

MARCH 2010

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



Cell Phones, Ham Radio, and Brain Cancer

by Jeff Liebermann

Does using a cell phone or ham radio walkie talkie near the head cause brain cancer? There are plenty of studies attempting to connect cell phones with brain cancer, but none that I would consider definitive. Perhaps RF causes cancer of the vocabulary, but I won't go there.

If cell phones really did cause brain cancer, one would expect the incidence of brain cancer to follow the rapid increase in the use of cell phones. However, that's not the

case. The incidence of brain and central nervous system cancer is fairly flat for the past 35 years. Since 1983, when Motorola introduced the first cellular handset, cell phone use has increased dramatically to about 240 million (US) and 2 billion world wide.

Incidence of cancer statistics can be found online at the National Cancer Institute at:

http://seer.cancer.gov/cgi-bin/csr/1975_2003/search.pl

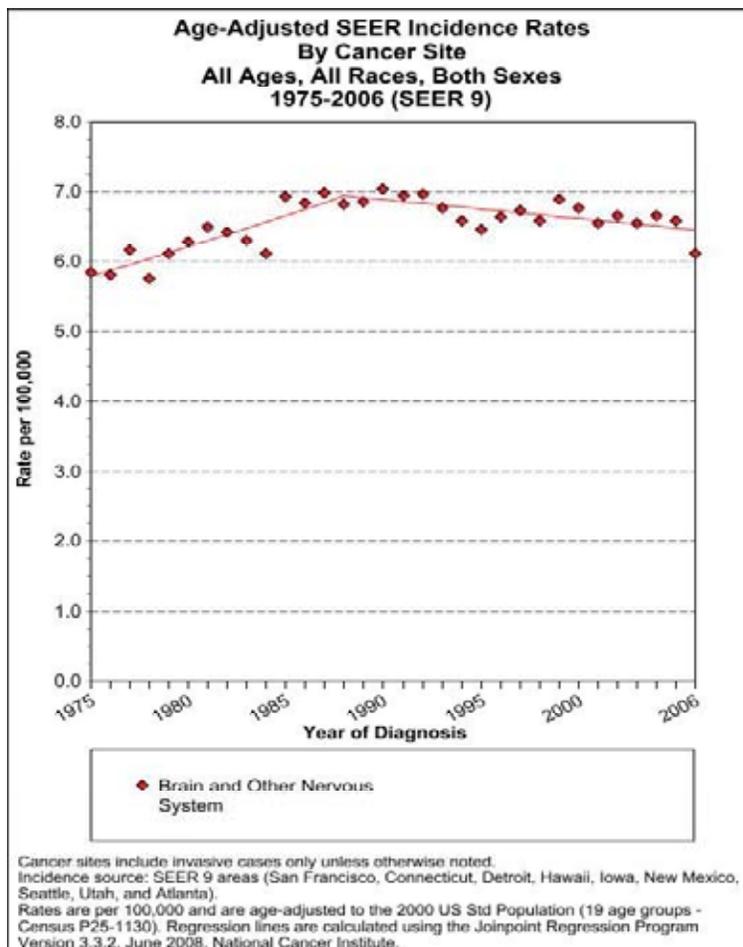
Do You Need Short Skip in the Mail?

Let us know your delivery preference by March 31

In recent years printing and postage costs have increased to the point where income (e.g., annual membership dues) would have to be increased in order to balance the Club's operating budget. In order to avoid this, the SCCARC Board has voted to require members to "opt-in" to continue their US mail subscriptions to Short Skip.

If you are currently getting Short Skip by postal mail and would like to continue getting it that way, we are asking that you notify us of your preference by email to Kathleen, KI6AIE, at ki6aie@yahoo.com; we need to hear from you by the end of March. The availability of each month's issue on line will be announced via the K6BJ email reflector, with a link to the web site for easy access. Just click on the image of the first page of Short Skip to read the full issue or download it as a PDF file, and print it if you want a paper copy.

Many thanks to the 50+ members who have already agreed to "opt-out" of receiving the printed version of Short Skip. Not only do you get Short Skip one week earlier and the pictures in full color by accessing it on line at www.k6bj.org, you are helping to keep our Club "in the black."



March Raffle:

Start Your Spring Cleaning Early

Just think how much easier your spring cleaning will be once you've cleared out all that extra radio gear and brought it for the raffle at our March membership meeting! We are not limited to radio-related items, though. Your discards may be someone else's treasure!

--Kathleen, KI6AIE

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY MARCH 19, 7:30PM

Treasurer's Report

The February 25, 2010 Treasurer's Report presented to the Board of Directors showed that the SCCARC treasury had \$3,299.70 in cash and bank accounts. At that time all financial obligations had been met. The full Net Worth Report will be available for review at the March 25 Club meeting.

—Kathleen McQuilling, KI6AIE

Looking for a good deal on hardware?

If you are looking for a hardware discount, Fastenal is one of the new places in Santa Cruz that caters to the trades. SCCARC has been offered a 15% discount on all items in store, or in catalog items (over 700,000)! Guy-wires, crimp-on hardware, stainless steel nuts and bolts for towers, and a variety of hardware and tools are available in the store and catalog.

For those of you who have been in Santa Cruz a while, Fastenal occupies Frank Carol's (K6BDK) old place. The store front is located on Bulkhead St. around the corner from the 107 River St. address, the corner of Water St. and River St. will get you close to the location. They are open 8am- 5pm M-F. Parking meters are enforced!

How do you get the discount?

Simply bring in this coupon, or your SCCARC Membership card, and know that you get the SCCARC Trade discount. Pay by cash, check or credit card. And, this also works in the Watsonville Fastenal location. Just have them contact the Santa Cruz store for the account information.

How easy is it?

Use the online catalog [<http://www.fastenal.com/web/home.ex>], call in your order, and it will be ready when you get there!

—73, Don - K6GHA

E-Mail: K6GHA@sbcglobal.net



Fastenal

107 River Street
Santa Cruz (Enter on Bulkhead St.)

SCCARC Active Members
Bring in this coupon or proof of
membership for your

15% Discount

Chilean Hams Activate Following Feb. 27 Quake

Radio Club de Chile President Dr Galdino Besomi, CE3PG says that hams in Chile took to the air shortly after a magnitude 8.8 earthquake that rattled his nation in the early morning hours of February 27th.

In a March 1st telephone conversation with IARU Region 2 President Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH, Dr. Besomi said that soon after the earthquake hit, an Emergency Net was activated across the entire country. Initial activation was on VHF followed by nets on the HF bands.

CE3PG says that all Radio Club de Chile members are actively working in close coordination with civil and military authorities.

The massive 8.8 magnitude shaker caused widespread devastation across Chile. It also triggered a tsunami alert from the West coast of North and South America to as far away as New Zealand, Australia and the nations of the Pacific Rim..

The IARU Region 2 and the Chilean national ham radio society have requested that monitor a number of emergency communications frequencies for traffic pertaining to the earthquake and its aftermath. These are 3.738, 3.750, 7.050, 7.100, 14.200, 14.350, 21.200, 21.350, 28.300 and 28.500 MHz.

Automatic Antenna Tuner or Coupler ?

The difference between these two sub-systems is subtle but significant. A tuner (auto or manual) is typically located inside a radio (as in the K3) or external at the point of connection to the feed-line. Its job is to improve the impedance match between the 50 Ohms of the radio and the load presented by the antenna and its feed-line. It does this by attempting to find a combination of L and C components that result in as near a perfect VSWR as is possible. This reduces the prospect of excessive voltages or currents at the radio output. Simply put it keeps the radio happy but it doesn't alter the performance of the antenna itself.

The main distinction of a coupler is that they are located at the antenna and become an integral part of it. The coupler works in a similar manner to a tuner by sensing the VSWR of the antenna itself and by improving the match it does increase overall

Radiofest Monterey Bay 2010

March, 20 & 21 2010

Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Since 1988 with the first ever Radiofest Ham Convention, it has grown into one of the largest Amateur Radio conventions on the Central Coast. Radiofest now supports two day workshops and several seminars.

For more information go to:

www.radiofest.org

or contact:

Sal De Franco, N6SPD

Voice: 831-324-0727

Fax: 831-337-5200

sal@n6spd.com

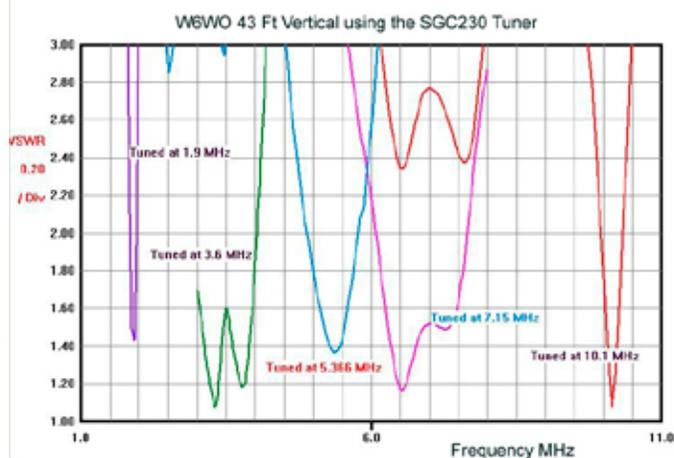
In addition to these frequencies, hams may also want to listen to the worldwide emergency communication Center of Activity frequencies. These are 14.300, 18.160 and 21.360 MHz. Other suggested monitoring frequencies are 3.720, 7.045 and 7.060 MHz.

— Amateur Radio Newline,

antenna performance. By improving the match at the antenna, VSWR at the radio is also improved.

A coupler can convert a single band radiator to a multi-band radiator. As an example I now use an SGC-230 auto coupler with a 43ft vertical (originally designed for 40 meters) for use on all the LF bands. Here are plots of the coupler /antenna as seen by the radio as measured by a VNA.

—W6W0





By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Our February club meeting was led off by our ARES session. Jerry Inman, AE6I, did a fine job of outlining the value of digital communications in emergency communications. Ten ARES members were present to become informed of the use of computers and hand-helds to transmit data. One of the positive features of computer to computer (RMSA packet) is security of information. Personal information is safeguarded and immune to pickup by scanners.

Our club meeting was also highly informative. The manager of the upcoming Radiofest at Fort Ord, Sal De Franco, N6SPD, and Gerlinde Bittner, K6GRL, put on a nice slide show for us. The RadioFest will be held on Saturday, March 20th. After the presentation, I chatted with Gerlinde. She was raised in Berlin, Germany, after WWII. Is a finance officer at US Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey. She uses EchoLink and other computer programs and talks over the internet, worldwide.

While thinking about hand-helds and battery packs, was reminded of a story told by Leon Fletcher, AA6ZG, many years ago. One time when we were acting as relays for the Human Race event, Leon placed his spare ni-cad battery pack in his pants pocket. A half hour later he felt a horrible burning sensation at his thigh. Reaching into

Ham Radio at Kiwanis Breakfast

David Copp WS2I spoke to a breakfast meeting of the Surf City Kiwanis Club at the DeLaveaga restaurant on Thursday, March 4. He gave a fifteen-minute talk on ham radio in general and service to the community by local hams, using a HT and the club's TS-690s as props.

Frank Carroll K6BDK contributed information about digital modes from the audience. There were many lively questions. It was a good opportunity to bring ham radio to the attention of about forty community leaders.

his pocket, he withdrew a red-hot battery pack! It happened that a twenty-five cent piece had worked its way into the locking slot, fitting perfectly and shorting out the terminals. The high rate of the discharging battery made the coin act like a red hot heater element.

Who's Calling? When my son and daughter-in-law bought new cell phones after their contract on the old phones ran out, they gave their discarded cell phones to their 7 and 9 year old boys to play games on and take pictures. A day later, the 911 Operator called asking if there was an emergency. "Not here," was the reply. After three calls and many apologies, my daughter-in-law thought that the cell phone in her pocket was being accidentally keyed. Then, her nine-year-old came in the kitchen to proudly announce that his baby brother knows how to dial 911 on the "play" phone. Turns out that cell phones are required to keep the 911 feature active, even if there is no server. I checked this out with Tom, K6TG, who works at the 911 center. He confirmed that this is true.

Was thumbing through the pages of an old notebook and came upon this quote from our club Secretary, Kathleen, KI6AIE. She's noted for her wit. Said, "I'm too old to flirt, so let's just mess around." Cute.

My XYL, Donna, AB6XJ, enjoyed reading the piece "My Life As An Inductance," by Ron, W6WO, in the February issue. She said it was very clever and interesting. Made me read it twice!

2010 Membership Renewals and Directory Update

If you have already renewed your membership for 2010, thank you! If you haven't, please do it now. The renewal deadline for active members to be included in this year's member directory is March 31. This is also the deadline for directory updates--please review your information in the printed directory and let me know of any changes (including license class) by email or in person. 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.

N6MBO, SK

The Sentinel this morning published the obituary for William Benack of Santa Cruz. Bill, N6MBO, was among the first ARES responders following the 1989 Loma Prieta 'quake. He established a critical communication link between County EOC and broadcast station KSCO. This facilitated the distribution of crucial information to the general public.

His son Mike, KG6VH, was also among the ARES members who played critical roles following the disaster.

No services are planned.

—Wayne, KB6KN

CHANGING TECHNOLOGY

Sony to close Alabama magnetic tape plant

Call it a true sign of the times. This with word that Sony Corporation plans to close its tape-manufacturing plant in Dothan, Alabama. This as the need for magnetic tape products dwindles to a trickle worldwide.

As recently as five years ago most recording of video and audio was done to tape. But as magnetic disc drives, flash memory and electro-optical recording technology made rapid advances, the need for magnetic tape products quickly declined.

Now it has finally reached a low where the demand for magnetic tape products like those produced at the Sony Dolthan, Alabama, plant has reached the point where keeping it open is no longer economical. According to Sony, operations at the plant will be phased out starting in April with the closure planned to be completed by September. @@The facility was opened in 1977. Termination of its operation will lead to the loss of 300 jobs. (Birmingham News, RW, others)— arnewsline.org

Field Day Planning

Are we having a Field Day?

If no one volunteers to organize, we won't be having a FD?

The SLV group is starting to work on it. How about us???

if we want to have a table at the Ham Convention, to represent the club, we need volunteers for this too???

—Bruce - AC6DN
SCCARC President

SCCARC Board - 2010

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|----------|
| President | Bruce Hawkins | AC6DN | 689-9923 |
| Vice President | Greta Steinbruner | KI6NTL | 325-9482 |
| Secretary | David Copp | WS2I | 708-2206 |
| Treasurer | Kathleen McQuilling | KI6AIE | 476-6303 |
| Board | Christopher Angelos | KG6DOZ | 688-3562 |
| | Mike Doern | KM6IKE | 477-1161 |
| | Rich Olsen | W1WUH | 464-7474 |
| | Cap Pennell | KE6AFE | 429-1290 |
| | Jeff Watson | W6NA | |
| K6BJ Trustee | Allen Fugelseth | WB6RWU | 475-8846 |

MONTEREY BAY REPEATER ACTIVITY

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Santa Cruz County | K6BJ 146.790- PL 94.8 Santa Cruz (linked to KI6EH) KI6EH 147.945- PL 94.8 Watsonville (linked to K6BJ) K6BJ 440.925+ PL 123.0 Santa Cruz (not linked) • SCCARC Net Monday 7:30 PM 146.79- /147.945- /147.180+ linked • SCCARC 10 Meter Net Monday 7:00 PM 28.308 MHz USB |
| ARES Net | SC County Wide ARES Tuesday 7:30 PM on 147.180+ PL 94.8 and 443.600+ PL 110.9 linked |
| 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) • LP ARES / LPARC Net Tuesday 7:15 PM |
| Monterey | K6LY 146.97- PL 94.8 / 444.700+ PL 123 (linked for net) Monterey • Monterey Co. ARES Net Wednesday 7:30 PM K6LY 146.970- (PL 94.8) • NPSARC Net Wednesday at 8 PM on K6LY/R |
| LPRC | WR6ABD 146.640- PL 162.2 / 442.900+ PL 162.2 (winsystem.org) • LPRC Net Tuesday 8:00 PM 146.640-(PL 162.2) • Amateur Radio Newslines broadcast Wednesday at end of LPRC 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 (prior to club meeting) | Friday | Mar 19 |
| SCCARC Meeting | Friday | Mar 19 |
| Cake Meetings | Sat | Mar 13, 27 |
| Board Meeting | Thursday | Mar 25 |
| Short Skip articles due | Mon | Apr 5 |
| SCCARC Meeting | Friday | Apr 16 |

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)

| | |
|------|--------------|
| 3/15 | Greta KI6NTL |
| 3/22 | Phil KE6UWH |
| 3/29 | Chris KG6DOZ |
| 4/5 | Tom K6TG |
| 4/12 | Greta KI6NTL |

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

Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 238, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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Columnist: Art Lee, WF6P

Writer: Ron Skelton, W6WO

ARRL Exam Testing

The Tri-City VE Group welcome candidates to our location near highways 680 and 880 at Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs Boulevard, Fremont.

Here are the scheduled 2010 test dates:

March 13 Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

April 15 Thursday 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

May 8

July 10

August 19

September 9

November 13

December 16

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

For further information, contact Bernhard AE6YN@arrl.net (510) 364-0611, or check the ARRL website.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 238
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0238