

## Into the eye of a hurricane

### NOAA/ESRL

by Surfdaddy Orca

METEROA — The engines roar and the propellers start to spin. The P3 Orion, a land-based, long range anti-submarine warfare (ASW) patrol aircraft, says “United States Dept of Commerce” on the side. You are sitting inside the plane as it starts to take off and fly toward a spinning hurricane. A cultured female British voice comes over your Heads Up Display (HUD).

“You are now entering the eye of the hurricane. It is usually calm here. We’ll now turn and enter the leading edge of the hurricane.”

**Meteroa is an educational sim hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL)**

So begins an innovative Second Life climate and weather simulation. Welcome to Meteroa, the educational sim by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL).

Meteroa, derived from the Greek adjective meteoras, means “suspended in the air.” The hurricane is only part of the fun. There is a sea life submarine ride, a tsunami, a demonstration of a real-time temperature map with narration by Exploratorium Chief Scientist Paul Doherty, and a melting glacier.

The recent Katrina hurricane, the massive tsunami near Indo-

**See Hurricane, A4**

## Surfers attacked by zombies

SIMWIRE NEWS SERVICE

BORA BORA - Two surfers were attacked by zombies shortly after coming out of the water at Bora Bora. The victims were identified as Sun reporter Surfdaddy Orca and his friend SpUnKy Young. The two were initially approached by a blood-covered avatar who claimed to have been attacked by “Jaws.”

Surfdaddy explains: “I noticed that she belonged to a scripter’s group, and asked what she considered her best piece of LSL. She walked out into the water and rezzed a small, funny-looking platform.”

**See Zombies, A4**



Surfdaddy Orca fends off hoards of moaning zombies emerging from the water at Bora Bora.

## House of Flames

### New venue opens to capacity crowd

by Pollywog Gardenvale

SWINSIDE — The opening night of the House of Flames proved to be a showcase of real-world talent—both on and off the stage.

This “First Flame” opening night concert featured live performances by independent musicians JueL Resistance, Luigi DiPrima, Ricardo Sprocket, Cylindrian Rutabaga, and Foxyflwr Cure.

Aussie DJ Cybster Curtis served as emcee for this cross-genre musical road trip that began with the casual coffeehouse banter of JueL Resistance with her distinctive, alternative singer-songwriter sound.

Luigi DiPrima’s performance crossed over into the more complex terrain of acoustic fingerpicking blues. He said, “I’m gonna let my guitar do some singing here...” He was moving and sweet, yet somewhat shy, which made him all the

**See Flames, A2**



Musicians perform under the stars on the rooftop stage at the House of Flames.

## The Seventh Sun

Blakeley Rise, Village of Camdra  
(231,21,21)

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### ►Flames

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more likable. I just wanted to take him home to Mama—but then I realized, “Wait! I \*am\* Mama!”

Then came Ricardo Sprocket, pounding out a mix of original compositions and cover tunes on his ripping, rocking, honky-tonk piano. Clearly an accomplished musician, at times he sounded like a reincarnation of Jerry Lee Lewis fused with Elton John.

By this time, teleporters were being turned away because the sim was full.

Cylindrian Rutabaga took the stage with an easy-going style that was reminiscent of the great female folk/rock singers from the sixties.

The technical significance of the event was underscored when Ricardo and JueL joined forces in a duet. The combination of their voices and musical styles was surprisingly natural and appealing. But the real mind blower was to realize that they were actually playing in different parts of the country.

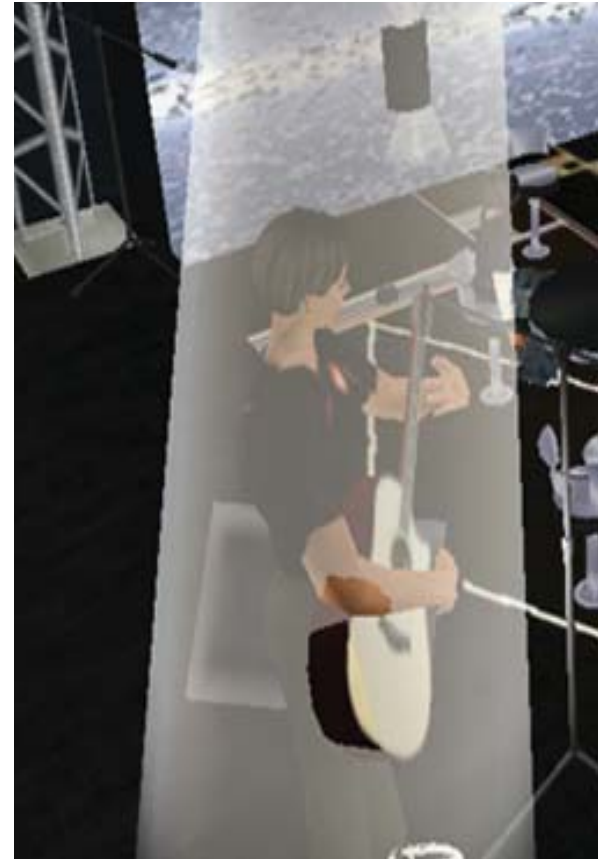
Foxyflwr Cure rocked with her flaming guitar, and absolutely dominated every inch of the stage. The dazzling lightshow and multimedia backdrop were created for the House of Flames by Konny Kembla, a musician and designer from Sweden. (Look for Konny at the next House of Flames show on February 10th.)

But music is only part of the story. The real star of the show was the streamed audio provided by Auron Haverkamp and Schuyler Kent of the KHE Entertainment Network. Using their proprietary technology and Cybster DJ's stream mixing know-how, each musician's audio was delivered to the House of Flames in a steady and continuous stream of high-quality sound. The event was also simulcast from the House of Flames website for those unable to attend the concert in-world. What this means, is that the sound barrier has been broken.

The opening night at the House of Flames was an example of online collab-



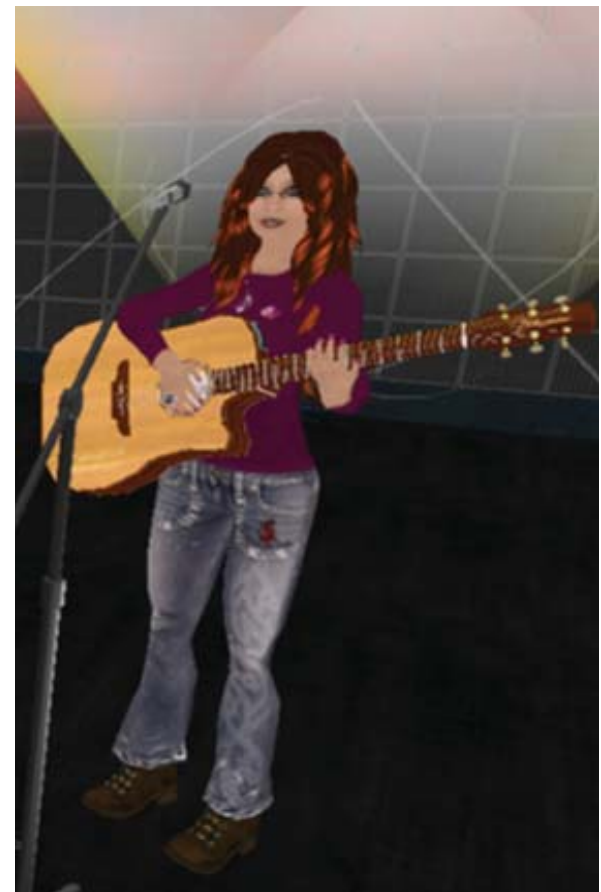
JueL Resistance



Luigi DiPrima



Ricardo Sprocket



Cylindrian Rutabaga



Cybster DJ steps aside while Foxyflwr Cure lights up the stage at the opening night of the House of Flames.

## Product Review

# ASM1000

## Audio Stream Manager not just another Second Life radio

by Surfdaddy Orca



### Kent-Havercamp Enterprises, Ltd.

Muslin (239,111,98)

[www.myspace.com/kenthavercamp](http://www.myspace.com/kenthavercamp)

Most Second Life radios and jukeboxes play pre-set audio streams. Some even provide access to MP3 files you may have hosted on Second Life, your home network, or a third-party hosting service.

Kent-Havercamp Enterprises, Ltd. (KHE's) new offering, the ASM1000, is much more than just another Second Life radio. It packs a lot of features into an attractively styled box for home or club. Want to share audio with your group? No problem. The ASM1000 comes with a plugin for group land. Want to add that favorite techno or trance stream from SHOUTcast? The ASM1000's menu system makes it a snap to add personal streams and create your own presets without messy notecards or precious memory to store parameters.

Add your favorite music URLs or select from a large number of pre-set streams and "CDs" (MP3 files). Search for a stream by genres as diverse as hip-hop, trance, jazz, country, and classical.

KHE automatically updates links to your favorite audio streams. User settings and access lists are stored in a central database. As new streams and CDs are added to the database the ASM1000 updates automatically.

All this at an incredible price point.

Want to stream your own indie music? This is not so easy to do without paying for third-party hosting or investing in a small home network with a streaming server. MP3 is a well-known sound file format that follows a standard compression technique, officially known as MPEG 2 Layer-3. Video and audio can both be stored in the MP3 format. As reported by Trevor Bowen, virtually no audio in-

formation is lost in converting to the MP3 format if the same sampling frequency or greater is used for encoding compared to that used in the original recording. MP3 files are much smaller than the original file (5.5 Mbytes for 40 minutes of 16,000 Hz mono).

Even with a smaller encoded footprint, the problem is providing the bandwidth to support MP3 streaming at various levels of quality (AM radio, FM radio, CD, and so forth - measured in bitrates). KHE provides bandwidth so that you can stream your music into Second Life. It will include links to your website and your music free of charge. As cited on the KHE website, no recordings, copies, or downloads of your music will be made by KHE, its staff, affiliates, or other third parties. All of this is managed by you and hosted by the KHE Entertainment Network. KHE will link to your existing website or service with hosted MP3s.

But what if you're a member of a small indie band and want to test the waters of Second Life without the expense of MP3 hosting? If you have your music uploaded on sites like MySpace.com or GarageBand.com, KHE offers to host up to 3 of your songs on a private server. You can then use the ASM1000 to showcase your new tunes.

Your MP3s will not be available for outside streaming, purchasing, or downloading. The only public access to your music will be via an ASM1000 or the KHE Entertainment Network. The tracks are better than FM Radio quality, but slightly less than CD quality. This is an incredible value for a small band that is just getting started. Free hosting and Second Life exposure.

What truly distinguishes the ASM1000 is the infrastructure and service of the fledgling KHE Entertainment Network. With an initial Second Life product offering like the ASM1000 and a spectacular launch at the recent January 27th House of Flames concert, KHE is off to a rip-roaring start. ☼

## ►Flames

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oration at its best—which should come as no surprise, considering that the originator of the project is none other than Flameheart Sol—a music lover with an architectural background, who also happens to be Director of Learning Technology for a major university.

Flameheart's vision for The House of Flames is to "provide a showcase for the best of music in Second Life." Her initial plans are to produce two shows per month, plus a special quarterly performance. However, she is already planning an outdoor extravaganza for June called BONFIRE 2007, which promises to be even bigger and better—if such a thing is possible. Flameheart thinks BIG.

As you might expect from someone who appreciates architecture and beautiful views, the nightclub is situated on the roof of her home—a vantage point that encourages behavior such as romantic dancing under the setting sun.

But this was no ordinary house concert. A walk-through of Flameheart's home reveals extraordinary attention to traditional Arts & Crafts era detailing, and a sense of proportion that reaches from the inside to embrace the outdoors. Every view has been strategically and thoughtfully placed, and this attention to detail is what makes the House of Flames more than just another concert hall. She has the heart and soul—plus the know-how—to turn the House of Flames into the premier venue in Second Life, and perhaps beyond. ☼

### House of Flames

Swinside (195,220,46)

[www.sl-houseofflames.com](http://www.sl-houseofflames.com)



House of Flames' Flameheart Sol and Schuyler Kent of Kent-Havercamp Enterprises.

[www.pollywogpress.com](http://www.pollywogpress.com)

## ►Hurricane

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nesia, and Al Gore's academy-award nominated film "An Inconvenient Truth" have brought an acute public awareness of global climate and weather. NOAA/ESRL's sponsorship of a Second Life sim, along with Aimee Weber's (and others) LSL scripting, have produced a remarkable 3D educational experience that will keep students coming back for more.

Aimee herself says: "The Second Life entrance of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL) has brought all the fun and excitement you've naturally come to expect of fluid dynamics! In case you haven't been on the any submarine rides lately, NOAA is the governmental agency tasked with researching the oceans, climate, weather, and anything else having to do with gigantic masses of air and water."

And, speaking of submarine rides, the one on Meteroa is a doozy. Killer whales and dolphins swim along the surface as your submarine slowly submerges into an underwater wonderland of rays, skates, jelly fish, brightly colored tropicals, corals, and jagged rocks. You are encouraged to "jump off" anytime and explore the depths in more detail.

The melting glacier is much more sobering. As reported by Rik Riel, a large thermometer stands in front of a glacier, showing changes in global tem-

## ►Zombies

CONTINUED FROM A1

What happened next was a scene from Night of the Living Dead meets Beach Blanket Bingo. With moans and groans, zombie after bloody zombie emerged from the platform and walked menacingly out of the surf toward any avatar within 20 meters or so.

Surfdaddy again: "I barely had time to take a quick snapshot when I noticed that she was turning green with molting flesh and hunched over. She said 'I've been bitten!' I replied 'Don't bite me!' and then she did!"

This was no grief, and it was all great fun. Blood splurged out and she started to boogie to some strange graveyard music. Surfdaddy gave SpUnKy a boogie animation and suddenly \*everyone\* was dancing, surfboards and all. She then buried herself and came out of the sand like a corpse in a zombie movie.

"It was an awesome display of art and scripting virtuosity" Surfdaddy concludes, "I was totally blown away with laughter." ☼



A "United States Dept. of Commerce" P3 Orion takes off from the NOAA airstrip.

perature from year to year since 1990. Extrapolating on current trends, you click on markers for the years 2000, 2025, 2050, 2075 and 2100.

As the years go on, three things occur: the temperature rises, the glacier melts, and the water level rises. By 2100 its up to your knees. You have to wonder how many destroyed villages and lives that equals.

You don't have to stand in water up to your knees to appreciate The Real Time Weather simulation. You walk directly onto a large 3D map of the United States with little clouds (some with rain or snow falling) that are gradually drifting across the continent with the prevailing winds. There are numerous scripted weather stations dotting the map that collect real-time METAR data from NOAA at 8-minute intervals.

The stations decode and render into models various types of cloud cover and precipitation models. The models also include special weather conditions such as thunderstorms and tornadoes. Temperature is represented by warmer and cooler shades of color.

Perhaps the most convincing (and once again sobering) simulations is the tsunami. You hear a voice on your HUD (Aimee Weber again, it

turns out) describe the precise interaction of tectonic and oceanic forces that lead up to a tsunami. Suddenly the water starts to churn. Then, just as suddenly, the water recedes, deceptively leading you to think it's merely lowtide. Think again. A wall of water 6 stories high is about to crash down on you.

Rik Riel again reports: "There's no where to run, and nothing that can stop it. The water washes over you, destroying everything in its path. All that is left is rubble as the water slowly recedes."

And so the adventure ends, just as if you were able to jump in and then out of the Discovery Channel. You started out flying into a hurricane. You took a submarine ride, watched a glacier melt, visited a real-time weather map of the United States, and ended up wishing you had a jet-powered surfboard to escape a tsunami. An inconvenient truth indeed. Well, note to self: next time remember to bring a wetsuit and a life raft! ☼

### NOAA Virtual Island

Meteroa (176,160,26)



The Real Time Weather Simulation Map illustrates actual weather conditions across the continental United States, and is updated every 8 minutes.