

SHORT SKIP



Instigators Assault the Air Waves

Intro

Members of the Instigators Radio Consortium of the San Lorenzo Valley (IRCSLV-K6WC) assaulted the air waves for the California QSO Party (CQP) October 2nd and 3rd from Fremont Peak in San Benito County.



Photo: KI6NUL

The CQP is a friendly radio contest sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) featuring contacts on HF, six, and two meters. Stations inside California try to work as many people as possible. Stations outside of California try to work stations in as many California counties as possible. Since many California counties do not have lots of active hams, NCCC encourages Field Day-style expeditions to those counties.

Local hams Donald (AE6RF), Byron (KI6NUL), Josh (KI6UAQ), Ryan (KI6UAP), Cece (KJ6BNO), Tom (W6TJK), Carrol (KG6YPH), Kerry (K3RRY), Chris (KG6DOZ) and Cap (KE6AFE) organized and executed a "county expedition" to nearby San Benito county to make sure hams throughout the United States and the world would be able to "get" San Benito.

Radio Operations

The overall expedition consisted of several smaller groups that operated the station by themselves during the contest period. The station itself consisted of an Elecraft K-3 radio controlled by N1MM contest logging software. The output of the K3 was run through a Ameritron ALS-600 solid state linear amplifier, through a MFJ-998 high power auto-tuner and then to a Spiderbeam HF antenna for 10 through

20 meters and a 40m/shortened 80m fan dipole. The Spiderbeam was mounted on the IRCSLV's 40' tower trailer.

The first group was K6WC consisting of

Donald (AE6RF) and Tom (W6TJK). They worked mostly CW with some single side band (SSB) when CW slowed down. The second group was Byron (KI6NUL) operating both CW and SSB by himself. Third came the youth contingent consisting of Josh (KI6AUQ), Ryan (KI6UAP) and Cece (KJ6BNO). The youngsters operated SSB. Finally, Carrol (KG6YPH) got to play with the nice, high-power station too. He was taken aback when stations responded to him the first time... every time... It was a very pleasant change from home.



The expedition setup Friday afternoon and early Saturday morning, starting a hour late due to antenna assembly complications and a forgotten power cable. K6WC started the contest running and was very popular since San Benito is a historically rare county. San Benito

is sought by contesters and county-hunters alike. The four groups traded the station back and forth as opportunity and fatigue allowed.

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October Auction

Our annual auction will be held at our October 15 meeting. Bill Conklin has agreed to serve as auctioneer again this year. This important fund-raising event is always lots of fun, as members bring their valuable and often unusual items (and sometimes go home with more than they brought ;). The Club gets a minimum of 20 percent of the sale price.

Now's the time to start looking around for those "treasures" that are just taking up space in your home. Non-radio-related items are always welcome.

Other important dates:

- Friday, November 19: General meeting and annual election of officers. Our Secretary, David Copp WS2I, is chair of this year's Nominating Committee.

- Saturday, December 11: Holiday Luncheon at Marie Callender's; details to follow.

Come out and support your Club and have a good time as well!

—73, Kathleen KI6AIE
SCCARC Treasurer

Beginner's Net

QST, QST...The Beginner's Net operates each Sunday at 9:30am on the W6WLS repeater. This Sunday (10/10/10) however, I will be camping at Camp Loma and unable to access W6WLS to run the Net. Is anyone interested in either assuming the position of Net Control for the Beginner's Net or willing to make an announcement on W6WLS that the Net will occur on the AE6KE (146.835 PL 94.8) repeater, which I CAN access from Camp Loma and from there would be willing to run the Net?

Please let me know by Friday morning via

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By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

Yesterday I received a telcon form my ex-Coast Guard Radioman, Eric Bergstrom. It was in Morse Code! I didn't know this, but by pushing the star key, it sends a tone. As a professional CW operator, his code was flawless and took me by surprise. While serving aboard a Coast Guard cutter and at two shore stations, he sat code circuits for a couple of years. Communicating with foreign ships and aircraft, as well as US commercial, most of the CW message traffic was plain language position reports, request for assistance or emergencies. I have heard stories where CW operators, after decades of inactivity, can still copy code at working speeds (13-20 wpm).



Larry Edler WB6MVK

This month I received several ancient (1960s) photos of club members by email from Larry Edler, W6MVK. I recognized only a few. Al Crowell, WA6OQP, showed me an effective way to use two soldering irons to



Al Crowell WA6OQP

make good connections on coax fittings while we replaced several atop the Stroke Center at the present repeater shack. Wayne Thalls, KB6KN, was up there too, assisting. In the mid-1980s, Al also set up several ham stations at various schools, including Holy Cross. A nun held a Novice license and got her students on the air. I believe that at that time we had a ham station at all



WB6JOD Cabrillo College Electronics (Watsonville) 1964



WB6JOD Cabrillo College 1964-65

local high schools except Santa Cruz High (although there was one in the 1930s). One of our problems was in keeping licensed teachers.

It was interesting to see the field day photos showing some of the electronics training aids, circa 1964/5. Tube-type display panels looked pretty impressive. There were taps for measuring various voltages, etc. Our Santa Cruz Amateur Radio club was reestablished in the 1960s and met at Cabrillo College. The station operated with the call sign WB6JOD. Although the antenna and tower have been long gone, I believe the concrete base is still visible outside the Math, Science and Engineering 800 Building. (At least it was in the late 1990s.)

Eddy Pollack, W6KHS, helped get me a job at as an instructor in the Electronics Division after he "graduated" to the Computer Science Division. For about a dozen years I taught a sixteen-week ham radio beginner's course. Students came away with a Novice license and CW skills. We had a complete ham radio station in the Electronics Building. Two of the students in one class were Wayne and Scott King, AH6KL (SK). I



Earle Pollock WA6OSQ

don't believe they were related. We all miss Scott, as he passed away suddenly in September 2010. Scott and I shared hand surgery stories (Dupuytren's Contracture) as it hampered us when playing the piano. He had been a Naval Aviator, flying the Douglas AD-2 Sky Raider aircraft, a type I used to work on as an aircraft mechanic.

In the mid-1980s, my mother lived next door to Earle Pollock, WA6OSQ, Eddy's father. On several occasions I visited Earle to see him operate from his mobile home shack. One other photo showed a young Larry Edler at his home station. Even today, Larry has a cubical quad antenna in his back yard.



Ed Pollock W6KHS / W6LC

Beginner's Net Continued

e-mail, or radio (K6BJ/KI6EH) by Friday afternoon. If I do not get a response before then, I will plan to request any listening station on AE6KE or KI6EH to make an announcement for me on the W6WLS repeater at 9:30am.

Thanks and 73,

Becky Steinbruner KI6TKB

Notes from Other Clubs

From the September newsletter of the Coastside ARC in Pacifica, WA6TOW: The club earned 1,154 QSO points and 850 bonus points for Field Day. Club members recently toured the USS Hornet and the Alameda Naval Aviation Museum. The Foothills Amateur Radio Society sponsors a monthly ham technology day at SLAC; see <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday/>.

— David WS2I

Air Waves Continued

Twenty meters was the money band, but there were also strong openings on fifteen meters as well. Operation shifted to forty meters as the sun set and then to eighty/seventy-five meters as night fell. Twenty meters was particularly good to Europe on Sunday morning. Italy, Germany, England, Spain, the Slovak Republic, Columbia and Japan were all logged during the contest.

The station's power shifted from Donald's trusty Kipor generator to battery at 10:00PM when the park's quiet hours came into effect. No generator meant no high power amplifier, but the groups continued for a while with the K-3s 110 watts. Contest activity died out about 10:30PM allowing everybody to get some sleep. Sleep is a rare quantity during contests.

Donald rolled out of his sleeping bag at 5:15AM to get the station working on forty meters again. The generator started at 8:00AM, then our power went back to 500 watts.

The groups spent the rest of the day shifting between fifteen and twenty meters. Ten meters was closed during the contest. "Maybe next year."

Byron (KI6NUL) had a great CW run going the last hour and a half of the contest, going over 45 minutes without needing to call CQ. Everybody decided to "stick with the hot goalie" and allowed Byron to finish off the contest by himself.

The group spent an hour and a half tearing down the station and packing up. They pulled out of the group campground at 5:30PM, leaving it cleaner than when they arrived.

Logistics

The logistical star of the show was Byron's brand new expedition-style tent. It was 12'x12' with 4' walls and a peak over 8' tall. People were able to enter, leave and move around in the tent without stooping. The tent was extremely comfortable, sleeping four people and holding the operating table and all the various radio boxes all at the same time.

The expedition was fed by the culinary efforts of Kerry (K3RRY) and Ron Porter. Dinners consisted of pan-fried pork roast, spaghetti, hot dogs, Asian and Caesar salads and various custom breads. They ate pretty well for being out in the woods.

The "fun phonetics" for K6WC is Kilo-Six-Water-Closet. Unfortunately the campsite

didn't have any "water closets." Instead the expedition relied on a pair of outhouses. One was the typical modern "porta-potty" but the other one was a good, old-fashioned wooden outhouse. Both were declared fully functional.

Results

The final results were quite gratifying. The initial goal was to beat 800 QSOs for the site as a whole and TRY to double last year's score of 455. The IRCSLV's total score of 846 handily beat the 800 QSO goal and we came within about 60 QSOs of doubling our score.

The bottom line? We met our goals, had lots of radio fun and nobody got hurt. Very Fine Business for all involved. This year's assault on Fremont Peak was a complete success. Now to start planning for next year...

| Group | CW | Phone | Total | Members |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------------|
| K6WC | 389 | 153 | 542 | AE6RF, W6TJK |
| KI6NUL | 131 | 99 | 230 | KI6NUL |
| KI6UAQ | | 54 | 54 | KI6UAQ, KI6UAP, KJ6BNO |
| KG6YPH | | 20 | 20 | KG6YPH |
| total | 520 | 326 | 846 | |

Scott King AH6KL SK



Scott King, also known as Carl Scott King, died September 15, 2010 at his home in Aptos. He was 73.

His career path was intriguingly varied- he did what he loved, and got paid for it. He was most recently employed at Elecraft as a customer service engineer.

A Navy veteran, he enjoyed classical music and had played a clarinet. He was an active amateur radio enthusiast. He also ventured into winemaking.

Scott is survived by his sister, Ann: nephews, Dan Karin Benedict and Scott Pey Benedict; a grandniece, Alyxandra; and cousins, Lorin Herman, Mollie Lee and Bill Cooper.

The family suggests memorial donations be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312.

SCCARC Board - 2010

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|----------|
| President | Bruce Hawkins | AC6DN | 689-9923 |
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| K6BJ Trustee | Allen Fugelseth | WB6RWU | 475-8846 |

MONTEREY BAY REPEATER ACTIVITY

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Santa Cruz County | K6BJ 146.790- PL 94.8 Santa Cruz (linked to K16EH) K16EH 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+ PL123 (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 Tuesday |

• 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 | Oct 15 |
| SCCARC Meeting | Friday | Oct 15 |
| Cake Meetings | Sat | Oct 9, 23 |
| Board Meeting | Thursday | Oct 28 |
| Short Skip articles due | Mon | Nov 8 |
| SCCARC Meeting | Friday | Nov 19 |

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)

| | |
|-------|--------------|
| 10/11 | Tom K6TG |
| 10/18 | Chris KG6DOZ |
| 10/25 | Byron KI6NUL |
| 11/1 | Greta KI6NTL |
| 11/8 | Phil KE6UWH |
| 11/15 | Tom K6TG |

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Free to members.

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