

SCOPE

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



Picnic Report

The Palomar Amateur Radio Club annual picnic was held at San Dieguito County Park area 4 August 19, 2012 from 9:30 AM to 5:30PM. See pages 6 and 7 for more picnic photos.



Save the Date

Club Meeting

4 September 2012

7:30pm John Kuivinen, WB6IQS, will tell us how to solve the RFI problems that are so common.

Board Meeting

11 September 2012

Palomar Amateur Radio Club board meeting at 7:30pm at K2RP QTH.

Club Event?

September 2012

Check the website!

Friedrichshafen

Ham Radio Convention Report

by Howard KY6LA

I am writing this on the train to Gstaad.

I came to Friedrichshafen Hamfest (Ham Radio Convention) 2012 to scout the place as a possible destination for the Dayton Express 2013 group and to make connections for a DXpedition to Mauritius for the WI6I Ultra Contest Club. (Dayton Ohio is the location of the worlds largest Ham Radio Convention)

Since I had already been in Europe since June 1, I took the train from Auxerre, France where we had been backpacking through Burgundy to Friedrichshafen. My hotel, which was not great, had the major advantage of being a two minute walk from the train station.

Friedrichshafen is a very pretty town located on the banks of a lake called Bodensee. It is full of bars, restaurants and outdoor cafes. I arrived at 3pm Friday, dropped my bags at the hotel and grabbed a cab to the Hamfest at the Freidrichshafen Messe. On my way over, I could already see the differences with Dayton.. The highways were plastered with posters and billboards announcing the Hamfest. The 3 day pass to the Hamfest is €20 at the door.

If anyone has been to Dayton, (I have gone 25-30 times since 1961), you are used to a dirty, filthy, smelly, dark, dingy, crowded, confused place with huge bathroom lines and sewage.

So imagine my surprise to see that the Friedrichshafen Messe (Convention Center) was an ultramodern convention center. Bright, airy, CLEAN, working toilets, CLEAN.

Who knew that ham radio operators could be clean? Vendors and exhibitors had to use formal professional-grade exhibits worthy of any professional convention. There is one major hall for vendors, a huge bandstand area for talks, 2 large indoor halls for the flea market where vendors place their wares neatly on provided tables.

Dayton does not compare well. Interestingly enough I ran into a couple of the Dayton Hamfest organizers

who were visiting to get ideas. Several of us jumped them about how dirty and outdated the Dayton facilities were. Their only defense was that they did it with volunteers and there was no where else in Dayton to hold it. Perhaps they would move it? Like Visalia International DX Convention did?

Size: Friedrichshafen gets about 18,000 visitors to Dayton's 24,000. It seems to have about 2/3 as many vendors and the flea market is perhaps 1/4 the size of Dayton. However It seems that Every national radio society has a booth including ARRL. But, more on that later.

Most of the usual vendors were present but there were a lot of vendors we never see. Many more VHF and UHF antennas and amps for sale. I was expecting to see the Optibeam all over the place, but instead there was only one at the Wilmo dealership. Hygain, Cushcraft and Force 12 were nowhere to be seen.

However SteppIR's were everywhere. It seems that every national dealer was selling them including Wilmo. They confirmed to me that SteppIR outsells all other HF antennas combined even in Germany, the home of the Optibeam. Most DXers and. Contestors I talked to at the show had SteppIR's.

Interestingly there were two Italian Made SteppIR clones, Ultrabeam and Antennadinamica. Neither would ship to the USA as they admitted that they were violating SteppIR's US patents. Ultrabeam indicated in murky Italian that they had a shipment stopped by US Customs. Ultrabeam is an EXACT copy of SteppIR. Antennadinamica seems to be an improvement on Ultrabeam. Because I was proudly wearing my SteppIR cap, neither vendor was particularly happy when I took pictures of their product.

Flexradio had a booth and their President Gerald Youngblood K5SDR gave a talk on he new 6000 series to an overflow crowd of 400+. In Europe Flex sells through dealers so there were Flex radios on display everywhere. Gerald told me that there was going to be a major DXpedition using the 6000 series. Interesting due to the networking of the 6000 the 5 transmitters will all be on one side of the island and the 40 receiver slices will be on the other side. I asked to be added to the list.

Since my hiking pack was too large, I bought a small backpack in the Flea market to carry stuff. I took the free shuttle bus back to the Hotel on Friday. It was an experience. Maybe 200+ hams packed like sardines. It was FREE.

Friday night, I wandered the lakefront where I was adopted by a group of Danish Hams. Dinner was schnitzel, Fries, and 3 or 4 -1/2 liter beers. I lost count as the Danes were buying and could easily drink me under the table.

Saturday AM, after a huge German breakfast I took the shuttle bus back to the show.

My host for Saturday was Ben Pyfer W6MUF, who lives in Escondido and Germany. We wandered the show and saw lots of different stuff. Ben was a great host, albeit he got me drinking about 930 in the morning.

Hiberling had a huge booth to show off their \$17,000 radio. But, frankly, it was not a big draw as most inexpensive SDRs have better specs for a heck of a lot less money. K3 was mobbed as were most Flex dealers. Unlike Dayton there is still a lot of interest in the old style radios made in Japan. Luso was there with a sold 100' tower. Saw an interesting SDR made in Russia as well WOODBOX from the UK and Perseus. SDRs were clearly becoming the dominant radio with every country EXCEPT Japan getting into SDRs.

One visible difference was that European vendors seemed to fill their booths with beautiful girls to help show off their products. The girls definitely got your attention. Ben took plenty of pictures of me with the girls.

Another major difference is the attitude towards alcohol. The USA unfortunately suffers from a legacy of Puritanism. By contrast most national amateur radio societies except for the ARRL and the Arabs had barrels of wine or other forms of alcohol to provide hospitality for visitors who visited their booths. We had wine from Austria, Vodka from the Russians, cold Prosecco and Parmesan cheese from Italy, wine from Hungary, wine from Switzerland, uzuo from Greece, wine from Israel. Basically everyone plied you with lots of free alcohol.

By far, the most spectacular was the Russian Federation Amateur Radio Society booth. It was staffed by pretty girls who were just giving away vodka and caviar to anyone who came up to the booth. Never saw a Russian ham there only pretty girls in short skirts. Ironically it was next to the Kuwati booth. They had a hard time averting their eyes.

Lunch was delicious sausages and beer. The Finns started buying us beer, so lunch ended up lasting about 4 hours outside in the German beer garden in the center of the convention center. Dayton should copy that idea!

In the afternoon we drank a bottle of wine at Swiss National Society booth and worked out preliminary details on Mauritius DXpedition. Ron WA3IHV suggested that we skip Dayton 2013 and Just go to Friedrichshafen, but in spite of the lower quality hospitality and facilities, Dayton still has more vendors to see and should not be missed. Right now, I plan to do both. For 2013



Editorial Comment

This year has seen an increase in the number of events foregoing or reconsidering “Booth Babes” due to negative feedback. The general idea is that “Booth Babes” make it more difficult for women to be taken seriously as participants at events that hire (non-participant, non-technical) women as decorations. While most men are intelligent enough (yes, even Howard) to tell the difference between “Booth Babe” and fellow hobbyist, it’s worth considering the context of the bodies being shown off, and what message it sends. Is the practice harmless, or hostile, or both?



HAM RADIO OUTLET

Jose XE2SJB
Jerry N5MCJ
Joe N6SIX

H
R
O

KENWOOD
rf CONCEPTS
DIAMOND
US TOWERS
KANTRONICS
YAESU, MFJ, ICOM
BENCHER, Inc.
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COMET
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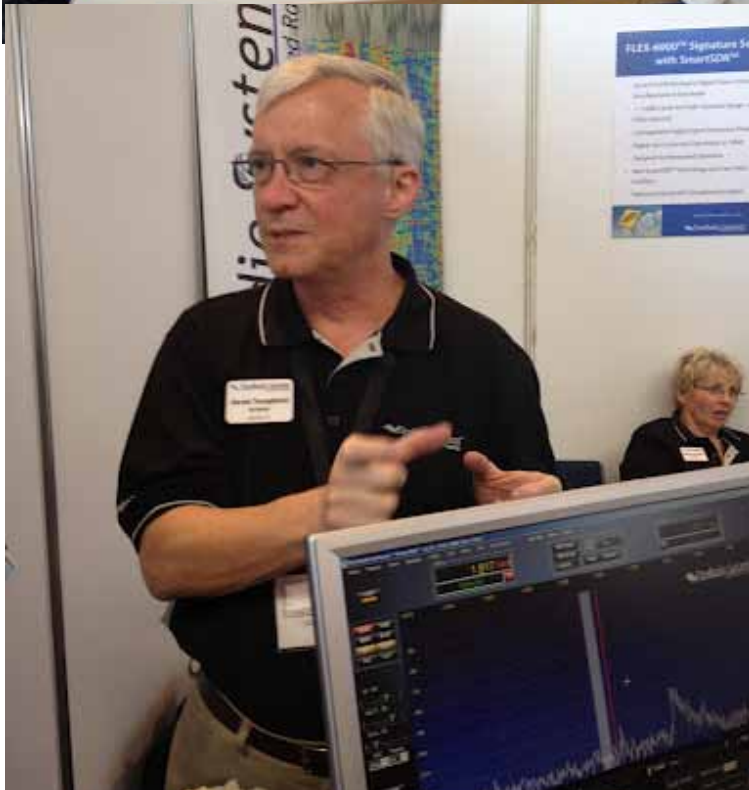
Astron,
AEA,
OUTBACKER
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Hy-gain, Tri-EX,
Cushcraft And Others
too
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Mention!

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Picnic Photos by Paul KB5MU



"LOOK MA, NO CAVITIES!"

An HF/VHF/UHF Mobile installation with no holes drilled.

By Ron Pollack, K2RP

Although I have been active on HF for decades, I never, until recently, had the occasion to operate mobile on those bands. One important reason was that I was reluctant to drill holes in my car. My wife was even more reluctant to drill holes in hers!

For the past several years, I have been involved, (some say obsessed) with the county hunter award program. The basis of this activity is HF mobiles, mostly on 20 meter frequencies (14056.5 and 14336.) Since so many mobile operators had provided me thousands of contacts in counties which otherwise would have been difficult or impossible to work, when a change in circumstance afforded us more time for extensive road trips, fairness dictated that I do my share and "run" some counties mobile for others.

The first stop, of course was at the Kearny Mesa "Toy Store." Their advice was to use a mobile mount from Diamond that was cleverly designed to mount on a trunk lip or tailgate held in place by setscrews and adjustable for trunk or tailgate orientation. There is a very thin run of coax, just long enough to reach inside the vehicle by just closing the cable in the weather stripping. Then, it's a simple matter of using a "barrel" connector to attach the supplied PL259 to an extension of regular coax to the transceiver.

There are various antennas that can be mounted with this system. After speaking with other, more experienced mobilers, and some experimentation, I settled on Hamsticks, which are very inexpensive and made by several manufacturers. Photos 1 & 2 show the antenna installation. Photo 1 shows the tailgate open, in the horizontal position.

My transceiver of choice is the Yaesu FT 100, but this installation is applicable to many others with detachable faceplates. The radio is mounted beneath the driver seat, and is not attached except by a short grounding strap to a bolt inserted into an existing hole in the seat support mechanism. There are two antenna "pigtails," one for HF and one for VHF/UHF. The VHF/UHF antenna (not shown) is merely a magmount dual band with the antenna lead passed through the door window weather stripping. Key, Microphone, Control Head and External speaker wiring, as well as DC power from the battery, are routed to the front seat area.

My Jeep has a small compartment on the panel about 1½ inches high and 6 inches wide. I used 2 inch angle brackets available from any hardware store and bolted the faceplate mounting bracket to the angle brackets. Then, using short wood screws, I attached the horizontal part of the angle brackets to a piece of 3" by 4" half inch plywood. I cut two more pieces of plywood the same size. All that was left was to stack the plywood and slide the stack, faced by the faceplate bracket into the dashboard opening, where it fits snugly. (See photo 3) If your car doesn't have such a compartment (which is useless because there is no cover and anything put in it slides out!), there are mounts available that fit the cupholders that are in most consoles with provision to mount faceplates. The mike and key are on the console within easy reach. See photo 4. There is a fused cable running from the battery through a grommetted existing hole in the firewall, terminated in Power Pole connectors to match the radio.

There is even a hole in the headrest that fits the Yaesu mobile speaker snugly! See photo 5.

Besides not having to drill holes, the whole installation can be removed or reinstalled in just a few minutes.

But does it work? We recently returned from an 8 week, 8700 mile trip. I ran 156 counties in 21 states, making 2,491 contacts, including many in various European countries, Japan, Australia, and South America. Most were on 20 and split about evenly between CW and SSB.

If you ever wanted to try mobile, you no longer have an excuse!

PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2



PHOTO 3



PHOTO 4



PHOTO 5



North American QSO Party, SSB - August

Call: N6KI
Operator(s): N6KI
Station: W6HCD

Class: Single Op LP
QTH: CA
Operating Time (hrs): 10

Summary:
Band QSOs Mults

160:	0	0
80:	97	22
40:	210	47
20:	175	52
15:	109	31
10:	3	3

Total: 594 155 Total Score = 92,070

Club: Southern California Contest Club

Team: SCCC #1

Comments:

This was the contest that almost didn't happen ! I was feeling pretty run down the 2 weeks before this and cancelled a Multi 2 operation for NAQP SSB we had planned for San Diego Contest Club NX6T - I got to portable W6HCD hill-top site 2 hours late and still feeling like a under charged Ni-Cad. Just as I am starting to set up the rig and computer, I get word that the water pump has failed and house full of people without water (need those showers and toilets etc - ya know)

So it's now after 5 PM Friday eve and plenty daylight so I go check pump system - - an hour later - figure out pump motor control unit has gone Tango Uniform - call the family's favorite ranch water pump guys - no response - I wire around controller so I can get pump to pump some water into house manually and my helper standing next to me doing light duty slumps over sideways and says he doesn't feel well - HMMM...turns out to he has history heart trouble - ...call 911...ambulance can't find us - I have to go find ambulance and lead them the in to site. Now it's 8 PM and I get to start on rig/computer again - decide at 8:30 pm I gotta get some chow and food supplies for weekend before the market closes - head down hill - whoops - cel phone rings - XYL of fellow with stroke is stranded at hospital 10 miles away (luckily her OM is OK but they want to keep him over-night for observation !) - OK turn around and go get her - whoops - she has not eaten for 6 hours now so we have to get a quick run to Mickey Dees. Finally back at site now 10:30 pm - finish setting up by 1 AM - got to get some ZZZZZss and be in shack early for some final tweaks and contest start - Dang - 10 is deader than a door nail - 15 is punk and work it for a bit then give up and go to 20 - = Condx really punk - try to move guys to 10 or 15 from 20 - 10 is still DOA - 15 anemic - gotta milk 20 as way too early for 40 ! Anyway by evening my goal was reduced from 800 Qs and 200 mults to 600 Qs and 150 mults - things got better on 40 and 80 the later it got - Dang - never got up the 160 ant and NOTHING will load so can't even get 1 lousy mult for CA on 160 well almost made the 600s Qs as had a good run on 40 the last 10 minutes - maybe staywed oin 80 too long but had a steady rate of 60 to 70 per hour so maybe not - Will this crappy sunspot cycle ever get better?!

Need to borrow / buy?

HP 182T working mainframe or compatible plug in (8558B, etc.) extension cable for testing. Have a HP 182T with 8558B spectrum analyzer module but system has mutiple problems. CRT has good trace in "finder" mode but sweep is off scale during normal operation. Need a working 182T mainframe to test my 8558B plug in. Does anyone have extension tester cables for 8558B module? Contact WB6IQS@att.net Vista, CA.

Minutes

Palomar Amateur Radio Club
Board of Directors Meeting
June 13, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Baca KD6TUJ at 7:41pm at the home of Al Donlevy W6GNI. In attendance were:

President	Dennis Baca KD6TUJ
Vice President	Ron Pollack K2RP
Secretary	Paul Williamson KB5MU
Director #1	Don Johnson WD6FWE
Director #2	Eric Hutchins K7ELH
Membership Chairman	Al Donlevy W6GNI
Repeater Technical Chairman	Conrad Lara KG6JEI
Newsletter Editor	Michelle Thompson W5NYV

Treasurer's Report

KD6TUJ distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report. There was a question about why the telephone bill is so high; perhaps we are paying for more lines than we now need. Motion by KB5MU to approve the Treasurer's Report as published. Seconded by WD6FWE. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report

KB5MU distributed copies of the minutes of the May board meeting, previously sent by email. Motion by K7ELH to approve the board meeting minutes as published. Seconded by W6GNI. Motion passed with KG6JEI abstaining.

Upcoming General Meetings

K2RP reported that the program for the next meeting will be presented by Dan N6ERD on Logbook of the World: beginning to end, how to get started, and how to use it. KD6TUJ pointed out that the July meeting is on the 11th, not the 4th, but that it would be good to publish the Scope before the 4th so members find out in time.

Membership

W6GNI reported that the membership is 265. Of the nine memberships expiring in February, two had no email address on file, and three of the email addresses bounced. In March, six memberships expired, one had no email address, and three bounced.

Repeater Technical Report

KD6TUJ reported that the temporary 6m antenna survived the winter but not the spring, and will be refurbished at a future work party. Critter invasions have been noted at the site. One building's thermostat was found inexplicably set to 100° F. The 146.73 MHz repeater has been resetting for no known reason. Echolink seems to be working now. KC6UQH reported at the club meeting that he has fixed the transmit side of the ATV repeater but the 2m intercom receiver is not working.

Picnic

Motion by K2RP to reschedule the picnic from August 26 to August 19, if the date is available at the park, to accommodate a schedule conflict for two Board members. Seconded by WD6FWE. Motion passed. KD6TUJ noted that the park reservation fee is about \$130, based on last year. Motion by KB5MU to approve up to \$150 for the park reservation fee. Seconded by WD6FWE. Motion passed. Motion by K2RP to allocate \$300 for picnic raffle prizes, to be awarded according to the usual rules. Seconded by WD6FWE. Motion passed with five ayes and two nays.

Next Board Meeting Location

It was agreed that the next Board meeting would be held at the home of K2RP at 7:30pm on July 18, 2012.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Williamson KB5MU, tSecretary

From: "STEPHEN RUSSELL" <wa1hud@yahoo.com>

Date: Aug 6, 2012 9:55 PM

The Nantucket Lightship is now owned by the United States Lightship Museum (IRS 501 C 3) and is under full restoration. The desire is to restore the ship to what it was before it was decommissioned as an operational museum located in Boston where she is docked at this time. The ship just came from dry dock and the hull is again seaworthy, she looks beautiful. A lot of work remains and I have been asked to restore the radio room to operation, but here lies a problem.

Where is the radio equipment?

Can anyone help me identify what might have been on the ship? We have some blueprints and one or two snapshots but they are rather vague. Even equipment types that may be just similar and just represent communications from a 1950's to 1960's time period would be helpful so we could go searching for it. The only thing that remains are 2 beacon xmtrs with all of the xtals missing. If anyone out there could help in the restoration of a piece of history it would be appreciated.

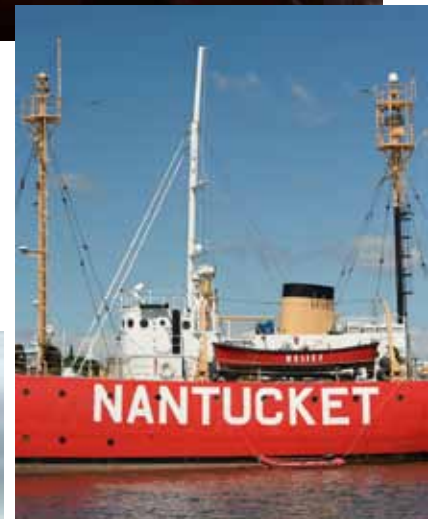
Thank you

Steve Russell

WA1HUD

WNE Coast Radio

WA1HUD@yahoo.com



Palomar Amateur Radio Club is looking for help to provide for the coffee goods table. The individual(s) would maintain the coffee service items for the Club. Jim W6SST has provided these services for the past few years, and has been very appreciated. Due to changes in his personal schedule he will not be able to continue. We all wish him well in his adventures and look to hear him on the radio. Individuals willing to assist the club with coffee service should contact a Board Member.

Dennis

FOR SALE:

Our Club has received a large donation from a local estate.

We're still cataloging and checking some of the items, but needed to provide preliminary list to meet deadline for this month's scope:

Palomar ARC members receive "first dibs" AND 15% DISCOUNT off prices.

LDG AT-1000 Autotuner \$300 **Nye Viking RFM-005 Power meter \$250**

Please act quickly if interested. Items will be advertised to public after August PARC meeting. If this stuff not out of garage, XYL says I'll be moving out there too.

Call Ron K2RP (K2RP@ARRL.NET) for details, accessories, condition on all above.

Contact RBERS@live.com for info:

1. MFJ Versa Turner II MFJ941D \$80
2. MFJ Super DSP Filter MFJ784 \$100
3. Kenwood Station Monitor SM220 \$250
4. Hustler Antennas
 - RM9 \$10
 - RM12 \$10
 - RM15, \$10
 - RM20 \$20
 - RM40 \$20
 - RM75 \$20
5. Communications Specialist TE64 External Tone Generator \$35
6. Kenwood TS130S Transciever \$350
7. Yaesu FC901 Antenna Tuner \$300
8. Heathkit Linear Amplifier SB200 \$340
9. Kenwood PS50 Power Supply \$135
10. Kenwood TS940S \$400
11. Johnson Low Pass Filter Mod 250-20 \$10
- 11a. Johnson Low Pass Filter Mod 250-20 \$10
12. Waters Dummy Load Wattmeter Mod 334A \$160
13. Kenwood TM231A 2 Metet Tranciever \$100
14. Yaesu FT11R 2 meter hand held with two FNB28 batteries, a Quick Charger, and a 12 DC car charger \$60
15. Radio Shack HTX242 2 meter transciever \$80
16. RG8/U cable \$15
17. Kantronics Packet Communicator 3 plus \$125
- 17a. MFJ-1272MYV Mike TNC \$35
18. Johnson Match Box SWR Bridge Mod 250-25 \$120
19. Swan Watt meter (Neddle Stuck) \$5
20. Drake Q-XER Mod593 \$20
22. Heathkit Line Monitor IM103 \$20
23. Palomar M827 SWR/power meter \$70
24. Triplett Absorption Freq meter Mod3256 \$10
25. Heathkit Grid Dip meter ModGD1B \$20
26. Tunnel Dipper with attachments \$15
27. Heathkit AM2 SWR meter \$5
28. SWR Power Meter Cat. No. 21-524 \$25
29. Antenna Switches \$10 ea
30. Coaxial Relay 1000 Watts type DKC-6E \$30
32. GE CB 40 Channel Tranciever Mod 3-5804F \$10
33. GE CB 40 Channel Transciever HT 3-5900 \$10
35. 2 Mag mount CB Antennas \$15 ea
36. 2 meter mag mount antenna \$15
38. Hustler HF Multi-Band 5-BTV with RM80S top \$150
39. Cushcraft Ringer Ranger ARX 2 meter \$50
40. Backer and Williamson lo pass filter mod425 \$10
41. MFJ-910 mobil antenna matcher \$15
42. Kenwood MC60A mike \$100
43. Kenwood MC60A mike \$100
44. 1968 Vibroplex presentation key \$175
45. MFJ 422-CX Key \$35
46. Navy CTE -26003A Key \$40
47. Bencher Key \$60
48. 2 Vintage J-38 keys \$35 ea.

Club Membership for August Edition

New Members joining PARK.. KJ6VXW, KF7LPJ, KJ6WKB, KG6SXU, and Sherry Hughes, (No call yet)
And, 5 reinstatements, one all the way back to 1997!

All are welcome!!

AI
W6GNI

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August Fold and Staple Crew:

W6GNI AI and Kathy, W6EPM Roni, KG6NMK Jo, Tyler Brewer, Mathew Brewer, KB6YHZ Art, and Janet
Truly a great gang of workers!!

Do you have a mobile installation? Do you want to have a mobile installation, and need some motivation?

We're looking for a few good mobile installations - whether they're completed, on the drawing board, or half-way done and tripping you and your passengers every time you get in and out of the vehicle - to be featured in the Scope. We'd love to show your installation.

Tips, narratives, explanations, techniques, problems encountered and solved (or encountered and evaded) are what we're looking for. Send them in!
scope@palomararc.org

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For Sale

Icom IC-2820H with the UT123 DSTAR/GPS module installed. Includes Nifty Guide to Dstar and the Nifty manual for the IC-2820H. Missing the mobile mount. Includes original box. For PARC members \$650.00 including local San Diego County shipping. Contact Gary Kent W6GDK at W6GDK@arrl.net or 858-679-0578. Prefer cash, postal money order, or personal check (but delivery withheld until check clears).

73 de W6GDK
Gary Kent

For Sale

Hallicrafter SX11 with matching speaker, good condition, works great. \$150 KK6GO@cox.net or 619-224-8948

For Sale

Hammarlund HQ 129X receiver (vintage 1946) in great working condition (New Filter Caps) and above average appearance. \$150. K2RP@ARRL.NET or 760-436 -8109

For Sale

Hello:

My 93 year old neighbor (Richard Krist) has requested my assistance with re-listing his radio gear (as he is going deaf).

For Sale (BEST OFFER)

Cushcraft Ringo Ranger, Model ARX1, Vertical 2M	\$30.00
YAESU FT-1000D Transceiver	\$2,000.00
Kenwood TS-950SD, 10-160 M Transceiver	CALL
Heathkit Phone Patch, Model HD 15	\$30.00
Remote Motor driven, 6 Pos Coax SW with Control Box	\$100.00
YAESU FT 2500 M, with Astro PS 12 A	\$300.00
Kenwood TR-7330 2 M, with Astro PS7A	\$150.00
Ten-Tec Titan amp 1kw, 10 to 160 M	\$2,000.00

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

Buyers are welcome to contact me with their offers via email or on my cell phone so that I can present them to Richard. I can send photos if that will help. Thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Regards, A good neighbor

Dennis S. Stizza
Home: 760.724.2786
Mobile: 760.717.2214
dstizza@pacbell.net

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You can join or renew your membership on the club's web site <http://www.palomararc.org>

Editor: Michelle Thompson W5NYV

Submissions: scope@palomararc.org

Questions? Ideas? Comments? W6NWG@amsat.org

Featured Program:

At 7:30pm on the 4th of September 2012 there will be a membership meeting and program presented by John Kuivinen, WB6IQS. He will tell us how to solve the RFI problems that are so common. Included is a discussion and display of toroids and ferrite beads and how to use them most effectively.

Arrive at 7:00pm to socialize. We look forward to seeing you at the Carlsbad Safety Center, 2560 Orion Way, Carlsbad, CA.