

SPRING 2005

CODAR CURRENTS



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Spring Training Reminder

CODAR Ocean Sensors Spring Training Course will be held at the Seymour Discovery Center (UC Santa Cruz's Long Marine Laboratory) 3-6 May. This training session has been scheduled to coincide with the ROW (Radio Oceanographer's Workshop) meeting being held at nearby Costanoa in Pescadero, CA. Joint social events have been arranged to provide opportunities for new SeaSonde operators to meet other members of the HF radar community.

Although, the registration deadline for discount hotel accommodations has passed, there are still a few seats available for our class. If you would like to join us please contact support@codaros.com immediately.

Training details are available on our website at http://www.codaros.com/codar_training2.htm



Seymour Discovery Center & Long Marine Lab in Santa Cruz, California.



Costanoa Coastal Lodge & Camp in Pescadero, California.



Can You Find the Mac-mini?

Since Apple first released its new miniature computer, the "Mac-mini"(shown right), we've had numerous inquiries about SeaSonde-Mac-mini compatibility. The good news is that after successful bench testing and four weeks of field testing on a 12 MHz SeaSonde, the "Mini" has received a clean bill of health as a viable SeaSonde computer option.

The "Mini" is 2" x 6.5" x 6.5" square and comes in a variety of configurations. The low-end model houses a 1.25GHz G4 processor, 40GB hard drive, a slot-loading CD-R/DVD-ROM optical drive, 256MB DDR SDRAM and ATI Radeon 9200 graphics chip with 32MB dedicated DDR SDRAM.

The "Mini" can also be operated in a headless configuration (i.e. without a monitor or keyboard attached) and controlled remotely using Timbuktu. This makes it an ideal choice for SeaSonde sites where space for equipment is limited. For additional details see Apple's website at <http://www.apple.com/macmini/>



COS participates in first Radar Operator's Working Group (ROWG)

The first Radar Operator's Working Group (ROWG) conference was held aboard the cruise ship Majesty of the Seas in January of this year. The purpose of ROWG was to provide HF radar operators a venue for sharing ideas on various topics ranging from radar operation to data management. Three CODAR support staff members attended the meeting and made themselves available to answer technical questions about SeaSonde HF radars.



Our support crew found the meeting to be a very worthwhile learning experience and extend kudos to the ROWG organizing committee for a successful and productive first meeting. Approximately 35 participants from around the world attended the "floating" meeting. Additional Information about ROWG can be found at the ROWG website (registration may be required): <http://alfredo.ucsd.edu:12080/rowg/>

Tech's Corner

Help is Available if You Ask

CODAR has a dedicated and experienced Support team available to help customers with potential problems, and can provide instant feedback if you suspect something is not right with your data.

Examples of situations that might precipitate contacting our support staff: (1) Significant variations in maximum coverage, e.g., radial map patterns fluctuate by 40% over a 24 hour period. (2)

Noticeable, regular gap regions appear in specific positions on your maps. (3) Wild vectors occasionally are spotted in circular bands at ranges from one or the other site from 100-130 km (for Long-Range systems).

Any change from data outputs that you had been getting, or from what you expected, can probably be remedied ... But we need to know what you are seeing that you don't like! We will then swing into action, diagnose your problem, fix it, and educate you as to what happened.

At the lower operating frequency bands, late-afternoon and nighttime radio interference is known to occur, even in systems that had not been seeing this before. Nighttime is when radio broadcasters use the lower HF band, and usually for only a few hours. Such interference appears as noise to our processor. Maximum range will decrease during these periods, even though vectors closer in are perfectly valid. Remedies are to shift positions within your present authorized frequency band, or move to another frequency that you were granted. We can diagnose this immediately, and teach you how to do it also.

PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY PLANNED CHANGES BEFORE OR WHEN YOU MAKE THEM

Often a customer will change frequency bands, move one of the antennas, or rotate the receive antenna, perhaps for a very good reason. We can often advise you before such a change what kind of "domino effect" this could result in. Also, immediately after the change, we can monitor

your system to verify that it is operating correctly, or make recommendations for additional modifications. Again, we will keep you informed as to what we find. Nearly 85% of problems happen as a result of a change to system settings (software or hardware) that we are unaware of. We only want your systems to be producing the best possible data for you. When that happens, we both look good. But we can only do that with input from you. Don't hold back!

Are You Up To Date?

SeaSonde10 users should be running:

SeaSondeRadialSuite10 Release 3 with Updater3 installed
SeaSondeCombineSuite10 Release 3 with Updater3 installed
Mac OSX 10.3.9
Timbuktu 7.0.4 (required for latest Timbuktu scripting)

OS9 SeaSonde users should be running 4.4f6 Mac OS 9.2.2

If you have any questions please email us: support@codaros.com



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