



Squelch



Volume 48 ~ Number 2

March 20, 2009

*Official Publication of the Anaheim Amateur Radio Association ~ An ARRL Affiliated Club
Squelch is published bimonthly on the Friday preceding the General Meeting*

~ Upcoming Events ~

Anaheim Amateur Radio Association
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Refreshments:

Vacant

Web Master:

Bob Krause, KI6K

Apr 4: Club Breakfast at Keno's, 8 AM

Apr 18: Elmer Workshop 10 AM

Apr 23: Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM

Apr 28: General Membership Meeting 7 PM

Following Months Calendar on Page 3

APRIL 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



~ Membership Corner ~

By Margaret Signorelli, WA6PZO

We are quickly approaching renewal time. June is just around the corner. The renewals this year will be crucial to the club survival.

As Membership Chairman, I have tried to do some things that might harvest some new blood into the club. The mailings helped as far as getting new people to the Elmer sessions. We have had a few new people show up at our meetings but no new members. What are we going to do?

Is it time to look around and see who we can join with and combine with another group. We have a great meeting place to offer. We have the Elmer Session organized. It is time to talk about this at our next General meeting.

Margaret WA6PZO ■■■■■■

~ Maha cells... ~

A month ago, I picked up a Alinco 580T dual band 5 watt hand-held with charger, after-market 12 volt battery, holster, speaker/mic, and a cheap magnetic base car roof-top antenna for \$125. It works, but I soon discovered that the 8 year old Ni-mH battery was short on power. Fully charged, the best current it could muster was 900ma., shorted through my Fluke DVM. Time for a rebuild. I really considered using Eveready 2450mah Ni-mH cells, because Walgreen's have them on sale, \$7.98 for a 4 pack (3/12/09), but I figured over the cells life, the \$5 higher price for a 4-pack would pay off.

In hearing about other's good luck with Maha cells, I visited HRO and bought 3 packs of 4 AA cells, 2,700MaH.. Next, I carefully split the glued seam on the battery case. The original 10ea. 1,200MaH Ni-mH cells were also AA, but slightly smaller, no bump on the + side, and all interconnected with welded strips. The Maha cells are solderable, just polish the ends with Scotchbrite, and use a 15-20 watt iron quickly. 10 Maha cells are a tight fit in the case, so I had to remove all the small foam spacers that the OEM placed inside to keep the older cells from rattling. I interconnected the cells with 22 gauge multi strand hookup wire. I also re-used the OEM thermal breaker.

I re-assembled everything, and taped the case shut, so I could re-open it if there was a charging issue.

The Alinco charger delivers 70Ma., a bit low for 2,700maH cells, but that's what I have. After an overnight charge, the resting voltage was 13.8, and a quick ampere draw test pulled over 18 amps before the meter fuse let go in about 1/2 second. Wow 18 amps from an AA cell. That's an amazing change from the 0.9 amps for the OEM cells. 20 times the current. I can only imagine what a "D" cell can produce. So after my combination Geek/Indian rain dance/victory dance and Whoo hoo, I glued the case closed. So now I'm QRO 5 watts all day long on my dual band 580T.

The Maha cells work great right now, but time will tell.

Jon M. Lenhert
AF6AU

~ Monthly Events ~

CLUB BREAKFAST: 8:00 AM First Saturday of each month at Keno's Restaurant, 2661 W. La Palma Ave, Anaheim, CA 92801.

BOARD MEETING: 6:30 PM Thursday before General Meeting of each month (except December) International House of Pancakes Restaurant — 2250 Lincoln Avenue, Anaheim, CA.

ELMER (Mentor) WORKSHOP PROGRAM: Third Saturday of the month (except March and December) Lutheran Church, 12301 Magnolia St, Garden Grove. (in North Hall) Time: 10AM. Visit <http://www.aara.org> for more information & Map.

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING: Fourth Tuesday of the Month. (except December) Guests are always welcome. Meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

~ Upcoming Events ~

MAY 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

~ AARA Repeaters: K6SYU/R ~

2M Repeaters 146.19/146.79

Long Beach, PL-1A/13 - 103.5 HZ
St. Jude, Fullerton PL-2A/16 - 114.8 HZ

220 Repeaters 222.9/224.5

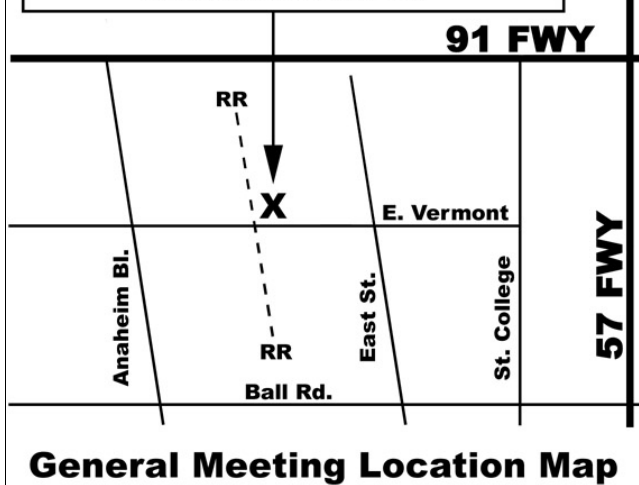
Long Beach, PL-5A/25 - 156.7 HZ
St. Jude, Fullerton PL-5B/26 - 162.2 HZ

Notes:

2M Repeaters Transmit a 103.5 CTCSS Tone on the output. Long Beach 2M & 220 Repeaters are linked.

Frequency format is: input/output

Anaheim Utility Service Center
909 E. Vermont, Anaheim, CA
(Formerly the Anaheim EOC)



Squelch is published bimonthly (in odd numbered months) and is delivered via e-mail attachment. Please keep your Editor updated on any change of e-mail address you may have.

Submissions for Squelch are welcome. The Editor reserves the right to refuse to publish any articles deemed as not suitable and articles will be edited if required.

Send Articles and address updates to the Editor at: waltrqt@earthlink.net

All submissions are due not later than the 3rd Tuesday of the month in which Squelch is published but may be submitted at any time prior to that day. Submissions submitted late may be used in the following issue. An e-mail reminder will be sent to the membership one week prior to the due date.

~ *This Months Program* ~

I just got a email from Marty Woll (N6VI) this morning and he can come out this month for the 24th. The subject Title is "Prepare for the Worst - Overcoming Operating Challenges in The Gambia. His presentation will be a PowerPoint slide show with live narrative.. The subject matter will be the 2003 CW Worldwide DX Contest operation at C5Z presented numerous and formidable obstacles that required a team effort to surmount. This is a case study in "making it work - no matter what" with lessons that apply as well to emergency communications as they do to contesting.

Dennis KI6IPH

Note: Dennis will let you know of next Months program prior to the April meeting via the Reflector. Editor

~ *Another Knee Tale* ~

Hi everyone,

I thought I would update you on my knee surgery and how well it is doing. My knee was operated on February 20. I came home from the hospital on February 23. I came home using a walker to get around. Tuesday, February 24, I came to the AARA meeting. Thursday, February 26 I had my first in home therapy session. The therapist sad I was doing very well and able to get more bending than she expected. Straightening the knee was a different matter. She gave me a number of exercises to do. She came back two more times then I started my outpatient PT at the hospital. I go twice a week and exercise for a little over an hour each time. I am exhausted after I am through. I went to my second session today (Tuesday, 3/17). While we were there we heard what PT means. It means Pain and Torture. After I was through the therapist said I could start using the cane instead of the walker for short walks around the house. Tomorrow I return to the doctor to see how well the knee is healing.

73, Linda KE6QFL

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~ Notes from Dennis KI6IPH ~

The following article on antenna systems is from the Web site AntenneX, Issue No. 136. The author describes how the textbook theory does not always work in the real world of antenna design and construction. The method of cut and try will usually produce satisfactory results. If you can communicate better, then that is an improvement in the antenna system. The author also looks at some of the practical considerations that go into the selection of antenna systems. The design considerations such as space, type of operating, construction, accessories and safety play a very important part in how well the antenna will perform.

Antennas and Your Property

The author describes how the property that the antenna will be installed with respect to location plays an important part in the antenna installation. The space of the yard and structures that are on the property must be considered when installing antenna systems. Social pressures have taken on a new dimension, such as local ordinances and neighborhood protective covenants also have restrictions. There are laws and regulations that restrict the height and location of antennas near airports, and government installations. The author talks about bad locations, such as near high-voltage transmission lines, industrial machinery and high power radio stations which could cause high noise levels. Careful planning, along with a few sketches can help in the installation of antennas. The author offers a typical house and two yard drawings, a relatively poor arrangement of an antenna sketch and a drawing of a better arrangement of antennas.

The author has provided some guide lines in order to develop a sketch of your property.

- Reasonable measurements of the yard and all major objects
- Good estimate of the heights of objects such as trees and play yard equipment
- Location of the radio equipment in the house and the point where the antenna cables will enter
- Areas of special use, such as patios and play areas
- Special border problems, such as routing of power lines and phone lines
- The location and routing of underground sewer and utility lines

Antennas and Your Operations

Simple, low cost antennas will satisfy most requirements for good operation. The author recommends several types of antenna designs as follows:

1. The one-half wavelength dipole
2. The one-quarter wavelength vertical antenna
3. The inverted-V antenna
4. The all-band doublet or the "center-fed Zep" antenna
5. The trap dipole and the trap vertical antenna
6. Single and multi-band Yagi beam antennas
7. Two-element cubical quad antenna
8. Random length "invisible" wire antenna with coupler

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Towers, Masts and Trees

Except for short mounted vertical antennas, the support system for your antenna may required as much or more work then the antenna itself. In general, antennas work better the higher they are, and the construction of tall supporting structures may be the limiting factor for your antenna system.

The author also talks about how to construct antennas using trees as the main support for dipoles, Zepps and inverted-vees. In the same section of the article the author describes the erecting a tower and the challenges that go along with it. There are safety issues that should be followed when installing a tower. The following are the most common faults hams make when installing a tower.

- They skimp on the depth of the mounting hole or on the amount of concrete used to hold the base.
- They use fewer guys at wider distances with lighter guy wire than recommended.
- They fail to obtain certain recommended parts, such as guy loops for going around tower legs. Most of the recommended parts have good reasons behind them.
- They put too much antenna on too light a tower. The addition of a bigger antenna or a second antenna may be more than some parts of the system can take.
- They fail to maintain their tower. Periodic inspections for rust, stress, and other forms of wear are needed.

Installing a tower and mounting an antenna at its top is not work for one person. A team of three or more hams, at least one of whom has considerable experience to guide the rest, makes a safer as well as more efficient work force. Any tower climber should wear a safety belt and know how to use it effectively, and should not be wearing a watch or jewelry.

The next installment of Article 138 will be on the subject of the feedline.

~ Refreshment Chairman Needed ~

As you all know by now I had an accident as I was leaving for last months Club Meeting. When I fell I ruptured my Quadriceps Tendon in my left leg. (Read that as disconnected the leg bone from the thigh bone) Surgery was preformed to reattach the tendon to the knee cap. (This was going on as the members were sitting down to breakfast at Keno's) As a result I will be on crutches with my leg in a brace for a while and this makes it difficult to get around. It also makes it impossible to move the coffee equipment around. As a result I am resigning as Refreshment Chairman. I hope that one of you will step forward and fill this much needed position.

I want to thank everyone who contacted me with your well wishes for a good outcome. I guess it takes a little adversity to show how many friends you really have.

Walt WB6RQT

Footnote: They took the staples our yesterday, all 27 of them and I go back in 4 weeks to start PT. Until then I am still in a brace and on crutches.....