



CALIFORNIA YACHT CLUB

Commodore Bill Moore

December 26, 2008

Mr. Tom Tcimpidis
12569 Mendel Drive
Granada Hills, CA 91344

Dear Tom,

Congratulations. I am pleased to inform you that you have been selected by Southern California Yachting Association to receive the coveted SCYA Golden Key Award for 2008 in recognition of outstanding service to yachting communications by an Amateur Radio operator.

Your dedication to amateur radio in the redesign, updating equipment, expanding frequencies and capabilities at CYC's K6CYC radio station and its Winlink system as well as having the facility designated by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary as an operational radio facility, HF contingency communication station, and a backup station for the Los Angeles County Sheriff in disaster situations has benefited not only the local community but all of our Southern California region.

The Award will be presented by a representative of Southern California Yachting Association at this year's Opening Day ceremony at California Yacht Club on Saturday, March 14, 2009. You will be joining distinguished CYC members J.J. Quinn (KJ6HW), Erik Oistad (KF6DZT), Scott Stolnitz (N6ABC), Erma Darling (KG6KYL) and Charlie Pascal (WB6CYL) who have been honored in past years with this award. I hope that you will mark your calendar and be able to attend our Opening Day to receive this prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Bill Moore
2008 Commodore

SCYA Golden Key - Tom Tcimpidis - K6TGT

Biography: Tom Tcimpidis (K6TGT) has been interested in radio communications and all things relating to electronics from a very early age. At 14, he received his First Class Radio Telephone License with Radar Endorsement. Passing this exam at such an early age demonstrates a remarkable gift for electronic communication. At the time Tom passed the commercial exam at the FCC, candidates really had to know their stuff: Published question pools were not available, online practice exams did not exist, and question and answer books on how to pass the commercial exam were not on the market. The test had to be taken at an FCC office under strict supervision. Tom's first Amateur call (KC6MLR) was issued to him in 1989. He currently holds an Extra class license.

Amateur and commercial radio provided Tom with a strong technical foundation, which, combined with his extreme motivation and curiosity, enabled him to pursue a career in building and operating television and radio facilities. Tom now specializes in high definition video engineering systems used for television and film production and holds a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering.

Amateur radio is only one of Tom's many interests. A boater since age six, private pilot, motorcyclist, CERT Level 3 volunteer, ARRL and ARES member, Coast Guard Auxiliary member, and the chairman and SYSOP for The California Yacht Club's Amateur radio and Winlink station K6CYC are some of Tom's many endeavors.

Since assuming the SYSOP position at the California Yacht Club in June of 2007, Tom has been extremely productive. Tom spent most of his free time completely redesigning, rebuilding and rewiring the Amateur station at the California Yacht club. He installed a battery and generator emergency backup power system, updated the Winlink HF and VHF Email system equipment to full redundancy with expanded frequencies and capabilities, assembled and coordinated installation of the Club's new 40-10 Meter beam and various other antennas, installed new HF, VHF and UHF radios and digital and computer systems, and successfully advocated for additional funding for the radio group.

As a direct result of Tom's comprehensive plan, K6CYC was recently designated as both an Operational Radio Facility and a HF Contingency Communications Station by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. In addition, all the hard work culminated in the official Rededication of The Communications Center on October 18, 2008.

Tom has a strong desire to make his community a better place. He fulfills this goal by spending over 20 hours a week volunteering his time with the U.S. Coast Guard, Amateur radio emergency service organizations, and educating the public about the benefits of emergency communications.

Tom is assisted in these activities by his wife Linda (W6LWT), who often serves as Tom's right hand.