

Counterpoise

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLV

December 2004

Number 12



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Santee Baptist Church in Santee. The address is 9320 Prospect Ave. Next meeting:

December 9th, 2004 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022
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 and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. 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.

Paul Rios at:
kc6qls@cox.net or by post
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
Web Site:
<http://www.qls.net/wa6bgs>

Staff and Writers:

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
KC6JCW	Stogie	From the President
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting minutes
	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
W6LKK	Erich	WAMO Report
W5COM	Tom	Jokes



Next Month:
Winner of the HT Radio; Ham of the Year; Officers and Board Members; 2005 Roster; Christmas Party Photos; and N6IEF's 6 M Phase Antenna report.

2004 Officers

President	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439
Vice-President	KC6NXZ	Tom Caudle	561-6678
Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Treasurer	KF6WXA	Susan Kochel	445-6067
Past President	WA6MHZ	Pat Bunsold	593-1111

2004 Board of Directors

SANDARC	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Membership	KG6QCO	David Cyr	328-0246
Club Attire	A160	Ed Felter	668-0928
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Prizes	WA6PPG	Carl Ferree	328-2694
	KD6QB	Bill Callier	460-4754
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445

2004 Standing Committee

ARRL Asst. Dir.	WA6MHZ	Pat Bunsold	593-1111
Counterpoise	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Estate Sale	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	KG6QCO	David Cyr	328-0246
Finances	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Health & Welfare	Open		
Historian	Open		
Net Manager	KG6QCO	David Cyr	328-0246
Postmistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
SANDARC	K5WFW	Len Fullbright	258-1322
SANDARC	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Delegate	Open		
Social	KD6PRV	Chemi Ruiz	574-0720
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W6RHV	Bob Boehme	448-4728

From The President "Stogie" KG6JCW



I would like to thank all the members of the Club that have participated in the events of the past year. On 9 Dec., we will conduct our annual elections and select a Ham of The Year. I would like to see as many members as possible attend the meeting and cast their votes. The following night the Results of the Ham of The Year will be announced at the annual Christmas party. The party is to be held at the First Baptist Church of Santee and will be catered by Cupid Catering. We currently have a little over 30 tickets sold for the party. The 2nd of Dec. will be the last day that you can purchase a ticket (\$11 for member, \$13 for non-members) for the party. There will be no ticket sales at the door. There is room for 100 people in the room. I hope we will fill it. The grand prize is a Yaesu VX-7R and there will be 6 \$25 checks awarded. Please come and enjoy your Christmas party.

Seasons Greetings to all
Stogie, KG6JCW

Would you like to be in the next HAM Spot Light?

The Counterpoise is looking for Staff Writers for Tech Talk, Band Condition Reports, new equipment reports, and other articles of interest to the Amateur Radio community.

Please contact KC6QLS Paul at:

kc6qls@cox.net

(619) 593-9445



Silent Key.....

Shirley Freeman ZL1BI WAMO # 748.
Passed away on August 3rd 2004 in Auckland
New Zealand.
You will be missed 73's

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
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
11 November 2004



The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order at 1900hrs by club president Michael "Stogie" Panger, KG6JCW. **TREASURER'S**: report was given by Susan, KF6WXA. It was approved as presented and filed for audit. This evening program is the home brew contest. Stogie asked for volunteers as judges for the homebrew. They are Tuck, NZ6T; Carl, WA6PPG and Duncan, KF6ILA. **PAST PRESIDENT**: Pat, WA6MHZ gave his report on the Ham Radio Roundup that was held on 31 October. He is looking for ways to improve the roundup for next year.

VICE PRESIDENT: Tom, KC6NXZ announced that the Christmas Party will be held on 10 December 2004 at the church. Tickets are \$11 for members and \$13 for non members.

EDUCATION REPORT: was given by Mike, N6OPH. He announced that the Extra Theory course is now in progress. This class is being held on Tuesday and Thursday at the El Cajon Fire House. This course is scheduled to terminate by 16 December. At the conclusion of this class there will be no further classes until January 2005. The Technician class will start in January with Mike, N6OPH and Paul, KC6QLS as instructors.

COUNTERPOISE: report was given by Paul, KG6QLS.

ESTATE SALES: report was given by Tom, N6JOJ.

WAMO AND MEMBERSHIP: report was given David, KG6QCO. He announced that there are 213 paid members to the club and that 32 tickets have been sold for the Christmas party. He also announced the induction of the following new members:

KG6WGN	Brett Newbould WAMO 1640;
KF6BLN	C.J. Gilbert & Spouse Emily WAMO 1641;
KG6CLA	Russ Peck WAMO 1642;
KG6PRO	Charlie Porter WAMO 1643;
NF6V	Steve Rose WAMO 1644;
KE6HQU	Mark Mason WAMO 1645;

And the following renewals: Duncan Campbell KF6ILA WAMO 1377; Carolyn Campbell KF6JVF WAMO 1378.

SANDARC DELEGATE: Larry, AE6AV reported that Mike, N6OPH was elected the convention chairman.

Also Joe Utschig, KM6EK was elected convention treasurer. The venue will be at the Marriott or the Escondido Center. The council left up to the discretion of the chairman to sign with the venue. Mike, N6OPH reported this evening that the Marriott Hotel Mission Valley is the chosen venue.

The hotel has OK'ed the use of the roof as a site for the antennae. The convention will be held on 22-24 September 2006. The room rate is scheduled at \$119 per night. Mike also noted that he has already selected some of the members of the convention committee. Mike, N6IEF volunteered to be the amateur radio station chair. Also, Earl, KF6WNN volunteered to be the on site registration chairman. The first meeting of the convention committee will be scheduled in April 2005 at the hotel.

PUBLIC SERVICE: report was given by Richard, N6NKJ. The breakfast will be Saturday 13 November at Giovanni's.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: report was given by Xemi, KD6PRV. The nominees are:

PRESIDENT:	Stogie, KG6JCW
VICE PRESIDENT:	Tom, KC6NXZ
SECRETARY:	Mike, N6OPH
TREASURER:	Susan, KF6WXA

Board member nominees are:

Larry	AE6AV
Ed	AI6O
Rich	N6NKJ
David	KG6QCO
Michael	AE6CQ
Bill	K6QB

Tom, KC6NXZ declined nomination for Vice-President. Joni, KF6MPB declined her nomination to the board and Bill, K6QB declined his nomination to the board as well. The club president thanked Xemi, KD6PRV as nominations committee chairman and dissolved the committee. He then received confirmation from the remaining nominees that they are willing to serve if elected. He then called for nominations from the floor.

David, KG6QCO was nominated for the office of vice-president. He accepted that nomination and declined his nomination for the board. John, KF6XY was also nominated for the office of vice-president. He accepted his nomination. Xemi, KD6PRV was nominated as a member of the board of directors. He accepted his nomination. There were no further nominations. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. The motion was carried.

HAM OF THE YEAR: nominations are then solicited by Stogie, KG6JCW. The following amateurs were nominated for that honor:

Paul Rios	KC6QLS
Bill Callier	KD6QB
David Cyr	KG6QCO
Pat Bunsold	WA6MHZ

Continued on page 4

Each of the nominees will have a paragraph placed in the *Counterpoise*. The election for Ham of the Year will occur during the 9 December. The honoree will be announced during the Christmas Party on 10 December.

HOME BREW CONTEST: was judged after the break. The winning home brewers are:

Category: Novice:

First Place; Russ, KG6CLA, single tube regenerative receiver for USB-LSB

Second Place:

Third Place:

Category: Advanced:

First Place; Pat, WA6MHZ helmet cam for 2.6 GHz

Second Place; Richard, NJ6F phone patch

Third Place; Richard, NJ6F microphone adapter

Category: Antenna:

First Place; Pat, WA6MHZ vertical dipole antenna for 2.4 GHz

Second Place; Tom, W5COM for "water heater" HF antenna

Third Place; Mike N6IEF 6 Meter Phase Array Antenna

There being no further business before the general membership assemble, the meeting was adjourned at 2050hrs.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Paul Maston, N6OPH

Secretary

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am El Cajon Central Fire Station 160 E. Lexington Ave. (in Back)
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 10:00 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 9:00 am Salvation Army 643 Third Ave Chula Vista
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 10:00 am Escondido Chamber of Commerce 720 north Broadway Escondido

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

Club Attire

Get your jackets, hats and t-shirts.

Show off your club colors and let all know that the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon is strong and growing.

Contact: Ed Felter AI6O at 668-0928

WA6BGS NETS

David Cyr: KG6QCO Net Manager

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Thursday Nights

8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

10 Meters: 28.480

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:

8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

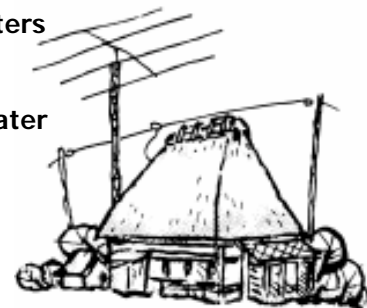
WA6BGS Repeaters

2 Meters SANDRA Repeater

Output 146.265 "Otay"

Input - Split

PL 107.2



224.080 – 107.20 PL

445.900 – 141.30 PL

Don't miss it, all members welcome.

New Participant points:

For every 12 WAMO Nets, you will receive (1) Participant point.

If you work all WAMO Nets from 9-11 to 12-4, You will receive (1) extra Point.

Calendar of Events December 2004

December 2: Last day to buy Christmas Dinner Tickets
 December 4: Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
 December 4: T-Hunt, Grossmont Collage lot, 6:00 pm
 December 7: Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
 December 8: Hanukkah
 December 9: General Meeting, 7:00 pm
 December 10: Christmas Dinner 7:00 pm
 December 11: ARES Meeting, 8:00 am
 December 18: Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
 December 18: T-Hunt, Grossmont Collage lot, 6:00 pm
 December 25: Christmas Day

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.qsl.net/wa6bgs

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file maybe up to 1.5 mb at times.

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Change of Address

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Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call _____ WAMO# _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Address:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Membership Chairperson:

A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

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	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

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. Include your call on Check. Mail to
Membership Chairperson
 A.R.C.E.C., P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New () or Renewal ()	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Computer Database Updated
Paid Cash ()	Check No.
Check ()	

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to David Cyr KG6QCO, and he will send you the database back as an attachment. He uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-328-0246 or KG6QCO@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthdays

December 4	KD6INP	Frank	Sanchez Jr.
December 4	KD6WFT	Lee	Darter
December 6	KC6QLS	Paul	Rios
December 6	KF6NHM	Richard	Sink
December 7	KF6LCZ	Lee	Smith
December 8	KD6JXR	Tom	Walker
December 8	KG6GZF	Brian	Gess
December 16	KB7NG	Bob	Bostick
December 19	KF6YVK	Mary	Durante-Le Leu
December 19	WM6B	Glenn	Gerbrand
December 20		Ruth	Rogers
December 21	KC6TBG	Ann	Rios
December 22	KN6HP	Lee	Sheeler
December 23	AD6LM	Nick	Chamberlain
December 23		Carrie	Brummund (L)
December 23	KC6MWQ	Art	Strege
December 23	KD6CYS	Claude	Gunnensen
December 25	KF6XB	Russ	Davison Jr
December 29	K7BAV	Jim	Gould
December 30	KD6YAT	Jim	Logan
December 31	N6IEF	Mike	Lebo

Jokes

A man received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude, and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious, and laced with profanity. The guy tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music, and anything else he could think of to clean up the bird's vocabulary. He became so fed up that he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. He shook the parrot, and the parrot got angrier and even ruder. Finally, in desperation, he grabbed the bird and threw him into the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that he'd injured his parrot, the man quickly opened the freezer door.

The parrot calmly stepped out onto his owner's outstretched arms and said, "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions, and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behavior."

The guy was stunned at the change in his bird's attitude. Just as he was about to ask the parrot what had caused such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird continued, "May I ask what the turkey did?"

Happy Hoildays W5COM

Word Search December 2004

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C R O S S N E E D L E C T O S
A R E L W D B R G A N E F V W
P S O F R T W E Q R M L H R R
A W F S L N H C R C F I R B O
C B H I S E S U S D O P A D N
I A D O U N C W N E P E N K H
T U N I N G A T I R D A G T I
O B L R K B W O E T B K E C W
R A N T E N N A N D C S O K S
N L U E K A N R A T K H C T C
B A L U N E L O R U G S M I O
H N O S T P R L T N A H E T U
F C E D U B B L E P E P U S P
O E R C N O P E I I E O E F L
W D B K N P E R K N R N H L E
M A O K R O N O I T A I D A R
R O T C U D N I L G L O Q L S
    
```

Antenna
Balanced
Balun
Capacitor
Coupler
Crossneedle
Inductor
QRM
Radiation
SWR

Knob
SWR
Range
PEP
Switch
Roller
Tuning
Reflected
Peak
Broadband

Last Months Word Search

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D W O U T P U T B N T A Q Z G
S I T N T A Z C T N E M E L E
P A S H N U E R H E R C K I N
A S E P C O T O D A P Y E K E
Z U H S L O L T B G S R F U R
U R L I G A M O P S W E I N A
R G X A E N Y R T A L T N P L
X E L R W L A E U B C T G A P
A T A Q O E D H A A E A R R Y
T H N M N N B M U C S B E O E
W V D X V N M F C K T I I C R
C A I V T A H E P L W C R Z T
A N T I R H R A R I E A O D I
B K P G Q C D E L T A M T R C
Y R D M E M R T W C A D Z T A
Q R T R Q V H M L E C O M D L
P L B C T T R I B A N D Q L S
    
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All passengers please fasten your seatbelts and prepare for take off. Today's destination: a journey through the life of AE6AV. Please sit back, relax and enjoy your flight. Larry Plummer, WAMO 1566, became a member of the El Cajon Amateur Radio Club not very long ago, in 2000 when he took the Technician class. After a taste of the appetizer, he returned for seconds and thirds, completing both the General and Extra classes. Larry serves as the club representative for SANDARC and participates as a member of the Board of Directors. A very motivated individual indeed! Larry enjoys his involvement and claims, "It has been an eye opening experience being on the Board and seeing the club form under its new leadership." If there is anything Larry is satisfied with, it is his station. He is pleased with his cool, compacted concoction which is parked next to his couch on a glass end table that he covered with plywood. He describes his convenient creation, "I have an Icom 746 for HF, a Kenwood 707 for 2 meters and 440, and a Kenwood 220 radio." His "19"W x 19"D x 22"H" station also includes three mikes, one headset/mike, two aux speakers, 1-4 position coax switch, 3-2 position coax switches, one electronic keyer and one straight key, all set up around a lamp which also sits on the table. Larry is spoiled and says, "I think I live in heaven." He continues to boast, "I can watch TV, listen to the stereo and talk on the ham radio while sitting on my couch all at the same time. Beat that!" Can anyone? Our well set up Ham came to Lemon Grove during the late 40's. Larry enjoyed growing up in the forest like area where he could eat fruit fresh from the tree. He spent the early 60's as a student at Mount Miguel High School. His after school and weekend hours of his junior year were spent at Lindbergh Field where he cleaned airplanes for a flight school. This may have been the beginning of his piloting career, who knows, but one thing is for sure Larry is a pilot.

At just 18, he took the flight test for commercial pilot, multiengine aircraft, flight instructor and instrument flight instructor and completed his training within 198 hours total flight time as the United States' youngest flight instructor at the time. Again, a very motivated individual indeed! He has taught in San Diego area flight schools as well as fly for Bank Air.

Larry worked with Japan Airlines, along with All Nippon Airlines and Saudi Arabian International Airlines where he received the great honor of being recognized as an approved instructor by the Japanese Civil Aeronautic Board. Few people outside of Japan ever receive such an honor. As the aerospace industry slowed during the 80's, Larry moved to San Diego to work for the San Diego Trolley, Inc. He promises that we will enjoy riding the trolley as he looks forward to the opening of a new line to State College.

As Larry continues along his flight through life, he remains involved with the Club and enjoys his perfect station at home. As for the rest of us, please fasten your seatbelts and prepare to land. Our final stop: the Ham Spotlight! No longer just a voice on the radio, the spotlight shines on Larry Plummer. 73's!

Tassy Rios, Staff Writer

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**The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul**



Now that was a meeting. It was a good turn out. The Home brew contest was a lot of fun. I like to see what our members come up with. We have a lot of talent in our group of hams. We had Antennas, Helmet Cams on 2 GHz, Tube Regenerative Receiver and even a way to use that old Phone Patch and a Cordless Phone interface with your HF Radio.

Pat WA6MHZ brought in an old Hallicrafter model number SR 34AC a 2 and 6 meter unit. He said he needs to find a mic for it and give it a try. I hope it works for you Pat.

I wish all the nominees for Ham of the Year the best of luck. I know that they all have worked hard and done a lot for the Amateur Radio community.

As this year comes to a close, and 5 news letters later, I am working on some new ideas for the New Year ahead. I would still like to have a Tech Talk Corner where members can ask questions and get answers. We need to share and /or pass along the wealth of information that is within our club. I would like to thank all who have helped for their input, photos, and summation of articles as those contributions have enhanced our News Letter.

If you have any reports, listings "for sale and wanted items", stories or letters to the Editor, please contact me at the address below and put Counterpoise in the subject line.

Paul Rios KC6QLS
KC6QLS@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Please Help Support the Prize Table or it may just end up a thing of the past. To Help, contact WA6PPG Carl Ferree at 328-2694 e-mail at cferree@IEEE.ORG

Specal Notes

Technician Class Starting Soon

January 2005 Tue & Thrs Night 7:00 pm
Book: ARRL's Now You're Talking 5th edition
Contact: Paul, 593-9445 during the evening

December 9th

General Membership Meeting

Vote for Officers, Board and Ham of the Year. Please Do Not Miss this meeting. Come, show your Spirt and cast your vote!

Hallicrafter 2M and 6M model number SR 34AC A

Pat WA6MHZ Brought in this unit he just pick up. You never know what he might bring in. The thing you miss when you do not show up to the meeting. Thanks for bringing it in Pat.



Home Brew 2004

2 Ghz Dipole



Phone patch



Leave it Cam



Helmet Cam



TUBE Receiver



2 Ghz Beam



6 M Phase Array



HF Antenna



Home Brew Awards

Novice

1st

Russ KG6CLA Single Tube Regenerative Receiver

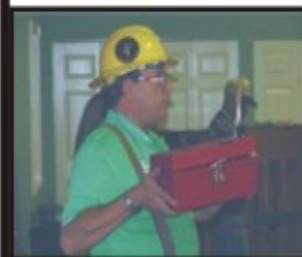


Advanced

1st, Pat WA6MHZ Helmet Cam

2nd, Rich NJ6F Phone Patch

3rd, Rich NJ6F Microphone Adapter



Antenna

1st, Pat WA6MHZ Vertical Dipole 2 Ghz

2nd, Tom W5COM "Water Heater" HF Antenna

3rd, Mike N6IEF 6 M Phase Array



Ham of the Year Nominations



Look no further!! Without a doubt, cast your vote for MHz for this year's Ham of the Year! Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ has been active in many aspects of the ham community, including serving on the El Cajon Board of

Directors, and even serving 2 terms as your President. Pat is presently in his 3rd term as the San Diego Section Manager. He builds much of his own equipment and can be seen volunteering much of his time for not only ham related events, but also events in the community as well. Take your pen and vote for Pat, WA6MHZ for this year's "Ham of the Year" award.

By: NZ6T

(Pat does not wish to be considered for this honor.)



He deserves to be the "Ham of the Year" for 2004. David Cyr, KC6QCO, is the right person for any job. When our WAMO net needed a new friendly voice, Dave was there. He also was there for the field day chairman, membership chairman, and Christmas party sales person. These

are hard jobs and he gets the them done with enthusiasm of a teenager. The El Cajon Amateur Radio Club would not be the great club that it is without Dave.

By: N6IEF



Bill Callier, KD6QB, came into the Amateur Radio Club in 1974. He has done so much for the club throughout the years, like making all the badges, official tags for the name badges, and Award

Plaques just to name a few, all at no cost to the club! Now that's giving of yourself to the community. Along the same lines, Bill also cooks at most of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon events. I'll tell you he cooks the best hamburgers I have tasted in a long time. Bill has a big heart and is an all around nice guy. He is always ready to help out at the drop of a hat. Thanks Bill. He deserves to be the "Ham of the Year" for 2004.

By: KC6QLS



Paul Rios, KC6QLS, returned to the club after a 10 year leave of absence, having taken time off to raise a family. He has been back only a short time. However, that hasn't prevented him for providing the club much need support in a time of need. He became the club's media

committee chairman and promptly had UPI attend our recently held field day. That one act generated more publicity than all of the fires that San Diego could have had.

Continued on page 11

He put the San Diego County amateur radio hobby on the map and showed the type of public service that amateur operators provide in the time of crisis. He has pledged to use his talents on behalf of the 2006 convention as media sub-committee chairman.

Paul took over the *Counterpoise* last year. He changed the format of the newsletter. The result produced was simply outstanding. The use of "a reporter" for The Spotlight Series was a stroke of genius. The inclusion of puzzles, jokes and cartoons enhanced the appearance and readability of the *Counterpoise*. He deserves to be the "Ham of the Year" for 2004.

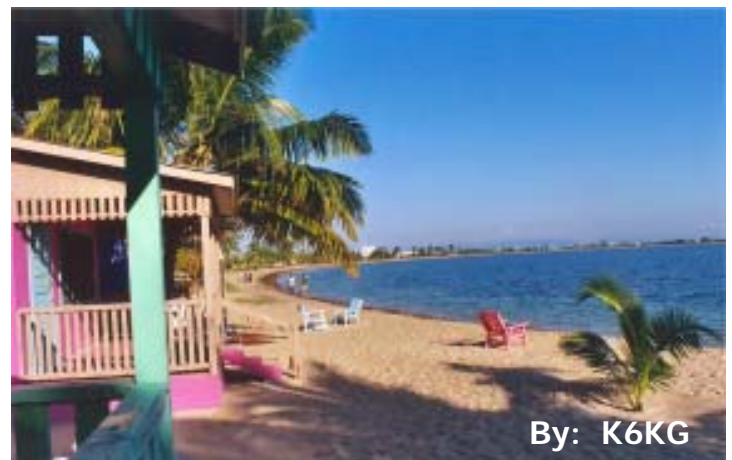
By: N6OPH



" QRZ? de Belize"

Well it was settled, we were headed to Belize, a small and beautiful country located along the Mosquito (read bugs) Coast near the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico. I thought I'd like to bring a rig along and I decided on my Wilderness Radio 40A which puts out a whopping 3 watts on 40 meter CW. I also brought my battery pack which utilizes 10 AA cells good for many hours of operation due to the low receive draw. The antenna was a monoband half wave dipole feed with RG-174 and plastic bottle caps for end insulators. The first night we arrived at our hotel (hut) in the central area near the capital city. I was amazed to see how lush and green the countryside was, there was jungle everywhere. I had already received my reciprocal call sign and I now became V31KM. Later in the day I threw some string over one of the abundant trees in the area and pulled it as high as I could. The signals came in loud and clear towards the evening. It was the "Jamboree on the Air" weekend (a time when Boy Scouts try to contact each other with the help of radio amateurs). I was able to work a couple of stations in the states although my location in a deep valley didn't help things (maybe 100 watts would have!). The third day we relocated to a beach front area in southern Belize. Once we got settled in I located a bamboo grove and cut a 25' piece for an antenna support. Sticking a piece of PVC down the center gave me a final height of 30'. The new location right on the beach helped those three watts and I was able to make contacts to NC, FL, MO and NM. The rig has a good receiver and the internal keyer helped out on the transmitting chores. We packed up a few days later, stowing the rig for the next journey which never seems to come soon enough. If you ever get a chance to visit Belize you will find beautiful beaches and lovely people waiting for you there.

73 for now from V31KM AKA K6KG



By: K6KG

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



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Is your membership ready to expire?

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



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