



CLUB STATION
K6SON

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

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<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 44, Number 2

February 2019

WINTER FIELD DAY 2019 A SUCCESS

A few months ago, we weren't sure we were going to be able to secure a location for Winter Field Day (WFD) in 2019. But thankfully, Joe, K6AWA, offered his QTH on Mt. Jackson as a site. The price was right (free). The big challenge would be getting gear and people to and from the remote location, especially if the weather was not cooperative.

Fortunately, the weather did cooperate by providing us one of the nicest weekends in late January that we could have ever expected.

Propagation, on the hand, was not so cooperative. We started setup on Friday, January 25 at 11am. We got the Zero-Five vertical (40m through 10m) and the trap dipole (80m through 10m) up by shortly after noon. After a leisurely lunch, we attacked getting the Off-Center Fed (OCF) dipole erected as a sloper. This required getting a line into a 100' tall fir tree.

Joe, K6AWA, was willing to climb the tree to get the line into it, but Nick, N1CKA, offered to try using his pneumatic antenna launcher. It took a few tries, but he was successful.



John, WB6FRZ and Leland, W6GEE, operate CW station as Simone looks on

We also set up an antenna to work 2m and 70cm. Once all the coax was run to the house, we set up the stations. The CW and Digital stations were in a spare bedroom and the Phone and VHF/UHF station were in the great room. Most of us left well before dark. Only Joe and John, WB6FRZ, were going to stay the night.

Saturday, January 26, most of us were back on-site by 9:30am and got everything ready to go for the 11am start of the contest.

We would be operating in the 4I (4 Indoor) category. Our exchange would be 4I SF (indicating the San Francisco ARRL section).

We got off to a bit of a slow start, but then things started picking up. We noticed a few stations were not giving us the proper exchange (they were giving exchanges appropriate for Field Day, but not for Winter Field Day). Didn't they read the rules? Were they thinking that what worked for Field Day (in the summer) would work for WFD? Whatever the reason, this could result in a few busted exchanges, for which we might be penalized (their fault, not ours).

There were also interstation interference issues to deal with. Some of these were mitigated by the changing bands and moving the location of the filters on the CW station. The headphone amplifier on the phone station was picking up RF, probably via the power cord, causing horrible distortion when transmitting. As a result, the headphone amp was used only when absolutely necessary (which thankfully was not often). We also had an issue with the auto tuner on the phone station re-tuning when the CW station was transmitting. Changing the auto / semi-auto setting to semi-auto cured that problem.

[Continued on page 12...](#)



Winter Field Day, Casita Style

By Fred AE6SF

While returning from Quartzfest in AZ with a Casita travel trailer in tow, I detoured to a campground northeast of Mojave, CA to participate in Winter Field Day 2019 for my first time. This event seasonally mirrors Field Day to allow hams to deploy during a potentially harsh winter month.



Figure 1. Station

Station equipment consisted of an ICOM IC-7300 transceiver, an MFJ-949E antenna tuner with internal 4:1 balun, a vintage Dell laptop (for logging), and a straight key. (See Figure 1.) All equipment was powered from AGM batteries totaling 170AH with a nominal 50W solar array providing partial recharge. I used the N3FJP Winter Field Day Contest Log 2.4 software to log contacts.

The antenna was a modified NorCal Doublet. A standard NorCal Doublet is fabricated from 50 feet of 4-conductor ribbon cable, with the two outer conductors of the first 22 feet split off (and center conductors removed) to form the arms of a non-resonant dipole, and the remaining 28 feet forming the feedline. I lengthened mine to 44 feet on each arm (using the previously-removed center conductors) to enable operation on 20M - 80M. An antenna tuner is required. The antenna was supported using three Wonderpole 20-foot telescoping crappie fishing rods, each strapped to a 5-foot white wooden stake driven into the ground. (See Figures 2 and 3).

Continued on page 15...

Digital Mobile Radio and SCRA

SCRA DMR TALK GROUP

We are starting a DMR talk group for the club! The goal here is to give ourselves a gathering place for our use in a manner that all DMR enthusiasts can enjoy, even if they're not tuned to the SCRA DMR Repeater (thanks again for your hard work, Curt WA6TIP!) So, if you are interested in joining us, add talk group 31707 to your code plug for any BrandMeister-connected repeater or hotspot, and we hope to see you on DMR!

SCRA DMR NET

Not only are we starting a talk group for the club, we're going to start a net for DMR users in Sonoma County as well! We plan to launch this in February, the day and time is looking like Mondays at 6PM Pacific Time, and the talk group is looking like the SCRA talkgroup (31707) but we haven't made the final determination! If you have an opinion, please let Randy AA6RH know at aa6rh@socorad.io

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Bike Monkey-Sponsored Events

by John AG6PN

JOIN ARRL, THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

The ARRL is the national organization of Amateur Radio. It represents Amateur Radio at International Conferences and before the FCC. Get the monthly QST magazine, insurance for your equipment and too many other benefits to mention here. Click <http://www.arrl.org/membership/>



If you are not getting the ARRL San Francisco Section news by e-mail and you are an ARRL member, be sure to subscribe under your Members Only information or go to this Web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/san-francisco>

2019 Club Officers

President	John Felton	KE5RI
Vice President	Fred Seitel	AE6SF
Secretary	Bill Dornbush	KM6BYD
Treasurer	Iola Beckley	KK6HRE
Director	Fred Seitel	AE6SF
	Matias Santani	KM6GWK
Past President	Iola Beckley	KK6HRE

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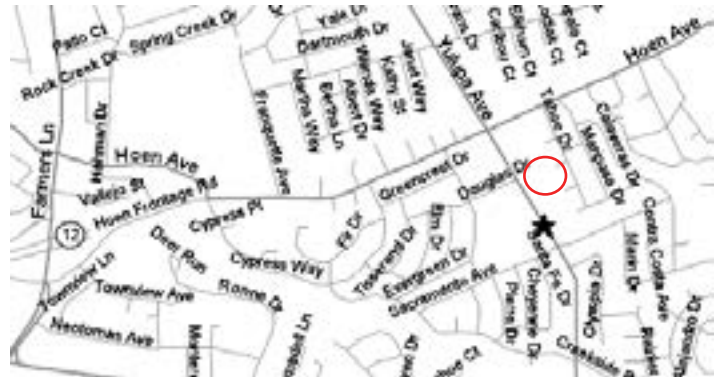
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SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month, socially at 6:30 pm, program starting at 7:00 pm. Exceptions are holidays or other big events.

Meeting location:
Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center
2050 Yulupa Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA



All are welcome!

Please join us at our next meeting. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible for membership. A membership application is included in this newsletter. For more information, contact any SCRA officer, director or member. Hungry before the meeting? Join us for dinner! We Meet at IHOP restaurant, 4th and Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. People start showing up at 5:15 PM. No RSVP is required.

Board of Directors Meeting

The SCRA Board of Directors will meet monthly on the Second Wednesday at the IHOP Restaurant, Fourth Street, Santa Rosa (in the Safeway/CVS Pharmacy center). All members are welcome to attend, no reservations necessary. Arrive around 5:15- 5:30pm for dinner. Meeting starts at 6:00pm.

LOANER RADIOS AVAILABLE

The Club has a variety of radios available to members to try out and improve their skills. We have a Kenwood T590 SG HF radio; Yeasu FT 2900 2 meter mobile; Yeasu FT1D, an analog/digital 2 meter and 440mhz HT; Yeasu FT 60, a 2 meter and 440 mhz HT; and a TYT TH-F5 VHF 2 meter HT. Trying these out is an excellent way to learn some radio and test before you buy. Contact Joe, K6AWA, at k6awa@yahoo.com with your request. Joe will forward an information form to you by return email.

UPGRADE TO GENERAL OR AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS

Get more privileges and enjoyment from your Ham Radio Hobby. [Mentoring assistance](#) is available. Contact Cornell Chesnik, W6HMN, SCRA Education Chair, at w6hmn@sonic.net.

Tuesday Night Net

The Sonoma County Radio Amateurs' net meets Tuesday at 7:00 PM on the SCRA repeater, 147.315, positive offset, PL 88.5.

All members and guests are invited to check in. The Net includes updates on SCRA activities, and News-line, the amateur radio community news service.

Anyone wishing to work as net control should contact lola kk6hre, at K6SON@ARRL.NET for assignment. Script and logs are available on the Website at <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/resources/net-script/>



The Weekly 160 Meter Net

Announcing the new 160 meter net which runs from 8:45pm to 9:30pm Tuesday nights, immediately following the 10 meter net hosted by Joe K6AWA. Tune your radio frequency to 1.900 Mhz. LSB. 160 meters requires a General or above license to transmit.

Your New Tuesday Night Net Line-up

7:00pm Membership Net on the SCRA repeater, 147.315, positive offset, PL 88.5

10 Meter Net - starts at 8:00pm (new time) following the regular SCRA net Tuesday nights and ends at 8:45pm. Set your dial to 28,403.00 SSB, USB. Please note that all license classes (including technician) are welcome.

160 Meter Net - runs from 8:45pm to 9:30pm. Tune your radio frequency to 1.900 Mhz. LSB. 160 meters requires a General or above license to transmit.



Weekly SBARA Youth Net New Day and Time!

- For young people 18 and under
- Licensed youth or youth with a licensed control operator are welcome to check-in
- Check-in via EchoLink, if you are outside of the area
- Adults can check-in towards the end of the Net to answer questions and mentor the youth.

Please join our new, 13-year-old net control operator, Truman Lindsey, KM6AQS, and help us grow this important Net for young hams!

- SBARA Youth Net
- Every Tuesday evening, 6:30pm (1830), PACIFIC
- N6NFI repeater, Palo Alto, CA (145.230 MHz, -600 kHz, PL 100 Hz.)
- EchoLink Station: KR6DD-R

Steve Wilson KG6HJU
South Bay Amateur Radio Association
Fremont, CA
kg6hju@arrl.net

2019 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Check the [Club website](#) for details

Community outreach:

2/2-2/13 School Roundup
 4/12 Family camping expo
 5/4 Human Race
 6/9 Monte Rio Vineman Triathlon
 6/15 Kids Day
 6/21-23 Field Day
 8/4 Space Festival
 8/3, 8/10 County Fair
 9/28-29 PCAM
 10/26 Science Festival

Public Service:

3/9 Fish Rock Road Adventure
 4/6 SoNoMas bike
 4/13 Lake Sonoma 50
 4/28 2019 Wine Country Tour de Cure
 5/4 Wine Country Century
 6/9 Monte Rio Vineman Triathlon
 6/15 Terrible Two
 8/24 Tour de Fox
 9/21-22 Waves to Wine
 10/5 Gran Fondo
 11/2 Sagan Fondo
 11/9-10 Santa Rosa bike trione

80th Anniversary

4/? Skunk train
 6/28 Field Day
 8/25 or 8/11 Picnic
 10/? Hamfest or swapmeet
 12/4 Holiday dinner

OTHER:

8/15-18 Mini DX
 10/19 JOTA
 10/18-20 Pacificon
 4/27 VOARC hamfest

VE Sessions

2/23
 5/11
 7/20
 9/14
 11/16

CONTEST CORNER

Hello SCRA and welcome to Contest Corner, February 2019 edition. We'll get into some of this month's contests a little later but for now maybe a brief primer on why we contest might be helpful.

The ARRL states "The goal of Amateur Radio contesting is to contact as many stations as possible during the contest period."

That statement sets the bar for those engaging in this competitive endeavor and encourages continual development of one's station and operating skills. The latter mention may be the one that separates winners from the rest. Just like any other sport, your skill set and spirit will be the driving factors to success. Fortunately ham radio allows us all to continually develop as an operator in many different ways with a variety of modes and interests. It's a vast expansive hobby to say the least. Contesting gives us a vehicle to learn and have fun doing it.

The February contests have a little something for everyone. Those interested in digital can have a good time the last weekend of the month with NAQP's RTTY contest. The SSB folks have a variety to choose from with the state QSO parties always active. Last but not least the cw ops will be tuning in to ARRL's International DX Contest to log as many, a few, or just certain dx stations. Of course all three modes can participate in ARRL's School Roundup on the 11th. Other choices not mentioned are also there for you to participate.

Just have fun and learn while operating.

Do not forget to check out <http://www.contestcalendar.com>

Contact nq6e@arrl.net for questions/comments/suggestions regarding Contest Corner.
 72/73, NQ6E

Contest Corral

February 2019

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrl.org/contests.

Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start Date-Time	Finish Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
2 0000	3 2359	1.8-UHF	Vermont QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.ranv.org/vtqso.html
2 0001	3 2359	28	10-10 International Winter Contest, SSB	Ph	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
2 1200	3 1159	1.8-28	Black Sea Cup International	CW Ph	RS(T), club/org abbreviation or ITU zone	bscc.ucoz.ru
2 1200	3 1200	3.5-28, 144	F9AA Cup, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.site.urb.asso.fr
2 1200	3 2359	3.5-28	Mexico RTTY International Contest	Dig	RST, XE state or serial	www.rtty.fmrre.mx
2 1400	2 2359	1.8-28	FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), SPC, name, power, temperature	arizonascqrptions.apps-1and1.com
2 1400	2 2359	1.8-28	Minnesota QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, county or SPC	www.w0aa.org
2 1600	2 1900	3.5	AGCW Straight Key Party	CW	RST, serial, class, name, age	agcw.org/index.php/en
2 1600	3 2359	1.8-28	British Columbia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), BC district or SPC	orcadxcc.org/bcqp_rules.html
2 1700	2 2100	3.5-28	FISTS Winter Slow Speed Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints
3 0000	3 0400	3.5-14	North American Sprint, CW	CW	Other station's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
4 2000	4 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
5 0200	5 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqrp.blogspot.com
6 2000	6 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	4-character grid square	www.ukaiccc.com
7 1800	7 2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	www.nrau.net/activity-contests
7 2000	7 2200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
9 0000	10 2359	3.5-28	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.cqwwpxrtty.com
9 1000	10 1000	1.8-28	SARL Field Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), number of transmitters, category, QTH	www.sarl.org.za
9 1100	9 1300	7,14	Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	CW	RST, serial	jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt
9 1200	10 1200	1.8-28	Dutch PACC Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), Dutch province or serial	pacc.veron.nl
9 1200	10 1200	1.8	KCJ Topband Contest	CW	RST, Prefecture or continent code	www.kcj-cw.com
9 1200	10 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
9 1400	11 0200	1.8-UHF	YLRL YL-OM Contest	CW Ph Dig	Serial, RS(T), SPC	ylrl.org/index.php
9 1500	10 1500	1.8-28	OMISS QSO Party	Ph	RS, SPC, mbr (if any)	omiss.net/Facelift/qso-party.php
9 1700	9 2100	3.5-28	FISTS Winter Unlimited Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	fistsna.org
9 1900	9 2300	1.8	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW	RST, serial, UK district code or serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
10 1300	10 1700	3.5-7	Balkan HF Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	arabih.ba
11 0100	11 0259	3.5-14	CQC Winter QSO Party	CW	RST, SPC	www.coloradoqrpclub.org
11 0100	11 0300	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
11 1300	15 2359	All, no WARC	ARRL School Club Roundup	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), Class (I/C/S), SPC	www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup
13 0130	13 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
13 2000	13 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org
14 0000	14 2359	1.8-7	PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	Dig	Name, OM/YL, SPC	www.podxs070.com
16 0000	17 2359	1.8-28	ARRL International DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, SP or power	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
16 0800	16 1000	7	SARL Youth Day Sprint	Ph	RS, age	www.sarl.org.za
16 1200	17 1159	1.8-28	Russian PSK WW Contest	Dig	RST, 2-letter oblast or serial	rdclub.ru/russian-ww-psk-contest
16 1900	16 2059	1.8-28	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, 4-char grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
16 2300	17 2300	1.8-14	AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	Ph	Name, SPC	www.antiquewireless.org
18 0200	18 0400	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
20 1900	20 2030	3.5	AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	CW	RST, serial, year first used a bug	www.agcw.org
22 2200	24 2200	1.8	CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, SP or CQ Zone	www.cq160.com
23 0600	24 1800	3.5-28	REF Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, Department or serial	concoeurs.r-e-f.org/contest
23 1300	24 1300	3.5-28	UBA DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, province (if ON)	www.uba.be/en
23 1500	24 0159	1.8-50	South Carolina QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	scqso.com/rules
23 1800	24 0559	3.5-28	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	Name, SPC	www.ncjweb.com
24 0900	24 1700	3.5-28	High Speed Club CW Contest	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	www.highspeedclub.org
24 1400	24 1700	3.5-14	SARL Digital Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.sarl.org.za
24 1400	27 0800	1.8-144	Classic Exchange, Phone	Ph	Name, RS, SPC, rig model	www.classicexchange.org
24 1500	25 0059	3.5-144	North Carolina QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	County or SPC	ncqso-party.org/rules
27 0000	27 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
27 2000	27 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	www.ukaiccc.com
28 2000	28 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Contests are not conducted on the 60-, 30-, 17-, or 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. SPC = State, Province, DXCC Entity, XE = Mexican state. Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or NCJ. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column. *Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.contestcalendar.com and is extracted for publication in QST 2 months prior to the month of the contest. ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service.*

SCRA Membership Report

A big Thank You to all our members for their support in 2019! The SCRA membership stands at 214 members. Members who have paid dues for 2019 stands at 174 (81%). A reminder that all memberships that are not renewed by the end of our 2/6/2019 meeting will be moved to Past Members and will no longer receive the weekly SCRA Blog, the Short Skip monthly newsletter, and the triannual Membership Roster emails.



Welcome new and returning members:

- Kathy Funke-Spicher KM6URP Petaluma
- Eugene Bastian (Associate Member) Windsor
- Adam McLaughlin KD6POC Santa Rosa
- Bob Magnini K6QXY Santa Rosa
- Howard Sidorsky K6SID Alameda
- Kenn Clark N4NTJ Santa Rosa



New call signs:
- None reported



License Class Upgrades:

- Thomas Doyle KM6MLY - Amateur Extra
- Mike Grummell KE6IID - General

If you have recently achieved a new license class, obtained a new call sign, or changed your address, email or phone, please email membership@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com with your update. And don't forget to report your address change to the FCC!

SCRA Merchandise Report

Public service sign-up season is on! Get ready with an SCRA Personalized Safety Vest. This ANSI 107 Class 2 safety vest provides better visibility when working near or around vehicle traffic. This is our upgraded vest with two pen and two tool pockets plus a secure zippered closure. Plus, your call sign, first name and SCRA logo will be imprinted on the back.



Priced at \$30, they come in sizes SS-3XL, and run big to accommodate a coat or jacket underneath. Members may order at our monthly meetings or through the SCRA website store. All SCRA merchandise purchases are available for pickup at club meetings. The website store is at <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/store/>.

Silent Key

Charles Christian W6CLC was a member of SCRA for several years. He donated some of his HT radios to SCRA for the use of school programs. I went to see him at hospice care this past December 27th. It is always great to spend time with Charles. Charles became a SK on January 29th.

Darryl
KI6MSP



SCRA 2019 Planning Meeting January 5, 2019

Attendees:

Fred AE6SF, Doug KF6LMB, Joe K6AWA, Matias KM6GWK, Randy AA6RH, Dan KK6VIQ, Iola KK6HRE, Aaron KK6ZDB, Jack K6ROW, Brian N6IYY, Dave KI6UGB, Darryl KI6MSP

Review of 2018

Darryl noted that we have over 200 members. Iola noted the extra training sessions, and said we need to concentrate more on education. Jack said that the WIN2K system is working fine, the 220 repeater has some problems as is the site controller, and the DMR experiment is working. Doug noted that the trailer is 95% full.

Goals and Objectives

Continue doing what we are doing
Official Observer – should we do more with this?
Iola said we need annual education on how to do event support, and follow up training for new hams.
Jack suggested we plan meetings to service the whole club so that some members don't get bored with the information presented.
Aaron suggested we train club members how to use existing equipment and programs such as WIN2K.
Iola recommends a committee to examine emergency response and make recommendation to the board on how to address this locally.
Dave suggested we start a local net to give people an opportunity to talk, like a rag chew net.

Club Property Inventory (with replacement dollar value) is due by the end of the month to the club secretary, Bill.

Aaron will help assign a dollar value, replacement value ideally.

Bill asked where prior inventories were kept. It was suggested that Dave W6IBC, Iola KK6HRE, and John KE5RI had them before.

Include the Asset tag number if available.

We discussed how to deal with smaller items such as cables.

Fred said to use your discretion as to how to inventory smaller items, perhaps with a summary total.

Inventories are due from:

Joe K6AWA for loaner equipment

Jack K6ROW for Repeater systems

Doug KF6LMB for club trailer contents

Iola KK6HRE for office equipment

Dan KK6VIQ for merchandise and membership equipment

Pat KG6JSL for RFI equipment

Brian N6IYY for VE program records, field day hardware
Charlie KZ6T for satellite antennas, banner
Craig K6XLT for banner
Darryl KI6MSP for club flags

Budget

Aaron KK6ZDB reviewed the Proposed budget and actual for 2018. We were not too far off from budget. Bill asked Why does the 2018 net not match account balance? Aaron will research, believes the 2018 net is not accurate but bank balances are.

Committees

Activities, Iola plans anniversary activities: skunk train individuals pay own way, she needs \$200, Field day \$100, Spring lake picnic \$200 catered with contributions, Breakfast, spaghetti feed options not yet determined, Holiday party \$500 gifts, food \$0

Total \$1300 expense, income \$1000 for refreshments

Public Service Iola: \$200

Repeater Jack: \$2880: Power \$750, DMR updating \$480,

Win2K power controller \$100, Controller monitoring

equipment (camera) \$200, Remote Controller \$250,

220 repeater antenna upgrade \$250, Maintenance \$600,

Upgrade computer monitor at English Hill \$150, Router \$100.

Emergency Services: \$200

Volunteer examiners Brian: \$0

Newsletter Dave: \$0

Mentoring: Fred will contact Dave Harrison

Community outreach Darryl: \$500, refreshments \$100, special insurance \$150

Education: Fred will call Cornell, \$200 expense and income

Field Day Brian: \$1100: park rental-500, wifi rental 50,

printing 100, inverter 200, misc 50, associated hardware 200

Membership Dan: \$0

Merchandise Dan: badges \$550 expense, \$500 income;

safety vests \$0 expense, income \$150; apparel expense \$550, income \$300; promotional \$400;

-Totals 1500 expense, \$950 income

Programs Randy: \$0

Radio loaner Joe: zerofive antenna \$375, accessories \$400,

ldg autotuner \$500; Miscellaneous and fittings 225; total \$1500

Refreshments expense \$1300, income \$1300

(see spreadsheet for details and totals, \$6050 Income,

\$13340 expense, net loss \$7290)

Continued on page 9...

...SCRA Planning meeting continued from page 8

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Membership Meeting Minutes January 2, 2019

2019 Calendar

Club meeting dates and programs- first Wednesday of month

Community outreach:

2/2-2/13 School Roundup

4/12 Family camping expo

5/4 Human Race

6/9 Monte Rio Vineman Triathlon

6/15 Kids Day

6/21-23 Field Day

8/4 Space Festival

8/3, 8/10 County Fair

9/28-29 PCAM

10/26 Science Festival

Public Service:

3/9 Fish Rock Road Adventure (Fred Seitel)

4/6 SoNoMas bike

4/13 Lake Sonoma 50

4/28 2019 wine country tour de cure

5/4 wine country century

6/9 Monte Rio Vineman triathlon (Darryl Paule)

6/15 terrible two

8/24 tour de fox

9/21-22 waves to wine (Eric McHenry)

10/5 Gran Fondo

11/2 Sagan Fondo

11/9-10 Santa Rosa bike trione

Iola said that We need 9 comm bosses.

80th Anniversary

4/? Skunk train

6/28 field day

8/25 or 8/11 Picnic

10/? hamfest or swapmeet

12/4 holiday dinner

OTHER:

8/15-18 Mini DX

10/19 JOTA

10/18-20 Pacificon

4/27 VOARC hamfest

VE Sessions

2/23

5/11

7/20

9/14

11/16

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Dornbush KM6BYD

Board members present: John KE5RI, Fred AE6SF, Iola KK6HRE, Randy AA6RH, Bill KM6BYD

Absent: Matias KM6GWK

Call to order: 7:01 pm

The president determined that a quorum is present.

New members: Kathy KM6URP

Guests: Marcus KH6GHW, Gene

NET CONTROL: The following members are the net control stations for January.

Jan 8: Joe K6AWA

Jan 15: Fred AE6SF

Jan 22: Bill AB7LG

Jan 29: Erin KM6SJT

Announcements etc: Fred AE6SF talked with someone from Israel visiting in Sebastopol

John KE5RI noted that we will discuss a new business item on a vertical antenna later.

Program: Randy AA6RH

Randy's presentation and a lot more information about DMR is on the club website:

<http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/irlp/dmr-info/>

DMR is easy! Is the title of the program.

Randy presented DMR and included a demonstration, and noted that the club now has two DMR radios to loan.

BREAK

Brian Torr showed a demonstration of a test rig for specialized lamps that safely controls power to the lamps.

Approval of minutes: Darryl KI6MSP had a correction to the Board of Directors minutes for Dec 12, 2018, the donation of food should be 143 pounds, he moved to accept with that correction, and Cornell W6HMN seconded. The motion was approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer report: Iola KK6HRE, had no report because Aaron KK6ZDB was stuck out of town. Iola will give a complete audit next month, and then a profit and loss statement for the succeeding months. There will be an independent audit of the books.

Activities: Jeff KI6PBF had no report.

Community outreach: Darryl KI6MSP said we delivered 143 pounds of food from the December banquet to the Redwood Food Bank.

Continued on page 10...



...Membership meeting minutes continued from page 9

Education: Cornell W6HMN said we will have classes, with the first some time in March, which is not yet final. For future classes, a week after class, there will be another class to help newcomers with their radios.

Winter Field Day: Brian Torr N6IYY said it is in 3.5 weeks, January 26-27, 2019. Winter Field Day will be inside, at Joe K6AWA's QTH on Mt. Jackson. Traffic must be controlled and Brian will define the caravans and meeting points. Right now, there are 10 people interested and they are looking for more and expecting your active participation in taking on-air shifts or setups. Antennas will be in close proximity and he is looking for a vertical antenna for better isolation. They have phone and digital captains and are looking for a CW captain. Brian passed around a signup sheet. Setup is Friday, January 25, and he wants people there by 11 am so setup is done before dark. Operating begins at 11 am Saturday to 11 am Sunday, with teardown starting at 11 am Sunday. Participants need to bring food, but there will be limited vegetarian food available, with no cooking of meat. Cold meat like sandwiches, is OK.

Merchandise: Dan KK6VIQ is working on a shirt order were they are made to order.

Membership: Dan KK6VIQ said we are over 150 members who have renewed for 2019.

Repeater: Jack K6ROW will remain as chair of the repeater committee.

DX Team: Doug KF6LMB said the dates are August 17-18.
VE testing: Brian N6IYY will be proposing scheduling this Saturday at the planning meeting.

Public Service: Iola KK6HRE needs a public service coordinator. Call her for more details.

Refreshment committee: John noted that we need a chair for 2019. He thanked the Breckenridge family and Iola for tonight's refreshments, including the 80th anniversary cake. Iola KK6HRE presented the ham of the month award to Dave Kraybill KI6UGB for his work as webmaster, short skip editor, and JOTA chair.

Radio loaner program: Joe K6AWA would like to announce at the beginning of the meeting to reach the new people. John KE5RI agreed. We acquired two Anytone 868UV radios which are available programmed with code plugs for local DMR. Randy AA6RH said they will work on their existing DMR ID and he will work for getting a club ID.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe K6AWA proposed that we purchase a zerofive GP1040 vertical ground plane antenna with 6 elevated radials so it will tune 40-10M as well as 6M with 100 feet of LMR coax that the club owns. It can be mounted as low as 10 feet or as high as 20 feet. Joe has used one for 10 years and it is very effective. You must use an antenna tuner except on 20M. It has very high ratings on eham. Joe said we would like it for winter field day and beyond. The antenna costs about \$300 with \$75 shipping. Zerofive agreed in writing thanks to Fred AE6SF to extend Christmas pricing through January 10. Brian will provide a mast, and Joe will provide an adapter. We need to develop a portable base. Joe ordered one to get it sooner, and is happy to sell it to the club or he will keep it for his use. Iola KK6HRE moved that we purchase it and allow for \$400. Doug K6LMB seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Charlie KZ6T asked if the antenna can be loaned out. Dave IBC suggested that the board should consider and propose. There is a planning meeting this Saturday at 10 am at the Rincon Valley Mobile Estates club house. All are welcome. The meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Dornbush KM6BYD



Ham of the Month
Dave Kraybill KI6UGB

SCRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES January 9, 2019

Call to order by John Felton KE5RI at 6:03 pm. A quorum was present.

Board members present: John Felton KE5RI, Fred Seitel AE6SF, Bill Dornbush KM6BYD, Iola Beckley KK6HRE, Randy Hall AA6RH, Matias Santani KM6GWK

Absent: none

Others: Doug Payne KF6LMB, Darryl Paule KI6MSP, Cornell Chesnik W6HMN, Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF, Dan Drummond KK6VIQ, Joe Fortuna K6AWA, Charlie Sikes KZ6T, Brian Torr N6IY

Approval of previous meeting minutes: It was moved by Randy to approve, and seconded by Iola, with a correction of Fred's call sign from ke5ri to AE6SF.

OFFICER AND DIRECTOR REPORTS

Treasurer report: Iola has only some records and the checkbook, and will provide a complete report next meeting.

Bill moved that bank signatures be changed to the current officers, Fred seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities – Iola, no new report since Saturday, she will start working on the details.

Community Outreach – Darryl, no report beyond Saturday meeting.

As several reports referred to the Saturday Planning meeting, the minutes from that meeting will be attached to these minutes.

Membership – Dan, we had 212 members at the end of last year. At this time, 49 are past due renewing, 163 have paid, and he will notify members they must renew by the February meeting, and will ask those who don't renew why they are not renewing.

Merchandise – Dan is working with vendors on a shirt order, and needs to update the website on safety vests.

Education – Cornell, classes will be held 3/22-24, 7/12-14, 10/11-13; there will also be a follow on class, and he must discuss with the instructors as to timing. He needs an insurance rider for the fire house.

Public Service – Iola, Eric McHenry volunteered to be comm boss for Lake Sonoma 50, Darryl for Monte Rio Vineman and human race water stop, and may

volunteer also for SoNoMas. Iola noted that without comm bosses we won't be able to do some events. Field Day – Brian, Winter Field Day plans are getting set, he expects 13-14 people; Summer Field Day will put out dates soon for planning meetings. He is looking at locations, and will contact Santa Rosa about Youth Park, where stations were more crowded together than desirable, and would like to find a more secure location for our equipment. Joe asked for an insurance rider for this Saturday.

Programs – Randy passed out list of program ideas for 2019. Next is February when John Prouty will present Bike Monkey events. He is planning a "What is a Comm Boss" program for March. Joe proposed a demo HF station for later in the spring, and suggested this could tie to DX during solar minimum. Randy asked for suggestions from members of what topics they would like.

Website – Dave was absent

Refreshments – unresolved with no chair. Iola suggested we could we look for 3 meeting commitment. She also suggested we could go to simpler snacks. Iola has the totes, and needs help with actual setup and getting refreshments. Cornell volunteered to help Iola.

Repeater – We need to have the board approve the members of committee. Fred moved to approve the members as submitted by Jack at the planning meeting, Iola seconded the motion. Those members are Jack Christensen K6ROW, chair; Bill Dornbush KM6BYD; John Felton KE5RI; Joe Fortuna K6AWA; Randy Hall AA6RH; Curt Helstrom WA6TIP; Eric McHenry AA6EM; Dave McQuate WA6YWQ; Andrew Raike KE6HID; Brian Rayl N7MOE; Fred Seitel AE6SF; Charlie Sikes KZ6T.

John suggested committee might be smaller in the future. Jack should resolve how many members are appropriate as he was not at the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Loanout program – Joe has no report

Unfinished Business – committee chairs were settled earlier.

Budget – Fred reviewed the process so far, said that the deficit was not workable. He suggested we should rework both income and expense.

Discussion about if we should budget a deficit as we have in the past.

Fred moved that we approve the proposed budget from planning meeting with changes of donations \$1800, dues 2019 \$1000, dues 2020 \$2700,

Continued on page 12...

...BoD Minutes continued from page 11

Advertising \$210, for a total of \$8560 and take to the February members meeting. Randy seconded the motion. Motion passed. The budget is attached to these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Donation: Darryl said that Charles W6CLC donated 4 handheld radios, and Darryl wants to retain for his school programs. We agreed that Joe should retain them in the loaners inventory, and issue them to Darryl.

Email internet voting policy – John recommended that we not do this.

Fred passed out an extract of Bylaws that indicate the board must perform business at stated meetings.

We discussed a Complementary one year membership for Adam McLoughlan (KD6POE) tower climber, and Bob McNanni K6QXY, the owner of repeater site. Bill moved that we offer the complementary one year membership, and Randy seconded. The motion passed. John will send a letter of appreciation based on Jack's draft.

John: Clarify authority to speak for the club – only commitments can be made as authorized by board of directors.

APRS work by Adam. He has worked on the hardware aspect, and we need Jack to coordinate his working with Adam. Adam needs an Internet guy to work with him. Charlie will work with Jack to take care of this.

Charlie asked that board reconsider purchase of voice module for TS590 to repeat prerecorded messages for \$90. Fred moved up to \$90, second by lola, to be included in the loaner program budget, and the motion was approved.

Meeting ended at 7:48 pm

... Winter Field Day Success continued from page 1

The highlight of the day was Nick, N1CKA, making a satellite contact using a hand-held radio and antenna. He had just finished building the antenna and had not had a chance to tune it. He also didn't have a diplexer, so he just used a BNC Tee. The contact was made with Christie, KB6LTY in grid square DM14 (southern California) via AO-91. With that one contact, we got 1500 bonus points! Way to go Nick!



Nick, N1CKA, Warren, KM6YEX, Erin, KM6SJT and Simone make the Satellite contact

The bands started to die down to the point where we could only sustain the CW station after 11pm. Again, most of the crew left for the evening, leaving only Joe, K6AWA and John, WB6FRZ, who continued to operate the CW station.



John, WB6FRZ and Erin, KM6SJT operate CW station
Continued on page 13...



... Winter Field Day Success continued from page 12

Sunday morning we were back at it by 9am to operate the last two hours of WFD.



Nick, NICKA and Simone take a breather

At 11am, we took a brief rest and then started packing it all up. The antennas went down a lot faster than they went up (typical). We were driving down the mountain by about 1:30pm.

After all the logs were combined, we ended up with the following:

- 133 CW contacts
- 178 Phone contacts (SSB and VHF FM)
- 44 Digital contacts
- Band/Mode multiplier of 9
- Power Multiplier of 2
- 4500 bonus points:
 - o 1500 for operating away from home
 - o 1500 for using non-commercial power
 - o 1500 for satellite QSO

All this totaled up to a claimed score of 14,076.

Comparing this score to the 2018 WFD results, we would have ranked #6 out of 94 stations in the Indoor category. That was much better than expected!

So far, everyone I've talked to would like to do it again in 2020.

Those participating in WFD 2019 were: Joe Fortuna, K6AWA, John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ, Charlie Sikes, KZ6T, Nick Allen, N1CKA, Erin Casteel, KM6SJT, Aaron Marroquin, KK6ZDB, Simone Marroquin (no call yet), Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, John Shappel, KM6XO, Cornell Chesnik, W6HMN, Jim Pantajja, KM6GUO, Warren Pierce, KM6YEX, Doug Payne,

KF6LMB, Leland Gee, W6GEE, and Brian Torr, N6IIY Thanks to those participating, and especially their flexibility with last-minute transportation changes, Winter Field Day 2019 was a rousing success.

73,
Brian Torr, N6IIY
Winter Field Day Chairman



Charlie, KZ6T and Bill, KH6GJV operate Digital station



Cornell, W6HMN operates VHF/UHF FM station

Continued on page 14...



...Winter Field Day Success continued from page 13



Doug, KF6LMB operates VHF/UHF FM station



Erin, KM6SJT and Jim, KM6GUO at CW station



Warren, KM6YEX operates VHF/UHF FM station



Charlie, KZ6T and Brian, N6IIY at SSB station



Aaron, KK6ZDB and Brian, N6IIY operate the SSB station



...WFD Casita Style continued from page 2

Installation was completed within an hour. The fishing pole method worked well in an area with no natural support structures.



Figure 2. 20-foot Wonderpole

I worked 3 bands (20M, 40M, 80M), 2 modes (CW and SSB) at "low" power (80W), in the single transmitter class, indoor category, and took 3000 bonus points for being remote and using non-commercial (solar) power, for a respectable claimed score of 3408 points. A deduction of 1 point will be assessed for each QSO that is "broken". Final results are pending.

The antenna was oriented North-South. I heard no stations from OR or WA, and very few from CA. The sections-worked map interestingly shows most contacts to the broadside of the doublet antenna. (See Figure 4.) The one Canadian operator worked very hard to decipher my weak signal.

It was a thrill to make contact back home via CW with John WB6FRZ operating under callsign K6SON at the QTH of Joe K6AWA.

The scenery at the campsite was spectacular. (See Figure 5.) The fiberglass travel trailer, being RF transparent and heated, made a great remote ham shack. Due to no cellphone service, I communicated with my non-ham XYL via radio email using the ARDOP mode of WinLink on HF bands.

On a separate note, I used the antenna oriented differently while at Quartzfest (near Quartzsite, AZ) to check into the 10M net back home run by Joe K6AWA. My signal was very weak, but it surprisingly made the 580-mile trek on 10M.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first Winter Field Day operating experience. Give it a try if you can.



Figure 3. Modified NorCal Doublet antenna

Continued on page 16...

...WFD Casita Style continued from page 15

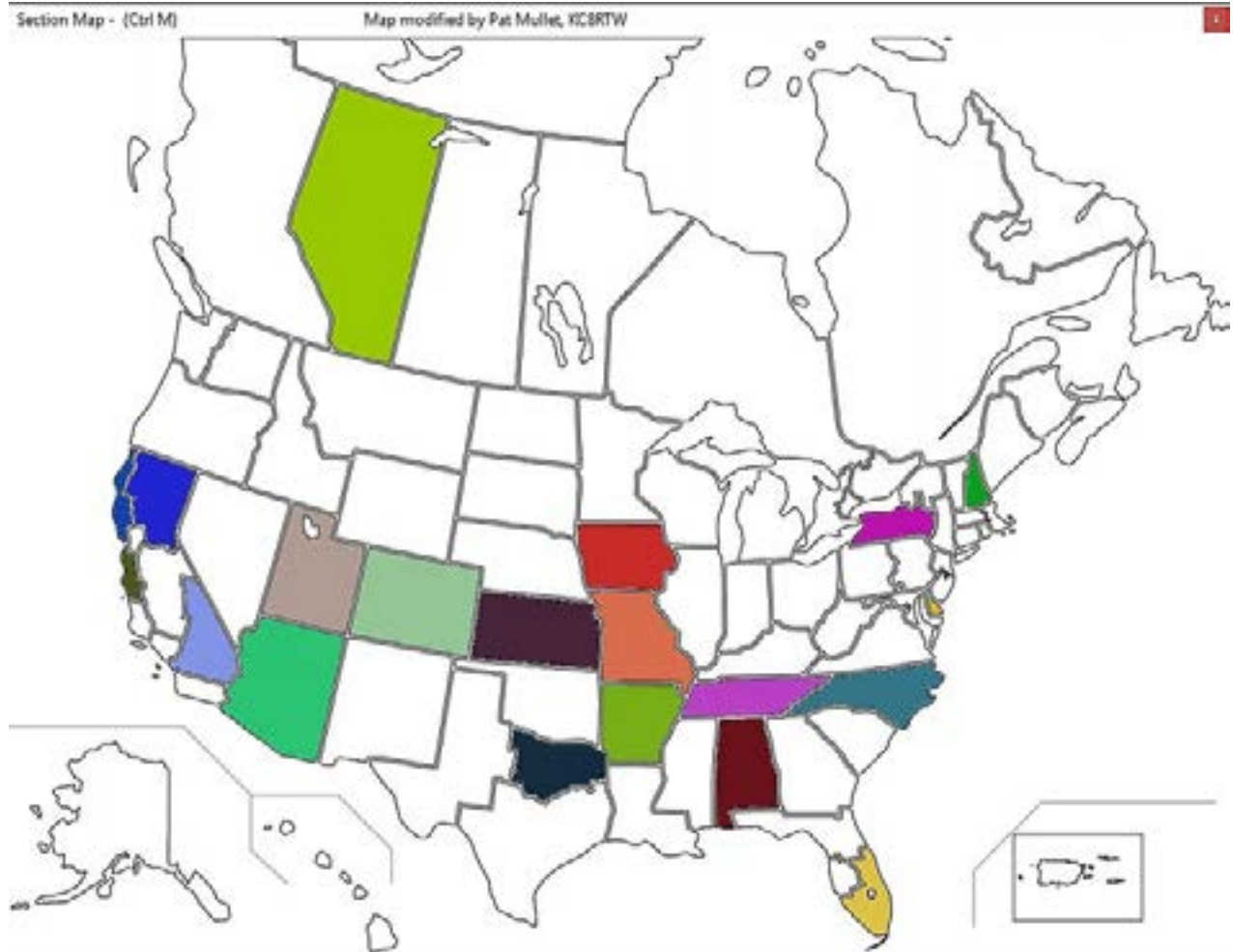


Figure 4. Stations-worked map



Figure 5. Outstanding scenery





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SHORT SKIP ARCHIVES AVAILABLE

Mike, AD6YB, has set up archives for past and present issues of Short Skip. They are available on the Website, log into Members Area, Short Skip, click on the first sentence. Mike has scanned in the old paper issues and it is really interesting to browse through them to see what those guys were doing. There are historical photos as well. An important record of our history and ham radio in general. Good Stuff.

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If you are looking for something more on a topic or your topic of interest hasn't been covered lately, let us know. Something you'd like to see in Short Skip?

Contact the editor, shortskipeditor@gmail.com or for general questions and /or suggestions, k6son@arrl.net

SHORT SKIP NEEDS YOUR INPUT

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Dave, KI6UGB, our Short Skip editor is always looking for articles of interest. They can be technical, a good (or bad) experience that other members may learn from, hints or kinks that worked for you in solving a problem, or just about anything ham radio related. Send your contributions to Dave at shortskipeditor@gmail.com

