

Rural Training Center – Thailand (RTC-TH)

F  **OCUS**

**Community-based Environmental Education
for the Self-sufficiency and Sustainability of
Small Rural Family Farms**



The GERC Guys & Gal at HamCon 2011 Saturday, 10 Sep 2011

HAMCON

**2011 ARRL
Southwestern
Division
Amateur Radio
Convention**



Fashion Way

Fashion Way

Fashion Way



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An RTC-TH EmComm presentation



*Ready to Serve and Sustain
Our Community*

The Rural Training Center-Thailand promotes the self-sufficiency and sustainability of small rural family farms through its Emergency Communications program.



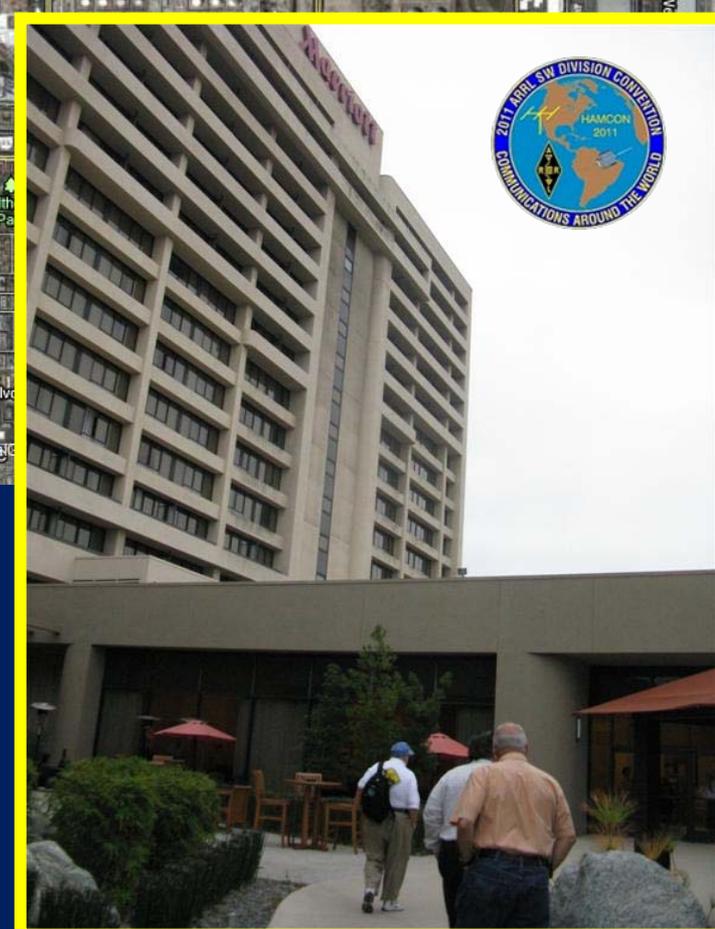
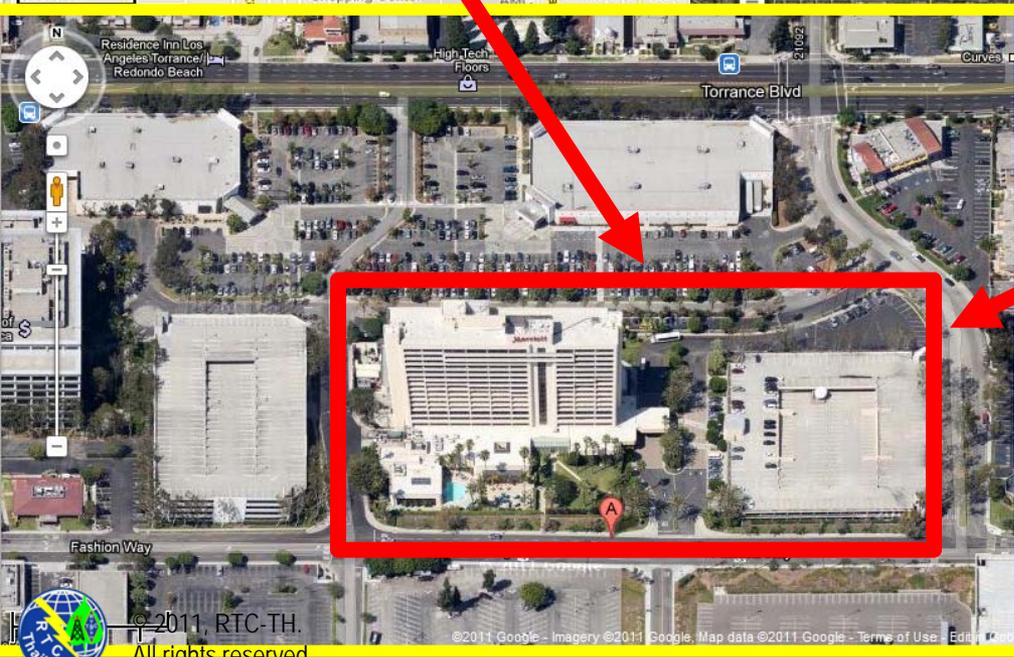
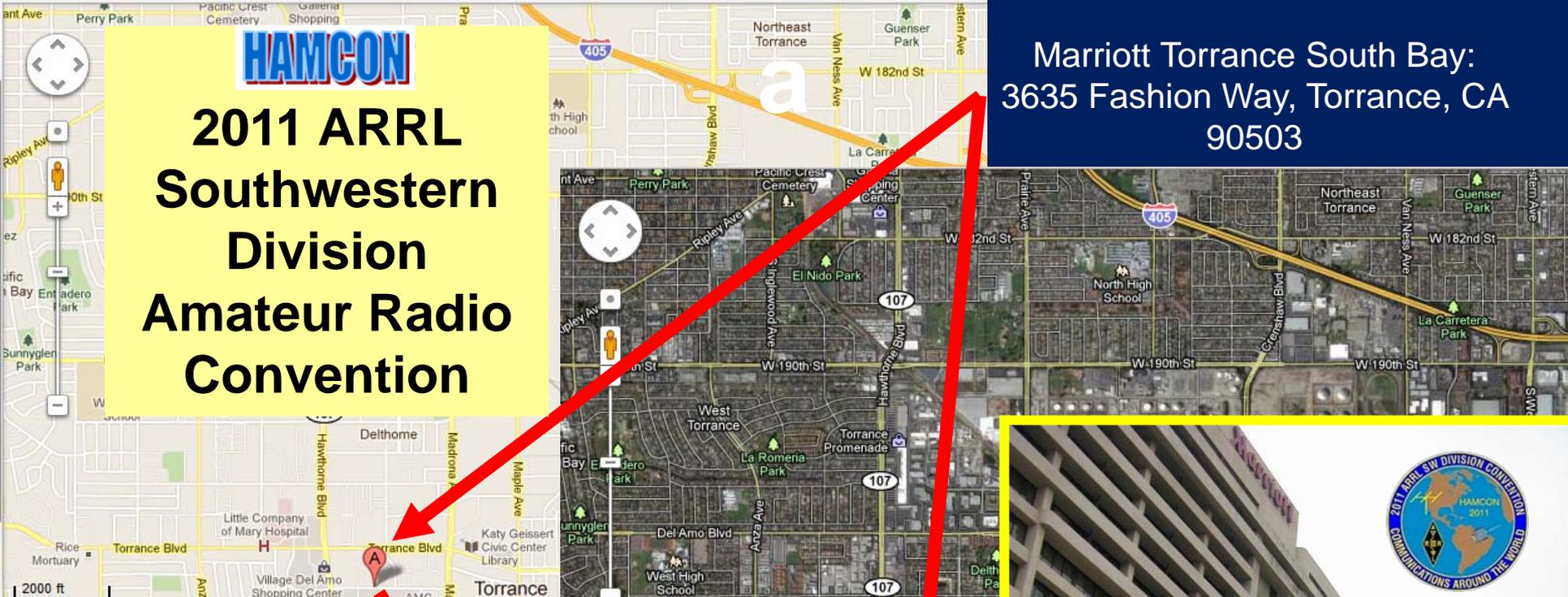
This summary is to share HamCon 2011 with GERC hams who weren't able to attend and to give thanks for all the friendship and help from the GERC hams (especially Mark N7YLA).



HAMCON

**2011 ARRL
Southwestern
Division
Amateur Radio
Convention**

**Marriott Torrance South Bay:
3635 Fashion Way, Torrance, CA
90503**



Long Distance Coordination and Planning

Things got serious when Mark sent emails to me in Thailand about August asking for my ideas on the technical sessions to attend

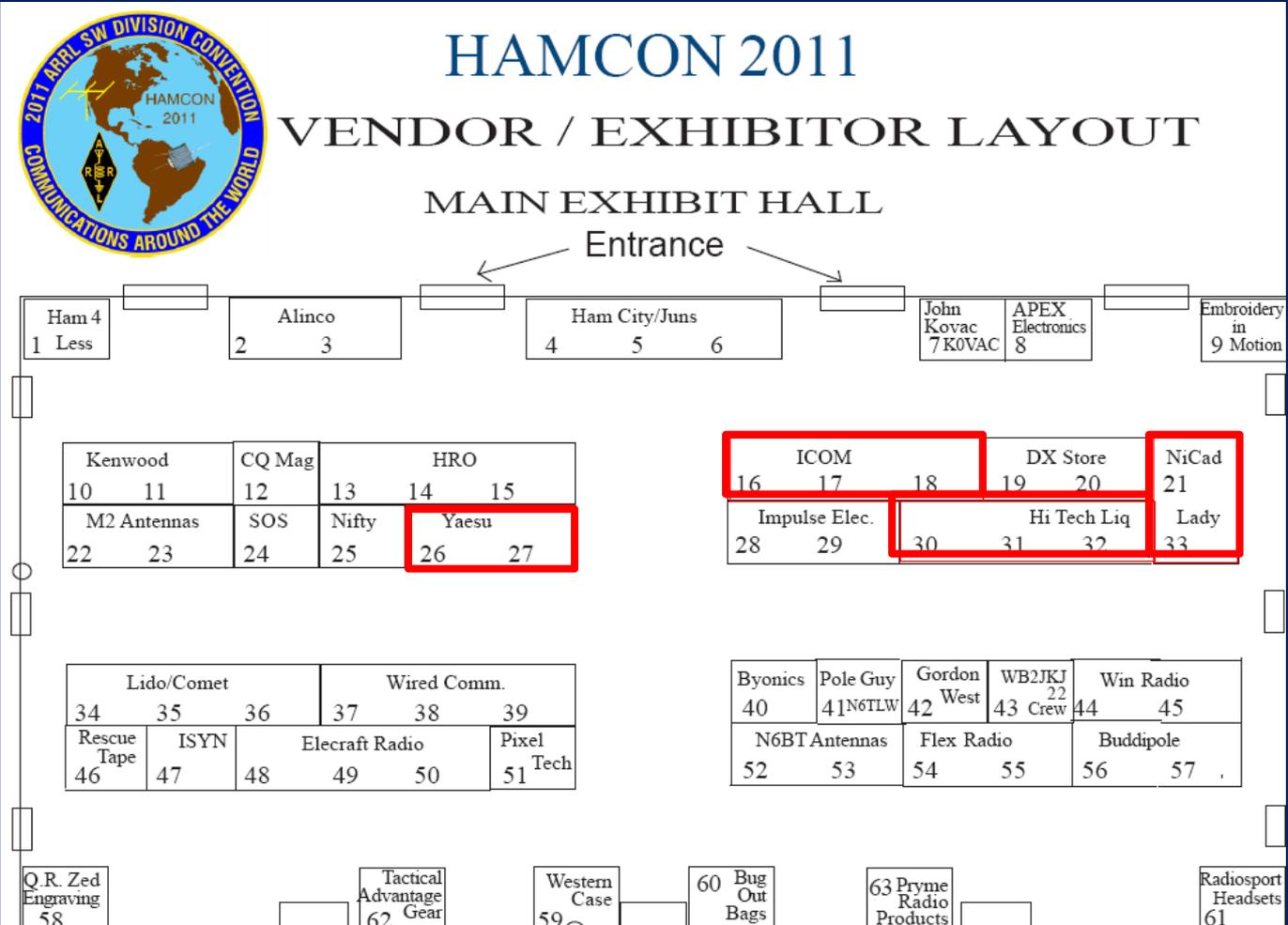
SATURDAY 9/16/2011					
Room Time	Rm 2-4 (100)	Rm 3-5 (150)	Rm 7 (50)	Rm 8 (50)	Rm 9-11 (100)
9:00 AM	Joe Moell KD0V HIDDEN TRANSMITTER HUNTING: MOBILE OR ON FOOT	Brian Thorson AF6NA Staying Safe on Field Day Radio and TV Interference RTVI From Electrical Utility Sources	Jeff Lewis KJ7IX Personal Emergency Preparedness begets Professional Emergency Preparedness	Cliff Cheng AC6C EDDIE 'TAP' TAPSCOTT W6TDN sk EARLY 2M AM FIXTURE IN LA	Brenden Geary KJ6HVP HEAR HAM RADIO VIA AERIAL REPEATER
10:00 AM	April Moell WA6OPS AMATEUR RADIO-ITS ROLE IN THE HOSPITAL	Gordon West WB6NOA WORK HAWAII ON 2m SSB via TROPO	Kate Hutton K6HTN USING YOUR NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM	J. Scott Bovitz N6MI CONTEST/EMERGENCY COMM VAN: LB YAGI 2 OPS 3 MASTS 5 WHIPS 6 AMPS 8 BATT 9 BANDS Walt Ordway CQ and MARAC Awards MARAC Logger Program	Cliff Cheng AC6C TRIBUTE TO LENORE JENSEN W6NAZ sk
11:00 AM	INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM	Eric Swartz High Performance Ham Radio - Inside the KPA500 and Elecraft 'K-Line'			
12:00 Noon	Allen Wolff KC7O SDR- Software Defined Radio	John Kountz W01S 440 The Hard Way	Joe Fairclough WB2KJ EDUCOM-EDUCATION THRU COMMUNICATION HOW TO BRING HAM RADIO TO SCHOOL	Chris Storey KA6WVK Hydration for the Emergency Responder Recognition and Treatment of Heat/Weather Emergencies	Clint Bradford K6LCS How to Work Amateur Satellites With Your HT
1:00 PM	Mike Frye KM6AM Modern Military Radios in Amateur Service	Bill Pasternak WA6ITE The Ham Radio Town Meeting -" How To Make A Ham Radio Promotional Video In the 21st Century."	Marty Woll N6V1 Trouble Shooting for the Non-Techie Ham	Chris Storey KA6WVK Reporting Emergencies With Ham Radio	
2:00 PM	Chip Margelli K7JA Quick Deployment Antennas for Field Day or Emergency Communications		Marty Woll N6V1 NVIS: The Ultimate Backup for Reliable Regional Communication	Doug Millar K6JEY Setting Up a Laboratory For Ham Radio	Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ Collecting and Restoring Amateur Radios of the Past
3:00 PM	Simon K6JLJ W6BC Moonbounce on 40 Meters	Dick Norton N6AA CONTEST FORUM	Dr Bruce Edgar AG6BJ Sun Spots Cycle 24 Magnetic Storms and Ham Radio	Bruce Nolte N1BN The Art of the Field Day Video	Brian Thorson AF6NA Building a 10 Ghz Radio
4:00 PM		Dick Norton N6AA ARRL FORUM	J. D. Fort K7JDF Buddiepole ?	Ken Miller K6CTW Evolution of the Morse Code	Microwave Forum

My choices were indicated by a red box.



Mark also queried me about exhibitors of interest

My choices were indicated by a red box.



Pre-Registration

To simplify registration from overseas, Mark agreed to pay my registrations fee and let me reimburse him when I got to LA.



Why go to one of these events?

For me, it was an opportunity to try to buy some hard-to-find ham radio items in Thailand (which is just about any and all kinds of ham gear).

But some other good reasons (even if you are too poor to shop):

- Technical sessions (learn more about ham radio)
- Exhibits (to see stuff and get ideas)
- Meet other hams



Some of GERC hams I met at HamCon 2011



Glendora Emergency Response Communications

The RTC-TH EmComm program is an Auxiliary International station for GERC. We actively support GERC EchoLink® demonstrations and contribute articles and lessons to the GERC website.



Mark N7YLA



GERC
Founder
and the
driving force for
many of the
GERC activities
as well being an
Elmer to many
GERC hams



Mark (N7YLA)



Frank KG6TQV & Richard KG6TRD

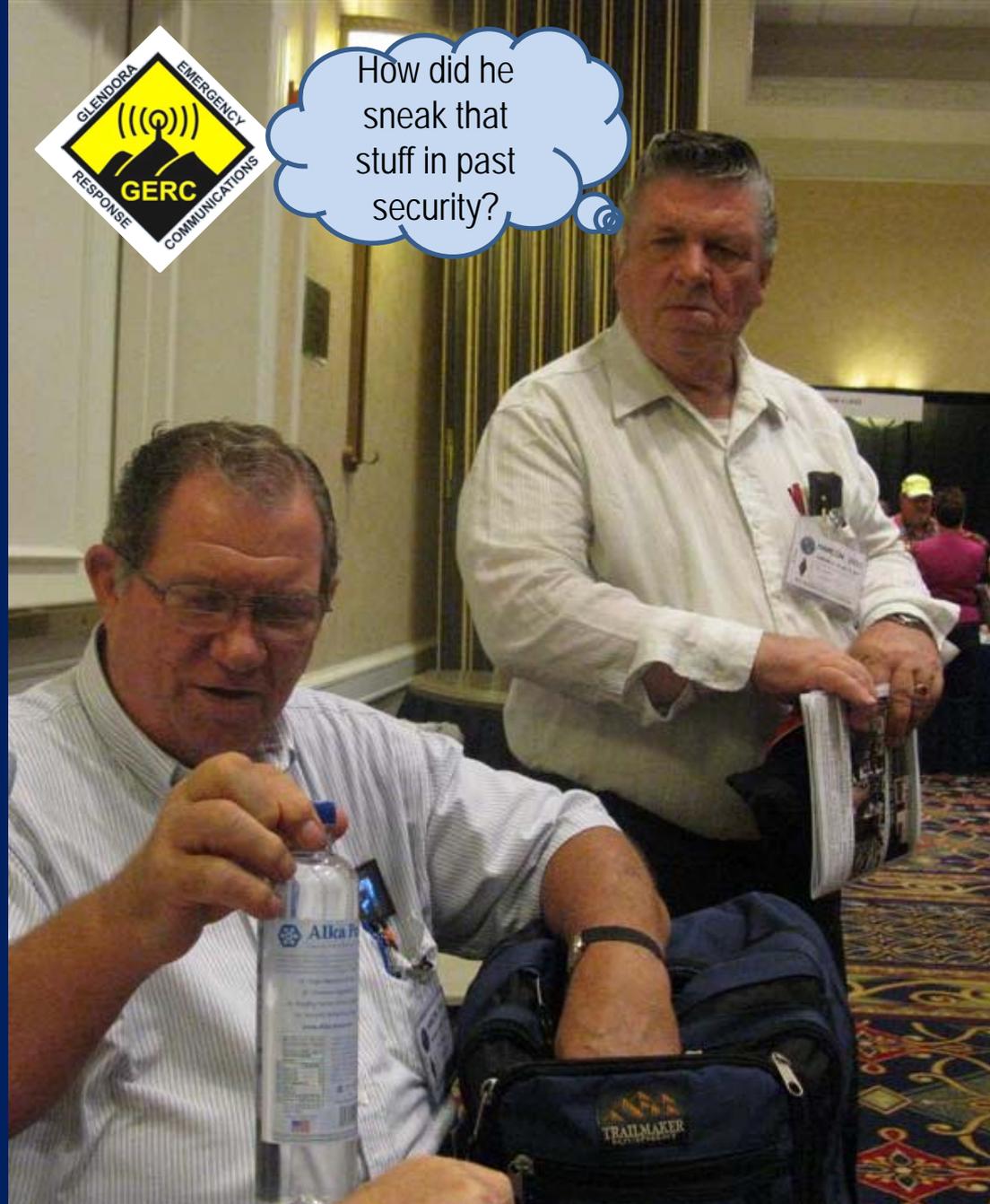
Both are long time active
GERC members.

Frank conducts Boy
Scout Radio Merit Badge
classes and is the Link
Master Chef.

Richard is a regular on
the GERC Net and many
other activities.



How did he
sneak that
stuff in past
security?



Frank KG6TQV, Richard KG6TRD



Larry KE6EOL

Larry is the EOL
(Electrician of Legend)
responsible for wiring and
cabling up Mark's
(N7YLA) ham shack /
man radio cave.



Larry KE6EOL



May & Rich



May KE6QVJ

Rich KG6MXP

May and Rich are regular GERC volunteers for the Covina Christmas Parade communications activity and long time personal friends of Mark



Ha! You're not the only guy with a camera!



Tom KI6YCC



Tom is a regular on the GERC Net and is also a regular GERC volunteer for the Covina Christmas Parade communications activity.

Tom KI6YCC





Dennis KI6NGQ

Dennis joined the GERC Net and has since become an avid supporter. I spoke with him on EchoLink® and was pleased to learn he will be in charge of the GERC EchoLink® demonstration for the GERC JOTA 2011 activity.

Dennis KI6NGQ





Arriving at HamCon 2011

A core GERC group
carpooled to HamCon
2011.

Driver: Frank KG6TQV

Passengers:

Mark N7YLA,
Richard KG6TRD,
Greg KI6GIG/HS0ZHM,
Tom KI6YCC



First stop is the Registration Desk



Registration Materials



Optional Pin



Displays in the Lobby Area

Bob NC6Q

FIST CW Club



National Traffic System



Dr. Kate Hutton K6HTN of USGS
Cal Tech Earthquake fame



LA Section of ARES



Practice as though
it is for real.

Baker to Vegas

Field Day

Regulus Crest 100



Mott's Applesauce
Tickets Here

Joy KD6FJV Radio Equipment Display



Joy KD6FJV Radio Equipment Display



According to Joy, her mobile stack rack is at its max or it will begin to obstruct the front windshield

This is proof ham radios are NOT just boy toys.



QSL Card Display

Uhuh. I believe you, Mark.

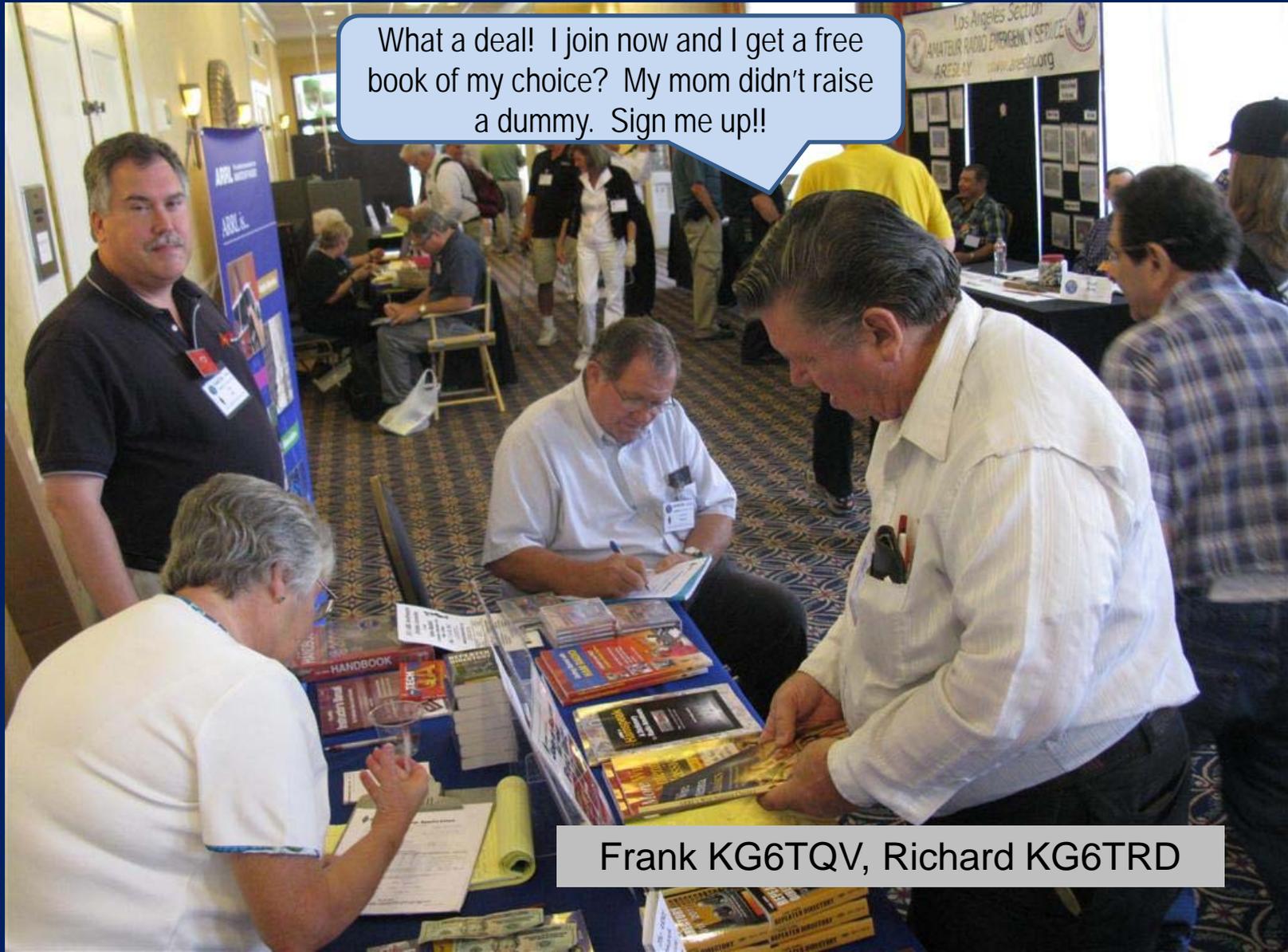
Honest, folks used to send these by mail all the time....and I am NOT that old!

Tom KI6YCC

Mark N7YLA



Some GERC hams join ARRL



What a deal! I join now and I get a free book of my choice? My mom didn't raise a dummy. Sign me up!!

Frank KG6TQV, Richard KG6TRD



Among the numerous benefits of ARRL membership is radio equipment insurance

Let's pick different books and then share, OK?

Sounds like a plan to me!

Richard KG6TRD

Frank KG6TQV



In the Main Exhibit Hall

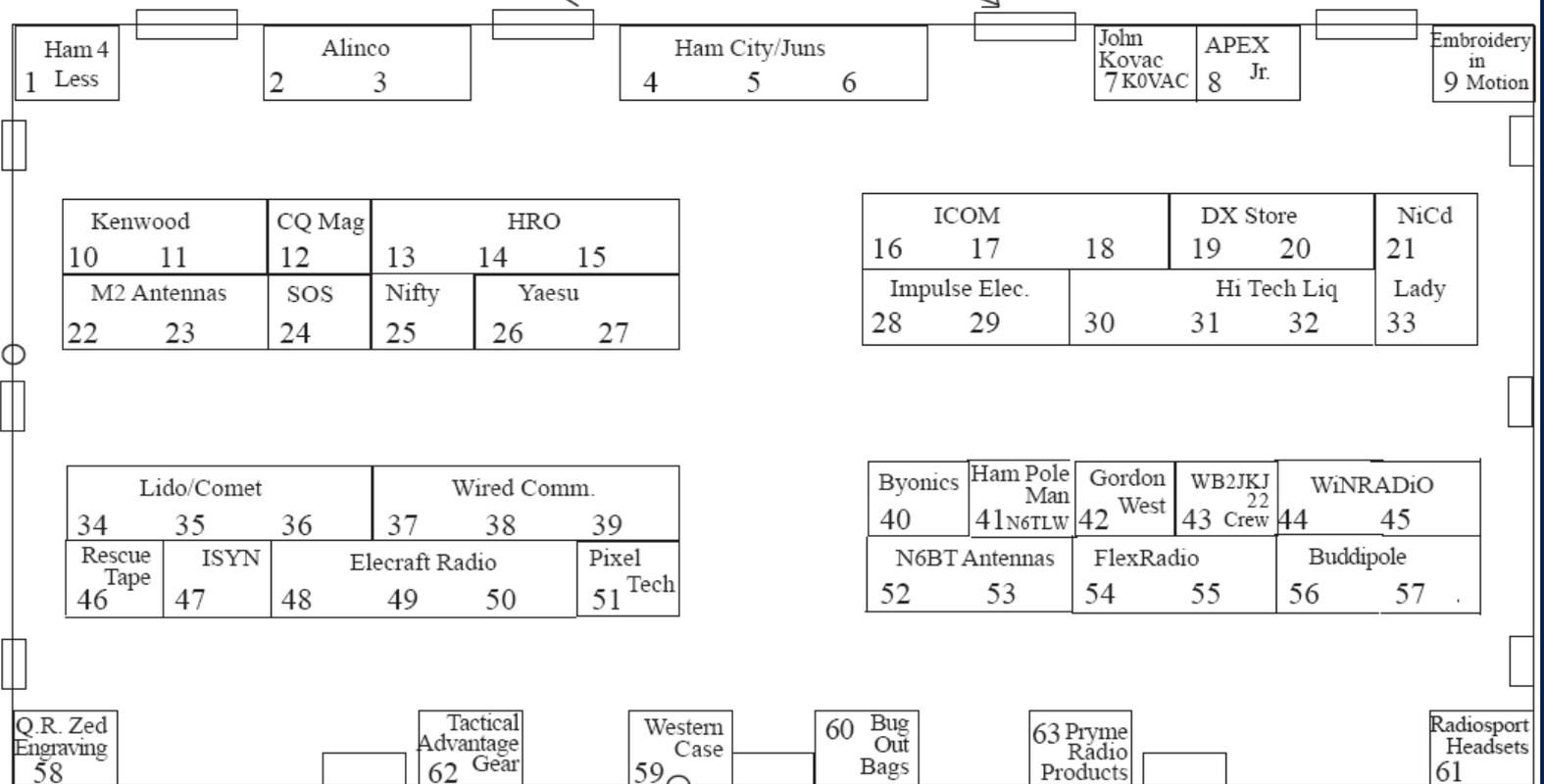


HAMCON 2011

VENDOR / EXHIBITOR LAYOUT

MAIN EXHIBIT HALL

Entrance



Ham 4 Less Booth 1



Ham 4 Less catches Mark's attention

If I had more money I could get more ham radio stuff for less. Wow...such a deal!



Mark N7YLA



Kenwood Booths 10-11

Nice radios;
scary prices

Tom KI6YCC

Mark N7YLA



CQ Magazine Booth 12



CQ, CQ, CQ.
Calling CQ!



Strolling Past HRO Booths 13-15 and CQ Magazine Booth 12



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Tom KI6YCC, Mark N7YLA

NiCd Lady Booth 21 & 33

Grace handled a
“Will Call” pick up
for the RTC-TH
lithium camcorder
battery
replacement
internet order I
placed from
Thailand



A GERCC Bump Into

If you're out of bags of money, can I get a rain check?

He's such an optimist.

Rich KG6MXP, Frank KG6TQV, May KE6QVJ



May giving the “W” for Women



I am a staunch believer and advocate of woman-power radio! (And I don't mean cranking on your manual generator, Mark!)

May KE6QVJ

May was the only GERC female member we saw at HamCon 2011

Mark N7YLA



A GERCC Bump Into



Greg KI6GIG/HS0ZHM, Tom KI6YCC, May KE6QVJ, Rich KG6MXP

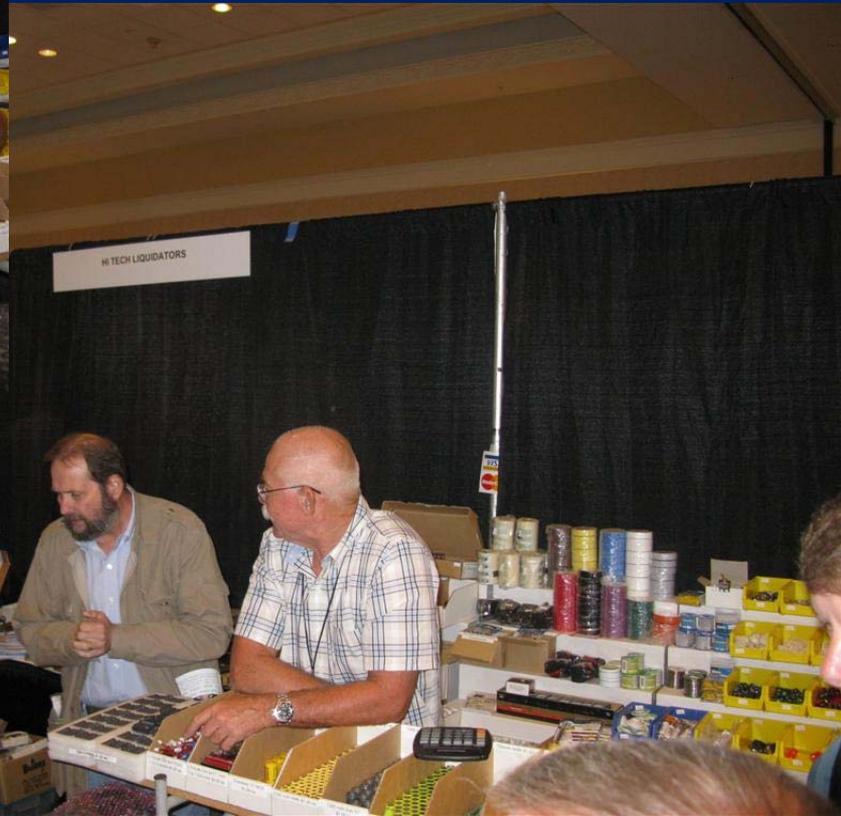
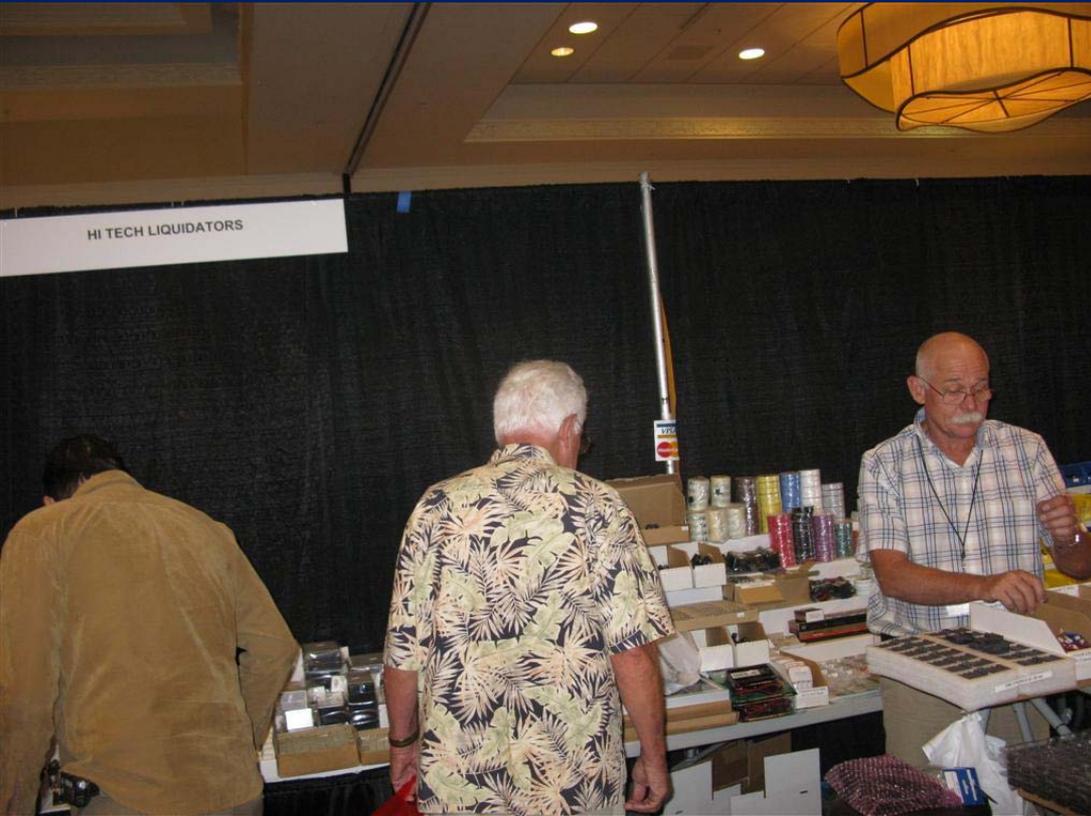


M² Antennas Booths 22-23



Hi Tech Liquidators Booths 30-32

I stocked up on fittings and coax when I moved to Thailand in 2008.



I am back for more in 2011.



Gear Gazing at Hi Tech Liquidators

I remember when prices were only this high.

How long ago was that, Mark?



Mark N7YLA, Richard KG6TRD, Tom KI6YCC



Comet Antennas Booths 34-36



A radio is only as good as its antenna.



GERC Bump Into

I spoke with Hal during a GERC EchoLink® demonstration. This was the first time we actually met face to face.

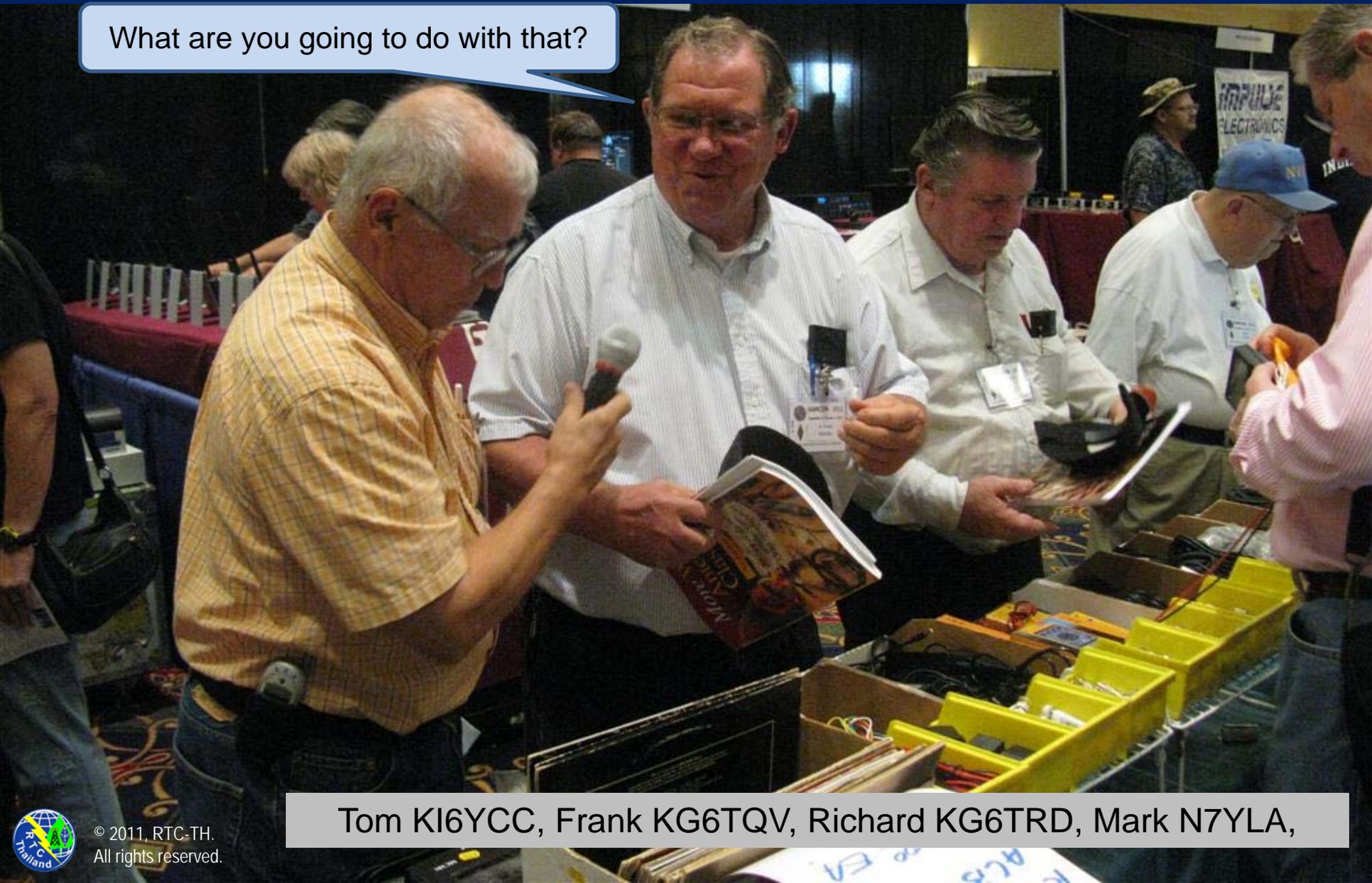


Hal KF6RRR, Greg KI6GIG/HS0ZHM



Wired Comm Booths 37-39

What are you going to do with that?



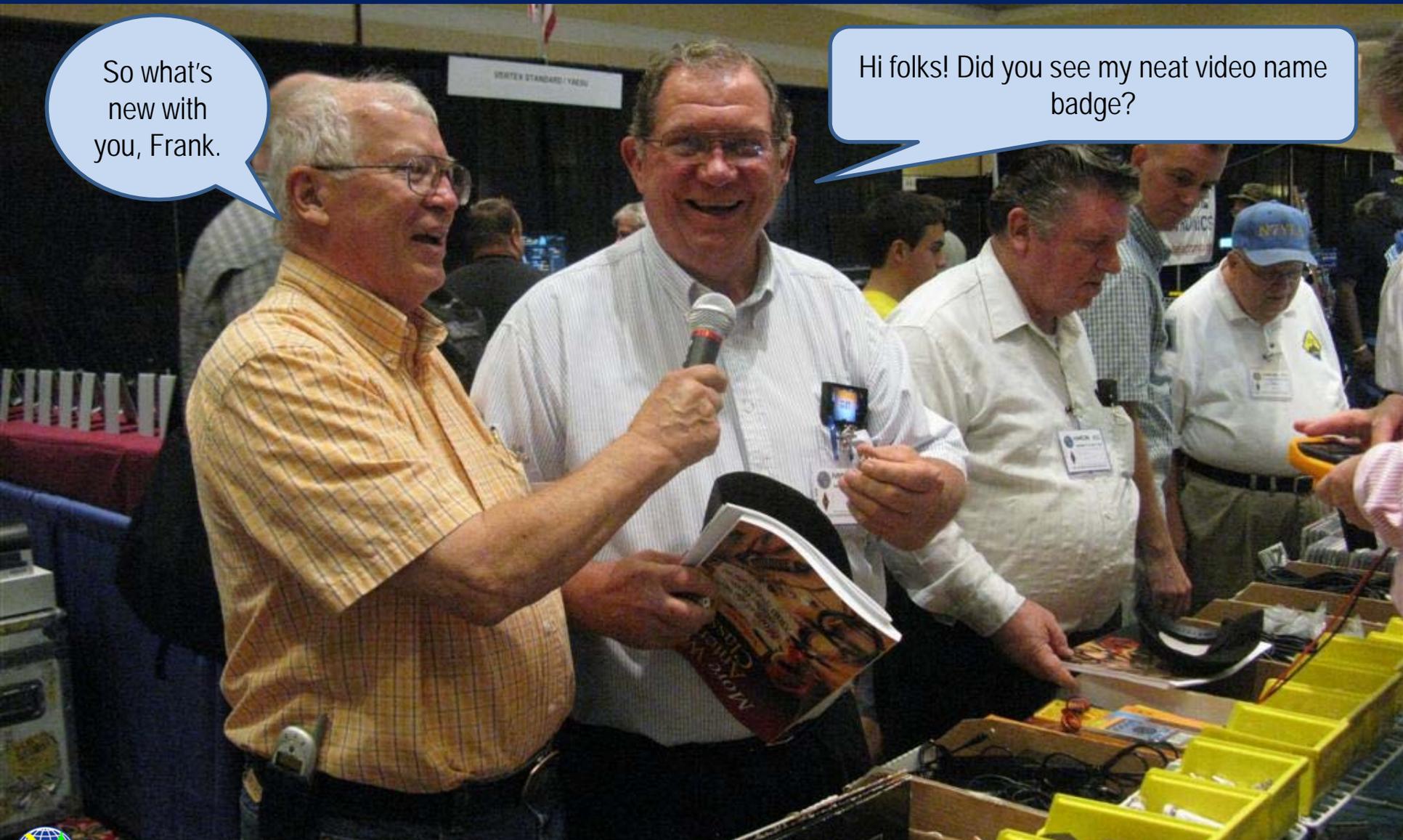
Tom KI6YCC, Frank KG6TQV, Richard KG6TRD, Mark N7YLA,



“Frank, say hello to your fans at GERCC”

So what's new with you, Frank.

Hi folks! Did you see my neat video name badge?



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Tom KI6YCC, Frank KG6TQV, Richard KG6TRD, Mark N7YLA,

GERC hams at a “feeding trough”

Tom KI6YCC, Frank KG6TQV, Mark N7YLA, Richard KG6TRD,

Richard KG6TRD, Frank KG6TQV



Mark N7YLA, Frank KG6TQV, Richard KG6TRD



Apparently the folks at Wired Comm put out a good spread!



Money in the hand is soon spent

Hmm..money
is meant to
be spent,
right?

Frank KG6TQV

Mark N7YLA

Richard KG6TRD



A GERCC Bump Into



Frank KG6TQV, Richard KG6TRD (back to camera, Larry KE6EOL



Gordon West Booth 42

GORDON WEST RADIO SCHOOL

BOOKS • TAPES • PRE-STUDY

HAM CLASSES

TECH NO-CODE,

CW LEARNING,

GENERAL, *FREE!*

EXTRA,

COMMERCIAL

A living legend in the world of ham radio license classes

Gordon WB6NOA



Rescue Tape Booth 46

Excuse me,
are you with
the Press?



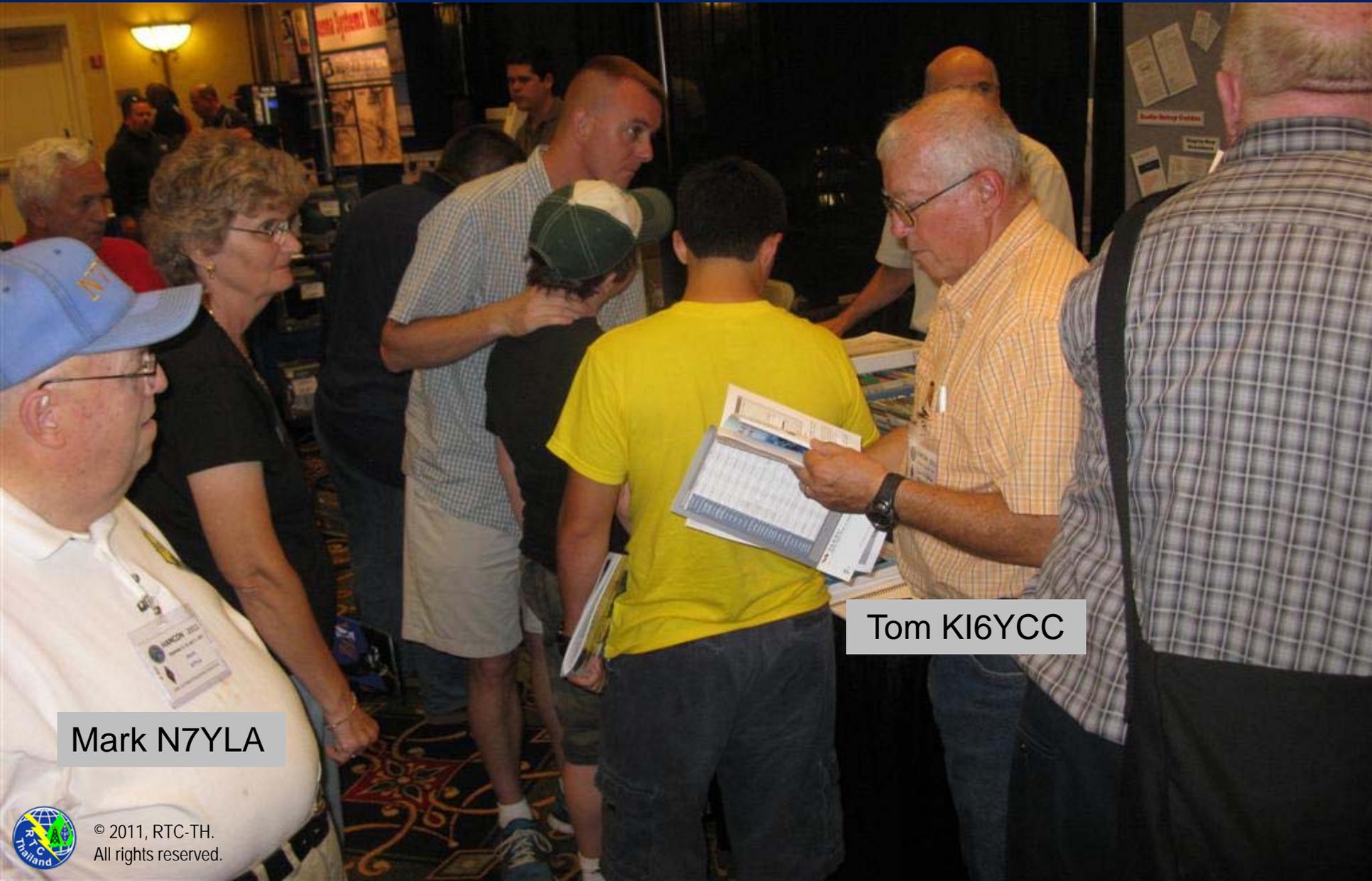
The many uses of Rescue Tape



Mark found a similar product in 99¢ Store



ISYN Booth 47



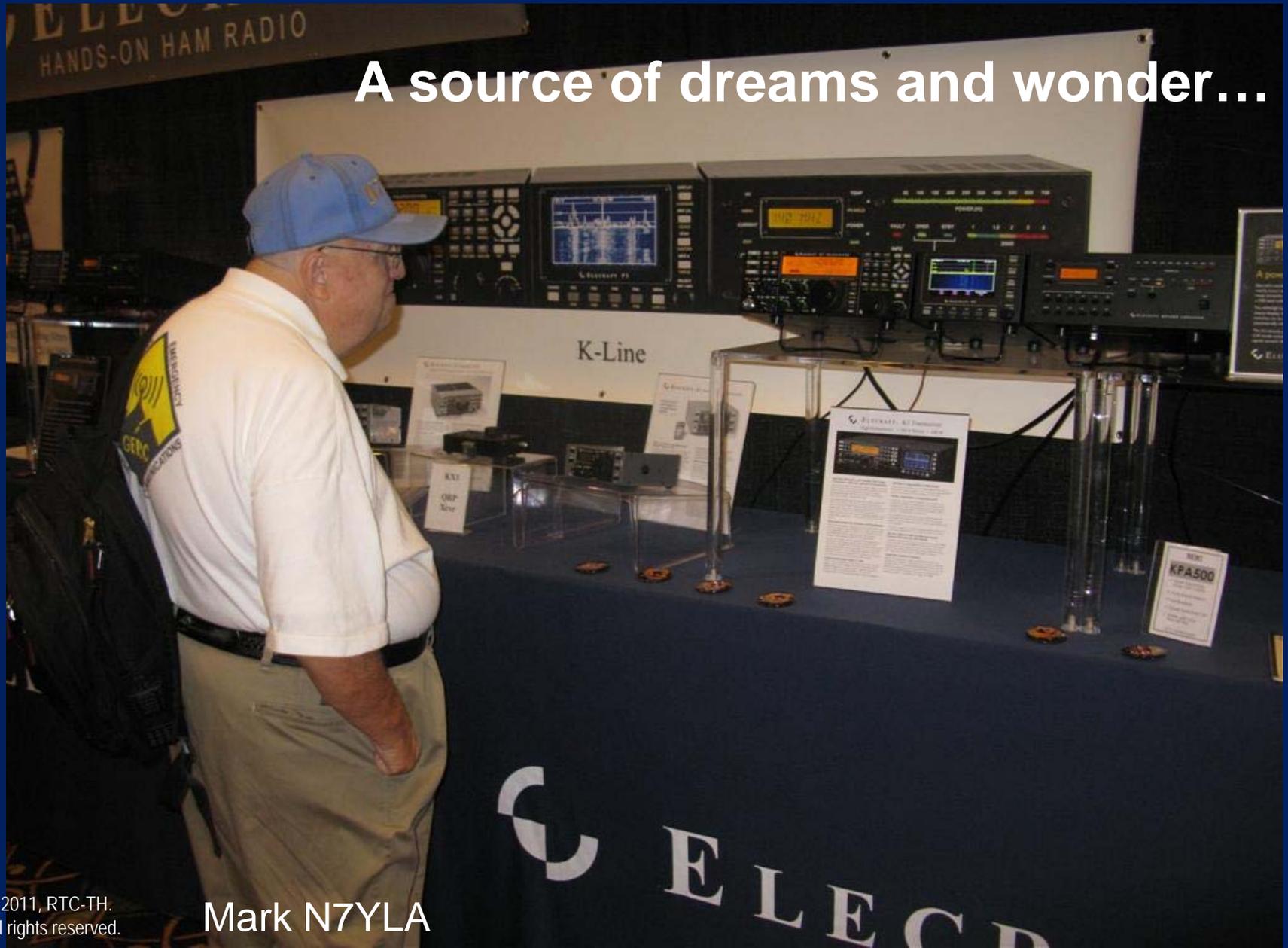
Mark N7YLA

Tom KI6YCC



Elecraft Radio Booths 48-50

A source of dreams and wonder...



Elecraft Units



Richard at the Elecraft Booth



Richard KG6TRD

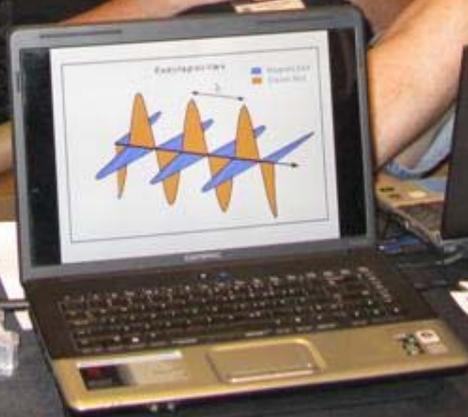


Pixel Technologies Booth 51

STOP THE STATIC, KNOCK-OUT THE NOISE,
REDEEM YOUR RECEPTION!

Rejects Local QRM & Power Line Radiated Noise

Won't you come and talk to me? I am not part of the static display. Really, I am alive.



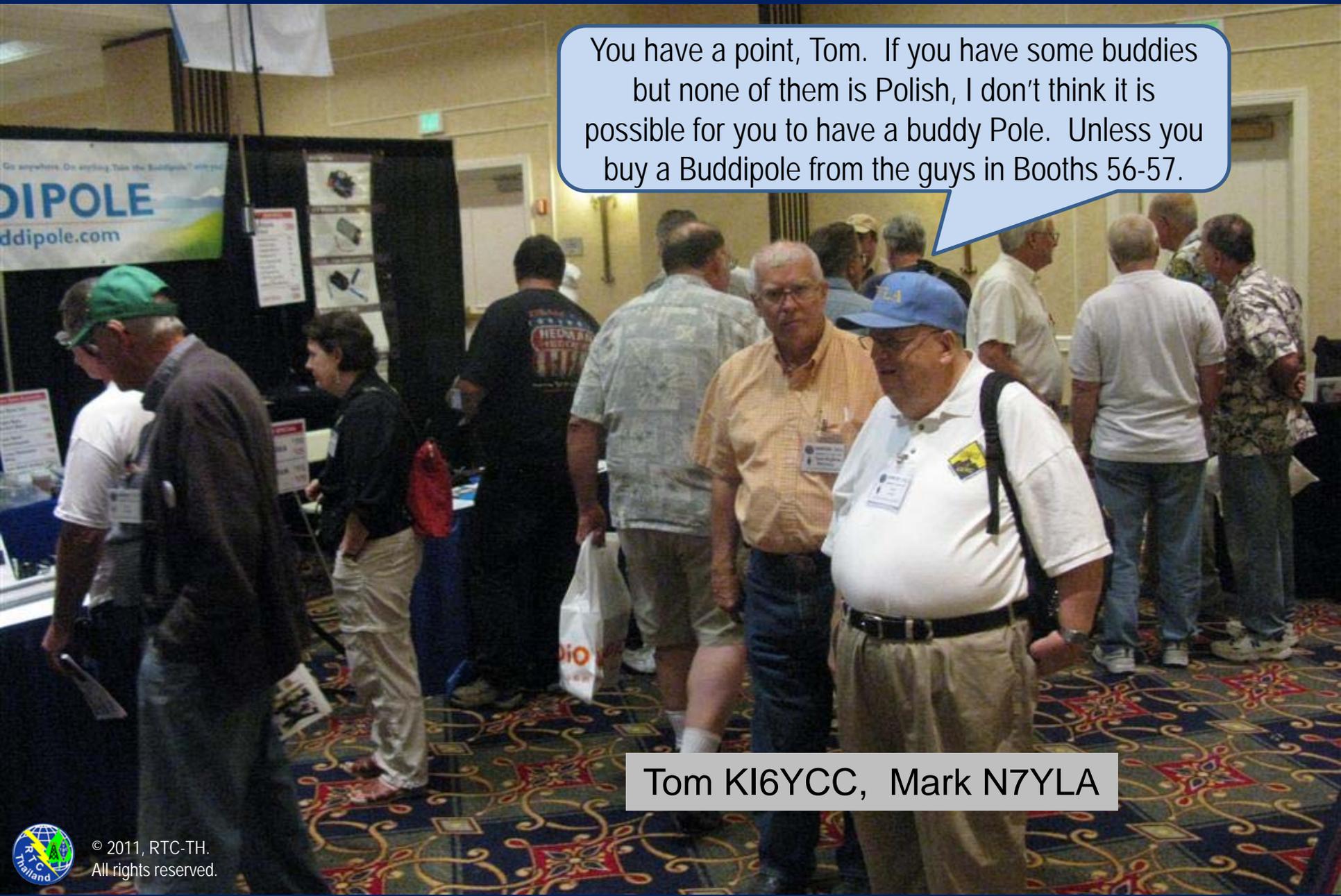
FlexRadio System Booths 54-55

So if the radio is flexible,
does that mean I don't have
to stand so rigid and tall?



GERC Buddies near Buddipole Booth

You have a point, Tom. If you have some buddies but none of them is Polish, I don't think it is possible for you to have a buddy Pole. Unless you buy a Buddipole from the guys in Booths 56-57.



Tom KI6YCC, Mark N7YLA



Q.R. Zed Engraving Booth 58



Why can't Polish names have more vowels in them like Hawaiian names?



Western Case Booth 59



GERC members should have a Go Bag and a Bug Out Bag in their emergency preparedness equipment. Visit the GERC website for suggested kit contents www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/gerc



BugOutBagz



GERC members should have a Go Bag and a Bug Out Bag in their emergency preparedness equipment. Visit the GERC website for suggested kit contents www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/gerc



Tactical Advantage Gear Booth 62

Sure I got a light, but this is a no smoking area.



Military surplus antenna mast sections were available at HamCon 2011

Note: These poles are together, but that doesn't mean they're buddies.



Getting a second wind

Note: These guys are buddies but they aren't Poles.



Mark N7YLA, Frank KG6TQV



Lunch Break

Checking a display board for the numerous lunch options both in and out of the convention.



Lunch Break

Here is a moment where there are just too many choices



Frank, GERC Head Chef takes the lead



Mark N7YLA, Frank KG6TQV, Richard KG6TRD



Narrowing down the choices



Mark N7YLA, Frank KG6TQV (and some stranger's hand from the left)



Heading to the car to drop off treasures...



Frank KG6TQV (back to camera), Tom KI6YCC,
Mark N7YLA (light blue ball cap hidden behind) Richard KG6TRD



...to lighten the load before lunch



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Richard KG6TRD, Frank KG6TQV, Tom KI6YCC, Mark N7YLA

Onward to lunch

Houston, this is N7YLA reporting we are "Go for Lunch", Over.





**Mobile
antennas
attract
attention on
the walk to
lunch**



Richard spots an interesting antenna mount



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Richard KG6TRD

Field Demo

Frank leads
the group to
lunch using a
low-tech built-
in non-radio
bionic
gastronomic
directional
finding unit



Frank KG6TQV, Mark N7YLA, Tom KI6YCC, Richard KG6TRD



Eyeballing a potential antenna support



Good EmComm hams are very conscious of their surroundings

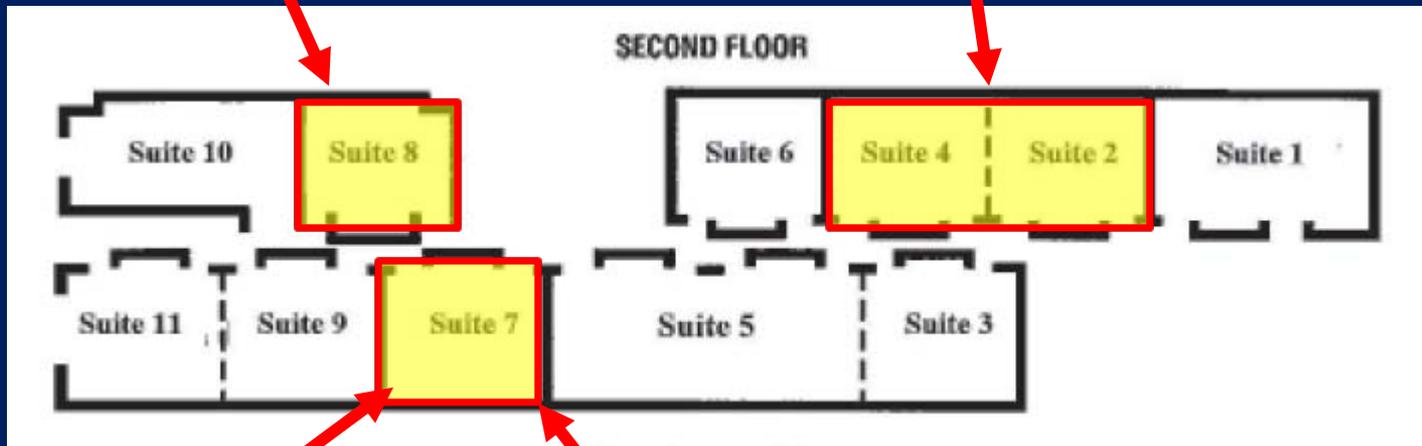


Second Floor / Tech Sessions

Some of the Tech Sessions attended by GERC hams

Chris Storey KA6WNL
Reporting Emergencies
With Ham Radio

Chip Margelli K7JA
Quick Deployment
Antennas for Field Day
or Emergency
Communications



Jeff Lewis KJ7TX
Personal Emergency
Preparedness begets
Professional Emergency
Preparedness

Marty Woll N6VI
NVIS: The Ultimate Back
Up for Reliable Regional
Communication



Reporting Emergencies with Ham Radio

Chris Storey KA6WNL



Tom KI6YCC

Richard KG6TRD

Mark N7YLA



Reporting Emergencies with Ham Radio

Is that what a
real emergency
looks like?

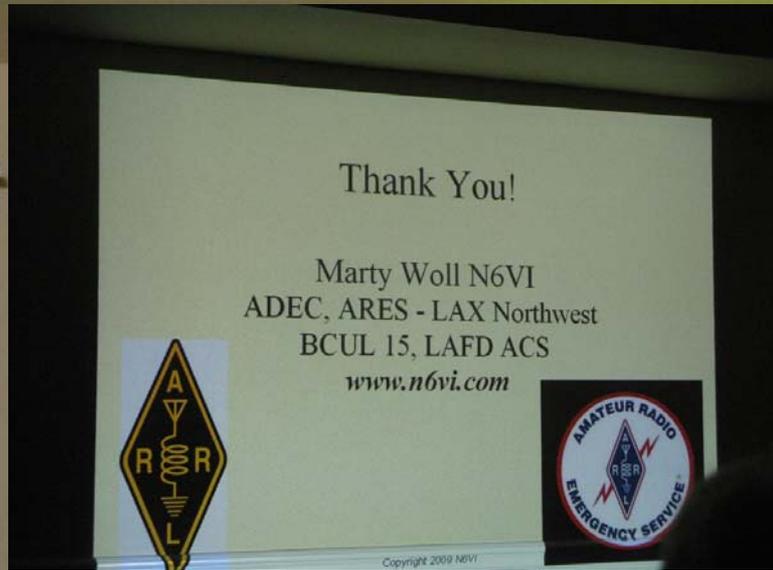
Tom KI6YCC

Richard KG6TRD

Mark N7YLA



NVIS by Marty Woll N6VI



Quick deployment antennas for field day or emergencies by Chip Margelli K7JA

Frank & Richard
attended this
tech session



Frank KG6TQV, Richard KG6TRD



A GERCC Bump Into

Mark N7YLA
meets Dennis
KI6NQG at the
end of a tech
session by Chip
Margelli K7JA.



Dennis KI6NQG, Mark N7YLA,



Face to Face meeting

We meet
more often
on the
GERC Net
or during
GERC
EchoLink®
demo
activities
than we do
in real life.



Dennis KI6NQG, Greg KI6GIG/HS0ZHM, Tom KI6YCC



Socializing in the halls



Richard KG6TRD, Dennis KI6NQG, Mark N7YLA, (unidentified non-GERC ham)



Mingling between sessions

Frank KG6TQV, Tom KI6YCC

(unidentified non-GERC ham)

Richard KG6TRD, Dennis KI6NQG, Mark N7YLA,



Checking the program for tech sessions



Mark N7YLA, (unidentified non-GERC ham), Frank KG6TQV, Tom KI6YCC



Frank's dynamic video name badge attracts attention

(unidentified non-GERC ham), Frank KG6TQV, Mark N7YLA, Tom KI6YCC



Hey! Check out this guy's crazy video name badge!!



Frank shows off his video name badge

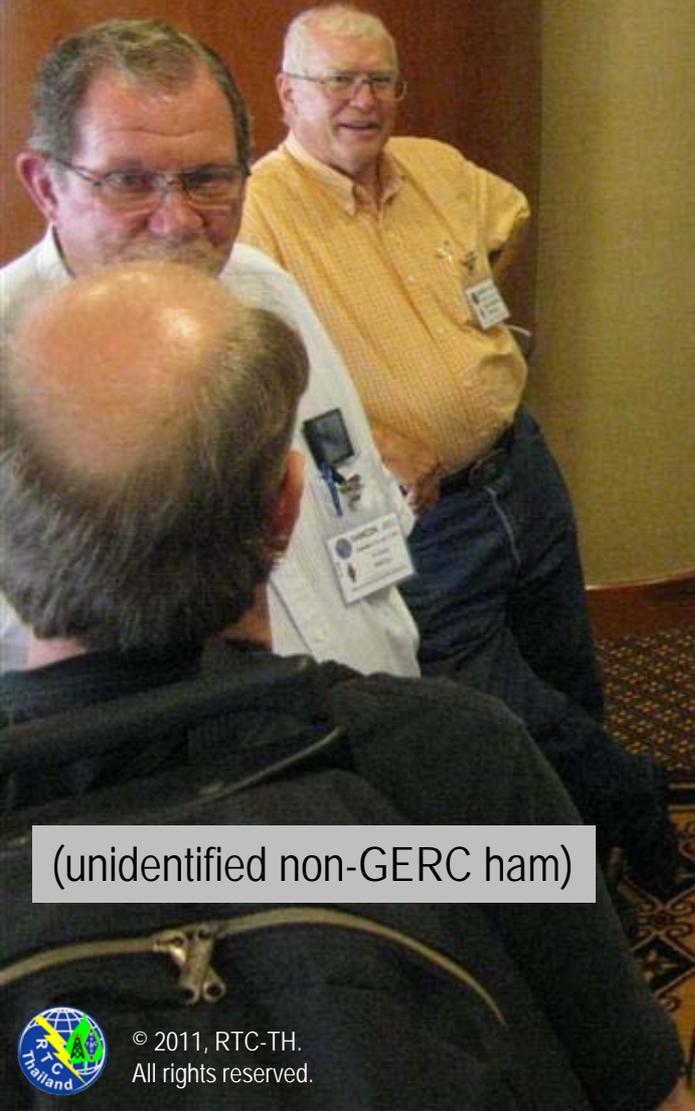
I gotta get a picture of this! The folks back home won't believe it.

(unidentified non-GERC ham), Frank KG6TQV, Mark N7YLA (back to camera)



Catching up face to face

Frank KG6TQV, Tom KI6YCC



(unidentified non-GERC ham)

Richard KG6TRD, Dennis KI6NQG, Mark N7YLA



Its better to network than to not work

Say, do you happen to know KI6GIG?

Boy, do I know KI6GIG!

(unidentified non-GERC ham),
Frank KG6TQV, Tom KI6YCC



Mark N7YLA, Richard KG6TRD, Dennis KI6NQG



Let me warn you about
KI6GIG...the one with
the camera...

Hey Dennis. Smile,
you're on candid
camera

Richard KG6TRD, Dennis KI6NQG, Mark N7YLA



See, told you so.

Geez, so you did!

Heh, heh. Nothing like team work. Right, Greg.

Richard KG6TRD, Dennis KI6NQG, Mark N7YLA



Some of the GERC Good Guys



Frank KG6TQV, Dennis KI6NQG, Richard KG6TRD, Tom KI6YCC, Mark N7YLA





The RTC-TH was created to honor the memory of Mr. Tang Suttisan, a father, a farmer, and a man who valued education and used it in starting his family farm





The Rural Training Center-Thailand is dedicated to providing community-based environmental education for the self-sufficiency and sustainability of small rural family farms



Thanks, and may we catch you on
the air waves!

The End



www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/rtcth
hs0zhm@gmail.com or ki6gig@arri.net



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