



CLUB STATION
K6SON

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116 707-538-2931

<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

Repeaters:

English Hill: 147.315+ 88.5 / 441.375 +88.5



REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 45, Number 7

July 2020

Field Day 2020 Style

SCRA Field Day 2020 Status

Click call signs for details.

Total Score = 1,251

Current status: 06/28 18:04 UTC

Call	Score	QSOs	20 Min	60 Min	Frequency
WB6FRZ	572	286	12	12	
KZ6T	120	92	0	10	
AE6SF	114	65	9	10	7.03303
W6GOL	104	104	27	11	
W6HMN	58	35	9	11	
N6IYY	50	50	9	8	
K6SID	44	22	0	0	
K6ROW	32	31	9	6	
WW6RC	30	15	0	2	
K6TJP	24	18	0	0	
KM6GUO	20	10	3	4	
W6LZJ	19	19	0	0	
KI6UGB	18	18	3	2	
KI6MSP	16	16	12	7	
AA6BD	13	13	0	9	7.20120
KF6LMB	12	12	7	8	
AD6YB	5	5	0	0	

N3FJP Software: www.n3fjp.com

Serving the Amateur Radio community with contesting and general logging software since 1997.

SCRA Field Day Status Web Page

By Fred AE6SF

During Field Day, several club members with Internet access logged and progressively uploaded their individual operating results using the software program N3FJP ARRL Field Day Contest Log. A separate program tallied the logs and displayed a summary on a publicly accessible web page. The example shown in the figure was taken 24 hours after the start of the event when most hams finished. At any time, clicking on a call sign brought up the underlying individual log file showing the last 10 QSOs. This feature allowed eyeing where other hams were operating.

The results are preliminary and represent only hams who uploaded data. The summary page does not include bonus points that hams may have earned. Other club members also worked Field Day, so we do not know yet who the Top Key is. But per the figure, **bragging rights currently go to John WB6FRZ** who exclusively worked CW. **Good fist, John!**

Following the results in real time provided a sense of connection and motivation to excel. If this process is repeated, I truly hope many more club members participate.

FEATURED ARTICLES:

- SCRA FIELD DAY STATUS WEB PAGE BY FRED AE6SF [PAGE 1](#)
- BUT BACK TO FIELD DAY... BY DAVE KI6UGB [PAGE 5](#)
- MY STORY ON FIELD DAY 2020 BY HOWARD K6SID [PAGE 12](#)
- AARON MARROQUIN BY IOLA KK6HRE [PAGE 14](#)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JULY, 2020

I am sad to report that Aaron Marroquin, KK6ZDB, became



a silent key having lost his battle with cancer. He was a knowledgeable, talented, and enthusiastic club participant. I miss him.

COVID-19 continues to ravage our social and public-service agendas.

Levi's GranFondo has been postponed to next year, May 29, 2021, and will be staged in Windsor. Details are in development.

ARRL Field Day 2020 is over and it was different this year versus years past. Most club members operated as individuals or family units, typically from or near home, with limited get-togethers that sported social distancing. Pre-pandemic plans included a satellite station. In lieu thereof, Charlie KZ6T opened his home satellite station and mentored several members, individually, resulting in all making contacts. Two-meter FM simplex was active with several member and Bay-Area participants. My farthest contact was to Mt. Diablo, 58 miles distant behind a local ridge, captured using a Slim-Jim antenna pulled 25 feet up into a tree. In normal years at the club Field Day gathering, a friendly competition ensues among the Phone, CW, and Digital operators for the highest score. This year 16 members individually contributed their ongoing progress to a web page allowing hams and the public to monitor their status virtually. It fostered a sense of group participation and connectedness, which operating alone does not, and provided a real-time competitive stimulus. I liked it. Preliminary results indicate that John WB6FRZ captured top spot due to his CW prowess and focus. Brian N6IYY, Field Day Chairperson, directed planning meetings and worked to make this year a successful event. He will undertake the daunting task of compiling club member individual logs to synthesize an equivalent club score. **All members who logged QSOs should send [Brian](#) an ADIF file generated from your logging program.** I look forward to hearing or reading about individual experiences, most likely in the August issue of Short Skip.

On June 13th Brian N6IYY and his team of VEs successfully conducted their first drive-in exam. All 13 examinees succeeded.

John WB6FRZ is continuing teaching CW classes and conducting code practice on the club 2M repeater on Fridays 6:45-8 pm through September 25. All are welcome

to join the Friday sessions. Bill AA6BD is continuing teaching the Basic Electronics and Raspberry Pi class, with initial focus on the latter.

The membership meeting at 7 pm on Wednesday July 1st and the Board of Directors meeting at 6 pm on Wednesday July 8th will be held online. The July topic for the membership meeting will be Yaesu System Fusion, presented by Bill AA6BD.

73 - Fred AE6SF

SCRA Membership Meeting (Online only)

Wed, July 1, 2020 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (PDT) (Social at 6:45 PM)

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/207365757>

You may also dial in using your telephone.

(For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.) United States: +1 (646) 749-3122

Access Code: 207-365-757

One-touch: <tel:+16467493122,,207365757#>

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/207365757>

JULY PROGRAM

Yaesu System Fusion

by Bill AA6BD

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

Committee Lineup/Contacts

Activities	Iola Beckley activities@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com
Programs	Open
Community Outreach	Darryl Paule, KI6MSP ki6msp@arrl.net
DX/Contesting	Open
Education	Open education@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com
Emergency Services Liason	Pat Coyle, KG6JSL coylaw@sonic.net
Field Day	Brian Torr, N6IYY n6iyy@arrl.net
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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

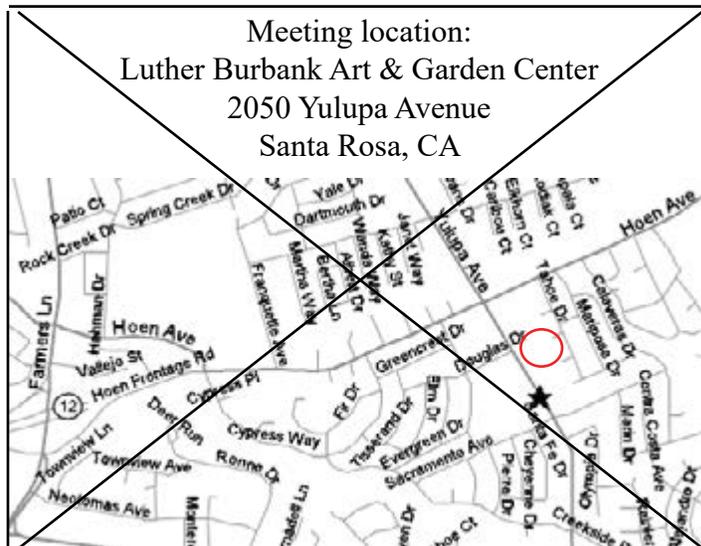
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SCRA Club Meetings

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 online. [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.

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 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 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 MHz 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

Many events have been canceled as shown in strikethrough text.

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 Rescheduled 2021
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 has retired from Contest Corner. 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 July 2020.

With Field Day in our rear view mirror, it's a big month for CW. Hope you are taking [John WB6FRZ's class](#). FISTS, the international organization for the preservation of CW, has a couple contests on the calendar this month.

If you are still revved from Field Day, ARRL has one for you on all bands, phone, CW and digital, the [IARU HF World Championship](#). It takes place the weekend of July 12. Then the following weekend is the [CQ Worldwide VHF Contest](#) for CW, phone and digital.

But back to Field Day, this year was different in many ways. I had planned to get a running start at the onset, 11am. Life had other plans and I fired up my rig at 5:00pm. I am glad I got myself on the SCRA Field Day Status Web Page that Fred AE6SF put together. As everyone was eating dinner, I climbed past the members at the lower end of the list. I stuck with 20m and made it to 11 contacts before we broke for dinner at 8:30pm. Lesson learned, hang the bag with the coffee IV beforehand. Also, the states east of us get going heavy before they go to bed and then you can feel the sun going down across the radio waves. I experienced the heartbreak of the fading QSO as my West Texas contact fought to understand that I was saying "1E", not "1B" and as the ionosphere twisted away he cried out, "no contact!" and moved on.

Returning at 10:30pm the landscape on 20m had moved west. I managed to grab a contact in Guam and almost got Hawaii, but he went QRT before I could pounce.

The next morning, half the club members that I'd passed were ahead of me, but I think I made a good showing with 18. Interestingly my only Region 6 contacts came on day 2.

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

Contact shortskipeditor@gmail.com for questions/comments/suggestions regarding Contest Corner or to become a reporter.

72/73,

Dave KI6UGB



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

Contest Corral

July 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		Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
Date-Time	Date-Time					
1	0000	1 2359	1.8-144	RAC Canada Day Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), VE province/territory or serial rac.ca/our-programs
2	1700	2 2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square nrau.net/activity-contests
2	1900	2 2100	1.8-50	SKCC Sprint Europe	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power www.skccgroup.com
4	0000	4 0400	3.5-28	FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power fistsna.org
4	0900	5 0859	3.5	YBDCX 80-Meter Contest	Ph	RS, serial 80m.ybdcxcontest.com
4	1100	5 1059	3.5-28	DL-DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial www.drcg.de/dldxrtty
4	1400	5 1400	1.8-28	Marconi Memorial HF Contest	CW	RST, serial arifano.it/contest_marconi.html
4	1500	5 1500	3.5-14	Original QRP Contest	CW	RST, serial, power category www.qrpcc.de/contestrules
4	2000	5 2000	7	PODXS 070 Club 40-Meter Firecracker Sprint	Dig	RST, SPC www.podxs070.com
6	0100	6 0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power arsqrp.blogspot.com
6	1900	6 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial www.rsgbcc.org/hf
11	0000	11 0400	3.5-28	FISTS Summer Unlimited Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power www.fistsna.org
11	1200	12 1200	1.8-28	IARU HF World Championship	CW Ph	HQ stations: RS(T), IARU Society Others: RS(T), ITU zone arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship
11	1200	12 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none" www.skccgroup.com
12	2000	12 2300	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power qrparci.org
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
15	1900	15 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial www.rsgbcc.org/hf
16	0030	16 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power naqcc.info
18	0700	18 1459	7-28	Russian Radio Team Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), 3-char code or ITU zone srr.ru/championat-rossii-poradiosvyazi-na-kv-rrtc
18	0800	18 1400	1.8-7	Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial wia.org.au/members/contests
18	1200	18 1359	1.8-50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
18	1800	19 0559	3.5-28	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	Name, state/DC/province/country www.ncjweb.com/naqp
18	1800	19 2100	50, 144	CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square www.cqww-vhf.com
19	0900	19 1600	3.5-14	RSGB Low Power Contest	CW	RST, serial, power www.rsgbcc.org/hf
19	1900	19 2359	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power qrptest.com/pigrun
19	2000	19 2159	14	CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush	CW	RST, SPC www.coloradoqrpclub.org
22	0000	22 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power www.skccgroup.com
23	1900	23 2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial www.rsgbcc.org/hf
25	1200	26 1200	3.5-28	RSGB IOTA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, IOTA number (if applicable) www.rsgbcc.org/hf
26	1700	26 2100	7-28	ARS Flight of the Bumblebees	CW	RST, SPC, power or bumblebee number www.arsqrp.blogspot.com
27	1300	27 1400	1.8-28	QCX Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig www.qrp-labs.com/party.html
27	1900	27 2000	1.8-28	QCX Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig www.qrp-labs.com/party.html
27	1900	27 2030	3.5	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	Dig	4-char grid square www.rsgbcc.org/hf
28	0300	28 0400	1.8-28	QCX Challenge	CW	RST, name, SPC, rig www.qrp-labs.com/party.html

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 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 242.



Welcome new and returning members:

- Jason McLaughlin Associate Santa Rosa
- Joshua Adams K6JDA (G) Windsor
- Nick Beloberk KJ6LDN (G) Santa Rosa
- Richard Krigstein KN6IUD (T) Rohnert Park
- Shawn-Paul O'Dell KM6OHT (T) Sebastopol



New call signs:

- none reported



License Class Upgrades:

- Jay Swetech W6LZJ Amateur Extra

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	70
General	61
Technician	99

We have **10** Associate members.
164 SCRA members are ARRL members.



KUDOS

Hammy: Our statue for ham of the month.

Jim KM6GUO gave Kudos to John WB6FRZ for his Morse code class;

Brian N6IYY gave a kudo to Darryl KI6MSP for arranging the location for the first drive up exam session.

SCRA HAM OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS			
Year	Month	Name	Call Sign
2020	June	Darryl	KI6MSP
2020	May	Charlie	KZ6T
2020	April	David	N5PSM
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.

Errata: Field Day on 2 Meters (June 2020 issue)

Page 20 1st paragraph: Change to “knife-edge diffraction”.

Page 22 1st paragraph: The club license does not extend to individual logging.





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?

the repeater during the week!

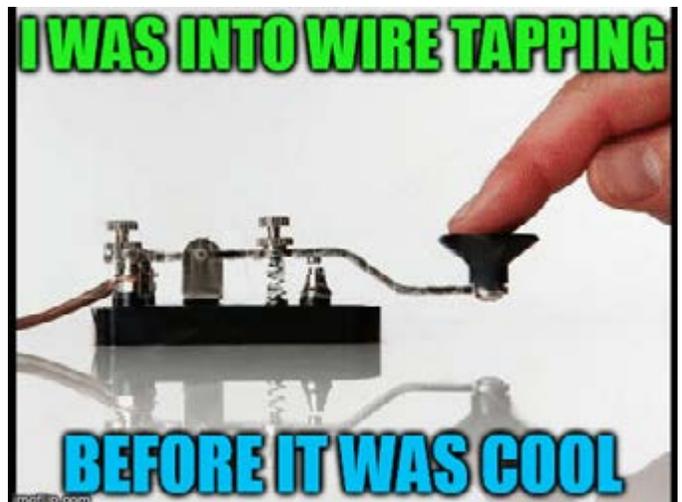
Contact John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ, for more information:

wb6frz@arrl.net
 707-217-1017

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



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Membership Meeting Minutes for June 3, 2020

Call to order and review agenda: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

The president, Fred Seitel AE6SF, determined that a quorum is present. We had 46 attendees online.

Board members present: Fred Seitel AE6SF, Johnathan Brown AK6VB, Iola Beckley KK6HRE, Bill Dornbush AA6BD, John Felton KE5RI

Absent: Warren Pierce K6WRP, Randy Hall AA6RH

New members: Dan KN6DXB

Guests: none

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

Jun 9 – Iola KK6HRE

Jun 16 – John WB6FRZ

Jun 23 – Mike AD6YB

Jun 30 – Brian N6IYY

Announcements Upgrades Lies and Brags: Fred AE6SF noted that the BOD meeting is online next week at 6 pm; Jay W6LZJ got his Extra license; Joe K6AWA won the FM simplex contest for longest distance 144 miles contact last weekend on 146.520 on an HT, he has installed an HF/VHF/UHF station in his Subaru, he contacted a ham in Knoxville while sitting on the street, on the 10M net he talked with Jim WA6QBU from Santa Fe NM, then went to 40M and talked for a while, and also talked with a ham in Gilbert AZ; John KE5RI restored a Hallicrafters receiver S-38C for Mike AD6YB.

Hammy: Jim KM6GUO gave Kudos to John WB6FRZ for his Morse code class; Brian N6IYY gave a kudo to Darryl KI6MSP for arranging the location for the first drive up exam session.

Approval of minutes: Iola KK6HRE moved to accept as published in Short Skip, Brian N6IYY seconded, and the motion was approved by voice vote.

REPORTS

Treasurer – Iola KK6HRE reported that she sent a check to Halls to prepay for badges.

Growing Radio Amateurs: Bill AA6BD reported a good start for the Basic Electronics and Raspberry Pi class with about 20 attendees.

Education: John WB6FRZ held the first Morse code class using GoToMeeting on Monday 6:30 -8:00 and will continue until Sept 28.

Membership: Dan KK6VIQ noted that we have 239 members.

Radio loaner program: Joe K6AWA said the program is functioning fine, with a lot of demand now.

VE testing: Brian N6IYY is holding a session a week from Saturday (on June 13th). It will be a drive in session, and it is full with 12 signed up in two sessions of 6 each.

Program: Brian N6IYY presented Distributed Field Day 2020: History, What is it, What's New: Distributed Field Day for 2020, with ARRL rule changes. We all will operate from our homes or other locations and not as a club at a central location. Charlie KZ6T presented his satellite station and invited others to participate. There will be a session on June 20 to prepare. Contact Brian for details.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS – Joe K6AWA submitted a list of items with his inventory that the loaner program would like to liquidate. Fred AE6SF suggested that this be brought up at the Board meeting.

K6AWA moved that we adjourn, Johnathan AK6VB seconded the motion, and it was approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Dornbush AA6BD

SCRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Fred Seitel AE6SF at 6 pm. A quorum was present.

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

Absent: Randy Hall AA6RH

Others: Darryl Paule KI6MSP, Philip Humes KF6GNH, Charlie Sikes KZ6T, Brian Torr N6IYY, Dan Drummond KK6VIQ, John Breckenridge WB6FRZ

Approval of previous meeting minutes: Iola KK6HRE moved that the minutes as published in Short Skip be approved, Fred AE6SF seconded, and the motion was approved by voice vote.

OFFICER AND DIRECTOR REPORTS

Treasurer report: Iola KK6HRE reported on the state of our finances.

Secretary report – Bill AA6BD reported that we have had inquiries on the club roster and membership map.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities – Iola KK6HRE - no report

Community Outreach – Darryl KI6MSP reported that we have had no outreach events

Growing Radio Amateurs – Bill AA6BD reported on class attendance and enthusiasm. Sessions are being held twice a month.

Education & Mentoring – Fred AE6SF - no requests for mentoring, and no workaround for education classes

Emergency Service – Pat KG6JSL not present

Field Day – Brian N6IYY is working to update the Field Day website. Bill AA6BD sent information to Brian that we cannot use the club license for N3FJP software as we are not located in one place so members will need to purchase their own license. There is an online Session to prepare for Field Day on June 20th. Iola KK6HRE forwarded information to Brian from a San Francisco club about a 2M contest.

Volunteer Examiners – Brian N6IYY – we will have full attendance, 13-14 people this Saturday, June 13. We will hold 2 sessions during the day.

Membership – Dan KK6VIQ reported that we have 240 members.

Merchandise – Dan KK6VIQ discussed the small banners purchased in 2016 and suggested they be given to Field Day. Several members asked to purchase one, and Dan indicated a price of \$12.50 would recover the cost. Charlie KZ6T advised against magnetic signs. Warren K6WRP moved we drop the price to \$12.50, Bill AA6BD seconded, and the motion was carried on voice vote.

Newsletter – Dave KI6UGB – not present

Website – Dave KI6UGB – not present

Programs – Randy AA6RH – has resigned as programs chair. Bill AA6BD will present a program on Yaesu System Fusion for July.

Public Service – Randy AA6RH not present

Radio Loanout program – Joe K6AWA not present

Refreshments – Fred AE6SF: BYO refreshments

Repeater – Erin K6ERI not present – The DMR repeater was down briefly and it is back online thanks to Curt WA6TIP.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Continued on page 12...

BoD Minutes continued from page 11...

John WB6FRZ would like permission to host a code practice session on the club 2M repeater on Fridays 6:45 -8 pm through September 25. Johnathan AK6VB moved that we allow this, Fred AE6SF seconded, Charlie suggested that the IRLP be shutdown during the sessions, and the motion carried on voice vote.

Joe K6AWA submitted a list of equipment that is not used as part of his annual inventory and he wants to sell that equipment with the proceeds going back to the loaner program. Johnathan AK6VB said if he knew that some of that equipment existed, he might have wanted to borrow it. Johnathan AK6VB moved we post the inventory list of loaner equipment in Short Skip and the club website. Bill AA6BD seconded the motion. Fred AE6SF suggested that the proceeds go back to the club treasury. Brian N6IYY suggested the list of items to be sold should be published in advance. Bill AA6BD will work with Joe K6AWA to make a list. The motion carried on voice vote.

Bill AA6BD noted that he produces a membership roster 3 times a year. He found that members were asking for more frequently updated roster distributed by email and membership map on the club website. It was agreed that the roster and membership map be published 4 times a year with the Roster Editor having discretion on how often the roster is released.

Charlie KZ6T suggested we need to be prepared for the new future, with meeting schedule and public service events, based on COVID-19 changes. We may have restrictions on attendance and possibly can also meet simultaneously online. Several suggested it may be too soon to develop a plan, and that we should wait for more specifics from county and state authorities.

Dan KK6VIQ suggested we should consider providing both in person and online attendance at our future meetings. Bill AA6BD suggested this be a topic at all future board meetings.

Brian N6IYY noted that we should consider changing our "membership meetings" name to "general meetings including guests" so all would feel welcome. John KE5RI moved that we adjourn, Johnathan

AK6VB seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting ended at 7:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Dornbush AA6BD

My Story on Field Day 2020

by Howard – K6SID

Of all the ham radio activities Field Day is the one event that I enjoy the most. Having just finished remodeling our house I was looking forward to the event in our "new" home because of the pandemic. Totally means just about everything. New roof, new floors, new kitchen, new baths, including the removal of our fireplace and expansion of the master bedroom. What was also include was a spot for my ham radio activities in the Utility room.

When they did the remodel, it included a new electrical panel for the kitchen area and also the utility room. Look forward, I had them put in a dedicated power line for my ham activities with room for expansion. The utility room where I have my rig is located just behind the new electrical panel. I am bringing this to your attention for it has to do with part of my story.

Without a chimney I had the contractor put in a pole/mast and the ability to run coax through the roof. The pole would be used to mount my vhf/uhf rigs antenna and also be a mounting point for the balun for the 80 meter OCF dipole. Ideally I wanted to get a large capacity battery and a sine wave inverter for field day but I cut things to close and did not get that setup. What I noticed first is that I was getting a fair amount of FT8 signals on 20 meters but I could not get any PSK31 signals to convert to text. I really wanted to get the ARRL broadcast for the extra 100 points. The amount of signal actually being received via FT8 also was in question. I am not sure what this has to do with my situation, but I should have taken John Felton up on his offer to bring over his antenna analyzer to check things out.

Continued on page 13...

*Field Day Story continued from page 12*

I was too stubborn and thought I had my hands on the situation. I moved ahead and I had the OCF antenna zig zagging in the back yard and I thought that had to do with the signals (or lack thereof) that I was receiving. This is just the start of the story.

Okay, it was the last minute to get the logging software to integrate with the clubs dbms, but I finally was able to do that about 12 hours before the start of FD. I really did not thoroughly check things out other than 20 meters. First, as I mentioned before, I had no luck decoding the ARRL transmission on Friday evening on PSK31 – that should have been my first clue that things were not right. Actually, PSK31 is my preferred digital mode. That is what I used during Winter Field Day at the club's site. That should have been my first clue that I had problems that I was not aware of. Oh, if I did not mention it before I only got my new coax strung through the roof and to the rig on Thursday evening. (I was cutting it close). After getting a few contacts on 20 meters, I decided to see if there was any activity on 40 meters. Not a lot but I saw a few stations calling CQ and I went after them.

Boy was I in for a shock. The first TX on 40 meters and the circuit breakers controlling the kitchen lights, microwave and 3 other circuits popped. Since my rig is right on the other side of the wall from the electrical panel, I could hear the circuit breakers popping – that was in addition to my wife yelling from the kitchen. I reset them and again when I transmitted on 40 meters, off they went again. Boy was I confused – what was going on. I thought I would try other frequencies..... 15 meters, okay; 10 meters, okay; and 80 meters, okay. (Okay means not blowing breakers.) But when I TX on 40 meters I hit the jackpot. Somehow with the rig on the other side of the electrical panel it just blows the breakers. (The power to the rig did not blow!) A few other clues that I have: my external monitor will not hold on to the computer settings and says that I have lost the video cable connection and also puts a funny squiggly line on the display.

I woke up about 3 AM while FD was still going on with all of this going through my head and really gave 80 meters a shot. It did not blow the breakers and I

was able to make a few contacts. I went back to sleep knowing that I have a problem on my hands that I don't know how to solve. I think one possible issue is that I do not have anything grounded. I think somehow this can be a real issue.

I have no answer to what is really going on. There is only so much energy I wanted to put into find an answer. I thought I would put this out to the club and see if anyone had and ideas or experience with a similar situation.

Some of the issues that are still bothering me:

- Not being able to decode PSK31
- Blowing circuit breakers when TXing on 40 meters
- Still not sure about my 80 meter OCF dipole.
- Could not having everything grounded be a solution

Well it is now Sunday and I am just starting to relax over the situation regarding FD.

Any thoughts or ideas what anyone wants to give me would be well appreciated.

Howard – K6SID
howard@sidorsky.com

And Now the REST of the Story

by John KE5RI

All: I spent some time with Howard yesterday. Unfortunately his ham shack is on the same wall and directly adjacent to the breaker panel. And, yes, he does have newly installed Eaton breakers. Also, there is presently no ground on the station. He is very close to a copper pipe so that is easy. We ran a number of tests. RF is getting into the breaker panel. It is radiated, not conducted. I placed a high quality common mode choke on the antenna antenna feed and that cured the problem, even at full power (100W) His antenna SWR is not ideal, but it is useable with his tuner in play. Anyway, that is where we are for now.

KE5RI





Aaron Marroquin, Silent Key

by Iola KK6HRE

I am not good at writing Obituaries so I will let the messages I received speak for themselves:

From Kathy Marroquin, Aaron's Wife:

It saddens me to have to tell you that Aaron passed away this morning due to his brain cancer. Up to the very end he enjoyed his ham radios - although he didn't get to finish the antenna he was making. While I still have not obtained my license, I still intend to and will hopefully become part of the club.

From Manuel Marroquin, Aaron's father:

Aaron lost his battle with cancer and passed on Sunday morning June 14th he was at home with his family was by his side.

Please share this with the club members and also let them know he always enjoyed the time he spent with all of you.

With a broken heart,

Manuel Marroquin

Just to follow up, we still don't have dates but want to share that due to the continued pandemic danger, the burial service for my son Aaron will be small and private.

We will intern him at the Santa Rosa Memorial Park cemetery and all of you will be most welcome to stop by and pay your respects at any time after his internment, but be safe.

When a bigger gathering no longer poses a health danger we'll have a celebration of life event.

Manuel Marroquin

From Members:

So sad! I really liked Aaron. I first met him when he was very young, when I investigated an auto accident his parent(s) were involved in. Parents were the good guys! I saw Aaron as a very mature youngster and was impressed by his maturity, intelligence and polite demeanor!

I re-met Aaron at our club. We talked often and respected and admired each other. And I especially admired him when I saw him interact with his two young daughters/ladies! What a great and nurturing guy!

My concern is for his wife whom I never met, but also for his two young daughters which were raised with the same maturity level as young Aaron. I cannot calculate the loss to them of losing him to a murderous disease. Those 3 young and lovely ladies will need a lot of support. If there is anything I can do for his ladies, please, let me know!

May God show extreme mercy on Aaron, his wife and two daughters! He was sent to you by God to lay a framework for excellent lives and daughters!

I am willing to do lawn work or anything else! Whatever is needed!

With all my heart,
Steve Bouchard kk6vmz
Continued on page 15...

Aaron continued from page 14...

OMG. I didn't know he was sick. I'm thinking about his daughter right now. This is totally shocking news.

He did a great job as Treasurer especially in light of his condition. He also got his daughter involved in HAM radio. He will be sorely missed.

--Kathy K6KDW

Iola, What a kind soul. My sympathies to his family. I'm so sorry.... Karen K6KSM

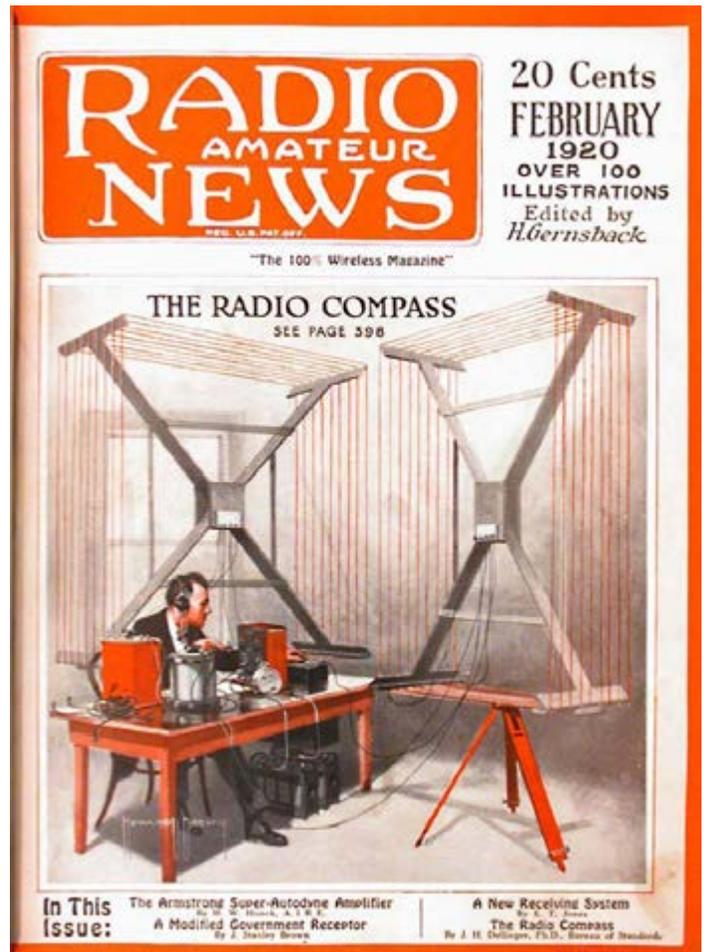
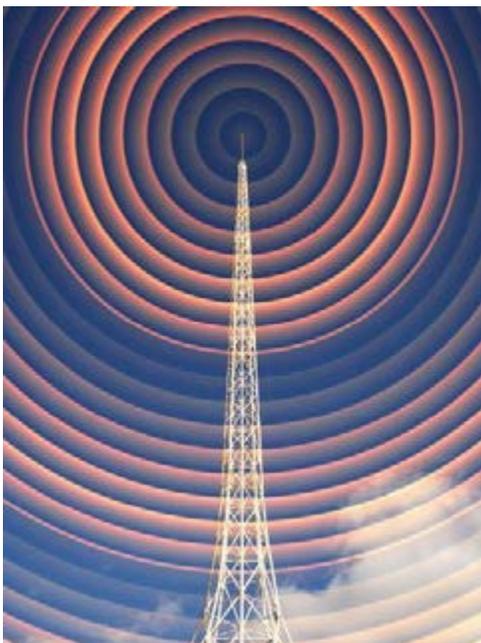
Iola and fellow SCRA Hams,

I am shocked and saddened to hear of Aaron KK6ZDB's passing. I knew he had been ill but had no idea it would be terminal. Had many fun times with Aaron and his young daughter, Simone. The last time I was with Aaron and Simone was Winter Field Day 2019 up at my home. Aaron was then excited to be starting his new job out at the US Coast Guard training facility. Aaron was always friendly and conscientious as a fellow ham, and a patient, kind father and husband. I will miss him greatly.

My heartfelt condolences to Aaron's family,

Joe Fortuna, K6AWA

Submitted by Iola kk6hre





Ooh, ooh, I have a Question!

From the NEW 2019 -2023 General Class Question Pool:

G8A08 (D)

Which of the following is an effect of overmodulation?

- A. Insufficient audio
- B. Insufficient bandwidth
- C. Frequency drift
- D. Excessive bandwidth

And What About This?

From the NEW Extra Class Question Pool:

E1B12 (A) [97.303(b)]

What must the control operator of a repeater operating in the 70 cm band do if a radiolocation system experiences interference from that repeater?

- A. Cease operation or make changes to the repeater to mitigate the interference
- B. File an FAA NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) with the repeater system's ERP, call sign, and six-character grid locator
- C. Reduce the repeater antenna HAAT (Height Above Average Terrain)
- D. All these choices are correct

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 2016 – 2020 question pool, which expired 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 your 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

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 (Please check all that apply)

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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 New Members Only:** 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.

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I would like more information about:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) Public Service Events | <input type="checkbox"/> f) Training Classes |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> c) Contesting & DXing | <input type="checkbox"/> h) Field Trips |
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Name Badge: \$10 each Please circle clasp type, either Clip or Magnet.	\$ _____
1) Call Sign: _____ First Name: _____ City: _____	Clip or Magnet
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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

