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# Counterpoise

Published Monthly by the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLI

November 2001

Number 11

## From the President

Yes, it is holiday time once again. Can you believe it? Seems as if it was just yesterday that we went thru all this, now here we go again. Saying all this, I must tell you it is one of my favorite times. Being with family and friends, thinking of all the blessings that we receive each and every day. Having the freedom to turn on my radio and talking with the many friends that I have the privilege to know. What a great place to live.

We need your help. In just a few weeks, on November 18, will be the annual Mother Goose Parade. We are in need of operators to help out during the parade with communications and other trivial needs. Please contact Rich, N6NKJ, to volunteer for this great event. I will be there; will you?

Thanks go out to Dick McCready for his hard work as the Eastern Area District Emergency Coordinator. I know sometimes it is a thankless job. Dick recently resigned and we will miss him, but Rich, N6NKJ, stepped right back in when asked. What a trooper.

Ham of the Year nominations are now due. Please send your nomination of a well-deserving person in the Club to Joni, KF6MPB. You can also give her a call on the phone. All nominations are due by the




*Continued on page 4*

## TRAPS REVISITED by Richard West, KF6KE

Some time back, I wrote an article about trap antennas. To cover old ground, a trap is a parallel resonant circuit that isolates one part of an antenna from another part. A parallel resonant circuit is a coil, or inductor, in parallel with a capacitor and, at its resonant frequency, has a very high resistance to that frequency. If a 10-meter trap is placed between the 10-meter section and, say, the 15-meter section, the 15-meter section is not being used. At least not until a band change to a lower frequency. Then the trap becomes part of the overall antenna. The first challenge in making a trap is getting the materials together. There are a number of decisions to make about your trap. Pre-wound inductors or do-it-yourself ugly style. What type of capacitors to use, coax cable or transmitting capacitors or, if it is for low power, mica or ceramic capacitors? Once it is together, how to measure its resonant frequency and how to adjust its resonant frequency? My first trap was made about ten years ago and it was do-it-yourself ugly, really ugly — a hand-wound coil over a section of PVC and a length of RG-58A/U as a capacitor with the center conductor to one end of the coil and the braid to the other end of the coil. Adjustment was made by trimming the length of the coax until the correct resonant frequency was reached. This trap was for a 10/15M ground plane antenna. It even worked for a few years. It would have worked for several more had I known how to weather-proof it. As I look back to that first trap, I realize just how far I have come. My second attempt came in the spring of 2001. This attempt was for an antenna for a low power transceiver; therefore, high-voltage/high-current components were not needed or desired. Portability was paramount.

*Continued on page 4*

**General Membership Meeting**  **Wednesday, November 14th, 7:00 PM**  
**La Mesa Masonic Lodge - 4731 Date Avenue, La Mesa**

# 2001 Officers

President	NZ6T	Tuck Miller	434-4211
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Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	286-3140
Treasurer	KD6WUL	Nancy Paine	7/929-2808
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Social	KA6RLX	Al Gentz	449-1282
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W6RHV	Bob Boehme	448-4728
WAMO Chairman	W6LKK	Erich Bennett	401-7332

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 El Cajon Amateur Radio Club 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:

**Nancy Paine at:**

**E-mail: [npaine@earthlink.net](mailto:npaine@earthlink.net) OR**

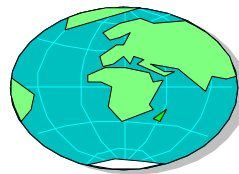
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Deadline is the Sunday after the General Meeting. For further information, please call (760) 929-2808.

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There can be no fifty-fifty Americanism in this country. There is room here for only hundred percent Americanism. — Theodore Roosevelt, speech, July 19, 1918

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# MINUTES FOR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 10, 2001

The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by Club president Tuck Miller, NZ6T, at 1900 hrs. Vice-president Tom Caudle, KC6NXZ, introduced Stud Downs. He gave a presentation on engine noise and automobile HF installations.

After the break, Tuck, NZ6T, stated that a nominations committee needs to be elected this evening and that they would present a slate of officers at the November meeting. During that meeting, nominations would be offered from the floor. Ballots were distributed to the membership and the votes were tabulated by Tuck. In the interim, Tom, KC6NXZ, continued the business meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT was approved as published in the *Counterpoise*.

TREASURER'S report was read by Mike, N6OPH. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

VICE PRESIDENT Tom, KC6NXZ, reported that the November meeting would be "Home Brew" meeting and also the nominations committee would present its report. Nominations from the floor would then be in order. There are three categories of Home Brew submissions. They are the Novice, Intermediate and Expert.

AFFILIATED CLUBS report was given by Mike, N6OPH. Mike noted that SANDARC is still in need of a Del Mar Fair chairman. The first meeting for the Del Mar Fair Chairman is in January. Also, the council discussed the recently held Riverside Convention. SANDARC collected \$3,211 in pre-registration money. The website is up and running and on-line registrations are starting to trickle in as well. The chairman also noted that the SANDARC education chairman, Steve Early, AD6VI, is

conducting classes on basic amateur radio operating and how to pass traffic. Art Goddard, W6XD, the incoming ARRL SW Division Director, was also present at the council meeting. He reiterated his support of the council and its current planning of the 2002 convention. He also described some of the ways that amateur radio operators are helping out since the September 11 disaster. He will be in San Diego for the Ham Radio Roundup on October 20.

MEMBERSHIP chairman stated that she has started her work as chairman. Regarding awards, she has stated that the Ham of the Year award nominations must be presented at the November meeting, so that the bios could be printed in the *Counterpoise* for December.

EDUCATION report was given by Mike, N6OPH. He stated that next week the Extra Theory class would begin with Bob Bostick as the instructor. This class should last about six to eight weeks.

PUBLIC SERVICE chairman Rich, N6NKJ, stated that the Friendship Festival was a great success. Because of the tragic events of September 11, about 15 of the ethnic groups decided to pull out of the event but were persuaded to return. There was plenty of police presence during the event. The Mother Goose Parade will be held in November. Those people who are interested in manning the float or helping out with its construction need to call Rich at 444-5465. Also, ARES will need eight operators for the Mother Goose Parade. A boy scout will accompany each operator.

Tuck, NZ6T, announced the results of the elections for the nominations committee. They are:

Michael	AE6CQ
Tom	KC6NXZ
Bill	KD6QD
Evelyn	N6EVE

Evelyn will serve as the chairman for this committee. Last year's chairman Galen, N6YBK, will also serve on this committee.

*Continued on page 5*

# From the President Continued

*Continued from p. 1 –*

November meeting. After that, we will print all the nominees in the December edition of the Counterpoise along with why they should be voted for.

Also, be expecting a phone call from the Nominating Committee asking if you would like to run or nominate someone for office. Better yet, why wait for them to call you. Give the Nominating Chair a call and save a bit of time. If you would like to run for an office or nominate someone, give Evelyn, N6EVE, a call at 619-434-4211. Many positions are open, including the office of President. Will you accept the challenge to be a leader for your club next year? We need you. See you at the next meeting.

Until next month, best 73, Tuck NZ6T



**RICHARD WEST** — *continued from page 1*

Toroids formed the inductors with parallel dipped micas all mounted on scrap PC board. The usual method of adjusting the resonant frequency is to vary either the value of the inductor or the capacitor. Well, the toroid value is pretty much fixed and I was using fixed capacitors. Adjustment was made by substituting different values of mica capacitors until the desired resonant frequency was achieved. Several of the traps needed an additional length of miniature coaxial cable (in parallel with the capacitors) to reach the desired resonant frequency. Drum roll please (pause), it worked just fine.

# November Birthdays

KEF6PYY	Bob	Geiler	Nov.	01
W6MVJ	Ed	Felter	Nov.	02
	Evanna	Miller	Nov.	05
K6TDS	Jack	Higginson	Nov.	06
KF6ILA	Duncan	Campbell	Nov.	06
K6SDN	Scott	Delnero	Nov.	06
WB6EWT	Miriam	DeMers	Nov.	13
K6FT	Frederic	Taylor	Nov.	13
KN6WP	Ethan	Porter	Nov.	13
K1CHS	Ed	Blank	Nov.	15
K6BX	John	Roessler	Nov.	17
WB6WSN	Ed	Price	Nov.	17
KM6EK	Joe	Utschig	Nov.	17
KE6TPL	Jack	Carter	Nov.	19
KE6TPJ	Al	Washburn	Nov.	20
KF6YCU	Tomes	Theodorelos	Nov.	23
WA6BEN	Ben	Bunsold	Nov.	24
KC6NSI	Bobbie	Hoolihan	Nov.	24
KR6BL	Chris	Laporte	Nov.	25
AD6KL	Len	Thompson	Nov.	27
WB6RSG	Tom	Tennyson	Nov.	29
KG6ABQ	Janet	Leader	Nov.	31



**Happy  
Birthday!!!!**

Osama Bin Laden: Heed this — "The despot, be assured, lives night and day like one condemned to death by the whole of mankind for his wickedness." Xenophon, *Hiero*, 4th Century B.C.

# Minutes (cont.)

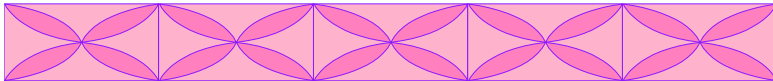
*Continued from page 3*

Mike, N6OPH, announced that he will be in Europe during the month of November and would, therefore, be unable to execute the duties as Secretary for that month.

There being no further business before the general membership, the meeting was adjourned at 2030 hrs.

Respectfully submitted.

Michael P. Maston, N6OPH, Secretary  
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon



## HOMEBREW

by Richard West, KF6KE

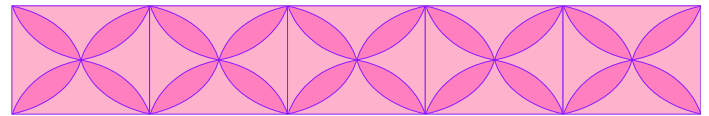
Most hams, sooner or later, get the urge to build. Those that do build rarely show off their finished project. At least that is the conclusion I have reached after viewing the limited offerings at the October "Homebrew night" meeting each year. Part of the reason could be the quality of their effort. I offer this suggestion, somewhat tongue in cheek — have a new category: "Really ugly but it works". I could submit a few of my own in that category; maybe even win an award. Of course, the planning and executing of the homebrew project are important to avoid the "Really Ugly" designation. But, in a more serious vein, how many of you just don't know where to get the parts? I am sure there are those who need certain hard-to-get parts and others have those parts, often just for the asking. How do we get the "needs" and the "haves" together? I would like to see something done, but what? And then there are the internet sites, both the World-WideWeb and newsgroups. Did you know that there are several newsgroups dealing with amateur radio? Here are seven of them. Maybe your server has others.

alt.ham-radio.packet  
alt.radio.amateur  
aus.radio.amateur.digital  
aus.radio.amateur.misc  
rec.radio.amateur.antenna  
rec.radio.amateur.misc  
rec.radio.amateur.homebrew

Here are just a few web sites to get you started.

[http://website.lineone.net/~colin\\_mccord/Radio/index.htm](http://website.lineone.net/~colin_mccord/Radio/index.htm)  
<http://www.palomar-engineers.com/>  
<http://www.cl.ais.net/farcir/>

This last one is for Far Circuits, the company that manufactures printed circuit boards. Their catalog was once about two pages. Now, just their list of power supplies and battery charges is about two pages. Can't come up with the schematic and article that calls for one of their circuit boards? No problem, since they have those available for a slight charge. And to get the ball rolling on parts, here is a short list of what I have to donate to those who will USE it: About 1/2 gallon of ferric chloride (Etchant). You bring your own non-metallic container. Three toroids for kilowatt baluns. A whole bunch of precision potentiometers, 1% linearity, 20 turn(?), various values. I do give these items away just so you can enrich your own junk box; therefore, if you can not use it, don't ask for it.



Speaking of Home Brew, Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ, will be giving a program on Home Brew at the November meeting —  
**HOMEBREWING With Surface Mount Technology.**

This program is on the cutting edge of electronics. He will show you how to do things that it normally takes a million dollar machine to do. So come one, come all to a very unique program.



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2nd Saturday:	Carlsbad	Carlsbad Safety Center, Orion Way, Carlsbad, 10:00
3rd Saturday:	Normal Heights Methodist	4650 Mansfield Avenue (just off Adams Avenue), San
4th Saturday:	Chula Vista	Salvation Army, 643 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, 9:00
5th or last Saturday:	Escondido	Escondido Chamber of Commerce, 720 North Broad-

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, call 465-EXAM.

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THE NET WILL START AT 8:00P.M.(0400) ON TUESDAYS. IT WILL BE A WIDE OPEN NET. OPEN TO ALL. HAMS WILL TALK ABOUT:

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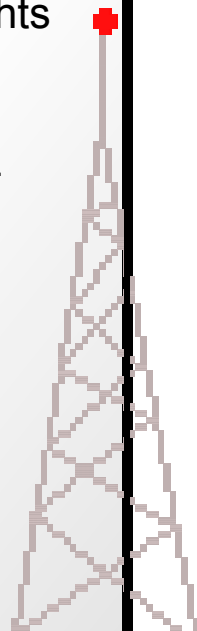
- 5 - GARDENING
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FRITO, N6WKB

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Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that's the stuff life is made of. — Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard's Almanac*, June 1746

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