

APRIL 2011

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



ARES Response to the Tsunami

Sirens wailed and reverse 911 alerted residents in low lying beach zones of Santa Cruz County today for the impending danger of the Tsunami released as a result of the 8.9 earthquake in Japan.

Early Friday morning the Santa Cruz County A.R.E.S. Team activated the Santa Cruz County Tsunami Resource Net in advance of the anticipated 5 to 7 foot wave. It was expected to reach the Santa Cruz Coast around 8:00 AM.



Santa Cruz A.R.E.S. team member Don Taylor K6GHA at the controls in the A.R.E.S. operation center with volunteer operator Vicki Boniack

More than 30 local A.R.E.S. radio operators staffed and manned served agencies including the Santa Cruz County Emergency Operations Center, Evacuation Centers, The Red Cross, Salvation Army Corp Canteen Truck One, Santa Cruz County Harbor Coast Guard Auxiliary and a number of local Fire Departments.

In addition to the served

agencies, a number of hams provided remote observation of the coast line and communications capabilities at the evacuation centers.

As expected, the devastating Tsunami waves impacted the coast and did an estimated 15 million dollars of damage to the Santa Cruz Harbor. More than 100 boats, including fishing vessels, pleasure boats and yachts, were either damaged or sunk as a result of the waves.

Santa Cruz was not alone in receiving significant damage as a result of the powerful waves. Crescent City, located approximately 500 miles North of Santa Cruz, also received heavy damage causing Governor Brown to declare these areas disaster zones. One person died as a result of being swept out to sea with the high waves.

— Bill Conklin, AF60H



Santa Cruz A.R.E.S. team member Don Taylor K6GHA discussing evacuation center operations with Paul Horvat - Director of Emergency Operations Center.

Radio Classes

The Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club and the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Emergency Service team members are providing entry level training classes for Ham Radio operators.

Amateur radio provides critical, life saving communications services for the Citizens of Santa Cruz County in times of natural disaster such as earthquakes, wildfires, telephone outages and most recently last week during the Tsunami.



Santa Cruz A.R.E.S. director Jerry Inman, AE6I shown with the technician training class at the Cruzio building.

Instructor Jerry Inman (AE6I) shown in photo and supported by Cap Pennell (KE6AFE) are supplying technician level amateur radio training classes to a packed audience in the public meeting room of the Cruzio Internet Services company located in the old Sentinel Newspaper building in Santa Cruz.

— Bill Conklin, AF60H

April Meeting—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 April membership meeting! We are not limited to radio-related items, though. Your discards may be someone else's treasure!

Change in meeting room to Dominican Main Building downstairs .

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY APRIL 15, 7:30PM

Ham Radio meets the 4 – H Club

Santa Cruz A.R.E.S. Public Information Officer, William Conklin, presided over a leadership and technology interview for Joshua Porter / KI6UAQ as part of his GOLD level 4 – H test.

Joshua was first licensed in 2008 and upgraded to the General Class in 2010. He has developed a broad array of ham radio projects for the local 4 – H organization including helping teach 4 – H members about amateur radio.

With the assistance of local radio operator Donald Kerns / AE6RF, they joined forces to lead a county wide amateur radio project for the 4 – H. This included a visit to the Emergency Operations Center; participation in Field Day Activities; and with his team members, set up a station for the California QSO Party and were awarded the Top California Youth Team award.

—AF6OH, Santa Cruz A.R.E.S. PIO



AF6OH Santa Cruz A.R.E.S. PIO interviewing Joshua Porter KI6UAQ for his 4 – H Gold Leadership Award.

I have created and presented several different 4-H presentations about Amateur Radio. These include an educational display with information about Ham Radio called “Ham Not Just for Dinner” which showed some of the many different aspects of Amateur Radio, including contesting, moon bounce, community service and emergency communications, and a PowerPoint presentation about how antennas work and how to build a dipole called “Antenna Basics”.

Each of these presentations was given to my club, Felton 4H, our county Presentation Day, our tri-county Presentations including Santa Cruz County, San Benito County and Monterey County and California 4H State Presentations.

I earned gold medals on both presentations through tri-county and “Ham, Not Just

For Dinner” at State level. I’ve displayed “Ham, Not Just for Dinner” in several public forums, including Santa Cruz County Fair, our Santa Cruz County 4H Spring fair and various public outreach events like National 4H Week community service for Valley Churches United.

Some of the other teaching opportunities I have been able to participate in include teaching a class at Santa Cruz County Summer 4-H Camp, and helping start the Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Project as a Teen Leader.

At Camp Loma, I helped install an HF dipole antenna for camp. I also organized and ran a class, teaching kids about Ham Radio, and showing them how to participate in a Fox Hunt. We all had a great time, and I am planning on doing it again next year.

When I first joined 4-H in 2008, I thought it would be fun to have an Amateur Radio project. My brother and I had just earned our Technician licenses, and we were eager to get more interest both in Amateur Radio and technology in general with 4-H.

My brother rounded up Donald Kerns, AE6RF, who volunteered to lead an Amateur Radio Project. The project quickly gained members from all over the county. We did a lot of fun things, including a field trip to NET-COM; participating in the Fireworks 50 Endurance Race; started a weekly Kids Net on a local repeater; and went to Field Day, where we finally showed the kids what it is like to actually operate a Ham radio. This

year we are going to have a licensing class for the Project, both our mom and a friend of ours are going to get their licenses!

Over the last couple of years I have entered different Amateur Radio and technology exhibits in the Santa Cruz County Fair. These include a homebrew 6-Meter Yagi, a homemade QSL card, and several educational displays about amateur radio.

Through my entries, the Youth Department in the Harvest Building at the fairgrounds has added a brand new Technology section which includes radios and electronics! I even had the honor of helping to create the rules for this new exhibit section for the Chair of the Youth Department, Joan Favero, who has designated a whole section to Technology starting with the 2011 County Fair.

I have been able to do a whole bunch of cool things as a ham. I have participated in the Boy Scouts Jamboree On The Air (JOTA), ARRL Field Day, the ARRL 10 Meter contest, the California QSO Party where I earned the Youth Operator award together with my brother and Cece Kerns, I started a new net just for kids,

I built a Cubical Quad and a Yagi-Uda Array, and I helped to get recognition in Santa Cruz County 4-H for Amateur Radio. However, all these in my opinion have been eclipsed by my participation in emergency nets.

In August 2009, I believe on the 12th if I remember correctly, my brother Ryan and I were laying down outside at about 11:00 pm, watching the Perseid Meteor shower.

We were right outside the living room, where our radio is, which was also switched on. Suddenly we heard JV, K6HJU, come on and inquire if anyone knew anything about a wildfire near Swanton. We rushed inside and responded that we had not heard anything about; indeed, at the time the local TV news channels were focused on a recent political scandal or something, they were not reporting anything about a fire.

After about 10 minutes of exchange, Cap Pannel, KE6AFE, came on and requested that we begin a resource net on WR6AOK, the repeater we were on. Although we never actually worked as a net control for the disaster known as the Lockheed Fire, we did offer our services several times, and monitored the radio almost round-the-clock for the next couple of days.

Later we were able to help a bit when there was a major fire at the Brookdale Lodge by doing a little investigation and reporting what was happening during the fire. This really changed the way I look at amateur radio, and every time I get the chance I try to participate as either a resource net control, or check-in to the ARES net on W6WLS. It has been a blast since I got my license, and has opened up a whole new world for me. Amateur radio means a lot to me; it is most assuredly connected with my future.

—Joshua Porter KI6UAQ

Gigi's is SK.

Those who attend CAKE sessions and also read the Senile will find the notice of the closure of Gigi's reported on the front page of today's (monday) edition - details on page A9.

73 es so long

Larry WB6MVK



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

I am sorry to read of the closing of Gigi's Bakery and coffee shop. It was an excellent site for our CAKE meetings. The friendly atmosphere they maintained and the informal chair/table arrangements were very workable. From an article in the Sentinel it appeared that the owner was overdue for retirement. Let us hope that the new owners carry on in the already established manner. It could happen.

Most of the effects of the March Tsunami have been erased except for dock damage in the yacht harbor. Mother nature's unexpected ill behavior continues to reinforce the need for emergency services and ARES. I've missed the past couple of club meetings, but place a high value on the information disseminated there. We learn a lot from our fellow hams.

I have been reading books on the WWII war in the Pacific. As a Pearl Harbor Survivor, my interest began with that December 7th 1941 bombing. Sparse and faint communications from our far-distant battles in the Philippines, Wake Island and Guam were very dramatic. Of course in those days before computers and the Internet, HF communications and short wave listening was challenging and exciting. Radios were primitive and often, unreliable. Hams usually built their own transmitters and receivers. Aircraft radios, both Japanese and American frequently failed. While reading about the battle of Midway Island in Shattered Sword, I recall the story of my shipmate who was a radio operator on SBD dive-bombers. He was also the tail gunner when not operating the radios. He told me of a technique they used when attacked by Zeros. The Japanese fighters waited until the SBD gunners reloaded their twin machine guns. When the empty ammo boxes were tossed out the Zeros charged in. Our gunners carried spare empty boxes to act as bait. When they threw them overboard, the Zeros flew in and were greeted by twin streams of .30 caliber bullets.

Another interesting book loaned by Leon Fletcher, AA6ZG, is Unbroken, by Laura Hillenbrand. The protagonist flew aboard B-24 bombers in the Pacific. His aircraft

went down and after drifting 2000 miles in a rubber life raft, he was captured by the Japanese. As a POW, they were forbidden to talk to each other. Communications between the POWs was conducted via Morse code, using fists for dots and open hands for dashes. Was probably slow but time was not passing quickly for them. Hiding their hands from the guards, they were undetected. Another trick, especially at night, was to mutter dit or dah without moving one's lips. Anyone caught speaking would be harshly punished.

Wayne Thalls, KB6KN, flew as a radio operator in US Army Air Corps B-25s during WWII. Ralph Evans, W6ENE, flew as radio/gunner in Navy TBMs. Dan Anderson, (SK) flew as radioman in WWII B-24s.



Coastside ARC (WA6TOW): Jim Sadler W6SFW is a SK. The March 2011 newsletter includes part 1 of a history of EIMAC as told by Jack McCullough W6CHE, a co-founder of the company.

The Valley of the Moon ARC will hold a hamfest on April 30, 2011 in Sonoma. See <http://vomarc.org/events.html> for more information.

The May edition of the De Anza Electronics Flea Market has been rescheduled to Saturday May 21, 2011. For more information see <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>.

OPPOSITION GROWS

On February 10, 2011, Rep. Peter King (R-NY), Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, introduced H.R. 607, the "Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011," which has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee (which handles telecommunications legislation). The bill addresses certain spectrum management issues including the creation and maintenance of a nationwide Public Safety broadband network.

As part of that network, the Bill provides for the allocation of the so-called "D-Block" of spectrum in the 700 MHz range for Public Safety use. HR 607 uniquely, provides for the reallocation of other spectrum for auction to commercial users, in order to offset the loss of revenue that would occur as the result of the allocation of the D-Block to Public Safety instead of commercial auc-

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A Funny Thing Happened on the Phone Last Night!

While operating as net control for the 10m net last Monday evening, I got an urgent call from my daughter. First, let me say that my house is about 50 feet away from my shack, and for clarification, all calls from a 16 year old are urgent! In the call she said that I was interfering with her call and she couldn't talk to, or hear, the person she was calling. And, she added, with emphasis, that I needed to stop doing whatever it was I was doing and that it was ALL MY FAULT!!!

It seems that in the recent storms, something has changed with my station operating on 10m and my house electronics. Since I haven't made any changes to my radio or station, I am not sure why there seems to be a lot of interference being generated every time I key up.

I am currently investigating and troubleshooting my issue in hopes to at least isolate it this week (either my station, house equipment, or ugly gremlin).

My first step was to find out what is RF Interference, how I may be causing it. For that, I turned to the internet for a little help and found that the ARRL has a fine basic guide to causes of RFI. <http://www.arrl.org/radio-frequency-interference-rfi>

So until I track down my issue, if you find that conditions have changed for you as well, at least now you have a quick reference guide of where to start looking for some answers.

I am sure my daughter will be happy when I isolate MY FAULT(s)!

—73, Don K6GHA

Treasurer's Report

The March 2011 Treasurer's Report presented to the Board of Directors showed that the SCCARC treasury had \$3,447.58 in cash and bank accounts (total less encumbrances: \$2,783.74). At that time all financial obligations for which invoices had been received had been met. The full report, incorporating the current operating budget as well as actual and projected income and expenditure figures for the full calendar year, will be available for review at the April 15 Club meeting.

—Kathleen, KI6AIE, Treasurer

SCCARC Board - 2011

President	Bruce Hawkins	AC6DN	689-9923
Vice President	Brandon Bealer	KJ6DKK	
Secretary	David Copp	WS2I	708-2206
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	Cap Pennell	KE6AFE	429-1290
	Doug Burklo	KI6ZIB	
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 Newsline 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	Apr 15
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Apr 15
Cake Meetings	Sat	Apr 9, 23
Board Meeting	Thursday	Apr 28
Short Skip articles due	Mon	May 9
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	May 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)

4/1	Chris KG6DOZ
4/18	Byron N6NUL
4/25	Greta KI6NTL
5/2	Phil KE6UWH
5/9	Tom K6TG
5/16	Chris KG6DOZ

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Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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Opposition Grows continued

tion. H.R. 607 lists, among the bands to be reallocated for commercial auction within ten years of the passage of the Bill, the paired bands 420-440 MHz and 450-470 MHz.

The inclusion of most of the Amateur 70-cm spectrum as one of the replacement bands is a major problem. The 420-440 MHz band is not Public Safety spectrum and should not be included in any spectrum swap of Public Safety allocations.

While the ARRL and all Amateurs support the work of Public Safety and recognize their need for dedicated spectrum which would promote interoperability, the ARRL vigorously opposes HR 607 in its present form. HR 607 is a direct threat to our limited spectrum and the ARRL encourages all amateurs to appropriately voice their opposition to this bill.

—From ARRL Newsletter



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