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**The next CARA breakfast meeting is 8AM  
February 11, 2012, at Hof's Hut, 7005  
Knott Ave, Buena Park, CA.**

**Order what you want from the menu!**

<http://www.hofshut.com/menu.asp>

**Raffle tickets will be sold separately at the meeting**

*The* **RAGCHEWER**

CARA, PO Box 425, Garden Grove, CA 92842-0425

[www.cara.nu](http://www.cara.nu)

Published bi-monthly for members of the Catalina Amateur Repeater Association (CARA). Also posted on the association's website.

**Catalina Repeaters**

147.090 (+) (no PL, but occasionally 79.7)

224.420 (-) PL 110.9 (Available through Echolink connection via KC6PCB-L, node #130506)

927.9375 (-) DPL 311

224.320 (-) PL 151.4 – Costa Mesa

448.400 (-) PL 110.9 – Avalon (only in Avalon)

**Weekly Nets:**

**Monday:**

**Membership Net**, 7:00PM, net control is Jay, KF6UPN, (Newsline, announcements, member check-in followed by Echolink and guest check-in.) The 2-meter and 220 repeaters are linked.

**Swap Net**, Immediately following the membership net, hosted by John – WO1S (buy, sell and trade amateur and amateur related equipment).

**Tuesday:**

**The 220 Net**, 7:00PM, 220mHz informal net, with hosts Joyce KD6HYO (odd months) or Dan AD6HK (even months), open to all amateurs.

Talk day or night on our 220 repeater via Echolink node **130506, KC6PCB-L**. Keep in touch with family and Ham friends while away from home. We also link the 220 and 2-meter repeaters for the Monday night net, so don't lose out on the latest Ham news (Newsline) and with the local events.

## **Tinkerbell Half-Marathon**

Bright and early on Jan 29th, in the wee hours of the morning, 16 CARA members turned out to help with communications for the Inaugural Tinkerbell half marathon.

CARA was contacted by Mike Bone, the Race Director of the event, who asked if we would help out with this event. We have worked with Mike for over 11 years, with various events on Catalina Island, including the Avalon Benefit 50-mile run, and the Catalina Eco Marathon, which take place each year.

This event was much larger than anything we have been involved with on the island. Normally we see around 300 athletes participating in an event on the island. This was something totally new, complete with a large percentage of the runners wearing tutus and fairy wings, or other fantasy costumes as they ran!

Start time for the race was 5:45AM and runners were asked to be in their starting corrals by 5:15AM. Arriving at Disneyland around 4:30AM, we were amazed at all the activity taking place. Thousands of volunteers and runners scurrying about to get to where they needed to be to start the race or catch a bus to their station.

The 13.1 mile course wound through both of the Disney theme parks, as well as out on the city streets of Anaheim. Hams were stationed at each of the water dispensing stations and Medical tents along the course, to provide health and welfare communications for the 14,500 runners. Other hams were stationed at various places around the large "finish" area, to help family members get reunited with their runners after they completed the race, or were pulled off the course for medical reasons.

Communications went fairly smoothly, considering the number of stations on the frequency, the number of runners, and the fact that this was the inaugural for this new annual event. Some of the logistics were being worked out by the event staff for the first time, and we had to figure out some of our duties "on the fly". We found that calls for supply

replenishments were easy to make, but getting those supplies where they were needed was difficult to impossible, with many of the city streets blocked off to all traffic by the Anaheim Police Dept. for the event!

A temporary repeater was operated out of the trunk of a car, parked on the top floor of the large 5 floor Disney parking structure. The repeater's transmitter power was 5 W, which covered the approximate 2 mile radius just fine, allowing all stations to use handheld radios.



The first runner finished the 13.1 miles in a little over an hour from the start of the race and we were wrapping things up at the Finish Line around 10AM. That left the rest of Sunday to go home and take a nap or do some chores while the sun was still shining.

The Tinkerbell Half Marathon Weekend (Friday through Sunday) benefited the Anaheim Community Foundation, an organization dedicated to providing and improving programs, services, and facilities not ordinarily supported by the government, which enrich the lives of Anaheim residents.

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## **Avalon Benefit 50 Mile Run**

January was filled with special events involving Health and Welfare communications. CARA volunteers once again participated in the Avalon 50 held on January 14 this year.

The club has been involved in this event since January 2000.

This is a big event for the club each year but this year it seemed to be overshadowed by preparations for the Tinkerbell Half Marathon. Past experience had everyone pretty well-trained so the Avalon 50 came together almost automatically.

Next up is the Catalina Marathon on March 10. Another new event for us but it will go fast and a minimum amount of routine communication is expected.

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### CARA Name Badges

The badges are printed in three colors on 1½” by 3” gloss white aluminum stock with a magnet attachment on the back. The cost per badge is \$6.00.



Badges ordered at or before a breakfast meeting will be available for pickup at the following breakfast meeting.

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### A Call For Ragchewer Contributions

The Ragchewer looks a little plain without some pictures in it. How about sending us a picture of your ham shack or mobile installation, past or present, so we can share it with the members? (A short description would be good too.) Remember, it is your newsletter, I'm just making sure it happens every other month in some way, shape or form.

## RAFFLE RADIO TICKET ORDER FORM

### CARA RAFFLE TICKET PURCHASE

For the February 11, 2012 Breakfast Radio Raffle

1 to 4 Tickets      \$1.00 each

6 Tickets for      \$5.00

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For a chance to win an Alinco DR-235 220 mobile radio. Need not be present to win!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Or

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The treasurer will hold your ticket stubs and the winner will be announced at the breakfast meeting.

Order form and check should be sent to CARA, P.O. Box 425, Garden Grove, CA 92842-0425.

*(Tickets arriving late will be held for the next scheduled radio raffle.)*

### December 10, 2011 Breakfast Report

In December we broke all attendance records of the past four years with a total of 70 in attendance. We almost ran out of seats!



Arlene, KE6GFI, took home the Kenwood 2-meter mobile radio.



We also raffled off the Yaesu FTM-350AR and mobile tri-band antenna. The lucky winner was David, NA6DB.



This month's raffle radio is an Alinco 220 mobile. If you'd like to participate in the radio raffle but can't attend the breakfast, you can send in the radio raffle ticket form, above, with your check payable to CARA.

Thank you David, NA6DB, and Elijah, WA6EMD, for taking pictures at the December meeting!

**Please join us at Hof's Hut in Buena Park on February 11 at 8AM.**

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### **ARRL Southwestern Division Convention**

**February 17-18, 2012**

[www.yumahamfest.org](http://www.yumahamfest.org)

The 2012 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, will be held in conjunction with the Yuma Hamfest. This event is less than three months away, being held Friday and Saturday, February 17-18, 2012 at the Yuma County Fairgrounds in Yuma, Arizona. We hope you will assist us by getting the word out to your club membership and other hams in your community by announcements at club meetings, newsletters, radio nets or simply word of mouth.

Now in our eighth year and one of the largest hamfests in the ARRL's Southwestern

Division, the Yuma Hamfest is one of the few multi-day convention-style hamfests held in Arizona. We feature commercial exhibitors and vendors, tailgating, on-site RV camping, free parking, seminars held in parallel tracks in two separate buildings, amateur license testing, DXCC card checking, antenna clinic and transmitter hunt, our famous "Buzzard BBQ" dinner, grand prizes worth \$10,000, great hourly door prizes, a hospitality area, the "Country Store" consignment sales area, and much more.

Unlike many division-level conventions, admission will be only \$5, tailgating spots are \$20 for the weekend, and we offer a food concession manned by a professional chef. Our now-famous "Buzzard BBQ" dinner is only \$10 and has sold out for the last two years. We are giving away an iPad 2 as a registration prize to someone just for attending. You should mark the third weekend of February on your calendar and plan on attending the Yuma Hamfest and 2012 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention!

Please check our website at [www.yumahamfest.org](http://www.yumahamfest.org) for more information. If you prefer, you can contact us directly at [info@yumahamfest.org](mailto:info@yumahamfest.org) or by phone at 928-305-1034. We are also taking proposals for seminars at this time, and welcome volunteers to assist us in putting on the Convention. Please contact us in either case.

### **CARA Equipment pool**

- MFJ 259B Antenna analyzer 1.8 – 170 MHz.
- For 220 & 440 MHz antennas, the club has an SWR Bridge.
- A ratcheting Crimp Tool for installing Anderson "Power Pole" connectors.

The normal term of the loan is for 2 months (until the next breakfast meeting) unless another member requests the same item, in which case we will try to work out some way to get it transferred as soon as you are through with it.

## Mark you calendars for future CARA Breakfast Meeting Dates

### 2012 Meeting Dates

April 14, June 9, August 11, October 13,  
December 8

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### Helpful Hints

By Mike KD6SF

Here's a quick, non-technical hint that may work for those that have a cold ham shack.

If you find yourself at your workbench or ham shack out in the garage on a cool, wintry evening or morning and you would like to avoid getting popsicle toes, look around to find the clothes dryer. (*This in itself may be difficult for hams that leave all domestic chores to the XYL! ..ed.*) In many tract homes it is located next to a side wall of the garage.

There is usually a flexible exhaust hose reaching from the back of the dryer through the side wall and dumping the old, tired dryer heat into the great beyond. In most cases the thru-wall contraption is flimsy and with a bit of gentle persuasion, can be detached from the wall.

Lying the detached exhaust hose on the floor aside the dryer and running the dryer for 5 – 10 minutes, you can heat up your frigid garage to near-livable temperatures. Of course, should you be drying clothes at the same time, the heat will serve a yeoman's purpose. You may notice a light build up of lint on the garage floor, but it is a pitifully small price to pay for keeping your feet warm.

To plug the hole in the wall roll up an old blanket and stuff it in. For cosmetic reasons, a large flower pot may detract from it's odd appearance.

*(I've used this method years ago in Wisconsin with the dryer in the basement. While it did add to the heated air, it also added a substantial amount of humidity to the house and quite a bit of lint. I even had the XYL's old nylon stocking over the end of the vent pipe to catch most of it. If this works for you, great, but*

*be prepared to make adjustments if needed. ed.)*

### "From the By Laws" CARA Operating Procedures

The following guidelines are to be followed by members and non-members who wish to use CARA repeaters. (Good practice to follow regardless whose repeater you may be talking on.)

1) Operate within the guidelines prescribed in FCC part 97 of the CFR at all times.

2) Please yield for Emergency and priority traffic. The Hospital Disaster Support Communication System relies on the CARA repeaters as alternates for their use. Give ALL important traffic immediate "right of way".

3) Wait for the courtesy tone (beep) before transmitting. This allows other hams to squeeze in (someone may have an emergency) and resets the time-out timer.

4) We ask that you identify your station when initiating or joining a conversation, as well as at end and every 10 minutes during prolonged contacts.

5) To initiate a contact, simply indicate that you are on frequency. For example, "This is WC6ARA, listening."

6) Use "Break" if you have priority or emergency traffic. Simply announce your call sign if you wish to join an on-going conversation.

7) Don't break into a conversation unless you have something to add. Interrupting is no more polite on the air than it is in person.

8) Don't break into a conversation for a signal report. If a conversation is in progress, be courteous and wait until it concludes to ask for your report.

9) When you first turn your radio on, or change frequency, listen for a while (maybe 15 seconds) to make sure that there is not a conversation or call in progress on the frequency.

10) Use simplex whenever possible. If you can complete your conversation on a direct frequency, there is no need to tie up the repeater and prevent others from using it.

11) Keep transmissions short and thoughtful. Your "monologue" may prevent someone with an emergency from using the repeater.

12) Be considerate and limit conversations to 20 minutes or so. The repeater is a shared resource for many hams to use. Simply hesitating or asking if anyone else would like to use the repeater is not the same as clearing the frequency.

13) During the commuter rush hours, base stations should defer a priority to mobile stations wishing to use the repeater. Regardless of whether operating from a mobile or base station, transmissions should be kept brief so that mobile stations reaching their destinations are able to sign off without having to wait for an extra long winded transmission to end.

14) Be sure your radio is in good working order. Excessive microphone gain, distortion or high background noise make it difficult to hear and understand you.

15) If you are in a area of marginal repeater coverage or are using a hand-held with a rubber duck antenna, ask for a signal report to be sure your transmissions are legible.

16) Use plain English.

17) Please don't "kerchunk" the repeater (key up without identifying yourself) "just to see if it is working."

18) If you hear a "jammer", ignore him. Don't even acknowledge him in any way. If the jammer has no audience he won't have any fun and will soon go away.

19) CARA wishes to operate "Family" repeaters. Profane or indecent language is not welcome, day or night!

20) Repeaters are expensive to operate and maintain. Those who are regular (daily) users of a repeater should support the efforts of keeping that repeater on the air.

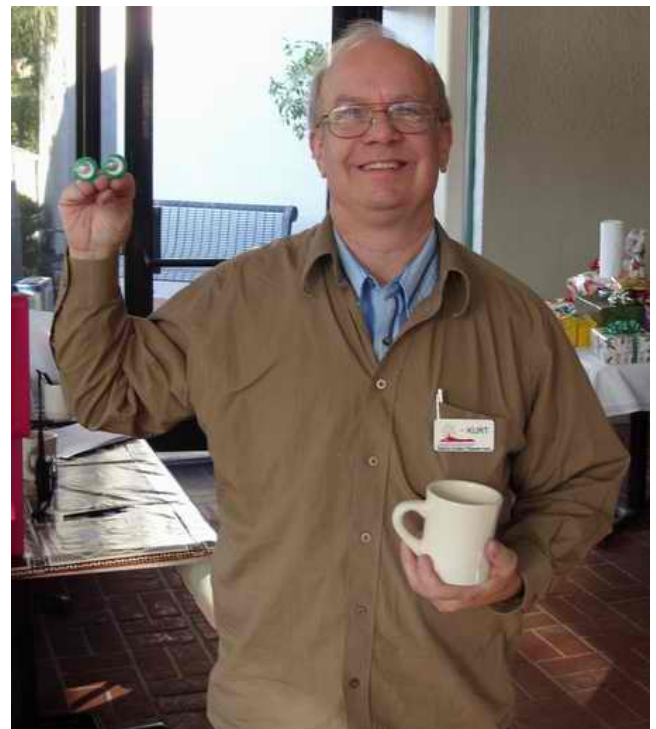
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### **Another Record Broken!**

I don't have an official statistic, but I do not recall in the past 14 years of my involvement with CARA, that we have reached 201 paid members this early in the club's fiscal year.

We have, in the past, reached the 200+ point somewhere in May or June just before renewal time.

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Kurt, N1CGM, says "When troubleshooting a problem, it's always helpful to have a second set of eyes look at it!"



Photo courtesy of Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce. [www.catalinachamber.com](http://www.catalinachamber.com)

## ***RAGCHEWER***

Catalina Amateur Repeater Association  
P.O. Box 425  
Garden Grove, CA 92842-0425

**\*\*NEXT MEETING IS FEBRUARY 11\*\***  
**At Hof's Hut in Buena Park**

