

JUNE 2012

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP



Dayton Hamvention

Another great ham radio experience

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

My Dayton experience started at 3:45 am Thursday morning. That's when I had to get up so that I could make it to the Fairborn Holiday Inn in time for the first session of this year's Four Days in May (FDIM) conference. FDIM is a one-day conference put on by the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (<http://qrparci.org/>) and is a great way to start the "Dayton experience."

This year, we were treated to six very fine presentations. They included talks on using microcontrollers for various projects, software-defined radio, VHF and UHF for QRPers, homebrewing with "hollow state" devices (more commonly known as tubes), using open-source electronic design tools, and operating pedestrian mobile. The two talks that I enjoyed the most were "Hollow State (Theratron) Homebrewing" by Grayson, TA2ZGE/KJ7UM and "Leveraging Free and Open Source Tools in Homebrewing" by Jason, NT7S.

Friday morning, I got up early again, so that I could make the 7:30am bus to the Hamvention. We arrived about 8:00 am, just as the gates were opening. The first thing that I did was to head to the FAR Circuits tent, which is—as the name implies—at the far end of the flea market. There, I made my first purchases, a board to make a regenerative receiver and one to make an audio breakout box.

The rest of the day was a combination of wandering the aisles of the outdoor flea market, fighting the crowds inside the arena, attending seminars, and meeting people that I know. By the time, 4:30 pm rolled around, I was pretty hot and tired. Temperatures topped 80 degrees, and on the blacktop surface of the flea market, temperatures were

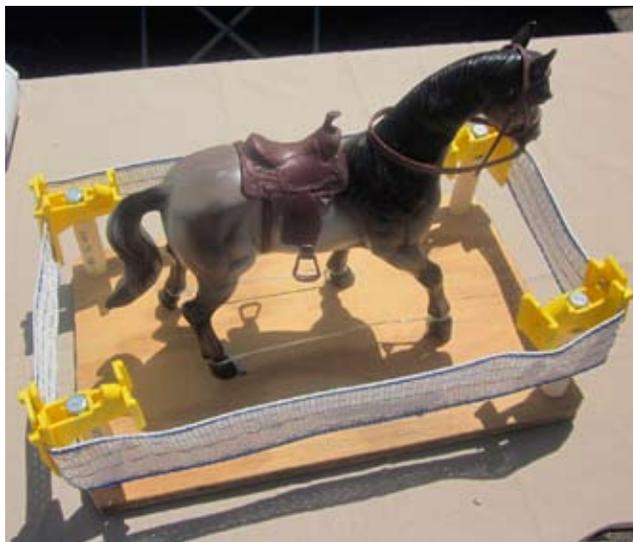
Continued page 2

Words from the KY outback

Greetings to all from the family home in Perryville KY where many of you know we spend a few months each year to be with younger family members. Time here is spent mainly working on the land, fixing accumulated problems with farm equip-

the CW end. I enjoyed the visit to Dayton and several items in the flea market were quite unusual. One was an exhibit and video of the German Enigma encryption machine used in WW2 another was an HF band linear that can loaf around with a

The Kentucky Horse Fence Antenna

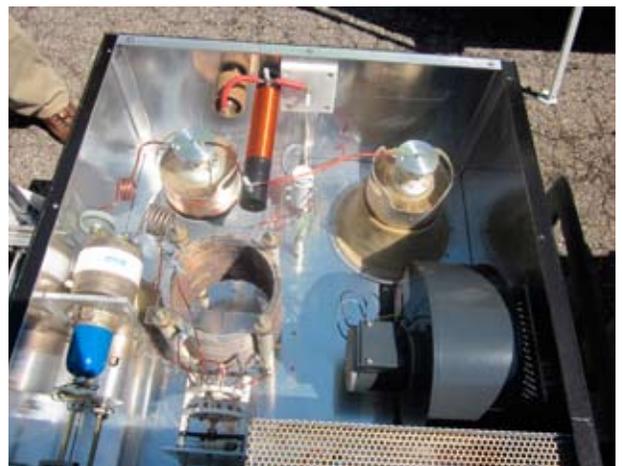


SSB output of 13KW, how about a combined electric horse fence antenna. I attended a meeting of the Atlanta Radio Club and made a presentation of using Ward's (AE6TY) Sim-Smith program and plan to take part during Field Day from a local club here in KY so hope for at least 1 qso.

73 Ron W6WO

ment, cooking, recreational reading and of course operating Ham Radio. This year I am using a borrowed Icom 706 which is doing quite well mainly due to the advantages of a really superior QTH and a 4-element Yagi. Tuning anywhere close to a big pile-up provides a convincing demo of receiver overload. The bulletins from ARRL on 20m are 60 dB over S9 and just about wipe out

15 KW Linear



CLUB MEETING FRIDAY JUNE 15, 7:30PM



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

On May 22nd, my XYL Donna, AB6XJ, gave Cap, KE6AFE, a call letting him know that I was going into Dominican Hospital ER for an 8 day vacation. Aside from the part of being really in need of full-care medical assistance, the stay was like living in a luxury hotel. Turns out that I couldn't breathe, and developed PCP pneumonia. Ever try not breathing? Bummer. Was OK during the days at home, but only shallow breathing at night. The good news is that all turned out well and I'm home and undergoing a bit of R&R. After years of ARES work with Dominican Hospital, I finally became a patient.

Did miss getting on ham radio during all this. Mostly the Baja Maritime Mobile Net, 7.235.5, at 0800 daily. I like to keep track of boaters in Mexican waters. We've had a few tragedies, with boats and people lost. Always a sad thing. When crewing on boats with ham gear aboard, is always nice in the evening when anchored, to talk to Donna at our home QTH. These days of computers and Skype, cell phones, or other devices not yet invented, ham radio is still different and fun. When in the Navy, several aircraft carriers I served on had ham shacks on board. The radio gang wasn't supposed to drill holes in the ships' hulls, but somehow, it happened. Being 60 feet above the water line, the one-inch hole for the antenna wouldn't be of any concern about the ship sinking. I heard one story about the USS Midway. Hams put a vertical antenna out from a compartment just below the flight deck. Held down by a lead weight, the antenna worked perfectly on a reflective heading until the ship turned. If the antenna hit the bow wave, there was a sudden grounding effect and communications were momentarily suspended. They didn't mind. Remember, this was back in the '50s and '60s. Hams had to coordinate with the communications officer (sometimes himself a ham) so as not to disrupt Naval communications. I never had a chance to get on the air from the ship but it would have been nice.

Am back on the air now, for the first time. And yes, I haven't forgotten how to ground my antennas.

Dayton continued

undoubtedly higher. I was happy to get on the bus and head back to the hotel.

Saturday, was pretty much the same story, except it was even hotter. The temperature almost hit 90 degrees. I didn't bring any sunscreen, either, so I got a little rosy.

I ran into some people that I knew that had just come down for the day, or perhaps that I'd missed the day before. One guy I ran into at the Ohio Repeater Council booth, pulled out his new Elecraft KX-3 and gave me a quick demo. It's actually quite a cool, little radio. I'm still saving up for a K-3, though.

Around noon, I went to the food court for a slice of pizza and a glass of beer. Seating is catch as catch can, so I shared a table with several other hams. This is great because you get to meet all kinds of different people.

This year, an older gentleman sat down next to me with his beer. We got to chatting, and as it turned out, this was his 55th straight year attending the Dayton Hamvention! He started going before it was even held at Hara Arena, and even after they moved to Hara, they didn't use the entire facility as they do now. I'm really glad that I got to speak with him.

So, what did you buy?

I didn't really go down to Dayton with much of a shopping list. In addition to the PC boards, I did pick up a bunch of other little stuff including some strain reliefs, more clamp-on ferrite cores, a paddle pad from Vibroplex (\$1) to keep the paddle down at the club station from sliding around, and some tube sockets! One of the vendors there had a box of tube sockets that they were selling for a quarter apiece or five for a dollar. I picked out five and paid the lady, and as I was walking away, I decided that they were such a good deal that I went back and bought five more.

My biggest purchase was NT7S's OpenBeacon QRSS transmitter (www.etherkit.com). It cost me \$40. It looks like a very nice kit, and I'm hoping to be on 30m QRSS shortly with it. The nice thing about this transmitter is that it has a microcontroller that lets it transmit DFCW and Hellschreiber, in addition to CW. It should be fun to both build and operate.

Too rich for my blood

In other news, both Kenwood and FlexRadio both introduced new radios at Dayton. Per-

haps the most buzz was around the Kenwood TS-990. All they were showing was a prototype under a Plexiglass cover. In addition to being incredibly expensive, the radio is huge! I heard someone joke that to produce this radio, Kenwood is going to have to corner the market on buttons and knobs. If you've seen the photo in QST (which was allegedly produced with Photoshop), you'll know what I mean.

The other radio with a bit of buzz is the new FlexRadio FLEX-6000. For the past couple of weeks, the FlexRadio website was proclaiming that this radio was going to be a game changer. Perhaps it is, but at \$6,000+, this radio is out of my league, and too expensive for the majority of radio amateurs. That being the case, I really don't know what all the buzz is about.

I'm sure that the TS-990 and the FLEX-6000 are both great radios, but I think that the law of diminishing returns applies here. At some point, are you really getting \$6,000 or \$12,000 of fun out of the radio? I don't think that I would.

Well, that's it. Another Dayton Hamvention is in the bag. It was a lot of fun, and I'm already looking forward to next year. I've already contacted one of the forum organizers about adding an adult education forum. I think that's something that's both needed and would be popular. I'll just have to make sure to leave enough time to hit the flea market and grab some more tube sockets or coax or whatever.

When he's not tromping around flea markets, or attending conferences, Dan, KB6NU, writes books about ham radio. His latest, 21 Things to Do After You Get Your Amateur Radio License, is available as an e-book from Amazon, Barnes&Noble, or from his website, <http://www.kb6nu.com/>. You can e-mail him with comments, questions, compliments, or brickbats at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Directory Updates Due Now!!!

Fellow members,

It's time to send me any updates on your contact information, your callsign, or your license class in order to have them included in our 2012 Club directory, which is going into production this week.

— 73, Kathleen KI6AIE, SCCARC Secretary

Too Many CB Sets Causes House Fire

Tampa Bay Online reports that having too many CB radios connected to one power source likely sparked a fire. One that caused tens of thousands of dollars of damage at a St. Petersburg, Florida home.

Fire investigators think the blaze was started by too many citizens band radios connected to an overloaded extension cord. Damage is estimated at \$35,000 to \$50,000. The owner of the home told the newspaper that he and his family were watching television when the fire started. They evacuated and no one was injured. The Red Cross helped the family find temporary lodging.

And less we forget, investigators say that the home where the fire occurred reportedly had no working smoke detectors. More is on-line at tinyurl.com/cb-house-fire.

— From Amateur Radio Newline (KB5TJI)

Address Changes?

If any of your contact information has changed, please notify SCCARC Secretary Kathleen McQuilling, KI6AIE, in person at the Club meeting or by email to ki6aie@k6bj.org by January 31 in order to have your current information printed in the new directory.

—Kathleen KI6AIE, Secretary, SCCARC



226 LES ONDES COURTES.

Réception des ondes courtes. Montage Reinartz. — Ce montage, imaginé par un américain, a les avantages suivants : réglage très simple, l'antenne peut ne pas être accordée sur la longueur d'onde à recevoir, ce qui permet de recevoir sur antennes de plus grande longueur d'onde.

Le montage est donné par la figure 199. On peut

Fig. 198. — Antenne d'émission avec contrepois.

recevoir les ondes amorties ou entretenues suivant la valeur de la self de la réaction.

On remarquera que le téléphone est en dérivation sur le circuit oscillant, aussi ne faut-il pas le shunter par le condensateur habituel de 2 m.Mf. Au contraire, on introduit dans son circuit une bobine à très grande self, B. La figure 200 montre un récepteur reinartz, construit par les établissements GMR,



SCCARC Board - 2012

President	Robert Ritchey	KJ6FFP	
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	Cap Pennell	KE6AFE	429-1290
	Jack Ragen	W3IVQ	
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) K6BJ D-Star 441.675 +5MHz (D Star link: tinyurl.com/dstar-sc) • 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	Jun 15
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Jun 15
Cake Meetings	Sat	Jun 9, 23
Board Meeting	Thurs	Jun 21
Field Day	Sat Sun	Jun 23, 24
Short Skip articles due	Mon	Jul 9
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Jul 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:

6/11	Lou KJ6CAI
6/18	Phil KE6UWH
6/25	Keith KJ6TXJ
7/2	Tom K6TG
7/9	Chris KG6DOZ
7/16	Lou KJ6CAI

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