ISSUE
03
JULY
2023

BI-MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER FOR
SCIRA MEMBERS

QRV News

this issue

The SCIRA Mission

To provide a linked amateur radio repeater network for the Emergency Response Communications (ERC) of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from Fresno to San Diego.

LINKs (click)

SCIRA Website

QR Code for Website

Questions?

If you want access to the ERC Google Group send an email with your Name, Call Sign and Unit Name to:

ki6wkg@gmail.com

How to donate?

Visit scirainc.org and click on Join

SCIRA happenings & highlights.

This is the official newsletter for SCIRA members.

What does QRV mean in amateur radio?

Are you ready? I am ready.

Who can use the SCIRA repeaters?

All of SCIRA's repeaters are "Open", which means any licensed operator can use them.

The annual ERC held in August had to be cancelled this year but will most likely return in August 2024, stay tuned for details.

Allstar linking is up and stable.

Snow Peak repeater linking is being worked on and hopefully resolved soon.

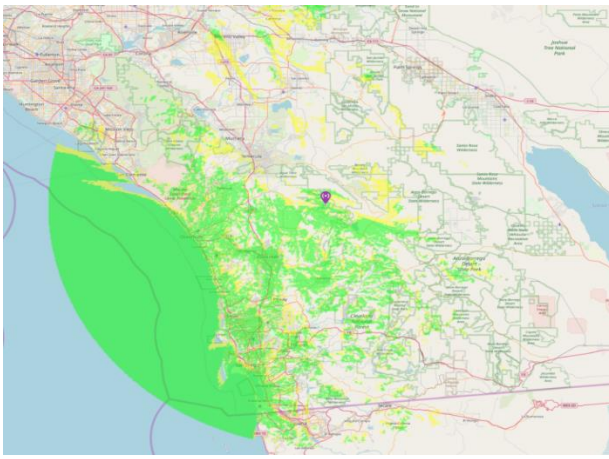
SCIRA is looking at adding VARA capabilities to several repeater sites for faster email over radio connections!

Earthquake prepardeness drills, known as the Shakeout Exercise, will be up to each local unit this year. The regional reporting will not happen until next year. Take this time to practice and find the shortfalls and bugs in your local disaster communication plans.

Which repeater should I use?

On the SCIRA website there are coverage maps for each repeater to help you determine which one is best for your area.

Below is the Palomar Mountain coverage map



Did you participate in Field Day? If so what was your furthest contact and on what band?

KE6SRN contributed a field day experience on the next page! A big THANK YOU to Carol & Tom!

KM6KHT made contacts on 15M to North Carolina, Georgia and Florida from Fontana, a distance of almost 2400 miles!

AMATEUR RADIO FIELD DAY

June 24, 2023

Submitted by Carol Bruegge KE6SRN

Tom KE6SRO and I (Carol KE6SRN) have been licensed amateur radio operators for 25 years, beginning with the time we were asked to be in charge of emergency response communications (ERC) for our local congregation. This being the era prior to cell phones, we used HTs in our daily family communications. In order to do so, we encouraged our children, ages 11 and 8, to also became licensed. Fast forward to 2022, and we are now asked to be regional ERC Specialists. Being newly retired, we now have the time and interest in taking the assignment to the next level. Step one was to upgrade our licenses. This would allow us to teach and be involved as VEs to help others join the ERC radio community. The upgrade also came in handy, as we could now connect to the Thursday night 80 m band ERC net. One thing leads to another in this hobby, and before we knew it, we had purchased an ICOM IC-7300 and were building antennas. (We would like to thank the members of the SCIRA radio community who answered our many questions on building antennas.) With these new tools and eager to learn, we also began to prepare for field day. As we were scheduled to be on the road for the event, we contacted the Clallam Amateur Radio Club, Port Angeles, WA, who welcomed us for the weekend.

Our 80 m simple dipole antenna worked well at home for the weekly ERC net, but for field day we wanted to explore all bands. We purchased the 5-band TW-2010 from DX engineering, thinking it was easy to set up. We also purchased the ARRL EFHW (end-fed half wave) kit and assembled it for 40 m and harmonics. Field Day arrived, and we used an arborist line to get the EFHW high up into a tree, suspending the far end of its 20 m wire onto a 10 ft mast. Going live we instantly learned that more wire was better than an easy set-up, and the expensive TW-2010 was set aside in favor of the inexpensive EFHW antenna.

In addition to our SCIRA membership, Tom and I belong to the JPL Amateur Radio Club, which operated on field-day from Mt. Gleason. This location allowed them to transmit with low take-off angles, yielding long skips and thus less attenuation as compared to our sea-level operation. In total their 24 members made 3,719 contacts, including our less than impressive 22. Although we have lots more to learn, nevertheless, we enjoyed our first field day and in particular the interactions we made with club members both in Washington and at home.

Carol Bruegge, KE6SRN

Member Antennas

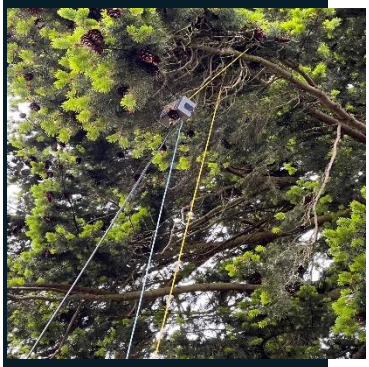
What kind of antenna are you using?

Do you make your own antennas?

If you would like to share your antenna(s), please send a picture(s), your name and call sign, type of antenna and any other information about it to huntercf88@gmail.com

Member Antennas:

EFHW: KE6SRO & KE6SRN



Pictures Left to Right Carol & Tom Bruegge:

1) Tom using a throw lline to mount the EFHW (above)

2) Our TW-2010 antenna

3) Carol & Tom pretending to be the owners of a dream Winnebago Field Day set up.

Repeaters & More!

Photos and information courtesy of Mike Guymon N6CDX

Palomar Mountain Repeater Site

View of Valley from Repeater

Just below the antennas!

Palomar Mountain Repeater Spotlight.

The Palomar Mountain Repeater is located on Palomar Mountain in San Diego County. It is at 5583 feet; GPS 33.31057, -116.895119 and coverage is approximately from Temecula to Mexico and out to the Pacific Ocean. That is almost 150 miles of coverage. The site is approximately 70 miles northeast of San Diego central.

Palomar is SCIRA's southernmost repeater and links to the other repeaters using the PL code (CTCSS) of 136.5. To use the repeater without linking you need to use the PL code of 100.

Click the link to check out the 24/7 webcam: Palomar Mountain Live Cam

The repeater was previously located underneath the deck of the house seen in one of the pictures. It was moved, when the owner sold the house, to just down the hill in the brown shack you can see above. Even though the house was sold the previous owner retained the land below which is now the repeater site.

Just below the antennas, the house of the previous site is seen just above.

Repeater radio with cavity filter

Upcoming Events & Getting Connected

SCIRA INC.
Southern California Intermountain Repeater Association

Scira Repeater Page Link

Upcoming Events

- **August ~ Cancelled**

  ERC Conference will not be held this year.

- **September 20th ~ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

  SCIRA Board Zoom Meeting

- **October 1st ~ General Conference**

  SoCal ERC Net will not be conducted.

- **October ~ Shakeout Exercise**

  Shakeout exercises will be on the local leval only this year.

- **November 15th ~ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

  SCIRA Annual General Meeting & Elections.

- **January 27th & 28th**

  Winter field day.

- **NVIS 80 Meter Net ~ 3.882 Mhz**

  Every Thursday Night 8:00 pm

Net Control Operators

SUNDAY	CALL SIGN	NAME
30-Jul	WB6TT	Tom Thomas
6-Aug	KD6VAD	Chief Whittemore
13-Aug	AF6NV	Wayne Jolley
20-Aug	KM6KHT	Clint Hunter
27-Aug	KI6WKG	Steve Lang
3-Sep	KJ6FWA	Darrin Dalton
10-Sep	AF6NV	Wayne Jolley
17-Sep	KM6KLT	Marcus Piquet
24-Sep	KD6VAD	Chief Whittemore
1-Oct	**GENERAL CONFERENCE**	
8-Oct	KM6KHT	Clint Hunter
15-Oct	KI6WKG	Steve Lang
22-Oct	KJ6FWA	Darrin Dalton
29-Oct	AF6NV	Wayne Jolley

Scira linked repeaters

Location	Alt (ft)	Freq (MHz)	PL (linked)	PL (unlinked)
Pleasants Peak	3,886	445.940 (-)	151.4	100
Jobs Peak, Crestline	5,350	146.910 (-)	151.4	67
Ord Mountain	4,485	146.910 (-)	162.2	
Snow Peak, Banning	8,000	445.160 (-)	67	97.4
Palomar Mountain	5,582	445.940 (-)	136.5	100
Contractors Point, Sylmar	3,500	445.160 (-)	151.4	100
Eagle Tower, Running Springs	6,300	445.700 (-)	151.4	100
Fresno		145.250 (-)	141.3	
Santa Ynez Peak	4,860	445.940 (-)	131.8	100

Echolink is running on

W6CTR-R Node 379885

Allstar node number is 48383

Winlink Gateway Stations: Frequency 144.970 Mhz

VARA 145.070 Mhz

D/Call	Owner	Location
WB6TT-10	Tom Thomas	Corona, CA
W6CTR-10	BCS	Ontario, CA
N6NNW-10	Dale Hanks	Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
KE6VZZ-10	Ken Fawson	Fountain Valley, CA
KD6YPD-10	Jared Case	Ontario, CA
KM6KHT-10	Clint Hunter	Fontana, CA

Scira, Inc. Digipeaters

ID	Label	Location
ETDIGI	Eagle Tower	Running Springs
FVDIGI	Fountain Valley	Fountain Valley
LADIGI	L.A.	Palos Verdes
SPDIGI	Banning	Snow Peak

Links

SCIRA Calendar

VHF 2M Antennas

Answers to last month's antenna matching activity?

1.	J-Pole	c.
2.	Slim Jim	e.
3.	Dipole	f.
4.	Ground Plane	d.
5.	Mag Loop	b.
6.	Yagi	h.
7.	Open Stub J Pole	g.
8.	Rubber Duck	a.

Trivia:

1. What do the Amateur Radio Stations NA1SS and RS0ISS have in common?
2. What does 73 mean at the end of a QSO?
3. Which famous rockstar is a ham radio operator? What's his call sign?

This Issue's Q&A and Radio Tips

Do you have a question? Please send it to the email below and it might be answered in the next newsletter

Huntercf88@gmail.com

Q: Is my antenna too long or too short?

A. If it is resonant on a frequency below the desired frequency it is too long. If it is resonant on a frequency above then it is too short. For example: if your inverted V antenna is resonant on 3.700 Mhz but you want it resonant for the HF Net on 3.882 Mhz then it is too long.

Tips: If you want to look up a call sign qrz.com is a great alternative to the fcc website. You can also create a custom bio that others can view with information regarding your QTH, rigs you use, antennas, etc.

Don't forget all donations to SCIRA are tax deductible. Everything that SCIRA does is solely supported by your donations.