Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

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http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com

Repeaters:

English Hill: 147.315+ 88.5 / 441.375 +88.5

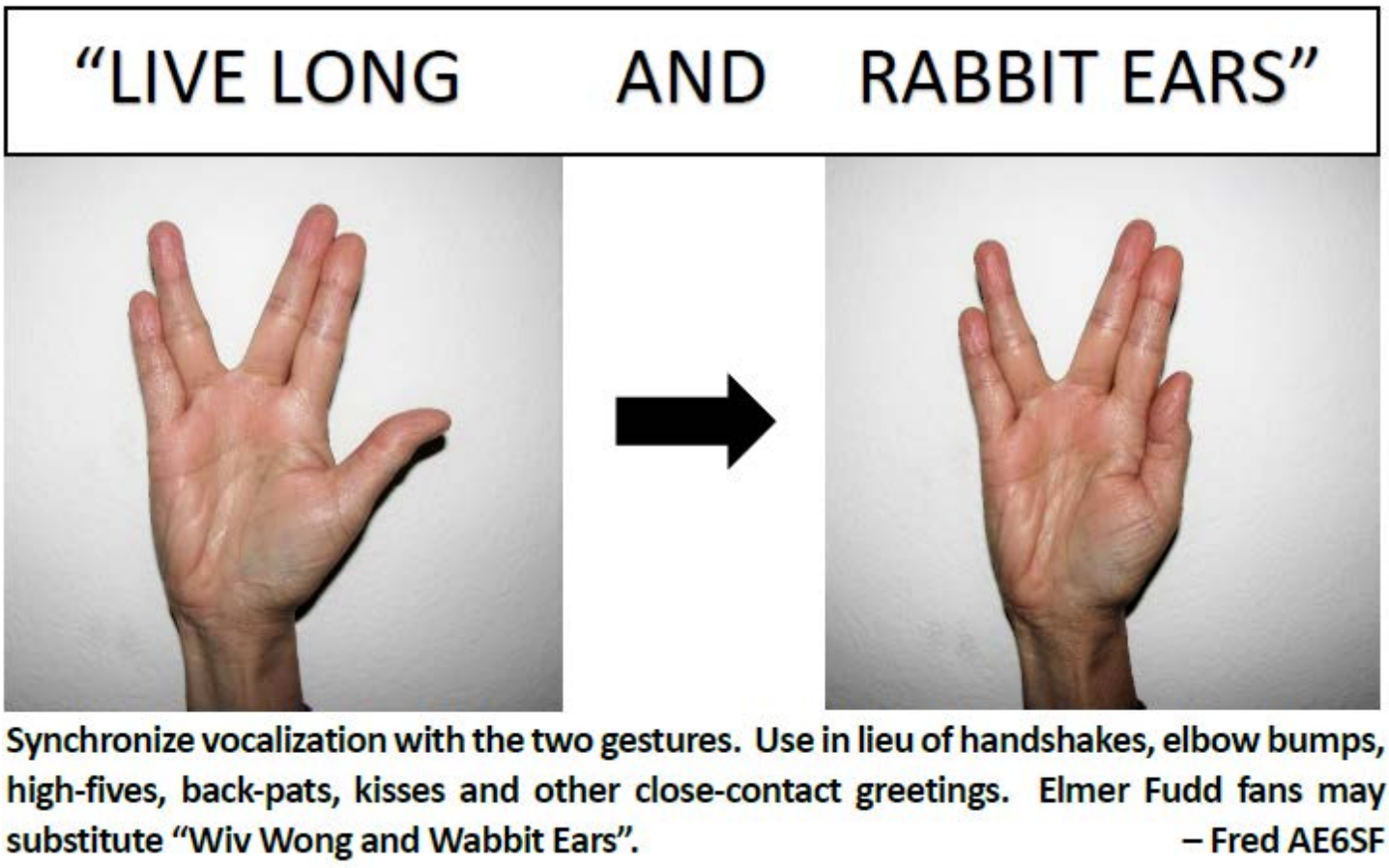
CLUB STATION
K6SON

REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 45, Number 4 April 2020

Ham Salutation

Appropriate for social-distance greetings



Synchronize vocalization with the two gestures. Use in lieu of handshakes, elbow bumps, high-fives, back-pats, kisses and other close-contact greetings. Elmer Fudd fans may substitute "Wiv Wong and Wabbit Ears".

– Fred AE6SF

"Rabbit Ears" – 2M Antenna Conversion

"Rabbit Ears" was the nickname for an adjustable indoor VHF dipole antenna used with conventional analog television (TV) sets for over-the-air reception. It had two telescopic whips, each extending around 40", adjustable angle between them, and sometimes a tuning capacitor and small UHF loop. The two whips could form a vee or straight dipole antenna.

Continued on page 7...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE APRIL, 2020

Greetings. "Who knows, we might have to hunker down in place…" Oh, if only my investing acumen were that prescient! Here we are under a statewide stay-at-home order in response to the coronavirus epidemic. I hope you are finding time to engage in amateur radio activities. The airwaves sound busier, come join us. And perhaps try your hand at a construction project, either design-build or from a kit. I hear you can convert rabbit ears into a 2-meter antenna. But of higher priority is to fully respect COVID-19 for the serious hazard it is, and to practice the guidelines promulgated by public health officials.

In case you haven't heard, **all SCRA-sanctioned in-person events are canceled until further notice.** However, the Board of Directors approved a resolution authorizing meetings via teleconference for the duration of this crisis. Consequently, **the Membership Meetings, starting with April 1st, will be held on-line**, and I'm not fooling. For this first meeting, we will use GoToMeeting. You can access the meeting using a computer, tablet, or smartphone, which require Internet access, or for audio-only participation, a regular telephone. The meeting starts at 7:00pm with social time yacking at 6:45pm. See connection links below. Just don't show up in person and do provide your own snack. On a positive note, SCRA takes no exception to your choice of beverage.

The March 21st Emergency Communications Class was a canceled casualty. The first Field Day planning meeting convened via teleconference. The committee is continuing conventional planning, hoping the "coast is clear" of coronavirus come Field Day 2020, but if not, a Plan C (OVID-19) will be concocted.

Public service events were supposed to kick off in April, but sponsors have canceled all April and May events. Later events may be canceled depending on how the epidemic progresses. Check the SCRA website for the current status of any event.

Live Long and Rabbit Ears,
Fred AE6SF

SCRA Membership Meeting (Online only)
Wed, Apr 1, 2020 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (PDT) (Social at 6:45 PM)
Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/752003421

You may also dial in using your telephone.
(For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122
Access Code: 752-003-421
One-touch: tel:+15713173122,,752003421#

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts.
(This step is optional; download is not required):
https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/752003421

APRIL PROGRAM

Antenna Performance and Testing

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

2020 Club Officers

President	Fred Seitel	AE6SF
Vice President	Johnathan Brown	AK6VB
Secretary	Bill Dornbush	AA6BD
Treasurer	Iola Beckley	KK6HRE
Director	Randy Hall	AA6RH
	Warren Pierce	K6WRP
Past President	John Felton	KE5RI

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SCRA Web site	http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com

Short Skip Advertising Rates

Business Cards	$12 per month
1st Quarter Column	$13 per month
Each Additional Quarter Column	$4 per month
Full page (one side)	$35 per month
Pre-printed inserts (each)	$35 per month

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SCRA Club Meetings

Online this month, see page 2.

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 Round Table Pizza, 2424 Magowan Dr, Santa Rosa. People start showing up at 5:15 PM. No RSVP is required.~~

NEW LOCATION!

Online this month.
Board of Directors Meeting

The SCRA Board of Directors will meet monthly on the Second Wednesday at ~~Round Table Pizza, 2424 Magowan Dr, Santa Rosa.~~ All members are welcome to attend, no reservations necessary. ~~Arrive around 5:00pm for dinner.~~ Meeting starts at ~~6:00pm~~. 7:00pm.

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 the SCRA Education Chair, at education@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com.

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 Newsline, the amateur radio community news service.

Anyone wishing to work as net control should contact Iola 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 Tuesday Night Net Line-up

2 Meter Net (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 1.910 Mhz. LSB. 160 meters requires a General or above license to transmit.

Digital Mobile Radio

Sonoma County Talk Group 31707!

The club's DMR footprint continues to expand! We established a beachhead on DMR and the BrandMeister network of repeaters and hotspots by adding a talk group for Sonoma County. We are using talk group number 31707 to keep in touch on DMR and be able to discuss local news and topics of interest. The use of a talk group like 31707 allows a wider variety of Sonoma County DMR hams to be able to consistently reach each other on the air. Best of all, the 31707 talk group can be reached on hotspots as well as repeaters, meaning you can tie into your local community wherever you are!

Sonoma County DMR Net happens on Thursdays at 6:30 PM PT.

We also started a DMR net for Sonoma County (using talk group 31707) that lets us practice a little bit of traffic handling, while also allowing us to get together and talk about ways we can integrate DMR into our normal operating habits. Currently Randy AA6RH runs net control. If you have a DMR radio, make sure to program it (or ask Randy to help you program it) to include talk group 31707 on any of the area DMR repeaters (there are at least four in Sonoma County.) and join us on Thursday evenings!

2020 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Check the Club website for details

April and May events have been cancelled.

Jun 1 - Sep 25	Beginning Morse Code Class
Jun 13	Sonoma Cnty CF Cycle for Life 2020
Jun 14	Monte Rio Vineman Triathlon
Jun 20	Terrible Two – SRCC
Jun 26-28	Field Day
Jul 10-12	Technician Class
Jul 12	Night of Nights at KPH
Jul 18	VE Testing
Jul ?	Sonoma County Fair
Aug 15	International Lighthouse Weekend
Aug 15-16	Mini DX, with NA QSO Party
Aug 29	Tour de Fox
Sep 12-13	Waves to Wine
Sep 18-20	Technician Class
Sep 26	VE Testing
Oct 3	Levi's GranFondo
Oct 17	Jamboree on the Air
Oct 17	Pacificon STEM presentation
Oct 26	North Bay Science Discovery Day
Nov 6-8	Technician Class
Nov 14	VE Testing
Dec 2	Holiday Party

Reporter Wanted for Contest Corner

Frank NQ6E will be retiring from Contest Corner after the April issue. Short Ship is looking for a reporter to replace him in this capacity.

Qualifications for this position are mainly an interest in contesting. If you have experience in contesting that is a plus, but not completely necessary. As a reporter you could expand your current knowledge by contacting other operators and documenting their experiences. There is a lot of information available online as well. Interested persons should contact Dave KI6UGB at shortskipeditor@gmail.com.

CONTEST CORNER

Welcome to Contest Corner for April 2020.

Spring is officially here and with it comes opportunities for hams to get outdoors and get busy. Pleasant weather can be an invitation to operate out of the shack where most everything is at your fingertips. Not having what you want at your disposal can be inventive. Operating portable can also be exciting – think Field Day! It can also lead to new found experiences while increasing your skills as an amateur radio operator. Contesting brings that motivation a ham might need to change it up a bit. Checking out the monthly contest calendar will give you choices that may fit your curiosity. Take a leap and get out there!

There are four state qso parties and a State Parks on the Air the first weekend in April just to get you going. If that's not enough of a warm up check out the North American SSB Sprint Contest on the 5th and you will heat up fast, believe me. The Qrp ARCI Spring QSO Party is on the 11th and some ops are looking to get outside and enjoy the springtime working other interested hams. Three other state qso parties and the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon take place as well on this second weekend in April. Qrp to the Field comes in on the 18th which this can bring out some of the old guard and zombies alike out there just having a good time. Join in and get your call sign in amongst this somewhat eclectic group. The ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB happening on the 19th is one for every first time, old time, or any ssb op interested in getting on the air and helping promote good operating skills. This also supports the ARRL's effort to sponsor this contest as well as others throughout the year. The last weekend in April will bring on the 10-10 International Spring Contest, Digital on the 25th and the Florida QSO Party as well. Keep in mind the other contests that appear during the month of April and you just might find one fit for you. And above all, remember to have fun!

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

Contact nq6e@arrl.net for questions/comments/suggestions regarding Contest Corner.

72/73,
NQ6E

Bruce Draper, AA5B, aa5b.corral@gmail.com

Contest Corral April 2020

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at **www.arrl.org/contest-calendar**.
Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start - Finish Date-Time		Date-Time		Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1	2000	1	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	4-char grid square	ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
2	1700	2	2000	3.5	SARL 80-Meter QSO Party	Ph	RS, serial, grid locator	www.sarl.org.za
2	1700	2	2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	nrau.net/activity-contests
2	2000	2	2200	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
4	0400	4	0800	7	LZ Open 40-Meter Sprint Contest	CW	Serial, serial received from last QSO	www.lzopen.com/lzocc40
4	1000	5	0400	14	PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest	Dig	SPC, mbr or name	www.podxs070.com
4	1300	5	0100	1.8-UHF	Nebraska QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	County or SPC (grid square on FT8)	www.arrl.org/sections/view/nebraska
4	1400	5	0200	1.8-144	Louisiana QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), Parish or SPC	laqp.louisianacontestclub.org
4	1400	5	0200	3.5-UHF	Mississippi QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.arrlmiss.org
4	1400	5	2000	1.8-UHF	Missouri QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	w0ma.org/index.php/missouri-qso-party
4	1400	5	2200	3.5-28	Florida State Parks on the Air	CW Ph Dig	Park ID or SPC	flspota.org/rules
4	1500	5	1500	1.8-28	SP DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), Province or serial	spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl
4	1600	5	1600	3.5-28	EA RTTY Contest	Dig	RSQ, EA province or serial	concursos.ure.es/en/eartty/bases
5	0000	5	0400	3.5-14	North American SSB Sprint Contest	Ph	Other station's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	ssbsprint.com/rules
5	0600	5	1000	50	UBA Spring Contest, 6 Meters	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, UBA Section (if ON)	uba.be/hf/contest-rules
5	1900	5	2030	3.5	RSGB RoLo SSB	Ph	RS, previous 6-char grid square received	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
6	0800	12	2000	All	IQRP Quarterly Marathon	CW Ph Dig	RS(T)	www.arimontebelluna.it
6	1900	6	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
6	1900	6	2300	144	144 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints
7	0100	7	0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqrp.blogspot.com
11	0000	11	2359	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	CW	RS, SPC, mbr or power	qrparci.org/contests
11	0700	12	1300	1.8-28	JIDX CW Contest	CW	RST, Prefecture number or CQ zone	jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html
11	1200	12	1200	1.8-28	OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, 3-letter OK/OM county code or serial	okomdx.crk.cz
11	1200	12	1200	3.5-28, 144	F9AA Cup, PSK	Dig	RST, serial	www.site.urc.asso.fr
11	1200	12	1200	3.5-28	FTn DX Contest	Dig	RST, US state or VE province or serial	europeanft8club.wordpress.com
11	1200	12	2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
11	1400	12	0200	1.8-50	New Mexico QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, county or SPC	www.newmexicoqsoparty.org
11	1800	12	1800	1.8-144	North Dakota QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	ndarrlsec.com
11	1800	12	2359	1.8-50	Georgia QSO Party	CW Ph	RST, county or SPC	www.georgiaqsoparty.org
11	2100	12	2100	1.8-28, satellites	Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	CW	RST, ITU zone	gc.qst.ru/en/section/32
12	1000	12	2200	3.5-14	WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes	Dig	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.intermip.net/Contests.php
12	1200	12	1800	3.5-7	International Vintage Contest HF	CW Ph	RS(T) 4-char grid square	contestvintage.beepworld.it
12	1500	12	1600	3.5	Hungarian Straight Key Contest	CW	RST, serial, power code	hskc.ha8kux.com
13	0000	13	0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
14	1900	14	2300	222	222 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints
15	0030	15	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
15	1900	15	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
17	2100	18	2100	1.8-28	Holyland DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 4X area or serial	iarc.org/iarc/#HolylandContest
18	0500	18	0859	3.5-7	ES Open HF Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	erau.ee/en/es-open-contests
18	0600	19	0559	3.5-28	Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), BY province or serial	www.mulandxc.org
18	0700	19	0659	3.5-28	YU DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), YU/YT county or serial	www.yudx.yu1srs.org.rs
18	0800	18	1800	3.5-21	QRP to the Field	CW Ph	RST, SPC, name or SOTA	www.zianet.com/qrp/qrpttf
18	0900	19	2359	3.5-28	CQMM DX Contest	CW	RST, continent, category code	www.cqmmdx.com/rules
18	1400	19	2000	All	Texas State Parks on the Air	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), park or SPC	www.tspota.org/rules
18	1600	19	0400	3.5-28	Michigan QSO Party	CW Ph	Serial, county or SPC	www.miqp.org/Rules.htm
18	1700	19	1300	3.5-28	EA-QRP CW Contest	CW	RST, category code	www.eaqrp.com
18	1800	18	2159	1.8-50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
18	1800	19	1800	1.8-144	Ontario QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), ON county or SPC	va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm
19	1800	19	2359	3.5-28	ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	Ph	Name, 2-digit year first licensed, state/province/XE area/"DX"	www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
20	0100	20	0300	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr/power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
22	0000	22	0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
22	1900	22	2300	432	432 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints
23	1900	23	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
25	0001	26	2359	28	10-10 International Spring Contest, Digital	Dig	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
25	1200	26	1200	3.5-28	SP DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, 2-letter SP province or serial	pkrvg.org/strona,spdxrttyen.html
25	1300	26	1259	1.8-28	Helvetia Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 2-letter HB canton or serial	www.uska.ch
25	1600	26	2159	7-28	Florida QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	floridaqsoparty.org/rules
26	1700	26	2059	3.5-28	BARTG Sprint 75	Dig	Serial	bartg.org.uk
27	1300	28	0400	1.8-28	QCX Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig	qrp-labs.com/party.html
29	2000	29	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php

Rabbit Ears continued from page 1...

Feedline was either 75 ohm coaxial cable or 300 ohm twin lead. In the late 1950's, the TV VHF frequencies ranged 54 to 88 MHz (Channels 2-6) and 174-216 MHz (Channels 7-13). From 54MHz to 216MHz, the corresponding electrical quarter wavelengths are about 52" to 13".

You can still buy rabbit ears (see Figure 1) and convert them to a 2-meter antenna. Due to the reassignment of TV traditional VHF frequencies to other services, modern rabbit ear whips each extend around 24". As we hams know, the electrical quarter wavelength (and thus whip length) for say 146.520 MHz is approximated by 234 ft-MHz / 146.520 MHz = 1.597 ft = 19.2". Thus, the ears can extend to form a resonant dipole on 2 meters.

Figure 1. "Rabbit Ears" antenna.

Conversion of the antenna is simple. Remove the UHF loop, 75 ohm cable and balun if present (it wasn't, see Figure 2). Solder in a 50 ohm cable (I used RG-8X), add a tie wrap for strain relief, and install an appropriate connector (see Figure 3). Knowing that the impedance match at the antenna would not be perfect, I selected the feedline length to be an integral multiple of the electrical half wavelength to reduce impedance transformation by the feedline. Someday after the COVID-19 lockdown ends, I plan to borrow an antenna analyzer and check tuning for various configurations.

Figure 2. 75-ohm cable, as found.

Figure 3. 50-ohm cable, new.

What, no balun? If the antenna impedance is near 50 ohms, little radiation from the feedline will occur. During a large mismatch, the feedline may radiate, changing the antenna pattern for either better or

Continued on page 8...

Rabbit Ears continued from page 7...

worse, but when driven by the low power of a handi-talkie (HT), RF burns are not an issue.

How does it perform? I tried three configurations while conversing direct (but split frequency) with Charlie KZ6T at 5W. Base case was the 14" vertical whip on my hand-held HT, and I was not heard. Second case was with each rabbit ear at 45 degrees from vertical (see Figure 4), and I was heard with a lot of scratch. Third case was with ears inline (actually a 155-degree angle) held vertically (see Figure 5), and the report was "a beautiful signal". You can't get much better than that.

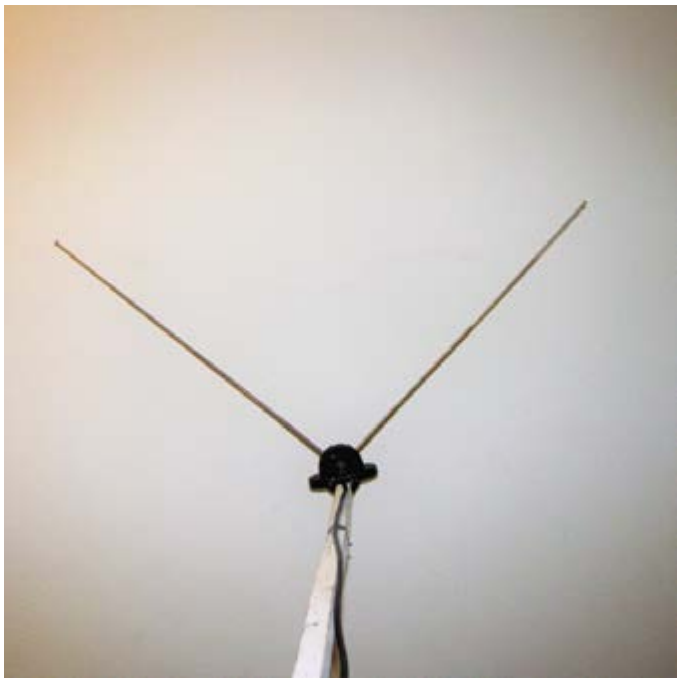


Figure 4. 2M vee dipole

Figure 5. 2M vertical dipole.

Live Long and Rabbit Ears,

Fred AE6SF

SCRA Merchandise QST

The limited edition SCRA 80th Anniversary Lapel Pins are available at $5 each. These stylish 1.25" lapel pins feature our full color 80th Anniversary logo with an epoxy dome finish and a military/ butterfly clutch back to secure the pin in place.

They not only look good on a lapel, but they'll give your hats, sweaters, jackets and tote bags that SCRA touch.

The SCRA/Halls webstore is on-the-air! Just tune your internet device to the website hosted by Halls Executive Gifts and Awards (AKA Frederick Engraving) at http://scra.hallsapparel.com .

This time, when you order a shirt, in the style, color and size of your choice, it will be available for pickup within a couple of weeks. And now you also have the option to either pick it up from Halls yourself or pick it up at a future membership meeting.

Most members have found that the shirt sizes fit as expected, but if you tend to run in between sizes, we recommend the larger size.

Please email any questions and comments to merchandise@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com.

SCRA Membership QST

The SCRA membership stands at **225**.

Welcome new and returning members:
- Brad Stuart KN6HVM (T) Forestville
- Jennifer Iscol KN6HVJ (T) Sebastopol
- Margie Tonelli KN6HVP (T) Santa Rosa
- Jean Wasp KN6HVR (T) Cotati
- Martin Wood KN6IAS (T) Santa Rosa
- Ron Fahey KN6HVQ (T) Santa Rosa

New call signs:
- Annette Waner KN6RVT
- Mark Aldridge W6GOL

License Class Upgrades:
- Dick Stapenhorst KN6FXO 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!

Membership Count by License Class

License Class	Count
Advanced	2
Amateur Extra	65
General	60
Technician	89

We have **9** Associate members.

155 SCRA members are ARRL members.

KUDOS

Bill AA6BD was presented Hammy by Dan KI6VIQ for Bill's effort generating the club roster.

SCRA HAM Of THE MONTH RECIPIENTS			
Year	Month	Name	Call Sign
2020	March	Bill	AA6BD
2020	Feb	–	–
2020	Jan	Cornell	W6HMN
2019	Dec	–	–
2019	November	Doug	KF6LMB
2019	Aug/Sep/Oct	Scott	KJ6QIQ
2019	June/July	Carol	KK6OLL
2019	May	Randy	AA6RH
2019	Apr	John	WB6FRZ
2019	Mar	Erin	K6ERI
2019	Feb	Fred	AE6SF
2019	Jan	Dave	KI6UGB
2018	Dec	–	–
2018	Nov	Iola	KK6HRE
2018	Oct	Dan	KK6VIQ

On the Air Magazine

(http://www.arrl.org/read-on-the-air)

On the Air magazine is the newest ARRL member benefit to help new licensees and beginner-to-intermediate radio communicators navigate the world of amateur radio. Delivered six times a year, the magazine will present articles, how-to's, and tips for selecting equipment, building projects, getting involved in emergency communication as well as spotlighting the experiences of people using radio to serve their communities, and those using it for enjoyment.

Whether you just passed your Technician exam or have been licensed for years but never got around to making contacts or starting a project, On the Air can help you take your interest in radio to the next level with clear, useful information.

Letter to the Editor:

As the coronovirus pandemic interrupts much of normal life, many volunteer organizations have been impacted. SCRA is not exempt.

The actions by the SCRA Board, and those of its president, Fred AE6SF are a model of appropriate, timely efforts.

While the current emergency is not a communications emergency, we never know when such an event could occur. Let's hope a second emergency is not laid on top of this one.

The Board's actions of expanding electronic meeting authorizations to the membership meetings and to meetings of committees are exactly what is needed. The open manner in which this has been done is to be commended.

Stay safe!

Mike
AD6YB

SCRA Code Class

(••• -•-• •-• •- -•-• --- -•• • -•-• •-•• •- ••• •••)

By John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ

Radio's rugged ranks in the Thirties
Enlisted chaps like old G5BD
Who never sat around wringing his hands
About contributions and countries lists
Or griped about slow factory service
On a chrome-trimmed Superduper-IV.
OM G5BD, with only one good arm
Couldn't wring his hands anyway
And had bigger problems to lick
Like no a.c. mains and a 10-watt limit.
Other things he had a-plenty
Were guts and that old ham spirit
So G5BD worked DX—and had a ball.
(Photo via W2GP)

Do you hold a Technician class license and want to use skywave on 80, 40, and 15 meters? You DO have privileges on those bands! Do you hold a General class license and want to take advantage of the lower frequency portions of your HF bands? Want to try making some HF code contacts hiking in the mountains?

For those of you who want to make use of the privileges the FCC has already granted you, come learn code on Monday evenings beginning June 3rd! This class is focused on beginners but if you know some code already then come join in on the fun anyway!

The class meets from 6:30 until 8PM on Mondays from June 1st through September 28th at a location to be determined.

You will learn to send and receive code and how to make radio contacts using code. There will be homework but you knew that was the case anyway, didn't you? It doesn't matter, we have a lot of fun in class and we might even have a code practice net over the repeater during the week!

Contact John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ, for more information:

wb6frz@arrl.net
707-217-1017

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Membership Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Fred AE6SF at 7 pm.

Fred AE6SF spoke about COVID-19 and common sense precautions, like skipping our meetings if you are sick.

The president, Fred Seitel AE6SF, determined that a quorum is present.

Fred AE6SF reviewed the agenda.

Board members present: Fred Seitel AE6SF, Johnathan Brown AK6VB, Iola Beckley KK6HRE, Bill Dornbush AA6BD, Randy Hall AA6RH, Warren Pierce K6WRP, John Felton KE5RI

Absent: none

New members: none

Guests: James, Bob, Greg WB6UHH

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

Mar 10 – David N5PSM
Mar 17 –Johnathan AK6VB
Mar 24 – Joe K6AWA
Mar 31 – Dan KK6VIQ

Announcements Upgrades Lies and Brags:
Bill AA6BD announced the club March roster is available
Randy AA6RH tried DMR simplex operations and contacted a ham in Windsor from English Hill, and audio quality was excellent. He will do it again this Friday about 4pm.

Sign in sheet reminder: Fred AE6SF asked all to sign up at the entrance table.

April Topic: will be Meet the Repeaters

CW Class – John WB6FRZ noted there will be a class starting June 1 on Monday at 6:30 – 8pm for 4 months, with homework every night.

Em Comm Class – Bill AA6BD noted that there will be a class on Saturday, March 21 from 9-noon at the City of Santa Rosa Utilities Field Operations Building, Room M, the City EOC room, at 35 Stony Point, just south of College. The class will be in 3 one hour segments. First will be Radio Operations by Pat, KG6JSL. Next will be message handling by Brian, N6IIY, followed by Charlie KZ6T and Bill AA6BD presenting digital modes with a Winlink demonstration. This will be an interactive class. Bring your HT. Sign up on the club website.

Hammy: Fred AE6SF reminded us that we have the hammy award, and you can award it now to another member. Dan KK6VIQ presented it to Bill AA6BD for his work on the Roster.

Joe K6AWA noted that if you monitor 146.520 you might hear simplex long distance dx, and he recently heard hams from Mt Vaca and Mt Diablo. On the 24th, there will be a simplex net after the regular weekly net.

Dick KN6FXO got his general 2 weeks ago.

Dave KI6UGB noted that the contest corner reporter is retiring and he is looking for a new reporter.

John KE5RI is restoring a reel to reel recorder and heard a tape about a north Korea attack.

Iola KK6HRE has stuff brought to her by members and asked if anyone has a tote belonging to the club that she should store.

Radio loaner program: Joe K6AWA noted he is available to discuss what's available. He is planning to cull things out of the loaner program that are not used.

Program: SCRA Public Service Events for 2020 by John Prouty AG6PN of Bike Monkey and Randy AA6RH
Randy reviewed what is public service and what events we support and what roles are involved, and what events are happening in 2020. John Prouty reviewed Bike Monkey events.

BREAK 10 minutes

Approval of minutes: Mike AD6YB asked for a correction that the library has no events but you can find them at https://socoemergency.org/events. Iola KK6HRE moved that the minutes be approved as corrected and John KE6RI seconded the motion. It was approved by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS none

Continued on page 13...

Minutes continued from page 12...

NEW BUSINESS none

REPORTS
Treasurer report: Iola KK6HRE reported on the club financial transactions and balances. John WB6FRZ moved, and Darryl KI6MSP seconded a motion to pay our bill for education books. The motion was approved by voice vote.
Social Committee: Iola KK6HRE sent a sympathy card to Steve Bouchard KK6VMZ on the death of his brother.

Activities: Iola KK6HRE is working on three events. With Darryl KI6MSP, a visit to the Hornet on the 1st Saturday of some month; with Kimberly KN6DJP on a Safari West visit in September; and a visit to the science lab at Bodega Bay.

Community outreach: Darryl KI6MSP asked for signups for events.

Growing Radio Amateurs: Bill AA6BD met with Will Bradley KG7PTW about possible collaboration with Chimera Arts and Maker Space in Sebastopol. We might offer some radio oriented classes and install a radio station there. Is there interest in having electronics classes and a club radio station available there? About a dozen members indicated YES for each.

Education: Fred AE6SF is looking for instructors and an education chair. We recently held a class in Sebastopol with 11 students. 9 took the Technician test and passed. The next class is April 17-19. The cutoff for signing up will be March 20 so people have time to review study materials.

Emergency Communications: no further report

Field Day: Brian N6IIY noted Field Day June 27-28 first planning meeting will be a week from Saturday at 10 – 11:30 at site same as last year. We may have a requirement to notify the city of vehicles staying overnight. He would like to identify team leaders and shadows. Winter Field Day logs were submitted. See Short Skip. We did well, at about 17 of 134 in our category.

VE testing: Brian N6IIY noted there was an exam session last week, with 9 people, resulting in 4 technicians and 3 upgrades. The next session is April 22.

Merchandise: Dan KK6VIQ is working on a T-Shirt deal with Halls. He wants to move badges and vests off our website and put on the Halls website to remove PayPal charge, and will present to the board.

Membership: Dan KK6VIQ said we have 224 members.

Newsletter: Dave KI6UGB is looking for a contest corner reporter.

Website: Dave KI6UGB noted the site has changed a bit due to a theme change and will work on improving contrast on the site.

Repeater: Erin K6ERI noted that Wires-X is now running on the Castle Rock repeater. John KE5RI renewed our repeater coordination fee.

Public Service: Randy AA6RH noted that Kenn N4NTJ will be comm boss for the Wine Country Century.

DX Team: Fred AE6SF noted that we need an organizer to keep this event going.

Refreshments: Erin K6ERI and Nick N1CKA will provide them Feb-Apr, and Carrie and John WB6FRZ and Jeff KI6PBF will provide them May-Jul.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 when Iola KK6HRE moved we adjourn, Darryl KI6MSP seconded and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Dornbush AA6BD

SCRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Date: March 11, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Fred Seitel AE6SF at 6:00 pm.

A quorum was present.

Board members present: Fred Seitel AE6SF, Johnathan Brown AK6VB, Iola Beckley KK6HRE, Bill Dornbush AA6BD, Randy Hall AA6RH

Absent: Warren Pierce K6WRP, John Felton KE5RI

Others: Darryl Paule KI6MSP, Howard Sidorsky K6SID, Philip Humes KF6GNH, Charlie Sikes KZ6T, Dave Kraybill KI6UGB, Dennis Colthurst KI6REO, Brian Torr N6IIY

Approval of previous meeting minutes: Iola KK6HRE moved the minutes of the February 12 board meeting as published in Short Skip be approved, Randy AA6RH seconded, and the motion was approved by voice vote.

OFFICER AND DIRECTOR REPORTS

Treasurer report: none

Secretary report – Bill AA6BD noted that not all inventory reports had yet been received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities – Iola KK6HRE - Darryl KI6MSP noted the Hornet tour is scheduled for June 6. Signup is limited to 20 and will be on the website. The tour starts at noon and goes until about 5. There is no cost for attendance. Lunch is not included and people should probably brown bag.

Community Outreach – Darryl KI6MSP – Events are limited this year due to no airshow, science festival, uncertain county fair.

Growing Radio Amateurs – Bill AA6BD – see new business for a motion.

Education & Mentoring – Fred AE6SF noted that the next tech class is 4/17-19, and he is working on getting the Santa Rosa UFO building available to us. He instituted a date cutoff so students have time to study. Books will go up to $21 for next class.

Emergency Service – Pat KG6JSL – not present

Field Day – Brian N6IIY – The first organization meeting will be Saturday 10-11:30 and will be at Iola KK6HRE's clubhouse. There was discussion about a possible requirement for vehicle notification for the city.

Volunteer Examiners – Brian N6IIY – we have had the first two sessions, with more in April and May.

Membership –Dan KK6VIQ not present – 224 members per Iola KK6HRE

Merchandise – Dan KK6VIQ – not present

Newsletter – Dave KI6UGB – Frank NQ6E will no longer do the contest corner, but another member may be interested. Iola KK6HRE indicated that the donation in 2019 from [redacted] was $100 as opposed to $2500 in prior years from [redacted]. We debated what to do, if anything.

Website – Dave KI6UGB – Over the weekend, he worked on website contrast and looking at getting photos back up. He will be removing accounts from website for past members which applies to forum access.

Programs – Randy AA6RH - we presented public service programs at last month's membership meeting and he will continue to promote signing up for public service events. The program for next month is an introduction on our repeater sites.

Continued on page 15...

BoD Minutes continued from page 14...

Public Service – Randy AA6RH said John Prouty recapped PS events and would like volunteers to sign up on both our and Bike Monkey websites. Randy is still looking for comm bosses for some events. Fred AE6SF said we need more SAGs. Randy is thinking of doing the PS class online and with the repeater.

Radio Loanout program – Joe K6AWA not present

Refreshments – Fred AE6SF – no change

Repeater – Erin K6ERI – not present

OLD BUSINESS

Credit card proposal – Iola spoke with the banker and received an application for a 501(c)(3) credit card. No personal guarantee is needed. There is no fee for the card without a rewards program. Online reporting is available. We would need to set a monthly limit. There was discussion about controls since we require two signatures for an expenditure. Fred AE6SF will ask Dave Harrison W6IBC to meet with him and the bank to see what we can do to control expenditures.

NEW BUSINESS

Chimera – Bill AA6BD moved that we propose a collaboration with Chimera Arts and Maker Space in Sebastopol for radio related classes and a ham radio station. Randy AA6RH seconded the motion. Bill presented draft details and suggested allocating some of the club loaner equipment to a station there. We discussed possible classes and meetups for our members and we would use Chimera's marketing to contact other prospective radio amateurs. We discussed how to control the use of a radio station and concluded that initially a club member must be present. Bill noted there was interest at the last membership meeting and suggested a questionnaire to be sent to members to gauge their interest. The board approved sending a questionnaire which Bill will prepare. The motion was approved 4 to 1.

Dennis KI6REO – COVID-19 is a pandemic. Text Covid19sf to 888777 for information. [ED: Note that this is information for the city and county of San Francisco.]

Dennis works at Sonoma Jet Center. The North Bay DART group would activate in an emergency, with pilots, ground crew, and comm operators. He is setting up with Kenn N4NTJ a comm system using 2M repeaters. They need three 2M units with power supplies for three locations and is asking the club to donate or loan this equipment. Equipment would be used for emergencies or drills. He is looking for radio operators. Fred AE6SF said we can donate only where the objectives dovetail with ours so there would be a problem donating. Randy AA6RH will talk with another associate about donating some units. Others indicated there could be interest at club meetings about donating.

The meeting ended at 7:30. Iola KK6HRE moved that we adjourn, Johnathan AK6VB seconded and the motion was approved on voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Dornbush AA6BD

SCRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Date: March 25, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Fred Seitel AE6SF at 7 pm.

A quorum was present.

Board members present: Fred Seitel AE6SF, Bill Dornbush AA6BD, Randy Hall AA6RH, John Felton KE5RI

Absent: Johnathan Brown AK6VB, Iola Beckley KK6HRE, Warren Pierce K6WRP

Others: Brian Torr N6IIY, Marty Wood KN6IAS, Dan Drummond KK6VIQ, Kenn Clark N4NTJ, Charlie Sikes KZ6T, Michael Von der Porten AD6YB, David Kraybill KI6UGB, Darryl Paule KI6MSP, Tom Pugliese K6TJP, Richard Downing K6ZGN, Dave Harrison W6IBC, Gene Bastian KN6DJS

Fred AE6SF reviewed the attendees.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Authorizing Meetings via Teleconference

Fred AE6SF moved to adopt the resolution. John Felton KE5RI seconded the motion. Fred AE6SF summarized the resolution, that it added a teleconference option for membership meetings. The motion was adopted by voice vote.

Randy AA6RH moved that we adjourn the meeting. Bill AA6BD seconded. The motion was adopted by voice vote.

The meeting ended at 7:13 pm.

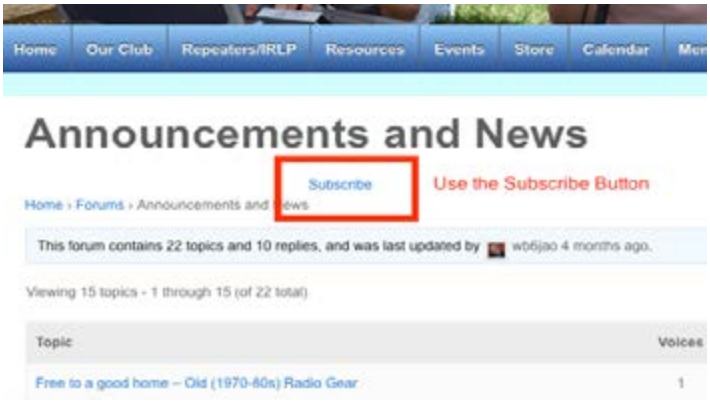
Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Dornbush AA6BD

SCRA Website Forum

So how many of you know that the SCRA website has a forum page? Its there for all members to use.
There is a Section for Activities, Announcements and News, Public Service, and Technical Issues.
To visit the site,

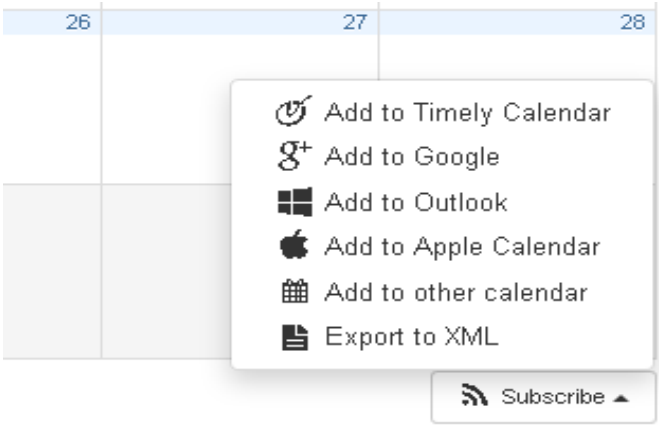
Navigate to the SCRA website,
Log in as a member
Click on Member Area, then Forums

While you are on the individual Forum pages, make sure to click on SUBSCRIBE. This will send you an email when a new question gets posted.
Don't worry about your inbox getting flooded with junk emails. Only valid members can post to the site.



How to Subscribe to the SCRA Calendar

Subscribe to the SCRA calendar and automatically import event dates into your electronic calendar(s). Go to the calendar page on the SCRA website and click the Subscribe button in the corner. Select the type of calendar you want to subscribe to. You will be taken to your sign-in page to finish adding the subscription.



Ooh, ooh, I have a Question!
From the NEW 2019 -2023 General Class Question Pool:

G6A08 (D)
What is an advantage of using a ferrite core toroidal inductor?
A. Large values of inductance may be obtained
B. The magnetic properties of the core may be optimized for a specific range of frequencies
C. Most of the magnetic field is contained in the core
D. All these choices are correct

And What About This?

From the Extra Class Question Pool:

E6D06 (D)
What core material property determines the inductance of an inductor?
A. Thermal impedance
B. Resistance
C. Reactivity
D. Permeability

New Amateur Extra Question Pool Released
01/27/2020 (http://arrl.org)

The new Amateur Extra-class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024, has been released and is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) website.

The 2020 – 2024 Extra-class pool incorporates significant changes compared to the current 2016 – 2020 question pool, which expires on June 30. The number of questions in the pool was reduced from 712 to 622. The result was 239 modified questions, 49 new questions, and 139 questions removed due to changes in what was felt to be an abundance of outdated questions, while areas of new technology and subjects were added.

In addition, an effort was made to balance the difficulty level, removing or replacing some questions deemed too easy or too difficult compared to the rest of the pool. The 2020 pool has 10 diagrams, which have been renumbered because the new question pool has two fewer than the 2016 question pool.

Mentors

Having a problem with your equipment? Can't get the SWR down or your radio won't tune up? Notice some smoke escaping from you transceiver? You may need some help but where to go for this help. You could come to the club meetings and talk to people to see if they can help. You're bound to find someone to help you.

Help can also be found at the SCRA web site (sonomacountyradioamateurs.com). Just log in and click on the Member Area and then click on Mentors. Here you will find a list of hams that are willing to help out so you can your problem solved and get back on the air.

SCRA Education Chair

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
PO Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
(Please print & fill out the form and mail it in with your check payable to SCRA.)
(Please check all ✓ that apply)

Date: _____ New Member: ◯ Renewal: ◯
1) Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____
Email: _____ Show contact info in Roster: ◯
ARRL Member: ◯

SCRA Dues: The renewal date for SCRA dues is January 1st. Dues are $20/year for individual, $30/year for families, and $15/year for youth (under 18).

*** Prorated Dues for <u>New Members Only</u>:** Reduced dues after the 1st quarter.
2nd Quarter April–June: $5.00 off — 3rd Quarter July–September: $10.00 off
4th Quarter October–December: Pay the yearly dues for next year and get the rest of this year free.

Family Membership Members:

2) Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____
Email: _____ Show contact info in Roster: ◯
ARRL Member: ◯

3) Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____
Email: _____ Show contact info in Roster: ◯
ARRL Member: ◯

4) Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____
Email: _____ Show contact info in Roster: ◯
ARRL Member: ◯

I would like more information about:

◯ a) Public Service Events
◯ b) Field Day (4th Saturday in June)
◯ c) Contesting & DXing
◯ d) Emergency Services
◯ e) SCRA Net Control
◯ f) SCRA Loaner Radio Program
◯ f) Training Classes
◯ g) VE License Exams
◯ h) Field Trips
◯ i) Short Skip Newsletter
◯ j) SCRA Committees
◯ k) Other _____

SCRA Dues: Individual $20, Family $30, Youth (under 18) $15 (*see Pro-Rated Dues above) $ _____
Name Badge: $10 each Please circle clasp type, either Clip or Magnet. $ _____

1) Call Sign: _____ First Name: _____ City: _____ Clip or Magnet
2) Call Sign: _____ First Name: _____ City: _____ Clip or Magnet
3) Call Sign: _____ First Name: _____ City: _____ Clip or Magnet
4) Call Sign: _____ First Name: _____ City: _____ Clip or Magnet

SCRA Logo Patch: $5 each $ _____
SCRA Logo Decal: $2 each $ _____

Please make check payable to SCRA. Total Amount Due: $ _____

Version: 3/28/2019

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IC-705
HF/50/144/430 MHz All Mode Transceiver

KENWOOD

TS-590SG
HF/50MHz Transceiver

TM-D710G
2M/440 Dualband

TM-V71A
2M/440 DualBand

TM-281A
2 Mtr Mobile

TH-D74A
2M/220/440 HT

YAESU
The radio

FT-991A
HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver

FT-891
HF+50 MHz All Mode Transceiver

FTM-300DR
C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band

FTM-400XD
2M/440 Mobile

FT-70DR
C4FM/FM 144/430 Xcvr

5 Ways to Shop!

- RETAIL LOCATIONS – Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday
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- FAX – All store locations
- ONLINE – WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
- MAIL – All store locations

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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 under the tab, Our Club. 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.

(Click Me)

DIDN'T FIND WHAT YOU NEEDED?

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

SHORT SKIP ARTICLES WANTED

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