SCRA MINUTES

August 2, 1995

Submitted by Secretary Al Bloom N1AL



The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ at 7:34 PM. Other officers present were Vice President Dave New AA6YX, Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Activities Chairman Joel Nadler KJ6LF, Repeater Chairman Jim Rutherford WB6PER, and Members-at-Large Marie Mappus KI6QY and Jim Andrews KC6PJW.

VISITORS AND UPGRADES: We had 2 visitors and one upgrade.

PROGRAM: WB6PER brought in the club's Repco standby repeater for everyone to see. It is stored at N6PTM's QTH for now. Jim also presented a slide show and commentary on the 146.73 MHz repeater site on Sonoma Mountain.

NEW REPEATERS: We have received a letter from Mike Aber WA6YXV offering to sell us his repeaters on 441.375 and 224.48 MHz (88.5 P/L) and his packet digipeaters on 144.91 and 223.60 MHz, including duplexers, controllers, power supply and 450 MHz isolator. WB6PER will throw in his 220 MHz amplifier and cavity filter that are part of the system. These are all currently installed on Sonoma Mt. The price is \$3000, with \$1500 to be paid now and the remainder by the end of the year. New price of the equipment was \$7272.

In the discussion that followed, Kelly KD6CJQ said that there is enough money in the checking and savings account. RACES Radio Officer Jim N6PTM stated that these machines are a vital part of RACES communications in Sonoma County. Hank W6DTV added that the equipment in that cabinet is very important to the Calif. Dept. of Forestry VIPs, who use the 220.60 MHz packet system on every fire, and sometimes 144.91 MHz packet and 220.48 MHz voice. Hank presented a check from the VIPs for \$500 to support the system.

It was moved and seconded by WB6PER/KH6GJV to accept WA6YXV's offer. The motion passed unanimously.

The **MINUTES** were approved as printed in *Short Skip*. m/s KJ6LF/AB6OL

John WB6FRZ said we should send a thank-you letter to the VIPs. It was suggested that if every member gave \$10, we would raise the entire \$3000.

ACTIVITIES Chairman KD6LF went down the list:

PUBLIC SERVICE: Marie KI6QY thanked the volunteers for the Vineman Triathlon who stuck it out in the heat. The last runner came in at 11:00 PM. Sept 17 is Clo's Classic, with the MS Waves to Wine on Sept 30.

EDUCATION: Steve KK6VY introduced Jim WA2EWE, whose no-code Technician class has 12 students at the half-way point. Steve asked how many would be interested in a General class -- 6 people raised their hands. Dave KD6KWM asked how many for a basic packet/PBBS class. He got 12 takers. K6ZWB's construction class was postponed since the kit supplier went belly-up. Rick plans to try again in early October, after the Flea Market.

FLEA MARKET: K6ZWB will pass around a sign-up sheet for volunteers next month. If you won't be at the Sept. meeting, give Rick a call at 575-4455 to sign up. It was voted to purchase an ICOM 2340H dual bander, on sale for \$550 plus tax and shipping, for the raffle prize. m/s K6ZWB/KD6KWM

Rick floated the idea of having a raffle 4 times a year with tickets sold each month at club meetings. The consensus was it sounds like a good idea.

RAFFLE: We need someone to sell tickets. See Kelly KD6CJQ if interested.

ANTENNA DONATION: Stephan Woytowicz KI6PB donated a Swan triband antenna to the club. N1AL will see about refurbishing it.

NET CONTROL for August will be Ken N6MHG.

The HAM SHACK at the Two Rock Coast Guard base will have an open house Saturday from 12-6 PM. The station has HF, VHF, UHF and satellite equipment and antennas. They are looking for an ATV expert to get the television gear set up. The station is available weekdays 5-9 PM for club members to operate -- just call 765-7373(!) to be sure someone is there. They also encourage contests and special event operations. Joe KE6LNQ and Don KD6HQ are the club contact people.

Fred Plante W6LOU would have won the **MEMBERSHIP LOTTERY** had he been present. Thanks to James KD6GSF.

WB6PER passed the hat for donations for the repeater purchase. \$240 was collected.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM. m/s N1AL/AB6OL

Respectfully submitted by Al Bloom N1AL.

Origin of SOS

By Gene Hildeman AA6UY

Following the development of the technology to achieve long distance wireless communication in January 1903, Guglieimo Marconi was quick to establish companies in Europe and the United States that provided communication equipment and services to ships at sea.

Almost immediately, it was recognized that some form of distress call was needed to meet emergency situations not previously encountered in land operations. The general call "CQ" was carried over to shipboard operation by British land line telegraphers who used it to call up all operators on a telegraph line. It meant "Come Quick". However, it was not considered adequate for distress calling. So, in 1904 the Marconi Company established "CQD" (Come Quick Distress) as the standard distress call. Any operator misusing this call was subject to immediate dismissal. It was adopted almost universally by all wireless communication companies and ship operators.

There was dissatisfaction with the call "CQD" because it was not a unique sound in international Morse code.

In the first International Wireless Telegraphy Conference held in Berlin in 1903, Italy proposed "SSSDDD" as the standard distress call. No action was taken on the proposal.

The second International Radio Telegraph Conference was held in Berlin in 1906. The German delegation suggested the use of the call "SOE" (\dots ---) as the standard call. It was sent as a single character.

While this proposal had merit. It was feared that the single dot (E) may be lost in atmospheric noise when transmitted under difficult conditions. An alternative proposal,

"SOS" (...---...) was judged preferable by the conferees. It would also lend itself to a form of mechanical detection to aid an operator not fully alerted. "SOS" was officially adopted by most European countries as the international distress call by ratification in 1908. However, the use of "CQD" lingered for many years, especially on British ships.

Many people believe the Titanic disaster in 1912 prompted the first use of "SOS". This is not true.

The first use of "SOS" by an American ship occurred on August 11, 1909. Even though the U.S. had not officially adopted the "SOS" signal, radio operator T.D. Haubner on the SS Arapahoe sent both "SOS" and CQD" signals when the Arapahoe's shaft broke 21 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras. She was towed into port with no further damage or loss of life.

On April 15, 1912 the famous SS Titanic struck an iceberg in mid Atlantic. Wireless operator Phillips, aboard the Titanic, sent both "CQD" and "SOS" distress calls. Unfortunately, the SS California was nearby but didn't hear the call because the radio operator had gone off duty. However, the SS Carpathia, some distance away, heard the call and arrived in time to save 703 people. 1503 people were lost.

After the Titanic disaster, the "CQD" call was gradually forgotten and the "SOS" call became standard worldwide. The United States, lagging in radio legislation, officially adopted "SOS" as the standard distress call in 1912.

Amateur Radio on the Internet

Everything from "Who can be a ham radio operator?" to "Should I build my own equipment or antenna?", the FAQ is searchable by keyword. Quizzes and sample questions will help you study for your license exam, and newsgroups and a weekly newsletter provide updates on the amateur radio world.

World-Wide Web: http://www.acs.ncsu.edu:80/HamRadio/

from NetGuide September '95



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SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

SEPTEMBER 1995

SCRAPS SCRA PUBLIC SERVICE

By Marie Mappus KI6QY



Another month has gone by and there are now two more events behind us. On July 22, we helped with the Healdsburg Harvest Century. The weather was ideal for a bike tour. It started at the Healdsburg High School and traveled to Geyserville through Alexander Valley and then down Dry Creek to the Good Beginnings School on West Side Road and then back to Healdsburg. There, the riders were treated to an Italian Luncheon featuring an excellent vegetable pizza and other Italian foods. The activity was uneventful, with no major mishaps, for which both the riders and the radio operators were thankful.

Many thanks to Lee KE6EAQ who helped as Net Control, Bill K6JLP and Harold KD6WYF who were at the rest stops and Ken N6MGH, Peter N6BJV and Dan KE6SQP who followed riders in sag wagons. Many of the riders in the event came up and personally thanked us for being there to assist them if needed.

Our second event in July was the monumental Vineman on the 29th. The weather had been relatively cool in the early part of the week and we all hoped that the cool weather would continue through the weekend. However, Mother Nature deemed otherwise and the temperatures rose toward the end of the week. Saturday was no exception. Communications were located in the OES Communications Van and while the use of radios and work locations were ideals\ for such an event, the trailer would have been unbearable if it were not for the use of fans that circulate the air. Some radio problems developed with intermod, etc. Thanks to Kelly KC6CJQ and Dave AA6YX, the problems were eventually found and corrected.

The Vineman begins with a swim in the Russian River starting at 7:00 AM which was followed by a 112 mile bike ride and a 26.2 mile run. All this is done without stopping. There are Aid Stations along the route where water, Gatorade, and other kinds of liquids and snacks are provided. It is a long day and the medical people are kept busy supplying participants with saline injections when they return. It is times like these that one sees the real dedication of the amateur radio operators. The long hours they put in and the things they do that are over and above normal duty requirements. One of these persons is Bill Splaine N6GHG, who was patrolling the course on his motorcycle. Early in the bike part of the event, one of the riders was involved in a major mishap, with injuries requiring him to be hospitalized. He was taken to Healdsburg General by ambulance. His wife was notified of the accident and when she arrived, Bill took her to the hospital and then afterwards went back to the scene of the accident to look for the rider's bike.

Paul KD6NFB was sent to the railroad crossing to warn riders of problems at this point. When his shift was over, another ham who had not even volunteered for the Vineman, heard the event on the radio and called in to see if he could be of assistance. This was John KD6QL. He spent his time at the same railroad crossing warning the other bike riders to be careful. He later came in and helped out in the Comm Van.

Still another, Bill KH6GJV, who was also a motor mobile, stayed to follow the last runner in to the start/finish line. He was through at 5:30, but volunteered to help until 11:00 PM. Ken N6MGH and Peter N6JBV also deserve special thanks for volunteering to help with the late night shift of from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM, after previously agreeing to help earlier in the day and ending up doing double duty. My thanks to Fred N6YEU who also graciously agreed to help on the late shift. Doug KC6RHA also deserves a very special thanks for the long day of shadowing Russ beginning at around 6:00 AM and continuing until 11:00 PM. Steve KK6VY also deserves a special thank you for getting up early to set up the Comm Van and for returning late at night to wrap it up.

I am not forgetting the invaluable service of all the other radio amateurs who helped. Some of whom were assigned locations that required very little assistance and others who were required to be very flexible in their assignments. So many thanks to Dave AA6YX, Merl N6VUC, Rudy N6KLU, and WA2EWE for whom Net Control was rather hectic at moments. Also to Adam KD6POC who got his first chance at Net Control and loved it. Thanks to Paul KD6FNB, Joel KJ6LF, Joe KE6LNQ, Steve KE6CJR, Adam KE6TJA, Richard KE6DRV, Renee KE6ULU, Bob K6GEV, Steve N6WMW, Gary KD6CJQ, John KD6LQ, Harold KD6WYF, the iceman, Jim KE6EAR, Darlene KD6GCK, Kelly KD6CJQ, James KD6GSF, Bob WD6DPE, Brian N6IIY, Clarence W6IZR, Tony KD6WYH, Sarah N6FAX, Hank W6DTV, Kathy KC6UXI, George KD6WIR, Angela KC6OCD, Chuck N6DDK, Michael KC6NDS, Richard KE6SKT, Jim KE6JIQ, Hoppy WD6CKP, Tim KD6TXH.

You all did a tremendous job and to you all many, many thanks. You are greatly appreciated.

Clos' Classic may be coming up. We usually do that event but so far have not heard from the event coordinators. However, don't forget Waves to Wine in September. We will need operators for this two day event. Saturday Sept. 30 and Sunday Oct 1. How about signing up to help? Give me a call.

Net Control Procedure For the Tuesday Night Net

CAPITAL LETTERS = material to be spoken by the Net Control Station (NCS) on the air. Small letters = instructions to you, the NCS. *IMPORTANT:* Remember to ID every 10 mins!

CALLING ALL RADIO AMATEURS, CALLING ALL RADIO AMATEURS, THIS IS (give your name and call), NET CONTROL STATION FOR THE SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEUR SERVICE NET. THIS NET IS SPONSORED BY THE SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC, AND MEETS ON THIS FREQUENCY EVERY TUESDAY AT 7 PM.

EMERGENCY TRAFFIC ALWAYS HAS PRIORITY OVER ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS. ANY STATION HAVING EMERGENCY TRAFFIC WILL CONTACT NET CONTROL WITH THE WORDS "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC".

SCRA MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN AMATEUR RADIO. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT ANY MEMBER OR WRITE TO: SCRA, PO BOX 116, SANTA ROSA, CA 95402. THE CLUB MEETING IS HELD AT 7:30 PM ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE HEWLETT-PACKARD FACILITY ON FOUNTAIN GROVE PARKWAY IN SANTA ROSA,

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NET IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS,

AT THIS TIME I WILL TAKE STATION CHECK- INS. (The check-in procedure is up to the NCS, although groups of five in any order with no phonetics seems to work as well as any. It is not a hard and fast rule to acknowledge check-ins, but it is a popular practice). THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE SCRA NET. I WILL TAKE LATE CHECK-INS AT THE END OF THE NET. DO ANY CLUB OFFICERS HAVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE NET?

HOPPY, WD6CKP, DO YOU HAVE A NEWSLINE REPORT TONIGHT'?

GREG, KE6FXK, WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN HANK'S SWAP SHOP FOR TONIGHT'?

ARE THERE ANY OTHER COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE NET?

ARE THERE ANY LATE CHECK-INS?

(Optional) TOTAL CHECK-INS FOR TONIGHT WAS _____.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO THE SCRA TUESDAY NIGHT NET.

THIS SESSION IS NOW CLOSED.

THIS IS (your name and call), NET CONTROL. 73!

🖙 Coming Events 🖘

SEPTEMBER:

- 3 Livermore Swap Meet
- 6 SCRA meeting 7/7:30 PM
- 9 Foothill Flea Mkt Los Altos
- 16 SCRA Flea Mart, Seb. Holy Ghost Hall
- 16 SCRA VE FCC exams at Flea Mart
- 16 Deadline for October Short Skip
- 23-24 CQ Worldwide RTTY Contest 30-
- Oct. 1 Waves to Wine

OCTOBER:

- 4 SCRA meeting 7/7:30 PM
- 14 Deadline for November Short Skip
- 20-22 Pacificon '95 @ Concord

28-29 - CQ Worldwide DX Contest, Phone



WHEN? OCTOBER 20-22 WHERE? CONCORD HILTON HOW MUCH? \$3.00 (Valid all three days)

ACTIVITIES:

- -Saturday Swap Meet (6-11 AM) -Exhibitors -Transmitter Hunt -ARRL VE Test Session
- -Hands on demonstrations
- -Foot and Fanny Contest
- -Saturday night Banquet

FORUMS & SEMINARS:

-All about Antennas -Internet -APRS (Packet Radio Software Package) -Packet (a variety of programs) -GPS and the Radio Amateur -QRP & Kit Building -Beginning HF -OSCAR -Why Morse Code -Cynthia Wall KA7ITT (author)

... and much, much more!

For more information contact: PACIFICON '95 PO BOX 272613 Concord, CA 94527 (510) 932-6125

Sponsored by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

Next SCRA VE Test Session

The next VE Session will be held Saturday, September 16 in Sebastopol at the SCRA Flea Market & Auction. Registration will begin at 9:00am.

What to Bring:

- 1. A photo ID or two non-photo ID's
- 2. Your original and a *photocopy* of your current license
- 3. Any original CSCE's and *photocopies*
- 4. Calculator (not programmed) and pencils
- 5. Test fee is \$5.90 (cash or check made out to ARRL/VEC)

*Novice exam (element 1A and 2) is free

Talk-in frequency will be 146.730 if you need directions. For questions or more information contact Claude AB6OL (707) 527-8593.

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New Members & Corrections

CALL	NAME	STREET	CITY	ST ZIP	PHONE	F YR L
KE6NXA	RACHEL COLLINS	1513 DEBRA DR	PETALUMA	CA 94954		2 95 ?
KE6PPG	NOEL ANDERSON	233 RUSHMORE AVE	PETALUMA	CA 94954	766-9672	0 95 T
KE6TJA	ADAM BROWN	513 HEAVY CT	SANTA ROSA	CA 95401	579-5298	1 95 +
KE6ULS	BOB BROWN	513 HEAVY CT	SANTA ROSA	CA 95401	579-5298	1 95 T
KE6UMC	DUAINE C WOOD	1643 CUNNINGHAM WAY	SANTA ROSA	CA 95403	528-3873	1 95 T
KE6UMD	MARY D WOOD	1643 CUNNINGHAM WAY	SANTA ROSA	CA 95403	528-3873	2 95 T
KE6UMH	ERIC C STROUD	4914 SNARK AVE	SANTA ROSA	CA 95409	537-1569	0 95 T
KE6VGV	JAMES CARDILLO-LEE	POB 5008	PETALUMA	CA 94955	778-7474	0 95 T
KE6VMZ	RANDY BLACK	122 BARI LN	WINDSOR	CA 95492	838-7580	0 95 T
N6MHG	KEN HARRISON	812 JACK LONDON DR	SANTA ROSA	CA 95409	539-2701	0 95 +
KI6PB	STEPHAN M WOYTOWICZ	POB 3558	FAIRFIELD	CA 94533		0 95 A
AA6YX	DAVE NEW	3211 OLD GRAVENSTEIN HWY	SEBASTOPOL	CA 95472	829-6608	095E

KD6KWM PACKET BBS 577-0502 1200 BAUD 8-N-1

Sonoma County now has a full time modem port on it's PBBS. Now you can find out what Packet radio is all about before you buy a TNC! It's free, you just need a valid ham radio license. Fill out and return to Dave at the meeting or mail in.

(CUT HERE - KEEP THIS PART) (CUT HERE - RETURN THIS PART TO DAVE - KD6KWM)

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REQUEST FOR MODEM ACCESS

Return to: DAVE WILLEY - KD6KWM P.O. Box 3514 Santa Rosa, CA 95402

NAME: _____

CALL:

PASSWORD - NO NAMES / CALLSIGNS! Make it unique. 6-10 characters.

WRITE CLEARLY - PRINT ONE LETTER PER BOX.