



The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon's Counterpoise



(Con't from Prez on cover page)

ARES NEWS!! Yes, ARES, the ARRL's Emergency Response Corps, needs your support! The great Schism has been healed and all RAVES members are welcomed back with open arms!! Never again will Hams be pitted against fellow Hams over petty disagreements. We are all one big family again and all hatchets are deeply buried. The first joint ARES/RAVES meeting was held Sept 13th and all agreed to work happily together. There is a tremendous amount of work to do. We need consistent recognition during disaster times so volunteers will not be turned away by the police roadblocks. Updated member data sheets are in the works and new ID Cards will be issued. And our served agencies need to be notified of the changes. Our next ARES/RAVES meeting will be Oct 10th @ 7AM at the Spice House. We will probably be moving to Giovannis down the street for following meetings as we will be outgrowing our tiny room at the S.H.

BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE AND.....Dept. Have you ever made one of those highbrow, shifty deals where you think you've really made out on it; the DEAL of a lifetime only to find out you were actually thoroughly fleeced? Yeh, it happens all the time. I got a letter from a neighbor and dreaded opening it. I assumed it would be a "Your antennas look terrible, TAKE THEM ALL DOWN" tirade whereupon the said item would make a hasty trip to the Shredder! But it was from a divorcee who wanted to rid herself of all her EX's CB Equipment. Not having a use in the world for CB, I was ready to shred it anyway when I remembered CB'rs sometimes use Ham equipment.

I called and hurried over to find a small pile of junk and antennas completely useless except for a CB'r. But, there amongst the pile, was an Alliance HD- 73 Rotator! I had just purchased a new Yaesu rotor to the tune of 300 bucks, so that stung. But, it is always good to have a backup, so I weaseled it out of her for \$30. Not a bad deal, I thought, and merrily dragged it home to try out. To my dismay, the meter didn't indicate and the rotor was very sluggish and groaned. It still turned, so the motor was good. It was time for surgery. I cracked the case open and found the most awful sludge/rust/goop inside

with everything almost useless. Worst was the position pot which was frozen and stripping out the plastic drive gear. Was there a PRAYER?? Over the next few days, the rotor was completely dismantled and cleaned. Rusty parts were Naval Jellied and cleaned on the wire brush wheel. The pot was repaired and new Lithium grease installed. And, back together it went. When assembled, it took some messing with to get the needle to point the correct direction, but it is close over most of the range. And it turns magnificently now! So, \$30 plus \$500 labor to get a \$100 rotor. Deal of the century? Oh, now I have an extra rotor, sounds like a good excuse to put up STILL ANOTHER tower!

Minutes of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon



(Ed. Note Stogie was out of town, so Mike N6OPH stepped in and took the notes. Thanks Mike)

The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by president Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ at 1900hrs. After the pledge of allegiance, Pat presented a program on mobile PSK-31 operation. After the break, the meeting continued.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Pat, WA6MHZ thanked Mike, N6OPH for assuming the duties as secretary for this meeting as Stogie, KG6JCW was out of town this evening. The minutes were approved as published in the *Counterpoise*.

TREASURERS REPORT was given by Susan, KF6WXA. She mentioned that the club has received a \$300 payment from the swapmeet. It was approved as read and filled for audit.

PAST PRESIDENT Mike Maston, N6OPH gave several reports. First reported that SANDARC met on the last Thursday of August and discussed the possibility

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2003 Officers

President	WA6MHZ	Pat Bunsold	593-1111
Vice-President	KG6JRM	Jeff Davis	698-1144
Secretary	KG6JCW	Mike Panger	263-4439
Treasurer	KF6WXA	Susan Kochel	445-6067
Past President	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067

2003 Board of Directors

SANDARC	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Membership	KF6MPB	Joni Cranmore	443-6939
Social	WB6POW	Gordon Ripley	472-2492
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Public Relations	N6IEF	Mike Lebo	8-278-5851
Welcoming	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477

2003 Standing Committee

ARRL Asst. Dir.	WA6MHZ	Pat Bunsold	593-1111
Counterpoise	NZ6T	Tuck Miller	434-4211
Education	KG6JRM	Jeff Davis	698-1144
Elmers	KD6OKR	Dan Briggs	287-0437
Estate Sales Comm.	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	KG6JRM	Jeff Davis	447-6806
Finances	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Health & Welfare			
Historian	N6WHK	Phil Pedigo	466-0590
Net Manager	N6WKB	Frito Samano	563-0514
Postmistress	N6EVE	Evelyn Miller	434-4211
Prizes	WA6PPG	Carl Ferree	265-5806
Radio Coaches	KE6BJL	Bob Spann	264-2188
SANDARC Delegate	KD6PRV	Xemi Anselmo	574-0720
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W6RHH	Bob Boehme	448-4728
WAMO Chairman	W6LKK	Erich Bennett	401-7332

Calendar of Events!!

October 4: Swap Meet, Santee Drive in, 6:30 am

October 4: T-Hunt 6pm, Grossmont College parking lot

October 7: Board Meeting

October 8: General Meeting

October 13: Columbus Day

October 18: Swap Meet, Santee Drive in, 6:30 am

October 18: T-Hunt 6pm, Grossmont College parking lot

October 27: Daylight Savings Time ENDS Fall back 1 hour!!

October 31: Halloween

(Minutes Continued from page 1)

of changing it's venue in wake of the recent changes implemented by the City of San Diego. The possible new venue would at the meeting hall provided by Del Radants, N6JZE Residence Park. The terms and conditions of its usage would be reported at the September SANDARC meeting. The council announced the upcoming ARRL SW Division Convention to be held in Long Beach, CA on the 5th through 7th of September. The Del Mar Fair chairman requested that the clubs submit their personnel for the SANDARC booth in March instead of May in order to fill all billets for the fair. The El Cajon Club was complemented by the council for manning the booth for four days.

The recently concluded general theory class had five members. Two of which are present this evening. They had just passed their general examination. Other members of the class will take their examinations on 20 September. A full education schedule should resume in January, 2004. Also, SANDARC and the ARRL are sponsoring a series of classes beginning on 11 October through the 18th and 25th of the month. VE examinations will be held on 1 November. The classes will cover technician and general upgrade levels. A CW course may also be included.

TASMA had their meeting in August in San Diego. They discussed changes in the current band plan. The controversial proposal on the 15khz separation was dropped. The band plan was also discussed at the convention on Saturday afternoon. More changes were suggested. The band plan must be approved by the technical committee before its adoption by TASMA in December. TASMA renominated their slate of officers for the December elections.

The 2003 Convention in Long Beach was a great success. At least 1800 were in attendance. Kazuo Tagami, WA6BCC received an award for his many volunteer efforts in San Diego by the ARRL.

PRESIDENT Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ reported that the Masonic Lodge of La Mesa is increasing the rental charge for club meetings from \$25 per meeting to \$125. Since it would be untenable to conduct meetings at that price it was suggested that the club meet at Renette Park in El Cajon. Rich, N6NKJ reported that the city of El Cajon would rent the facility for \$7.50 per hour. The building would air conditioned and would be available either the second Wednesday or second Thursday of the month. We could use the facility for two or three hours and the cost would still less than the

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(Continued from page 2) *Minutes*

present rental. The club cannot request the site until December. Rich also mentioned that there is very little parking at the site, however there should be plenty of street parking. He also mentioned that there is a crime problem that seems to be under control. It was moved and seconded that should the club use the Rennette Park site, that the meetings would be held on the second Thursday of the month. The motion was carried.

WELCOMING chairman Mike, AE6CQ stated that there were 41 members in attendance with two visitors.

PUBLIC SERVICE chairman Rich, N6NKJ reported that an ARES meeting will be held on 13 September at the Spice House Restaurant at 0700hrs. There will also be Red Cross training on 13 September 2003. The "*I Love a Clean San Diego*" event will be held from 0900 to 1200hrs on Saturday 20 September. Contact Stogie for details and to volunteer. A 100-mile run will be held on 22 November at least eight aid stations will need manning. Most of the operation will be on the 75-meter band. Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ will become SEC by the weekend as the former SEC has resigned his office. Pat announced that there may be many other changes within the section.

It was announced that t-shirts will be available at \$10 each. If you need a XXL the price would be \$12. Club caps would also be available.

Pat suggested that the club needs to support the WAMO net on Wednesday and Saturday night. The attendance has dwindled to eight on the last net.

NEW BUSINESS: The club Christmas party will be held at the Elks Lodge #1812 in El Cajon this year. It was suggested by the board of directors that the ticket prices would be \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members respectfully. Ticket sales should begin in October. It was moved and seconded that the board of directors recommendation on ticket prices be approved. The motion was carried.

Mike, N6OPH also announced that the club needs to elect a nominations committee at the October club meeting. This is the beginning event for the elections cycle.

Susan, KF6WXA moved that a letter of appreciation along with a plaque be given to the swap meet company for their continued support of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. The motion was carried.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2035hrs.

Respectfully Submitted
Michael Paul Maston
N6OPH



Some more Picnic Pictures

(taken by Chemi KD6PRV)



We Have Meeting Site!!!!

(not until January tho...)

Rennette Park

in

El Cajon

Starting in January, we will
once again be meeting on the
2nd Thursday of each month,
and back in EL CAJON!!

We're BAAACCKKK!!

(This announcement will re-occur each month)



Tom McDuffie KM6K, Manager
5375 Kearny Villa Road
San Diego, CA 92123

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 WOODSIDE AVE., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month

WEB SITE: <http://www.qsl.net/wa6bgs>

The Counterpoise and other items of
interest are online!!

October Birthdays



Happy Birthday!

1197 KE6ECG	Rick	Hoke	October	1
1182 KB6RYD	Ty	Simons	October	2
659 KB6RCT	Vuong	Bunsold	October	4
1579 KF6ZRT	Scott	Webber	October	12
47 WB6IMN	Ed	Kennedy	October	12
1312 KE6YPS	Richard	Dickson	October	12
804 KN6HQ	Frank	Sheeler	October	13
1559 KG6CNB	Michael	Anderson	October	15
964 KD6DCO	Doug	Goodman	October	23
1111 KD6WRO	Peggy	Bostick	October	29
188 K6VM	Chet	Smith	October	29

Last minute addition....

Bill Callier KD6QB underwent an emergency operation to place
some stints in some of his arteries. He is home, but has to go
back in for additional work..... Keep up the faith Bill!!!

COUNTERPOISE Classifieds

FOUND: Blue sweater with Crocodile on it. OH
OH!!! Too late, after trying for 6 months to
find the owner, it was given away as a Prize.
SMALL wouldn't fit me.

FOUND: Small rectangular brass rim glasses,
inside club Container

FOUND: Long Sunday thru Saturday Pillbox com-
plete with pills. Found at Picnic

WANTED. Accomplished Engineering Technician
seeks long term position with a reliable com-
pany. 30 Plus years experience in design,
building and troubleshooting.

Contact wa6mhz@arrl.org

**A Wise Man Has Something to say.....
.....A Fool Has to Say Something**

Attention DXers and Contesters!!!!

LOTW is now online!!

(taken from the ARRL Letter Sept 19, 2003)

The long-awaited QSL-cardless ARRL awards and contact credit system "Logbook of the World" (LoTW) officially opened for business this week. Within its first five days of operation, the system--which is open to all--already had attracted more than 1000 requests for a digital certificate, the essential pass key to LoTW.

"Although Logbook of the World is a tremendous resource for hams chasing DXCC, VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC), Worked All States (WAS) and other awards, we hope it will appeal to hams who are not currently active in these awards programs," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Mark Wilson, K1RO. "The proliferation of logging software has stimulated activity and interest in contesting, and submitting log data and verifying award credits online is a logical next step."

Data integrity has been a watchword of the LoTW since the project's conception, and that starts with a digital certificate. Obtaining a digital certificate involves a combination of on-line filing and good old-fashioned snail mail. The first step is to visit the ARRL Logbook of the World Web page <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>, download the LoTW software and request a digital certificate that ties the participant's identity to a digital key.

"We will need to verify you are who you say you are," ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, explains. "The security of the entire system depends heavily on the method used for verifying the user's identity." This first step is called authentication. Everyone who plans to use LoTW first must obtain a digital certificate. There are no exceptions. For US amateurs, this process relies on your mailing address in the FCC database, which must be current.

For non-US amateurs, authentication will rely on other documentation, primarily a copy of the participant's Amateur Radio license and another official identifying document. Mail these copies to ARRL, Logbook of the World Administrator, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 USA.

Assuming everything goes smoothly, US licensees requesting a digital certificate soon will receive a postcard in the mail that contains a password. "The first batch of postcards has been mailed, and some people have uploaded their passwords," Wilson said. "Those will be checked, and the first batch of digital certificates should be e-mailed to users September 22."

Users then should go to the LoTW Web site and enter the password to complete the processing of their certificate request. Once the password has been entered, the digital certificate will be e-mailed within a working day or two. Non-US stations will receive their digital certificates via e-mail once their documentation has been received at ARRL Headquarters and authenticated.

Participants will use their digital certificates to "sign" and upload either Amateur Data Interchange Format (ADIF) or Cabrillo-formatted files. Participants also may use their primary digital certificates to obtain additional certificates necessary to submit log data and obtain award credit for contacts made under formerly held call signs.

At the heart of the Logbook of the World concept will be a huge repository of log data provided by operators--from individual DXers and contesters to major DXpeditions--and maintained by ARRL. Mills says the system will benefit big and little guns alike by providing quick QSO credit for ARRL-sponsored awards, especially DXCC.

Obtaining a digital certificate and uploading log data are free of charge. There will be a per-QSO charge for each contact credit used, but Mills expects it will be much less than the typical costs involved with exchanging paper QSL cards. When you use an LoTW confirmation for an award credit, the fee will be added to your account and shown in the user's record. The user will be able to pay for these charges on-line using a credit card.

Mills' article, "Introducing Logbook of the World," appears in the October issue of QST. LoTW news and announcements will be posted to the Logbook of the World Web site <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>.

Wilson commended ARRL Web and Software Development Department Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, and the other contributors to the project "for their dedication and hard work that made Logbook a reality."

VEC Testing Sites

1st Saturday:	El Cajon El Cajon Central Fire Station, 160 E. Lexington Avenue (in Rear), El Cajon, 10:00 a.m.
2nd Saturday:	Carlsbad Carlsbad Safety Center, Orion Way, Carlsbad, 10:00 a.m.
3rd Saturday:	North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego, CA 92104 Testing time will start at 1000hrs
4th Saturday:	Chula Vista Salvation Army, 643 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, 9:00 a.m.
5th or last Saturday:	Escondido Escondido Chamber of Commerce, 720 North Broadway, Escondido, 10:00 a.m.
To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)	

The *Counterpoise* is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers of the Club. We also encourage input from other Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon Members. **Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC).** Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor:

Tuck Miller at:

E-mail: nz6t@arrl.org or

3122 E. 2nd St., National City, Ca

Deadline is the **Sunday after the General Meeting.** For further information, please call (619) 434-4211

WA6BGS NETS

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights

8:00 p.m. local time

10 Meters: 28.480

Tuesday Nite Ragchew net:

8 PM

Nets held on club repeaters.

WA6BGS REPEATERS:

Output: 147.420

Input: 146.475

PL: 107.20

224.080 — 107.20 PL

445.900 — 141.30 PL



Want to receive E-mail reminders of club meetings? How 'bout when the latest edition of the Counterpoise is online? Join the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon's e-mail reflector. Just send a message to:

elcajonarc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Newsletters online have more color than the mailed copy in your hand!!!

Is your membership ready to expire?

Take a look on your mailing label. Does it say **EXPIRED**? That means it's time to mail in your yearly dues. Please take time to fill out the membership application elsewhere in this newsletter, and mail it in, or bring it to the next meeting !!

More from the ARRL Letter (September 19, 2003)

* W1AW 160-meter transmission to QSY slightly: Starting Monday, September 29, W1AW will shift its 160-meter code practice and bulletin transmission frequency from 1818 kHz to 1817.5 kHz, starting with the 4 PM EDT (2000 UTC) code practice run. The change not only brings W1AW's Top Band frequency in line with those the station uses on other bands, it also should help to eliminate possible interference from broadcast station harmonics and birdies- something that's more likely on an integer (ie, whole number) frequency. W1AW has been conducting code practice and bulletin transmissions on 1818 kHz since 1982. Prior to that, W1AW transmitted both CW and phone bulletins on 1835 kHz.

* The 2003 DX Magazine "most wanted" survey under way: The 2003 DX Magazine "most wanted" survey http://www.dxpub.com/dx_survey2003.html is under way. The deadline to respond is October 15. The survey helps DXpeditioners decide where to go next. DX Magazine Publisher Carl Smith, N4AA, says not all DXCC entities are listed--just the most likely ones. Respondents are asked to select entities they do not have confirmed for DXCC. There's an opportunity to comment, where respondents may list needed countries not appearing on the list. The results will be released in early 2004.--The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com>

Coming next month.....
“RF Ground
vs
Electrical Ground”
by Seth Collier WA6CDD

ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone: (May we list) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	8. Work Phone (optional)
9. Date of Birth (year optional)	10. e-mail address
11. ARRL Member <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	12. ARES Member <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
12. RACES Member <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	13. Other Interests
14. Family Membership with:	14. <u>Sponsored by:</u>

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. **Annual Dues \$12.00 for individual, \$20.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member.** Mail to Membership Chairman, **A.R.C.E.C., P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022.**
Please write your call on the check

New <input type="checkbox"/>	WAMO!! No. _____
Change of Address <input type="checkbox"/>	
Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	Computer Database Updated
<input type="checkbox"/>	
Certificate Issued	
Paid Cash <input type="checkbox"/>	Check No. _____
Check <input type="checkbox"/>	

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Joni KF6MPB, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send you request to kf6mpb@hotmail.com

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The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon's Counterpoise



Volume XLIV

October

Number 10

From the President

Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ



The ARRL Southwestern Division Convention went wonderfully in Long Beach, with many club members in attendance. I tried to resist the urge to buy something, but came home with a LDG Z-11 Auto Antenna tuner for my FT-817. It works quite well, but still won't load up a 20 meter vertical on 80 meters. If you want more signal, you have to put up more metal! There were many fine programs, including several on Microwave and new modes of Communication. The new Trendy mode is JT-44, which is used primarily for Moonbounce QSOs. It has 44 different tone frequencies to convert to letters/numbers and is very slow speed, but allows contacts under conditions even CW wouldn't make it through on. The next best mode is PSK31, which is quite common now and I gave a quick demo program on it at the Sept 10th meeting after our scheduled program stood us up again. Next years ARRL convention will be in Phoenix in August (can you say 120 degrees?) at a new Indian resort south of town.

As most you have heard, our fine meeting hall, the La Mesa Masonic lodge, has raised the rent from 25 bucks a night to \$125!! Not sure what prompted a 500% price increase, but we are OUTTHERE! So we will be meeting at the RENNETTE PARK REC CENTER, at Rennette and Emerald in El Cajon. We have an Air Conditioned room with off street parking and will be a great place to meet. This will be starting with the January meeting.

(Con't on page 1)

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P. O. Box 50
El Cajon, California 92022



General Membership Meeting Wednesday, Sept 10, 7:00 PM