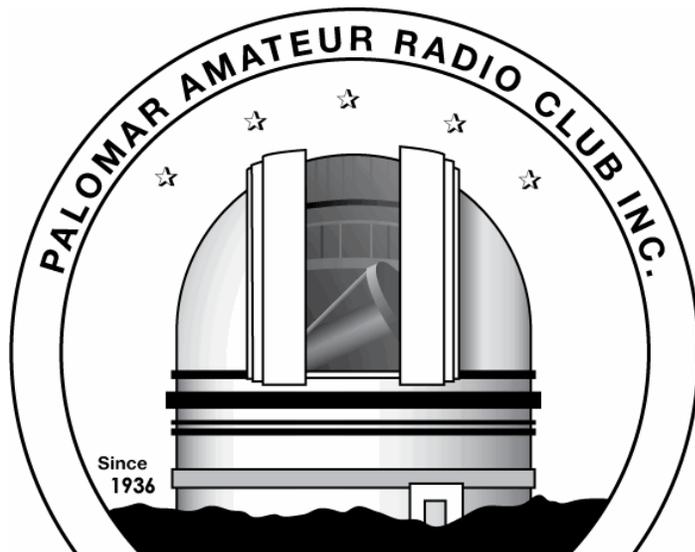


# SCOPE

A newsletter by and for the Palomar Amateur Radio Club of San Diego, California.



## Save the Date

Club Meeting

**2 February 2011**

You are invited to the 75th birthday party for Palomar Amateur Radio Club. Games! Food!

Board Meeting

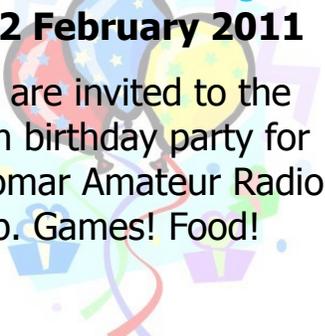
**9 February 2011**

Palomar Amateur Radio Club board meeting at 7:00pm

Party!

**10 February 2011**

Valentine Party for Hams! See page 5 for details. Sign up now!



## Club Membership for February Edition

### Club Membership

New Members Joining PARC: W6BCO, KG6WBJ, W6DMG, N6JO. Several members reinstated their membership, which had lapsed. Thanks to all.

A number of members have elected to receive the SCOPE on the WEB. This saves the club the cost of printing and mailing, which is good. The 'not so good' is that they do not get the monthly reminder that their membership is up for renewal - which is printed on the mailing label for those that receive the SCOPE by mail. As a service, we are printing the call's of the web SCOPE members whose membership has expired recently, hopefully by oversight. The following memberships have expired within in the last couple of months: W6CD, W6NQ, KG6UTS, KG6SPL, and KJ6EDO. PLEASE RENEW!!

AI  
W6GNI

## PALOMAR ENGINEERS

Box 462222, Escondido, CA 92046

### TOROID CORES

Palomar stocks a wide variety of cores and beads. Our RFI Tip Sheet is free on request.

Our RFI kit keeps RF out of your telephones, TVs, stereo, etc. **Model RFI-4**  
**\$35 +tax+\$8 to ship.**

### BALUN KITS

Ferrites slip over coax. Shrink tubing holds them in place. Works from 3.5-60 MHz (Use two kits for 160m).

**Model BA-58** (for RG58, RG8X & similar cables up to 1/4" dia.) \$8.50+tax+\$8 S&H/order

**Model BA-8** (for RG-8, RG-213, 9913 and similar cables up to 1/2" dia.) \$16.50+tax+\$8 S&H/order.

See catalog at [www.Palomar-Engineers.com](http://www.Palomar-Engineers.com)

Please check our complete ads in **QST**, **CQ**, and **WorldRadio** magazines.

### January Issue Fold & Staple

KB6NMK Jo WA5ACE Sonny  
W6GNI AI & Kathy  
KB6YHZ Art & Janet  
The last Fold & Staple for 2010!



# Advertisements are free for members

Have items that need to find a new home? Advertise here! Send your ads to [scope@palomararc.org](mailto:scope@palomararc.org)



## For Sale

Complete Kenwood TS-130S rig including TS-130S with MC-30S handheld microphone, YK-88C 500Hz crystal filter, operator and service manuals; PS-30S DC power supply with operator manual; VF-120 remote VFO with interconnect cable and operator manual (in Japanese); and SP-120 external speaker with operator manual. Known issues: TS-130S needs dial lamps replaced and the S-meter needs to be adjusted; VFO-120 needs dial lamps replaced and dial needs to be recalibrated. \$350. Contact Bob Felton, K7WLX, at 760-598-7459 or [k7wlx@arrl.net](mailto:k7wlx@arrl.net).

## For Sale

Item	Price
YAESU FT-1000	\$2,500.00
Kenwood TS-950 S	2,500.00
FT-2500 M	350.00
Kenwood SWR/PWR Meter, Model SW-2000	50.00
TR-7330 2 M	150.00
Astro PS7 A	25.00
Cubic Astro -150 A-10-80M Transceiver	250.00
Ten-Tec Centurion amp 1kw	1,500.00
Ten-Tec Titan amp 1kw	2,500.00
FLUKE Meter Model 77	65.00
SHURE Microphone Push to talk Model 444	30.00
3-500 tubes	100.00 ea.

Contact: R. F. Krist, W6KTE, (760) 724-2786

## For Sale

Bearcat 142XL Scanning Radio, in original box, complete and working. 10 bands, 10 channels. Works. \$40.00.

Pete, K6JQE. 858-755-4838

## For Sale

Crank-up tower, 4 sections (collapsed length=12' 9" ), triangular- 18" bottom to 10" top. 3' top bolt on tapered section with rotor head and thrust bearing installed + 6' of pipe above the taper. Base plate 22" x 22" with 3 studs to set tower on. Lifting winch had a motor at one time but now gone, leaving a spline shaft sticking out of the worn gear box to which a handle or motor can be grafted. Located in Poway, weight 400+/- lbs for tower alone and 150+/- lbs for the top piece, base plate and winch - \$250. Gary 858-748-6076 [wb6gsn@gmail.com](mailto:wb6gsn@gmail.com)

**For Sale:** HUSTLER 6BTV High Performance HF Vertical Antenna system, 80/75/40/30/20/15/10 m, complete with 250ft spool 14 ga wire and all pre-cut radials, SS Tilt base and SS Radial plate. Used one year. Bought new at \$400, will sell for \$200. Contact: Rich Ortloff KE6DUG 760-861-1406

**For Sale:** 6BTV Vertical Antenna. Crank up Tower with rotor and 3 El Yagi. Must be taken down and removed. Call Lee, (760) 726-1097

# Notes From the Repeater Site

by Art KC6UQH

Bernie, N6FN and Art visited the repeater site on 22 January 2011. Their purpose was to install the 447.000 spare with receive control of CTCSS regeneration. This is a new concept. If you use Tone decode on your radio you will not hear ID or anyone without a Tone encode. This is done to allow Bernie to set up the EchoLink on 447.000.

447.00 is currently using a mobile duplexer, the duplexer at the site was removed for repair/replacement and was causing desense problems.

The squelch control on the 147.13 was vigorously exercised and the .13 is back to normal operation.

Conrad met us at the site and removed the 6M repeater for repair off site. The TX power was out down to 3 W.

# Help With Test Session

by Steve Early AD6VI

I have scheduled the Carlsbad Safety Center for a One-Day Technician Class on Saturday, February 26th. This class is being offered in support of the North County CERT programs.

I have scheduled the Carlsbad Safety Center for a One-day General Class on Saturday, March 5th. This class is being offered in anticipation of a more difficult exam starting Jul 1, 2011.

I have scheduled the Carlsbad Safety Center for a Get-On-The-Air Seminar for the afternoon of Saturday, March 12th (after normal VE Session). This class is being offered to help new and up-

graded operators to develop and improve skills. It is scheduled to allow persons to take advantage of the regular Carlsbad Exam Session, in the event they did not succeed after the Tech and General Classes.

I am hoping to offer an exam session immediately after the Tech and General Classes. This would be 5 PM on February 26th and 5 PM on March 5th. My intent is to get the students examined while they are still retaining the bulk of the material.

I believe that it is too much to the Carlsbad team to support both classes and their regular session. Therefore, I offer the Carlsbad Team the right of first refusal, but also ask the rest of you to consider supporting each of the classes.

Please advise, if available for Feb 26th or March 5th.



<p><b>HAM RADIO OUTLET</b></p> <p>Jose XE2SJB Jerry N5MCJ Joe N6SIX</p> <p>H R O</p>	<p><b>KENWOOD rf CONCEPTS DIAMOND US TOWERS KANTRONICS YAESU, MFJ, ICOM BENCHER, Inc. HUSTLER COMET AMERITRON</b></p>	<p><b>Astron, AEA, OUTBACKER Larsen Antennas TEN-TEC Hy-gain, Tri-EX, Cushcraft And Others too Numerous to Mention!</b></p>	<p>Drop in to see our display of working equipment. Find out about Pkt location determining equipment (APRS). Check our complete line of magazines, ARRL books, license manuals, and Bulletin Board with all sorts of Goodies listed.</p>
<p>Open: 10a.m. – 5:30p.m. Monday thru Saturday <i>Ask about our great prices</i> 858 560-4900 or toll free 1-800-854-6046</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> On 163, take <b>Clairemont Mesa Blvd.</b> off ramp to East. Stay in right-hand lane. Turn right at stoplight. As you are turning right you can see our beams in this shopping center. Travel 100 yds. On Kearny Villa Rd. and U-turn back to shopping area and HRO sign. Be sure to see our equipment in action on <b>real</b> antennas!</p>		

## HIGH CLAIMED-SCORES — 1946 FIELD DAY

As this issue goes to press, Field Day logs have been received from 104 club groups, 53 nonclub groups and individuals, and 45 home stations.

We are passing along the highest claimed-scores so far reported. These are subject to checking, and should not be considered a final tally.

### CLUB GROUPS

(Listing shows club name, call used in FD, claimed-score, and number of simultaneously-operated transmitters.)

Jersey Shore Amateur Association	W2FC/2	9621-8
Frankford Radio Club	W3BES/3	8568-7
Tri-County Radio Association	W2KHK/2	6921-8
Northwest Amateur Radio Club	W9IT/9	6363-5
Monmouth County Amateur Radio Association	W3AC/2	6237-7
Motor City Radio Club	W8ONK/8	4500-3
St. Paul Radio Club	W9KYC/8	4338-6
Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Assn.	W8JIN/8	4320-2
Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club	W9RNX/9	4239-3
Somerset Hills Radio Club	W3ZD/2	3978-5
York Road Radio Club	W3IU/3	3879-5
Steel City Amateur Radio Club	W8TUD/3	3870-5
Palomar Radio Club	W6BKZ/6	3756-6
Mountaineer Amateur Radio Association	W8BOK/8	3555-6
Mon Yough Amateur Transmitters Association	W8OC/8	3267-2
Amateur Transmitters Assn. of Western Pa.	W8BSO/3	3249-4
Wisconsin Valley Radio Association	W9RQM/9	3060-2
Narragansett Assn. of Amateur Radio Oprs.	W1LWA/1	3051-1
Minneapolis Radio Club	W8OBM/8	2961-3
Northern Nassau Wireless Association	W2FJV/2	2907-5
Tulsa Amateur Radio Club	W5IAS/5	2875-4
Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club	W8DM/8	2817-3
Beacon Radio Amateurs	W3ATR/3	2707-2
Lancaster Radio Transmitting Society	W3LN/3	2664-1
Delaware Valley Radio Association	W3AQ/2	2538-3
Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club	W9SYT/9	2538-3
Cuyahoga Radio Association	W8GW/8	2529-2
York Radio Club	W9GY/9	2502-3
Bridgeport Amateur Radio Club	W1MWN/1	2457-3
Cahokia Amateur Radio Club	W9TCK/9	2427-3
So. Lyme Beer, Chowder and Propagation Soc.	W1EH/1	2371-1
North Newark Amateur Radio Club	W2PY/2	2322-3
Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Assn.	W8SLO/8	2313-1
Racine Megacycle Club	W9PWJ/9	2214-3
Joliet Amateur Radio Society	W9HVZ/9	2181-3
Fort Worth Kilocycle Club	W5AA/5	2142-2
New Haven Amateur Radio Association	W1GB/1	2106-4
South Hills Brass Pounders and Modulators	W8BK/3	2061-2
Toledo Radio Club	W8ARF/8	2061-3
Iowa City Radio Club	W8IFB/8	2040-3

### NONCLUB GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS

(Listing shows call used by each group, number of operators, claimed score, and number of simultaneously-operated transmitters.)

W9ERU/9	10-2574-3	W1BDI/1	5-1428-1
W9RCQ/1	1-2115-1	W7RT/7	1-1424-1
W6PNU/6	4-1978-2	W8KYW/3	9-1368-2
W6STA/6	3-1876-2	W9VPD/9	4-1233-2
W2FBA/2	2-1827-1	W8UPS/4	5-1170-2
W9PEK/9	11-1512-2	W8VMF/3	4-1134-1
W8FBC/8	3-1467-1	W1GKJ/1	4-1116-1
W9AVE/9	7-1431-3	W1JWG/1	2-1057-1
WILLX/1	2-1428-1		



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**When: 10 February 2011**

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us so I can warn the restaurant.  
RSVP!**

**(760) 722-5394**

**or**

**wb0ycq@arrl.net**

**The magic words are:  
Ham Radio Group**



# December Minutes

Palomar Amateur Radio Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 8, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Baca KD6TUJ at 7:23pm at the home of Ron Pollack, K2RP. In attendance were:

- President Dennis Baca KD6TUJ
- Vice President Ron Pollack, K2RP
- Secretary Paul Williamson, KB5MU
- Director #1 Don Johnson, WD6FWE
- Director #2 Conrad Lara KG6JEI
- Visitor Bernie Lafreniere N6FN

## Secretary's Report

Secretary Paul Williamson KB5MU distributed copies of the November Board meeting minutes as emailed by last year's Secretary, Gary Kent W6GDK. Motion by KB5MU to approve the minutes as published. Seconded by Ron Pollack K2RP. Motion passed, with Conrad Lara KG6JEI abstaining. KB5MU distributed copies of the December general membership meeting minutes as emailed by last year's Secretary W6GDK. Motion by KG6JEI to approve the minutes as published. Seconded by KB5MU. Motion passed unanimously.

## Treasurer's Report

KB5MU distributed copies of the Treasurer's report as emailed by the Treasurer, Georgia Smith KI6LAV. It showed a reimbursement to Dennis Vernacchia N6KI of \$68.76 for parts used to refurbish the Club's 20m antennas, charged against the Rptr Maint account. It was agreed to ask KI6LAV if there might be a more appropriate account for this charge. A question was raised about why we maintain a telephone line at the repeater site. It is for convenience and safety for workers at the site, and can also be used for repeater control. Motion by KB5MU to approve the Treasurer's report subject to a possible adjustment of the account for the N6KI reimbursement. Seconded by Director Don Johnson WD6FWE. Motion passed unanimously.

## Upcoming General Meeting Program

KD6TUJ reported that the January general membership meeting program would be presented by Michelle Thompson W5NYV on antenna modeling with her SWAT team.

## Membership Report

No membership report was available.

Appointment of 2011 Committee Chairs KD6TUJ announced his intention to re-appoint Al Donlevy W6GNI as membership chairman and W5NYV as Scope editor, if they are willing to serve. KG6JEI said he would be willing to serve as repeater technical chairman. No appointment for repeater technical chairman or repeater site chairman was announced.

## Repeater Technical Reports

KD6TUJ mentioned receiving a report of a prob-

lem with the Club's 147.075 MHz repeater. KG6JEI said he has spot-checked the repeater without discovering any problem.

KG6JEI reported on the status of the 52.68 MHz repeater. The antenna was found in even worse condition, so Art McBride KC6UQH turned off the repeater to prevent damage. KG6JEI recommended that the repeater be removed from the repeater site and given an overhaul while its antenna is out of service. He believes that the connections to the mobile control heads of the transceivers cause problems. KD6TUJ reported that KC6UQH has reinstalled the amateur television (ATV) repeater, but that it is not linked to any other locations. KG6JEI said that KC6UQH does not currently plan to re-install any of the linking equipment, but that if someone is interested in doing so he would assist.

## EchoLink Proposal

Bernie Lafreniere N6FN proposed connecting one of the Club's repeaters to the EchoLink VoIP system. The main technical issue is blocking the repeater identification and courtesy tones from going out on the Internet link. N6FN said that KC6UQH believes this could be managed easily with simple cut-and-jumper modifications to the repeater controller board. Because a standalone EchoLink node would require a fast Internet connection, not readily available at the repeater site, all other equipment would be located elsewhere. The Board agreed by consensus that N6FN be authorized to operate an EchoLink node on the 447.0 MHz repeater on a test basis.

## Kids Day

KD6TUJ reported that approval had been received from the City of San Marcos to use Double Peak Park for the Kid's Day operation on January 2. The ranger was concerned about how spread out we were at the last Operating Day, so we'll try to be more compact this time. Tim Higgins KJ6BWX is taking the lead, backed up by Steve Early AD6VI. KJ6BWX is trying to get media coverage. KD6TUJ will bring out the tower trailer and other equipment.

## Oceanside Antenna Ordinance

KD6TUJ reported progress on the Oceanside antenna ordinance. A meeting was held with several Council members and about twenty others, with strong interest from the Council members and a good question-and-answer session. Council members seemed impressed to learn about the engineering paperwork already provided by tower manufacturers.

## Membership Campaign Proposal

K2RP noted that the upcoming 75th anniversary party at the February membership meeting would be a good opportunity to reach out to local hams who might join. He proposed a direct mailing to about 1300 hams in surrounding zip codes. KB5MU expressed a concern about restricting our

Don Johnson KD6FWE  
at PARC Field Day 1977.



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K2RP announced that the March (or maybe April) meeting program would feature Bob Blumberg K4RB, a stalwart CW operator who operated from many exotic locations while working for USAID. He will talk about an IOTA expedition to an Indonesian island with a group of Indonesian hams.

#### **Monthly Nag**

KG6JEI asked KD6TUJ if the generator auto-start was installed and working yet. KD6TUJ did not dignify this question with an answer.

#### **Next Board Meeting**

It was agreed that the next Board meeting would be held at the home of KB5MU at 7pm on January 12, 2011.

recruiting to only a small part of the county. No action was taken.

#### **Call for Scope Articles**

KB5MU relayed the request from Scope editor W5NYV for more articles for the Scope.

#### **Future General Meeting Program**

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Williamson KB5MU  
Secretary

1936, PARC has its first meeting. At left is the newspaper announcement.

## Amateur Radio Men Meet In Carlsbad

Amateur radio operators from all parts of northern San Diego county assembled in Carlsbad this Thursday evening for their monthly meeting. Fred Elser was host at his electric and radio store on First street where his own station, W6GVU, is located.

"Hams," as they term themselves, lead interesting lives. They not only have the world by the ear, they listen as well as talk. All amateur operators are required to know the international code before they are given licenses, and many of them have telephone wireless equipment too, so that they are in daily touch with each other. Messages are sent free by them to all parts of the world where there are amateur stations, and they are in honor bound to secrecy regarding the messages.

The members of the north county group are Bill Whigham and Stanley Estes, Solana Beach; Fred Elser, Carlsbad; Johnnie Martin, Harold Ulmer, Clinton Call, Bill Jago, Melvin Bacon, Vernon Choate, Fred Pierce, Oceanside; Jack Cornell, Harry Field,

Marjorie Lank, 33; Robert Armstrong, 32; Richard...

Thursday, F

The

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February 13, 1936

Thursday,



May 13, 1937

May 13, 1937  
Mr Ernest Epler, Sec.

Palomar Radio Club,  
Mr. Ernest Epler, Secy.,  
Route 2, Box 158,  
Escondido, Calif.

Dear Mr. Epler:

It gives me great pleasure to advise you that at the meeting of the A.R.R.L. Board of Directors just held, the application of your club for affiliation with the A.R.R.L. was formally presented and your club declared a duly affiliated society. A charter will be sent you as soon as it can be prepared. I know that our respective organizations will always find much of benefit in each other's strength and progress.

It is suggested that you keep in touch with the nearest A.R.R.L. Communications Department representative elected by A.R.R.L. members in your territory (see address page 5, QST) and endeavor to keep him advised of the radio activities of your club members. Our A.R.R.L. would, we feel sure, like to have a full complement of appointments of qualified operators in different capacities right in your club organization. I refer to such appointments as those for Official Broadcasting Station, Official Observer, Official Phone Station and Official Relay Station. These are all explained fully in the Handbook.

Kindly arrange to keep us posted on any change in the officers of your club so our records will be correct.

Sincerely yours,

F2E\*LLS

CC SCM Ambler, W6EOP

F. E. Handy  
Communications Manager

# The Adventures of Tom and Sue

This is part two. Part one was published in the January 2011 Scope. You can find this issue online at our website [www.palomararc.org](http://www.palomararc.org).

The area I was in was also relatively smooth and I could see up ahead that the region near the left bank all appeared to be less turbulent than the rest of the river. If I could safely navigate downriver past the rapids, I could possibly manage to maneuver myself over to the right bank and beach the kayak.

Hanging onto the branch was working very well at keeping me in one place and I could see several other overhanging branches ahead of me. Letting go of the branch, and using the paddle, I pushed off and once again headed downstream. This time I used the paddle to remain as close as possible to the left bank.

About 30-40 feet along, I grabbed another branch and brought myself to a halt. I rested a couple of minutes and did it again. I found another branch and stopped once more. This was working OK. I pushed off again. Up ahead I saw a rather large tree, which had fallen into the river. It was resting at a 45-degree angle from the top of the left bank, about 20 feet up, to the water with an unknown amount of it under water. There was about 4-5 feet of clearance between the trunk and the water near the bank and I headed for that spot.

The water was smooth although moving very swiftly. When I was 20-30 feet from the fallen tree, I saw that there was a smaller log, perhaps a branch off this larger tree, lying just beneath the surface of the water under the tree trunk toward which I was headed! I couldn't go there so I would have to pass offshore from the fallen tree. I started paddling with all my might but to no avail! I couldn't overcome the force of the current and I couldn't get offshore from the tree. The current slammed me against the fallen tree, tipping the kayak on its' side and wedged firmly against the fallen tree! The tree trunk still had some broken branches poking out and these effectively blocked the kayak from any further movement. It was at a right angle to the flow of the river, on its right side with the top facing upstream. The branches held it fast, sideways to the flow, with the bow pointing toward the opposite bank. One branch nearly impaled the bottom and I was once again in the water! I held on there for a few minutes. It was obvious that the kayak wasn't going anywhere! The force of the gravity driven river pushing against the flat top of the kayak, wedged firmly against the tree trunk, and held there by

numerous branches was such that I wasn't going to be able to move it. I was on the upstream side of the capsized kayak being pummeled by the water. After a few minutes of trying, and with great effort, I was able to pull myself up half onto the tree trunk and half on the capsized kayak. After resting there for a few minutes, I managed to get entirely onto the tree trunk.

I checked the kayak and found it to be completely immovable against the force of the water. So there I sat on the tree trunk, facing the open water. It was hard to maintain my balance on the trunk because it was so slippery from the constant splashing of water and algae growth. There were branches firmly against my back and I couldn't push myself any further up the trunk nor could I turn around to see what was blocking my way. I resigned myself to waiting there until help arrived.

Several other people floating on the river passed by with most hollering to ask if I was OK or injured. I yelled back at everyone telling them that I was OK but my wife had fallen out upstream. A few of them said they would send help.

Two groups, when I told them about Sue, gave me a thumbs-up signal. I took that to mean she was still safely on the island. She didn't have the benefit of knowing about me as I did about her and was very worried. One group of 5 people in a large raft deliberately grounded themselves on the rocks about 60 or so feet downstream from me. One of the guys got out of the raft and I saw him very carefully picking his way upstream, walking along the bottom against the current, trying to get to a place where he could get to me. I lost sight of him but a few minutes later he came down to me from upstream, walking in the water along the bank. Man was I ever grateful to see him! He asked if I was OK and confirmed for me that Sue was indeed safe on her island. That was the best news I could have heard!

He tried to pull the kayak away from the tree trunk against the flow with me pushing from my location on the trunk but we couldn't get it to budge a bit. A few minutes later a group of 4 kayaks came by. One beached themselves a few feet from me and the others beached themselves about 40 feet downstream from me. These were all women and experienced river rafters. The one that landed nearest to me worked for the rescue service in another county and was rafting here on her day off. She had a throw bag of rope used for rescue work with her. The other guy who stopped and I tied one end of the rope to a strap on the kayak while she tied the other end to a tree on

*continued on page 13*

# A Bill Before Congress That You Need To Read

Contact your Congressperson About  
This Bill - Express Your Opinion!

112TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 81 To promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of amateur radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of amateur radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
JANUARY 5, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL To promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of amateur radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand with the uses of amateur radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

This Act may be cited as the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2011".

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following: (1) Nearly 700,000 amateur radio operators in the United States are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service.

(2) Amateur Radio operators provide, on a volunteer basis, a valuable public service to their communities, their States, and to the Nation, especially in the area of national and international disaster communications.

(3) Emergency and disaster relief communica-

tions services by volunteer Amateur Radio operators have consistently and reliably been provided before, during, and after floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, forest fires, earthquakes, blizzards, train accidents, chemical spills, and other disasters. These communications services include services in connection with significant examples, such as hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Hugo, and Andrew; the relief effort at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon following the 2001 terrorist attacks; and the Oklahoma City bombing in April 1995.

(4) Amateur Radio has formal agreements for the provision of volunteer emergency communications activities with the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Weather Service, the National Communications System, and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, as well as with disaster relief agencies, including the American National Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

(5) The Congress passed Public Law 103-408 which was signed by the President on October 22, 1994. This included in section 1 the following finding of Congress: "Reasonable accommodation should be made for the effective operation of amateur radio from residences, private vehicles and public areas, and the regulation at all levels of government should facilitate and encourage amateur radio operation as a public benefit."

(6) The Congress passed Public Law 109-295 which was signed by the President on October 4, 2006. This included a provision in the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2007 that directed the Department's Regional Emergency Communications Coordinating Working Group to coordinate their activities with "ham and amateur radio operators" among the eleven other emergency organizations such as ambulance services, law enforcement, and others.

(7) Amateur Radio, at no cost to taxpayers, provides a fertile ground for technical self-training in modern telecommunications, electronic technology, and emergency communications techniques and protocols.

(8) There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio stations, and that performance must be given support at all levels of government and given protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of these valuable communications.

SEC. 3. STUDY OF ENHANCED USES OF AMATEUR RADIO IN EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RELIEF COMMUNICATION, AND FOR RELIEF OF RESTRICTIONS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall undertake a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief; and

*A Bill Before Congress continued on page 15*

# Installing EchoLink

By Bernie Lafreniere, N6FN

In the last two issues we explored how the EchoLink system allows you to make contacts using either your DTMF equipped HT or personal computer. This month we cover how to get the EchoLink software installed on a computer and getting your call sign validated for access to the EchoLink network.

## System Requirements

EchoLink is designed to work on PC's equipped with any of Microsoft's operating Systems, Windows 95, 98, Me, NT, XP, 2000, Vista and now Windows 7. Almost any PC should be fast enough to run the application.

Of course you will need an Internet connection. The application will work on dial-ups capable of 24 kbps or faster. Having either DSL or a cable modem is better.

## Downloading the Software

You can download the software from the EchoLink web page: <http://www.echolink.org/> In addition to downloading the software you can also download and save a copy of the EchoLink Users Guide. This user guide is essentially the same information found in the EchoLink software's help files. If you are like me, you may want to print sections of the guide needed during set up of the software.

## Software Installation and Basic Config

After downloading and saving the EchoLink install file to a convenient place, locate and double click on the file to run the EchoLink installer program. Unless the version has been updated, it is a file named EchoLinkSetup\_2\_0\_908.exe.

When the EchoLink software runs for the first time, it comes up with a Setup Wizard that helps you configure the program for your system. Initially select Computer User, if you later want to setup your own RF EchoLink node you can select Sysop.

Continue with the Setup Wizard entering your Callsign exactly the way you want it to be registered on EchoLink. When registering as a Computer User use your FCC issued call sign with no suffixes added to it.

Create a Password, making a note of what it is in case you need to re-install the software or later generate additional call signs for operating your own Simplex or Repeater nodes. If you have registered before, use your original password. Enter your First Name and station Location (or

station description) the way you want them to appear on other stations' screens.

## Firewall / Router Tester

The next step in the installation process is to run the Firewall/Router Test utility, which pops up. If the test runs without error for both TCP and UDP connectivity, you are home free and can continue with the set up process.

If the above test failed, your computer or router's firewall may not be allowing outbound traffic over TCP port 5200. For more information and suggested solutions to this problem, refer to the Firewall Solutions section of the EchoLink web site found under the Support and FAQs link that is on the main page.

Before getting too wrapped up in this issue, though, try running the Firewall/Router Test utility a second time. If all the UDP tests pass the second time try continuing with the installation, only coming back to this issue if you later have trouble connecting to EchoLink nodes.

If you are having Firewall / Router Problems Instructions for configuring your router and firewall settings are dependent upon your method of Internet connection and the type of protection software you are running. For guidance on resolving these issues, refer to the following sources:

- The Routers and Firewalls section of the EchoLink web site found at: <http://www.echolink.org/>
- The Firewall Issues section of the EchoLink software help files found under the Troubleshooting section.
- The Firewall Solutions section of the EchoLink web site found under the Support and FAQs link on the main page.
- The <http://portforward.com> web site. A link for EchoLink specific topics is found near the bottom of the Firewall Issues EchoLink software help instructions.

## Call Sign Validation / Authentication

If you have never registered before, when the EchoLink software first runs, the Station List area of the screen will be blank. You will be able to look at the menus and help files, but the software will not allow access to the EchoLink system. You must first have your call sign validated by the system before you are granted full access.

All new users must be validated to ensure that they hold a currently valid amateur license and that they are who they say they are. You certainly would not want someone else using your call sign  
*continued one page 14*

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shore. Both of them tried pulling on the rope with me pushing on the kayak in another attempt to free it from its wedged position. No go! It didn't budge!

The flow of the water exerts a tremendous force! I found out later that the river is 5 feet higher than usual for this time of year and flowing at 2,600 cubic feet per second. The usual flow is 1,700 cubic feet per second! With the rope secured to the kayak on one end and the tree on the other end, it appeared that I had a safe way to leave my perch on the tree and get to dry land. My feet had been dangling in the water the entire time and the 50-degree water was pretty chilly. I could no longer feel them.

With the help of the other guy and with Becky securing the rope on shore, we thought I could make it to shore. I swung both legs over one side of the trunk and, holding firmly onto a branch, slipped off the tree into the water. The intent was to hold onto the rope and walk ashore. Well, as soon as my feet entered the water the current swept them away. I was holding onto the branch with one hand and the rope with the other but the current was so powerful that I didn't have the strength to force my feet down to the bottom so I could stand up! With a great deal of effort by pushing against the tree, I managed to get one foot down. The second one was soon also on the bottom and I was only in water about up to my thighs. By wrapping the rope around my arm and pulling while at the same time taking a small step, I was able to move about 8-10 inches. I took another purchase on the rope and pulled myself along enough to take another small step. A couple more times and I was able to move more freely with less pressure from the current and finally got out of the water and sat on the edge of the bank. I was never so happy to get out of the water as I was in that minute!!

Meanwhile, Sue is still on the island. People that pass her by ask if she is OK and she answers affirmatively and tells them that I have floated on downstream and she doesn't know what happened to me. I sat there on the bank for a while. They guy who stopped to help said goodbye and wished me luck. I shook his hand and he was off to join his party, still sitting on the rocks in the middle of the river. Becky remained with me and the rest of her party were still beached downstream. This has been about 1½ hours since I found myself wedged against the tree. I was feeling extremely grateful for these good Samaritans who stopped to help as well as quite foolish for getting myself into the situation in the first place. My feelings of guilt, embarrassment and

inadequacy were somewhat assuaged when I saw two other guys float by, in the water, holding on to the side of their kayaks as they floated helplessly downriver sideways, kicking their feet with all their might with no effect. A few minutes later, a kayak floated by without anyone in it. All in all it seems like a bad day on the river. After a short while, I heard the roar of an engine and an aluminum River Rescue boat with a 140 HP outboard motor roared into view from downriver, heading upstream. There was a rather large island as these things go directly out from me near the middle of the river. The boat first approached from my side of the island, but never got within 100 feet. It then turned around and went up the other side of the island. I could hear the motor revving hard as it forced its way upstream until it was out of sight. About 10-15 minutes later it came back downstream on that side of the island, made a u-turn around it, and headed up my side.

Sue was in the boat!!

They hollered and asked if I was Tom. I waved and answered yes. They turned around and headed downstream. They went about 200 yards downstream and landed at a natural ramp to disembark Sue, and then they returned to get me. I climbed aboard, said my thanks and goodbye to Becky, and off we went. They landed me at the same place they left Sue.

Needless to say we had a very joyful and thankful reunion! Both of us are OK. Nobody got injured except for a few scratches on my hands and arms from climbing onto the tree trunk. Sue got a bruise on one knee, from what we don't know but she probably hit it on a rock.

That's it! The two lunch containers were recovered at the scene of the tree but the sports bag containing the camera, telephone, and car keys was gone. The River Rescue called the place we rented the kayak and they came and picked us up. The rescue boat also put a couple of ropes on the kayak and pulled it off the tree with a great deal of effort. It, like us, was undamaged. So, at that time we were grateful that we were OK and the only things hurt were our dignity. We had lost the telephone, camera, my glasses, and car keys. They were all in the sports bag except my glasses. The loss of the car keys would be an incredible inconvenience since our other set of keys was back home in the motorhome, 50 miles away. We asked the River Rescue captain to take a look back by the tree and he did, but it wasn't there. The strap it was fastened with had parted and it was gone. The boat took off downstream and said they'd look for it but didn't give much

*Up A Creek continued on page 15*

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to gain access to the system.

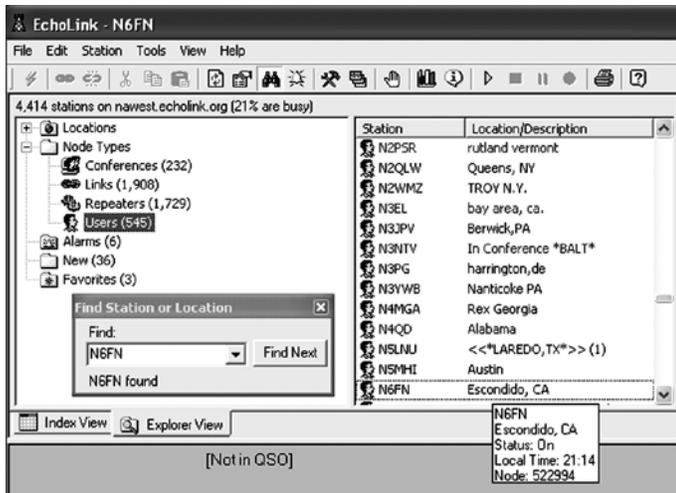
For more information on this process and to have your call sign validated and authenticated, go to the main EchoLink web page at <http://www.echolink.org> and access the Validation page.

#### Verifying Your Node Has Been Added

Once you have received an email notification of being validated, you can check to see that your call sign / node has been added to the list of stations available on the network. To do this, run the EchoLink software and you should see that the Station List area of the EchoLink window is filled in with available station nodes of all types.

To find your call sign, click on the binocular icon in the Tool bar and type your call sign in the Find Station or Location popup window, as shown in the following figure. Click on Find and your call sign / node should come up.

Next hover the mouse cursor over your call sign to view your location, current status (either



On line, or Busy), your local time, and most importantly your new Node number. There are still a few things that need to be configured before actually making contacts. Under Tools, select Adjust Sound Device to set the receive and transmit audio levels. Audio levels can be tested by connecting to the EchoLink Test Server, found under the Station tool. Also under Tools, you will find the Setup and Preferences menus. You can review these parameters, but the default values should work fine. Refer to the program's Help system for guidance in getting things set up.

Congratulations, you are now a registered EchoLink user! Your node appears in the station list of users all around the world. Now you can be contacted by other stations, or initiate your own calls to anywhere in the world. Enjoy!



Above, Brian KF6C shows his 6m direction finding experiment at the January membership meeting. He used this experiment to explore different modeling techniques.



Right and below, Michelle W5NYV gives a talk at the January membership meeting about mathematical modeling.



*Up A Creek continued from page 13*

hope of finding it. After asking us if we wanted to continue on our trip, and us giving a resounding "No" the rental place took the recovered kayak and us back to the office. We told them about the missing sports bag and asked if anyone had reported finding it. The answer was no but the rescue people weren't back yet. We decided to go hang out at the ramp where everyone returns after their trips in the hope that someone found it while we waited to see if rescue came up with it. The loss of the camera and the phone were a shame, but it was only money.

The loss of the car keys stranded us 50 miles from home. We wondered how much a cab would cost

*A Bill Before Congress continued from page 11*

(2) shall report its findings to Congress not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act. (b) SCOPE OF THE STUDY.—The study required by this section shall— (1) include recommendations—

(A) for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts; and

(B) for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives; (2)

(A) identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations; and

(B) make recommendations regarding such impediments; and include an evaluation of section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996)); and

(B) make a recommendation whether that section should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of an amateur radio operator licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose, in residential areas. (c) USE OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION.—In conducting the study required by this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(1) utilize the expertise of the American Radio Relay League, representing the National Amateur Radio community; and

(2) seek information from private and public sectors for the study.

to get us both ways to get the keys. We sat there, on a bench, and had some sodas and chips for over an hour. By then we concluded that it was a lost cause and were about to leave when I saw Becky, the gal who stopped to help and remained with me until the River Rescue showed up. She had just finished her trip downriver and was pulling her kayak out of the water. Sue wanted to go over and thank her, as I had already done. While she was there, another member of her party was on the phone telling someone that they were done and ready to be picked up. The person on the other end of the phone reported finding a bag in the river and wanted to know if anyone reported one missing.

Sue just happened to overhear the conversation! It was our bag, - - - with everything intact although soaking wet, of course.

Through a tremendous amount of good luck, a wondrous concatenation of coincidences and someone watching over us, - - - we came out of this unscathed except for our wounded dignity, the loss of my glasses, and Sue's cell phone which was also soaked.

The camera remained completely dry double bagged in Ziploc bags. We wanted an adventure, - - and we got one!! Albeit not the one we expected!

It was a terrific learning experience. We learned that we were woefully unprepared for this undertaking, that we misjudged badly our abilities, and that we don't want to buy this model of kayak after all. Most of all we learned again the value of life jackets! Without them we might very well have died! We learned also not to take the car keys with us but to leave them safely behind in somebody's care.

We did learn, once again, that our ability to handle and survive a similar situation is good. We once before sank a canoe in the Colorado River but that was much easier to deal with. No white water and we paddled it ashore while in the water. We have a great deal of experience on the water with sailing and powerboats but I'm giving up on anything that's muscle powered!! Give me a motor!! Maybe two motors!! At least we can cross this off our bucket list and we didn't quite have to "kick the bucket" to do it! I tell you, it gives us a whole new understanding to the phrase, "up the creek without a paddle"! We're going on the river again next week but this time as part of a guided group

with experts doing the paddling! **The End**

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### Featured Program:

At 7:30pm on the 2nd of February 2011, Palomar Amateur Radio Club will have our 75th Birthday Party! Bring a dish to share. There will be games. Arrive at 7:00pm to socialize. We look forward to seeing you at the Carlsbad Safety Center, 2560 Orion Way, Carlsbad, CA.