

SCOPE

THE PALOMAR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



Poway Hams need our help!

Hams in Poway worked diligently this past year to get the Poway City Council to enact a Poway amateur radio ordinance that is compliant with Federal FCC regulations.

At a Poway City Council meeting held on September 3rd, the City Council directed the City planning staff to work with Poway amateurs to develop the ordinance and present it to the City Council for approval. The Poway hams are now working this matter with their counterparts in the City.

The plan now is that the Poway City development department will hold a "City Council Working Group" on Tuesday, February 18th. This will be an open City Council meeting at which the public will be invited to present their opinion about the proposed ordinance. It is likely a large public attendance will take place.

Poway hams need a large presence of San Diego County hams in Poway supporting their amateur radio cause!

Detailed time and schedule of events will be announced as soon as possible. Announcements will be carried out in newsletters (if known in a timely manner), via emails, web posts, and blogs of ham radio, on repeaters in San Diego County, etc.

Please mark your calendars to be in Poway on Tuesday February 18th, 2014 to support our fellow hams.

The meeting will take place at Poway City Hall, 13325 Civic Center drive, Poway, CA.

Save the Date

Club Meeting

8 January 2014

Club Meeting Jim NE6O's hex beam he built. It was at Field Day and the MiniMaker Faire.

Board Meeting

15 January 2014

Palomar Amateur Radio Club board meeting at 7:00pm at W6GNI QTH.

City Hall

18 February 2014

Support Amateur Radio by coming to the Poway City Council Meeting

Fold & Staple Crew, December SCOPE AI W6GNI & Kathy, Sonny WA5ACE, Art KB6YHZ, Janet Meyer

The club is still looking for someone or a group of folks to take over the Fold & Staple task each month, assembling and mailing the SCOPE. As noted, in previous News Letters, the January Issue (This ONE is my last one!) Contact any member of the board! (It doesn't have to be done during the day – with the exception of delivering the issues to the Post Office. And that only takes 35 minutes if the paper work is in order.)

Advertisements are free for members

Have items that need to find a new home? Advertise here! Send your ads to scope@palomararc.org

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San Diego Mini Maker Faire

by Jim NE6O

First, I would like to thank Michelle W5NYV, everyone at the Mini-Maker Faire, and the stall of the Del Mar Fairgrounds. They did a huge amount of work and were constantly cheerful and helpful, under all conditions, making the Faire a great success.



Jim NE6O and Kerry N6IZW set up for SDMMF

The attendance appeared HUGE! (*About 5,200 people attended*) Too many people for the Bing Crosby Hall! Trying to walk from one booth to the other was a major obstacle course. The line to buy tickets stretched all the way to the mid way in from of the O'Brien Hall. These people were waiting outside in the rain and no one complained! (That I could hear.)

Now for my experience. I did not get (or missed) the cancelation of the outdoor exhibit. I brought down my K4HIO Hexbeam and spent an hour or so trying to find the Amateur Radio Stuff. Two booths back to back and the San Diego and San Bernadino Microwave guys were setting up their gear. This was a good choice for inside, since the equipment fit easily on the tables. There was an older 2.4 GHz duplex voice link, a 475 THz video link, and a demonstration of what a microwave interferometer sounds like. The kids really enjoyed making the funny sounds!

I was annoyed that I had nothing to do, then I noticed that the booth across the aisle was empty and by a door. Asked when it would be freed up and a no-show and was told probably 10am. Good enough for me. At 10 am I went outside and put up my Hexbeam and ran coax

into the building to my TS-430S. It worked and made a few SSB and CW contacts. Mostly was answering questions and trying to be a good ambassador of ham radio. The noise was very loud. I felt as if I was always shouting. The Del Mar Fairgrounds crew were very supportive and helpful. When they first came by and looked at the antenna, I thought they were going to tell me to take it down. Not so. The antenna was in a no parking zone, but they brought over traffic cones and the PVC barriers to help protect it.

Now for the bad news. At about 1:30pm a crewman came in and asked if that was my antenna and said it had blown down!. It did not hit anything, but came too close for comfort! It must have happened in the five minutes of heavy rain and high wind that we so seldom see here. I checked the antenna and found that two of the fiberglass spreaders were broken. The rest was in good shape. I took it down and stuffed it in my car, then looked at Model Railroad show. It was wide open compared to the Faire. Over the past few weeks, I got replacements for the broken fiberglass rods, fixed the antenna, and it is up working again.

WARNING: Be very careful when messing around with broken fiberglass! I still have bits of fiber in my fingers trying to get out almost a month later! I was thinking of bringing the broken pieces as a show-and-tell for my presentation, but it is too risky. I will show a couple photos instead.

The Faire was a great success. Lots of quadrotors and 3-D printers. Cool. Thanks again to everyone who was involved and a couple suggestions. Bigger space, less noise, and better weather.

73, Jim Cooper NE6O



Kerry Banke N6IZW demonstrates at SDMMF.

Musings of a Crazy Lady

By Ellen Utschig N6UWW

Way back when I sat on Daddy's knee as a child, slowly turning the dial on his old Hallicrafters so that the voice coming out of the speaker didn't sound like that of Mickey Mouse, I had no idea how much magic was hiding in those big metal boxes on the desk. Daddy never pushed us kids to get our licenses. There were six of us and there was already precious little time for him to be on the radio. He didn't need any competition for the hot seat. I pursued typical childhood interests: bike riding, roller skating, kite flying, romping the fields (which would later become home to UCSD) catching butterflies, pollywogs, blue-belly & horned toad lizards. More often than not I could be found in my secret perch high in the big rubber tree right in our own backyard. My sisters learned to sew & cook. I preferred to be outdoors and never earned any merit badges in home economics.

My brother, Joe, got his ham license (KM6EK) around 1970. In the early 80's my brother-in-law, Mark (NOKII), got his ticket. It was on a family trip to Minnesota for the baptism of one of Mark and our youngest sister's sons in the late 80's that the rest of us kids finally started feeling left out of the fun as far as ham radio was concerned. As four carloads of us toured around Minneapolis, Daddy, Joe & Mark, each in separate vehicles, were able to communicate on their HT's while my sister's family & I were left out in the cold, wondering what the hand gestures and visible laughter was all about. It was then that my sister Katie & her husband Lex & I decided we'd better get our tickets or the rest of the family would all be talking without us (and about us!)

The three of us attended classes weekly at Kearny Mesa Convair Recreation Association. The first night we attended class we saw "HAM RADIO IS FUN" written in giant letters on the chalkboard. We couldn't help but be excited about it with Nick Callas, K6DBJ, as our teacher. Soon we passed our 5wpm code requirement & got our Novice licenses. We were KC6BIZ, KC6BJA & KC6BJB. We could hardly wait for Nick's Technician class the following spring. As soon as we got our CSCE, we made the ritual trip to HRO – the first of many over the years that followed. We all bought identical Kenwood TH-25's. We were "real" hams (or so we thought at the time!) We were N6UWW, N6UWX & N6UWY.

I had just bought a condo. Great...unless you're a ham. I couldn't even hit the local 2m repeater unless I stood on my tiptoes straddling the patio fence. I was able to put a J-pole on a length of PVC pipe which I'd erect temporarily by lashing it to the lattice fence whenever I wanted to chat on the local repeater (usually under the cover of darkness so I

wouldn't draw the attention of "Miss Clipboard" of the HOA).

My little HT provided me with countless hours of fun. I stayed up way too late & got facetious with the gang. I collected countless t-shirts and ballcaps by volunteering at parades and sporting events. It felt great to give back to my community doing public service communications. I got some pretty official looking uniforms with fancy embroidered patches with stars on them. Those fancy uniforms got me the only helicopter ride of my life and I even got mentioned in a QST article (March 1993). Daddy was so proud to see that my picture was there, too! He didn't even care that it was only in black & white.

With the encouragement of Dennis, N6KI, I got into contesting by participating in the local club's Field Day (I'd eventually Chair that group's 5A effort). What a thrill it was to operate on HF using the club's callsign. I had to get my General ticket. There was just too much more fun to be had and it wasn't ONLY on the local repeater. I passed the theory test on my first attempt but it took five painstaking stabs at the code that I finally hurdled that 13wpm wall. Yes! I bought a Drake TR-4 from Karl, N6WLX (now ND8DX) but wasn't too sure about that straight key on the 8½"x11" Plexiglas that he threw in "for good measure". I dabbled with code and will be the first to admit that it has never been enough to get comfortably proficient. I put a length of wire as high as I could get it in the pine tree just off my patio. Harry, W6YOO, pounded in a ground rod into this miserable stuff we call soil (otherwise known as San Onofre Breccia). I was in business.

Solar Cycle 22 was in full swing and I was on HF! The pine tree grew & I spliced more and more wire to my random wire antenna. I bought a laminated world map and started checking off the countries I'd work (some of which I'd never even heard of before!). I got a 10-10 number. I participated in the Challenger Special Event station from W6YOO's QTH and worked all 50 states in 8 hours. I listened as world history unfolded via transmissions from Bosnia-Herzegovina. I kept the condensed smoke in the black box and the magic of ham radio continued to amaze me whenever I'd allow time for it.

Marvin, W6MJM (ex-WB6PKK) encouraged me to join him for checkpoint communications at the off road races in Nevada & Mexico. Woo Hoo! My parents had always forbidden me to go to Mexico and now I was all grown up and nobody could tell me "NO" anymore! I'd be combining my love

of the outdoors with ham radio and I'd be totally safe because "we have communications". My mother said novenas the entire time I was south of the border

continued on page 6

HAM RADIO OUTLET

H
R
O

Jose XE2SJB
Jerry N5MCJ
Joe N6SIX

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Directions: On 163, take **Clairemont Mesa Blvd.** 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 **real** antennas!

SCOPE for January - Membership

Please don't forget the Club when your membership is due!! Some of the folks that still may be due to reinstate – I hope! KD6DCI, KFGWTN, K6AH, WA6NPM. Others still on my "Hopeful" list, left over from ?? month: K6VG, KE6SDF, KF6GOF, KG6ETI, M6MTS, KJ6JMJ, KC6VDX, W9EN, WA6NPM. And some new, WA3WOO, KI6KJG, AF6GM, KJ6FZQ, W6BRX, KJ6LLB, W6DM, N6OPP, KM6GLF, KJ6ACD, KI6YK. Good news, some of these go into 2014!! I really hope I'm not wasting my time making it easy to see when your membership is running low! PLEASE! (Also, do you know your records are on the web site for you to check your renewal date.)

And PLEASE do not ignore the CLUB! I hear numerous folks on the repeaters that have not paid any dues, and quite a few of these are "regulars". Power, insurance, and electronics are not free!

It costs the people that drive to the mountain to work on the repeaters more for gas than membership costs for a year!

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continued from page 4

(maybe THAT's what has kept me safe all these years!) and I made it home, time and again, always with incredible stories of new adventures and new friends.

Fast forward to the year 2000. Y2K meant some extra- long off road races to kick off the millennium celebration: the Nevada 2000 and the Baja 2000. I was the lone radio operator at my checkpoints for the Nevada 2000 (a race which required that volunteers leapfrog throughout the entire state for 6 grueling days of racing in the heat of the summer). Thankfully I was hired on by BFGoodrich for the Baja 2000 and that meant I'd more than likely have a hotel room every night rather than tent camping. Better yet, it brought Wild Bill into my life. Let the good times roll!

Wild Bill got his ticket (WB6BFG) in 2003 and got the DX bug in a big hurry. I knew he'd be a natural contester after hearing him run race radio traffic over the years. Together we've had the good fortune to operate as HQ3Z, GJ2A, E51Z, DX1M & JA1YPA in the recent CQWWSSB contests (he also contested as A73A but I wasn't on that trip & I worked as PJ2W on the YLDXpedition). We've traveled to places we've never dreamed of seeing with our own eyes. We've met fabulous friends throughout the world & have experienced some wonderful times. We're both looking forward to a freighter cruise through the Marquesas in the summer of 2014.

(www.aranui.com)

I know Daddy's been closely watching over me from heaven since becoming a Silent Key in 1995 and somehow, I guess by writing this, I hope he knows how grateful I am that he introduced me to ham radio and all the magic that has come into my life from inside that black box.

New Email Discussion and Announcement Lists

by Michelle W5NYV

PARC has two new email lists. The two new lists offer additional ways to stay up to date with your fellow amateur radio operators. Signing up is very simple.

Go to

<http://www.palomararc.org/mailman/listinfo>

Click the link corresponding to the list you want to sign up for.

Fill in the form, and you're on the list.

PARC-Announce is a very low-traffic mailing list for announcements approved by the club. Expect only a few messages per month, maximum, including a notice about each club meeting. If you have an announcement you'd like to have published to this mailing list, please send your request to

board@palomararc.org for approval

PARC-Talk is an open list for PARC members to discuss anything related to amateur radio and to the club. Please post in plain text. Don't attach files.

We will not use Scope-notice, Scope-pdf, Meeting-remind or any other mailing list for unsolicited messages or announcements.

Don't forget - PARC is on Facebook too!

Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/194674987710/>

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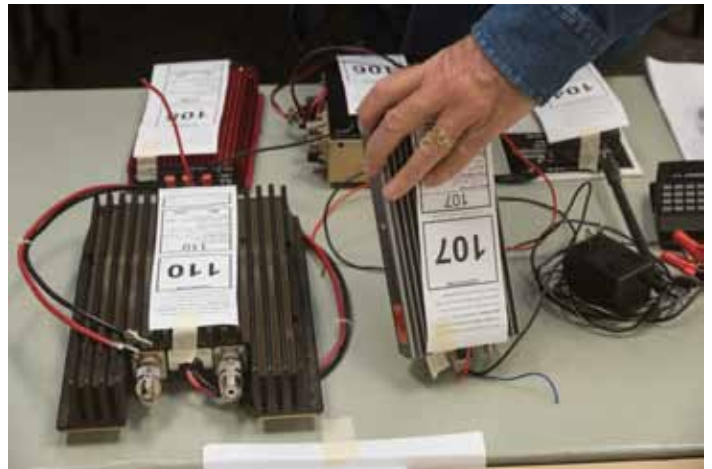
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PC Tips from Dick K6KAL - Registries!

The cleaning of a registry on a PC can impact the performance of logging software and the serial connections to your radio. Old software that loaded drivers that have since been updated may still have some artifacts left behind in the registry.

The safest way to cleanup a MS Registry is to use tools. I have listed three I use periodically. Why three? Well, each vendor has its own way of reviewing registries. They are all good, but no one vendor has it all covered. I run each in succession to make a complete cleanup.

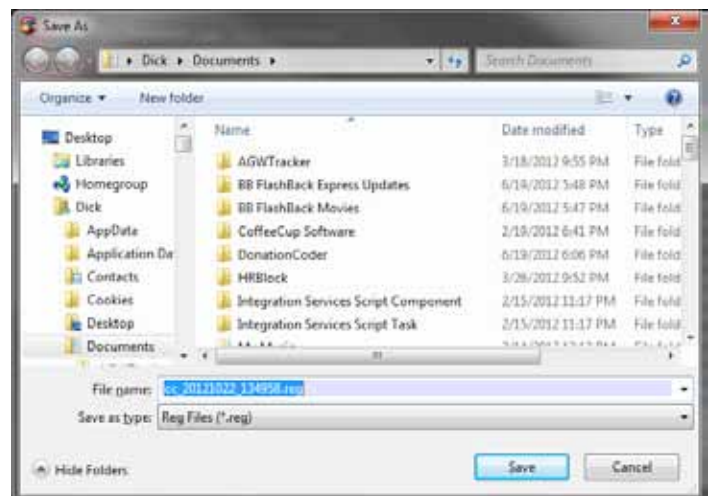
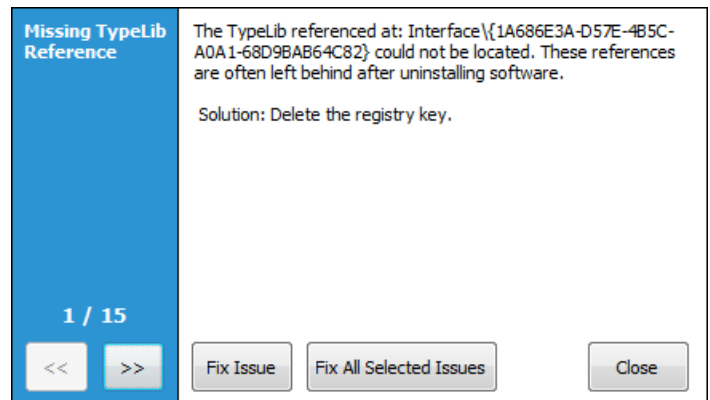
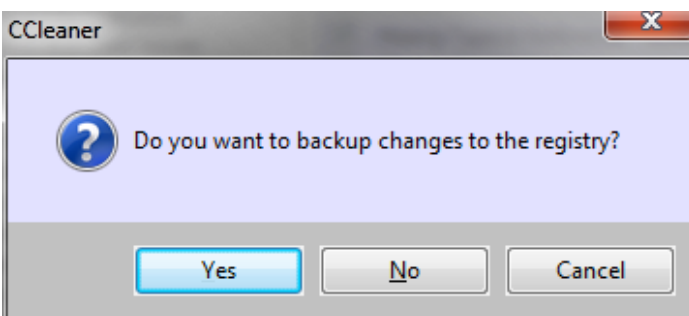
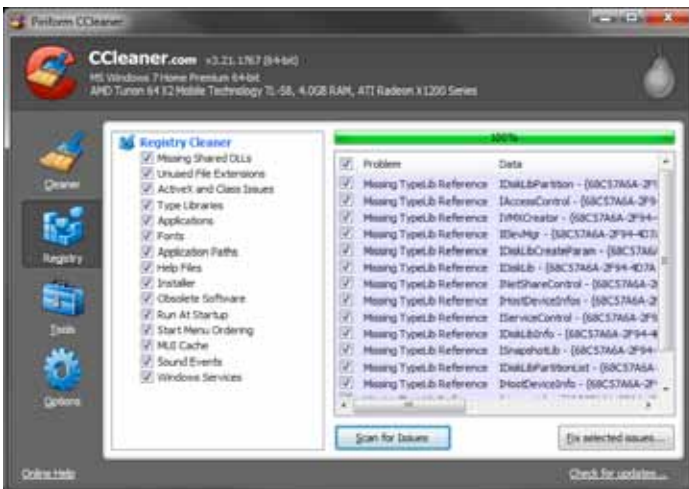
I start with C Cleaner, as it has a built in 'Registry Backup' tool that will allow a user to restore the registry, should some functions fail to work. Next I use Glary Utilities and select Registry Cleaner. And last but not least, I use nCleaner.

Why does each find more stuff? Well some items cover or hide other issues. After they are cleaned, running another process will discover them.

It appears that each vendor has some cleaning processes and procedures that are just slightly different than the others. You can try any one and get good results. Using all three is at the extreme end of the scale, which I employ, as in any one month I load and unload several programs for testing. That definitely leaves a nasty residue behind.

Sample screens of each follow. They are somewhat self explanatory, but to start limit yourself to the 'Registry' cleanup processes for now.

C Cleaner

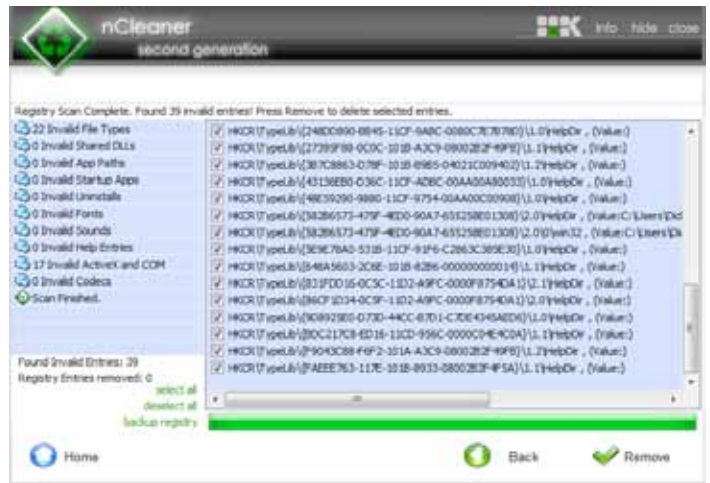
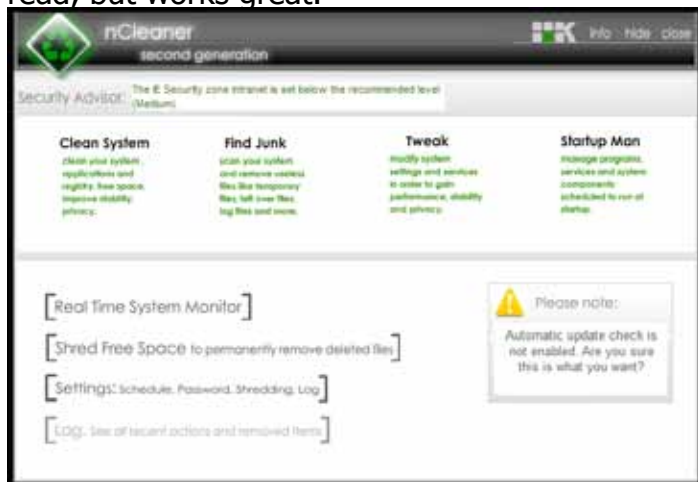


The next registry repair program is Glary Utilities.
 Another nice feature of this tool is under Files & Folders which will allow you to find duplicate



files.

And finally, nCleaner
 This utility has menus that are a little difficult to read, but works great.



Another good habit is to run a freeware utility like 'Malwarebytes' or 'Spybot – Search & Destroy' to check for malware and Trojans and other Ad Ware. With all the junk being attached to eMails, chances are one or two have slipped past any Firewall or Anti Virus software you may have running.

MS has a new version of Microsoft Security Essentials. It was rumored that the original MS product was sub par, so they looked for another software product / company to buy. They did, and this newer version is much improved. For the casual user it works just fine.

I have encountered some users running more than one firewall and or Anti Virus tool on their PC. While the intention is good, the PC performance is not. Each tool imposes its own rules on new software and files, and can cause a huge performance hit. Find a good one, (free or otherwise) and stick with it.

A Note for the contester or DX loggers, just turn off all firewalls, and anti-virus software, as the only inbound data would be from a DX cluster. This should only be done just before a contest, and remember to turn it back on when the contest is over.

If presented with an option to buy an upgraded version or feature, don't. The freeware one is just fine for most home / casual users. Read the install instructions carefully, as many are subsidized by some other tool they will try to install. If in doubt, decline the offers.

"The Victorian Internet"

by Tom Standage

A Book Review by Charlie NN3V

This book is a must read for any ham radio operator. From the confirmed DX champion, to the dyed in the wool CW contester, or the newest tech licensee, everyone will find amusement and wonder in this book's pages describing the incredible impact Morse code and telegraphy had on the world in the mid 1800s. Mr. Standage takes the reader on a jargon-free, can't -put-the-book-down amusing narrative on the triumphs and foibles among many early inventors who contributed to the development of telegraphy and the codes and ciphers that led directly to today's internet-wired world.

Starting in 1746, French monks painfully demonstrated the instantaneous transmission of electric current along a one mile pair of electric cables; the book describes the amazing interconnection of European cities using optical telegraph towers, many of them located on high ground points that retain the name "Telegraph Hill" to this day. Pioneered by the French, optical telegraph systems permeated everyday living, giving rise to the first commercial distance communication efforts.

But it was not until 1832 that Samuel B Morse, then a portrait painter by trade, happened upon the inspiration for telegraphy while discussing distance communications with a fellow steamship passenger returning from Europe. Years earlier Morse had suffered the late receipt of news of his wife's death (news from his home town of Boston took five days to reach Washington DC where he was staying). The discussion of electromagnetic phenomena for distance effects with the fellow steamship passenger sparked Morse's interest in developing a "code" and the means to transmit news to distant locations. The rest is history.

The book describes the many parallel efforts that transpired simultaneously with the development of the earliest telegraphs. Morse's apparatus was far simpler than European versions, however competition was fierce. In England, Cooke's system was adopted by the railroad companies at first, eventually to be nationalized into the British Post Office service.

Fascinating account is given of the effort to connect Europe to North America using telegraph wires. The pioneer effort of Wheatstone (for whom the Wheatstone bridge is named) nearly sank the effort due to Wheatstone's incompetence. Fortunately cooler heads prevailed, and in August 1857 the two continents were connected with the first transatlantic cable. The frenzy that ensued soon had the world interconnected to such an extent that diplomats toasted one another with the expectation that wars and strife would become a thing of the past thanks to instantaneous communications!

The book presents lively chapters dedicated to "Codes, Hackers, and Cheats" describing how for every idea of useful telegraphy use, a scam soon followed (sound familiar?). "Love Over The Wires" describes how amorous encounters and weddings were arranged via telegraph, and how the family of telegraph operators became an eclectic and highly paid stratum of society in mass demand for their code skills. "War and Peace in the Global Village" recounts the beginning use of telegraphy to deceive and confuse military and commercial competitors, giving rise to the era of disinformation! As the use of telegraphy mushroomed, interconnecting countries, businesses, and even families, Morse, Cooke, and others started looking for ways to automate telegraphy and improve the efficiency of information transmission. The era of bandwidth expansion ensued, the system became automated, and the family of telegraph operators lamented the loss of skills among the newcomers to the code transmission business!

The last two chapters of the book, "Information Overload" and "The Legacy of the Telegraph" describe how the advances of telegraphy paved the way for the telephone, FAX, and the modern day means of communications. For example, Henry Baudot pioneered the electronic optical scanner for one automatic telegraph system, and in the process created the Baudot code on which the ASCII protocol for modern day internet communications are based.

Many anecdotal references are present throughout the book. For example, professional telegraphers in the major telegraph offices referred to lesser operators in rural offices as "hams". A "ham" was considered an inferior code transmitter! Begs the question of how we came to be called hams. Were amateur radio operators considered inferior CW operators?

The book closes with a vivid description of the demise of telegraphic service in the United States when Western Union ceased all telegraph service in 2006, and then paints a vivid contrast between the Victorian Internet and our current internet wired world. In essence, all that is old is new again!

"The Victorian Internet" by Tom Standage is a 200 page eminently readable paperback that lists for \$14.95, is available from Amazon.com for \$10.17, and can be purchased used online for \$7.61. The book is a fun, fast read, full of fascinating information about a technology near and dear to the amateur radio hobby, and will complement any serious library of technology information.

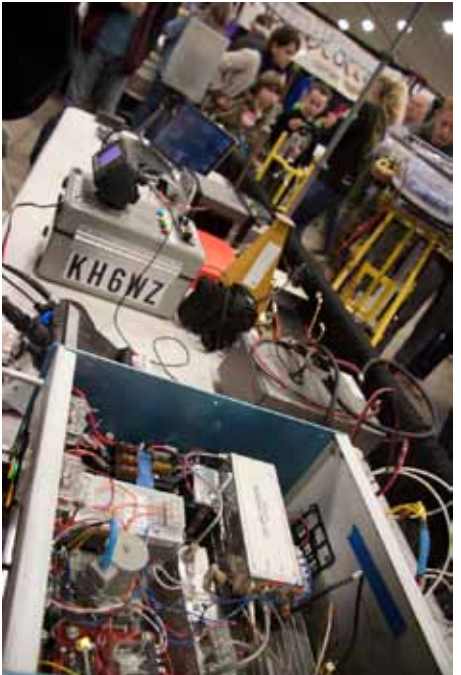
I rate it a "must read".



Amateur Radio Demonstrations at San Diego Mini Maker Faire

Photos by W5NYV

Amateur radio made a big impression at the first ever San Diego Mini Maker Faire. Participants could learn how to solder, and operate several stations. Basic physics and microwave were demonstrated to a large and enthusiastic audience.



December Social

Photos
by Don
WD6FWE



Plenty of food and fun was enjoyed at the December Membership Social.

And, the 2014 ARRL Handbook winner was announced. Congratulations Fred May N2HLG!



New board members introduced





Ops - N6KI, NN6X, N6EEG

Great Job !

#1 USA

#1 North America

#2 World

Plaque on the way and Certificate Above!



Here is an interesting training tool spotted by Dennis N6KI. While there are a lot of CW pile-up trainers, there aren't as many SSB pile-up trainers.

<https://soundcloud.com/hb9elv/ssb-pile-up-trainer>

Listen to the audio file and write down as many call signs as you can. Scroll down to get answers.



December 2013 meeting of the San Diego Microwave Group - white elephants were exchanged at the annual party. Many PARC members are also members of the SDMG, which meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at Kerry Banke's QTH. All hams with an interest (or want to be interested!) in microwave are welcome to attend.

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Featured Program:

At 7:30pm on 8 January 2014, Palomar Amateur Radio Club will present a program. Jim NE6O will talk about his hex beam antenna. It's seen action a-plenty at Field Day and Mini Maker Faire. Come at 7:00pm to socialize before the program.

We look forward to seeing you at the Carlsbad Safety Center, 2560 Orion Way, Carlsbad, CA.

Sign up for the PARC Email Lists:

<http://www.palomararc.org/mailman/listinfo>