

# **PVARC Activates Santa Catalina Island**

**IOTA NA-066**

**February 23 – 27, 2011**



# **PVARC activates Santa Catalina Island - IOTA **NA-066** Feb 23-27, 2011**

- **7 Operators operate K6PV/6 on Catalina**
- **3 HF Transceivers (K2, Omni VII, IC-746 Pro II)**
- **5 antennas, some multi-band**
- **160, 80,40,20, 17, 15, 10 Meter operation**
- **SSB, CW, and RTTY (PSK-31 capable)**
- **700+ pounds of gear and food**
- **Murphy stays away! (more or less)**

# Long Beach Catalina Express Terminal - little group, big pile of baggage!



**Let's see, if we aim the beam this way...**





# Where we're headed



# Happy hams on the way to NA-066



Bob AB6SY Clay AB9A Bill KG6WVF Ray N6HE Jeff K6JW (photo by Saraj KU6F)

**We see a whale....you saw it, too,  
didn't you?**



We “Free Willy” on the way over!

# No way we forgot anything!



Bob AB6SY

Clay AB9A

Jeff K6JW

Bill KG6WVF



# Jeff K6JW, The Supervisor



# First up – the 20M Hex Beam - Ready, fire, aim!



Bob AB6SY Clay AB9A Ray N6HE Jeff K6JW

# **What made it fun? Mel and Doris – close your eyes!!!**

- **Clay at the top of a ladder “uncorking” the top mast section from the bottom section of the mast – and holding it in position while balancing on the ladder - holding the top mast section up with the entire Hex Beam 10’ above him, with his glasses askew and falling off the end of his nose and with guy wires wrapped around his neck. Clay gets an Academy Award for “BEST EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL STABILITY IN THE FACE OF APPROACHING TOTAL DISASTER!” All ended well, thankfully....**

# What made it fun?

- The “first time” we put up the Hex Beam, we didn’t extend every section thinking we would have a more stable mast (lotsa wind expected) – the only problem was that the telescoping sections now weren’t pinned together...so rotating the bottom portion of the mast didn’t rotate the Hex Beam (sigh). Oh, boy, we get to do it all over again!



**Thank you Mel K6SY and Doris  
K6KSY – it's beautiful!**



# Are we ready for anything or what?



# **K6PV/6 operations at Two Harbors, Santa Catalina Island, CA**



# The ARRL Flag and the K6PV Club Banner at “B” Deck



(our home away from home)



# 160M dipole and Doris K6KSY's 20M Hex Beam



**Our 160M antenna, tied off at a gym set on a playground, electrocutes two local kids!**



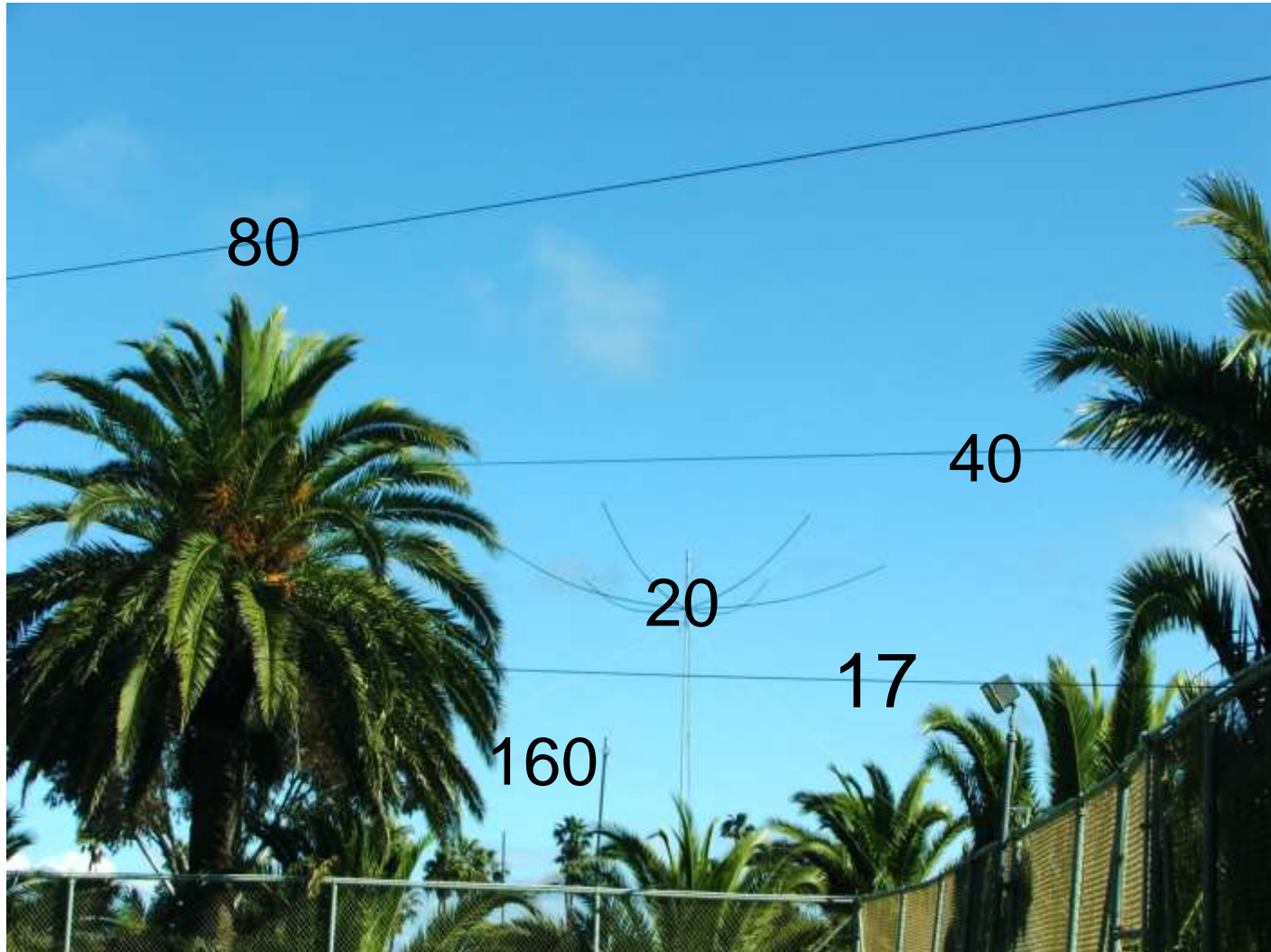
(Not really)

**How many antennas are here?**





**Five! (Not shown: 20M loop, 15 and 10M dipoles, and 20M vertical dipole)**





# Chef Wannabe Robert at 7:00 AM



# Sous-Chef Robert at 7:05 AM



# Master Chef Robert at 7:10 AM





# Indiana Bob at the mike – 40M

Ask him about the “compressor guy” QSO!





# What made it fun?

- **Bob hinting to a fella that his W2IHY Equalizer was a good “speech compressor” – and the guy going nuts because he hated compressors and the jerks that use them poorly – then Ray talked into a paper cup next to the mike to imitate a badly adjusted speech compressor - he loved it! It seemed to all to be a pretty fair imitation of an overdriven speech compressor...**

# Ray N6HE demonstrates how a speech compressor sounds???



# What made it fun?

- Rooting around in all the baggage to find coax jumpers, etc. “It’s gotta be in here somewhere!”
- Ray N6HE accidentally tuning up on top of a lazy long-silence-between-transmissions QSO on 40M – the guy claimed we owed him a new set of eardrums – well, at least we’re getting out!

# Saraj KU6F working 20M SSB





# What made it fun?

- **Clay AB9A and Saraj KU6F in hysterics at Ray N6HE's suggestion of yet another antenna/mast installation**
- **Ray's thought: "Why is that funny?"**

# Really - we need just one more antenna!



Bill KG6WVF

Ray N6HE

# Saraj KU6F on a 20M RTTY run



# The 15M dipole going up



Ray N6HE   Bob AB6SY   Saraj KU6F   Clay AB9A



# 7" deep buffalo tracks – yikes!



Kilroy, the 2,000-pound buffalo was here!

# Cat Harbor - the scene of 2010's wimpy Tsunami





# The 160M dipole's gonna be how big?



Jeff K6JW   Bob AB6SY   Clay AB9A   Ray N6HE   Bill KG6WVF

# 160M dipole feedpoint – arrrrr, looks like foul weather, Captain!



Ray N6HE



# OK, let's get this monster up!



Jeff K6JW

Bob AB6SY

**Jeez...this far out and we still have  
a huge roll of wire to string up!**



Jeff K6JW   Bob AB6SY



**160M dipole from over there to here**



# OK, let's get the end up high!



Saraj KU6F  
Bob AB6SY    Jeff K6JW



# The 160M dipole's 125-foot long Eastern section



The roll of antenna wire just kept on unrolling – getting longer and longer (250' total)!

# What made it fun?

- **160M was a blast – the first time on the band for almost all of us - we'd make a QSO with the K6PV/6 call from Catalina Island, then “pass the mike” to everyone else there to give them another QSO from Catalina (and another and another) – they must have thought there were 100 HF hams on Catalina!**

# What made it fun?

- **Being 2 feet short of coax at one point – and only a 100-foot roll of coax left available to use – needed a coax-stretcher!**

**We “stretch” 20M coax to the other shack – saving using 100 feet of coax**



Bob AB6SY

Diana AI6DF



# Bill gives out NA-066 to the pile-up



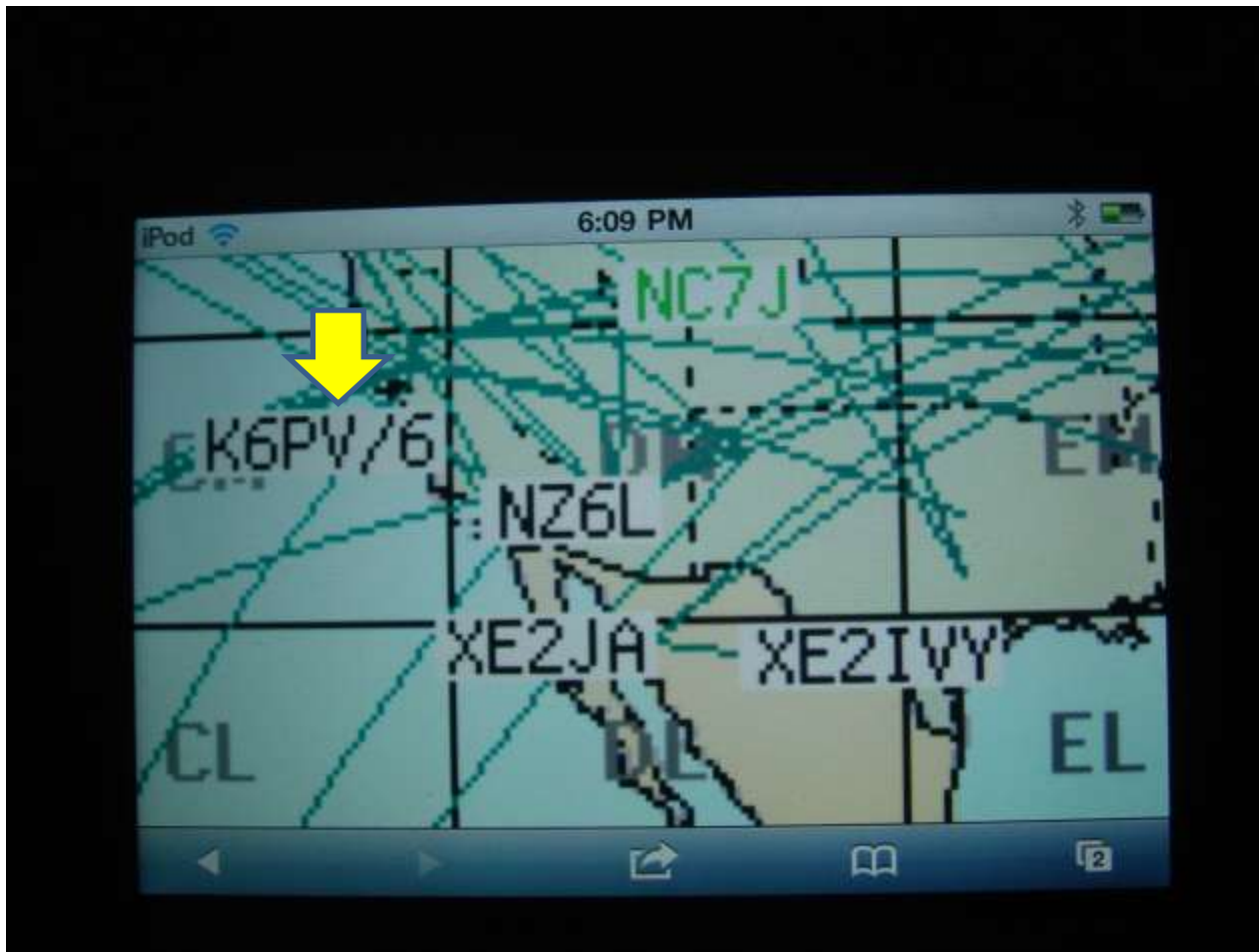
Bill KG6WVF

Bob AB6SY

# Saraj KU6F goin' at it on 20M SSB



# We get spotted! (by Joe NZ6L)



# Saraj KU6F takes a break





# What made it fun?

- **Wise-guy bartender directs Ray into the Ladies' Room during our Saturday Night Celebration!**
- **The “end-fed off-center-fed 20M vertical dipole” Ray N6HE and Jeff K6JW built from a March 2011 CQ Mag article - it only tuned up at 18 Mhz – lots of head-scratching here....**

# The Bob and Jeff show on 20M SSB



Jeff K6JW

Bob AB6SY

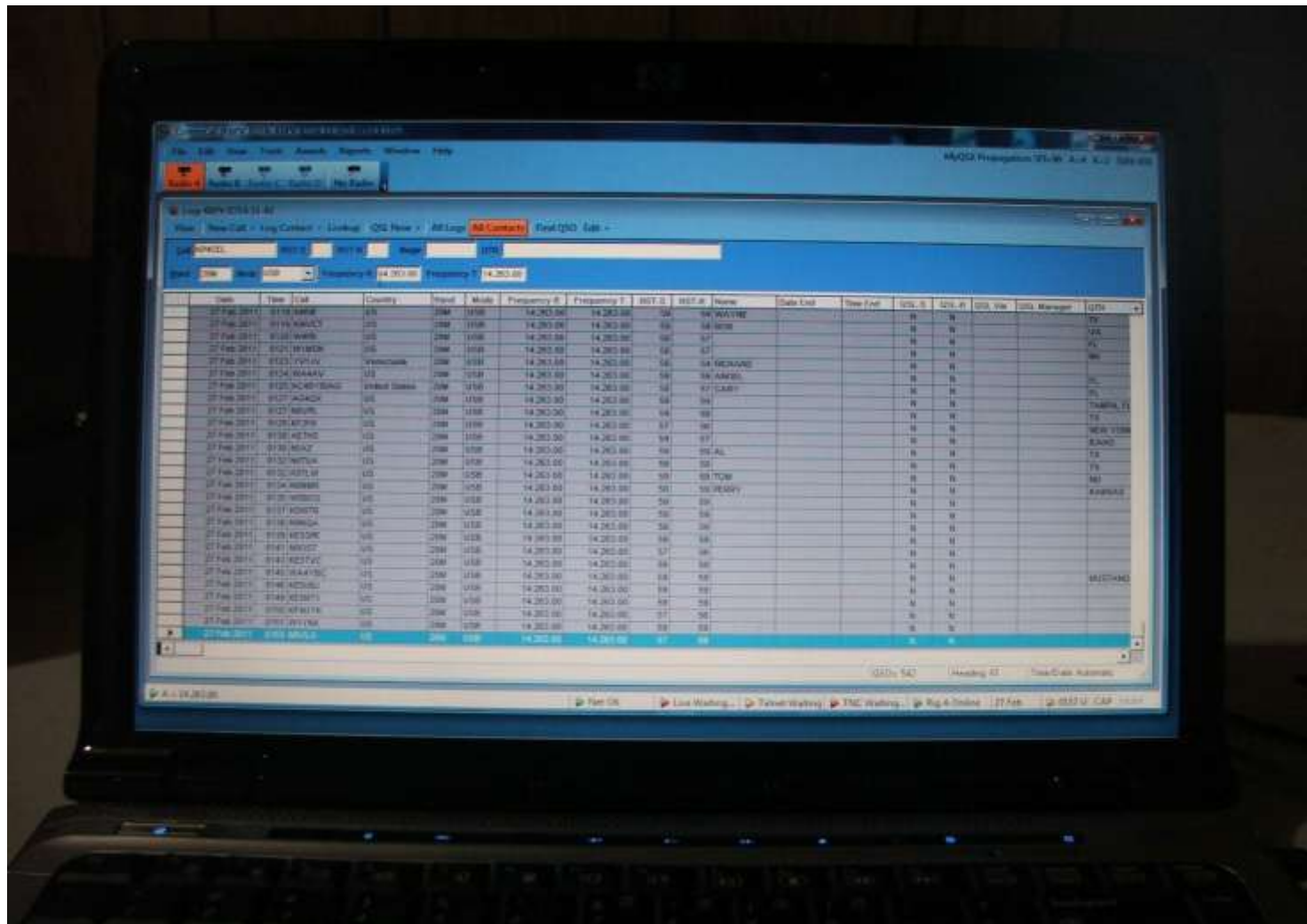
# ...and the Jeff and Bob Show



Bob AB6SY

Jeff K6JW

# Jeff's neat CommCat logging program





# What made it fun?

- **Bob AB6SY takes his jacket from his open suitcase in his room – and finds a sleeping cat in it!**
- **The picky-picky maintenance man questioning our putting up the 80/40/20/17M fan dipole smack in the middle of the two tennis courts**

# Diana AI6DF on RTTY



# What made it fun?

- The politically-aggressive WD0 that nagged us for 30 minutes after our response to *his comment about wanting Muammar Gaddafi to nuke himself*: (“See you on 75!”) – he caught the barb and wasn’t happy! Joe K5KT was on the air with us from his home and added his share of fuel to the fire, too.

**OK, OK.. Just one more antenna...**



Bob AB6SY



# Let's get the BuddiPole up!



Clay AB9A

Ray N6HE

Saraj KU6F

Jeff K6JW

# Saraj's BuddiPole ready on 15M



# 20M Loop going up



Saraj KU6F Ray N6HE

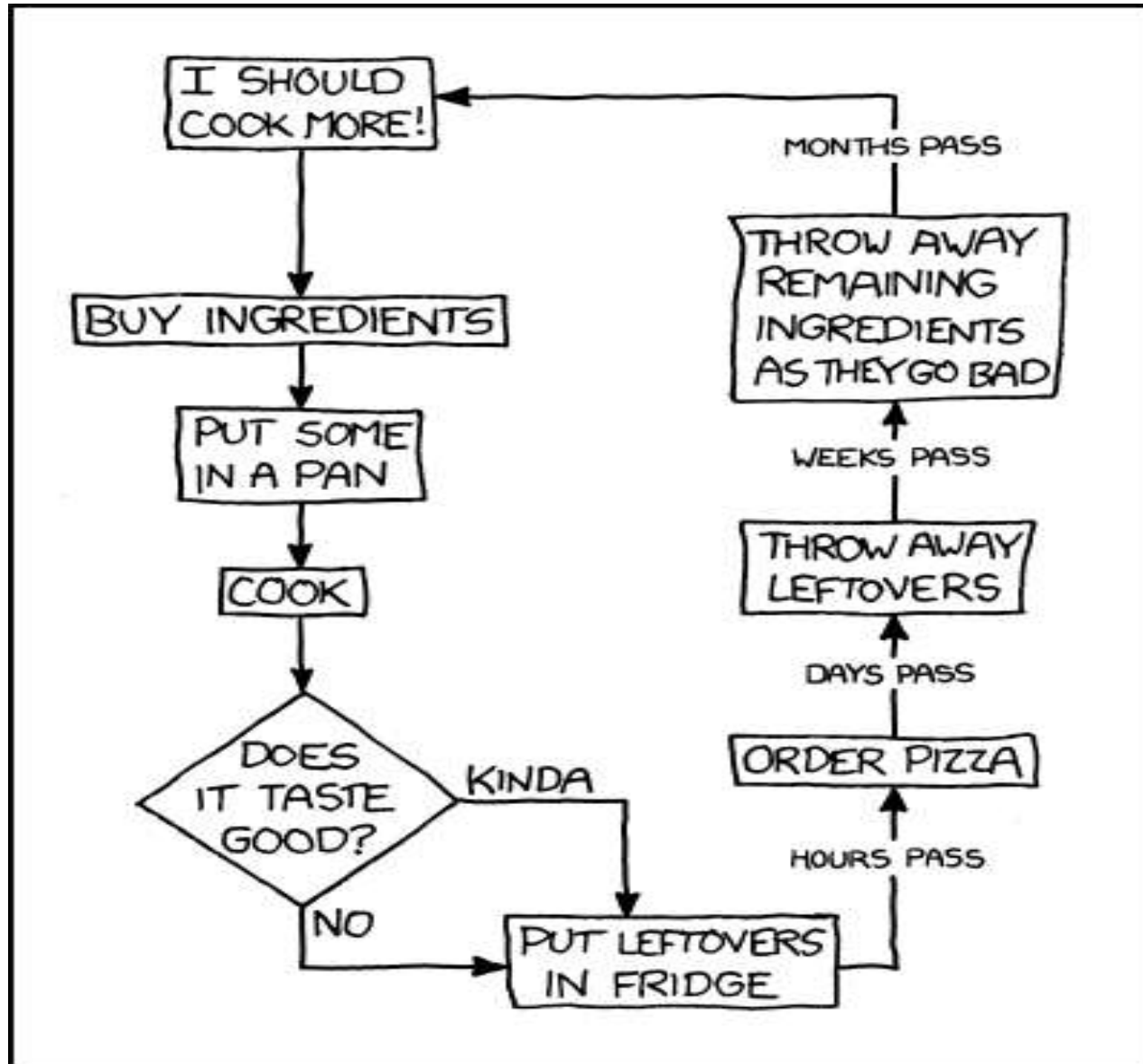
# 20M Homebrew vertical dipole



Bob AB6SY    Saraj KU6F



# Our other strategy – a good food plan!



# **The K6PV/6 \$3.33 Menu**

## **Breakfast**

**Scrambled eggs, hash browns, high-flying pancakes (with real butter and maple syrup), and bacon. And more bacon. LOTS of bacon. Oh, did I mention we had all-you-can-eat bacon?**

# **The K6PV/6 \$3.33 Menu**

## **Lunch sandwich menu**

**Thursday: Ham + turkey, turkey + ham, ham + ham, turkey + turkey, ham + cheese, turkey + cheese, cheese + cheese, ham + turkey + cheese; on brown bread, brown bread, or brown bread. Mustard and/or mayo no extra charge. Wheat thins and chips. No substitutions! Friday: see Thursday. Saturday: See Friday. Sunday: See Saturday, but served at the beach. All-you-can-eat chocolate-covered peanuts and honey-roasted mixed nuts included. No tax. No tip.**

# **The K6PV/6 \$3.33 Menu**

## **Dinner**

**Wednesday & Saturday: We ate at the “best restaurant” in Two Harbors (you had to wear a shirt)! (NOT for \$3.33!)**

**Thursday: Mexican casserole, veggies, and salad (thanks to Jeff and Rowie). Cheese and crackers.**

**Friday: Italian cannellone, Mexican casserole, veggies, salad. Cheese and crackers.**



# Yum – and no leftovers



Jeff K6JW Diana AI6DF Saraj KU6F Ray N6HE Bob AB6SY (photo by Bill KG6WVF)



# You thought we were kidding?



The Omni VII's SSB/CW/RTTY/PSK-31 multiple interfaces

# What made it fun?

- Trying unsuccessfully to dip the 10 dipole, then thinking that Jeff's holding on to the end insulator might be acting as a "capacity hat" on that one side and detuning the resonant frequency – and of course it was – adding a 12" piece of line between Jeff and the end insulator cured the problem



# We dip the 10M dipole – no capacity hat this time



Jeff K6JW

Bob AB6SY Ray N6HE

# Jeff K6JW calmly working the 20M DX pileup!



Also, a close-up of the famous K6JW 10M Capacity Hat

# K6JW's IOTA-Special Elecraft K2



# What made it fun?

- Early one morning, Bob AB6SY thought it was dawn so he got up (at 2:30AM) and started operating 40 and 80 Meter SSB – made quite a few contacts before he figured out it was by then actually 3:00AM – and he kept going till 6:00AM. What a guy!
- One breakfast had extra-healthy egg whites (only) for scrambled eggs – oh, well, at least we had lotsa bacon! And pancakes. And butter. And maple syrup. Burp!



# Ray N6HE racking 'em up on 20M RTTY (NAQP RTTY Contest)



# Saturday Night – we celebrate!



Bob AB6SY   Diana AI6DF   Saraj KU6F   Ray N6HE   Jeff K6JW   Bill KG6WVF

# **Bob AB6SY early Sunday AM working Europeans on 20M SSB**





# EA3BIE was our last QSO, #1,247!

R...	Call	Date	Bnd	Mode	P.	On
1247	EA3BIE	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:44
1246	N6RMI	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:44
1245	W5RDS	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:43
1244	W5ES/5	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:43
1243	KB5BDY	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:43
1242	MD0CCE	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:42
1241	N8KTB	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:42
1240	W0IE	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:42
1239	K6TIM	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:42
1238	W2HIN	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:42
1237	KI9DZZ	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:41
1236	K9TA	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:40
1235	N15W	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:40
1234	N5ZRE/M	2/27/20...	20	SSB		17:40



# We're done – now we wait for the boat..



Ray N6HE

**.. and relax and relive the high points**



Jeff K6JW

Diana AI6DF

# We're outta here!



Diana AI6DF



# Who you gonna call? Pileup Busters!



Bob AB6SY



# What made it fun?

- **The full-wave 20M Delta Loop installation working great but its only possible location was too close a noisy High Voltage power line transformer....arrggghhhh!**

# What made it fun?

- **Joe NZ6L and Saraj KU6F provided a wi-fi internet hot spot for us – all the comforts of home!**
- **We heard a Mozambique station 5x9 on 40M, but he signed off “to catch a plane” before we could work him – arrggghhhh!**

# What made it fun?

- **Swearing at the Omni VII – no RF output with VOX operation and us getting blisters from the PTT slide switch – insert head-slap here - an interface switch was in the wrong position**
- **The rat's nest of wires on/around the Ten-Tec Omni VII because of using RTTY, CW, PSK-31, and SSB – but it all worked perfectly (once the no-VOX problem was solved)**

# The K6PV/6 Team headed home (Where did Clay go? To the Oscars!)



Ray N6HE   Bob AB6SY   Bill KG6WVF   Saraj KU6F   Diana AI6DF   Jeff K6JW



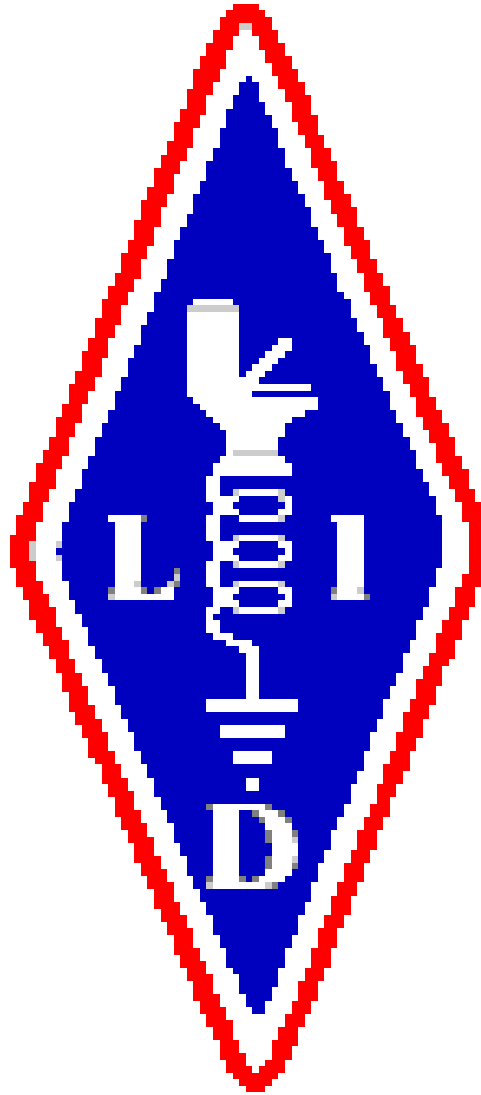
# The Catalina Express comes for us



# **On the boat home with Palos Verdes in the distance – calm seas**



**At least, we didn't earn a "LID" patch!**



# A friend we met on the return trip





# Where we were....



# **The final 2011 K6PV/6 “stats” .....**

- **We worked all 50 states and 32 countries**

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# The final 2011 K6PV/6“stats” .....

- We worked all 50 states and 32 countries
- 14 CQ Zones
- 296(!) Different callsign prefixes
- **1,247 total QSO's on SSB, CW, and RTTY**
  - **896 on SSB (46 states, 28 countries)**
  - **13 on CW (10 states, 4 countries)**
  - **338 on RTTY (44 states, 6 countries)(in the NAQP RTTY “contest” – placed fairly well, too, for an impromptu operation!)**

...and MORE stats...

## QSO breakout by band:

- 83 QSO's on 160M
- 97 on 75/80M
- 289 on 40M
- 771 on 20M
- 4 on 17M
- 3 on 15M
- 1 on the 300 Angstrom band ("flashlight CW")

...and MORE stats...

**Regarding the 1 (milliwatt) A1 QSO on  
the 300 Angstrom band (“flashlight  
CW”)**

**We used a one-of-a-kind special high-tech  
liquid-cooled organic dual-diversity  
receiver and specially-tuned dual low-  
power-consumption preamps**

# **The high-tech liquid-cooled organic dual-diversity receiver(s)**



..and of course....

# The dual low-power-consumption preamps!





# Thanks to:

## The Intrepid K6PV/6 IOTA NA-066 Operators:

- Ray “Let’s put up another antenna!” N6HE\*
- Jeff “Keep that cat away from me!” K6JW\*
- Bob “Whaddya mean, it’s not dawn yet?” AB6SY\*
- Bill “I brought my own oatmeal..” KG6WVF
- Diana “I’m liking this RTTY thing!” AI6DF
- Clay “How much farther can I extend this mast?”  
AB9A
- Saraj “Let’s get on the air – NOW!” KU6F (imported  
NorCal PVARC member)

**\* = supplied/sacrificed a personal radio to the effort**

# ...and to:

## **The K6PV/6 Support Team:**

- Joe NZ6L and XYL Michelle (food and cooking supplies)
- K6JW's XYL Rowie (yummy Thursday night's dinner)
- Mel K6SY and Doris K6KSY (Antennas, masts, and **wine**)
- Bill WA6ESC (very cool portable antennas)

# **K6PV's IOTA DXpedition in 2012**

**Get in on the fun next year!**

**Club members contact Ray N6HE if you're  
interested!**

**310-541-7557**

**rayday@cox.net**

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