

Palomar Amateur Radio Club

Volume XXXIII No. IX

September 2005

September Meeting
Wednesday, September 7,
7:30pm
Amateur TV
(Fast Scan)

Note New Location

Foothill Oak Elementary School,
 1370 Oak Drive (corner of Oak and Foothill) in Vista.
 Talk-in will be on the 146.730 MHz repeater.

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President's Message

In September, Kids and grand kids are going back to school and while it is still warm, it's time to prepare for the change of seasons (if you live above 3000 feet). The August meeting brought us a program on Transmitter Hunting, presented by Past President Stan Rohrer. By the time you read this, we will have probably consumed all of the goodies at the annual PARC Picnic and have found the hidden transmitter.

The September program will be presented by Art McBride, KC6UQH, and will be primarily about Amateur Television (Fast Scan). Once again, the General Membership Meeting will be held at: **Foothill Oak Elementary School, 1370 Oak Drive (corner of Oak and Foothill) in Vista.** Talk-in will be on the 146.730 MHz repeater. We expect to use this location for a few more months, while the Carlsbad Safety Center is

being remodeled.

Looking down the road: October will bring us the annual auction. Start getting you treasures and boat anchor ready for this fun event. The auction will be at the Foothill Oak Elementary School as well.

In November, we expect to return to the Carlsbad Safety Center, for a program on Power management and "Go Kits"

An another topic: I recently had the opportunity to weigh in on the subject of HF antennas at private homes.

When dealing with neighbors, community groups and local councils, we must be diligent in responding to questions about amateur radio. Questions and public comments about PRB-1 antenna ordinance issues are an opportunity to



help amateur radio shine, but only if we measure our statements and responses to be certain that they are friendly, factual and show amateur radio in a positive light. When you hear criticism of our hobby and equipment, please use tact and take the time to explain the benefits that we provide our communities.

I hope to see you all at the General Meeting on September 7th.

Steve Early
 President,
 Palomar Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Helping Hands

You may recall reading an announcement in last month's SCOPE from Lori Porter. She was asking for assistance on behalf of her father to put up an antenna as he could not do it himself. She extends her heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the folks who stepped up and are listed as follows:

AA7RE, George Porter of Oceanside. He is not able to do these kinds of things for himself, so some of

my great friends helped me put it all together for George. Without the help, George would not have been able to get on the air. This wonderful crew helped to make this a happy day for him and I am sure many more to come. The antenna's are, Hf : Creative Design 730V-1: 10m thru 40m and a 2m ground plane.

(Continued on page 2)

(*Helping Hand Continued from page 1*)

His gear is a TS440 hf rig and an Icom IC2AT He has never been on 2 meters before. We are in need of a manual for the IC2AT.

George and his daughter Lori would like to thank all who helped to bring his station alive again.

This great crew was made up of :
Tom KG6RCW
Tony KG6SXY
Norbert KJ6ZD



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Membership: W6GNI
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New Member: KG6EQU.
John Earnest 858.484.8579 KG6EQU@amsat.org

Repeater Technical: AB6QT
Mike Doyle 760.742.1573 AB6QT@amsat.org

Contest Coral

Sep 2 NCCC Thursday Sprint
Sep 3 All Asian DX Contest, Phone
Sep 3 Wake Up! QRP Sprint
Sep 3 AGCW Straight Key Party
Sep 3 IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB
Sep 3 RSGB SSB Field Day
Sep 4 DARC 10 Mtr Digital Contest
Sep 5 MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint
Sep 10 WAE DX Contest, SSB
Sep 10 Swiss HTC QRP Sprint
Sep 10 Arkansas QSO Party
Sep 10 ARRL September VHF QSO Party
Sep 10 North American Sprint, CW
Sep 11 Tennessee QSO Party
Sep 11 ARCI End of Summer PSK31 Sprint
Sep 14 YLRL Howdy Days
Sep 16 SARL VHF/UHF Contest
Sep 17 ARRL 10 GHZ & Up Contest
Sep 17 Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW
Sep 17 Washington State Salmon Run
Sep 17 North American Sprint, SSB
Sep 18 QCWA Fall QSO Party
Sep 24 CQ World Wide DX Contest, RTTY
Sep 24 Tesla Cup, Phone, Sep 25, CW
Sep 24 Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB
Sep 24 Texas QSO Party
Sep 24 AAGCW VHF/UHF Contest
Sep 25 UBA ON Contest, 6m
Sep 26 QRP Homebrewer Sprint
Wow! Really something for everyone this month. SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK, Homebrew. If you can't find something you like this month, perhaps contesting is not your bag. You can find complete rules in QST, CQ, NCJ, and Worldradio. CU in the contest! 73, Harry,

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e-mail: rfp@rfparts.com

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PARC Repeaters

Palomar Mt. Repeaters (W6NWG)

PARC Trustee: AB6QT

*52.680- W6NWG, -0.5 MHz

Autopatches:

146.730-, 147.075+

*147.130+, *447.000-

PKT:

145.050s (PALOMAR/W6NWG -1)

146.700- (Duplex Pkt) PALBBS/EMG

use

145.070/146.7- (W6NWG-3/PALBBS)

ATV"IN":

915 wbfm, 2441.25 wbfm

ATV "Output"

1241.25 MHz am

Intercom:

146.415 PL 79.7 nbfm

Affiliated:

*224.38- & *224.94 KK6KD (HARS)

*447.05- & *145.26 KK6KD (HARS)

*146.175+ N6FQ(Fallbrook ARC)

Linked to

*445.600 MHz (-)

*224.90- WD6HFR (Corvair/220 ARC)

446.14- WB6FMT (123.0) Vista

• = 107.2 Hz PL Tone

Questions

Questions about club policy or for more information can be addresses to:
Email: W6NWG@amsat.org

Committee Chairpersons

ARES Info

ARES Net

Attendance

ATV

Auction

Badges New

Batteries

BBS Monitor

Billing:Ads/etc

Contest Info

Control Ops

Del Mar Fair

Emergency Com Centers

Harry

Dennis V

Field Day

Field Day Tech

Inventory

New Members

Nets

Newsletter

Patch Info

Patch Etronics

Picnic

Power AC/DC

Programs

Publicity

QSL Cards

RACES Info

RED Flag

Repeater Site

SANDARC

Seller Table

Asst.SW Div Dir TBD

Tech Site

Testing VE

Training

Trustee W6NWG

Web

Tony

Dennis S

Al

Art

Tom M

Al

David

Bill B

Lyell

Dennis V

filled

W6YOO

N6KI

TBD

John K

Dennis B

John E

Michelle

Stan R

Jerry H

Mark R

Mike P

Dennis B

Jo A

Steve

Michelle T

Jin /Steve

John K

Mike D

Rusty Massie AA6OM dunedancer@cox.net

Mike D

Paul W

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N6KI@amsat.org

WB6IQS@amsat.org

KD6TUJ@amsat.org

KG6EQU@amsat.org

Board Function

W6MYP@amsat.org

W9FQN@amsat.org

WB6FMT@amsat.org

KF6WTN@amsat.org

K6MRP@amsat.org

KD6TUJ@amsat.org

Need Replacement for Merle KR6BT

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W5NYV@amsat.org

NE6O/AD6VI

WB6IQS@amsat.org

AB6QT@amsat.org

W6NWG@amsat.org

AB6QT@amsat.org

www.Palomararc.org

Net Managers

ARES Sun	Dennis	K7DCG
Ham Help Net	David D	KC6YSO@amsat.org
Hiking	Ed	KF6DXX@juno.com
	Glenn P	KE6ZLY@juno.com
MARA	Glenn Jones	KG6JDF@amsat.org
Microwave	Kerry B	
Off Road	Jerry A	jwak6pfp@cts.com
	Dick W	KA7AYTrwillimek@home.com
Sailors	Paul	NN6X@amsat.org
	Rod	AC6V@amsat.org
Traffic SDCTN	Charles N6TEP	cmiele@juno.com
Red Cross Net	Ted	tthompson@s darc.org

Emergency Communications

HF versus VHF for local Emergency Communications:

Recently, I was forwarded a request for information from a non-HAM reporter for the Reader.

The question:

Is HF necessary for local emergency communications, or is 2 meters adequate? This question was presented in regard to a controversial HF antenna at a private home in La Jolla.

This question caused me to stop, to think about it a bit, and to write out a response based on my experiences.

At the recommendation of another HAM, I am sharing most of this response with you.

Response:

There is no simple face-value answer to which frequency band is better. Both are needed in San Diego County. While 2-meter communication is very effective in many areas and utilizes relatively small antennas, it is very limited by the Line-of-sight characteristics of the 144-148 MHz (Mega Hertz) frequency range.

Local amateur operators have done there best to mitigate this effect by building and maintaining mountain top relay radios called "Repeaters". These repeaters help significantly in metropolitan area, but are always subject to environmental factors, such as 1) terrain, 2) fire, 3) particulate (smoke and soot)

and 4) electrical power availability.

1) Let's start with terrain:

Our repeaters on mountains, such as Palomar, Woodson, Otay, San Miguel, etc., cannot cover deep canyons, as found throughout both metropolitan and rural San Diego County. There are even areas in Mission Valley, La Jolla (sea-ward side) that simply have no 2-meter coverage. De Luz Canyon, in the north, and most of East County has similar issues.

2) Fire:

The repeaters owned and maintained by Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, were literally consumed by the Cedar fire.

3) Particulates:

Particles in the air absorb or deflect radio waves at certain frequencies, due to the physical characteristics of the particles. Smoke columns from wild fires significantly weaken and/or block 2-meter signals to and from a 2-meter repeater that would normally be visible to the naked eye.

I experienced this phenomenon on several deployments in support of the American Red Cross, including the Viejas, Pines and Cedar Fires.

4) Electrical Power availability:

All transmitters depend upon electricity in one form or another. A few repeater sites, such as the Palomar Amateur Club's site, are fortunate to have emergency power available in some form. Most are not.

During the Cedar Fire, all East County and most North County repeaters lost power.

These repeaters included the repeaters used by amateur operators, the US Forest Service, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), which augments law-enforcement and the County 800Mhz RCS trunked system.

This situation caused the remaining (and already overloaded) county 800 Mhz sites to be further impacted.

Due to active fire fronts and changing winds, it was far too dangerous to allow any work parties (with generators) onto the various mountaintops until the fires were completely out.

The functional loss of these repeaters had a significant impact upon safety for USFS, CDF and Law enforcement personnel. At one point, USFS and CDF utilized licensed amateur operators, through the Amateur Radio Emergency Services for point-to-point communications because their own system failed, and state resources were not adequate.

Howard White is a significant presence in San Diego ARES program. San Diego ARES is a program of the San Diego Section of the American Radio Relay League (arrl.org), which includes San Diego and Imperial Counties. Howard is the Secretary of SDARES, Inc and is instrumental in driving the program forward. During the Cedar and Paradise fires, the

(Continued on page 8)

HAM RADIO OUTLET

H
R
O

Tom KM6K
Ron N6OMW
Jose XE2SJB
Bob KA6EKT

KENWOOD
rf CONCEPTS
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Dec98

Directions: On 163, take **Clairemont Mesa Blvd.** off ramp to East. Stay in right-hand lane. Turn right at stop light. As you are turning right you can see our beams in the 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.

SEPTEMBER 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
			7 Club Meeting	8	9	10
4	5	6				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

PARC NETS

- Sunday** 0830 146.730 ARES
- Sunday** 2045 146.075 MARA Emergency Services
- Monday** 1915 146.730 RACES Sub-Net
- Monday** 2100 146.730 Microwave Net
- Tuesday** 1900 147.130 Red Cross Net
- Tuesday** 2100 146.730 Off-Road Net
- 2nd Wednesday** 2100 146.730 PARC Board Net
- Thursday** 1930 147.075 Young Hams Net
- Thursday** 2100 146.730 Ham Help Net
- Friday** 2100 146.730 Hiker's Net
- Tue/Thu/Sat** 2000 146.730 NTS Traffic Net (SDCTN)

If you would like to include information for the calendar, please send an email to: **SCOPE@palomararc.org** by the 18th of the month

Goodie Givers



KG6RCW Tom
 KD6TR Tom

Club Membership

New Members Joining PARC:
 No New Members this past month.

The following 15 members have 5 or more years paid up membership:
 W6YOO, W6JAC, N6NNI, KE6GNH, KI6RF, KT6UK, W6GDK, W6ABE, KD6RFQ, W6VR, AC6Q, N6VF, N6IE, W9FQN, AND KA6FPS.
 Thank you!

Please be sure to check your SCOPE mailing label each month. Avoid the dreaded red "Last Issue" on your label. "Last Issue" means your membership expires within a few days.

We get a number of new members that download the application form from the club web site. This is great, and the web site is a good way to tell potential members about the club. Do you know our web address? Palomararc.org Think - Palomar Amateur Radio Club dot Org.
 Al
 W6GNI

Last Month's Fold & Staple Crew



KR6BT Merle
 KB6NMK Jo & Toby
 KB6YHZ Art KE6DUG
 Rich
 W6GNI Al & Kathy
 W6YOO Harry
 N6UZH Terry & Tyler & Matthew

For Sale

(8.1) WTB a 40+' pushup pole in good condition... Please contact me: cstein6@cox.net or (858)349-9919 Charles KG6VVM

(7.17) FORSALE GENERATOR, \$100 COLEMAN POWERMATE, PULSE-PLUS-1750 ED, W6ABE 760-722-5155

(7.17) (1) Hy-Gain Dynamic Microphone Model # 610. \$30.00 OBO. (1) Realistic Stereo AMP. Model # SA-10. \$15.00 OBO. (1) Frequency-Counter Model # 711 115 VAC or 12VDC \$35.00 OBO.. Please Call Bayard K6GAO 858-755-5507. Thank You.

(7.15) Wanted: CQ Magazine for May 1959. Beg, Borrow, or Buy. Would consider entire year of 59 and possible older issues. Bob Byrnes kef6mtt "rbyrnes@pacbell.net"

(6.27) 300 Laser Movies, email for a list, first come first sold, \$7.00/each. Contact: Dennis K7DCG, 858-748-9046 or email K7DCG@AOL.com

(6.25) FOR SALE (1) UNIDEN BEAR-CAT SCANNER RADIO BASE Model # BC 890 XLT With antenna and Power supply for AC use. Asking \$100.00 or OBO. FOR SALE (1) UNIDEN BEAR-CAT SCANNER RADIO Model # BC 760 XLT Mobil With antenna and 12VDC Power Cord. Asking \$65.00 or OBO. Please Contact Bayard K6GAO at 858-755-5507.

(6.20) Test equipment including H/P 141 T Spectrum Analyzer, Parts including large spacing variable capacitors, Antennas, Antenna rotators, Tools and more from the Ham Shack of Jim, K6ML. Contact Art, KC6UQH for appointment to see. 760-758-6062 Evenings and weekends

(6.20) Tempo 2020 with matching VFO and Speaker, includes owners / service manual and other related parts and cables. Asking \$275.00. Alf Pettersen WB6TAW 760.941-2428 or 760.519-9193 - appetter@sbcglobal.net

Personal equipment ads** are free to members and could be "bumped" after 3 mo. Make up your ad like the ones below and send to the email address below **before the 18th of each month.

***Commercial Ads** in big boxes: \$2/col. inch/mo. We will "squash" your copy to the number of inches bought.*

SCOPE@palomararc.org

(6.25) TOWER CRANK UP SELF SUPPORT 54', 4 ELEM 4 BAND BEAM, ROTATER W/CABLE, K0KOA HAGAR...619-698-7874

(5.20) For sale: Palomar Engineers LA-1 Loop Amplifier with Omega (10khz-40khz), LF (150khz-500khz), and BCB (500khz-1600khz) loops. \$200.00. (Other loops are available from Palomar Engineers) Bob, KY6P, 619-318-2217.

(5.20) Tempo S-2 (220 Mhz) Handheld with SS-32 PL & DTMF built in. With Charger \$50.00. Galaxy Electronics PR550 Phone Patch \$20.00. Panasonic KX-F155 Combo FAX/Answering Machine \$30.00. Texas Instrument TI-2000 AT Slim Line Laptop w/3.5 disc drive 20 Mg HD w/ac adaptor (ideal for portable Packet) \$20.00. Panasonic DT-680 Ci-Amp Music Center w/wireless remote control \$40.00. Panasonic (New-unopened) ST-C30 Super VHS Compact Video Tape \$2.00/ea. VHS (New-unopened) Compact Adaptors to Regular VHS, \$10.00. Yaesu FT-230R Two Meter mobile transceiver w/SS32PL \$50.00, Epson C60 Ink Jet Printer (New - unopened) \$60.00, Avenger 4000 Commercial Alarm System, 2 Sirens, Keypad, 8 PIR's, 1 sonic, \$100.00 OBO, 13 inch Sony Industrial color monitor Model PVM-1390 \$40.00, International Audio/Video Studio Processor for Duplicating \$50.00, Celestron C-8 Catadioptric Telescope w/heavy duty Tripod, numerous eyepieces including X2 Barlow Lens with planetary clock drive \$800.00. Contact Dennis K7DCG, 858-748-9046 or email K7DCG@AOL.COM

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Note from the Editor

Just a quick note to let you know I will not be able to proceed as the Editor of the SCOPE. It has been a struggle with work and family obligations mounting more furiously this year and I just can't input the proper time that this position deserves.

It has been a pleasure being editor for the short time that I have been able to wear the hat.

I had informed the Board last month of my decision and agreed to publish the September Edition. Michelle Easton W5NYV has agreed to step up and temporarily volunteer until a replacement can be found. Please join me in welcoming her aboard.

So if you are interested in being the PARC SCOPE Editor, express your interest to any board member and I'm sure they will be glad to have you.

Thank you for your many articles and inputs for your newsletter. I couldn't have done it without you.

Michelle Poirier
W6MYP

Web Pages

PARC's Home Page -

<http://www.palomararc.org>

Rod's - AC6V

<http://www.ac6v.com>

ARES Alert Publication

<http://sanarrrl.org/alert.htm>

Tom's Hiker's - KF6PAZ

<http://www.fanciful.org/san-diego-hiker>

Echolink

<http://www.echolonk.org>

IRLP

<http://www.irlp.net>

The Friday "Lunch Bunch" de KA6K

www.KA6K.com

Handy URLs for HFers

HF Beacons from around the world (on the same frequency for each band)

<http://www.ncdxf.org/Beacon/intro.html>

Current Solar Reports

<http://www.wm7d.net/hamradio/solar/index.shtml>

<http://www.wn6k.cts.com/>

DX Packet Cluster Spots via telnet (N7OD in Hemet is a good one)

<http://www.cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/Misc/cluster.html>

World wide DX Spots

<http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/>

Latest DX Operations

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Contest Calendar and Rules, required reports, etc

<http://home.online.no/~janalme/hammain.html>

Six Meter Beacons Map

<http://www.qsl.net/k9mu/map.html>

Much more on HF and DXing - Nets, Maritime Mobile, DX Nets, Prefixes, Distance and beam headings

<http://ac6v.com/dx.htm>

Rod, AC6V

Treasurer \$\$\$

Jo Ashley KB6NMK@amsat.org
June 30, 2005

Checking	\$521.62
CD	\$2,739.17
CD	\$3,458.48
CD	\$2,893.61
CD	\$2,893.44
Post Office	\$98.51
Total	\$12,604.98
Pre-paid Dues	\$6,962.00
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Total	\$9,362.00
Equity	\$3,242.98
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$12,604.98

PARC Testing

Carlsbad - 2nd. Saturday at 9:30 am in the Fire Station @ the Carlsbad Safety center.

Contact - Rusty Massie

AA6OM
760-747-5872
dunedancer@cox.net

EARS Testing

Escondido - LAST Saturday at 9:00 am Fire Station #1
Escondido Fire Department
310 North Quince Street
Escondido, CA 92025

Contact Harry W6YOO
760-743-4212 or
W6YOO@amsat.org

Register 5-7 days in advance for tests.

10 Meter Net

Monday - Friday

8:00 pm Local time

28.340

WA9MTP Dennie in Vista is net

(EmComm Continued from page 4)

Palomar Amateur Radio Club was able to access the PARC repeater site on Mt. Palomar and keep its repeaters on the air. This, in spite of the fact that the entire area lost power and was preparing for evacuation.

However, much of the time, the PARC repeaters were not accessible to the southern half of the county due to soot and smoke from the Paradise Fire.

Another limitation on 2-meter operations is that there are no more frequency pairs available to add 2-meter repeaters in San Diego County. This means that we cannot place additional 2-meter repeaters to mitigate known deficiencies. High Frequency (2-30 MHz) considerations: All these environmental factors left only High Frequency as a 100% reliable communications medium. For all intents and purposes, HF is not significantly affected by the environmental factors that tend to paralyze 2-meter operations.

In the 2 Mhz range, HF is terrain following, out to a few hundred miles. This means that the signal hugs the surface of the earth, including into deep canyons. The drawback is that an efficient antenna needs to be roughly 1/2 wavelength, or 80 meters (263 feet) tall. In the 30 MHz range (10-meter) it starts to take on the characteristics that affect 2-meters, and is affected by sunspot activity.

Howard White elected to compromise and seek a mid-range antenna (40 Meter, 7 MHz) that would utilize sky-wave propagation. While this style antenna is ideal for long distance communication, as Howard's neighbors point out, it is also relatively ineffective in getting into local areas not covered by existing 2-meter repeaters. A large system, like Howard's is necessary to communicate with relatively inefficient Mobile HF stations that are deployed to the field, when 2-meter/VHF communications are inadequate.

In summation:

While 2-meter operation appears to be more popular for mobile and portable communications because it is more compact, it is not extremely reliable.

HF, while extremely reliable, is not readily adaptable to efficient mobile operation. In addition, HF requires a higher level of skill and licensing than 2-meter operation, so fewer qualified operators are available.

Personally, I found the inadequacies of 2-meter operations so great that I obtained my Amateur Extra License (the highest level in the United States) specifically so that I could support local emergency communications on High Frequency. I have no personal interest in long distance or recreational communication. I only want to communicate with persons close enough to bring help.

I am one of the many in-the-field operators that rely on fixed site operators, such as Howard White, to relay whatever emergency or priority messages, I may have, for such agencies and organizations as The San Diego/Imperial Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Local Law Enforcement, the various Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), etc.

Simply stated, "Both HF and 2-meter communication systems are needed for emergency communications in San Diego County".

Please see the PARC Web Site, at www.palomararc.org, and consider attending one of our meetings, such as the March Meeting, which will be titled "I have my License, now what?"

This presentation is geared to give new and prospective amateur radio operators a snapshot of each of the major facets of Amateur Radio. In addition, every June, we hold an emergency communications practice event, sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (arrl.org), called Field Day. This is a 24-hour operation under primitive "emergency" conditions.

We had around 100 participants at our site next to the San Marcos City Emergency Operations Center this year, and are looking for a larger group next year. Both venues would be a good opportunity for you, and others, to learn of the support the local amateur radio operators provide to the San Diego County Communities, with particular respect to emergency communications and disaster response.

Sincerely
Steve Early
AD6VI
President.
The Palomar Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Repeater Site Update

Attending the August 6th Repeater Site Work Party were Mike Riber, Mary Meade KG6ZLW, Dave Huhta N6EEG, Bob Faulkner AC6JG, Dennis Baca KD6TUJ, and Michelle Thompson W5NYV. This work party was quite eventful.

Autopatch repeater board was put back into the system. Autopatch interface board was swapped. Autopatch tested, no audio to repeater. Receiver was selected as the next area of investigation.

Weed whacking was done by Bob and Mary, with only minor injuries reported! Battery Maintenance by Mike Riber. 2.5 gallons of distilled water added to the batteries. Voltage levels OK.

Tower map shown and recording made. Watch a web version of this video recording at the following internet address:

<http://www.delmarnorth.com/videos/RepeaterSiteReport6August2005.wmv>

Fan in main repeater building was not coming on as expected. Mike Doyle was contacted.

Generator oil was changed by Dave. Generator was run.

Extremely large black widow spider with egg sack was sprayed ruthlessly with insecticide. This was the largest black widow spider that I had ever seen.

Thunderheads rolled in at 12:15pm. A lightning strike at 12:30, which Bob and Dennis heard, started a small fire.

George E. Lucia Sr., Fire Chief of Palomar Mountain Fire Department, wrote the following account about this fire.

"Today at about 12:30, lightning struck on the La Jolla reservation on the North side of the 76 across from the race track. Smoke was soon visible and a full wild land fire response was dispatched.

The fire was located in a steep and rough area that was inaccessible to vehicles. Helicopters from CDF, USFS, San Diego Sheriffs and San Diego Fire were soon dropping water on the fire as fixed wing bombers dropped retardant to slow the spread of the fire.

Palomar Mountain Fire Department proceeded to the areas just above the spreading fire to confirm that the few homes in this area were evacuated and to evaluate what would have to be done to protect the structures. The area by the Ravenscroft's and above on East Grade were of concern.

The fire progressed fairly rapidly up the steep grade, but because the area was previously burned by the La Jolla fire in 1997, the fuel was light, there was no wind and the humidity was high today, the burn rate of the fire was slow.

The fire was contained by about 6 PM and kept to about 6 acres. Hand crews will continue to work through the night to

monitor and extinguish any hot spots.

Just a note: The home in the area were in good shape. The Ravenscroft's and their neighbors have done a tremendous job of making their homes and property fire safe."

A follow-up work party occurred August 17th. An old generator case, destined for the scrapyard, was taken by a club member for use on their property.

Battery voltage levels and water levels were checked.

Generator was checked and run.

Autopatch investigations continued. The receiver was ruled out as a problem. Three of the five repeater autopatch boards were determined to be most likely at fault and were taken back down the mountain for troubleshooting. The remaining two boards are working as designed. Autopatch calls can now be made on the 146.730 and 447.000 machines. Please report any difficulties with these two autopatch frequencies to any club officer.

The next regularly scheduled repeater site work party will be Saturday, September 10th, 10am-12pm. Optional - Meet at 9am at Mother's Kitchen for breakfast, socializing, and pre-planning session.

Where: Meet at Mother's Kitchen restaurant at 10am if you don't know the way to the repeater site. Bring water, sunscreen, bug spray, and whatever else you think you will need. There is no running water or toilet facility at the repeater site.

Work may include raking, shoveling, organizing, troubleshooting, planning, pounding nails, hauling stuff away, thinking, pondering, talking, lifting, pushing, pulling, and other organized chaos. Work may be inside one of the buildings or outside on the site, but generally work parties will concentrate on one or the other as to not get in each other's way.

Volunteering for a work party is worth two participation points to the club. Volunteering your time to help maintain the repeater site is greatly appreciated as it makes a huge difference to the vitality and effectiveness of our local amateur radio community.

Contact Michelle w5nyv@amsat.org for more information.

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146.73-, 147.13+, 147.075+, 447.000-, 52.68-; Pkt 146.7-, 145.05 & ATV, 4 Autopatches

Foothill Oak Elementary School, 1370 Oak Drive
(corner of Oak and Foothill) in Vista. Talk-in will
be on the 146.730 MHz repeater.

