



Volume 22

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

February 2013

Issue 2

Counterpoise Editor - Joe Bennett W6VMX

HRO Swap Meet is Coming on March 9th



March 9th is the day that the HRO Swap Meet will be held in the parking lot in front of the Kearny Mesa store. There are 25 seller stalls planned, and there are still a few left. If you would like to reserve one of these stalls, please contact the fine folks at Ham Radio Outlet and make a reservation for one. See the flyer on [page #9](#) for more details. It has been a couple of years since the last HRO Swap Meet, and many San Diego area Hams are looking forward to this one in March. Sellers should plan on arriving around 6 am to begin setting up their stalls, and buyers can begin checking it all out between 8 am. and 2 pm. Looks like a fun event so see you all there!!!!

Joe W6VMX - Counterpoise Editor

ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

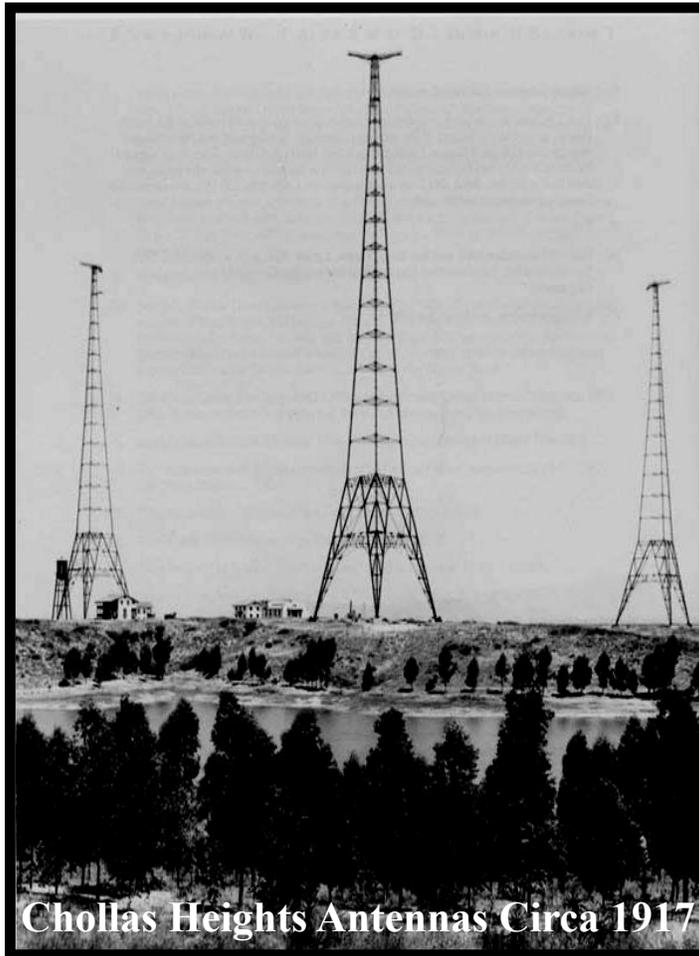
2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 220.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



Mystery of the Masthead for January

By Joe -W6VMX - Counterpoise Editor

On 21 July 1914 the Navy purchased about 75 acres for the facility. The purpose of the station was to provide reliable radio communication with the fleet at sea, as well as other shore stations in the Naval Communications System. The construction of the three towers, each 660 feet high, started in February 1915 and completed on January 26, 1916. Each of the self-supporting towers supported a nearly invisible triatic wire antenna array that was used for low-frequency transmissions. When it was operational, the station broadcast its signals making it for a time the most powerful transmitter in the world.



Chollas Heights Antennas Circa 1917

The facility was officially designated, San Diego's land-itself a place in the first Morse-code shop of renowned

Transmitting Facility

San Diego jeweler and civic leader Joseph Jessop in 1917. A generation later, due to technical circumstances, the Chollas Heights station was used to inform both the Pacific Fleet and naval headquarters of the Japanese surprise attack on December 7, 1941.

Long a part of a naval communications network that covered the globe, the station was closed down since 1992. The navy's announcement in 1994 of its intention to demolish the station indicated that the Navy Department decided that a 412-unit residential development for sailors and their families would fill a more pressing need. Thus the Navy dismantled the three historic transmitting towers that were part of the U.S. Navy transmitting facility at Chollas Heights. Other antennas on the site, included conical monopoles, and log-periodic beams were also removed and scrapped.

Now, see if you can figure out where this months Masthead was taken, and what it has to do with Amateur Radio. Please feel free to send me your comments at www.counterpoise@wa6bgs.us. Thanks all....



Secretary's Ramblings

By Paul Thompson – KJ6BYF

Monthly Disclaimer: This is a recap of the activities of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. I will be reporting the highlights of the General Meeting and the Board of Directors meeting. Please note that this column is not the official minutes of any meeting. I might even throw in a few of my own editorial comments here and there. When I do that I will let you know that they are my comments and only my comments! OK! Here we go...

February Highlights:

The program at the February meeting was a video showing how to build a 7-band dipole antenna. The video was made by Bob Rice – VE3HKY. The video was a detailed nuts and bolts approach to building the antenna and it was an hour long! If you would like to see the video, just Google "7-Band Portable Dipole Antenna", or, "Bob Rice – VE3HKY".

1. We welcomed visitors Lisa Valentine (KE7CYC) and George Reeves (KK6BYO).
2. We approved a proposal by SANDARC that they buy \$2000.00 worth of ARRL Extra Class License Manuals and distribute those books to branches in the San Diego City Library and to branches in the San Diego County Library systems.
3. Peter Krause (KJ6VCM) was appointed to fill the remaining SANDARC delegate post.
4. WAMO Certificates were handed out to Joe (formerly KJ6VMX, now W6VMX) and Mike (KJ6WJZ).

Start My Comments:

You read above that we handed out WAMO certificates at the February meeting. Congratulations to Joe and Mike. Hopefully we will have more certificates issued at the next meeting. Let's keep those WAMOS coming.

I attended the Yuma Hamfest on Feb 15 and 16. There were a lot of ARCEC members attending. It was fun, but none of us won any grand prizes Saturday night. Pat (WA6MHZ) scored a couple of items for the Crest Radio Museum. There were a lot of items for sale in the tailgate area.

Field Day is sneaking up on us! Now is the time to start planning and getting ready for Field Day. Last year was not bad, but we needed more operators for the night shift! I urge you to start thinking about how you, as a member of ARCEC, can contribute to this year's Field Day. The more members participating, the easier it will be to have a successful Field Day.

End My Comments.

Busted QSO's: Well, I haven't heard any noise about errors in last month's column. That must mean I'm really good...or nobody reads this! I welcome any suggestions that will help make this column better. Please email them to secretary@wa6bgs.us.

Until next time...

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon Club Nets

Day	Time	Name	Description	Net Control	Repeater
Sunday					
Monday	7:00 pm	Donut Net	Trivia & general interest questions	KI6RRN Axel	ARCEC
Tuesday	8:00 pm	Wide Open Net	Almost anything goes with Frito	N6WKB Frito	ARCEC
Wednesday	8:00 pm	WAMO Net	WAMO contacts, roundtable, buy-sell, swap, 73 round	KI6LAT Quinn	ARCEC
Thursday	7:00 pm	Fritos 10 Meter Net	Starts on 10M and moves to 2M	N6WKB Frito	ARCEC
Friday					
Saturday	8:00 pm	WAMO Net	Roundtable, sell-buy-swap, club news, 73 round	KJ6BFT Margaret KJ6GOO Heather	ARCEC

Work All Members Once



WA6BGS web site - interesting happenings

We've added a new page to the Counterpoise that hopefully will make it a bit easier to find not only the latest issue but those that have been archived as well. Just visit [page #5](#) in this issue and check out how easy it is to find online now.

Also, check out the "Slider" on the home page to see news updates and timely information. Remember that you can click on the pictures to read more about that topic, or use the "Dots" below to recall any of the pictures/topics again. Super easy to do, and very helpful too.

Field Day is fast approaching so get online and find out the most current information and up to date news regarding the clubs plans.

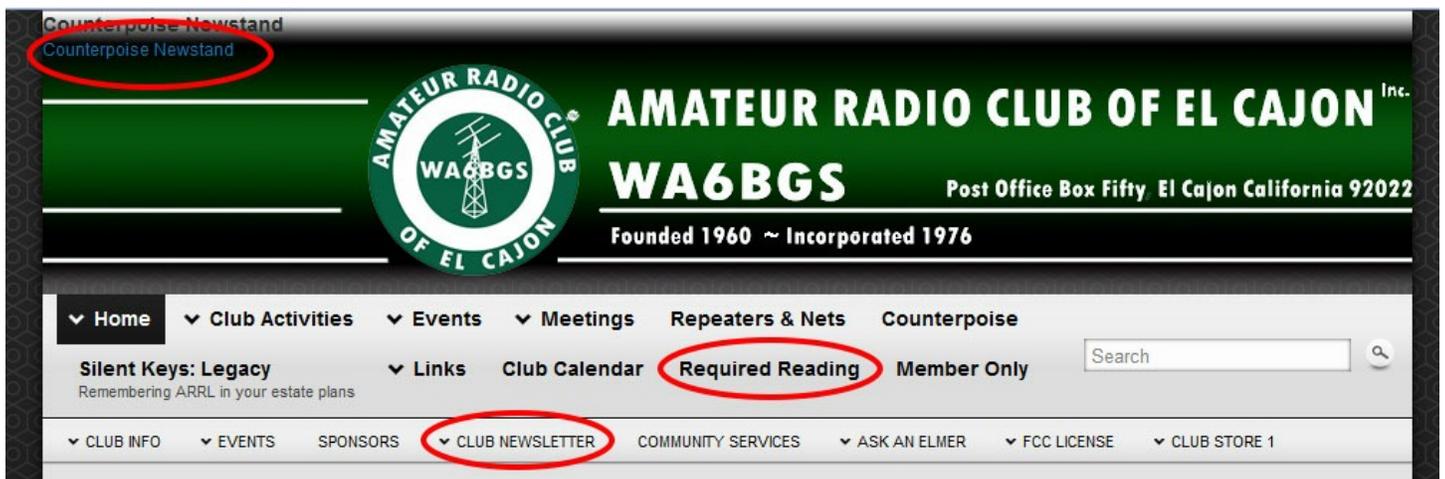
See you there!

All this and more at www.wa6bgs.us TODAY!!!!

Finding the Counterpoise on the WA6BGS Web Site

Wondering where exactly to find the Counterpoise when you are visiting the club web site? Well here is the definitive instructions on doing just that. Just follow this information and you should have no problem in locating the latest issue as well as older ones too.

1. Look in the upper left corner of the main page and you will find a link to the Dropbox that the newsletters are stored in. Just click on the link and then select the one you want to either read or download. To download it, just click on the “Download” choice. That’s it!



2. You can also locate the Counterpoise by choosing the “Required reading” selection on the home page. Just click on it and it will take you to a page with a number of files that you can view, including the Counterpoise. Select the one you want to view and that’s it too!
3. You can also select the “Club Newsletter” tab, and that will drop down three choices for you. Select the second choice, “Counterpoise” and it will take you to the available newsletters. Currently those from 2012 and 2013 are there for you to view.

You can also click on the image above to go to the locations on the web site that has the Counterpoise stored in them. Try it out and see. Just mouse over the red circled locations and click your left button.

Many thanks to Joseph (KI6TTF) for providing the web site picture and the idea for these instructions. Hope they help you locate your own copies of the Counterpoise.

73 - Joe (W6VMX)

A Few Recent Photos



Club President Pat (WA6MHZ) presenting WAMO! Awards to Joe (W6VMX) and Mike (KJ6WJZ)



Joe (W6VMX) and Pat (WA6MHZ) at the 2013 Yuma Hamfest



Yuma Hamfest on Saturday morning in the theater building around 9:30 am. About 100 people in building at that time.



Paul (KJ6BYF) & XYL at Buzzards BBQ



Near Space Balloon Launch

A Few More Recent Photos



Joe (W6VMX) at the Yuma Hamfest snackbar for coffee and a breakfast burrito.



Joe (W6VMX) after the Buzzards BBQ at the 2013 Yuma Hamfest



Rigblaster Pro recently acquired by Joe (W6VMX) for use in PSK-31 & RTTY and other digital communications. Listen for him on the bands soon.



Bob Smith (WB6ODR) at Buzzards BBQ



Vendor booth at Yuma Hamfest 2013

ARCEC Contact Information:

Web Site: www.wa6bgs.us

President: president@wa6bgs.us

Vice President: vicepresident@wa6bgs.us

Secretary: secretary@wa6bgs.us

Treasurer: treasurer@wa6bgs.us

Counterpoise: counterpoise@wa6bgs.us

Club Phone number is **619-663-6011**

Monthly Amateur Radio License Exam

1st Saturday of the Month Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc.

El Cajon First Lutheran Church, 867 South Lincoln, El Cajon, CA 92020 9 :00 AM
Contact Gereld N. Madsen - Jerry KI6PLH, (619) 766-9177 (walk-ins welcome).

How to find the exam site

From the West: Take I-8 East, Exit El Cajon Blvd/Chase Ave. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Chase Avenue. Go about 1.5 miles to South Lincoln Avenue. Lincoln will be 1 block after Avocado Drive. Turn left on South Lincoln. We are 2 blocks up on the right.

From the East: Take I-8 West, Exit Mollison Avenue. Go South on Mollison about 2 miles to Washington. Turn right on Washington. Go 1 block and turn left on South Lincoln. We are 1 block up on the left.

Important!! Get your free FRN ID from the FCC

Be sure to visit the FCC web site and obtain your FRN identification prior to coming to take your exam. You will need it to show you have registered with the FCC, and so that we can send your exam results to them for processing and licensing.

Santee Swap Meet First Saturday of each month

Santee Electronics Swap Meet is the first Saturday of each month at Santee Drive- In east side of Highway 67, South of Riverford Rd. in Santee, CA Starting at 6:30 AM, talk-in 146.520, Buyers \$1.00 Find out more information at EL Cajon ARC website at www.WA6BGS.US. Club stall is open for buyers/sellers from 6:30 am until 9 am. Please feel free to bring your own Ham related items to sell at the Club stall. Just remember that you must stay with your items until they sell, or take them with you when you leave,. Many thanks to N6JOJ (Tom) for his fine work.

Notice of Disclaimer

All companies mentioned in the Counterpoise are done as a courtesy and a convenience to both the membership and the company. No compensation has been solicited and none has been accepted, and no endorsement has been made.

Joe - W6VMX - Counterpoise Editor

Ham Radio Outlet Swap Meet is Coming in March

(Info from [Six Shooters](#) web site, with thanks!!)

Contact Info: Joe Acevedo, N6SIX Ham Radio Outlet, San Diego
858-560-4900

Email: ws3sd@hro.net

After almost 2 years, the Swap Meet is returning to HRO San Diego. Many in the local community have asked for it, so here it is:

HRO SAN DIEGO SWAP MEET

DATE: Saturday March 9, 2013

TIME: 0800 - 1400

WHERE: 5375 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123. Parking lot in front of the store along the boulevard.

REGISTRATION: Registration opens at 10am on Monday, January 14, 2013 and closes on Thursday, February 28, 2013 .

Seller Spaces are limited (25). RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.

RESERVATIONS will be taken either in-person or via telephone only. Once all available spaces have been reserved a list of alternate sellers will be established. The alternate sellers will be contacted in the order listed in the event of a reservation being canceled **PRIOR** to the Swap Meet date. Alternates will not be contacted on the day of the Swap Meet. Sellers agree to abide by the rules and guidelines established.

Sellers will receive event-day instructions via email approximately one week prior to the Swap Meet.



5375 Kearny Villa Road #113
San Diego, CA 92123

Store Hours:

10AM-5:30PM Mon - Sat

Telephone hours:

9:30AM-5:30PM Mon-Sat

Important Technician Training/Exam Announcement!!!!

Saturday, 06 April, Point Loma Area One-Day Amateur Radio Technician License Class

The Amateur Radio Service (Ham Radio) has practical applications from providing emergency communications and supporting civic events, to education and recreation.

This is an entry-level class for beginners, and previous knowledge about radio or electricity is not required to take the class or pass the exam. (A few hours of study before class dramatically improves most people's ability to pass the exam.) Those who pass the end-of-the-day exam will receive a radio license and call sign from the FCC which entitles them to transmit on VHF and UHF Amateur Radio frequencies.

Date: Saturday, 06 April 2013

**Times: 8:30 AM (sharp) to about 7:00 PM for both the class and exam.
(This includes hourly breaks and a 45 minute lunch.)**

Location: Point Loma Area (details provided later)

Costs: There is no charge for the class.

The Examination immediately after class costs no more than \$15 (and often only \$5)

Eligibility: Anyone following email instructions to register and confirm is eligible.

Age limit: None (contact us for teen and pre-teen considerations)

Registration: Register Well In Advance! Seating is limited and classes usually fill early.

To request registration instructions, email to sandiegohamclasses@me.com using as the subject of this email "06-Apr Pt Loma Amateur Radio Technician Class". You will receive an email with instructions to complete the registration process and study materials to review before class.

You will need to reply to that email per the instructions. A prompt reply is to your advantage - seats are reserved in the order replies are received. (Those who do not follow instructions and complete registration via email are ineligible to attend the class.)

Reminders: There are only one or two - be sure to look for them.

Those registered will receive an email reminder about 14 days before class with location and what to bring. Those on the waiting list will receive an update about 10 days before class about whether space will be available.

Additional notes:

1. We must have a working email address for each prospective attendee. We can not accept "proxy" registrations for your friends or family without being in direct contact via email. However, you can begin registration for a family member by including their email address on the CC line when you request registration instructions.

2. If you are a member of a group that plans to have multiple people attend, please mention that group in your email.

See <http://sandiegohamclasses.com/> for more information.

j, af6gm, instructor (on behalf of the instructor team).

**Articles for Amateur Radio Newsletters aimed at new hams
written by Gerry Crenshaw, WD4BIS, Rowlett, Texas**

NHP #10: To Dual or Not to Dual: That is the Question

About handitalkies, that is, do you really need that dual band handitalkie. Are they worth their price? Will you use all of their capabilities? Is there enough traffic on 70 Cm to make it worth the effort. One of the first items purchased by new radio operators is the handitalkie. Believe it or not, the profit margin on these items is very small, hardly worth the effort but the manufactures continue to turn out new smaller more advanced HT's. Many of these HT's now have so many features that when faced with a purchasing decision confusion abounds. Why do the Manufactures even bother cranking out a new, better model every year. The reasoning here lies in customer recognition and loyalty, and putting their name in the hand of as many hams as possible. After making that first buying decision, you will base future buying decisions on how it worked and after- purchase service. Dual Band handitalkies/mobile come in every combination you can think of 144 and 440, 144 and 220, 440 and 1200 or in any combination you might think of. Why even consider one of these when making that first purchase? Depending on what your plans are the dual band may be your best buy. In many Radio Frequency-congested areas you may need both bands to do the communications you plan. Most emergency and traffic nets will be carried out on one band while casual QSO's and rag chewing will be carried on another. Public service events may use two different bands for different jobs, health, safety and welfare on one band and logistics (delivery of equipment or supplies, trash pick up, etc.) on another or medical traffic such as getting an ambulance to the aid stations or rest stops may be assigned exclusively to a separate band. If your plans include working some sort of Public Service events or working the 'Thons, a dual band may be worth the expense. Check around first and see what other bands the general ham population is using. 440 mhz seems popular in the Dallas area while 220 Mhz seems to be popular in areas such as New York and Los Angeles. Another great use of the dual band radio is as a cross-band repeater. A mobile or base station is set up to re-transmit and receive everything from one band to another.

144 Mhz Rx-440 Mhz Tx

440 Mhz Rx-144 Mhz Tx

For example, the 144 Mhz side is left on the repeater frequency and the 440 Mhz side is put on a simplex frequency. This can be very useful in situations where you want to extend the range of a handitalkie.

Continued on next page

Continued from last page

This has been used with considerable success during emergency situations. A couple of things to watch for are picking the frequency to cross band from/to (a seldom-used simplex frequency makes a good choice from the handitalkie to the mobile) and the transmit power level of the mobile. It is very seldom that a radio will have independent control of the power level for both bands. So if you put the 144 Mhz side to high power to reach the repeater you are cross banding to, the 440 Mhz side will also be in high power. This means that one side or the other of the radio will be transmitting in High Power. In the course of several hours this will run down the best Die Hard battery. The dual band radio is a good for public service work or for the convenience of having two bands in the palm of your hand. They can enhance the operation of any amateur operator in any kind of public service net or event. These make a great addition to any shack but don't say to good-bye to the kids' college education money to get one.

73 & GL de WD4BIS

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This article is the second in a series to be included in the Counterpoise as an informational service to our readers, and is used with the approval and kind permission of the author, Gerald Crenshaw WD4BIS. Look for another next month, and please feel free to send comments to the author or to the Editor of the Counterpoise.

Gerald Crenshaw Email - wd4bis@arrl.net

Counterpoise Editor Email - counterpoise@wa6bgs.us

The Quest for a Vanity Call Part #2

by
Joe - W6VMX

Well, it's official. As of February 2nd, 2013 I am now W6VMX. The FCC changed my call on this date, and I can now use my new vanity call for communications. To help celebrate, I also now have a nice new hat and polo shirt sporting my new call too.



Overall the process of obtaining a vanity call was pretty easy, and I would really recommend to others who may be interested in getting their own vanity call to do it yourself. It is not hard, and it is much less costly than having a service do it for you. As stated last month too, as a modification to my license, it also reset my expiration date, so I now have another full 10 years before renewal will be needed.

Yes, there are things I would not do again regarding my application (see last month's article), but I am happy overall with the ultimate result. So when you are listening to the airwaves, keep an ear tuned for "Whiskey Six Victor Mike X-Ray".



What am I?

Send your answers to counterpoise@wa6bgs.us

Best ones will be included next issue.



The Cart

On February 21st I set up "The Cart" in a test deployment to see if things would go together properly. Everything did, and I am pleased with how it all worked. Solar panels put out great power, cart did all it needed to do, and radio worked extremely well on D/C power and base antenna. Just have to work out a few cable issues to neaten it all up and it is a good to go for just about any field situation. Will provide more details in next months Counterpoise.



Willy's Electronic Supply - National City
1636 D Avenue
National City, CA 91950
Ph: 619-477-2119 / FAX 619-477-2789
Monday - Friday 8:00AM - 6:00PM, PST

Willy's Electronic Supply - San Diego
4925 Mercury St
San Diego, CA 92111
Ph: 858-279-5800 FAX 858-279-5850
Monday - Friday 8:00AM - 5:00PM, PST



California Electronics & Industrial
Supply
221 N Johnson Ave
El Cajon, CA 92020

Hours:
Mon-Fri 9 am - 6 pm
Sat 9 am - 5 pm
Sun 12 pm - 4 pm

Yuma Hamfest 2013

By Joe (W6VMX)

Jack (N6FUG) and I decided to go to Yuma for the 2013 Hamfest only a few weeks ago. I had not ever been to a Hamfest before, but had a general idea what to expect. I did know a few things though, I would be leaving right after the club meeting on the 14th, and that we would be staying until Sunday morning for the drive back. Jack made the motel arrangements and we were set to go. After a good, but sparsely attended club meeting (hope everyone else enjoyed their Valentines day), we were able to get an early (about 9 pm) start on the drive to Yuma. Stopped at the Golden Acorn for a rest stop, and picked up a few snacks to continue the journey. Arrived at the Motel right about 12 am (1 am local time as it was), and checked in for a short rest before going to the Yuma Fairground site. Found a great spot to park, and



pretty much claimed it for the duration of the Hamfest. We then went to the snackbar

and had some excellent breakfast burritos and coffee. Met some great fellow hams from around the country and had the first of many very interesting QSO's eyeball to eyeball. Went on several walkabouts to the "Pad" to see what the tailgaters had brought to sell. Jack bought some interesting LED panels, a few connectors and cables, and thus began his quest to bring home the most bags of Hamfest goodies. He beat me hands down in that category. While awaiting entry into the main hall in the theater building I felt a tap on my

right shoulder, turned, and met Bob Smith (WB6ODR), 1970/71 past president of the ARCEC!!! He and his wife Linda (KD7EEO) were there from Prescott, and we had some good conversations regarding the club and ended up bringing home about 5 bags full of papers, books, and past issues of the Counterpoise too. Still have to go through it all and see what we have to add to the club archives. Bob and Linda joined Jack, Paul, and myself at our table during the Buzzard BBQ on Saturday where we continued some interesting conversations about the Near Space balloon launch earlier that day, and much more. On Friday we did run across Paul (KJ6BYF) as we were all visiting the various venders at the Hamfest. He and his wife spent the weekend in Yuma and had a great time too. It wasn't until early Saturday morning that we finally met up with Pat (WA6MHZ), and I do mean early too. He had arrived and found his way into the grounds to explore the tailgaters area for treasures, and from what I have heard, he did find a few. He was only able to stay for a few hours before having to return to Crest, but from our short conversations, he had a great time there. I picked up a new "round the town" hat with my call and name on it, and also a Hamfest tee shirt. This being my first Hamfest, I found that there was plenty to do, loads of other Hams to visit with, and more things to spend money on that I could have imagined. Saturday was a long day, starting out for Jack and me at 6:40 am at the Hamfest, and ending at about 8:45 pm when we left the Fairground to return to the motel. Long day indeed, but overall we had a great time, and look forward to attending again next year, and will be going to the ARRL Hamfest too. Hope to see you all there as well.

Counterpoise Submissions Requested

The Counterpoise is always looking for story ideas and submissions, pictures, and upcoming news articles. You can submit by sending your content to counterpoise@wa6bgs.us in WORD or PDF format. Photos can be sent in JPG, GIF, or most any other popular formats as well. You can also use the convenient form available on the club web site at www.wa6bgs.us too. Deadline is typically 7 days after the General Membership meeting, usually held on the second Thursday of each month. All members are urged to help out the Counterpoise and keep it active and entertaining. Hope to see your submissions soon!!

Joe - W6VMX - Counterpoise Editor

MURPHYS SURPLUS WAREHOUSE

LOCATED AT 401 N. JOHNSON AVE:

EL CAJON, CA. 92020

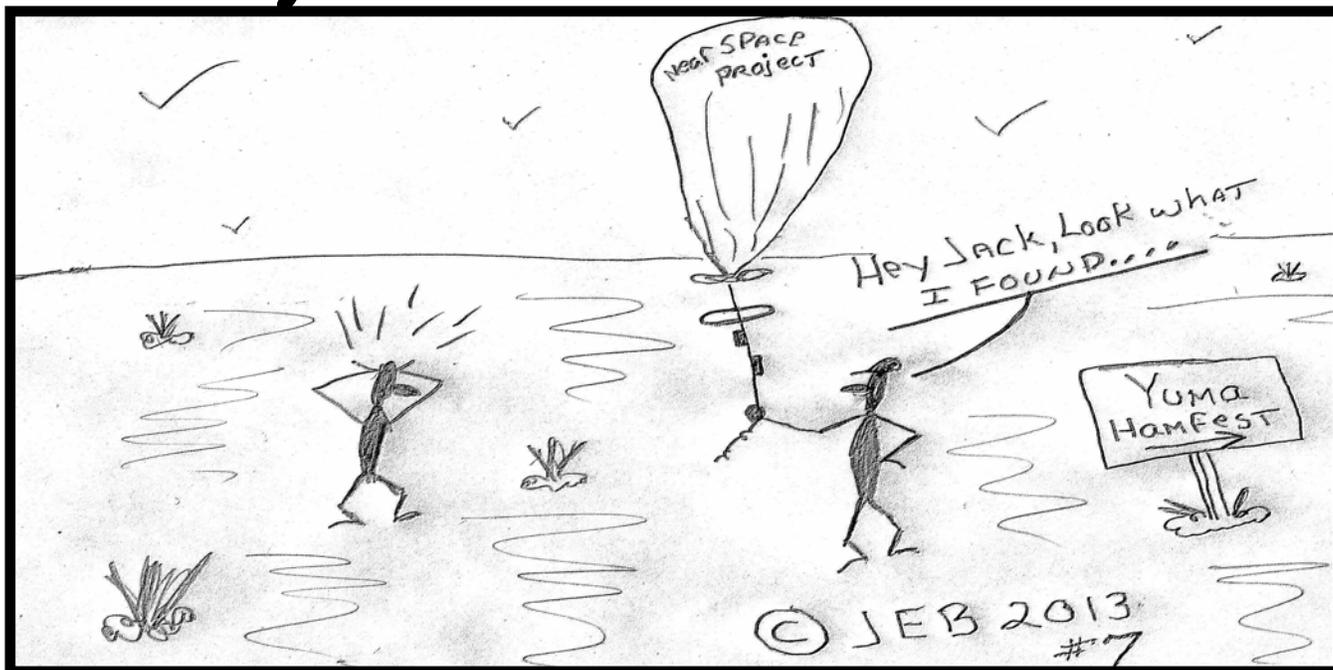
(NEAR SAN DIEGO) 619 444 7717

FAX 444 6750 EMAIL murphy@cts.com

HOURS MONDAY THRU SATURDAY

9 AM TO 5

Harvey Hairbuckle-Ham Extroidinaire





The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON** Inc.

WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and see the options at the bottom for Submitting options

Date of Application: _____

Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash or Check Check #: _____

Membership Type: Individual (\$20) Family (\$35)
 Membership Status: New Renewal Returning Member
 Call Sign: First Name: Last Name: WAMO # (if renewing or returning):

ARRL Member: Yes No
 License Class: Technician General Extra Other:
 Address: City: State: Zip: PO Box:

Email ID: Phone: _____

Would you like a member badge? Yes No

Add Additional Members Here (Family Package):

First Name	Last Name	Call Sign	License Class	Wamo #	Badge
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>

Submitting This Form

To submit this form mail it to P.O. Box 50 El Cajon, 92022

-OR-

Bring to the next club meeting or go to www.wa6bgs.us and join on line (click on Club info / Join)

Cash Payments - Get a Receipt from the Club Treasurer. Make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with FCC Call Signs are Full Members with voting privileges, Members without FCC Call Signs are Associate members without voting privileges

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. is a 501(c)(7) Corporation. Donations are NOT tax Deductable.