, however, and the polarity of the field identified the spot as a member of new Solar Cycle 24. Those are the kind of sunspots we want to see because they mean solar minimum is coming to an end:



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

In response to our new club QTH, we have to thank our officers for finding something for us. The Harbor High School library should be just fine. A little over 15 years ago, teacher Dan White, a ham and the Harbor High science teacher, started a campus ham radio club in his classroom. My grand daughter Cheri Rusch, KB6BOP, was a member. Our own SCCARC was reestablished at Cabrillo College, also in a science classroom sometime in the early 1960s, by Eddy Pollock, W6LC (SK). Some pretty smart folks came from these beginnings and advanced to elevated scientist level.

The other day I was thinking of a few famous hams but could come up with only these: Patty Loveless the Country singer, our elusive ham Marlon Brando, Arthur Godfrey, Chet Atkins and Barry Goldwater. If you come up with any more names, please let me know.

My XYL Donna, AB6XJ, and I can usually count on seeing a fellow club member in Costco. As we were transporting our purchases to the parking lot, we met our past club President, Rich Olsen, W1WUH. Rich was heading in to also donate funds to the recovery of the national economy.

I'm glad to see that Ron, W6WO, has commenced our Saturday Cake sessions again. Lots of fun can be had there with coffee, perhaps breakfast, eyeball QSOs and occasionally, the passing of tech knowledge. Then there is always the "What is this thing?" question that even stumps the experts.

I always enjoy reading my monthly issue of QST. Most of the construction articles are not for something I need, but it is still worth a look. Years ago I saw a good article on building a 15 meter beam with a couple of aluminum tubes affixed to a pair of 2x2s. It was mounted on a pole and one used the old "Armstrong" method to rotate it. All you had to do was to stick your arm out the window and twist. I already had a beam on a 40 foot tower --- so who needs two beams? Many of the writers throw in some humor now and then and often divulge their construction errors. Lots of nice, color photos spice things up.

Cake for a New Year

Greetings to you all

I wish you and those dear to you good health, happiness and success in 2009.

Please note we will resume meeting on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at Gigi's coffee shop at the junction of River St and Hwy #1 in Santa Cruz. We convene at 10:00AM but often some will arrive earlier and enjoy the great breakfast choices.

These gatherings are known as CAKE sessions which stands for Coffee Assisted Knowledge Exchange. As the name implies our intent is to encourage discussion of Ham Radio topics, mainly (but not exclusively) of a technical nature, in a relaxed setting.

We heartily welcome anyone interested in our hobby and in particular newcomers. The only requisites are an inquiring mind and a willingness help others to progress.

There usually is no set agenda but objects of interest, puzzles and challenging questions are always appreciated.

Our next session will be January 10th so I hope to see you there

—73 Ron W6WO

FIELD DAY 2009

It is only January why am I thinking about Field Day?

A successful Field Day effort starts serious planning and preparation in February.

All of the "big picture" topics such as site selection, general focus, planned category, station, special teams and support captains need to be addressed so that the details can be worked out in due time.

It is anticipated that we will have another Santa Cruz county-wide effort, but that is one of the "big picture" topics that will be settled in the next month.

Please be thinking about what you liked last year and what you would like to do differently for this year.

Set-up can begin as early as 11:00AM PDT on Friday, June 26th with operations running from 11:00AM PST Saturday, June 27th through 11:00AM Sunday June 28th.

So mark your calendars for the fourth full weekend in June and keep the winter cold at bay by spending some time day-dreaming about Field Day's warm summer evenings.

—73 de Donald AE6RF

SCCARC Board - 2009

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Vice President	Greta Steinburner	KI6NTL	
Secretary	Kathleen McQuilling	KI6AIE	476-6303
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	Mike Doern	KM6IKE	477-1161
	Bruce Hawkins	AC6DN	
	Jeff Watson	KG6YPS	
K6BJ Trustee	Allen Fugelseth	WB6RWU	475-8846

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+ PL123 (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	Jan 16
Board Meeting	Wed	Jan 28
Short Skip articles due	Friday	Feb 9
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Feb 20

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

The SCCARC Meets at 7:30 PM, on the THIRD FRIDAY of the each month (except December). Meetings are at Harbor High School, Campus Library (off of the upper parking lot. Map at <http://tinyurl.com/sccarc-meeting-location>

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

(Subject to Change)

- 1/12 Tom K6TG
- 1/19 Chris KG6DOZ
- 1/26 Allen WB6RWU
- 2/2 Diane KI6IFS
- 2/9 Cody KG6GPK
- 2/16 Phil KE6UWH

SHORT SKIP

Published 12 times per year.
Free to members.

Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0238



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