

Contra Costa Communications Club, Inc An ARRL Affiliated Repeater Group Dedicated to Service



General Meeting Minutes July 9, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Don KE6ZFP @ 8 a.m. Introductions were made around the room.

Treasurers Report: Paid out : \$173 for roster printing, \$48 for P.O. Box Received: ARRL membership renewal bounty of \$2. \$50 Donation for attendance raffle. No other change to balances.

Technical Committee: Everything seems to be going o.k.

Membership Report: As you all know, every month we have a progressive raffle drawing for members of the CCCC. \$5.00 is added each month we do not have a winner. Chester Rice, WA6PAC has donated \$50.00 to be added with our progressive raffle. You must be present to win. So come on out everyone and join us for breakfast. Who knows, you may be our next lucky winner. Thank you Chet for your donation. We are waving the initiation fee when any new member joins the CCCC.

Rich Parker, KD6JCT, would like to thank all of you who volunteered to help him during the bike race, during July 4th and all the special events that have been going on over the last several months. Also, don't forget to check into the ARES/RACES net on Thursday evenings @ 6:45 p.m.

Morning Net: We need more check ins says Stan KB6SEI. Come join us at 7:10 a.m. Monday - Friday.

220 net: Going well.

Technical Net: The "tec net" will begin again in September @ 8 p.m.

Picnic Report: Fred, KC6VLL, says it's time for our annual picnic on September 17th at Knox Miller Park. The same location as last year. We hope to see you all there. Come out and bring your family, friends and join in the fun.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, needs a few volunteers to help with 2 bike events in August in Marin County. They will be held August 5 and August 19. If you can help, please contact Randy.

Free Breakfast: Alex Vilaikam AI3X World Radio: Audrey Nieman KF6MVH Progressive Raffle: \$25.00 Peter Mendoza KD6QZH.

Our next progressive raffle will be \$5.00 PLUS \$50.00 donation from Chet. So come on out all you members and join us for breakfast next month. We'd love to see you. Meeting was adjourned @ 8:20 a.m.

Submitted by: Burgie Jones KE6MSF

SUNSHINE OPPORTUNITIES

> Roland, WA6NVX Ed, KA6OFR

Hello Everyone!!!!

I hope you are all doing well. If you know of someone who we can add to the Sunshine Committee, please let me know. I don't want to leave anyone out. You can email me @

burgie0001@yahoo.com

Thank you and good health to all!!!!

PICNIC SEPT. 17

KNOX

MILLER

<mark>P&RK</mark>

Contra Costa Communications Club, Inc publishes the Communicator monthly for the benefit of club members. Editor – Victoria, KE6FSU 510-724-4966 or KE6FSU@sbcglobal.net

Deadline for Sept 2006 issue:

August 25

2006 CONTRA COSTA COMMUNICATIONS CLUB, INC. DAILY AND WEEKLY NETS

DAYS MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY	NET CONTROLLER DAN – KF6HQO (Backup CHET – WA6PAC) BURGIE-KE6MSF, JAN-N6UYE [ROTATE] BOB-W6WTJ GARY – KG6RJA BOB – AB4AL ALTERNATE STAN-KB6SEI	REPEATER/NET NAME/TIME 145.110 OVER-THE-HILL 7:10 AM
WEEKLY - TUESDAY	ED-KA6OFR ALTERNATE ROBBY - N6MNL	224.300 QRM NET 7:30 PM
WEEKLY – WEDNESDAY		
WEEKLY - THURSDAY	ROTATE	145.110 WEST CONTRA COSTA CTY ARES/RACES 6:45 PM
WEEKLY - THURSDAY	ROTATE THURSDAY NIGHTS IN ORDER ROBBY-N6MNL, ANDREW-KM6VT, ALTERNATE: FRED-KC6VLL, BARBARA-KD6OKJ BOB – AB4AL, DAN – KF6HQO	145.110 CLUB NET 7:30 PM
WEEKLY - THURSDAY	BOB – AB4AL	145.110 TECHNICAL NET 8:00 PM
WEEKLY – SATURDAY & SUNDAY	JOE LEE, W6DOB	145.110 ARRL TRAFFIC NET 7:30 PM

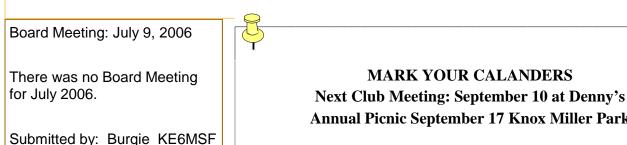
Club Officers FOR 2006

President: Ed Caine, KA6OFR (2007) 707-996-0962		
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Trustee: Robby Robinson, N6MNL (2014) 510-222-4990	Membership:	
Director: Natalie Mealer, WA6QVM (2008) 209-365-9942	Barbara Grazer, KD6OKJ 510-222-4990	
Director: Robert Gregory, AB4AL (2007) 707-552-1403	Technical:	
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Repeater Controller's	Packet:	
[Call & Report any Problems/Concerns] RobbyN6MNL510-222-4990	Robby Robinson, N6MNL 510-222-4990 NARCC:	
EdKA6OFR707-996-0962	Robby Robinson, N6MNL 510-222-4990 Picnic:	
RedN6UMG510-223-6269	Fred Neiman, KC6VLL 510-223-1748	
KenKA6TUX510-758-8681	Christmas:	
GabeWA6KQB510-222-1523	Barbara Grazer, KD6OKJ 510-222-4990	
HowardKE6PTT925-798-7208 EricKE6YNI510-741-1917		
Bob AB4AL 707-552-1403		

From The President

As my wife is still in the Kaiser Hospital Santa Rosa, and I need a "VALVE JOB" on my heart. I rely on the great members of the club to carry out duties until we get back on the top shelf. No dates for either job yet. The wonderful members of the club are doing real well and more and more new members should be joining us. That is why we are a member supported club.

Edward Eliot Caine, KA6OFR



Snippets from the

Vol. 25, No. 27 July 7, 2006

"INTRUDERS" SPOTTED IN SEV-ERAL AMATEUR RADIO HF BANDS

An "intruder" signal spotted on 20 and 17 meters - possibly originating from a Chinese HF broadcast station - has sparked a slew of reports and complaints from around the globe. In addition, those who volunteer to monitor the bands for out-ofplace signals cite reports of so-called "single-letter beacon" stations on 40 meters. As the League's liaison with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 Monitoring System (IARUMS)

<<u>http://www.iaru.org/iarums/></u> - also known as "Intruder Watch"

ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, is often the first to hear about strange signals that suddenly pop up on the bands.

"It was still on 18.160 MHz as of July 4," Skolaut said, citing reports of a "Chinese broadcaster" on 17 meters. "DARC Monitoring System Coordinator Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, reported hearing the broadcasts on 20 meters as recently as July 2. He indicated the signal was showing up at various times on 14.230, 14.305 and 14.310 MHz." The signal has been heard on one band or the other in the US from the Northeast to Hawaii, as well as in Canada, Sri Lanka, the UK, Australia, Hong Kong and India.

Monitors in Connecticut and Pennsylvania reported a strong AM signal from the apparent broadcaster on 18.160 MHz on July 2 at 1100 UTC and 1300 to 1400 UTC. The signal has been heard on 14.180 MHz as well. Several listeners say their bearings put the source of the signal in central or southern China. Chris Cummings, G4BOH, says he's been able to match the audio to transmissions appearing on 15.495, 11.665 and 12.025 MHz. He filed a report with Ofcom, the UK's telecoms regulatory agency. Bihlmayer filed complaints with German telecoms authorities as well as with the Chinese Embassy in Berlin.

Reports filed with DX Listen-

Annual Picnic September 17 Knox Miller Park

ing Digest

<http://www.worldofrdio.com/index. html> suggested that the 14.180 and 18.160 MHz broadcasts are intended to jam the clandestine "Sound of Hope" transmission from Taiwan. The July 2 DX Listening Digest reports put the Chinese-language broadcasts appearing on 14.310 MHz -QRMing the Medical Amateur Radio Council (MARCO) net on 14.308 MHz - as well as on 18.160 MHz. Short wave listeners (SWLs) say the AM carrier occasionally drops at the top of the hour for a monitoring check, only to reappear five minutes later.

Skolaut has shared reports and updates with the FCC, although the Commission has no authority to make intruder stations outside the US stop transmitting on Amateur Radio frequencies. Such situations typically are dealt with through diplomatic channels.

For several years now, monitors around the world have reported the presence of "single-letter markers" or "single-letter beacons" apparently emanating from Russia. The so-

Snippets from the ARRL - Cont

called "C" beacon has again been reported active on 7.039. Those familiar teams were stocked with new test mawith the beacons - believed to be Russian Navy channel markers - say there question pool that became effective has been a "beacon cluster" on and around 7.039 MHz in the past. These stations identify with a single letter in conventional Morse code.

IARU Region 2 Monitoring System Coordinator Bill Zellers, WA4FKI, compares the Intruder Watch program to a Neighborhood Watch that communities set up to reduce crime. He invites other radio amateurs or SWLs in IARU Region 2 (the Americas and some eastern Pacific Islands) to become part of the Intruder Watch program. He explains that IARUMS volunteers listen on the bands for intruders. IARU monitors have no legal authority but act only as band monitors, he points out.

Monitors in other parts of the world have logged "drift net buoys" on 160 meters, international broadcasters on 80 and 40 meters, fishing trawlers and pirates, paramilitary stations from India on 17 meters as well as something called "the Havana Gurgle" - the third harmonic of a broadcast on 6.030 MHz.

"To survive, the Amateur Radio community needs clean frequencies that are free of intruders," Zellers says. "Take a few minutes to join the Intruder Watch program and help us take care of our Amateur Radio neighborhood." Contact Zellers <wa4fki@nc.rr.com> for more information

NEW TECHNICIAN CLASS STUDY MATERIALS AVAILABLE Radio license examination (Element

A significantly revised and updated Technician class (Element 2) question pool went into effect July 1 for all Technician class examinations offered on or after that date. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says ARRL VEC prepared for the changeover.

"ARRL Volunteer Examiner terials based on the Technician class on July 1," she says. "The new Technician class question pool does not contain any diagrams or symbols."

The League also has updated its Technician study guides to reflect the new Element 2 question pool. A brand-new publication, The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, includes all the information a prospective ham needs to get licensed. In addition, the fourth edition of ARRL's Tech Q & A now is available. Well-known ham radio author and QST contributing editor Ward Silver, NOAX, wrote both manuals.

ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, says these two publications replace the popular and familiar Now You're Talking! (5th edition) and ARRL's Tech Q & A (3rd edition) for those taking the Technician examination on or after July 1. ARRL-registered instructors may continue to receive discounts on League training materials.

A team of ARRL staffers and volunteers contributed to the organization and layout of The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, which may be used either for self-study or for classroom use. It features a friendly, easyto-read two-color format that emphasizes key learning concepts as well as easy-to-understand "bite-sized" sections.

The new ARRL Tech Q & A also includes the Technician Amateur 2) question pool effective July 1 plus an answer key and concise, clear explanations for all questions. The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (Order No 9639) is \$24.95. The new fourth-edition ARRL Tech Q & A (Order No 9647) is \$15.95. Visit the ARRL online catalog

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/> Later this summer, the League will introduce a new online class, "The ARRL Ham Radio License Course," replacing the Technician License Course (EC-010) that had been offered through the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (CCE) program. Once it's available, students taking the new course will be able to complete all of their Technician class license training online. Along with a 100-percent risk-free guarantee, registration will include a copy of the new ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, a one-year ARRL membership and post-graduate support. ARRL offers online and computer-based training for students interested taking practice test drills. HamTestOnlineT is a Webbased training program for the Amateur Radio written exams, covering all questions and study material. Also available is Ham University on CD-ROM. This software allows you to browse the questions and quiz yourself on weak areas. Both products are available for the new Technician question pool, as well as for students preparing to upgrade to General or Amateur Extra. HamTestOnline (Order No 9571) is \$49.95. The complete edition of Ham University (Order No 8735) retails for \$39.95, or purchase the Technician edition (Order No 8956) for \$24.95.

Inderbitzen says the ARRL Technician class video course expired when the new

Vol. 25, No. 28 July 14, 2006 "MAGIC BAND" DOES ITS THING

Stations in several parts of the US took advantage of a monster opening on 6 meters -- the "Magic Band" -- Wednesday, July 12. The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com> Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, who also edits "How's DX?" for QST, says the band began warming up at

Snippets from the ARRL - Cont

his Maryland QTH before sunrise, but -- in Maryland. "This was one of the the biggest opening occurred just before 2100 UTC. "The band stayed open to Europe until just after 0000Z today," McClenny said July 13. He credits fellow 6-meter DX chaser Marty Green, K2PLF, with tipping him off. "I ran downstairs and could not believe my ears," McClenny enthused in the July 13 edition of The Daily DX. "I have never heard conditions so good and so widespread into Europe."

McClenny said "the band was packed" from about 50.066 to well above 50.200 MHz with CW and SSB signals and even a few weak digital signals. So bountiful were the 6-meter DX spots, he recounts, "I didn't know where to begin." McClenny said conditions were so good "stations with 10-foot high antennas and 5 W were making it across the pond."

QST's "World Above 50 MHz" Editor Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, called it "probably the best 6 meter Es [sporadic E] opening of all time" into Europe. "I worked about two dozen Europeans as far east as Bulgaria but no new countries," Zimmerman said.

Rich Lawrence, KB1DMX, in Connecticut reported hearing stations in Italy, France, Spain, England, the Canary Islands, Serbia, Belgium and the Azores.

Rick Tharrington, KD4JRX, in North Carolina was among those posting exclamatory reports to the SixClub reflector. "I could not believe the European stations on the band," he said. "It sounded like 20 meters for while!" He worked EH8BPX and ON4IQ, among others, with 59 reports. "The magic band is working its magic today!" he added. On the same reflector, Paul Lenharr, KB3NDS, reported working 18 stations in just under 45 minutes from his modest station -- 100 W to a dipole at 35 feet

best openings for me since I started using 6 meters," he said.

In another SixClub posting, Jack Shutt, W9GT, said the band "was hopping" at his QTH in Indiana the evening of July 12, but he couldn't hear any DX. "Six meters, however, was open coast to coast," he reported, noting that he worked several stations to his west, including a couple in Nevada and one in California.

"I hope we can enjoy these conditions for a while yet," Shutt said. "Sure is fun when 6 is open!" McClenny said Jose DaSilva, N4IS, in Southern Florida, may have been the first US station to work Montenegro on 6 meters when he snagged YU6DZ at 1559 UTC. "After four seasons on the band," McClenny concluded, "I would have to say that overall this has been the best -- and we are just about at the bottom of the sunspot cycle! Are you on 6?"

Major changes to UK amateur rules announced:

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) reports radio amateurs there soon will no longer have to keep a log unless telecoms regulator Ofcom specifically requests it. Other significant rules changes Ofcom has announced include a substantial relaxation of regulations regarding unattended operation and remote control. Amateurs will be able to use 10 mW on any amateur band for remote operation within a 100-meter range. "Interestingly," RSGB commented, "Ofcom appears to have formally recognized Amateur Radio as a leisure activity as well as a self-training hobby." In 2005, Ofcom unveiled a laundry list of changes to the Amateur Radio rules, including the introduction of a lifetime license that could be renewed free of charge via the Internet. The lifetime license and the new changes to the licence Ofcom

has just announced go into effect in October 2006. RSGB encouraged UK amateurs to read and file comments on Ofcom's documentation <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/co ndocs/aradio/lifetimelicence> on the new license format.

DXCC Desk approves operation for DXCC credit: The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved this operation for DXCC credit: YU6AO, Montenegro, operation beginning July 4, 2006. For more information, visit the DXCC Web page

Vol. 25, No. 29 July 21, 2006

FCC SUSPENDS HAM LI-CENSES FOR FAILURE TO MAIN-TAIN MAILING ADDRESS

The FCC has suspended two Amateur Radio licenses because the holders had failed to maintain correct mailing addresses in the Commission's licensee database. Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth wrote Larry L. Smith, KC7LJR, of Middleton, Idaho, and Larry J. Maniag, KD7JTG, of Payson, Arizona, on June 28 to inform them the FCC was suspending their Technician tickets for the remainder of their license terms or until each licensee provides a valid mailing address.

In his letter to Smith. Hollingsworth noted that on three occasions in late 2005, the FCC had been unable to deliver warning notices alleging deliberate interference to a 2-meter repeater system.

He told Maniag that the US Postal Service earlier this year returned as undeliverable two warning notices alleging deliberate interference with several repeaters.

Hollingsworth cited §97.23 of the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules that requires each license grant to show the licensee's correct name and mailing address. The

Snippets from the ARRL - Cont

rule provides that "revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct mailing address."

Meanwhile, a Texas man, Billy J. Benefiel, W5BJB, turned in his amateur license rather than respond to complaints alleging that he was operating on frequencies not authorized to him as a Technician, and for causing interference.

Vol. 25, No. 30 July 28, 2006

NEW EMERGENCY COM-MUNICATIONS BILL INCLUDES ROLE FOR HAMS

A bill to enhance emergency communication at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) includes Amateur Radio operators as part of an overall effort to provide interoperability among responders. The 21st Century Emergency Communications Act of 2006 (HR 5852), an amendment to the Homeland Security Act of 2002, passed the US House this week on a 414-2 vote and has gone to the Senate. Its sponsor, Rep David G. Reichert (R-WA) -- who chairs the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology -- says his legislation is designed "to improve the ability of emergency responders to communicate with each other" -- interoperability. "Until the events of September 11, 2001, many people in this nation believed and assumed that first responders from different disciplines and jurisdictions could actually talk to each other," Reichert -- a former police officer -- told the House in support of his bill. "It wasn't happening. It is still not happening today. Unfortunately, that was not the case then, and, as demonstrated by the inadequate responses to Hurricane Katrina, that is not the case today."

Reichert told his colleagues

that the inability of first responders to communicate with each another effectively led to the loss of many lives along the US Gulf Coast last year. "This is simply unacceptable," he said. His measure also would require the DHS to strengthen its efforts to improve emergency communications. HR 5852 calls for Amateur Radio operators to be part of a "Regional **Emergency Communications Coordi**nation Working Group" (RECC Working Group) that would be attached to each regional Department of Homeland Security office. The RECC Working Groups would advise federal and state homeland security officials. In addition to radio amateurs, membership in the RECC Working Groups would include state and local officials; law enforcement, first responders such as fire departments; 911 centers; hospitals; ambulance services;

Communications equipment vendors, telephone, wireless satellite, broadband and cable service providers; public utilities; broadcasters; emergency evacuation transit services; state emergency managers, homeland security directors or representatives of state administrative agencies; local emergency managers or homeland security directors, and "other emergency response providers or emergency support providers as deemed Appropriate." HR 5852 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

FIRST ARRL ONLINE AUCTION PLANNED FOR OCTOBER

The ARRL may be giving eBay and the other auction sites a little competition in the Amateur Radio arena this fall when the first ARRL Online Auction gets under way. Auction proceeds will help to support the League's educational services and programs. The event now is in the planning stages, says ARRL Business Services Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ.

"We will soon embark on an exciting new venture," Jahnke said in providing the broad strokes of the online auction to ARRL Headquarters staff members. Jahnke and her Business Services team will organize and manage the event, which is planned for late October -- the exact dates haven't been set yet -- and she promises it will be lots of fun.

"This will not be just another boring auction, because we plan to include many unique and special items related to Amateur Radio," she said. "We are hoping to offer items that will interest our audience, ranging from DXpedition vacation rentals to restored Collins 75A4s." Jahnke says this inaugural online auction will be limited to 100 items.

The auction will be open to all -- ARRL members and otherwise. Bidders just need online access to take part. "With an online auction, we can reach potential bidders across the nation and around the world," Jahnke pointed out.

Jahnke says she anticipates that the online auction will be open for about two weeks, and participants will need to register in advance. At this stage, she says, the auction planners are seeking additional ideas but no auction booty as yet. Contact Jahnke via e-mail <<u>djahnke@arrl.org</u>>.

> Visit ARRL.org for full ARRL news and information

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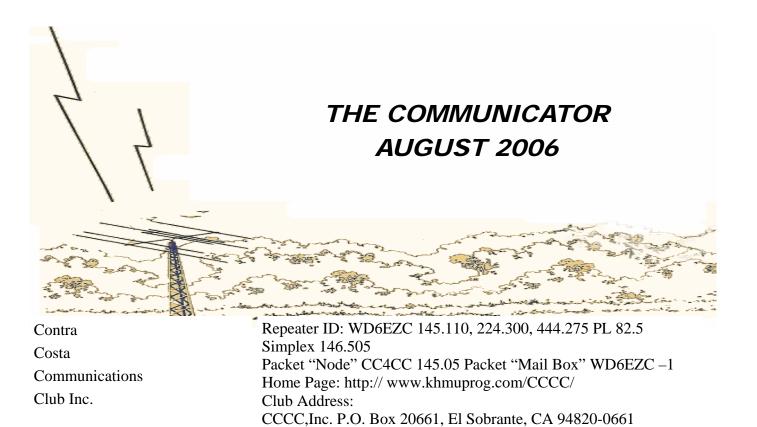
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Contra Costa communications Club, Inc. P.O. Box 20661 El Sobrante, CA 94820-0661

POSTMASTER: ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Next Meeting: August 13

Denny's on the corner of San Pablo Ave. and Potrero Ave in El Cerrito, CA 94530

Breakfast at 7:15 a.m. Club meeting at 8:00 a.m. Board meeting at 8:45