

# MAGIC IN THE SKY

BY JEFF REINHARDT,\* AA6JR

## The Monday Morning Breakfast Club

California's Central Coast region is one of the lesser-known treasures of the Golden State. Situated between the two huge metro regions of Los Angeles and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area, it's a collection of relatively small cities closer to the Pacific Ocean punctuated by agricultural areas as you move between the settlements and inland, to the east. Cattle ranches, ground crops, and orchards are now joined by an ever-growing number of vineyards, most of which offer "tasting" opportunities for a nominal stipend. The area includes northern Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo (SLO) and Monterey counties and there are a number of treasures waiting to be discovered by the casual and curious tourist. Seaside communities such as Pismo Beach attract beachgoers from far and near, with motels, a state park, RV resorts, and I'm sure a few rental app locations pop up from time to time. A bit to the north, the city of San Luis Obispo has charm, history, great restaurants, and the famous Cal Poly University among its assets. However, today we'll set our focus on Morro Bay, a city nestled right on the coast against rising hills that act as a backdrop.

At first glance, Morro Bay is dominated by a huge rock that rises from the ocean, aptly designated as Morro Rock (Photo A). It's a vestige of an ancient volcano and a stunning land-

mark. The other eye-catchers are the giant man-made smokestacks of a now-defunct power generating facility. On closer examination, one finds a beautiful state park, numerous lodging opportunities, and water attractions for the swimmer, birdwatcher, surfer, kayak enthusiast, and the like. You may be lucky enough to see playful sea otters nurturing their young while you stroll along the shoreline. One can easily spend a week or two at Morro Bay and enjoy numerous opportunities to explore, relax, recreate, and dine to one's content. Morro Bay is also at the southern end of the Big Sur section of California's famous Highway 1, the coastal route with one breathtaking vista after another between Morro Bay and Monterey to the north.

As attractive as the views may be, among the unseen assets of Morro Bay is a very active amateur radio club that represents some of the best our hobby attracts.

### Welcome!

If the Estero Radio Club <[www.sloradio.net](http://www.sloradio.net)> seems like a beehive of activity, well, it is. Unlike most clubs, these folks are not content to meet just once a month or so. Instead, the membership engages in several functions each month, including a weekly breakfast, dinner, presentations, a VE session, nets, and more. Their website is kept up to date and includes up-to-the-minute HF and VHF propagation conditions.

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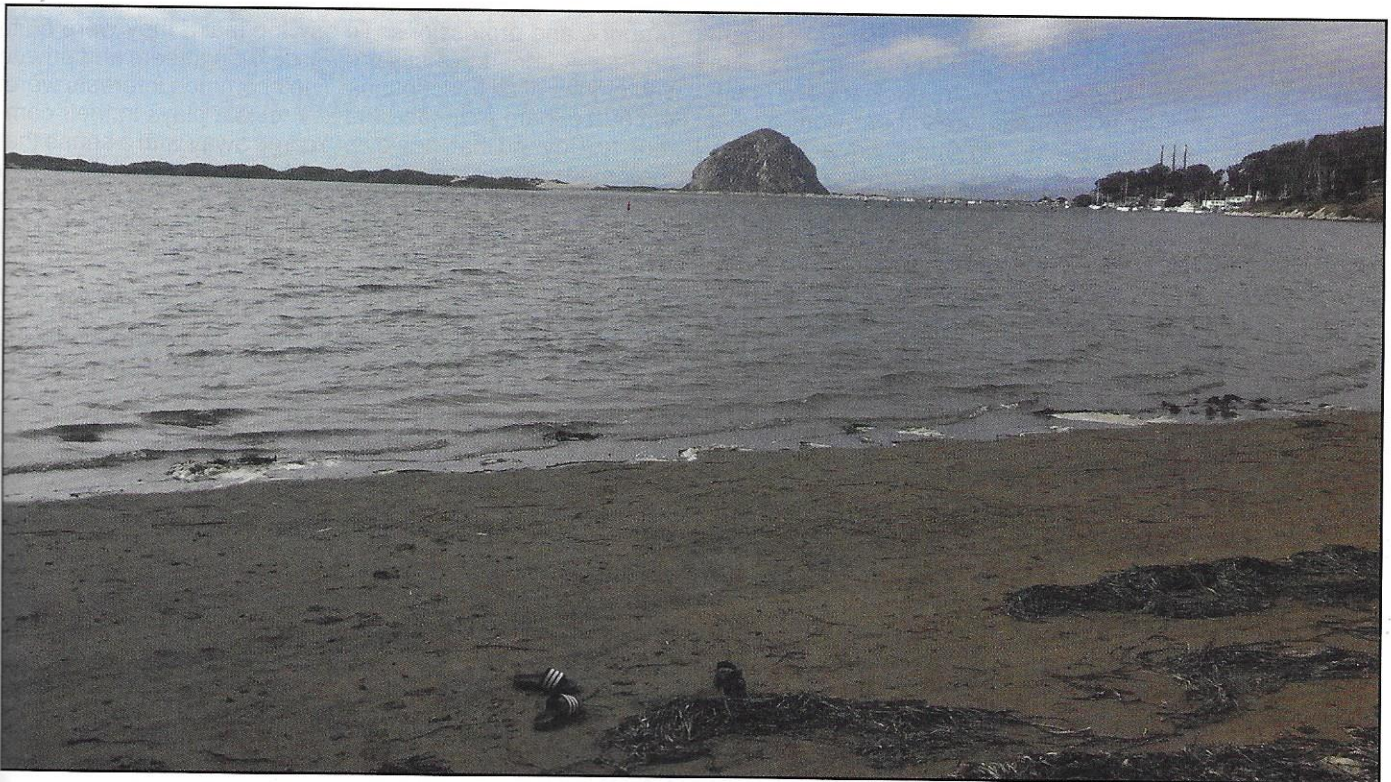


Photo A. Morro Rock is visible for miles. While it might look to be an inviting site for a repeater, climbing the rock is not permitted. (AA6JR photos)