

**CYC Radio Amateur Group's Communications Center Rededication
And
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Special Event Radio Day**

Saturday, October 18, 2008

By RAG Chair Tom Tcimpidis K6TGT and S/C Bill Watkins NI6U

All California Yacht Club members and guests are invited to attend the Rededication Ceremony at 1300 hours (1:00pm) on Saturday, October 18th. This Event is being sponsored by the California Yacht Club in recognition of the CYC Radio Amateur Group (RAG) and their accomplishments in upgrading the Communications Center (call sign K6CYC). Please join your CYC Officers and invited guests from the U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary for this important event.

This event will highlight the recent modernization of the Communication Center and showcase the new radio equipment purchased and installed as well as the many upgrades made to the existing equipment. All this was made possible through a special grant from Los Angeles Athletic Club, Inc. and California Yacht Club.

The CYC Communications Center (K6CYC) was established in 1984 when it was originally dedicated by and for CYC Amateur Radio Operators to use with voice and Morse code communications. This enabled CYC to offer Emergency Communications assistance to local law enforcement and the community at large. In 2003, K6CYC became a Winlink (email over Amateur Radio) station. Since this time, it has been an important communications link for sailors around the world who communicate with their families and friends by using the Winlink System. Winlink is also heavily used for emergency communications, as was the case during Katrina and the California wildfires.

New equipment includes an additional HF transceiver (Morse code, voice and digital modes), a state-of-the-art VHF/UHF transceiver with simultaneous FM and D-Star digital capability, a second computer to support our additional radios, a redundant HF Winlink system, and numerous replacement and additional antennas. Also included is a battery back-up system to power all existing and new equipment for several days in the event of an emergency. A new gasoline generator has been ordered to augment the back-up battery system in case of extended power outages during emergencies. Please visit the RAG page on the CYC website for a full listing of all equipment now located at K6CYC.

With the new radio equipment and back-up power system, the Communications Center is now able to offer simultaneous and multiple Winlink, data, digital and voice communications that are more reliable and offer improved performance. The 'new' K6CYC offers licensed CYC members and their guests a well-equipped station in which to learn and enjoy amateur radio activities. The station has also been approved as an official Operational Radio Facility and HF Contingency Communications Station (NF114AS) for the U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary. It also re-establishes K6CYC as a Disaster Communication Center able to support the local, regional and state-wide area as well as the U.S. Coast Guard.

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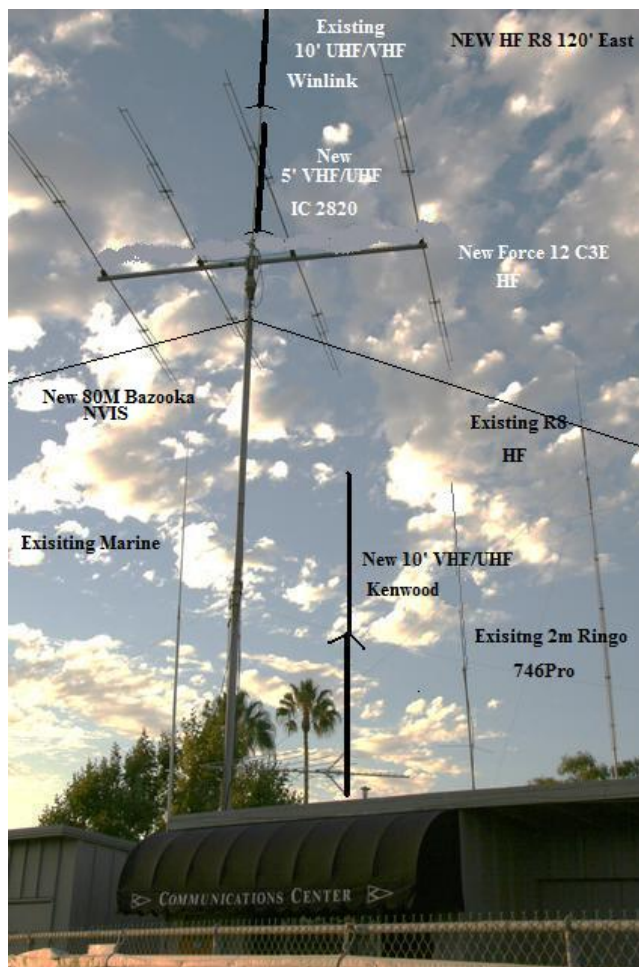
From 9am until 5pm on the day of the Rededication, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be participating in an Amateur Radio Special Event commemorating the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Anniversary. The RAG Communications Center has been designated as a Special Event Radio Station and will be operating ‘on the air’ all day with a special Callsign (K6C). (We will also be using the K6C Callsign in support of ARRL Field Day on June 27 and 28, 2009.) U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and CYC members that are Amateur Radio operators will be using high frequency bands to communicating with other amateurs and USCG Auxiliary members from coast-to-coast to commemorate the USCG Auxiliary Anniversary. This will be a fun opportunity to learn more about the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and see our station in action. Members and guests are invited to “get on the air” and be a part of the event at CYC.



The Radio Room on June 2007.



The Radio Room on September 2008.



The New Antenna Layout on October 2008.