

OCTOBER 2009

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



2009 CQP DXpedition to Fremont Peak in San Benito/Monterey counties...



Donald (AE6RF) operating from the Monterey side of the county line



The operating tent was on the San Benito, SBEN, side of the county line according to Google Maps. K6WC was in San Benito county

More CubeSats Reach Orbit



An artist's concept of BEESAT in orbit.

Early this morning (UTC), an Indian PSLV-C14 rocket carried the Oceansat-2 satellite to orbit, along with four CubeSats and two RubinSats. The RubinSats are 8 kg research modules that will remain attached to the PSLV-C14 booster.

CubeSats are very small satellites, typically only a few inches on each side. As they are a relatively inexpensive research spacecraft, they've become increasingly popular with university science programs. A number of CubeSats use Amateur Radio frequencies to downlink telemetry, as is the case with this latest group. Early reports indicate that all of the CubeSats are active.

—ARRL Newsletter

Don't Need Short Skip In Your Mailbox?

If you're getting Short Skip by postal mail but would rather just read it on the Club's web site, just let me know at ki6aie@k6bj.org and I'll take care of it. If you're on the K6BJ email reflector, you'll get notification when each month's Short Skip has been posted to the Club web site.

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY OCTOBER 16 7:30PM

Another FB Construction Project

By Dan Romanchik KB6NU

Last night, my ham radio club, ARROW, held its annual construction night. As reported earlier, we built Bare Bones Board Arduinos, the cute, little microcontroller shown at right.

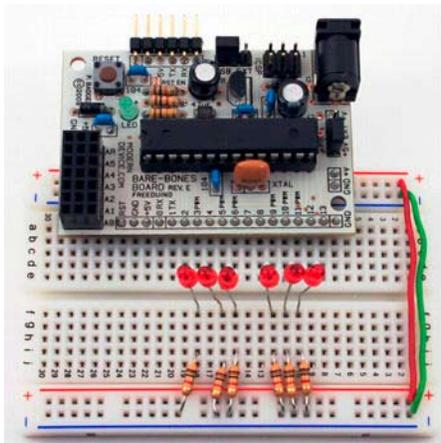
A dozen guys built one, and all but one got them working. I'm not sure why, but he decided to troubleshoot his Arduino at home.

Perhaps the most challenging part about building the kit was mounting the surface-mount inductor. The technique that I, and most of the other guys used, was to tin the pads, hold down the component with either a tweezers or needle nose pliers, and then reflow the solder. One guy had a heckuva time doing this as the component markings were slightly misprinted on his board, with the ink covering those pads. Carefully scraping off the ink with an X-acto knife remedied that situation.

Several people commented, "They're cute, but what can you do with one of those things"? Well, the latest issue of QEX has an article that uses the Arduino as a keyer. As I noted in the previous blog post, I have an idea to use mine to interface a paddle to my computer, so that I can send code to the computer instead of typing on a keyboard. Another crazy idea

I had was to hook a solenoid up to one of the outputs and key a straight key connected to a rig.

Of course, there are a bunch of other possible uses, including controlling a remote antenna switch and monitoring



power supply or battery outputs. There are dozens of other applications outside the shack as well.

Of course, being ever vigilant for topics for future club meetings, the answer to the question, "What can you do with an Arduino"?, is now on our schedule. Next January or February, we'll have a talk about a) how to program the Arduino and b) what one ham did with his.

Senate Bill to Study Ham Radio EMCOMM

A companion bill to the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 was introduced in the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, October 6 by Connecticut Democrat Joe Lieberman and Maine Republican Susan Collins.

Titled Senate Bill 1755, it carries the same name as the House measure introduced this past April by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee. The bill, if passed, would direct the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a study on emergency communications with an emphasis on the role that ham radio operators play.

S 1755 points out that "There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given support at all

levels of government; and protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations.

Introduction of S 1755 is the result of many months of groundwork laid by the American Radio Relay League and appears to be directly based on the basis and purpose of the service. This as outlined in Section 97.1 of the FCC rules. (ARRL)

—Amateur Radio Newslines

Warren Baldwin WA6EWT SK

I'm writing to let you know that Warren Baldwin WA6EWT is now a Silent Key. He left us last month after a short illness, not long after the passing of his XYL, Jean. Warren was a regular at the coffee group known as MARS (McDonald's Amateur Radio Service), and we miss him a lot. He was an all-around nice guy, with never a mean word to say.

—Kathleen KI6AIE



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Received my packet of the new club roster, Short Skip, and club information. Very well done. Thanks to our club Secretary, Kathleen, KI6AIE, and those who worked on it and got it mailed.

The September SCCARC meeting was well attended by about 40 members and guests. This was preceded by our ARES meeting led by Jerry Inman, AE6I. We were hoping to hear speakers from the Equine Evacuation group, discussing the value of ham radio operators helping during the recent fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Many animals were led or transported to safety. The use of the FT-60 dual band radio was covered. It is a good rig for new hams in ARES work. There was a discussion of possible commemorative activities for the 20th anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake (17 October 1989). New ham and Santa Cruz historian Sandy Lydon, KJ6CAF, will lead a hiking tour to the epicenter. Our club speaker was Art McDole, W6WJM. Art (92) talked about his early days in ham radio, building his own gear from scrap parts. "Those were the fun days" he said. He received his ham ticket at the start of WWII but all hams were barred from transmitting until after the war. He was the Public Safety Director of Monterey County for many years. After the meeting, I chatted with Jack Scanlon, KQ6CH, who shuttles between his island home in Hilo and Santa Cruz. He told me that, "Half my belongings and ham gear is divided between those QTHs. Everything I want is at the other house." Al Marconette, KM6VV, and I talked about his years in submarines and his duty aboard USS Proteus, a submarine tender based in Apra Harbor, Guam. At nearly that same time I was in a C-130 squadron based at the Naval Air Station, Agana, on the same island.

I just came from a ham class given by Peter Kyryl, KE6RAX, at the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor. I was the opening speaker on the topic of marine mobile ham radio and its usefulness for safety and fun at sea. This

Saturday afternoon's Amateur Radio class was attended by six marine-oriented students who would soon be licensed and were anxious to get on the air. To help, Peter had lined up volunteer instructors: Reed, N1WC; Chris, KG6DOZ, and Vick, AE6ID. Lots of experience there, for sure. It is good to see a ham class in action. All the students were highly motivated, including one who had been in the Navy off Vietnam in the 1960s. He and I were able to swap tales of that era. I was based at Cam Ranh Bay, he was on the USS Samuel Gompers, a destroyer tender. I was saddened to learn that my old friend, world-class salt water sailor Skip Allen, N6NEN, lost his boat at sea and was picked up by a container ship in response to his SOS. Skip had been in a three-day mid-ocean storm and was exhausted. Was afraid he'd be swamped and depended upon ham radio to ask for help from the US Coast Guard.

I had a ride on SF Bay aboard the 66 foot catamaran Sugar Daddy. The main cabin width was 28.5 feet. With only 25 knots of wind we skimmed the water under the Golden Gate Bridge at 22.6 knots of speed over the ground. We crossed the bay from there to Treasure Island, Angel Island and Alcatraz. Having sailed the Bay many times, I have never gone that fast. The owner is taking the big cat across the Pacific to Australia where he will circumnavigate that continent. Shucks, no ham gear on board. Email and satphones but no rag chewing. Would be nice to chat with them on their trip via HF. Ask, "How's it goin'?" etc.

Fine Dining: One cannot enjoy the ambience of the Santa Cruz Diner without meeting a SCCARC member. My latest encounter was with ex-Navy Torpedo Bomber (TBM) rear turret gunner Ralph Evans, W6ENE. With his date, he was enjoying the Wednesday night special prime rib dinner. As a TBM crewmember, Ralph flew out of the Reserve Air Station, Oakland in the 1940s and 50s. At that time I was an SNJ rear seater (no guns).

What a surprise! On Sunday, 4 October, at 0950, was tuning around the bands, clicked to 15 meters to see if anyone was on. Heard a contester calling "Cal QSO Party." There were replies from New Jersey and Florida. Listening more closely, I heard it was Bob Wolbert, K6XX, calling. I tried to understand what was going on, then just came back with my call sign, giving my name and QTH. Bob recognized me and gave me a sign-in ID number of 01! He laughed. Now I'm officially a contester! (Hi Bob!)

Frank Wyatt NGFW, Receives ARRL Certificate



During the meeting of the San Lorenzo Valley Amateur Radio Club on Friday evening (October 2) our ARRL Santa Clara Valley Section Manager Bill Dale N2RHV presented Frank Wyatt N6FW with a special certificate of commendation from ARRL, for Frank's long service to amateur radio.

The longest Morse Message Ever Sent

The longest Morse message ever sent took place on October 26, 1864. That's when then Governor of the Territory of Nevada, James W. Nye, ordered that a telegram be sent to President Abraham Lincoln that contained the entire text of the Nevada State Constitution. According to historians, the job of sending such a long telegram at the height of the Civil War was a challenge. This was because there was no direct wireline link from Carson City to Washington, DC. So telegrapher James H. Guild worked seven hours to transmit the message to Salt Lake City, where it was resent to Chicago, then Philadelphia, and finally to the War Department's telegraph Office in Washington. There, two days later, where a 175-page transcription was made. The final page shows a total 16,543 word count and cost \$4313.27 to send. In today's dollars that would be \$59,229 to pay for the

one-way transmission. Three days after receiving this telegram and in accordance with an Act of Congress, President Lincoln proclaimed that Nevada was admitted into the Union. This 175-page transcription is now in the holdings of the National Archives and is on display in an exhibition entitled "BIG!" That exhibit celebrates the 75th anniversary of the National Archives by featuring big records, big events and of course some very big ideas.

—Amateur Radio Newslines

Ralph Peterson N6JWA SK

Ralph Peterson passed away on September 24 in Watsonville. He was born in 1915 in Minnesota and lived in Santa Cruz County off and on for the last 40 years. He enjoyed boating and ham radio (N6JWA) and just being with people.

SCCARC Board - 2009

President	Rich Olsen	W1WUH	464-7474
Vice President	Greta Steinbruner	KI6NTL	325-9482
Secretary	Kathleen McQuilling	KI6AIE	476-6303
Treasurer	David Copp	WS2I	
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	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+ 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

ARES Meeting	Friday	Oct 16
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Oct 16
Cake Meetings	Sat	Oct 10, 24
Board Meeting	Wed	Oct 28
Short Skip articles due	Mon	Nov 9
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Nov 20

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

The SCCARC Meets at 7:30 PM, on the **THIRD FRIDAY** of the each month (except December). Meetings are at Dominican Hospital, Education Center, 1555 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz.

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

(Subject to Change)

10/12	Chris KG6DOZ
10/19	Tom K6TG
10/26	Greta KI6NTL
11/2	Phil KE6UWH
11/9	Chris KG6DOZ
11/16	Tom K6TG

SHORT SKIP

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Free to members.

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SAVE THE DATE:

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

AT MARIE CALLENDER'S

You can make your reservations with Kathleen KI6AIE, SCCARC Secretary, in person, by phone (476-6303), or by email to ki6aie@yahoo.com. Watch this space for details.