

SCOPE June 2008 ❄

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

Club Meeting - WriteLog

4 June 7:30pm at the Carlsbad Safety Center
Repeater Site Work Party

8 June Meet at Mother's Kitchen 10:00am
Tear down and remove the old battery racks from the tin shed. Install insulation, vents and metal roofing on the freezer building.

Public Service Event

7-8 June San Diego 100 Mile Endurance Run
Board of Directors Meeting

11 June 7:00pm at KG6RGI QTH

Field Day

27-28 June 2008 See page 10 for details



President's Message

The May meeting was unusual, as a conflict arose and PARC was asked by the Carlsbad Police Department to meet in Room 3 (the small room at the end of the hall).

Regardless of the tight quarters, Loren Hunt, AD6ZJ provided a very informative presentation on field expedient wire antennas that work for both contesting and emergency communications.

For June, we have known since January that we will be in Room 3. The coziness should do well to help us all see and hear a lesson on using WriteLog, a logging program for contesting. (<http://www.writelog.com/>) Paul W6NK will present the program.

Looking down the road, Field Day will be here on June 27th and 28th. The Field Day net has started and we are looking for help in many areas. We are looking for volunteers to set up, captain and operate the stations. We will be at the San Marcos site again, so we will be easy to find and easy to get to.

A few Field Day Rules have changed. A

new one says "One (1) 100-point bonus may be claimed if your Field Day operation includes a specific educational-related activity."

It seems to me that a 'Basic Portable Operation Seminar' will meet this requirement and the Field Day theme nicely. To that end, I am looking for participants who can share their experience and ideas for doing this on a shoe-string budget.

I hope to see you on June 4th. Bring a friend. ❄

Steve Early,
President, Palomar Amateur Radio Club.

Show And Tell

PARC is looking for members to bring items to the meetings for a "show and tell". These items could be projects in progress or completed old and/or restored equipment, short items of interest, or unusual items, and happens 5-10 minutes prior to the evening's presentation. Contact Dennis KD6TUJ at 760.802.2573 or email at KD6TUJ@amsat.org to help coordinate.

County-Wide CERT Drill

By Georgia Smith KI6LAV

So, what exactly is CERT? A Community Emergency Response Team consists of citizens trained by local fire department personnel to respond quickly in an emergency. In the event of a major disaster, fire/police personnel will be over-tasked and able to respond to only a fraction of our calls for help (remember the adage to be prepared to be on your own for at least 72 hours?). Well, that's where CERT will fill in. Local citizen volunteer groups, organized into CERT teams, will be mobilized and act as first responders until government aid arrives. CERT is organized under the Dept. of Homeland Security, is managed by the various local fire departments, and provides free training to local citizen volunteers, age 18 and older.

As a skills refresher, a county-wide CERT drill was held on Saturday, May 17th, in the parking lot of the Vista County Courthouse – in 93 degree heat (what's a good disaster drill without the threat of heat stroke?). The event was attended by 200 CERT-trained volunteers who were put through their paces learning and practicing valuable emergency response skills. The crowd was divided into seven groups which then rotated through the seven training stations including triage, light search and rescue, helicopter safety, fire suppression, and my favorite, of course – RADIO COMMS!



Vista CERT Trailer w/ hams (L-R) Dave Ochs KI6LKP
Jim Egerton W6SST, and Georgia Smith KI6LAV

Scott McClintock (KI6DIZ) was in charge of the Radio Comms exercise and did a masterful job of educating the volunteers, with some assistance from Vista CERT hams Jim Egerton (W6SST), Dave Ochs (KI6LKP), and yours truly (KI6LAV). Volunteers were issued FRS radios (paired in frequency) and then deployed to opposite sides of the parking lot to pass traffic. They were given particularly challenging short messages which required them to use the Int'l Phonetic Alphabet. Well, wrong buttons were pushed, frequencies were mangled, "Juliet" became "Jellybean," and interference was rampant! Can't get more realistic than that! Even though many of these folks had never operated a radio before, most participants were able to pass their messages successfully. They finished the exercise motivated and pumped up about radio comms. Scott used the opportunity to encourage ham radio training/licensing. Well, he got their attention with over 25 sign-ups for the next technician class. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that in each group rotating through the comms station, there was already at least one licensed ham and sometimes as many as six! It was good to say hello again to Frank Finn (KI6MMT) who was in my CERT class last summer and now has his ticket. Way to go Frank!



Scott McClintock Teaching Radio Comms

The participating CERT teams were from all over the county (Vista, San Marcos, Fallbrook, Encinitas, Palomar Mtn.,
see CERT right-hand side pg 4

Battery Removal at the Site

Today, May 21st 2008, the old batteries were removed from the Palomar Amateur Repeater Club site and delivered to American Battery for disposal.

The work party consisted of Al W6GNI, Tom KG6RCW, Dennis, KD6TUJ and co-worker (forgot the name), Wild Bill, WB6BFG and myself, Mike K6MRP.

The 14 batteries were dollyed on the trailer and placed on 4 pallets. Styrofoam was placed between them and then they were wrapped with shrink wrap and secured to the trailer. When we arrived at American Battery the batteries were unloaded with a fork-lift. All went well thanks to the excellent help.

May Membership

New Members Joining PARC:
KK7QT, K6WSC, KF6TYM, W9WV,
KI4OHS, and KI6MMT
And several reinstatements, including one after 11 years! Welcome back. If you are one that has selected to receive the SCOPE on the web, please remember to renew your membership on time!

Al W6GNI

May Fold & Staple

KB6NMK Jo
W6GNI Al & Kathy

We need more help! We could use one or two more on the list of Fold & Staple folks. Stop by the membership table and volunteer. A social work exercise, and get a participation point too.

Licensing and Class Information

Register 5-7 days in advance for the following test sessions.

PARC Testing is in Carlsbad on the 2nd

Saturday of the month at 9:30am at the Carlsbad Safety Center.

<http://www.kiloxray.com/vec/>

Test sessions may be cancelled if no one pre-registers.

EARS Testing is in Escondido on the last Saturday of the month at 9:00 am at the LDS Church.
The address is 1917 East Washington Avenue, Escondido , 92025.
Contact Harry W6Y00 (760) 743-4212 or W6Y00@amsat.org.

Radio Club Resources

Check out these great local radio clubs on the web at the following addresses.

<http://www.fallbrookarc.org/>
<http://www.sddxc.org/>
<http://www.earsclub.org/>
<http://roars.net/>
<http://www.wa6bgs.org/>
<http://n6six.50megs.com/>

Club Members ONLY!

PARC has a tube bank that includes many 6 & 12 volt receiving tubes (and some transmitting types) for use by club members to repair their own personal equipment. Not for commercial use or resale.

If we have

your requests, I will pre-check and deliver them to the next club meeting.

WB6IQS@amsat.org, -John

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San Diego County Fair

As you know, the 2008 San Diego County Fair (Del Mar) is coming up and will run from Saturday, June 14, 2008 through Sunday, July 6, 2008. The SANDARC booth will be at the new location in the Infield right by all of the other emergency organizations.

SANDARC needs YOUR HELP. While the clubs usually cover certain days, there are many days and shifts still available. Please visit the SANDARC website calendar at www.sandarc.org for available shifts. Can you help out by covering a 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. shift or a 2:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. shift?

The SANDARC Booth is your opportunity to share amateur radio with all age levels in the San Diego community. You are encouraged to wear your club shirt, hat and jacket, to bring an exhibit, to do a demonstration, and to talk about your specific club and the activities, education, and events that your club offers. This is your opportunity to highlight your special interest area such as DX, Field Day expertise, emergency service aspects, etc., as well as to promote amateur radio in general to the public.

You will receive a pass to get into the fair and are invited to spend the remainder of the day at the fair or come early and enjoy the fair before and after your shift.

Please HELP SANDARC present amateur radio to our community by signing up for a shift and emailing me at kc6qls@cox.net with the time you can help out as soon as possible. This information has to be provided to the fair as soon as possible in order for us to obtain the number of passes we will need for SANDARC booth volunteers.

I look forward to hearing from you. ❖

Paul, KC6QLS SANDARC Vice Chairman and Fair Chair

CERT continued from page 2

Imperial Beach, Coronado, Inland Empire, just to name a few) and many brought their CERT trailers, stocked with emergency gear. Vista CERT even had several CERT poles on display (design courtesy of Jerry Kostro (AK6QJ)).

Lunch was provided – MRE's for all! Yum! Disaster Services Worker badges will be issued to all who completed the exercise, including Steve Early (AD6VI) – how that man has time/energy to volunteer for yet another public service group is beyond me – but he does it. He **MUST** have a clone!



MREs awaiting consumption

Organizing and supporting the effort were the various area fire and sheriff's departments.



Office of the Governor's OES Comms Van

see CERT continued on page 6

Pacific Crest Trail 50 Mile Foot Race 10 May 2008

By Jim Egerton W6SST

It is 0445 and the alarm's going off. With a quick cup of coffee and a blueberry muffin supplied by Paul Schmidt K6PKS and we are off to the start/finish line at Boulder Oaks Park. When we get there crowds had already gathered and runners were checking in. Some would leave at 0530 for an early start and the rest 0600. The last runner to finish comes in around 1800 hrs. Makes for a long day.

This foot race goes up the Pacific Coast Trail to an aid station called Penny Pines up on the Sunrise Highway and a little beyond then back down to the start finish thru Penny Pines aid station, Todd's Cabin aid station, Dales Kitchen aid station, Fred's Canyon aid station and then back to Boulder Oaks start/finish line.

Each aid station is manned by aid givers of food, water, shade and minor medical care and oh yes two or three dedicated ham radio operators. There is over 5000 feet of elevation gain in this race. Go to this address for full race details and outcome:

http://www.pct50.com/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

Ok, what in the world do they need hams for at aid stations? Simply to log each runner into the aid stations and keep track of them throughout the race. By logging each runner that enters an aid station and reporting that back to net control, then NC can make a spread sheet of each runner through each aid station. If one is missing it is quickly found out. Reports of down or injured runners can be radioed down to the start finish line and SARS and EMS are activated.

The only repeater system that works at every aid station is the RACES VHF repeater system. They have been good friends for all these Laguna Mountain and Cuyamaca Mountain races. Simplex UHF and VHF are used for comms between aid

stations if possible.

This communications means each aid station ham volunteer group log out and back over two hundred runners. That's over 1000 times runners are logged at Net Control. All aid stations call in as they accumulate 5 to 10 runners. Now you can imagine the level of work at Net Control. In addition to that, supply requests from aid stations are radioed to Net Control so the race director can dispatch supplies where needed. Family and friends will request position reports on runners. We place a "shadow" with the race director so there is constant communications between the race director and Net Control. No ham aid station personnel are released until a "sweep" goes through the aid station. Sweeps are runners that start down the trail after the last runner goes thru the turn around. They look for injured or lost runners. All this takes dedication and concentration for over 13 hours at Net Control.

Here, in my opinion, are the best ham communicators in the world.

Tom Aterno	KI6ASP
Bob Birch	KG6RGI
Don Compton	KG6NDX
Dave Doan	KC6YSO
Len Fulbright	K5WFW
John Giroux	KI6NVT
Andre Hansen	K6AH
Gary Kent	W6GDK
Jerry Kostro	AK6QJ
Tom Martin	KG6RCW
Mike Oberbauer	KG6TDP
Paul Schmidt	K6PKS
Larry Plummer	AC6AV
Georgia Smith	KI6LAV

Individually, some interesting details:

Dave Doan KC6YSO coordinated communications for these events for over 15 years. He knows the ends and out of all of them. You need advice on how to do communications for a race then he has the experience to help. From NVIS HF to VHF he has the experience to advise you
see RACE right-hand side page 6

CERT continued from page 4

We were fortunate to have the San Diego RACES communications van on site, with Steve Ruesch (KE6CWP) and Craig Williams (W6CAW) conducting tours, as well as the Office of the Governor's OES comm van, manned by Arnie Lewin (W7BIA) – both of which sported some eye-popping antenna farms atop (see photos).



San Diego RACES Communications van

With two rescue helicopters and one remote-controlled model chopper on site, Richard Tilch (KE6FHR), Vista Fire Dept., shared tips about working safely around helicopters.

If you haven't already, please consider volunteering for your city's CERT program. The training is free and focused on how to assist your family and neighbors in the event of a major disaster. As you already know, in the event of such an emergency, licensed radio operators will be sorely needed to keep communication lines open. ❖



Cribbing exercise at CERT drill

What's cribbing? In vehicle extrication and urban search and rescue, cribbing refers to the use of blocks and wedges to stabilize an object. It is commonly used to stabilize overturned cars, and debris within collapsed buildings.

RACE continued from page 5

what will work and what won't. Georgia Smith KI6LAV and Bob Birch are new to these events. Georgia is a new ham for less than a year. She loves ham radio and contributes in any way she can. We are lucky to have such a dedicated and intelligent addition to ham radio. Bob Birch KG6RGI has been a Red Cross Volunteer for over 35 years. He is now the head of communications volunteers for the San Diego/Imperial County of the American Red Cross.

Len Fulbright K5WFW is currently involved in ARES, American Red Cross Comm. Team and is one of the most accurate recorders of runners I know.

Larry Plummer AC6AV and Mike Oberbauer KG6TDP are from the El Cajon Radio Club. They are both what you hope for to get Net Control up and running. Their calm and focused control of net makes everything come out ok.

Jerry Kostro AK6QJ is one of the most accomplished radio guys I know. His ability to put the whole picture of a race, radio, people, geography, propagation, logging formats, and aid station parameters together is so astounding.

Andre Hansen K6AH is the person who responds to a question of "how long can you stay?" by replying "as long as it takes". His knowledge of digital communications will open up logging and reporting to a written form someday. His ability to look at software and make it applicable to the situation at hand is an asset we will all need in EmComm.

Gary Kent W6GDK has been involved with EmComm for years. His ability to adapt to situations made him perfect for "shadow". You have to have someone that can represent our side to the Race Director and let him know we are there for him and the runners. Gary is the *see RACE right-hand side pg 9*

Dayton Hamvention

Then and Now

Howard White KY6LA

It's been 25 years since I last went to the Dayton Hamfest, but more on that later.

I started going to the Dayton Hamfest almost as soon as I could drive in the early 60's. It was only an 8-10 hour drive from Toronto. So, we would find a ham with a large truck and a bunch of us would pile into the back and head down to the Mecca of Ham Radio. In those days hams used to have to pay 100% duty on ham gear coming back to Canada so we looked upon Dayton as a way to supplement our meager incomes and also get some of the latest American leftovers for ourselves. Disposable income was scarce so we usually slept in or under the truck. Entrance fee was \$2.00. The flea market was huge. Crowds were probably 30,000. Several thousand vendors all selling military surplus, left over police and fire radios and all sorts of good stuff that we could never find in Canada. By contrast the commercial vendors were crammed into the tiny hockey rink at Hara Arena. Since the Hamfest was in April you could guarantee that it would be pouring cats and dogs for at least one of the 3 days. By Sunday PM, we would have totally jammed the truck full of goodies. In fact, one year we had so much stuff that I had to ride on the tailgate most of the way home. Well before seat belt laws. Needless to say we had a line up of hams waiting for us back in Toronto where we usually resold much of the goodies for a significant profit Sunday night.

Fast forward to the 70's. Entrance Fee was \$5.00. Suddenly we had disposable income to buy ham gear. We actually rented hotel rooms and drove in cars. The flea market was even bigger. Computer parts started to show up. Crowds peaked at 50,000. My big thrill was in 1974 when I bought the first ever Alpha 374, his show demo model,

directly from Dick Ehrhorn W0ID and then had the displeasure of paying Canadian duties of 100%. The show was still exciting because there was always something new to see and old friends to meet.

Fast forward to the 80's. The entrance fee was \$10.00. The flea market started to tail off. Now we flew to Dayton. Crowds were down to about 30,000 again. Lots and lots of computer gear would show up. My last thrill was in 1983 when I bought one of the first (if not the first ever) Signal One radios and of course, had to pay 100% Canadian duties. Little had changed for the commercial vendors. They were still crammed into the tiny hockey rink. We still crammed a huge truck full of stuff but now it was a rented truck and we actually paid someone to drive it back for us. There was still exciting stuff to buy and hams still lined up in Toronto to help us empty the truck. By the mid 80's we had moved to California. Dayton now seemed a long way away so I stopped going.

In 2008 my friend Harvey K6QK passed away suddenly. Harvey and I had always talked about Dayton but we had always put it off to next year. So I knew I had to do Dayton this year. Rob WA3IHV and I booked flights to Dayton. With the help of my friend Mark WB9QZB we got a couple of rooms at the Doubletree. We flew in Thursday night to the old familiar sight of Dayton flooded while it rained cats and dogs. Entrance fee is now \$25.00. Crowd was about 20,000.

Friday AM it was still raining so we attended forums. The D-Star Forum and especially the Ham Law Forum alone were worth the price of the trip. As it started to dry up, we went out into the flea markets. Boy had things ever changed. There were about 1,000 vendors – only about 1/3 of the area from the peak of the 70's. However, the Hara Arena has totally changed for the better. Where there were open fields

See "Dayton" page 9

Club Classified Advertisements

Personal equipment ads are free to members and could be bumped after 3 months. Make up your ad like the ones on this page and send to SCOPE@PALOMARARC.ORG.

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(5.1) Transport needed for UHF antennas to SF bay area. Contact Fred Brown, W6HPH w6hph@yahoo.es Tel. 760-742-1328 or 760-740-8501

(1.20) Help needed. Looking for someone who has experience mounting the Arrow Satellite antenna to a tripod or other support structure.

Thanks, Jim Keller WB6YXY
jkeller@cox.net

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(1.1) Wanted Yaesu FT-857D transceiver, or similar, for new General licensee. David 760-942-5167 K200G@arrl.net

(11.29) Looking for a small 3 element tri-band HF beam such as the TH3-JRS. Jim Keller wb6yxy@arrl.net 760-717-6126 ❖

San Diego Section Meeting Location: Do you know of a good place?

As the incoming Section Manger, I am conducting a series of Section Information Meetings. The purpose is to provide a forum for us to meet and discuss needs and opportunities within the San Diego Section. Your input is important, so that the Section may better serve the local amateur community.

I am planning to hold several of these meetings, at different location within the Section, so that you do not have to travel far to attend.

The first was held on April 4th, 2008, in at the Carlsbad Safety Center. Other locations in the Section will follow.

If you know of a location near you, which can accommodate up to fifty (or so) of us, please contact me at ad6vi@arrl.org. ❖

“Dayton” continued from page 7

covered with flea market vendors, now there were convention center buildings filled to the brim with commercial vendors. The commercial area is now at least 10 times larger than it was in the 70's and 80's.

Saturday the weather got nice so we spent much of the day in the flea market buying all sorts of little goodies. We ran into old friends from Toronto who were still filling trucks to bring back goodies to Canada, albeit the duties were no longer 100%. Sunday we spent the entire day inside looking at the commercial vendors. Rob and I went to Dayton with the intention of doing a deal for a couple of IC-7800's. I had had a chance to bench test one at my house against my IC-756 Pro3 and a K-3 so I knew the IC-7800 was the best money could buy. But lo and behold, we saw the German made \$15,000 Hilberling and more important we got introduced to the Software Defined Radio (SDR) technologies such as the Flex 5000 which represent the next paradigm of radio technology. So instead of IC-7800's we came back with brochures and manuals and prototypes for SDR's and far more questions than we were able to answer.

If anything Dayton 2008 was better for me than any of the past 45+ years. It brought back much of the thrill and excitement about new technologies of my youth. We learned an incredible amount. We saw things that we did not even know existed. Frankly the time flew so quickly and there was so much at Dayton that we really did not get a chance to see or do everything. In fact, the only thing I am certain about is that we are definitely going back next year.❖

Howard White
KY6LA

RACE continued from page 6

perfect person for that job.

Tom Aterno KI6ASP is an outdoors man and loves to work these events. He would go walk the trail if you asked him. He is in his element being out in the Lagunas doing the job. Could you ask more?

Tom Martin KG6RCW is a Board member of The Palomar Amateur Radio Club. He also is a member of the San Diego/Imperial County Chapter of the American Red Cross Communications team. He volunteers selflessly and you can count on him in any situation.

Paul Schmidt K6PKS combines skills in running, EMS, radio communications, and is a total guru of on-foot racing. He directs races, directs communications, and does runner evaluations when they have problems. He is directing the 100 miler in June. He is a real pleasure to work with.

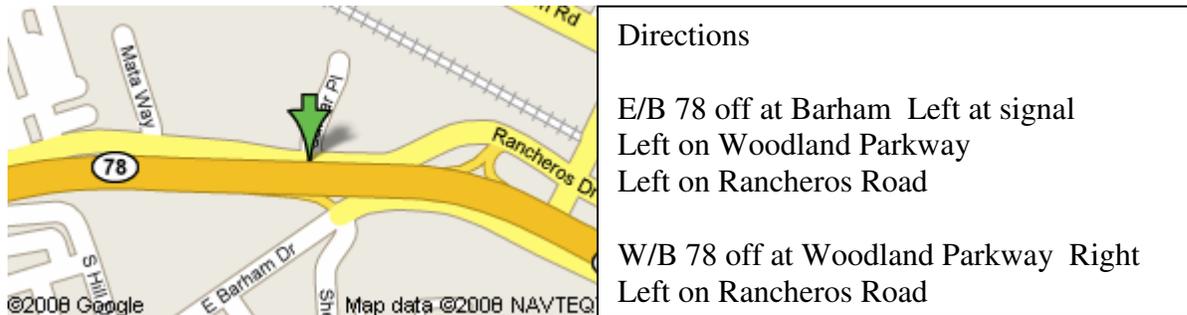
John Geroux KI6NVT is a new ham. Licensed just a few months ago, he wanted to help. He logged and learned. What is great, he said he would love to continue to volunteer. He logged and logged at Penny Pines. He learned a lot and I can't wait to ask him to volunteer again. Like KI6LAV there are new hams that want to help. They are the lifeblood of our future as amateur radio operators. ❖



Fred's Canyon aid station workers feeding and hydrating the runners.

Palomar Amateur Radio Club Field Day Information

Field Day is coming soon. On 27 June 2008 Palomar Amateur Radio Club will be located at the corner of Santar Place and Rancheros Road in San Marcos. This is in direct view of traffic from Highway 78. PARC will be operating 5F, (5 concurrent transmitters in conjunction with an Emergency Operations Center [San Marcos Sheriff's Office])



Field Day equipment will start arriving at 12:00pm for spotting and assembly. Operations and arrangements will be similar to the past few years that we have had the privilege of operating at this highly visible location. This location caught the sight of our “competitor” from Huntsville, who stopped by. And then it caused a visual sensation that stopped traffic.

With signage on the freeway facing corner of AMATEUR RADIO DEMONSTRATION, our event should be well noticed. Along with a new sign PUBLIC INVITED to attract some of those visitors who need extra encouragement.

Field Day operations will run from 11:00 A.M. Saturday to 11:00 A.M. Sunday.

The GOTA (Get On The Air) station will be championed by Don WD6FWE who will assist new hams and visitors to get on HF communications with several modes.

Spread the word. All are welcome to come visit. Invite friends, neighbors, Elected Officials, and Public Safety members

For more information contact
Conrad KG6JEI
on 146.730(-) or call 760.481.9433.



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This month's General Meeting will be held on June 4th, 2008 (The first Wednesday of each month) at the Carlsbad Safety Center. This month the program is about WriteLog and is presented by Paul WN6K. Talk-in on 146.730 MHz repeater. General meeting starts at 19:30 but show up at 19:00 for setup and visiting beforehand. Ridesharing and coordinating for dinner beforehand often occurs on the repeater on Wednesday afternoons. Everyone is welcome! The Palomar Amateur Radio Club serves the Amateur Radio community of San Diego County California with repeaters located on Palomar Mountain. The club has monthly meetings, Field Day festivities, an annual auction, and many other fun and interesting functions. All are welcome at our club meetings and on-the-air interactive radio nets which now feature discussion groups on hiking, microwave, off-roading, as well as traditional message traffic and emergency communications nets (RACES - ARES - MARA). 73 and hope to CU you on the air! -NN3V (past president of PARC)