

ATN

The Amateur Television Network

AMATEUR TELEVISION NETWORK



ON THE AIR TO EVERYWHERE

ATN-CA News

January 2010



THE 2010 ATN-CA WINTER MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY FEB 20 AT THE DENNY'S RESTAURANT IN IRWINDALE, CA. 6550 N IRWINDALE AVE NEAR 605 & 210 FWYS.

COME FOR BRUNCH AT 11:00 AM, START MEETING AT 12:00PM, NOT TELEVISED.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb.	2	7:30pm	Tue	ATN Net – Groundhog's Day
	4	7:00pm	Thu	San Bernardino Microwave Society Meeting
	6	12:00pm	Sat	ATN Spanish/English Net, George AC6RB
	9	7:30pm	Tue	ATN Net
	13	9:00am	Sat	ATN Spanish/English Net, George AC6RB
	16	7:30pm	Tue	ATN Net
	20	11:00am	Sat	ATN Winter Meeting , Denny's in, Irwindale
	23	6:00pm	Tue	Science Night, El Camino School, Goleta
	23	7:30pm	Tue	ATN Net
	27	12:00pm	Sat	ATN Spanish/English Net, George AC6RB
March	2	7:30pm	Tue	ATN Net
	4	7:00pm	Thu	San Bernardino Microwave Society Meeting
	6	12:00pm	Sat	ATN Spanish/English Net, George AC6RB
	9	7:30pm	Tue	ATN Net

ATN-CA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Board Member	Position	Email Address
Don Hill, KE6BXT	President, Webmaster	donhill@gmail.com
Mike Collis, WA6SVT	Secretary/Treasurer, Trustee	wa6svt@aol.com
Rod Fritz, WB9KMO	Trustee, Newsletter Editor	rod@sbatv.org
Tom Board, WB6HYH	Vice President	taboard@verizon.net

ATN-CA COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHER POSITIONS

Committee Member	Position	Email Address
Mike Collis, WA6SVT	Chief Technical Officer	wa6svt@aol.com
Rod Fritz, WB9KMO	Newsletter Editor	rod@sbatv.org
Dave Couch, KA6DPS	Net Control	ka6dps@verizon.net
Gordon West, WB6NOA	Net Control	wb6noa@arll.net
Mark Fischer, W6MAF	Net Control	w6maf@hamtv.us
Mike Collis, WA6SVT	Net Control	wa6svt@aol.com
George Migliarini, AC6RB	Net Control	gmigliarini@cox.net

ATN-CA REPEATERS

Location	Inputs	Outputs
Santiago Peak	434 VSB, 2441.5 FM	1253.25 VSB, 5910 FM
Blue Ridge	434 VSB, 2441.5 FM	919.25 VSB
Oat Mountain	434 VSB, 2441.5 FM	919.25 VSB
Santa Barbara	434 VSB, 2441.5 FM	1277.25 VSB
Snow Peak	434 VSB, 2441.5 FM	1241.25 VSB
Point Loma	434 VSB, 2441.5 FM	1277.25 VSB
Mt Wilson	434 VSB, 2441.5 FM	1241.25 VSB

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Don Hill, [KE6BXT](#)



Another year has come and gone and it is once again time for the California Chapter of the Amateur Television Network to hold its Winter Meeting. This meeting is your opportunity to reflect on the events of the past year, plan for the future, be updated on repeater status, receive the Secretary/Treasurers report, elect a new slate of officers for the upcoming year, and pay your dues.

The ATN-CA will have an election for the positions of President and Vice President at the Winter Meeting. If you are willing to run for either of these positions, please be at the meeting or let someone know that you are willing to serve if elected. The board has worked well together this last year but we can always use new ideas and leadership.

For those of you that won't be able to attend the meeting you can still send your membership dues to Mike Collis. The dues are still \$50.00. To renew, please make your checks payable to Mike Collis, WA6SVT, our Secretary/ Treasurer. We need everyone to renew their membership so that ATN-CA will have sufficient funds to improve our repeater sites. Mike's address is P.O. Box 1594, Crestline, CA 92325. If you are a new member or have changes to your address, call sign, email address, or phone number, please click this link to the "[Membership Application](#)" on the ATN website. Print the form, complete it and send it along with your check. Everyone in the ATN community benefits from and appreciates your contribution. Thank you.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

This year marks the end of my fourth year serving as President of the ATN-CA. Each year brings new challenges and opportunities for each of us to promote Amateur Television to fellow HAMS and non-HAMS alike. As your president for the 2009 year, I represented the ATN at the SOARA Field Day, and at the Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio. I gave ATV demos at Prepare 2009 - the ARRL Southwest Division Convention in Santa Barbara, and the Big Bear Amateur Radio Club in Big Bear. I set up an ATV demo at the Orange County Fair, published an article in Amateur Television Quarterly (ATVQ) and even made it up to the Santiago repeater site.

This past year we continued to share the ATN experience with the world. We observed increased participation through the use of streaming video with lots of visitor check-ins from Hams using EchoLink to talk back to us. George's (AC6RB) Saturday Spanish/English Net has extended beyond Argentina to allow several more countries to enter in on the fun.

We all need to continue to work on increasing the Amateur Television Network membership here in Southern California. Any suggestions you have for making Amateur Television in Southern California more fun, demonstrating amateur television to prospective new members, or recruiting new members would be greatly appreciated.

This past year has been a lot of work, but it has also been a lot of fun. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your President.

73,

Don Hill, KE6BXT

ATN-CA President

EDITOR'S NOTES

By [Rod Fritz, WB9KMO](#)

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE – We planned monthly newsletters, but found it impractical to publish on that schedule. With numerous real-time nets, timely news is available without the need to publish a newsletter. As a practical matter, we've decided to publish as the Board deems necessary. For more immediate needs, email can be used.



CONTENT FROM MEMBERS – The ATN Board encourages members to submit articles for newsletter publication. Articles will be edited to fit the format of the newsletter. If editing is significant, the complete article will generally be available on the website. We welcome (in fact, beg for)...

- Technical Articles
- Community/Local Activity Reports
- ATN-CA Repeater Descriptions
- Upcoming Event Previews
- ATN/ATV History
- Featured ATN-CA Members

Please submit articles that are 100 to 500 words long with 1 to 5 pictures. Longer articles may be published as an abstract with a website link to the whole article. All articles will be edited and returned for your approval prior to publication in the newsletter. Please send us something interesting to publish.

CONTENT FROM THE BOARD - Board members are encouraged to communicate the state of ATN. The Board members will preview the newsletter before it is published to ensure the information is accurate and consistent with ATN policies.

FORUM VS NEWSLETTER - The newsletter will not be a forum for discussion, but it can include a link to the [ATN Forum](#) on the website. Members are encouraged to view the ATN Forum frequently and to use it as a convenient way to communicate to the membership at large about anything you believe is constructive for ATN. Members can also communicate by email using addresses that are in the [ATN Member List](#) on the website. The Board feels that some subjects are not suitable for publication in the newsletter. We are not censoring anyone's input. The Board just recommends that such subjects are better addressed on the ATN Forum or in emails.

BOARD ACTIVITY

By [ATN-CA Board of Directors](#)

(Don Hill [KE6BXT](#), Mike Collis [WA6SVT](#), Rod Fritz [WB9KMO](#), Tom Board [WB6HYH](#))

BOARD MEETINGS - The Board of Directors meet when necessary, usually by email, phone or Internet connection. ATN-CA Members may attend by invitation only.

MEMBER INPUT - Member's concerns and comments are always welcome. They should be sent directly to President Don Hill, KE6BXT at donhill@gmail.com (not to the Editor). Don will discuss the matters with the Board, which will issue responses and recommend appropriate actions.

NET CONTROL COMMITTEE - The Board has a motion before it to appoint a Net Control Chairperson to coordinate Net Control operations and communicate directly with the Board. We anticipate that all Net Control operators would participate on the committee. The committee would:

- Conduct, monitor and improve the nets
- Establish and publicize net schedules and themes
- Recommend and document [Net Control Guidelines](#)
- Consider and plan additional nets
- Recruit and mentor additional Net Control Operators

This motion is still being discussed and no decision has been made yet.

Submitted for publication to ATN-CA Members, January 20, 2009
ATN-CA Board of Directors



Denny's – From the 210, Turn North on N Irwindale Ave, Then Right on Cam De La Cantera (Zoom In)

By Mike Collis, [WA6SVT](#) and Rod Fritz, [WB9KMO](#)

Santiago: Mike, Don and Chris (Don's new ATV buddy) replaced the 2.4 GHz feedline top connector and installed the new 5910 MHz transmitter. A weak signal is not getting into the link receivers as some have speculated. Since Santiago is the hub and receives the other repeater sites, any weak signal on video can key up the remote repeater and be retransmitted via Santiago. There is an issue with WiFi at 2424 MHz getting its lower sidebands into the top of the bandpass of our 2417 MHz link receiver for Snow Peak, causing audio noise. The current link transmitter has a fixed -30 dBm subcarrier level and plans are to replace it with a transmitter that has adjustable subcarrier level set at -20 dBm to capture out the WiFi QRM.

The Amiga computer may be retired soon and that will take down the 10 year old graphics that showed repeater custodians who are no longer there or have had call sign changes. The repeater's legal ID, W6ATN, is still the same and there is no urgent need to change or delete calls. To do so would require taking the Amiga to WB7UBB's QTH to reprogram it and then re-install. More about that at the meeting.

Oat: Mike K6LDK, Bob W6KGE, Bill KF6GJH, Allan W6IST and Joe K6TBA donated funds to purchase the hangers and hardline connectors for the antenna project at Oat Mountain. Gary W6KVC donated a new 919 MHz antenna with some down-tilt (old antenna has none) and new feedline. Mike WA6SVT donated another connector and the 1 1/4" heliax cushion hangers for the project. Chuck WA6FGK will lead the group on installation of the new antennas and hanger installation.

Snow: Mike WA6SVT and Tom WB6HYH replaced the broken 2.4 GHz antenna. Receive is great now with locally clear audio on 2.4 GHz. We temporarily disconnected the 434 RX due to the QRM from the LPTV transmitter. It was poorly multiplexed to one antenna and caused intermodulation all over the UHF spectrum. One spike at 432.4 MHz caused the QRM to us. The site owner was informed and will contact the LPTV licensees to clean up their installation. The snow level is now over 10 feet so it will be several weeks before the LPTV licensees can make a trip to resolve the problem.

Point Loma: Robert KA4JSR mentioned an issue with the power strip and he needs to replace it or its plug to repower the rack.

Blueridge: The 919 MHz amp was taken down by Mark W6MAF for repair. We are on exciter power only (less than 100 mw). Mark has a backup amplifier now to take to the site. The snow level is about 10 feet so it will be a few weeks before we can access the site. The 1265 MHz link receiver and antenna is working on the Blueridge end of Vegas link. The link transmitter at Mt. Potosi is not turned on and the issue may be the wrong polarization on a feed horn that was replaced several years ago. We can pick up the link cross-polarized but it is weak.

Potosi: A trip is needed to verify horizontal polarization on the 1265 MHz link transmitter antenna and to change it if it's vertical.

Santa Barbara: The 1277 transmitter and 434/2441.5 receivers are back on the air after antennas were moved to the west tower and equipment was moved from an outdoor rack to a rack in the air-conditioned broadcast transmitter room. The four-brick 1277 amp was rebuilt by Mike WA6SVT with parts donated by Rod WB9KMO. Rod and Cyril AF6GW (our newest ATVer) mounted Unistrut and all feedlines were fastened to it. Mike WA6SVT is adding a 20-watt amp to boost the power on our 2417 link to Santiago.

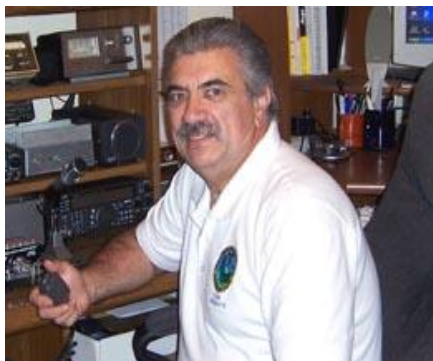
Oxnard: Jay WB6YQN offered his sea-level 146.37/97 MHz site for our ATV link from Oat to Santa Barbara. Rod WB9KMO and Jay verified strong signals from the 919 and 1277 repeaters, though there is a lot of local interference on 919 MHz. Mike WA6SVT donated the 919 MHz receiver and Rod WB9KMO donated all of the antennas. We are experimenting with a 5.8 GHz link from Oxnard to Santa Barbara. We need to mount the 5.8 GHz amp at the antenna before we can expect success. Rod WB9KMO donated the transmitter and amp. The Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club (SBARC) donated heliax and connectors for the site. SBARC is anxious to receive nice ATN signals at their K6TZ Club Station and the local club is very supportive. They're even installing a 42" flat-screen monitor to watch ATN!

Mt. Wilson: Repeater is functional but no users are active at this time, we may want to talk about this at the meeting.

73s,
Mike WA6SVT & Rod WB9KMO

INTRODUCING TOM BOARD WB6HYH, ATN-CA VICE PRESIDENT

By Tom Board [WB6HYH](#)



Tom Board WB6HYH

Greetings to ATN members and prospective members.

I was a bit surprised when I was elected to the position of Vice President at the Winter Meeting on February 21, 2009. I have been interested in Amateur TV for several years now, but never seemed to be able to get any equipment together at a price that I could afford. When I finally got a transmitter on 434 MHz, it ended up

at our work club station so I could get some of the members interested in ATV. I have been monitoring the repeaters and watching the ATN nets for quite some time now, and I'm sure I probably know a lot more about many of you than you know about me. So I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I would like to start by giving a little history about myself. It is literally "History"!! I got my Novice license back in the days when the radios really "glowed in the dark" and the transmitters were "rock bound" (crystal controlled). The frequencies were measured in "cycles per second", not "Hertz". I received my WN6HYH Novice callsign in October of 1964. Now I know there are some of you that go back farther than that, but that is pretty far back for me because I was only 16 years old at the time. I am now 61. (Same numbers, just reversed!)

A year later, in November of 1965, when I had graduated from high school, and my Novice license had expired (only one year and non-renewable in those days), I joined the US Air Force. On my first leave, I went to the FCC office in downtown Los Angeles and took the code and written tests to get my General class license. I was able to get my upgraded WB6HYH callsign back and I still have it today. In 1983, I upgraded my license to Advanced class. I never saw a real reason to upgrade to Extra class since I'm not very much of a CW person. It's cool to hold a class of license that is no longer available! Kind of unique you might say!

While in the Air Force, stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska, I became a MARS member with the callsign of AK1LF.

INTRODUCING TOM BOARD (CONTINUED)

With my Heathkit station set up in the barracks, I enjoyed running traffic for other military personnel and making contacts all over the world from the "top of the world."

When I got out of the Air Force in 1969, I married my long time friend and high school sweetheart, Christine. Then for 7 years we had a good time traveling, learning to live with each other and buying our first home. After those 7 years of the good life, we decided to start a family. Our first son, Tyson, was born in July of 1975. In 1985, at the age of 10, he passed his Novice class license tests. His callsign is KB6MPA. In July of 1979 we had our second son, Ryan. Ryan learned most of the Morse code alphabet at the age of 6, while his older brother was studying for his Novice license, but he never pursued it any further to get a license. Right out of high school, Ryan joined the Navy and became a Nuclear Reactor Technician, spending 4 years on a nuclear submarine, stationed out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Both of our boys are now married and we have one grandson from our son Tyson. Tyson and his wife Alley live in Orlando, Florida. My son Ryan and his wife Tracy live near Dallas, Texas. In May, Chris and I celebrated our 40th anniversary.

Most recently, I have been involved with the following ham radio activities: MS-150 two day Bike Tour (annual event), LA County Fair "Ham Radio Expo" and California Speedway Radio Room Operations. I am Currently President of the Beckman Coulter Radio Club (where I work) and past Vice-President and founding member of the Inland Empire Amateur Radio Club. I'm an active member in several other radio organizations, including Rancho Cucamonga RACES, Brea RACES, San Bernardino county ECS, Amateur Television Network, ARRL and the LA County Fair Ham Radio Expo planning committee. Obviously, I really enjoy being active in Ham Radio.

With a little help from my friends at ATN, I have been able to get my ATV station on the air, "Live from Rancho Cucamonga". I am currently using a "ComWave" 2.4 GHz, 50W Transmitter. I enjoy seeing and talking to all of you on the air. I am still learning about ATV and eager to learn more whenever the opportunity is presented. As Vice President of ATN-CA, I enjoy promoting the ham radio hobby and ATV.

73's

Tom Board – WB6HYH
Vice President, ATN-CA

THE FISCH NET

By Mark Fischer, [W6MAF](#)



The Tuesday night net is alive and well, with between 7 to 14 members checking in on Video and various Audio like 146.43, Telephone and Echolink. Future activities will include the "Gadget" night and "Pet" night themes that Gordo WB6NOA started last year in order to "Spice Up" net night.

The Blueridge (Frost Pk.) repeater suffered damage to the 2.4 GHz receive antenna. The 900 MHz amp stopped working, and the tower camera is inoperative, so I guess we have work waiting for us when access to the site opens up this spring. I did hike into the site a couple of weeks ago, to troubleshoot the amp and had to remove it for repair. It's a 4 mile hike in the snow each way, and that was just before the big storms that recently dumped over 5 more feet of snow up above the Mountain High Ski Resort where the site is. Hiking in now will be much more extreme, so with all the work to do, a "Snow Cat" ride is probably be the only way in until late spring.

The link still works and the 1200 system from Mike WA6SVT's house is very usable, so running the Tuesday Night Net is still possible. We're expecting more storms that will make matters even worse for the various mountain tops. There is still snow visible on the ground at Santiago Peak!!

That's my "Take" on all the stuff going on. Hope to see a good turnout at the ATN Winter Meeting this month.

73's,
"Fisch" W6MAF

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ATN!

By Mike Collis, [WA6SVT](#)



ATN is 25 years old now! First there was the WA6SVT 1253.25 MHz repeater at Mt. Wilson on the air December 1979 (1240 MHz the first two years) from the Channel 40 transmitter site thanks to Doug K6KMN who was the channel 40 transmitter manager. We moved the repeater to Santiago Peak in May of 1983 and formed the Santiago Peak Video Repeater Association.

A few years passed and Mark NU6X, Mike K6ZSR, Phil WB6LQP and I built up a second repeater on 923.25 MHz and the first amateur repeater of any kind on the new 900 MHz band to be turned on the moment we were allowed on the band. We moved the second repeater from K6ZSR's QTH to Oat Mountain. We soon found out we needed a new name for our group. At the final meeting of the SPVRA at Mike WA6SVT's QTH, Phil WB6LQP brought up the suggestion of Amateur Television Network. Mike K6ZSR was our first President and ATN was born.

Over the years we added more repeaters and then more chapters in other states to form the largest ATV repeater club. Our group is researching digital ATV. Some limited testing has been done using QPSK and ATSC since we have modulators of both types. Come to the Winter Meeting to hear more about digital ATV and other technical subjects.

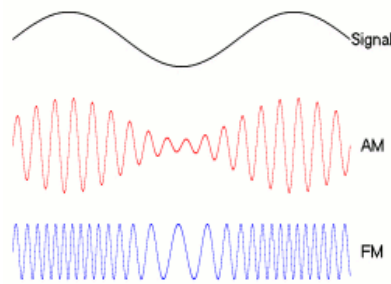
ATN is very proud about what our members have accomplished in 25 years. With your continued help and support, the next 25 years will be even better.

73s,
Mike WA6SVT

Amplitude and Frequency Modulation

There are two basic types of RF - AM and FM.

AM consists of a constant frequency carrier modulated by mixing audio (as in the standard AM radio band) or video (as in television) or, in a few cases, both. The amplitude of the result varies with the input signal.



This mixing results in three outputs: the carrier itself and two sidebands - upper and lower - which carry identical mirror images of the modulating signal.

For example, assume an AM station on 1000 KHz. When an audio frequency - say 1000 Hz - is mixed with the carrier we get the original 1000 KHz and 1000 KHz minus 1000 Hz (999 KHz) and 1000 KHz plus 1000 Hz (1001 KHz). In the case of AM radio the frequencies can be up to about 5000 Hz or more.

In the case of television the modulating signal will be a band of frequencies up to about 4 MHz wide. Therefore, the video signal created could be up to 8 MHz wide - carrier minus 4 MHz and carrier plus 4 MHz. Color and audio can increase this up to 9 MHz wide. More on this later.

FM varies the carrier frequency itself and the amplitude remains the same. The modulating signal can be as high as 100 KHz since an FM radio channel is at max, 200 KHz wide - as opposed to 10 KHz for AM radio.

Types of Amplitude Modulation

There are several types of AM - Double Sideband with Carrier (commonly known as AM radio), Double Sideband with reduced or suppressed carrier (which is rarely used), Single Sideband with carrier (rarely used), Single Sideband with reduced - or usually suppressed - carrier (known as SSB), Vestigial Sideband with carrier (VSB - as is used in American TV), and Independent Sideband with carrier.

Almost all ham HF operation is SSB. The carrier and one sideband are suppressed.

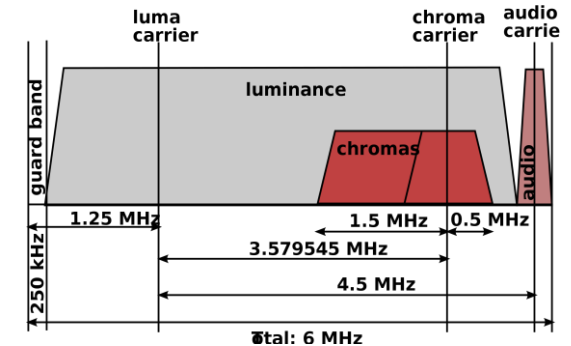
Independent Sideband has different information on each sideband - unlike "regular" AM which has, as described above, the same information in mirror image on each sideband.

Television uses VSB. A full 9 MHz wide signal is created but all of the lower side band (LSB) except for 1.25 MHz below the video carrier is truncated. Thus, all that is left is a vestige - hence the term "vestigial" - of the LSB. Some LSB must be left so that the TV receiver can lock on to the carrier. As been said above - the LSB information is a mirror image of the USB information so no information is lost.

Except for the two ATV channels at the band edges - 421.25 MHz and 1241.25 MHz where VSB is mandatory - VSB is not required for HAM TV. VSB filters are expensive.

Audio in TV and HAM TV

Standard American TV has separate video and audio transmitters 4.5 MHz apart with the audio transmitter "above" the video transmitter. HAM TV uses one of two methods for audio transmission: subcarrier audio or on-carrier audio.



On-carrier audio is probably the older of the two methods stemming from the use - early on - of converted UHF commercial two-way radios. The radios were modified to run wideband video and the video was AM'ed on to the carrier. The audio was left basically unchanged.

As equipment was designed and built specifically for HAM TV a separate 4.5 MHz FM subcarrier was used. The audio is carried on the FM subcarrier and then the resultant FM signal is AM'ed on to the video carrier. The TV receiver cannot tell the difference.

Most ATV repeaters now use a separate aural carrier 4.5 MHz above the visual carrier instead of a 4.5 MHz subcarrier for better audio quality.

Because DSB is used and we don't usually use the VSB filters the ATV signal is a little over 9 MHz wide. As in American TV the color information is generated in the video source itself so no external circuitry is required.

Up until about ten years ago some new ATV transmitters were still available with on-carrier sound but it is not used much out west.

Bil Munsil, K1ATV
HAM TV in Mesa AZ
wmunsil@cox.net

"Hams should be seen as well as heard."

SO MANY ATVERS, SO LITTLE TIME...

By Rod Fritz, [WB9KMO](#)

(Photos by SBARC, KE6BXT, AC6RB and WB9KMO)



Earl Warren Showgrounds Marquee

August 15, 2009 was a very special day in Santa Barbara. Sure it was the 40th anniversary of Woodstock, but that wasn't what made it so special. Sure it was the umpteenth birthday of Bill Brown, WB8ELK (Happy Birthday, Bill!), but that wasn't it either. The catalyst of the special day was **Prepare 2009 - ARRL Southwest Division Convention and the Amateur Television Network Summer Meeting.**

The event drew hundreds of radio amateurs to Earl Warren Showgrounds in Santa Barbara, California. It was a great opportunity to showcase ATV and SSTV, which we took full advantage of. The Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club (SBARC) hosted the event and set up countless displays. The SBARC Rover van has a 50' foot mast with ATV and HF antennas and equipment. The van is commonly used for public service and it's also available in case of emergency.



SBARC Rover

Those ATV Antennas are Soooo High!



All Ages Enjoy Learning about SSTV

The interest in ATV, SSTV and other specialized communication modes was astounding. It seemed like everyone wanted to learn about what we were doing. Mike "Jug" Jogoleff WA6MBZ and Rod Fritz WB9KMO from the SBARC ATVSIG group set up VHF and HF rigs to demonstrate SSTV, RTTY, PSK31 and other specialized modes. Attendees were anxious to see the various computer programs in operation and they got quite a kick out of some of the SSTV pictures we had in our slideshows.

SO MANY ATVERS (CONTINUED)



George AC6RB
Directing the Spanish/English ATV Net

One of the highlights of the day was the live Spanish/English ATV Net directed by George Migliarini AC6RB. This world-class ATV net is a weekly event on ATN every Saturday at noon Pacific Time. It can be watched world-wide on the www.batc.tv website ATV Repeater W6ATN screen. At the convention, George remotely controlled this net over the Internet. Several ATN members on our California ATV repeaters exchanged live video with several

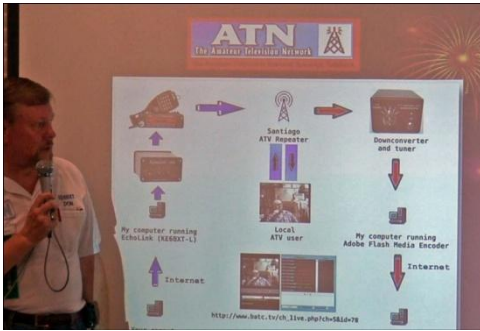
ATVers in Argentina. The wide-screen monitor in the picture shows six simultaneous video sources being received. This is amazing to watch and it's even more interesting to get on the air and exchange information about ATV activities and life as an amateur radio operator in our respective countries.



Enjoying Food and Friends at the ATN Summer Meeting

There's nothing like a Hamfest to generate a big appetite. It was no surprise that ATN members were among the first in line – we're very action-oriented. The ATN Summer Meeting is our annual social event and we used this convention as an excuse to invite everyone to Santa Barbara. I was pleased that so many of our members and friends traveled long distances to celebrate with us. After eating, we gave reports from each of the Amateur Television Network ATV communities.

SO MANY ATVERS (CONTINUED)



Don KE6BXT Explaining How We Use EchoLink

Mike Collis WA6SVT and Don Hill KE6BXT presented INTRODUCTION TO ATV – How to get on Amateur Television and Providing Public Service with ATV. Mike presented the technical side of Amateur Television in a relatively non-technical way, describing the equipment and how ATV systems work. Don focused more on ATV activity, public service and how we use the Internet to reach out and get more hams involved.

Don showed a video of ATVers transmitting live video of firemen fighting a roof fire during the Tournament of Roses Parade. The clip clearly demonstrated how live video communicates a lot more information in a short time than voice or still pictures.

Don's presentation about ATV activity highlighted our Tuesday ATN "Net Night" with a video called Samples from Net Night. Our net controls are Mark "Fish" Fischer W6MAF, "Rockin' Chair" Dave Couch KA6DPS and Gordon "Gordo" West WB6NOA. Yes, they're all celebrities and they deserve the status. Week after week at 7:30 PM Pacific time they do an excellent job coordinating dozens of check-ins from our linked ATN ATV repeaters, live EchoLink audio connections, Internet video links and the BATC.TV-W6ATN chat room. There are often special theme nights where we show off our special gadgets, pets or costumes. Everyone is welcome to watch and check-in. We are truly "On the Air to Everywhere" as our ATN logo proudly proclaims.



ATN Net Night
Net Control, Gordon West WB6NOA

SO MANY ATVERS (CONTINUED)



ATN Is On the Air to Everywhere

ATN may be on the air to everywhere, but in Santa Barbara we currently only have three active ATVers. Over the years, we've had peaks of ATV activity in Santa Barbara, but since the late 1970's when I arrived, we never had more than five of us active at a time. I've long felt

that six active ATVers was a critical mass that would allow us to more effectively support local events and promote growth in ATV. We're very lucky that we are part of the Amateur Television Network so we always have plenty of ATVers from everywhere within range.



2009 Amateur Television Network Group Picture

We didn't get an accurate count at the convention, but it appeared there were more than twenty active ATVers in Santa Barbara at one time! We couldn't get everyone together all at once, but many of us assembled for the 2009 ATN Group Picture. It was a rare pleasure to have so many ATVers visit Santa Barbara. I long for the day when we get that many locals on ATV. We're working on it and the convention clearly raised local awareness. Since then, I've had several local hams show sincere interest to get on the air.

SO MANY ATVERS (CONTINUED)



An Excellent ATN Display

With recent experience putting on a demonstration at the Orange County Fair, we were fortunate that Don Hill KE6BXT and Norm Hill KD6OMV were able to assemble such an excellent ATV display for the convention. A credit to their efforts, there was always a crowd around the demos they had assembled. Well done!



Mike WA6SVT – Getting Max Power Out

Prior to the convention, we encouraged hams to bring in equipment to be checked and adjusted in our Workshop Booth. Mike Collis WA6SVT is shown aligning Mike Maronta KC6YNQ's 2.4 GHz transmitter and amplifier. The operation was successful and the result gives Mike much more power to shoot at the ATV repeater. Mike Collis had a very busy weekend, driving about 200 miles to Santa Barbara, helping install two antennas at the Santa Barbara ATV repeater site, reporting on many of the ATN repeaters during the ATN

Summer Meeting, making an ATV presentation, providing technical information at the ATV Booth and working on equipment in the Workshop Booth. With his family along, he still found time to show them around the area from Carpinteria to Solvang. A good time was had by all.

SO MANY ATVERS (CONTINUED)

As I've been doing for a long time now, I always bring robots to ATV demos. It's obvious to me that this may be "the next big thing" in ATV. Similar things like this are popular, like ATV in remote controlled models, but robots and ATV are a unique combination of technologies.



The Next Big Thing – ATV and Robots

I've never seen the excitement in young people that you get when you bring in robots that they can interactively play with. Add together the elements of remote control, programmability, animation with personality, recording sound, pictures and video, displaying pictures and video with audio, and real-time two-way video transmission and it really makes a kid's day.



Wowwee Robots – Kid's Love Them!

Though I primarily use robots as attention-getters, they have a lot of potential for all sorts of ATV activities. The best value I see right now is to get young people to pay attention to technology and amateur radio. In Santa Barbara, we take amateur radio to Elementary School Science Nights several times a year. We also take amateur radio to scouts as part of J.O.T.A. The robots get their interest and then we switch the

conversation to amateur radio and ATV. These young people played with this robot for over two hours. I'm sure they went home with a very good memory of the time they spent in the ATV booth.

Interest in robots and ATV isn't limited to young people. Even people as old as Don KE6BXT (sorry about the age reference Don) find them fascinating. If you ever want a new thrill in ATV, get one of these robots and make it transceive cross-band on ATV. The fun you'll have at ATV demos and the interest you see in what you've built will amaze you.



Robots and ATV
Fascinating for All Ages

SO MANY ATVERS (CONTINUED)



And the Big Winner Is...

Last, but not least, we need to acknowledge the big winner of the day. Tom Board WB6HYH, ATN Vice President won a very nice gas-powered generator in the raffle.

I don't think he's in this picture. Rumor has it he was out in his car hugging the new acquisition. Rest assured that ATV will be on the air from Rancho Cucamonga even when the AC power is off.

The convention was originally planned to be two days long. We actually had planned a lot more activities than we could possibly do in one day.

So many ATVers, so little time...

We did plenty, but have more up our sleeves for next time.

Thank you to all who came, set up demonstrations, made presentations and interacted with us at the convention. You all made this a very special event, one I'll remember fondly for a long time.

I look forward to seeing you on ham radio, Rod Fritz, WB9KMO

News Flash!

You thought I was kidding about Tom hugging the generator...



YOUR ARTICLE

By Your Name, Your Callsign

This area is filled with this plea because you didn't submit an article this month.

For that reason, the other members can't benefit from what you know. Every one of the ATN-CA members has something valuable to offer to the others. Together, we can help each other enjoy this wonderful hobby to the fullest.

This is your chance for 15 minutes of fame...

It only takes a few minutes of your time to type 100 words or so on an interesting ATV subject, along with a picture or two.

Think about it, and better yet act upon it for the next issue...

ATN WEBSITE

By Don Hill, KE6BX

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