

MAY 2012

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# SHORT SKIP



## Historical links

by Wayne Thalls

Both the Mercury and the Sentinel today carried a story about the newly remodeled Nature Center at Rancho del Oso. Located at the Santa Cruz and San Mateo county line along hiway 1, is now part of Big Basin State Park.

This was the summer home of Herbert Hoover's brother, who was Engineering Dean at Stanford. Both he and Herbert were Stanford grads. Herbert was the president of Stanford when he was nominated for the White House in 1928. Both brothers became wealthy as mining engineers, working all over the globe.

Herbert Hoover II, son of of the President, became a radio ham during his Stanford days. His son, Herbert III was also a ham. He was at one time president of the ARRL, the ham radio society. They both graduated Stanford. Years ago I exchanged e-mails with Herbert III when I was researching early radio history in the county. I was curious to find out if there had been any ham radio activity at the rancho. He assured me that there was not. Locally it appears that the only radio activity on the north coast was at Wilder Ranch, now also a state park.

The article refers to President Hoover's niece, Hulda Hoover McClean, who spent many years living at the rancho. The article would seem to infer that she was just a simple farm girl. Not so. She attended boarding schools in England and Switzerland. I think most of her childhood was spent abroad. She was a long-time member of the local genealogy society.

Arguably, the Hoovers may have had a greater impact on the University than did Leland Stanford. Even today, the campus is home to the Hoover Institute, a think tank.

## Real Radio

What I like most about HF is it's so unpredictable and for this reason I meander around the bands trusting to luck without the aid of spotters or even looking at propagation predictions. I must admit being quite chuffed when my modest station makes a rare contact out of the blue or when I can sneak through a pile-up. A recent example was looking over 12 meters at 0035 Z I worked JD1BMS thinking it was just another odd Japanese callsign. Upon checking I discovered that the prefix JD1 belongs to Mirami Torishima and is a distinct DXCC entity. I was curious and then most interested to learn about the geography and history of this tiny remote atoll with no civilian inhabitants. Most of the land is below sea level !



Minami-Tori-Shimor Marcus Island is an isolated Japanese coral atoll in the Northwestern Pacific. The meaning of the Japanese name is "Southern Bird Island". It is the easternmost territory belonging to Japan, and the only Japanese territory on the Pacific Plate, past the Japan Trench. Although very small, it is of extreme strategic importance, as it enables Japan to claim a 428,875 square kilometers (165,589.6 sq mil economic zone in the surrounding waters. JD1BMS remained above the noise level for only about 15 minutes so lucky me !

—Ron W6WO

## Blogs and Podcasts

Mailing lists, blogs, and podcasts are good sources of ham info

Whether you're a newcomer or an old-timer, the Internet is possibly the best way to learn as much as you can about amateur radio. On the Internet, you'll find many, many ham radio mailing lists, podcasts, and videos. In essence, these resources give you access to hundreds, if not thousands, of Elmers.

One mailing list that I always suggest to new hams is the HamRadioHelpGroup (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup>). The purpose of this group is to help "those who are interested in getting started in Amateur Radio or upgrading their license." This mailing list has a good mix of beginners and experts, and most questions are answered quickly and correctly. One thing that I really like about this group is that the moderators do a good job of keeping the discussions on track, and will squelch them when they stray off topic or threaten to turn into flame wars.

In addition to the HamRadioHelpGroup, you might also want to join a more targeted mailing list. For example, if you're interested in learning Morse Code (hint, hint), you might join the SolidCpyCW list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SolidCpyCW/>). If you just bought a Yaesu FT-60 hand-held transceiver, you might want to join the FT-60 list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FT-60/>). Chances are that no matter what your interest, there's probably a mailing list to discuss that interest.

I'm subscribed to a lot of amateur radio mailing lists and could probably spend most of my day just reading and replying to them. In order to get the most out of them, without them taking away from my on-air time, I only read those threads that I am really interested in, and even then, I quit reading them once they have started to drift off-topic. I also

Continued page 3

**CLUB MEETING FRIDAY MAY 18, 7:30PM**



By Art Lee WF6P

## CHATTER

When checking in on the Baja Net last week, I was surprised when Bob Sissler, WD6AWI, thanked me again for all the phone patches I made for him and his XYL, Betty, WA6LLO (SK). "That was over 32 years ago, Art." Bob and Betty were cruising in the Pacific from their homeport of San Pedro, my one-time home town (1932-7). Their daughter lived in San Diego, I believe. I made the patches several times each month. Coincidentally, last month I was going through radio gear for donations to our club auction and came upon a box with the phone patch equipment neatly stowed inside. That setup with my old Yaesu FT-301 worked well. With modern cell phones and computers so available, the requests for phone patches ceased.

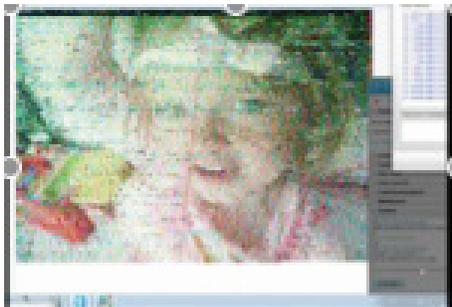
Two of my sailing companions, Michael and Laura Ray, are taking steps to buy a cruising sailboat. We have looked at a few so far, one up in Jack London Square in Oakland. I see what they want. One boat we looked at was in much need of repair and lacked an engine. Not for them. Whatever boat they do decide on, I will help them set it up with HF ham radio and get licensed. I think ham radio is nice to have on board for live chats. When crewing on other ham equipped boats, I talked to my XYL Donna, AB6XJ, daily. After anchoring, Terry Parks, N6NUN, would fire up the gear and we'd share a bottle of his wine while Donna and I talked.

My sixteen-year-old grandson Beckett has aspirations of attending the Naval Academy. His grades, especially English and Math are impeccable and he is trying to fill his "bucket list" with acceptance-enhancing achievements. I have in mind, an FCC General Class ham license – as a science credit. At present he is serving in the Sea Cadet Program aboard a Tall Ship sailing out of Point Mugu. He's one busy young fella so time may be a limitation. He is a very good pianist, and that should be a highly acceptable attribute. While not on the air these days, both mom and dad, N6UZI, are licensed hams.

## EME and Field Day from Poland



Last Saturday a team of Polish hams did an outstanding job with their first Moonbounce effort, with the Big dish Dwingeloo station, using Image Bounce, sending probably 25 color photos, many of children's and adults crayon drawings of space and other themes.



Hardly a single glitch on their side, and it was carried by Ustream Streaming. Look for Opticks in Ustream for in control room video of the event.

Then some of the team sent me very nice very familiar video of one of their Field Days in Poland, held at an old castle site. Soooooooooooooooooo familiar... Looks like FI is very much the same anywhere in the world.

Take a look:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRjq0e2Myjo>

<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/22194783>



—73, Pat Barthelow, AA6EG  
apolloeme@gmail.com

## Strawberry Fields Volunteers Needed

The 23rd Annual Strawberry Fields Forever cycling event is fast approaching (Sunday, May 20th) and more volunteer radio operators are needed to provide support for this event. This is a fun event where new amateur radio operators can learn about traffic handling, and is good practice for veteran operators as well.

The course is open from 7 am to 5 pm. If you are interested please respond to this email with your preference of early or late shift (or all day) assignment, preferred rest stop, interest in driving sag, as well as your tee-shirt size.

This is quite an event with international themes, food, fruit and beverages at each of the rest stops. Lunch is provided, and a hot meal is available at the end. Top that off with fresh whipped cream and strawberries dipped in chocolate ganache. It's hard to beat the food!

Jerry Inman, AE6I

Emergency Coordinator - Santa Cruz ARES

## Treasurer's Report

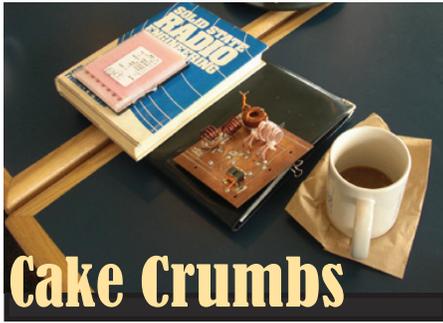
The March 2012 Treasurer's Report presented to the Board of Directors showed that the SCCARC treasury had \$4,081.39 in cash and bank accounts (total less encumbrances: \$3,554.39). At that time all financial obligations for which invoices had been received had been met except the annual equipment insurance premium. The full Report, incorporating the current working budget as well as actual income and expenditure figures for the first quarter of 2012, will be available for review at the May 18 Club meeting.

## 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



Notes for 4/14

The session was very well attended and quite animated. I may have been guilty of over-modulation! It was good to see Eric K6EP. There were so many subjects and simultaneous conversations that I will just comment on them briefly. We discussed the attention needed to some older gear that are truly bargains; like the FT101. When electronics sit around unused for long periods they often deteriorate and old style carbon resistors can change their values considerably. We discussed ways to clean contacts as even with gold plating they can eventually give trouble. Ceramic filters in some newish radios like the TS2000 and Ft857 have given trouble. Microscopes or PC-based cameras become necessary in dealing with tiny components but tend to challenge eye-hand coordination. Seems like a growing interest in using toaster ovens for soldering boards with many surface mount devices. Classes for would-be hams are going very well so all involved should be congratulated. A company called "Youkits" was mentioned which I will check-out. Speaking of kits, building a high performance radio like the Elecraft K2 is quite a challenge but a source of great satisfaction. Some comments were made about the most elementary mistakes made by young engineers with no home-brew experience. In some situations this could be serious. Finding the right hardware can be a problem and the Keystone product line was mentioned as a place to look. There was a valuable discussion on the topic of DC power supplies and antennas for automobile use. The question on the best way to determine high levels isolation raised the significance of the dynamic range of measuring instruments. A very spirited debate took place on standards vs technical evolution. This began with an observation about Kenwood entering the market with a product to compete with DSTAR. This discussion evolved into more general views of open-source digital voice technology (known as Asterisk), proprietary codecs and the value of interoperability. I want to thank those who contributed Gary K6PDL, Alan K2ACK Reed N1WC, Tom KW6S, Kerry K3RRY, Byron N6NUL, Frank K6BDK, Eric K6EP, Oliver KJ6LDD, Rich W1WUH and Tuck AF6GQ

## HAM RADIO IN SPACE

The Space Systems Academic Group at the US Naval Postgraduate School has developed the NPSCuL Launcher or NPSCuL.

NPSCuL is described as an auxiliary payload platform. It is designed to allow multiple CubeSats to be launched aboard rockets as secondary payloads. This means that the launch rocket would be able to carry satellites in onboard space that would otherwise be unused.

NPSCuL can accommodate up to 24 CubeSats in a single Secondary Payload Adapter. On reaching the desired orbit, spring-loaded doors will release the satellites one-by-one.

A first flight is planned for August 2012 which will carry 11 CubeSats. (ANS).

—from Amateur Radio Newline

## ULTRA THIN FLEXIBLE BATTERIES

In news from around the world, an ultra-thin flexible battery is on its way from Japan electronic giant NEC. According to reports, the company has worked for over a decade to design an organic battery is just one one-hundredth of an inch thick, can refresh a teeny screen 2,000 times and can be recharged in less than a minute.

In 2013, the battery is expected to be included in such items as enhanced credit and debit cards that display balances, electronic hotel keys, subway and train passes, and in much slimmer and lighter smart phones. The organic battery is also expected to pave the way for slender flat-screen displays and e-readers with a texture that feels like paper. (Kiplinger, CGC)

—from Amateur Radio Newline

I would like to plea for more contributions to Short Skip, share what interests you and please get something to our Editor Ron K6EXT and Kathleen KI6AIE who work so hard on our behalf. This will be my last CAKE meeting for a while but I do look forward to the news.

## Visual Harmonics

I found this entertaining and tried to end this once before but it didn't make it thru .  
[http://sciencedemonstrations.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k16940&pageid=icb.page80863&pageContentId=icb.pagecontent341734&state=maximize&view=view.do&viewParam\\_name=indepth.html#a\\_icb\\_pagecontent341734](http://sciencedemonstrations.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k16940&pageid=icb.page80863&pageContentId=icb.pagecontent341734&state=maximize&view=view.do&viewParam_name=indepth.html#a_icb_pagecontent341734)

## Blogs continued

un-subscribe myself from lists that cover topics that I'm no longer interested in.

Blogs, podcasts and videos

In addition to getting on a few mailing lists, you might want to read a few blogs and subscribe to podcasts. These are also great sources of information about amateur radio. I blog about amateur radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com), and lots of hams find it a good source of information. You can find a list of other ham radio blogs that I'd recommend on my home page.

Podcasts are also a good source of information. One podcast that you might want to check out is the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast (<http://www.myamateurradio.com>). Since 2008, Jerry, KDOBK, has been producing PARRP, and currently has more than 50 different episodes online. For other podcasts, consult the list on Jerry's home page.

Finally, there are literally thousands of amateur radio videos on the net. On YouTube alone, there are approximately 32,000 of them. The American Radio Relay League has its own channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ARRLHQ>), but perhaps the most popular amateur radio video channel is the K7AGE channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/K7AGE>). K7AGE has more than 6,200 subscribers and his videos have garnered more than 2.1 million views!

Whatever source or sources of information you select, remember to not let them take up too much of your time. Ham radio is about more than just reading, listening, or watching. It's about doing!

When he's not answering yet another e-mail, Dan blogs about ham radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com), teaches ham classes, and ragchews on 30m and 40m CW. You can e-mail him with comments or questions at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## Visual SWR

Visual traveling waves, standing waves, beating, and random motion.

[http://sciencedemonstrations.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k16940&pageid=icb.page80863&pageContentId=icb.pagecontent341734&state=maximize&view=view.do&viewParam\\_name=indepth.html#a\\_icb\\_pagecontent341734](http://sciencedemonstrations.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k16940&pageid=icb.page80863&pageContentId=icb.pagecontent341734&state=maximize&view=view.do&viewParam_name=indepth.html#a_icb_pagecontent341734)

How cool is this !!!!

—Ron W6W0

### SCCARC Board - 2012

President	Robert Ritchey	KJ6FFP	
Vice President	Brandon Bealer	KJ6DKK	
Secretary	Kathleen McQuilling	KI6AIE	476-6303
Treasurer	David Copp	WS2I	708-2206
Board	Doug Burklo	KI6ZIB	
	Mike Doern	KM6IKE	477-1161
	Bruce Hawkins	AC6DN	689-9923
	Cap Pennell	KE6AFE	429-1290
	Jack Ragen	W3IVQ	
K6BJ Trustee	Allen Fugelseth	WB6RWU	475-8846

### MONTEREY BAY REPEATER ACTIVITY

Santa Cruz County	<p>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: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/dstar-sc">tinyurl.com/dstar-sc</a>)          • 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</p>
ARES Net	<p>SC County Wide ARES Tuesday 7:30 PM on 147.180+ PL 94.8 and 443.600+ PL 110.9 linked</p>
San Lorenzo Valley	<p>WR6AOK 147.120+ PL 94.8 Ben Lomond          • SLV Net Thursday 7:30 PM</p>
Loma Prieta	<p>AB6VS 440.550+ / AE6KE 146.835- PL 94.8 (linked for net)          • LP ARES / LPARC Net Tuesday 7:15 PM</p>
Monterey	<p>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</p>
LPRC	<p>WR6ABD 146.640- PL 162.2 / 442.900+ PL 162.2 (<a href="http://winsystem.org">winsystem.org</a>)          • LPRC Net Tuesday 8:00 PM 146.640-(PL 162.2)          • Amateur Radio Newslines broadcast Tuesday</p>
<p>• Santa Clara Valley Section Traffic NET Tuesday 9:00PM 146.640- (PL 162.2)</p>	
<p>FOR MORE INFO SEE: <a href="http://www.k6bj.org/freq.html">http://www.k6bj.org/freq.html</a></p>	

### SCCARC Calendar of Events

ARES Meeting (prior to club meeting)	Friday	May 18
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	May 18
Cake Meetings	Sat	May 12, 26
Board Meeting	Thurs	May 24
Short Skip articles due	Mon	Jun 4
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Jun 15
Field Day	Sat Sun	Jun 23, 24

### 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:

5/14	Lou KJ6CAI
5/21	Phil KE6UWH
5/28	Tom K6TG
6/4	Chris KG6DOZ
6/11	Lou KJ6CAI

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  
 Editor: Ron Baldwin, [k6ext.santacruz@gmail.com](mailto:k6ext.santacruz@gmail.com)  
 Columnist: Art Lee, WF6P  
 Writer: Ron Skelton, W6WO



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