

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>

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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 39, Number 5

May 2014



May SCRA Update

by Pat Coyle, KG6JSL
SCRA President

Public Service season is off to a good start with exciting events scheduled throughout the summer and fall. The Lake

Sonoma 50 on April 12 was our kick-off event with veteran and new operators honing their skills. May has three events with all levels of skills. (See schedule.) The Public Service events provide great training for traffic handling and radio operations. Everyone should volunteer for these events. And hey, they are fun too.

In the debriefing after the last Simulated Emergency Test the subject of manual radio programming came up as a skill good operators should have. So, SCRA is going to partner up with the ARES group and present a class on basic manual radio programming. Manual programming is a hassle that few bother to learn but is critical when things go sideways. Murphy's law always prevails and you can bet that the frequency you need is not going to be in the radio memory. This will be on May 31. See the separate article on this for more information.

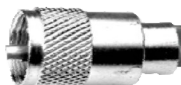
In the Member survey early this year there was a definite interest expressed for more High Frequency related topics. The May 7 meeting program will feature ARRL Section Manager Bill Hillendahl, KH-6GJV, giving a presentation on Contesting. Most radio contesting events are on the HF bands and Bill will present his slide showing the techniques for success-

ful contesting. Just listening to the contests is a great learning experience in crisp and concise radio operations and participating really hones your radio skills. Our DX/Contest Chairman Kevin, K6BSG, publishes the monthly contest schedule and everyone should get in on this.

Star's Restaurant, where we have had our pre-meeting no-host dinners has closed, but not to worry. The May 7 dinner will be held at the IHOP, at Fourth Street and Farmer's Lane, Santa Rosa, in the shopping center there. People start arriving around 5:15 PM and move on to the meeting around 6:30 PM. This is a nice social event where you get to know and talk informally with other members and all are invited.

Things seem to be moving along well for the Club and I hope to see you all at the May meeting.

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
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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

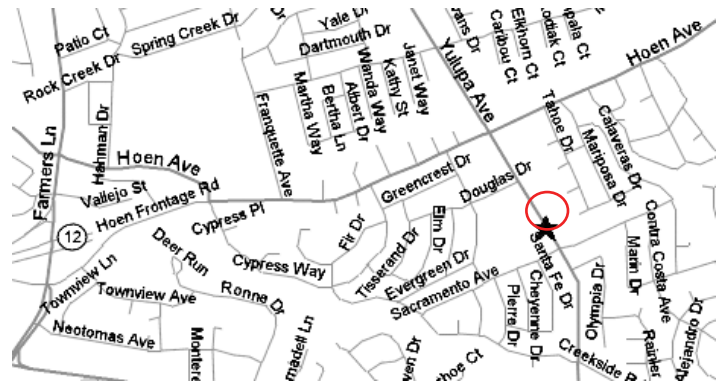
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SCRA Club Meetings

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 IHOP restaurant, 4th and Famers Lane, Santa Rosa.
 People start showing up at 5:15 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>





ECOM

Spring SET

On March 29th Sonoma County ARES in conjunction with the Oakmont COPE group held its Spring Simulated Emergency Training exercise or SET. Served agencies included Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Blood Bank, as well as representatives from the City of Santa Rosa. With few exceptions, all participants are members of ARES and SCRA.

The rationale behind the SET is to practice our skills in an environment that comes close to simulating what we might expect during a real regional emergency. Leading up to this exercise, ARES had conducted two formal message handling classes in 2014 covering, both in broad terms and fine detail, how to send and copy messages using the standard ARRL radiogram message form.

For those not familiar with how a SET works, here is a chronological account of the exercise.

08:00 Participating members converge at the Mission Plaza McDonalds for the pre-SET briefing. With the exception of Oakmont (which conducts its own briefing), participants are given a short description of the simulated emergency, what the current conditions are, what their roles and responsibilities are, as well as where they will be stationed.

The Scenario

The supply lines for the power grid for Northern California has been sabotaged resulting in a power outage for the whole area. Power has been out for 72 hours and PG&E estimates that it will be another 5-7 days before power is restored. This is exasperated by unseasonable cold weather. There is no water other than those systems which are gravity feed. There is gas, but many homes are cold because furnaces will not work without electricity. Landline phones are in operation but are extremely overloaded. Cell phone sites have run out of fuel for their generators. There is no power for streetlights or traffic signals. Schools, gas stations, most businesses and all non-essential government services are closed for lack of electricity. Many grocery stores and pharmacies are closed due to the lack of electricity and necessary workers. Hospital emergency rooms are extremely overloaded and are running short on blood

and other supplies. Police services are extremely busy directing traffic and responding to reports of looting. The National Guard has been activated to help keep the peace. A few commercial radio stations are operating with emergency messages only. Residents are requested stay at home and not travel except for emergencies. There is a marked increase in house fires as resident use candles and fireplaces to stay warm. A local shopping mall is burning out of control because of lack of water.

All disaster service agencies have been activated and are operating on emergency power. The Red Cross has been requested to open as many shelters as possible to handle residents without heat and food. The Salvation Army has been requested to provide food for these shelters. Hospitals are reporting a critical shortage of blood and supplies. Blood banks are trying to fill these shortages but need many more donors. Local food banks and soup kitchens have been requested to provide as many dinners as possible.

Elder communities, such as Oakmont, are extremely impacted. Some residents have run out of their medications and bottled oxygen is needed because their oxygen generators are not working. There is an increase of broken bones caused by people falling in the dark. There is also an increase of heart attacks and other stress related maladies. Local self-help groups such as COPE have been asked to survey their neighborhoods to determine the status of their residents. A plan has been initiated to transport residents who need food and a warm shelter. Sounds like fun, right?

Stations include;

Net Control/EOC which for this event is Salvation Army Headquarters, Red Cross Headquarters, Blood Bank, Oakmont EOC, and two Shelters. Since it was raining, we tried to come up with locations that would afford a dry place to operate from. (We were not 100% successful in that department.)

Salvation Army will send out their mobile Canteen to visit the shelters. The Canteen is equipped with a 2m mobile radio.

Red Cross headquarters is closed up for the day, so operations will be portable out of vehicles.

Continued on next page.



ECOM, continued from previous page.

Shelter One for this exercise operates out of the City of Santa Rosa's EOC building. In a real event, a shelter would not be set up here, but its a nice dry place to operate from.

Shelter Two will be the Finley Center. Unfortunately the Staff does not let us in, so like Red Cross, operations will be portable out of a pickup.

Blood Bank has its own station setup (including HF) in small conference room, although, it takes some time to locate said room. If you have ever been in this building you would understand why as a protractor was heavily used to design this building, making lots of odd angles to confuse its occupants.

Oakmont has its own operation at the Berger Center, and their EOC is linked into our net.

08:30 Briefing concludes and all participants head out to their assigned positions.

08:50 N/C-EOC is setup using an FT-8800, portable battery, and the Salvation Army's building mounted antenna.

09:00 NC,closes the frequency and calls roll to start the exercise. All stations check in with a loud and clear response except Oakmont. They will join the net a little later.

In the pit, KG6JSL starts off as net control, KZ6T works as the logger, with everyone else practices copying the messages. (Did I mention how plush the surrounds are. Wow, comfy chairs, huge table, windows, heat, food and drink. Salvation Army sets the bar quite high for a base of operations.)

Each station is expected to compose 5-6 formal messages that take into account the scenario and their assignment. SETs used to include pre-formatted and composed messages, but that didn't help teach the participants how to do it themselves. Even though in a real event, formal messages will probably be handed to them, composing them on their own helps to understand why we use the format.

09:07 Its a slow start so EOC starts the messages flowing with one to Blood Bank. Soon after all stations get the hang of it and the messages start flying.

09:20 Oakmont joins the fun

09:23 In the middle of a message, Red Cross drops off the net, but comes back a few minutes latter. Battery Issue.

9:39 Jim K6HKY takes over logging operations and Eric AA6EM steps into the role of Net Control. Nothing like trial by fire to get one's feet wet.

10:06 Net Control calls a second roll call. This time the response is to give station information and whether or not you have the operating manual for your radio. Hum, some of us need to work on this as next time, all stations will be expected to move to another frequency some time during the SET. Expect something similar during upcoming ARES nets. There, you have been forewarned.

11:00 The SET is now ended with the repeaters (VHF & UHF) being returned to normal operation. Time to breakdown and head to the de-briefing.

11:30 Debriefing commences at the Montgomery Village Round Table. Everyone gave terrific input on the things that went well, and where we need to make improvements. Clarity was given to roles and responsibilities. All together there are 47 pieces of formal message traffic with a handful of informal traffic as well. We handled routine, welfare, priority, and even emergency traffic. Some better than others. We even arranged a priority airlift of dark chocolate to needy Red Cross operators.

Its clear that work is still needed to perfect our message handling skills. From the beginners to the well seasoned, mistakes were made. But then, that is why we have these drills. his is where Bill Hillendahl loves to quote Rich Freitas KF6SZA "In an emergency, we will not rise to the occasion, rather we will sink to our level of training". So lets all practice more.

Continued on next page.



ECOM, continued from previous page.

The next SET will probably occur in the Fall in conjunction with the California Shakeout drill. With any luck, Santa Rosa COPE and Santa Rosa EOC will be joining us. Until then, your best training is to participate in Public Service events. Do not be shy to sign up. If you don't have the experience, you will be paired with someone who does. Public Service events are a great way to develop and polish your radio skills. Sign up today!

Participants:

Organizer	Net Control / EOC	Salvation Army Can-teen	Red Cross
Bill KH6GJV	Pat KG6JSL	Gary KI6TEW	Janie KI6REF
Fred KQ6OB	Jim K6HKY	Ron KI6TFJ	Bob KJ6LOL
	Eric AA6EM		
	Peter KI6NYQ		
	Charlie KZ6T		
Blood Bank	Shelter One	Shelter Two	Oakmont EOC
Brian N6IYY	Dan WA6CRB	Darryl KI6MSP	Lee KE6EAQ
John KI6CAU	Matt KI6LJI	Karen KK-6GJW	John KE5RI
	Wells KK6EXC		

73, Charlie, KZ6T

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Board of Directors Meeting

April 16, 2014

Minutes

Rescheduled and re-noticed Regular Board Meeting called to order by President Pat KG6JSL at 6:14 PM at IHOP Restaurant, Fourth St at Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. Board Members in attendance included President Pat KG6JSL, Vice President John KE5RI, Secretary Dave W6IBC, Director Doug KF6LMB, Director Jeff KI6PBF and Past President Charlie KZ6T. Treasurer Mike AD6YB was absent. Other members attending included Brian N6IYY, John WB6FRZ, Darryl KI6MSP, Iola KK6HRE, John KG6PEP, Dennis KI6REO, Ned KI6REQ, and Jack K6ROW.

Minutes of March 2014 Regular Meeting of Board were approved on motion by Charlie KZ6T, second by Doug KF6LMB.

Activities: Darryl KI6MSP reported ham club developments at the Santa Rosa Middle School. Sebastopol Hardware has made a donation of tools and supplies to the students. Darryl also reported on the information table at the Family Life Magazine meeting at Wells Fargo Center on April 11th. He renewed his request for Board approval of a table drape. After discussion, on motion by Dave W6IBC, second by Jeff KI6BPF, the Board on majority vote approved purchase of one eight foot drape, with KZ6T and KE5RI voting against the motion.

Education: Jeff KI6BPF reported that the video projector long used for technician classes has failed. After discussion, consensus was that the Club's video projector should be used for the classes. Dave W6IBC suggested that the club acquire a spare projector bulb. The Board discussed SCRA's use of the Bennett Valley Grange hall for classes and testing. Jeff spent \$403.99 for instruction materials in preparation for general and extra classes which may not be held due to present lack of students. After considerable discussion, the Board approved reimbursing Jeff in this amount on motion by John KE5RI, second by Dave W6IBC. Jeff and Dennis KI6REO will promote interest in these classes, that may be held later in the year. The Board hopes that the Satellite Tracker project will be completed for use at Field Day in June.

Continued on next page.



Minutes, continued.

Emergency Services. The board had an extensive discussion of the role of SCRA and ham radio in the event of an emergency in the Santa Rosa area. President Pat KG6JSJL asked the Board to consider a plan allocating usage priority for SCRA repeater resources in such an event. No formal action was taken.

Field Day. Brian N6IYY reported that SCRA has not yet received approval from Santa Rosa on the application for using Youth Park. A first planning session is set for 10 am on Sunday, April 27th at Youth Park, with a followup on May 18th at the same location.

Repeater: Darryl KI6MSP reported that IRLP was not working. Charlie KZ6T and Jack K6ROW will investigate and report back.

Website: After the CDS server went down, the Board began considering moving the club website to another host server, such as Sonic.net. President Pat will discuss details and requirements with Webmaster Sutter KI6ZON and report back to the Board.

Membership: The board authorized Doug KI6LMB to spend up to \$50.00 for postage to mail out the 2014 rosters to members who did not pick their copy up at the March meeting.

Merchandise: Iola KK6HRE submitted a formal report on Tee Shirt inventory status and proposed reordering Tee Shirts in an amount of \$670.00. This amount exceeds Board approval level and must be considered by the members. Iola will poll members at May meeting and also check with Craig K6XLT for size distributions of Tee Shirts given out to club public service event participants.

Programs: Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV (ARRL Section Manager) has offered to present a program covering DX contesting. Pat will confirm Bill's availability for the May meeting.

Raffle: John KG6PEP plans on continuing the raffle as before.

Volunteer Examinations. Brian N6IYY reported that he presently has a sufficient number of volunteer examiners to meet the need for future sessions.

Old Business:

INVENTORY: John KG6PEP and Dave W6IBC will conduct an inventory of the Breadbox and its contents. John KE5RI will conduct an inventory of SCRA property in his possession. These inventories will be added to the inventory already taken.

New Business:

GROUP BUY: Charlie KZ6T will ask the members for input at the May meeting. He suggested Coax. John KE5RI suggested silver plated RF connectors. Dave W6IBC suggested J-Pole antennas.

ARES: ARES plans to have a session on how to program VHF/UHF radios.

ACTIVITIES: Darryl asked the Board for money for the SR Middle School crystal radio build project. On motion by Charlie KZ6T, second by Dave W6IBC, Board approved spending \$70.00 for two crystal radio kits.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Harrison W6IBC
Secretary



Public Service Roundup

The Lake Sonoma 50 is usually our opening event for the season and this year did not disappoint. Bright and early on 12 April, we were setup by the time of the start as runners left the start chute promptly at 0630. The rest of the day was spent with our crew distributed around the course passing runner numbers and times back to NC. Those times were immediately passed to the web crew that kept the online stats up to date.

While not the warmest day, eventually the chilly clouds and fog gave way to a bit of sun to at least warm up some of the afternoon. The wrangler got so cold he could hardly hang on to the mic. But soon enough we warmed up but only to have the winds come up later. Best news of all is that John KE5RI's boat actually worked this year and along with his buddy W1EJ he made it to the Island View Aid Station. The LS50 is all handled on simplex so coordination with aid stations and NC is tricky as not all sites can hear each other. The good news is that it worked well and everyone was patient. Our crew for the LS50: KD6FIL, WA6CRB, KZ6T, K6AWA, K6BDH, KF7SOA, KE5RI, W1EJ, K6HKY, KG6JSL, KF7IMJ, and out for her first PS event KK6GJW (Karen). Karen did a superb job of stepping out of the background and getting right into meat of the event. A job well done to all.

On 3 May, Wine Country Century happens again. Santa Rosa Cycling Club, a large benefactor to this club, hosts this annual multi-distance ride. At this point, I think I have a full crew. But the opportunities don't stop there. The following weekend the Human Race is up on 10 May Saturday. Darryl and I believe also Sutter will manage that event.

Further off in June we have the Terrible Two, also an SRCC event and one of my all-time favorites.

Public Service manages to be such a success that we are known as the 'go to' folks for communication services for events. That being said, volunteer commitments can be a huge time suck. I think I speak for all of us in saying that we have to be careful what we take on. We are currently reviewing a proposal for the Santa Rosa Marathon on the last weekend in August and I have a request as well to assist at the Senior Games (Healdsburg) on May 31 - June 1 (about 4 folks - mobile). For the Marathon, I'm leaving this to the board to decide,

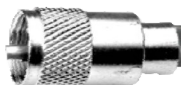
but I will not be available that weekend. Someone else will have to CommBoss this event. For the Senior Games I have not handed this to the board for a decision, and now given the time frame, there's isn't a lot of time for that. If someone wants to take that one on, give me a holler and we'll work out the particulars.

And for you newcomers, PS events are great way to overcome 'mic fright' and get used to work with your club members in a dynamic setting. It's good fun and usually you get some good schwag to with it. As always feel free to contact me about PS events.

Craig
K6XLT
Public Service Wrangler
k6xlt@sonic.net



NC and KD6FIL at the mic



Code Class

The end for another 12-week course for CW in the amateur Radio world. SCRA has sponsored this class for the 2013/2014 year. The instructors were John Breckenridge WB6FRZ, and Brian Torr N6IIY.

On Friday April 4th 2014, the final class was held. The members that were present were, Amanda KK6HQV, Lou KA6GWT Doug KF6LMB, Dave W6IBC, Meve KK6HQY, Mary KK6HQZ. All completed the entire 12-week course. CW contacts were made including; John contacted Pleasanton, Ca. Amanda contacted Lepry, Utah, Lou contacted Ramona, Ca (the city of Ramona), Doug contacted Coram, New York, and Dave contacted Ogala, Nebraska. Dave had the longest QSO that lasted 35 minutes. Dave was receiving code from a milk truck driver driving down the highway at 70 MPH! You thought texting was hazardous You just never know what you are going to run into.

Congratulations to all, and a special thanks to our instructors John and Brian, for all of the time spent in preparation and conducting the classes. Jump onboard next time the classes are sponsored by your SCRA club.

Submitted by Doug Payne KF6LMB --... ...--

MAY ACTIVITIES

Check out the Website for more information: www.socoham.org

May 3: Wine Country Century. The Bicycle Club's premier event. Contact Craig, K6XLT, k6xlt@sonic.net

May 4: MS Walk. A fund raiser for the MS Society. Contact Sutter, KI6ZON, sutterlaird@meacom

May 10: Human Race. Around Spring Lake. Contact Sutter, KI6ZON, sutterlaird@meacom

May 17: VE Session. Contact Brian, N5IIY, n6iiy@arrl.net

May 18: 10:00 to noon. Field Day Planning session. Youth Community Park, 1725 Piner Road, across from Piner High School. Contact Brian, N5IIY, n6iiy@arrl.net

May 31: Radio Programming Class. 9:00 to noon. Contact Pat, KG6JSL, coylaw@sonic.net



1914 WEST MARIN 2014

A Centennial Celebration of Marconi & RCA Wireless Radio in West Marin, 1914-2014

All events are open to the public and free unless otherwise noted

Radio has played a significant role in the history of West Marin since Marconi built the first wireless stations at Bolinas and Marshall in 1914. Discover the ways the West Marin community is planning to celebrate this history and the legacy that continues to make radio part of our lives, past and present.

Marconi & RCA Centennial and KWMR 15th Anniversary Exhibits

April 5-30, Opening Reception April 5, 2-5pm.
Visit this exhibit for an introduction to 100 years of local radio history, from the first transmission across the Pacific to contemporary community radio.
Toby's Feed Barn Art Gallery, 11250 Hwy 1 Point Reyes Station, www.tobysfeedbarn.com, 415-663-1223

PAPER WORK: Signals and Signs, An Installation by Joan Grubin

April 5 - June 13, 9am-5pm Monday-Friday, or by appointment, Open House Saturday, April 5, 2-4pm
New York artist Joan Grubin's large-format paper and tape installation is a visual manifestation of dots and dashes, specifically designed for The New School, Commonwealth Gallery space. Inspired by the Commonwealth mission and informed by its facility's history as a Marconi/RCA radio station, the work deploys a visual vocabulary that suggests a system of technology, circuitry, and energy harnessed to fling signals out into the void, in hopes that someone somewhere will receive the messages.
Commonwealth Gallery, 451 Mesa Road Bolinas, <http://tnc.commonwealth.org/events>, 415-868-0970

International Marconi Day

April 26, 10am-4pm
Each year the Cornish Amateur Radio Club organizes International Marconi Day (IMD), an on-the-air event to celebrate the birthday of Guglielmo Marconi, born April 25, 1874. KGKPH will set up their own receive site in the Chief Engineer's Cottage using vintage receiving equipment. With both transmit and receive sites at historic Marconi locations, KGKPH will be one of the most authentic Award Stations participating in IMD.
Marconi Conference Center State Historic Park-McCargo Hall, 18500 California Hwy 1, Marshall, www.marconiconference.org, 415-663-9020

Ship to Shore: Learning Morse Code

April 14 - October 1
Kids and adults alike can take their turn at the Morse key station tapping out dots and dashes and translating code onto Marconigrams and earn their junior operator badges.
Bear Valley Visitor Center, Point Reyes National Seashore, www.nps.gov/pore, 415-464-5173

Bolinas Museum Exhibitions

June 7 - August 17, Fridays 1-5pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-5pm, or by appointment
48 Wharf Road, Bolinas, 415-868-0330, www.bolinasmuseum.org, 415-868-0330

Exhibition Previews and Public Reception

June 7, 2-5 pm
Join us for intimate and informative previews with the artists and curators before the 3 PM public reception celebrating the opening of four new exhibitions inspired by the history of wireless radio in West Marin.

Wireless Giant of the Pacific: 100 Years of Maritime Radio in West Marin

Main Gallery, Curated by Carola DeRooy, Archivist, Point Reyes National Seashore
Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937), inventor of wireless radio, constructed powerful Pacific coast stations in Bolinas and Marshall in 1914 to connect his round-the-world services across the Pacific. After WWII the Radio Corporation of America obtained the sites and commercial maritime radio services continued until 1997. Today the historic stations are part of Point Reyes National Seashore partnering with the Maritime Radio Historical Society to keep the legacy alive. This exhibition presents a 100-year look at the development of wireless radio technology still widely used today and highlights historic events that transpired at the Marshall, Point Reyes, and Bolinas stations.

Code Humpback

Photography Gallery, New York artist and first Artist in Residence at Palo Alto's SETI Institute (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Charles Lindsay presents a multi-media installation commissioned by the Bolinas Museum in honor of the Marconi Centennial. Composed of sound, video, and sculptural elements Code Humpback explores encrypted languages and forms of communication inspired by Morse code transmissions originating from the Bolinas Marconi/RCA station and recent inter-species communications discoveries lead by SETI Institute scientist Laurence Doyle.

Swept/Up

Coastal Marin Artists Gallery, Bolinas sculptor Wayne Campbell will create new work inspired by, personal history and hand built hidden wireless radios developed by American prisoners of war in order to connect with the outside world.

The Influence of Marconi & RCA in Local Communities

History Room, Curated by Elia Haworth
The Marconi station installation in 1914 and the arrival of RCA in 1919, and later expansion in 1939 had a profound impact on the communities of Coastal Marin. This exhibit will share personal stories of families and individuals whose lives were entwined with these companies.

Artist Charles Lindsay in Conversation with Astronomer Laurence Doyle

June 14, 4-6pm, Moderated by Eric McDougall, \$5 suggested donation
Jain SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Artist in Residence Charles Lindsay and SETI astronomer and information theory expert Laurence Doyle for a thought-provoking discussion about the possibilities of interspecies communications, recent advancements in the field related to humpback whale song, and the philosophical debate regarding the existence of sentient beings beyond planet earth. Both Charles and Laurence are based at Palo Alto's SETI Institute, which, until recently, was directed by Jill Tarter, 2009 recipient of the TED Prize whose wish is to "empower Earthlings everywhere to become active participants in the ultimate search for cosmic company."
Bolinas Community Center, 14 Wharf Circle, Bolinas, www.boconter.org, 415-868-2128

Night of Nights: Commemorative Broadcast and Open House

July 12, 3pm-midnight
Historic coast radio station KPH, built by RCA in 1929 on the Point Reyes Peninsula returns to the air for the annual commemorative broadcast marking the last commercial message sent by Morse code at 5 PM (PDT) in 1999. The Maritime Radio Historical Society's own KSM carries on the tradition of Morse code operations along with KPH and KFS, welcoming licensed operators to pound the key and the public to observe as they work ships and other contacts through the magic of Morse. The station will be open to visitors beginning at 3 pm and transmissions are expected to continue until at least midnight.
The station is located at 17400 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and is on the route to the Point Reyes lighthouse. Watch for a cypress lined driveway on the right about a mile past the entry to Coast Guard station MMC. For more information go to www.radiomarine.org

Book Talk & Reception with Calvin Trowbridge Jr.

July 13, 2-5pm
Meet the author of Marconi: Father of Wireless, Grandfather of Radio, Great-Grandfather of the Cell Phone, The Story of the Race to Control Long-Distance Wireless. He will speak about Marconi's empire building, the competition and patent wars, and the fast pace of invention and technology change as the potential for radio became understood in the early 20th century. Books will be available, enjoy a chat with the author and complimentary refreshments.
Red Barn Classroom, Bear Valley, Point Reyes National Seashore, www.nps.gov/pore, 415-464-5125



Historic Walking Tour: Explore The Bolinas Marconi/RCA Station and Grounds

August 2, 10am, Bolinas Museum, \$20 Members / \$25 Non-Members, Reservations Required. Space is limited. Call 415-868-0330 to reserve your space today!
Avid maritime radio historian Richard Dillman and fellow radio operators will make history and technology come alive as we walk the site of the Bolinas Marconi/RCA station. This transmitting station originally built by Marconi in 1914 played an important role in communication history. The station provided trans-oceanic communication between continents until 1973 and ship-to-shore Morse code service through 1997. You will see the historic buildings including the restored hotel, cottages and original power house, the antenna fields and tour the transmitter gallery and control room, the heart of the operations today.
451 Mesa Road, Bolinas, Grounds and Building 2A

KPH Maritime Radio: The Heartbeat of the Pacific Basin

August 16, 10am-3pm, Point Reyes National Seashore Association, \$5 Members / \$10 non-members, Register today at 415-663-1200 or online at www.ptreyes.org
Radio historian Bill Ruck will present an illustrated talk and an afternoon tour of the historic RCA building. See the control room with Morse operators in action at the Point Reyes radio station. Learn about the amazing history of KPH that started out at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco before the 1906 earthquake, played a significant role during WWII and the Vietnam War and was the call sign for the most powerful station on the coast recognized by ship operators around the world, until 1999 when satellite communications replaced Morse code.
Red Barn Classroom, Bear Valley, Point Reyes National Seashore

Radio Personalities of Wireless West Marin

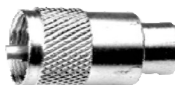
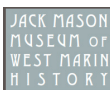
August 1 - November 30, Opening Reception - August 9, 1-4pm
Discover the fascinating stories of the men and women who were part of the RCA family. Look into the lives of riggers, telegraphers, engineers, and station workers through oral histories, memorabilia and photographs that reveal the joys and struggles of working for the communications giant.
Jack Mason Museum of West Marin History, 15 Park Ave, Inverness, www.jackmasonmuseum.org, 415-669-1099

Centennial Banquet

September 19, 5pm
Tickets to this fundraiser are available online through the Maritime Radio Historical Society at www.radiomarine.org
Hotel rooms may be reserved at the Marconi Conference Center by phone 415-663-9020
The banquet will be held in the renovated powerhouse at the original Marconi receiving station on the scenic east shore of Tomales Bay. Mingle for drinks on the terrace overlooking the bay and then enjoy a banquet in the historic atmosphere to celebrate the first trans-Pacific wireless transmission across the Pacific to Hawaii in Sept of 1914. The event is a fund raiser for the Maritime Radio Historical Society. The benefit supports their ongoing efforts in partnership with the National Park Service to preserve and restore the historic equipment and operations at the radio sites and make them available for public tours and education. President of the Maritime Radio Historical Society, Richard Dillman will be the featured speaker along with a surprise guest.
Marconi Conference Center, Buck Hall, 18500 California Hwy 1, Marshall, 415-663-9020

Stay tuned to KWMR 90.5 in Point Reyes and 89.9 in Bolinas, or online at kwmr.org for more details about upcoming events, interviews, and programming celebrating 100 years of radio in West Marin.

For more information www.nps.gov/pore





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Saturday June 7th, 2014

0700 – Noon – Peach Tree Mall (Feather River Center)
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***Free Admission**

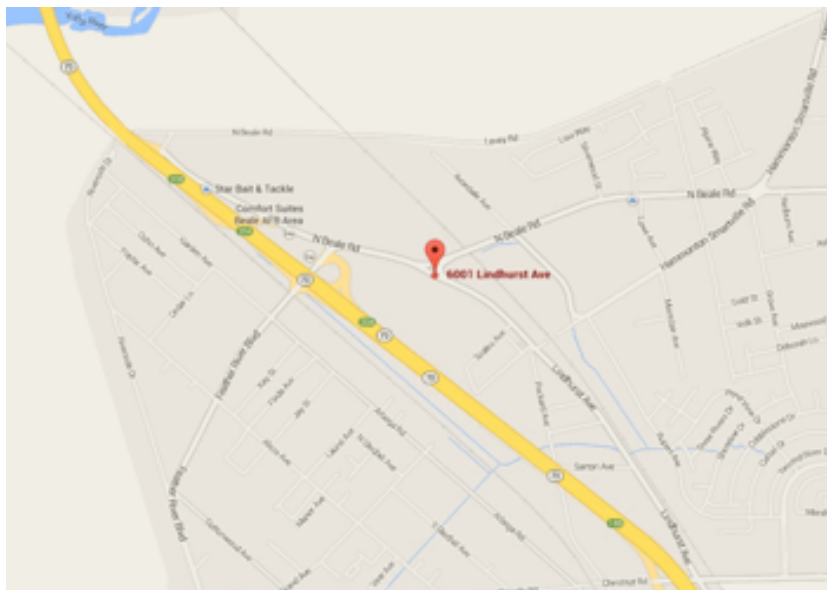
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***Door Prizes (Starting at 08:00)**



DIRECTIONS

Northbound Hwy 70...

Take the Feather River Blvd exit
Turn right, right again @ the light.
Mall will be on your right.

Southbound Hwy 70...

Take the N Beale Road exit
Keep to right thru lights,
Mall will be on your right.

From the West or East...

Travel to Marysville, head south on
Hwy 70; follow Southbound Directions

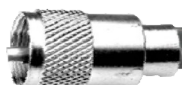
Northbound from Roseville...

Travel north on Hwy 65 Past Wheatland;
follow Northbound directions

Northbound from Sacramento

Traveling northbound on Hwy 99, take
Hwy 70 at the 70/99 interchange, then
follow the Northbound directions

TALK IN DIRECTIONS – 146.085+ (127.3)



RADIO PROGRAMING CLASS

Pat Coyle, KG6JSL, SCRA President

SCRA and ARES are sponsoring a class to train manual programming of radios on May 31, 2014, from 9:00 AM until noon. The location is not finalized as of the publishing deadline for Short Skip but we are hoping for either the Salvation Army facility or Bennett Valley Grange. We will advise on the Net and the Weekly Blog when the location is finally determined.

Manual programming is one of those things that few people bother with because it is a hassle and computer programming is so easy. That is fine if you have your computer in the field when you need to access a frequency that is not programmed into your radio's memory but does not work very well when things go wrong.

No Emergency Services operator can claim to be competent or prepared unless he or she can manually program their radio. When the repeaters go down during an emergency, when power fails, when interference prevents effective communication, and you have to change frequencies, people are counting on you to know what to do and how to operate your radio. And trust me, it is a comfort to the Public Service Comm Boss to know that the operators at an event are competent to change their frequencies or set up in the middle of an event.

This is going to be an interactive, hand-on, live operation class. You will be on the air. Bring your radio AND your manual, whether HT or a mobile rig. We will have power supplies for some mobiles, set up for Anderson Power Pole connectors. Better yet is to bring your own power supply and test it at the class. Bring your mobile antenna with your mobile radio. In other words, bring your Emergency Service or Public Service set up to test your equipment and yourself.

We will have instructors versed in manual programming of any type of radio, whether Yeasu, Icom or other brands to assist and provide direction.

We do need a count of participants in order to prepare and to get you on the mailing list. Email Pat Coyle, KG6JSL, at coylaw@sonic.net to sign up.

Basic Ham Radio Go Kit

The following is a basic "Go Kit" that will serve you well for most SCRA Public Service events and very short term emergency communication assignments. This equipment will fit in a modest sized bag or carrying case and is a supplement to any other equipment your assignment may require such as portable radios and larger antennas. Check all equipment periodically and before any event.

You should also carry any personal items for safety and comfort, such as glasses and medications and appropriate clothing, sun screen, snacks and drinks.

- Dual-band (VHF/UHF) handheld radio with spare fuses and manual
- Quarter-wave flexible whip antenna, and antenna adapter from your HT to a PL259 connector.
- Copy of your Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license and any Emcomm IDs
- Mag-mount antenna with necessary adapters for connecting to various connectors
- Extra battery packs and charger
- Basic tools such as pliers, screwdrivers, wire.
- Headset with microphone or speaker-mic
- Copy of event Communications Plan, Emcomm frequencies, phone numbers
- Pocket knife and/or multipurpose tool
- Flashlight or headlamp and spare batteries
- Pencil and notebook, clipboard, and permanent marker
- Duct tape, electrical tape, and a few small cable ties
- Cash for food, gas, and telephone calls



Come Join SCRA at Field Day 2014

June 27, 28, 29

ALERT!! Field Day is just over two months away but there's still some 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.

The plans are shaping up, but there are still lots to do in the next two 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 CW, PSK-31 and the VHF/UHF/Satellite 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.

Doug Payne, KF6LMB has volunteered to be our GOTA station captain, so if you are interested in operating the GOTA station, or being a control operator / GOTA coach, please contact Doug.

If you are interested in operating the SSB station, please contact the SSB station captain, Dennis Colthurst, KI6REO.

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, 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 set for Saturday, June 14, at 9am at John Breckenridge's house at 574 Wild Oak Dr, in Windsor.

Planning Sessions

We have two planning sessions scheduled. The first will be Sunday, April 27th at 10am at Youth Community Park (the Field Day Location) 1725 Fulton Rd, in Santa Rosa, across the street from Piner High School.

The second planning session will also be at Youth Community Park on Sunday, May 18th, at 10am.

All are welcome to come to these planning sessions.

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.

Continued on next page.



Field Day, continued.

Specific areas where we need help are:

1. Radios for the CW, VHF/UHF and GOTA stations
2. Station captains for the CW, VHF/UHF and PSK-31 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 27.

We will try to get most of the antennas set up before sundown. Setup will continue Saturday morning, June 28. The operating begins at 11:00am and runs until 11:00am Sunday morning, June 29. 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, N6IY
Tel: (707) 575-5871
n6iyy@arrl.net

PRE-MEETING DINNER AT IHOP

The pre-meeting dinner location has changed to IHOP at the corner of 4th Street and Farmers Lane, in the shopping center, because Stars Restaurant has closed. The April Board of Directors met at IHOP and it was pretty good. They have a separate area for us and the waiter was good as was the food. So join us for no-host dinner on May 7 around 5:15 PM. Let's see how it works out.

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, N6IY in advance.

Good Luck!

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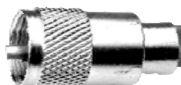
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