

CLUB STATION
K6SON

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

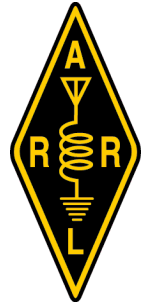
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

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<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 43, Number 4

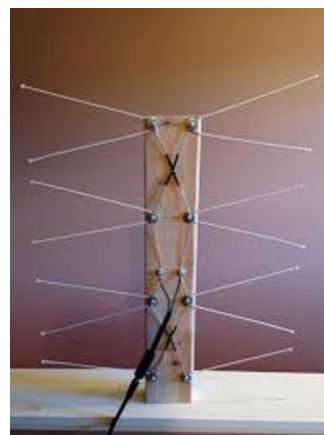
April 2018

Rabbit Ears Over the Years

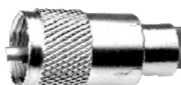
It's Bunny Season, so let's take a retrospective look at Rabbit Ears since they first appeared in the 1950s.



Radion Rabbit Ears 1959



More info at <https://www.flysfo.com/museum/exhibitions/3449/detail?num=11>





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE APRIL 2018



I wish to thank all of you who have stepped forward to chair our various committees.

Our club runs on Volunteer Power. SCRA has earned the reputation of a club that be depended upon to support many public service in a very professional way. We have

many events coming up to which we are committed. Please participate whenever and wherever you can. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

See you Wednesday night, and remember that our general class education project will run from about 6:30 to 7:00 PM

John Felton, KE5RI SCRA President.

Fish Rock Adventure Race – Thank You

Thank you ham volunteers for working the 2018 Fish Rock Adventure Race on March 10th. The communications went very well, as did the SAGs and Aid Station support. We hams provided important communication capability via UHF in an area largely devoid of cell phone coverage. With our eyes in the field, so to speak, we reported real-time conditions back to Net Control and from there on to race officials. Charlie KZ6T at Net Control was able to pull your APRS signals directly off the air without an internet connection and display your locations on a course map, significantly aiding Net Control's understanding of race progression and management of SAGs. There was only one emergency call and it was retracted shortly when a rider crashed and incurred serious road rash, but then remounted his bicycle and sped on to win the race.

Thank you all for your excellent contributions that made this event a communications success. The volunteers included Bill KM6PAS, Brad KM6GML, Charles KG6CTT, Charlie KZ6T, Darryl KI6MSP, David K6DBP, Chris KW6ART, Doug KF6LMB, Jim KI6REK, John W6JEB, Ken KF6KEN, Pat KG6JSL, John AG6PN (sponsor liaison via commercial radio), and yours truly, Fred AE6SF.

One thing SAGs may not experience, but Net Control does frequently and sometimes Aid Station operators do, is the occasional rider stopping by to say "Thank you" for providing communications. The cycling community generally is aware of the important voluntary service you are providing, and they appreciate it. So, when they thank us at Net Control, the thanks really go to all our volunteer hams.

The event sponsor (Bike Monkey) is greatly appreciative of our efforts. Carlos Perez KK6ZCZ, founder and Chief Officer, sent this message regarding our service:

"Just wanted to say thank you so much for today. You guys are a huge asset to every event you support. I hope you had a good time, or able to have some beer and food and enjoy the day."

I didn't try the beer, but the paella was good.

73,

Fred Seitel AE6SF
Comm Boss for Fish Rock

APRIL PROGRAM

Radio Astronomy by Keith Payea

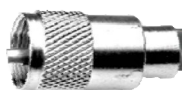
JOIN ARRL, THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

The ARRL is the national organization of Amateur Radio. It represents Amateur Radio at International Conferences and before the FCC. Get the monthly QST magazine, insurance for your equipment and too many other benefits to mention here. Click <http://www.arrl.org/membership/>



If you are not getting the ARRL San Francisco Section news by e-mail and you are an ARRL member, be sure to subscribe under your Members Only information or go to this Web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/san-francisco>



2018 Club Officers

President	John Felton	KE5RI
Vice President	Joe Fortuna	K6AWA
Secretary	Steve Bouchard	KK6VMZ
Treasurer	Aaron Marroquin	KK6ZDB
Director	Fred Seitel	AE6SF
	Jeff Tonelli	KI6PBF
Past President	Iola Beckley	KK6HRE

Committee Lineup/Contacts

Activities		
Programs	Jeff Tonelli, KI6PBF	jeff.tonelli@gmx.com
Community Outreach	Darryl Paule, KI6MSP	ki6msp@arrl.net
DX/Contesting	Doug Payne, KF6LMB	dougpayne1@earthlink.net
Education	Cornell Chesnik, W6HMN	w6hmn@sonic.net
Emergency Services Liason	Pat Coyle, KG6JSL	coylaw@sonic.net
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SCRA Web site	http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com

Short Skip Advertising Rates

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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

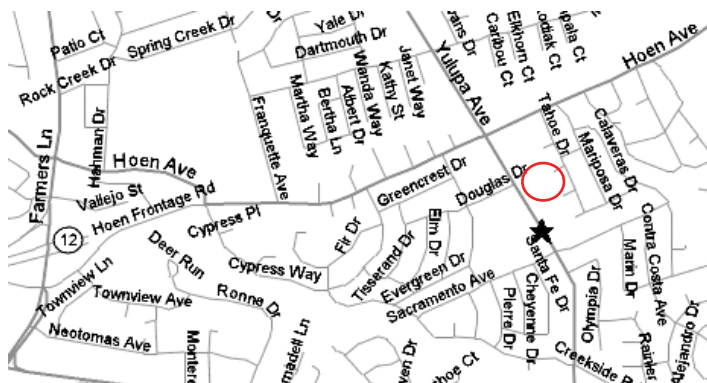
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SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month, socially at 6:30 pm, program starting at 7:00 pm. Exceptions are holidays or other big events.

Meeting location:
Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center
2050 Yulupa Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA



All are welcome!

Please join us at our next meeting. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible for membership. A membership application is included in this newsletter. For more information, contact any SCRA officer, director or member. Hungry before the meeting? Join us for dinner! We Meet at IHOP restaurant, 4th and Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. People start showing up at 5:15 PM. No RSVP is required.

Board of Directors Meeting

The SCRA Board of Directors will meet monthly on the Second Wednesday at the IHOP Restaurant, Fourth Street, Santa Rosa (in the Safeway/CVS Pharmacy center). All members are welcome to attend, no reservations necessary. Arrive around 5:15- 5:30pm for dinner. Meeting starts at 6:00pm.



LOANER RADIOS AVAILABLE

The Club has a variety of radios available to members to try out and improve their skills. We have a Kenwood T590 SG HF radio; Yeasu FT 2900 2 meter mobile; Yeasu FT1D, an analog/digital 2 meter and 440mhz HT; Yeasu FT 60, a 2 meter and 440 mhz HT; and a TYT TH-F5 VHF 2 meter HT. Trying these out is an excellent way to learn some radio and test before you buy. Contact Joe, K6AWA, at k6awa@yahoo.com with your request. Joe will forward an information form to you by return email.

UPGRADE TO GENERAL OR AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS

Get more privileges and enjoyment from your Ham Radio Hobby. [Mentoring assistance](#) is available. Contact Cornell Chesnik, W6HMN, SCRA Education Chair, at w6hmn@sonic.net.

Tuesday Night Net

The Sonoma County Radio Amateurs' net meets Tuesday at 7:00 PM on the SCRA repeater, 147.315, positive offset, PL 88.5.

All members and guests are invited to check in. The Net includes updates on SCRA activities, and News-line, the amateur radio community news service.

Anyone wishing to work as net control should contact lola kk6hre, at K6SON@ARRL.NET for assignment. Script and logs are available on the Website at <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/resources/net-script/>



The Weekly 160 Meter Net

Announcing the new 160 meter net which runs from 8:45pm to 9:30pm Tuesday nights, immediately following the 10 meter net hosted by Joe K6AWA. Tune your radio frequency to 1.900 Mhz. LSB. 160 meters requires a General or above license to transmit.

Your New Tuesday Night Net Line-up

7:00pm Membership Net on the SCRA repeater, 147.315, positive offset, PL 88.5

10 Meter Net - starts at 8:00pm (new time) following the regular SCRA net Tuesday nights and ends at 8:45pm. Set your dial to 28,403.00 SSB, USB. Please note that all license classes (including technician) are welcome.

New! 160 Meter Net - runs from 8:45pm to 9:30pm. Tune your radio frequency to 1.900 Mhz. LSB. 160 meters requires a General or above license to transmit.



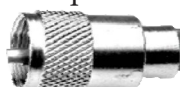
Weekly SBARA Youth Net New Day and Time!

- For young people 18 and under
- Licensed youth or youth with a licensed control operator are welcome to check-in
- Check-in via EchoLink, if you are outside of the area
- Adults can check-in towards the end of the Net to answer questions and mentor the youth.

Please join our new, 13-year-old net control operator, Truman Lindsey, KM6AQS, and help us grow this important Net for young hams!

- SBARA Youth Net
- Every Tuesday evening, 6:30pm (1830), PACIFIC
- N6NFI repeater, Palo Alto, CA (145.230 MHz, -600 kHz, PL 100 Hz.)
- EchoLink Station: KR6DD-R

Steve Wilson KG6HJU
South Bay Amateur Radio Association
Fremont, CA
kg6hju@arri.net



2018 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

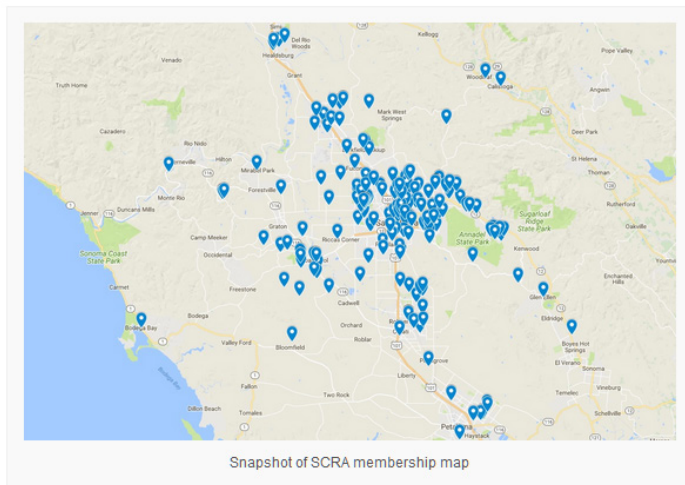
Check the [Club website](#) for details

Sat 4/10 VE Testing	Education
Sat 4/13 Family Expo & Camp Fair	Outreach
Sat 4/28 Human Race	Walk
Sat 5/05 Wine Country Century	Bicycle
Sun 6/10 Monte Rio Vineman	Bicycle
Sat 6/16 Terrible Two	Bicycle
Sat 6/16 ARRL Kid's Day	On the Air
Sat 6/23 Field Day (6/22-6/24)	Camping
Sat 7/21 VE Testing	Education
Sat 8/12 Tour d'Organics	Bicycle
Fri 8/17 Mini-DX (8/17-8/19)	Camping
Sat 9/15 VE Testing	Education
Sat 9/22 Waves to Wine	Bicycle
Sat 9/22 PCAM (Wings over Wine Country)	Public Info
Sun 9/23 Waves to Wine	Bicycle
Sun 9/23 PCAM (Wings over Wine Country)	Public Info
Sat 10/6 Levi's GranFondo	Bicycle
Sat 10/20 JOTA (Jamboree On The Air)	On the Air
Sat 10/27 Bay Area Science Festival	Outreach
Sat 11/17 VE Testing	Education

Membership Map -New website feature
Click to try it.

Membership Map

[Click here for an interactive online map of SCRA members.](#)



2018 PROGRAM LINE-UP

Iola and I are working jointly on a series of over view programs for the 2018 calender year that are intended to promote the idea of encouraging our recently licensed Technician Class operators to advance to General Class license. Also if any existing or returning General class operators want to get back up to speed on the latest license requirements they to would be more than welcome. As stated before this program is intended to be a brief overview taking 30 to 45 minutes to present during the first half of the general club meeting, with interested participants being teamed up with an mentor.

Based on the current A.R.R.L. General Class License Manual the monthly overview program will cover the following topics as listed below (Subject to change):

February: Chapter 2 Procedures and Practices and Chapter 3 Rules and Regulations.

March and April: Chapter 4 Components and Circuits.

May: Chapter 5 Radio signals and Equipment.

June: Field Day

July: Chapter 6 Digital modes.

August: Chapter 7 Antennas.

September: Chapter 8 Propagation.

November: Chapter 9 Electrical and R.F. Safety.

We will be looking for as many volunteers as possible to take on presenting each topic based upon their interest and skill set as well as mentors. So in a nut shell, "Come one come all please help make this program a success."

Jeff Tonelli
KI6PBF



July 20 - 22, 2018

Nevada State Convention in Reno, NV

NVCON 2018 Returns to Reno, Nevada at Boomtown Casino Hotel July 20 through 22, 2018.

Registration is open along with hotel information and forums that are planned to be offered this year.

Please visit our website at <http://nvcon.org> for updates as we are still working on addition some great forums, presenters and activities.

73,

Nevada State Convention Planning Committee

FIELD DAY 2018 NEEDS YOU!!

Listen up, Hams. The SCRA's Field Day Committee is looking for volunteers for Field Day 2018. We have a lot of new members who have not experienced Field Day and have no idea what to expect. Well, let me edify you a little.

Field Day encompasses several aspects of amateur radio, antennas, and power sources that will be used in an emergency, such as an earthquake. It is also a way to test our readiness and to share our capabilities with the public. Field Day is also an opportunity for new members to gain a whole lot of experience in a brief period of time.

Field Day weekend starts at 5pm (1700 hrs.) on Friday, June 22 for setting up; operating starts at 11am (1100 hrs.) on Saturday, June 23 and ends at 11am (1100 hrs.) on Sunday. Yes, we operate in shifts for 24 hours.

And if you like, you can camp out Friday and/or Saturday night.

After all the operating is done, we start tearing it all down which takes until about 2pm (1400 hrs.) on Sunday. Activities, besides operating radios, are pizza Friday night, the Educational Activity and BBQ dinner on Saturday, and cold watermelon after take-down on Sunday. The snack table stays busy with members bringing items to share. Sometimes there is coffee and donuts in the morning and a lunch run on Saturday. We wouldn't want anyone to go hungry!

By volunteering to help on one or more of the teams, you can progress with your own training in amateur radio. You have got to get out of your own safety zone and open up your brain to learning and our advanced members can help you do this.

So, go to the SCRA Website (<http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/field-day/>) and sign up for one or more of the Field Day teams. You will be happy you did!

Iola kk6hre
Field Day Volunteer Coordinator

SCRA Website Forum

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

Navigate to the SCRA website,
Log in as a member
Click on Member Area, then [Forums](#)

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

Home | Our Club | Repeaters/IRLP | Resources | Events | Store | Calendar | Men

Announcements and News

Home > Forums > Announcements and News **Subscribe** Use the Subscribe Button

This forum contains 22 topics and 10 replies, and was last updated by wbjao 4 months ago.

Viewing 15 topics - 1 through 15 (of 22 total)

Topic	Voices
Free to a good home - Old (1970-80s) Radio Gear	1

How to Subscribe to the SCRA Calendar

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

26 27 28

- Add to Timely Calendar
- Add to Google
- Add to Outlook
- Add to Apple Calendar
- Add to other calendar
- Export to XML

Subscribe ▲



CONTEST CORNER

Hello fellow hams! This is Frank Oddy, NQ6E. Beginning with this issue I will be the new Contest Corner contributor for Short Skip. Give a look and see if anything said here inspires or peaks your interest into the exciting world of amateur radio contesting.

I would first like to thank Kevin Alt, K6BSG, for his years of continued involvement in Short Skip and Contest Corner. We all wish him the best. If you hear K6BSG on the bands work him and send a QSL card noting your appreciation.

My initial intention is to provide you readers with the current month's contest calendar, introduce some basic concepts regarding contesting, and give a head's up on a particular contest or two. I encourage each ham to explore further and increase their knowledge on the subject. Internet access coupled with a Google search will provide some useful information. Search!

Check out <http://www.contestcalendar.com> This calendar can be customized to your needs and provide you with individual contest links. Try one of the States' QSO Parties or just listen in on any one you can for a little excitement. Listen!

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

72/73, NQ6E

For additional contest calendars and resources check:

[SM3CER Contest Service](#)

[ARRL Contests Page](#)

[Contesting.com](#)

DMR Made Easy (Easier?)

by Bill Dornbush KM6BYD

DMR is such a rich topic that it is hard to make it easy. However, I found these two Ham Radio Workbench podcasts very helpful in understanding it better. There is good basic information, more advanced information, and lots of practical suggestions on what to purchase if you are ready to do that. I ordered a SharkRF OpenSpot during their half off Easter special and I plan to use it with my Yaesu FT1XDR which will allow me to talk to DMR talk groups.

I also suggest that our repeater folk listen to podcast #2 for good information about the differences between networks and repeater brands. We will need the information when we build our DMR repeater.

You can find the podcasts here:

<http://hamradioworkbench.com/hrwb045-dmr-basics-part-1>

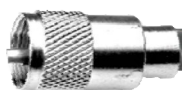
<http://hamradioworkbench.com/hrwb046-dmr-basics-part-2>

If nothing else, look at the website pages for the podcasts and peruse the links: lots of good information there!



Also, in this blog post are links to YouTube Videos that cover some of the same topics.

<http://www.kb6nu.com/amateur-radio-videos-dmr-edition>





Field Day – An Opportunity to Strut our Stuff

When the ARRL proclaimed the first “International Field Day” in 1933, the purpose given was: “Besides offering an opportunity to get out in the open in this fine spring weather, the real object of this contest is to test “portables” wherever they may be available. If successful we want to make it an annual affair.”

Nowadays, Field Day is on the fourth full weekend in June. So this year it will be June 23 and June 24.

But it is still a means of testing our ability to operate at sites away from our normal stations and working “off the grid”.

Perhaps most importantly, however, it gives us a chance to demonstrate these capabilities to the general public.

On top of all that, it gives us a chance to socialize. We can even camp out on Saturday night.

Which brings us to Field Day 2018. Although June 23/24 may seem like a ways off, it’s not too early to start planning.

Our first order of business will be to assign leaders to the various volunteer positions. Check out the Field Day website for the complete list (<http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/field-day/>). You don’t have to be a seasoned ham to be eligible. This is an event for all hams, regardless of skill level, to learn how to setup and operate HF and VHF stations in the field.

There will also be an Educational Activity on Saturday, June 23, at 2pm. We are looking for ideas for what this activity will be, so if you have any suggestions, please let me know.

This year, we will be dedicating one station to operating digital modes. We will also have one station each dedicated to CW, SSB, VHF/UHF, and GOTA.

What’s “GOTA”? GOTA stands for “Get On The Air”. It is an opportunity to introduce new hams, or even non-hams, to operating on the HF bands. Hams that have been licensed for several years, but have been generally inactive on HF are also eligible to

participate.

There will also be a barbeque dinner Saturday evening, starting around 5:30pm,

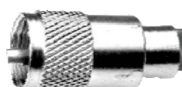
This year we are also hoping to staff a “Tech Bench” where hams can come and get some help on things such as how to install Anderson Power Poles, simple radio checks, and mobile antenna installation checks. If you think you could help in this area, please let me know.

We will also be powering at least two stations from solar power.

As you can see, Field Day is an event-packed weekend. If you are looking to learn something, anything, about amateur radio, this will be the weekend to do it.

Let’s make Field Day 2018 even better than last year!

Brian Torr, N6IY
Tel: (707) 575-5871 (home)
(707) 953-0377 (cell)
n6iyy@arri.net





March 7, 2018 Monthly Membership Meeting Sonoma County Radio Amateurs

Call to Order: 1900 Hrs.

Board Members Present: John Felton KE5RI, Joe Fortuna K6AWA, Steve Bouchard KK6VMZ, Aaron Marroquin KK6ZDB, Fred Seitel AE6SF, Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF, Iola Beckley KK6HRE. Quorum met.

New Members: Tye

Guests: Joe KM6QJD Bob, previous member, Rich W3HWJ, Bill, KN6PAF, Shane, 11 years old and son to Tye, above. Robert Beatberry KE6TIV, Sean Butler, Joe Mayette RM6GJD, Ibrahim Sial.

Brags: Darryl: New antennae, 80 to 6 meters, 28'. Working with neighbor's 9-year old son for Tech. license.

Joe, K6AWA reminding that radios are available for loan. Net for Tech level on Tuesday nights after General net. Shortly after a 160 meter net for General and Extra at 1.9 KHz.

Bill KN6YB, roster for club is ready and passed out.

Arron, Treasurer reported that we are on track with our Budget.

Net Control:

March 13, Joe K6AWA
Mar. 20, Darryl KI6MSP
Mar. 27, Iola KH6HRE
April 3, Karen

John requests everyone remember that copyrighted materials CANNOT be placed on club's Facebook page. Use links only.

Programs: Jeff Tonelli presents more information on Tech to General mentorship. Some teamed, some need to approach mentors. This will be a self-paced program. It is suggested to start with 2nd chapter as first is about how to use the book. Chap. 2 is In-depth review for Tech license. Very important reminder, cell phone calculators WILL NOT be allowed. Must use a regular calculator. There will be many formulas on test.

Jeff adds that the General license has vocabulary that may have never been used.

Break: Ten minutes.

Decision to quit publishing financials, in minutes and in Short Skip.

Cornell, VE class on March 16, 17 and 18th. Many have signed up.

Fri. 6 – 9 P.M.

Sat. 8 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Sun. 8 A.M. to approx. end of test 2 P.M. ish. Gordon West book, \$ 15.00 from club.

Brian, Field Day contacts will be 24-hour contesting, Friday set up will begin at 5 P.M. at Youth Community Park, 1689 Fulton Rd., Santa Rosa, across from central area of Piner High School.

Saturday, April 7th, use drop email if interested. N6IY@ARRL.net. Brian is also looking for volunteers for dinner, also anyone willing to design an activity for the day.

Joe, K6AWA is looking for any organization to donate 400 Amp. H. batteries. Requests other club members to volunteer to do so, as well.

Dan, merchandise, nothing to report.

Karen left meeting early. Report of 160 members to date.

Doug Not present.

Brian, VE testing, April 7th, Rincon Valley Mobile Home Estates, 4764 Circle Drive, Santa Rosa.

Reminder: "VE" is Volunteer Examiners.

Public Service: Iola volunteered.

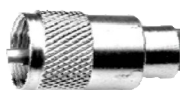
Darryl addendum: April 14, Reenactment film, Human Flight in Space starting at 7 P.M. Not a lot of spaces left, sign up early.

No New Business.

Adjournment 2030 Hrs.

Respectfully submitted.

Steve Bouchard KK6VMZ



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2018

Call to Order: 6 P.M.

Board Members Present: John Felton KE5RI, Iola Beckley KK6HRE, Fred Seitel AE6SE, Joe Fortuna K6AWA, Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF, Aaron Marroquin; Quorum met.

Others: Doug Payne, Pat Coyle, Cornell Chesnik, Darryl Paule

Motion to Accept Minutes: 1st: Iola 2nd: Jeff

Aaron: Absent/Nothing to Report.

Jeff: Nothing to Report.

Iola: Public Services: List of Events. Sign up A.S.A.P.

Date	Event	Comm Boss	Contact
4/4/2018	Lake Sonoma 50	Craig Gavert	John Medinger
4/13	Family Expo & Camp Fair	Darryl Paule	Darryl Paule
4/28	Human Race	Darryl Paule	Volunteer Cntr.
5/5	Wine Country Century	Craig Gavert	SRCC – Scott Castle
6/10	Monte Rio Vineman	Darryl Paule	Chris
6/16	Terrible Two	Craig Gavert	SRCC – Scott Gavert
8/12	Tour D' Organics	Joe Fortuna	Sebastopol CC 707-823-1511 Cordelia H.
9/22 & 23	Waves to Wine	Eric McHenry	Muscular Dystrophy Society
10/6	Gran Fondo	Craig Gavert	Bike Monkey –

Gran Fondo Cont. Bike Monkey – Carlos Perez 707-478-0903

Additionally, Train trip being further investigated, a lot of interest.

Pat Coyle: Nothing to Report.

Jeff & Joe: Pre meeting time explanations of HF radio to those that wish to expand information from Tech. to General.

July is field trip month. To be decided and notification will come out.

Brian Field Day: Permit approved.

Joe Loaner Program: All is well. Encourage others to participate.

Iola: Board approval for 500 more generic club business cards. Iola 1st, 2nd. Jeff.

Joe: Repair approval up to \$ 500.00 to club's Kenwood TS 590 SG HF radio. 1st, Joe, 2nd, Iola.

DARRYL: Addendum; Sonoma Marin Fair Booth Approx. June 20. To be confirmed.

Adjournment: 7:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Steve Bouchard, KK6VMZ

Public Service Primer

by Charlie Sykes KX6T

Who: hams, non-hams, anyone

What and When:

For bike, foot, and other events. We support 6 bike events including Levi's Grand Fondo with over 7,000 participants; 2 foot events Lake Sonoma 50 and The Human Race; other events are two triathlons and JOTA. Dates are listed on the club web site under Events > Public Service.

Why: It is in our club mission statement. It improves our skills and is as close to disaster service as we can be. We give back to the community.

Where and How:

in Sonoma County and adjacent areas.

We support rest stops and aid stations. We work for the rest stop captains, and our roles vary with them. Traffic includes emergency where life is in danger; priority where there are minor injuries or road hazards; and routine such as calling in event numbers. The format is usually the time and 5-10 numbers. It is important to use a consistent format to communicate effectively.

We support SAGs:

Support and Gear. The event coordinator directs them and the net control implements the direction. Some SAGs are hams and others are not.

Net Control is "controlled chaos." If you call them, wait for them to respond as they may be working other higher priority issues.

The event Communications Boss produces an Operations Plan with roles and responsibilities and special procedures, the course route and map, and more. Operators must be familiar with it prior to the event. They should know adjacent rest stops, distance to finish, and where support is staged. They should know their equipment and its limitations. They should preprogram the channels, have their equipment manuals, and test BEFORE the event. For some events, more than one net may be happening simultaneously to support SAGs as they travel.

Operating Methods include repeaters, simplex at Lake Sonoma, for example, Cross band repeating, APRS, and in the future, digital such as event timing and numbers. Cross band repeaters must take care to abide by the identification regulations.

What makes a good operator? Know what is expected, know the course, good communications skills, strategic and tactical thinking.

Equipment varies by event and course. A Handy talkie (HT) will probably work at rest stops but not for SAGs. An HT must have a full size antenna and not a "rubber duck" antenna. Some events are not HT friendly. Mobile transceivers may not work as well for rest stops where you need to be more mobile, can't provide the needed power supply or antenna. SoNoMas and Lake Sonoma 50 are HT friendly as they use simplex, except for Warm Springs.

Tips and Tricks: Know the operating plan, pre-run (or ride) the course, match equipment to the task. Be prepared with food, drink, shade, chair, and perhaps safety vest and lighting. Use APRS where available for SAGs. The club has some loaner APRS trackers.

Above all, these events are FUN, so enjoy them. Sign up online on the club web site.





Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
PO Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
(Please print this, fill it out, and send it in with your check.)

Name _____ Callsign _____ License Class _____
Mailing Address _____ Phone _____ Cell _____
City _____ Zip _____ New Application _____ Renewal _____
E-mail (if any) _____ Add to Roster (Yes)___ (No) ___

Please Send Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address () YES! () No thanks

FAMILY MEMBERS, CALL SIGNS & EMAIL ADDRESSES:

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E-mail _____ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address () YES! () NO
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I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

() Public Service Events () Acting as club Net Control Station
() ARES Emergency Services () Helping with VEC license exams
() Taking a Novice or Technician class () Field day, other operating
() Teaching a Novice or Technician class () Helping with *Short Skip* Newsletter
() Taking an upgrade class () Other _____
() Teaching an upgrade class

SCRA DUES: Individual \$20, Family \$30, Youth, under 18, \$15 + _____
Name Badge (complete info below) \$10 each Circle: Magnet or Clip attachment + _____

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Callsign _____ First Name _____ City _____
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SCRA Patch \$5/ea + _____
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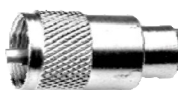
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SHORT SKIP ARCHIVES AVAILABLE

Mike, AD6YB, has set up archives for past and present issues of Short Skip. They are available on the Website, log into Members Area, Short Skip, click on the first sentence. Mike has scanned in the old paper issues and it is really interesting to browse through them to see what those guys were doing. There are historical photos as well. An important record of our history and ham radio in general. Good Stuff.

[\(Click Me\)](#)

DIDN'T FIND WHAT YOU NEEDED?

If you are looking for something more on a topic or your topic of interest hasn't been covered lately, let us know. Something you'd like to see in Short Skip?

Contact the editor, shortskipeditor@gmail.com or for general questions and /or suggestions, k6son@arrl.net

SHORT SKIP NEEDS YOUR INPUT

SHORT SKIP ARTICLES WANTED

Dave, KI6UGB, our Short Skip editor is always looking for articles of interest. They can be technical, a good (or bad) experience that other members may learn from, hints or kinks that worked for you in solving a problem, or just about anything ham radio related. Send your contributions to Dave at shortskipeditor@gmail.com

