

CLUB STATION
K6SON

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116 707-579-9608

<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

Repeaters:

English Hill: 147.315+ 88.5 / 224.180+ 88.5 /
441.375+ 88.5

Castle Rock: 147.315+ 156.7



REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 39, Number 4

April 2014



April SCRA Update

by Pat Coyle, KG6JSL
SCRA President

Spring has arrived and brought Radio Season with it. The Club has a wide variety of Public Service and Activities events for everyone. Check out the Events tab of the Website at socoaham.org, sign up for what interests you and have some fun this year. Public Service events particularly are an excellent way to develop, practice and use your radio skills. Being a ham operator at events also guarantees you up close and personal participation in the event—we go places and do things the public often does not get to see.

The first Public Service event of the season is the Lake Sonoma 50 on April 12. This is a 50 mile footrace around Lake Sonoma and back. Radio operators are stationed at rest and aid stations around the course where we monitor the event and communicate information as necessary. Contact Craig, K6XLT.

The Club will also put on a ham radio demonstration at the Family Life Magazine's camping exposition on April 11. Contact Darryl, KI6MSP.

In other news, the Board of Directors at the March 12, 2014, meeting adopted a Policy for use of the Club repeater. A copy of the Policy is included in this issue

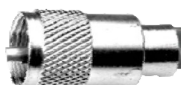
of Short Skip. All members should review the Policy and be familiar with it. It is not our intent to restrict or limit usage of the Repeater, but only to establish some basic rules concerning its use and a listing of priorities in the event of conflicting demands.

Of interest to historians is that our "unofficial" Club historian, Mike, AD6YB, has compiled past issues of Short Skip, going back to 1976. It is truly interesting to read what was done and how the Club operated back in the day and there are some good ideas that we can use again. These can be accessed from the Website, under the Member's Area, click Short Skip and look for the link.

This month's meeting program is 'RFI, Causes and Cures' by John Felton, KE5EI. It seems like everyone has some issue with RFI and John will tell us how to deal with it. The program will include a question and answer period so you can get some insight into dealing with your problem.

And a big Thank You to George, KK6DPX, John, WB7AMC, and Mike, AD6YB, for putting together the 2014 Roster. These guys stepped up and got the job done.

Pat, KG6JSL



2014 Club Officers

President	Patrick Coyle coylaw@sonic.net	KG6JSL
Vice President	John Felton	KE5RI
Treasurer	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB
Secretary	Dave Harrison	W6IBC
Director	Doug Payne Jeff Tonelli	KF6LMB KI6PBF
Past President	Charlie Sikes	KZ6T

Committee Lineup/Contacts

Activities	Darryl Paule, KI6MSP	ki6msp@arrl.net
ARES Liaison	Charlie Sikes, KZ6T	kz6t@arrl.net
DX/Contest	Kevin Alt, K6BSG	kalt@ieee.org
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Emergency Services	Charlie Sikes, KZ6T	kz6t@arrl.net
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License Trustee	John Felton, KE5RI	jrfke5ri@aol.com
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Membership	Mike Von der Porten, AD6YB	mikevdpc@aim.com
Merchandise	Iola Beckley, KK6HRE	cope@srcity.org
Programs	John Felton, KE5RI	jrfke5ri@aol.com
Public Service	Craig Gaevent, K6XLT	k6xlt@sonic.net
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Refreshments	Robert Jones, WA6NIV	wa6niv@arrl.net
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Tuesday Night Net

Remember to check in to the SCRA net each Tuesday evening on the 147.315+(PL 88.5) repeater at 7:00 PM. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the broadcast.

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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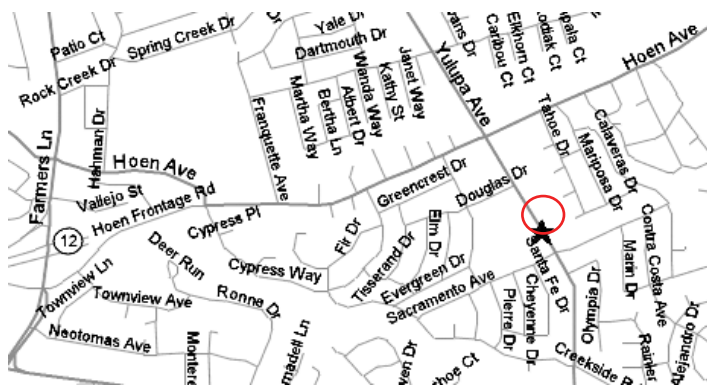


SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month 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 may be 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 Star Restaurant,
 1350 Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa.
 People start showing up at 5:30 PM.
 No RSVP is required.**

See you there every month except December.

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>

SCRA Membership Meeting March 5, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by President Pat KG6JSL. A quorum was present. Officers and Directors were introduced. New members and visitors included Bob KJ6LDL; Jim W6HNA and Dennis KK6JFK.

Program: Continuation of February's High Frequency Radio presentation: Charlie KZ6T explained high frequency digital modes (other than CW). Brian N6IYY described high frequency radio as the primary mode used at ARRL Field Day, and explained antennas properties including non-directional and directional antennas. Pat KG6JSL spoke about assembling a high frequency radio station, including safety and electrical aspects.

Business Meeting began at 8:35PM after a break. Minutes of February 2014 membership meeting were approved on motion by Darryl KI6MSP, second by Iola KK6HRE. Treasurer Mike AD6YB reported on the financial status of the club and noted that 2014 collections have reached \$3,255.20, ahead of budget.

Media Chair Sutter KI6ZON presented and explained the new SCRA website and noted that new features include a Mentor page, a Forums page, a Subscription feature, a password-protected Member area, and a monthly Calendar for 2014. His presentation was well received by the membership. Sutter also proposed putting out the club's monthly newsletter as a running Blog on the SCRA website. After discussion, consensus was to keep the present form of Short Skip and add a Blog version to the website.

Activities Chair Darryl KI6MSP reported upon progress at Santa Rosa Middle School in forming a ham radio club. Last week, Darryl, teacher Deb KK6HRD, and Dennis KI6REO presented a YouTube video to interested students on soldering. Darryl proposes future construction projects such as crystal radio sets, and code practice oscillators. Deb is applying for acceptance to the ARRL Teachers Institute. On April 11th from 3:30 PM to 7PM, the club will have a booth at the Family Life Magazine's Family Camping Expo at Wells Fargo Center.

Repeater Committee Member Charlie KZ6T reported that the committee had a meeting last week. The voter system is delayed because of lack of sensitivity of the Castle Rock 2 meter repeater. The embedded IRLP computer system is installed and presently working, but had a glitch last week. Please report any problems to Charlie at kz6t@arrl.net.

Education Chair Jeff KI6PBF reported that a Technician class will be held this weekend. He is organizing classes for General and Extra, and invites instructors to sign up. The Technician class set for August is moved up one week due to a scheduling conflict.

Public Service Chair Craig K6XLT reported that the public service calendar is posted on the website. First 2014 event is Lake Sonoma 50 at Lake Sonoma. While remaining a simplex handheld event, this year hams will be transmitting runner numbers and times. In May, SCRA will support Wine Country Century bike tour, and the Human Race. Send Craig an email if you want to volunteer: k6xlt@sonic.net.

Emergency Communications Chair Charlie KZ6T reported that ARES will hold a second message handling class at the Salvation Army Santa Rosa headquarters on Monday, March 10, and an emergency communications practice Saturday, March 29 from 8-12. Register with Fred KQ6OB at fpolkinghorn@gmail.com.

Membership Chair Mike AD6YB reported that we have 112 members in 2014. President Pat KG6JSL asked for a volunteer to format the 2014 member roster. George KK6DPX and John W6SB volunteered to help.

VE Liaison Brian N6IYY reported the next open exam session would be Saturday March 15th at the Bennett Valley Grange Hall, followed by another session there on May 17th.

Raffle Chair John KGd6PEP described the three raffle prizes.

Merchandise Chair Iola KK6HRE is asking that new members who have ordered merchandise please pick it up.

Continued on next page.

March Member Minutes, continued

Refreshments Chair Bob WA6NIV thanked the volunteers who continue to supply food items to go along with the beverages he is providing at the meetings.

New Business: President Pat KG6JSL proposed that SCRA make a charitable donation to the California Historical Radio Society, so that group can purchase a building in Alameda to house their extensive collection of radio artifacts. Charlie KZ6T moved that the club contribute \$250, seconded by Ed W1EJ. Following discussion, Dennis KI6REO moved, and Darryl KI6MSP seconded to amend the motion to increase the amount to \$1000 on condition that CHRS return the money if it does not succeed in purchasing the building. The amendment passed unanimously on voice vote. The original motion, as amended also passed unanimously.

John WB6FRZ noted that SCRA should also consider providing financial support to the Marine Radio Historical Society at Pt. Reyes and Bolinas. Ed W1EJ announced that VOMARC would be holding its annual hamfest in Sonoma on April 26th. He also sought signups for the Sawmill Enduro race at Cow Mountain in Ukiah to be held on April 5th and 6th.

Net Control. Charlie KZ6T opined that new hams should serve as net control operator in lieu of the small group of experienced hams that serve week after week.

Net Control Assignments for March:

3/11 Mike AD6YB
3/18 Iola KK6HRE
3/25 Dennis KI6REO
4/1 Dennis KK6JFK

Following Raffle drawing, meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David Harrison W6IBC
Secretary

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Board of Directors Meeting

March 12, 2014

Meeting called to order by President Pat KG6JSL at 6:12 PM at Star Restaurant, Santa Rosa. Board Members in attendance included President Pat KG6JSL, Vice President John KE5RI, Secretary Dave W6IBC, Treasurer Mike AD6YB, Director Doug KF6LMB, Director Jeff KI6PBF and Past President Charlie KZ6T. Other members attending included Brian N6IY, John WB6FRZ, Darryl KI6MSP, Dan WA6CRB, Iola KK6HRE, and John KG6PEP.

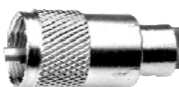
Minutes from February 2014 Regular Meeting of Board approved on motion by Dave W6IBC, Second by Doug KF6LMB, Charlie KZ6T abstaining.

Of the officers and directors, only treasurer Mike AD6YB reported. He indicated that receipts exceeded disbursements by \$600, cumulative for 2014.

Activities: Darryl KI6MSP reported on the ongoing progress of organizing a ham club at the Santa Rosa Middle School in cooperation with SR Middle School teacher Deb KK6HRD and Dennis KI6REO. Darryl also reported on plans to host an information table at a Family Life Magazine meeting at Wells Fargo Center on April 11th. He asked the board for approval to acquire a table drape and some promotional ARRL bookmarks. Iola KK6HRE agreed to look into acquiring a club-customized table drape, and the Board approved spending \$64.00 plus tax and postage for 200 book marks on motion by Mike AD6YB, second by John KE5RI.

Education: Jeff KI6PBF reported that the station assembly class presently has one candidate. Jeff is working hard on the general class and extra class training courses and plans to purchase two ARRL course manuals for each class. SCRA will hold another Technician class in April. Pat KG6JSL asked about the mentoring program, and stated "everybody is a mentor." A printed circuit board has been received for the Satellite Tracker project and Jeff hopes that project will be completed by Field Day in June.

Continued on next page



March Board Meeting Minutes, continued

Emergency Services. Charlie KZ6T reported that a successful message handling class occurred last Monday evening at the Salvation Army headquarters in Santa Rosa. A simulated emergency test (SET) is now set for March 29th. On motion by Dave W6IBC, second by Mike AD6YB, the board approved purchase of 30 pads of message forms for \$95.00 plus shipping and tax as a “group buy” project.

Field Day. Brian N6IYY reported that SCRA has received the application form from Santa Rosa for Youth Park, and circulated copies to the board members for review and comment. John WB6FRZ reported that he continues to work on the band filters. We will have to surround our antennas this year with caution tape. There will be a future preplanning meeting and work party.

Media: Pat KG6JSL requested that members wishing to add a blog-type comment to the weekly net-meeting notification send the comments to Pat by email.

Membership: Mike AD6YB reports that SCRA has 120 current members. The 2014 Membership Roster is being worked on and the club plans to print 150 copies for distribution at a future membership meeting with some being mailed out.

Merchandise: Iola KK6HRE reported that she was having difficulty mailing out membership badges to those who had ordered badges but had not picked them up at a membership meeting. The board discussed whether to cease mailing out badges or to increase costs of badge to cover mailing, with no action taken.

Programs: John KE5RI: The April 2014 Meeting will concern suppressing radio frequency interference (RFI) and will be presented by a PG&E expert, or if not available, by John KE5RI. Iola KK6HRE has volunteered to present a program covering “preparing your family for emergencies” which is part of her work as COPE director for Santa Rosa.

Repeater Committee: After discussion and modifications, the Board adopted the SCRA Repeater Usage Policy to be presented by Pat KG6JSL at the April membership meeting, put on the SCRA website, and published in Short Skip, on motion by Mike AD6YB,

second by John KE5RI. The board approved a motion to re-purpose the club’s non-functional APRS digipeater station to a Winlink digital store and forward facility, with an additional cost of \$50.00, on motion by Dave W6IBC, second by Doug KF6LMB.

Raffle: John KG6PEP asked the board for guidance on raffle prizes, which led to a board discussion without taking action.

Volunteer Examinations. Brian N6IYY reported that three candidates passed license exams last Sunday. An open session will be conducted this Saturday, a class session will be conducted in April, and an open session will be held in May, all at Bennett Valley Grange.

There was no old business.

In new business, the board engaged in a lively discussion of roles and responsibilities in connection with the club’s donation of funds to the California Historical Radio Society without taking any action. Because of a bylaws requirement, sign-ins of members and guests will be recorded at regular membership meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Harrison W6IBC
Secretary



Cut out for your VIP Discount Card



Contest Corner

Hello testers. April is one of the busiest contest months of the year. Check out one of the many state QSO parties or perhaps the Japan International DX Contest. Take advantage of sun spot cycle 24's maximum while you can! Happy DX'ing!

1 Apr – **ARS Spartan Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.arsqrp.blogspot.com.

4 Apr – **NS Weekly Sprint** – CW, 160-20 meters. See: www.ncccsprint.com.

4-5 Apr – **Mississippi QSO Party** – 2014 – All modes, 80-0.7 meters. See: www.arlmiss.org.

5 Apr – **LZ Open 40 Meter Contest** – CW, 40 meters. See: www.lzopen.com.

5 Apr – **PODXS 31 Flavors Contest** – Digital, 20 meters. See: www.podxs070.com.

5 Apr – **Missouri QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.w0ma.org.

5-6 Apr – **Worldwide EME Contest** – Phone/CW, 5.7 GHz. See: www.dubus.org.

5-6 Apr – **QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.qrparci.org/contests.

5-6 Apr – **SP DX Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl.

5-6 Apr – **EA RTTY Contest** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: concurso.ure.es/en/earty/.

5-6 Apr – **Montana QSO Party** – All modes, 160-0.7 meters. See: www.fvarc.org.

6 Apr – **OK1WC Memorial Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.memorial-ok1wc.cz.

7 Apr – **VHF Spring Sprints** – All modes, 2 meters. See: sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints.

9 Apr – **NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: naqcc.info.

9 Apr – **CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Tests** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.cwops.org/cwt.html.

12 Apr – **EU Spring Sprints** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.eu-sprint.com.

12 Apr – **Georgia QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.georgiaqsoparty.org.

12-13 Apr – **Japan International DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: jidx.org.

12-13 Apr – **New Mexico QSO Party** – All modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.newmexicoqsoparty.org.

12-13 Apr – **Yuri Gagarin DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: gc.qst.ru/en.

13 Apr – **International Vintage Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.contestvintage.beepworld.it.

13-14 Apr – **Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

15 Apr – **VHF Spring Sprints** – All modes, 222 MHz. See: sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints.

17-22 Apr – **Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party** – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: arlhs.com.

18-19 Apr – **Holyland DX Contest** – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.iarc.org.

19 Apr – **TARA Skirmish Dig Pfx Contest** – Digital, 160-6 meters. See: www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_rules.html.

19 Apr – **ES Open HF Championship** – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.erau.ee.

19 Apr – **EU Spring Sprints** – SSB, 80-20 meters. See: www.eu-sprint.com.

19 Apr – **Ontario QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.va3cco.com.

19 Apr – **Feld-Hell New Member Sprint** – Digital, 160-6 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

Continued on next page



Contest Corner, continued

19 Apr – **YU DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.yu1srs.org.rs/dl/yudx/yudxmain.html.

19-20 Apr – **Worked All Provinces of China** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.mulandxc.org.

19-20 Apr – **CQMM DX Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.cqmmdx.com.

19-20 Apr – **Michigan QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.miqp.org.

19-20 Apr – **EA QRP Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.eaqrp.com.

19-20 Apr – **Nebraska QSO Party** – All modes, 160-2 meters. See: www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm.

19-20 Apr – **South Dakota QSO Party** – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.w0blk.com.

19-20 Apr – **North Dakota QSO Party** – All modes, 160-2 meters. See: www.w0nd.com.

20 Apr – **ARRL Rookie Roundup** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

21 Apr – **Run For the Bacon** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.fpqrp.org.

21 Apr – **Low Power Spring Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.hamradio.sk.

23 Apr – **VHF Spring Sprints** – All modes, 0.7 meters. See: sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints.

26 Apr – **Florida QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 40-10 meters. See: www.floridaqsoparty.org.

26-27 Apr – **Ten-Ten Spring Digital Contest** – Digital, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

26-27 Apr – **SP DX RTTY Contest** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.pkrvg.org.

26-27 Apr – **Helvetia Contest** – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: uska.ch/amateurfunkpraxis/contest/info-kw.

27 Apr – **BARTG 75 Sprint** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.bartg.org.uk.

Repeater Update

The repeater system is operating well. We did have some problems with the IRLP embedded node computer, but they seem to be resolved, so give IRLP a try. Instructions for IRLP use are on our website.

Repeaters have a long history and the SCRA Repeater System is certainly a major improvement over former methods. Imagine only being able to transmit information at one letter per second. I found the following information in Wikipedia:

“Communications systems have a long history. Ancient man signaled with smoke and fire, often relaying messages from mountain top to mountain top. However, this optical communication scheme had limited transmission capacity. They could serve as a warning, as Queen Elizabeth the First of England planned when she had a network of bonfires erected to be set in the event of a seaborne invasion from Spain. The smoke signals transmitted by native Americans had the capacity to transmit various messages. Since the end of the eighteenth century messages have been passed by semaphore – the use of flags to indicate the transmission of one letter at a time. This form of communication could transmit information at a rate of about one letter per second over a direct line of sight, although messages could be relayed over long distances. Such means of communication were not very secure: anyone in the line of sight to the message sender could read the information (if he knew the code). The message could also be intercepted and altered during the relay process as the Count of Monte Cristo did to his advantage.

Another historical use of optical communication involved the heliograph – a device to reflect the sun's rays from a transmitting to receiving station using a code. This technique was widely used by the US Cavalry in the desert southwest of the United States until the early part of the twentieth century. For communication to progress past these early efforts, an information carrying channel had to be developed that was reliable, inexpensive, and that could be used over long distances, preferably at high rates of data transmission”.

Our repeater system offers such a channel and doesn't require either a person on a hilltop or a line of sight, although line of site always helps.
Jack, K6ROW, Repeater Chair



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Repeater Policy (Adopted 3/12/14)

Use of the repeater system and related equipment owned, operated and controlled by the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. (“SCRA”) is governed by this policy.

Our philosophy is that the SCRA repeater system is available for appropriate use by duly licensed radio amateurs and groups.

1. Priority of Usage:

The order of priority of usage is emergency communications, SCRA approved or authorized directed nets, SCRA member usage, and non-SCRA related usage. Any person or group desiring to use the SCRA repeater system in a manner not currently sanctioned by SCRA should contact SCRA through the Contact Us link on the SCRA website at [socoham.org](http://www.socoham.org).

2. Observe Good Operating Practices:

A. Follow Good Amateur Practice. Good operating procedure requires courtesy and common sense.

B. Identify your station call sign appropriately every ten minutes and at the end of a conversation.

C. “Kerchunking” of the repeater without identifying is not permitted. For testing your radio, use e.g., “This is. . .(your callsign). . . testing”, and then identify and say “clear” when you have completed testing.

D. No obscene, indecent or profane language is tolerated.

E. No broadcasting.

F. Listen before you talk. Hold the PTT down for a second before talking to allow time for the repeater to activate. Say the called station callsign first, followed by your callsign. Do not use Codes or Q words, or overuse phonetics, unless requested by a control operator.

G. Avoid controversial subjects, such as politics, religion, or criticisms of other amateurs or ham radio groups.

3. Failure to follow Policy:

A failure to follow our Repeater Policy may result in a formal denial of use of the SCRA repeater system. The FCC has upheld this power on the part of repeater owners. To protect the station license, the repeater trustee or control operators will shut off the repeater should a warning of unauthorized or inappropriate use

of the repeater go unheeded. We wish for everyone willing to abide by this policy to freely use and enjoy the SCRA repeater system.

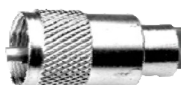
4. Become a part of our Team.

Maintaining and improving our repeater system is expensive. We strongly encourage amateurs who make frequent or recurrent use of our repeater system to become active members of SCRA. You will be most welcome. For more information about SCRA, consult our website at www.socoham.org.

Peppermint Radio, Anyone?

Everyone is fascinated by the proverbial Altoids™ tin and what kind of home brew radio project can be made to fit into its small volume. Let me propose a complete ham station (except for power, key and headphones). The radio under consideration is the famous Small Wonder Labs RockMite. It’s creator, Dave Benson K1SWL has now retired from offering his famous kit, but the legend continues. You can now obtain a newer and improved version of the RockMite kit from QRPme (<http://www.qrpme.com/>). The new kit comes in versions for 80, 40, 30, 20 meter CW bands. Because of its small size and parts count, it is easy to build, but limited to operating about a single frequency in the selected CW band. Output is about a half watt, and receiver is quite sensitive. Keep your soldering iron warm and try some homebrew soon. You’ll like it, I’m sure.

73, Dave W6IBC



ARRL to FCC: “Grow Light” Ballast Causes HF Interference, Violates Rules

03/14/2014

The ARRL has formally complained to the FCC, contending that a “grow light” ballast being widely marketed and sold is responsible for severe interference to the MF and HF bands. The League urged Commission action to halt sales of the Lumatek LK-1000 electronic ballast and to recall devices already on store shelves or in the hands of consumers. In a March 12 letter to the Commission’s Enforcement Bureau and its Office of Engineering and Technology, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said the ARRL’s own laboratory testing revealed that the Lumatek device exhibited excessive conducted emissions, in violation of the FCC’s rules.

“ARRL has received numerous complaints from Amateur Radio operators of significant noise in the medium and high frequency bands between 1.8 MHz and 30 MHz from ‘grow lights’ and other RF lighting devices generally,” Imlay told the Commission. “The level of conducted emissions from this device is so high that, as a practical matter, one RF ballast operated in a residential environment would create preclusive interference to Amateur Radio HF communications throughout entire neighborhoods.” An extensive Conducted Emissions Test Report detailing the ARRL Lab’s test results was attached to the League’s correspondence.

“[T]he Report concludes from the conducted emissions tests that the six highest emissions from the device in the HF band vastly exceed the quasi-peak limit specified in Section 18.307(c) of the Rules,” Imlay related. The ARRL further pointed out that, while a FCC sticker has been affixed to the device, it lacked FCC compliance information. FCC Part 18 rules require RF

lighting devices to provide an advisory statement with the device, notifying users that it could interfere with radio equipment operating between 0.45 MHz and 30 MHz.

The League noted that the device is imported into the US and marketed and sold by Sears, where ARRL purchased its test sample, as well as by Amazon.com and other retail outlets. The ARRL also called on the FCC to consider enforcement proceedings against the importer, Hydrofarm Horticultural Products of Petaluma, California.

“ARRL respectfully requests that your office take the appropriate action with respect to this device without delay,” Imlay’s letter concluded. Copies of the correspondence were sent to the importer.

In separate correspondence to FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai, seeking his review of the complaint, Imlay said the Lumatek unit was “typical in terms of its performance, and many other types of ‘grow lights’ are being imported, marketed, sold and deployed now.” One of Pai’s main interests is the revitalization of the AM Broadcast Band, where noise can be an impediment to reception. “It is not at all an exaggeration that even one of these electronic ballasts operated in a residential neighborhood makes any AM Broadcast reception impossible,” Imlay asserted. The League included a copy of its test report with the letter to Commissioner Pai.

“Marked increases in the noise floor at MF and HF, year-over-year, are well-known to active Amateur Radio licensees, and it is devices such as the Lumatek LK-1000 and its progeny that are major contributors to this noise pollution,” Imlay added.

ARRL, via Charlie



Come Join SCRA at Field Day 2014

June 27, 28, 29

ALERT!! Field Day is just over three months away but there's lots of planning to do! We will again be having Field Day at the Youth Community Park (aka "the skateboard park"), 1725 Fulton Rd, in Santa Rosa (across the street from Piner High School). As hams, it has been said that the world is our playground, so what better place to have Field Day than in a public park. Field Day is one of our best opportunities to demonstrate amateur radio to the public.

Plans are coming together, but there is still lots to do in the next few months. We still need to tie up a few loose ends. We may be operating as a "3A" classification, meaning that we will have three HF transmitters. One of these will be on SSB, another on CW and a third on PSK-31. We need station captains and radios for both the SSB and CW stations, so if you can help us with this, please let me know.

We will also have a Get-On-The-Air, or GOTA, station. I encourage all of our recently-licensed hams and even those old-timers that have not had an opportunity to get on the HF bands in the last year to give the GOTA station a try. It will be operating on SSB. We will need control operators (General or higher) to allow the unlicensed and under-licensed hams the ability to work HF. We get extra points if there is always a mentor at the GOTA station.

We will also have a VHF/UHF/Satellite station. We were not able to make a satellite contacts the last couple years, but this year we hope that a new antenna tracking system will improve our odds. I'm sure we can improve upon last year.

Pat Coyle, KG6JSL, will be coordinating the dinner Saturday night. We have not finalized how much of a donation will be requested.

We will also be having an Educational Activity. The exact time and content of this activity has not yet been determined, so watch for announcements on the SCRA website and your e-mail for further details. If you have an idea of what you would like to see for this Educational Activity, please let me know.

Field Day is always a good way to see where improvements in how we do things can be made. One of the areas identified after last year's Field Day was that we need to get more people familiar with how to assemble the club's TH-6 6-element, triband beam. Also, the TH-6 needs a little TLC.

Therefore, we are planning to have an antenna maintenance and assembly class a few weeks prior to Field Day. This will be a great opportunity for those interested in seeing how such an antenna is put together, and how to properly maintain such an antenna. If you will be helping for Field Day setup, I encourage you to come to this class. The date is tentatively set for Saturday, June 14. The location has not yet been determined.

We need your help!

First of all, I would like to hear from anyone who is hoping to participate in any way in Field Day this year. Even if you might only be there to observe for an hour or two to help logging, cooking, or whatever, please call me or send me an e-mail.

Specific areas where we need help are:

1. Radios for the SSB, CW and GOTA stations
2. Station captains for the GOTA, SSB and CW stations
3. Control operators for the GOTA station.
4. Laptop computers to use for logging.
5. Coax cable and UHF(f) to UHF(f) adapters. It's a real bummer when the station and antenna are separated by 120' and you only have 100' of coax!
7. "Tour Guides" to help show visitors around our Field Day site and explain what we are up to

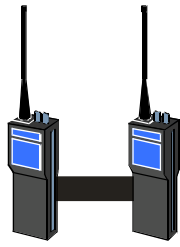
We will begin setup around 4pm on Friday, June 22. We will try to get most of the antennas set up before sundown. Setup will continue Saturday morning, June 23. The operating begins at 11:00am and runs until 11:00am Sunday morning, June 24. We will immediately start tearing down at 11:00am Sunday and should be leaving the park by 3:00pm.

Hope to see you all there!

Brian Torr, N6IYY
Tel: (707) 575-5871
n6iyy@arrl.net



Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club presents



AMFEST 2014

Saturday, April 26th,
8 am to 12 noon

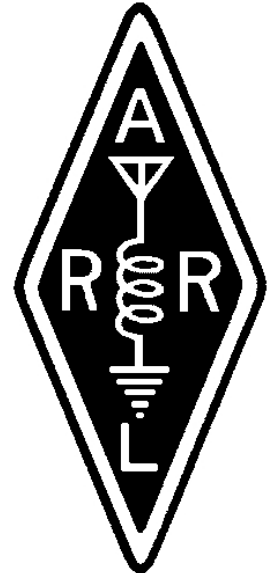
Featuring

- Swap Meet (indoor and outdoor spaces)
- Breakfast
- VE Testing Session
- Station Demos
- Fox Hunt

PLUS: special exhibit of vehicles that support
emergency communications

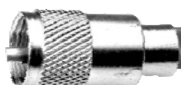
Radio Control helicopter using 70cm.

On the air demo of FreeDV digital voice on HF

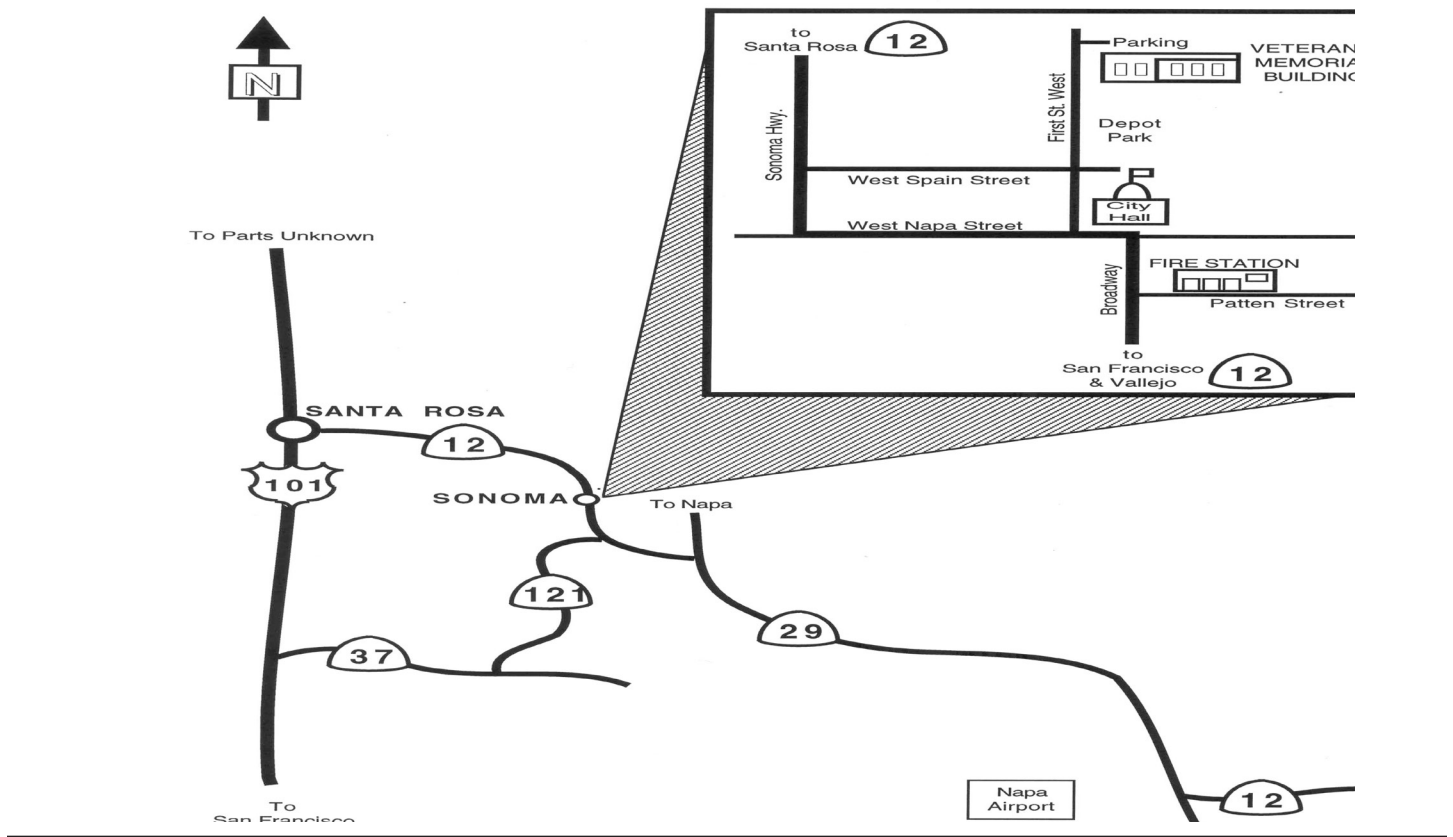


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Admission: FREE
Breakfast: \$8.00
Talk-in on 145.350 MHz (88.5 pl)
for flyer and map: www.vomarc.org



Map to Sonoma Hamfest 2014



Next VE Sessions: Saturday, May 17

Our next VE exams are scheduled for Saturday, May 17, from 9am until noon. The location will be the Bennett Valley Grange Hall, 4145 Grange Road, Santa Rosa. Walk-ins will be accepted and all test elements will be administered. (http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/ve_testing.html)

Please arrive by 8:45am to be signed in. Testing will begin shortly thereafter.

Directions: From Hwy 101, take Highway 12 East to Farmers Lane. Turn right onto Farmers Lane and then left onto Bennett Valley Road. Stay on Bennett Valley Road approximately 4.1 miles and turn right onto Grange Road. Bennett Valley Grange Hall is 0.5 miles from Bennett Valley Road on the right.

Candidates should bring the following:

- One (1) photo ID or two (2) non-photo ID
- FCC Registration Number (FRN, if you have one) or Social Security Number (if you do not have an

FRN) If you have had any FCC license assigned to you, amateur or otherwise, or had any prior business with the FCC, you probably have an FRN.

- Original and photocopy of your current amateur radio license (if licensed)
- Original and photocopy of any valid CSCEs (if applicable)
- #2 Pencil and eraser
- \$15.00 exam fee. Checks may be made payable to "ARRL-VEC"

Calculators may be used, but it must be demonstrated that all memories and programs have been erased. The calculator function in a cell phone or PDA may not be used! If you have any special needs, please contact Brian Torr, N6IIY in advance.

Good Luck!

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IC-7600 All Mode Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15kHz • 5.8 in WQVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope



IC-V8000 2M Mobile Transceiver

- 75 watts • Dynamic Memory Scan (DMS)
- CTCSS/DCS encode/decode w/ tone scan • Weather alert • Weather channel scan • 200 alphanumeric memories

Analog + Digital Dual Bander D-STAR

ID-880H

- D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode) • Wideband receiver



YAESU
The radio



FTDX-3000 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100 Watt HF/6 Meters • Large and wide color LCD display • High Speed Spectrum Scope built-in • 32 bit high speed DSP /Down Conversion 1st IF



FT-7900R 2M/440 Mobile

- 50W 2M, 45W on 440MHz • Weather Alert • 1000+ Memories • WIRES capability • Wideband receiver (cell blocked)

FT-60R 2M/440 5W HT

- Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/ alpha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan



FT-450D 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M • Auto tuner built-in • DSP built-in
- 500 memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift



FT-857D Ultra Compact HF/VHF/UHF

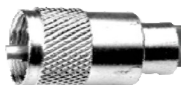
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