

VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

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March 2010

President's Message

Hi All,

Unfortunately Mother Nature demonstrated her power again with the 8.8 magnitude earthquake in Chile on the 27th of February. Amateur Radio, once again, is in the forefront and providing vital life saving communications for first responders.

Spring is almost on us. Time to perform some preventative maintenance on your antennas or maybe, as is my case, get new antennas put up and on the air. Please be careful and ask for help before climbing towers, trees or working on roofs.

The next meeting is on the 10th of March. I have a question and the first person to answer correctly (must be present at the meeting) gets a prize: **In what year was the ARRL organized?**

I'm looking forward to seeing you.

73,
Scott KI6YYZ

Financial Report for February 2010

General Fund = \$1,268.66
Repeater Fund = \$681.00
Prize Fund = \$29.00
ARRL Fund = \$5.00
Project Fund = \$0.00

Respectfully Submitted by Club Treasurer Bob K6HEW

Note—All funds reflect balances prior to the February meeting.

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February Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors' Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm local time by club president Scott Joseph KI6YYZ.

Old Business—None

New Business:

Field trips to the Mount Vaca repeater site and to Beal Air Force Base to get the watered down version of the Pave Paws tour will be arranged in the next few months.



In the mean time here is a picture of it.

BOD meeting was concluded.

Congratulations to Antonio N6ZGB who won the 50/50 raffle in February. Antonio is \$31 richer!

We had a PSK31 demo by Scott KI6YYZ along with interesting discussion on the topic.

We learned how the mode is used and some of the software works to make the radio transmit and receive.

Scott had his PSK31 log showing tons of EU contacts during his tour in England with the USAF.

The meeting concluded at 8:14pm with a voice vote, all were in favor. No one opposed to adjourning.

We had a nice group of over twenty people in February.

Around the Shack

By Jerry Olive KD6WKY

I just finished up the 2010 ARRL International DX Contest Sunday afternoon. The second phase of the two part contest took place over the weekend involving Single Side Band work. Over the weekend I logged in 108 DX contact in 68 different countries mostly while eating breakfast or lunch and drinking coffee. Funny how ham radio and food seem to always go together.

My radio is a Kenwood TS-570D HF transceiver which is a fine radio. Like many things in life, there is no such thing as a perfect radio however. In my case the 570 only has a slot for one filter, not two filters like many radios. Therefore I had to pop the back open and switch out my 500 KHz CW filter for the 1,800 KHz SSB filter, then look up how to find the menu number to turn it on. It's Menu item #46 FYI. That said, the radio worked fine.

Other nice features of this radio include digital signal processing which makes the voice sound sort of funny but cuts out the hash a lot of times so I can hear the voice better. The CW filter is adjustable too, I can narrow the filter tighter to say 400 KHz to cut out a little of the interference next to the frequency I am working with. Ying and Yang, right?

I sold a Kenwood TS-450SAT a few years ago after I purchased the 570, I figured I only needed one HF radio. So for the past few years I've been using my 570 both at home and while working portable. I'd take apart my home station and set up a county expedition station for the California QSO Party, then take it all home again, clean it, and it all back together.

About a year ago I decided I'd keep an eye out for another 450 on eBay. I noticed plenty of radios but all sold for way more than I was ever willing to pay for another one. I noticed a 450 for sale and as usual I bid on it after checking out the seller. I low balled it of course, then forgot about it like I had done for the past year.

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB—2010 ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Scott Joseph, KI6YYZ
Vice President: Kim Ware, KI6JNX
Secretary: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Mike Vieira, W6MAV
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Antonio Del Rio, N6ZGB
Director: Glen Mitchell W6JLX

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Kim Ware, KI6JNX
Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

One afternoon I got an email congratulating me on winning the bid! What? I immediately double check what I had just purchased thinking I must have screwed up and purchased a slacker rig only good for salvage. Nope, I purchased the same radio I had sold for \$200 less than what I had sold it for. Man, my luck day!

So far so good. I got the radio, it all checks out. Now I have a field radio that I can take with me without slashing apart my station. Oh, one more thing. The Kenwood TS-450SAT has slots for TWO filters so I don't have to switch out filters when I want to switch modes. Pretty cool!

Radio Club de Chile Lists Emergency Frequencies

(Mar 6, 2010) -- Radio Club de Chile ([RCCH](#)) President Dr Galdino Besomi, CE3PG, reports that the situation in Chile is "very complex" as the country suffers aftershocks registering 6.0 or higher after the 8.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Chile on February 27. "Red Chilena Nor Austral de Servicio ([RECNA](#)) and RCCH networks are working in coordination with the Army of Chile, handling information about people localization, condition of roads and support for the emergency administration," IARU Region 2 (Area G) Emergency Coordinator Jorge Sierra, LU1AS, told the ARRL. He has asked the amateur community to keep the following frequencies free from non-essential, emergency traffic: 14.200, 7.050, 7.095 and 3.738 MHz. "Other frequencies could be in use, especially on 40 meters. Before using any frequency it is very important to make sure it's free," he advised. The RCCH has set up an [e-mail address](#) where people can request information concerning people affected by the earthquakes.

FCC Seeks Comments for Blanket Waiver to Allow Amateur Radio in Hospital Emergency Drills

In February 2010, the American Hospital Association ([AHA](#)) filed a request with the FCC for a blanket waiver of [Section 97.113\(a\)\(3\)](#) of the Commission's Rules "to permit hospitals seeking accreditation to use Amateur Radio operators who are hospital employees to transmit communications on behalf of the hospital as part of emergency preparedness drills." On March 3, the FCC issued a *Public Notice* -- [WP Docket 10-54](#) -- seeking comments if the Commission "should grant AHA's request for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) to permit amateur operators who are hospital employees to participate in emergency drills that are conducted by hospitals for accreditation purposes and that are not government-sponsored." Section 97.113(a)(3) specifically prohibits amateur stations from transmitting communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer."

Given the public interest in facilitating government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drills, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau have provided a [process for requesting a waiver of](#)

o permit named Amateur Radio operators to participate in specified government-sponsored drills by transmitting messages on behalf of identified employers. The waiver must be requested prior to the drill, and employees may not transmit amateur communications on their employer's behalf unless the waiver request has been granted by the FCC.

According to AHA, waiver relief should be available for these non-government-sponsored exercises "because it is in the public interest to ensure that hospital communications operate effectively during emergencies." The FCC noted that in its blanket waiver request, the AHA also stated that requiring separate waiver requests would be administratively burdensome on hospitals and the Commission. "AHA thus requests a blanket waiver for hospitals seeking Joint Commission accreditation, until such time as the Commission adopts a final order in response to a forthcoming Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that will seek comment on potential changes to Section 97.113(a)(3)," the FCC said.

"AHA states that hospitals seeking accreditation from the Joint Commission (formerly the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations) must prepare an emergency operations plan setting forth how the hospital will communicate during emergencies, and establish back-up communications links (which, among other means of communications, may include amateur radio stations) to communicate essential information if primary communications systems fail," the FCC pointed out in its *Public Notice*. "AHA states that hospitals seeking accreditation also are required to test their emergency operations plans twice annually."

As such, the FCC has opened up the matter for public comment. Not only are comments in favor of or against the issue of amateur operators -- who are hospital employees -- to participate in emergency drills conducted by hospitals for accreditation purposes that are not government-sponsored welcomed, the Commission is also seeking comments addressing "whether, if blanket relief were to be granted, there would be some benefit from requiring hospitals to provide notice to the Commission concerning emergency drills they perform, and what such notice should entail."

Comments are due by Friday, April 2; reply comments are due no later than Monday, April 19. All filings should reference the docket number of this proceeding, WP Docket No 10-54. In the Public Notice, the FCC noted that this proceeding has been designated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules: "Parties making oral *ex parte* presentations in this proceeding are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must contain the presentation's substance and not merely list the subjects discussed. More than a one- or two-sentence description of the views and argu-

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988 General Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Vine Street Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

ments presented is generally required." Instructions on how to paper file or file electronically are listed in the *Public Notice*.

Hawaii Hams Spurred to Action by Chilean Earthquake

On Saturday, February 27, 60 Amateur Radio operators participated in a tsunami radio net that operated throughout the island State of Hawaii. More than 25 real-time reports from observers around the state were relayed simultaneously to the State Emergency Operating Center (EOC) and the four county EOCs, providing timely information via Amateur Radio on sea level changes to emergency management officials.

According to Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, emergency managers in Hawaii had been preparing for a tsunami from Chile for many years, following the 1960 tsunami -- following an earthquake in Chile -- that decimated Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii. Prior to 1960, tsunamis inflicted damage to Hawaii every 17 years on average. "The 14 hour travel time for the tsunami wave provided ample time for Amateur Radio operators to assemble and coordinate a response plan," Hashiro told the ARRL. "The wave action in Hilo Bay would be of extreme interest as it would be among the earliest signs of the potential for destruction for this tsunami event." Hashiro is the Hawaii State Civil Defense (SCD) ARES®/RACES Coordinator.

Hashiro said that activity started at 8:47 PM on Friday, February 26 when key Amateur Radio operators were alerted to the 8:34 PM 8.8 magnitude earthquake in Chile. ARRL Pacific Section Emergency Coordinator Kevin Bogan, AH6QO -- who is also a State Warning Point Officer with Hawaii SCD -- received notification while he was at home preparing for his 10 PM shift. Bogan activated the Hawaii ARES® in response and then headed to the State EOC for his assigned shift where he assisted in the coordination between State ARES®/RACES and the Hawaii SCD.

Hashiro told the ARRL that he received a bulletin via text message from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) at 9:02 PM and began activating the ARES®/RACES response for Oahu and the State as he returned home to further monitor the progress via the Internet and phone calls. "Coordination was handled on radio via the AH6CP UHF repeater, text messages, phone calls, Facebook and Twitter, as we awaited the evaluation and escalation to a tsunami warning," he said. "The PTWC

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at:
<http://www.jcis.net/~hewbob/vvrc/index.htm>
 Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3

The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 7pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
 WV6F 224.200(-) WV6F 440.025(+) PL 127.3
 W6OMF Repeater 224.540 MHz, PL 118.8 Hz

issued the warning at 12:46 AM on Saturday, and final ham radio net instructions were relayed via the HIHAM and HAM-RADIOHAWAII e-mail reflectors, Facebook and Twitter. Radio operations were to commence with the sounding of the warning sirens across the state at 6 AM. The 6:01 AM net was a bulletin-only net with instructions for starting operations at 7 AM, giving the operators time to undertake preparations."

Amateur Radio operators reported to the State and County EOCs. Hashiro, Robin Liu, AH6CP, and Mitch Pinkerton, KH6MP, responded to the State Civil Defense EOC in Diamond Head crater to operate nets on the State RACES VHF Repeater network and 7088 kHz HF. A number of SCD staff members who are also hams reported in for their normal work assignments

Chuck Oh, N6NCT, Russell Houlton, WH7O, and Jeff Sue, AH6IX, activated ham radio operations at the Department of Emergency Management County EOC in Honolulu, complementing DEM staff member Harold Buckle's, KH6HB, work activities. "The DEM EOC was packed full of personnel from many organizations," Hashiro said, "leaving room for only three ham operators. Twelve other ham responders were scheduled into shifts should the tsunami proved to be destructive."

ARRL Pacific Section Manager Bob Schneider, AH6J, and Harvey Motomura, AH6JA, operated at the Hawaii County EOC in Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii, while Mel Fukunaga, KH6H, began operations at the Maui County EOC in Wailuku. In addition, Jack Tsujimura, KH6DQ, activated the Health-Comm net for the hospitals on VHF and UHF. A net for the Church of Latter Day Saints was activated on a VHF repeater on Oahu. Operations also took place on the IRLP linked VHF and UHF repeaters on Maui. The Big Island activated nets on the BIWARN around-the-island VHF/UHF repeater system and the emergency VHF repeater atop the summit of Mauna Kea, the tallest mountain peak in the Hawaiian Islands. Rick Ching, KH7O, the Hawaii Repeater Coordinator, repurposed an Echo-Link setup and connected it to the State RACES VHF network, feeding audio under the EchoLink name "Hawaii Tsunami.

"Check-in nets were run at the top of each hour to test the EOC equipment and to monitor the availability of operators and their locations," Hashiro explained. "The state-wide tsunami net started at 10:45 AM with check-ins and position reports. The real-time tactical messages were monitored in each of the four county EOCs. Tight net discipline was maintained and only positive sightings of ocean changes were solicited and handled. Operators who were unfamiliar with tactical messaging and tsunami reporting were coached over the air by the net control station into crafting their reports with the key information of interest to the emergency management officials."

At 10:55 AM, James Brown, K9BCI -- who lives on the Big Island, 13 miles south of Captain Cook Island -- reported that waves near the underwater AuAu canyon were breaking at 50 yards offshore where the white caps were not previously observed. At 11:15, Laney Azevedo, WH7WX -- located on the Hamakua Coast on the Big Island in the Honolii area overlooking Hilo Bay -- reported light waves crashing over the water break that were not there before. "These were the ear-

liest reports of sea level changes, many made from radio operators on the scene with their vehicles or handhelds," Hashiro said.

These voice messages were transcribed into e-mails and sent to key SCD staff. Hashiro and the State Warning Point staff took the messages and entered it directly into SCD's informational and reporting systems. "These timely incoming messages were posted onto 50 inch plasma display screens within moments and were made available to the PCs connected to the reporting system," Hashiro recounted. "The Governor and SCD staff viewed the information well before the sea level changes became visible on Web cams and television news feeds. At the same time, amateurs in the four county EOCs were able to receive the same radio reports for informational updates for their EOCs."

Other operators traced the ocean changes around the Big Island, then to the harbors and rivers on Maui, Oahu and Kauai, Hashiro told the ARRL. Receding water levels on the order of 2-3 feet and 5-6 feet were reported as the various waves moved through the island chain. Real-time reporting ended at 1:08 PM and the tsunami warning for Hawaii was cancelled at 1:38 PM.

"The location reports, time-stamps and timeliness with estimates of the water height information demonstrated the professionalism of the Amateur Radio operators to the SCD staff operations and to the Governor," Hashiro said. "SCD Vice Director Ed Teixeira was again extremely pleased and grateful for these reports and extends his thanks to the Amateur Radio community for another outstanding job well done." -- *Thanks to Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, for the information*

Calling All Rookies -- and Non-Rookies, Too! Get On the Air for the ARRL Rookie Roundup

The ARRL Rookie Roundup is designed to help newly licensed amateurs build their operating skills on HF. It is a contest specifically for those new to Amateur Radio, similar to the ARRL Novice Roundup that ran from 1952 until 1995. The Rookie Roundup brings the fun and Elmering of the old Novice Roundup into the 21st century. Three Rookie Roundups will be held each calendar year: SSB in April, RTTY in August and CW in December.

The Rookie Roundup will be scored 100 percent in real time through the www.getscores.org scoring system. There are three ways to participate: by using your favorite logging software with the real time scoring support, by downloading a simple logging program from the www.getscores.org Web site or by logging your contacts directly into a www.getscores.org Web page. No separate logs are required -- it all happens online in real time and final scores will be available online within hours of the end of the contest! More information is available on all of these options at www.getscores.org. Of course, you can get on the air and make contacts without logging them, but you won't have as much fun!

Who Can Participate?

Any ham licensed for 3 years or less qualifies as a Rookie. If you were licensed in 2008, 2009 or 2010, you can compete in the 2010 Rookie Roundup. Non-Rookies may only work Rookies, while Rookies may work everybody. A major part of the success of this contest will be non-Rookies getting on the air and working the Rookies, just as in the Novice Roundup. Just like in the Novice Roundups of years past (when Novices could work anyone and non-Novices could only work Novices), Rookies may work anyone, be they Rookie or non-Rookie; however, non-Rookies are limited to only working Rookies.

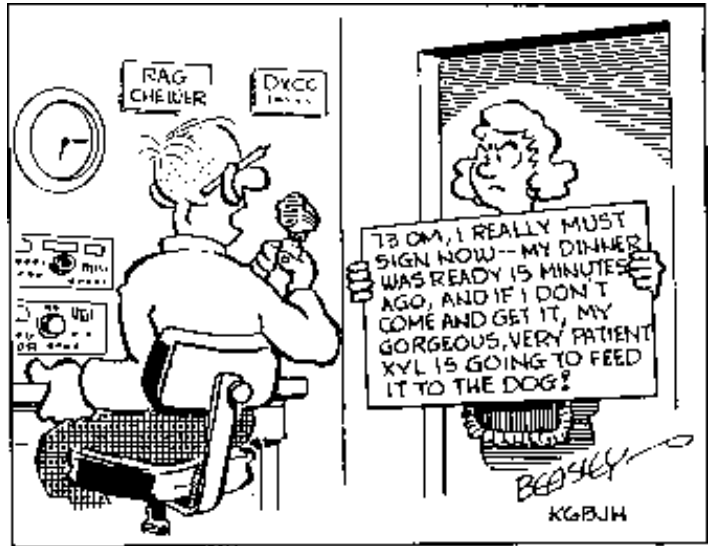
Entry Categories

Single Operator Rookie, limited to a maximum of 100 W. Spotting assistance or using call sign and frequency alerting systems is allowed, but self-spotting or asking somebody to spot you is not. All Rookies must identify themselves as a rookie. Example: "Kilo Bravo One Quebec Alfa Whiskey, Rookie." Non-Rookies only need give their call; no designation is needed.

Awards

Certificates will be available for all participants to download. The top five high scores from each US call area, Canadian province and Mexican call area will be recognized on their certificate. No national winners will be recognized.

Go to www.getscores.org for more information on how to participate. Be sure to check out the April 2010 issue of *QST* for complete rules and other information.



-73 O.M., I REALLY MUST SIGN NOW-----



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely

Dues are delinquent January 1st

| | |
|--|--|
| Name: _____ Call Sign _____ | MEMBER Dues ----- \$20.00 _____ |
| Street: _____ | Each Family Member -- \$ 2.00 _____ |
| City: _____ Zip: _____ | Student ----- \$ 5.00 _____ |
| Phone: (____) _____ - _____ OK to Publish?(____) | Repeater/Autopatch donation --- _____ |
| License Class: _____ ARRL Member?(____) | Call/Name badge ----- \$10.00 _____ |
| E-Mail Address _____ | Optional ARRL membership |
| FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children) | ARRL dues ----- \$37.00 _____ |
| Name: _____ Call Sign _____ | ARRL dues (Senior) ---- \$34.00 _____ |
| License Class: _____ ARRL Member?(____) | Senior is 65 yr or older with one time proof on age. |
| Name: _____ Call Sign _____ | Total ----- _____ |
| License Class: _____ ARRL Member?(____) | Paid by CASH: _____ Check # _____ |

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143