

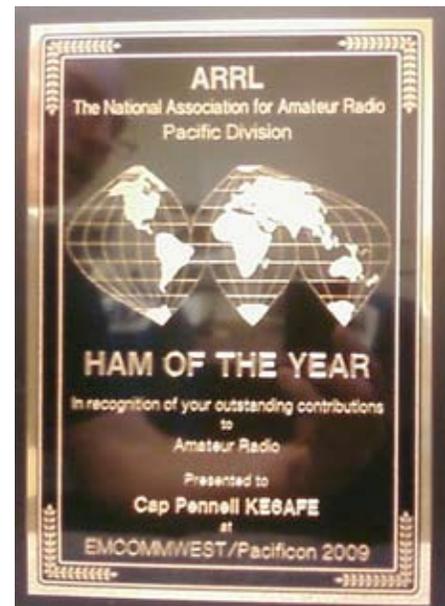
MAY 2009

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



KE6AFE Ham of the Year



Cap KE6AFE shows his newly awarded 'ham of the Year' plaque to Paul Horvat, Santa Cruz County OES Manager (left) and Allen WB6RWU (right) at the EOC during the weekly HF 40m statewide EOC net. The plaque was given to Cap at the EMCOMMWEST/Pacificon conference in Reno last weekend.

Public Service Muddle Through

Ham radio operators organized themselves to assist with communications between hospitals. About 25 operators were handling the radio traffic while another 50-60 had signed up to fill in when other volunteers got tired, operator Craig Smith said.

Ham radio operators are trained to help during emergency situations where traditional communication methods are unusable, Smith said. The operators helped with communications during last summer's devastating wildfires and were critical during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Teams of operators set up at Dominican, Sutter and Watsonville Community hospitals, as well as at NETCOM and a local American Red Cross office. They handled tactical traffic and messages between medical care providers, such as relaying information from one doctor to another.

"This is really big for ham radio," Smith said.

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci_12108675?source=most_viewed

—Rich W1WUH

May Speaker

This month's speaker will be Donald Kerns, AE6RF, speaking about all things Field Day. For those of you who have never experienced Field Day, come learn about what it is and everything it has to offer. Seasoned Field Day-ers, come get the scoop about what's happening this year!

—73 de Greta, KI6NTL

Board Meeting

The SCCARC monthly board meeting will be held Wednesday May 27. Details contact Kathleen KI6AIE.

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY MAY 15, 7:30PM

K6V Memorial Day Special Event Station



Things are going forward for Monday May 25th Memorial Day. The station operating as K6V (FCC special event license) plans to go on-the-air at 0830 looking for long distance contacts on 15 meters (21.300+/- MHz), 20 meters (14.280+/-MHz) and 40 meters (7.250+/-MHz). Breakfast in the Bunker, light snacks and refreshments in bunker and upstairs will be available during the course of the events in the building. Pass the word around .Stay tuned for more about the Radio Room and other events in the building

Contact Bob Spencer KI6TKH 332-6109 or Rick Ricketts N6GOW 426-5409

Veterans Emergency Radio Room Report

Rick Ricketts passed the attached report and recommendations to me for the Treasurers report at the UVC meeting and any action items that may come up on the agenda related to the Radio Room. Installation of upgrades to the station funded by the UVC in collaboration with the K6BJ Club are going very well. The VMB with its emergency radio and shelter potential is now better positioned to be a "served agency" during a disaster response.

—Bob KI6TKH

N6RZ, SK

A couple of memories:

I remember Dave as a consummate DXer, con-tester, and gentlemanly curmudgeon (I know, quite a contradiction).

He once invited me to his Bonny Doon house in the mid-80s, and sat medown on 15 meters SSB with a 6 element monobander. He said, "Just go ahead and call CQ and see what happens". My previous experience at that point was, no one was too thrilled to talk to yet another "6-land" station. Much to my surprise, I had a pile up come back to me, from JA land and elsewhere, who all sounded like they were right next door, and all the S9 +40db reports were for real. Dave couldn't help but chuckle at my delight at being on the other end of a pile up.

During previous club Field Days, when we operated as K6BJ, Dave was up at Eagle Rock with the "serious" Field Day group. Of course, when we called CQ FD on SSB, it was "CQ Field Day, Kilo 6 Bravo Juliette." When Dave was at the mike and decide to work us, let's just say that he repeated our callsign using rather unorthodox phonetics - I'll let you use your imagination. Couldn't help but laugh at that, especially since he had a way of saying what you might be thinking but afraid to say out loud.

I'm sure those of you who knew him well have similar memories of Dave and his antics as well. He'll surely be missed.

—73, Tom K6TG

When Vandals Strike Infrastructure, Hams Provide Communications Support

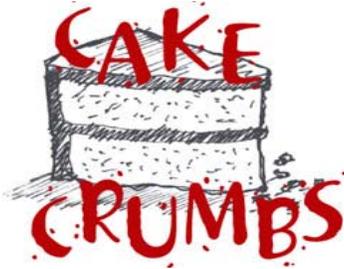
In the early morning, just after midnight on April 9, someone climbed down four manholes in the San Jose, California area and cut underground fiber optic cables. The sabotage led to widespread disruption of phone service -- including tens of thousands of land lines, an undetermined number of cell phones, Internet access and 911 emergency service -- in southern Santa Clara County, as well as in Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. San Jose is the county seat of Santa Clara County. With the infrastructure disabled, local Emergency Management officials called on ham radio operators in their communities to provide back-up communications.

According to the San Jose Mercury News, Santa Clara County called a local state of emergency, "but worst-case scenarios were successfully avoided through use of ham radios, door-to-door checks and extra-vigilant patrols."

Throughout the day, Cap KE6AFE said that hams -- including some in Monterey County who had been working telephones -- helped dispatch ambulances, conferred with the Poison Center on a children's poisoning case, ordered replacement blood supplies for two hospitals from San Jose Red Cross, relayed a complex major "whole hospital" day's food order to the sup-

plier out of county, tracked down various doctors for emergency consultations and shared status updates from our area. "We did all this while in unity with the County government, public safety agencies and California Emergency Management Agency's Coastal Region," he said. "Greg Smith of Cal-EMA spent the day in the Santa Cruz EOC with us." All service was restored by 12:15 AM on Friday, April 10.

—From ARRL Newsletter for full story goto: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/15/10771/?nc=1>



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

It was a pleasure to have Bill AF60H join us and good to put a face on one of our Emergency Net Controllers. What a terrific job they did last Thursday! We welcomed Bob KI6TKH for his first taste of CAKE. Bob has inside knowledge of hospital operations so will be a very valuable contributor to our ARES activities. It is always good to have Art WF6P join us. There was considerable discussion on the emergency event. by Donald AE6RF (Pleased to meet your charming and bright daughter Cece Donald), Don K6GHA and others. I think the general sentiment was that Thursday should be cause for a comprehensive review of vulnerabilities in the County. Several ideas surfaced concerning our own participation and I presume that there will be an opportunity to collect and assimilate the lessons learned. Gregory Mc Nicol (working towards his licence) has an old Icom F50 that needs to be programmed. Anyone who can offer to help should contact him at gregory@TechAsArt.org. Kery K6RRY showed the heavy book on Antenna Theory he has acquired to support his studies at UCSC and we wish him well. Rich W1WUH and others discussed what it took in the past to access library resources. Made me think of my all-time favorite movie called "The name of the Rose" with Sean Connery. Knowledge is power and in the 11th century of the film, librarians were the undisputed guardians of knowledge. Speaking of power Ron W6W0 mentioned that he was interested in building a Class E amplifier to be driven to 300-500 Watts by 10 Watts from a K3/10. Anyone with anything to share on the subject please get in touch. Bill AF60H has a big Mosley beam he intends to put on a tower. We discussed first measuring it at ground level with the boom vertical to indicate any serious issues. We mentioned that Bob K6XX has experience with that beam and could be very helpful. Bill reported that although he was quite close to a HV line fortunately it seems to be quiet. I know that I have left out some others who attended but no disrespect is intended.

The morning after the big winds up here on the West Side, I was surprised to see my 80-meter dipole mast bent over nearly double. What the heck? What I thought was a pretty stout aluminum pole turned out to be slightly less; a thin-walled piece of tubing. It did serve its purpose for over a year (or two!). Each morning I check in with the Baja Maritime Mobile Net (7.233.5) at 0800. When I make my contact with Terry Parks, N6NUN, through net relays, we QSY to 3815 kHz. This involves me in the task of retrieving my coax from the outside deck, wiping the rain, dirt or moisture off the connector and hooking it into the antenna rotary switch. Leaving the 80-meter wire in the almost-touching-the-ground condition, I decided to see how it would affect my signal between here and Sausalito. There was no noticeable change for normal! I shall go out this afternoon and put up another temporary antenna mast. When the sunspot cycle picks up, I'll whip together a 20-meter dipole, headed east/west. That should do the trick. Better yet, I will re-erect my 36' tower and activate my rotor. Ah yes, antennas, always a source of fun and maintenance.

Our April emergency during which vital communications were cut pointed out once again, the continuing need for us hams to keep vital information flowing. Our thanks should go to Cap, KE6AFE, for being the immediate contact man. His 0430 reveille by a policeman asking him to contact Dominican hospital officials was his call to arms. As we know, the loss of telephone communications negated our telephone call list for ARES and other members. For those

Don't forget to send something of interest to K6EXT for the next issue of Short Skip

Thought for the day.

Hi tech, low tech

Take your picks

You can make an old dog learn new tricks

73 and BCNU at the low end !

of us not needing telephones or computer connections, we were unaware that there was an emergency until it had past. Relying solely on the K6BJ and other repeaters, Cap was able to raise enough operators to man the emergency stations throughout the county. Our response was well recognized by City and County officials and local news reporters. This real, "no drill" served to emphasize the vital services played by Amateur radio operators.

I had an interesting QSO with a fellow ex-sailor last week. He had gone to ET school at Treasure Island for 54 weeks. I explained how I had attended for six months at the same school located at what is now the Navy's Post Graduate School at Monterey. In December of 1946 the school at T.I. had a serious fire, destroying most of the labs. Guys were trying to save the scarce equipment and were tossing O scopes and other test equipment out of 2nd deck windows of burning buildings. Don't know how useful the equipment was after that, but I'm sure some could be salvaged. Otherwise - toast! Not wishing to spend my career at sea servicing RADAR, I elected to shift to aviation ratings, spending many years as a flight engineer.

It is sad to note the loss of four hams in the past months: Sid Clarke, N6UIV; Mark Ziegler, W6ZZZ; and my old pal, Dave Rowley, N6RZ. Sid was a graduate of my ET class at Cabrillo College many years ago. He lived on the West Side across the canyon from me and gave me a brand-new Butternut vertical he no longer used. Marc had been very active in contesting, ARES, and mentoring new hams. Dave repaired my Kenwood 930S at his home workshop in the hills above Felton. In the late 1980s on CW, my CQ was answered from a Maritime Mobile off the island of Hawaii. It was Dave, operating from a deep sea fishing boat. Both he and I were greatly surprised. Lastly, we all mourn the loss of our long time friend Hank Bond, KG6EE.

I was happy to see my "Amateur Radio: A Fantastic Hobby," appear in the May issue of Monitoring Times. This was the annual Amateur Radio issue.

Flea Market

- Livermore SWAP: Robertson Park, Livermore: 1st Sunday of the month, March through November
- ASVARO Electronics Flea Market: De Anza College, Cupertino 2nd Saturday of the month, March through October

SCCARC Board - 2009

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|----------|
| President | Rich Olsen | W1WUH | 464-7474 |
| Vice President | Greta Steinbruner | KI6NTL | |
| Secretary | Kathleen McQuilling | KI6AIE | 476-6303 |
| Treasurer | David Copp | WS2I | |
| Board | Christopher Angelos | KG6DOZ | 688-3562 |
| | Reed Cotton | NIWC | 460-1801 |
| | 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+ 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 | May 15 |
| Cake Meetings | Sat | May 9, 23 |
| Board Meeting | Wed | May 27 |
| Short Skip articles due | Friday | Jun 8 |
| SCCARC Meeting | Friday | Jun 19 |
| Field Day | Sat-Sun | Jun 27-28 |

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>

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



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0238

SCCARC Membership Renewals

If the date on your mailing label isn't in 2009, your membership renewal has not been processed for this year. The renewal deadline to be included in this year's member roster is March 31 (this is also the deadline for address/phone/email updates), but please renew early if you can. 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. Remember, ARRL dues may also be paid through your Club.

—Kathleen KI6AIE, Secretary, SCCARC