

--SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC--

-----1985 OFFICERS-----

PRESIDENT: Chuck Sabin N6DDK 795-2371
 VICE PRES: Bob Olsten WD6DPE 546-5593
 SECRETARY: Brian Torr N6IYY 865-2234
 TREASURER: Rudy Mappus N6KLU 664-1978
 ACTIVITIES: Bob Phillips KB6EOC 542-5209
 REPEATERS: Jim Boyett WB6UBA 544-7943
 MBR-AT-LRG: Lyle Meek N6BLN 526-3233

SHORT SKIP: Alan Bloom N1AL e: 838-4524
 260 Arata Ln Windsor 95492 d: 577-2190
 SWAP SHOP: Hank Davis W6DTV 823-7885
 RACES LIAS: Jim Boyett WB6UBA 544-7943
 ARRL LIAS: Alan Bloom N1AL 838-4524
 ASST. DIR: Chuck Sabin N6DDK 795-2371
 PUB. RLATN: Kathi Boyett WB6UAZ 544-7943

-----ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE-----

CHAIRMAN: Bob Phillips KB6EOC 542-5209
 REFRESHMENTS AT MEETINGS: Bob WD6DPE
 GREETER AT MTGS: May Kobold N6GZV
 RAFFLE: Lyman WB6SMY, N6GZV, Terry WA6RNF
 QSL MANAGER: Doug Bender WA0JRB
 FIELD DAY: Gene Johnson W2EBG
 EDUCATION: Tracy Reese WB6TMY
 PROGRAM CHAIRMAN: --OPEN--

HIDDEN XMTX HUNTS: Don Osborne WA6ACX

PICNIC: Steve Shaffer KD6GC & ?

XMAS PRY: N6GZV, WB6UAZ

WALKATHONS: N6KLU, N6KUS, N6GZU, N6GZV

FLEA MARKET: N1AL W2EBG WB6TMY N6KMJ

-----REPEATER COMMITTEE-----

CHAIRMAN: Jim Boyett WB6UBA 544-7943
 Alan Bloom N1AL Terry Laduke WA6RNF
 Bob Olsten WD6DPE Brian Kotzian KE6WL

CLUB MEETINGS

7:30 PM 1st Wed every month at the
 Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

NEXT CLUB MEETING: April 3, 1985

PROGRAM: HOMEBREW CONTEST!

Meetings are open to all, member or
 not. Need not be licensed to join.
 Dues are \$12.00/year for full voting
 membership (licensed Amateurs only) or
 \$8.00/year sponsoring members. First-
 time members pay \$8.00 initiation.

S <-- Highway 101	-----> N
! Co. !	
! Court ! EOC !	! Bicentennial
! House !	! Way
Ventura Ave	
Mendocino Ave.	

-----THE FORUM-----

Radio clubs that maintain repeaters have many problems. Unless the repeater is backed by financial subscribers it must be maintained by volunteers. So a club like ours must rely on the efforts of a limited few who have the knowledge and expertise to do the job. The money paid by membership does not cover an hourly wage for these volunteers or pay for their transportation to and from the repeater site.

Many problems with a repeater are not in the machine itself. Two or more repeaters in the same vault or even at a distance can cause problems and unless the problem puts the machine completely out of service it may take a lot of time and effort to track it down.

So the next time you are tempted to criticize the repeater crew, stop and think a minute: the repeater is there for all of our use -- but only a few are experienced and willing to give the time it takes to keep it operating.

The club is always looking for members able and willing to serve on the repeater committee. If you are technically equipped to do so, step forward. If not, maybe you could study and upgrade to where you could help.

Let's hear it for the repeater crew.

-- W6DTV and N6FAX

RADIO SHACK

Store Nr. 3855

Zane Bates, Manager

510 Farmers Lane
 Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Telephone
 546-8423

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6, 1985 MEETING

The March meeting of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. was called to order by President Chuck Sabin, N6DDK, at 7:30 PM at the EOC.

The following visitors were introduced: Evelyn Styles WA6DQZ, Al Styles K6LIA, Darlene and Oliver Kilbey. Barry Hirsch received the new call of KB6HVP. Terry, WA6RNF reported that a Hewlett Packard employee now holds the call sign of WE6W as a result of going from nothing to Amateur Extra class.

PROGRAM: Ray Smith of radio station KPH have a history of this very old radio station that has been serving ships at sea since 1904. The station was built by Lee DeForest and was initially housed in the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, hence the initials PH. The station's history is almost that of radio itself. Modernization of KPH has come slowly, but it has come. It has survived two world wars and the "trust-busters" of the twenties. It was a two person job at one time just to inspect the antenna system.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Lee DeForest Museum is located at Foothill College in Los Altos. It houses a ham station and Lee DeForest personal library, donated by his wife. It is normally closed on weekends except by appointment and when the ham radio swap meet is held at the College (the second Saturday of the month).

The ARRL is sponsoring two WIAW Qualifying runs this month on the 11th and 21st of March.

MINUTES: It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the February meeting be accepted as published in Short Skip. All present voted in favor of the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and passed by the club in its abbreviated form:

	General Fund	Repeater Fund
Beginning Balance:	\$1463.82	\$1658.03
Ending Balance:	\$1524.47	\$1658.03

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BADGES: Hank W6DTV reported that he has only one more badge left to mail.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Kathi, WB6UAZ, reported that the March meeting was announced in the Press Democrat and she has received some inquiries as a result.

REPEATER: Jim, WB6UBA, was not present, but Al, N1AL, reported that the squelch required an adjustment. The long and erratic squelch tail problem has been fixed, but with reduced sensitivity to the Rio Vista and Lodi areas. This is not the prime area of coverage anyway, so this is permissible. Some illegal operation through the repeater has required the need to activate the subaudible access system. It was advised that we should not argue with the jammers. The frequency of the subaudible tone is available to members from club officers.

Press Thompson has mentioned that the new repeater, probably a GE, is on requisition.

(over)

The club has bought a 450 MHz handi-talkie for use by the repeater chairman. Its purpose is to access the 450 control receiver on the repeater.

Hoppy, WD6CKP, reported that Westlink is looking for more money. If every member of each club that uses Westlink would contribute \$1, there would be no need to ask for any more money. It was moved, seconded, and passed by the club that the club donate \$100.00 to Westlink in four quarterly installments of \$25.00.

EDUCATION: Al, N1AL, will try to coordinate instructors. He has all the notes and the ARRL Instructors' Guide. ARRL has a new General exam package. There is no shortage of material for teaching the classes.

ACTIVITIES: Bob, KB6EOC, is looking for someone to take over the position of program chairman. He will only be able to handle it for one more month.

RACES: Hank, W6DTV, reported that there was a Damage Assessment meeting on February 25 given by Pete Peterka. Pete's classes differ from those of the Red Cross primarily in that the purpose of his Damage Assessment is to help evaluate whether or not an area can be declared a disaster area. Hams come in handy here because there does not need to be a "middleman" relaying the damage assessments to the EOC.

NEW BUSINESS:

The ARRL Letter reports that the FCC has lifted the moratorium on repeaters. It is, however, soliciting for technological advancements to help relieve the repeater problems.

In April, the Amateur Radio Service will be involved in the Earthquake Awareness exercises. Santa Rosa will hold its exercise on April 15, Sebastopol on April 20, and the rest of the county on April 17.

Also coming up is the Apple Juice Run on April 13.

The April meeting will be homebrew night. Your project need not be the prettiest, most elaborate, or most expensive to win. Kits will be considered. Documentation is not a necessity.

The attendance raffle brought in \$6.50.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

-- Brian D. Torr, N6IIY, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT, FEB. 1985

Beginning Balance: 1385.07

RECEIPTS:

Dues: 228.00

Coffee & Donuts: 8.10

Raffle Income: 201.00

ARRL Membership: 25.00

281.10

ENDING BALANCE: 1463.82

PAYMENTS:

Coffee & Donut purchase: 8.67

Raffle Prizes: 19.46

ARRL Membership Dues: 23.00

PO Box Key: 1.00

Control Radio Purchase: 125.00

Westlink Phone charges: 23.72

Misc. (B. Phillips): 1.50

202.35

*(Repeater Fund to Reimburse)

REPEATER FUND: No activity. Beginning = Ending Balance = 1658.03

THE "ART" OF QSLing (Part I)

As your club QSL manager, I thought I would put together a series of articles to explain some of the procedures and practices needed for successful QSLing. Now, I do not profess to be an expert at this... most of what you will read in these articles I have derived from many sources. One source has, and continues to be, Lyle N6BLN. Many of you may remember the fine program given last year by Lyle and Len K6ANF on contesting, DXing, and QSLing. Other sources include materials published by the American Radio Relay League and the recent book "The Complete DXer" by Bob Locher W9KNI.

First of all, why go after the other station's QSL card?

- 1) A QSL is considered by many (particularly Japanese stations) as "the final courtesy" on completion of a successful QSO.
- 2) You are pursuing an operating award (a noble pursuit, I might add!) such as Worked All Continents, Worked All States, DX Century Club, etc.
- 3) You are not content to merely know what the other station operator's name, QTH, equipment, and weather was, but want to get to know that person better--you might have struck a common bond or have similar interests in amateur radio or other hobbies.

So how do you get started? First, you need your own QSL cards! A few suggestions are in order. Expensive cards do NOT seem to get any more cards from other amateurs than the less expensive ones. As a minimum, the card should have your callsign, your name, QTH (I recommend your county also), and any other pertinent items, such as being a member of the ARRL and any operating/public service awards you may have received. I also highly recommend getting a card that has all the printing on one side. You may want to add something about yourself that "personalizes" the card, and that uniqueness may make that amateur on the other end even more willing to send you one back! The other necessary blocks for fill-in-the-blank data are the date, time (use UTC/GMT), callsign of the station worked, mode (CW, SSB, etc.), signal report and frequency used.

The going rate for cards? A good set of cards (with a little shopping around) goes for about \$20-\$25 for 1000. Nicer printing, etc., may cost more. This rate is for 1000, smaller orders can be more expensive PER CARD. But, you may feel that you only need 200 or so. If you can't afford your own cards, you can use 3x5" cards, and write the information on it! That will definitely personalize the card! Some amateurs (including this one) have used a rubber stamp on "generic" cards (which are less than the \$20 per 1000 above). These "generic" cards usually have all the blocks for the other station information and leave room for your station data. (The rubber stamp saves doing a lot of penmanship!)

More next month. 73, Doug WA0JRB

FIELD DAY is being planned for the campground at the Coast Guard station at Two Rock out on the coast. Be sure to reserve the weekend of June 22/23 on your calendar!

---FCC EXAMS---FCC EXAMS---FCC EXAMS---
SCRA VE exams scheduled for June 1, 1985. Registration Deadline May 1. Send 610 form, photocopy of license & \$4.00 check made out to "ARRL/VEC" to Hank Davis W6DTV, 7822 Washington Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472. 823-7885

N - E - W - S Of Amateur Radio

HAMS CITED FOR CATV INTERFERENCE!

According to both Westlink and World Radio, two hams in W4-land have been ordered off the air because of QRM to cable TV systems. WB20TK/4 was ordered off the 2 meter band completely and charged with violation of 97.73(d) "interference with other radio stations" (the CATV signals). Noted VHF'er WB4NMA of Gainesville Ga was similarly cited. ARRL has instructed its General Counsel to act on their behalf, even though one of them is not an ARRL member. Since ARRL's entry in the matter, the action against WB4NMA has been rescinded and the order to WB20TK has been reduced to quiet hours (subsequent investigation revealed that audio rectification is also taking place.)

CABLE TV LEAKAGE COULD INCREASE by 8 dB if FCC docket #85-38 is approved as written. They propose increasing permissible leakage from 20 uV/meter to 50 uV/meter, and eliminating the required annual inspection. (Westlink) (WABLLY is preparing a filing in opposition that will be presented to either the club or board for approval.)

R.L. DRAKE CO is no longer manufacturing amateur radio equipment, but will continue to service "any R. L. Drake company product ever made." Drake is now in the satellite TV receiver business. (Westlink)

MISSOURI STICKS WITH 15 KHZ in accordance with the established ARRL bandplan. The Missouri Repeater Council voted this action at a meeting Feb. 17. (Westlink)

THE ENTIRE NORTHEAST SUPPORTS 15 KHZ In a meeting March 2, the repeater councils representing the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd call districts voted unanimously to retain 15 kHz spacing above 146 MHz. They felt the interference problem is easily within the current state of the art and going to wider spacing would be

a step backwards. They also formed a subcommittee to study the possibility of reforming the lower repeater subband to 15 kHz channels. (Westlink)

THE VOLUNTEER MONITORING PROGRAM

sponsored by ARRL is now in full throttle. The enactment of public law 97-259 paved the way for amateur volunteers to play a more formal role in monitoring the amateur airwaves for potential rules violations. The League has expanded the old OO (Official Observer) program by requiring certification of "Amateur Auxiliary" appointees through a training and testing program. Even tighter requirements hold for "Regional Monitoring Stations" who deal with serious on-the-air discrepancies of more than routine complexity. So far 281 OO's have qualified for the Auxiliary and most regions have active RMS stations. Amateurs with reports of operating discrepancies/rules violations should contact the Section Manager or OO Coordinator, not the FCC. FCC wants us to resolve our own problems through self-help. (ARRL)

HAM-IN-SPACE ALMOST DOESN'T MAKE IT

The amateur activities of astronauts Tony England W00RE and John-David Bartoe, W4NTZ were almost scrubbed for lack of funds! Around Christmas the Johnson Space Center (JSC) announced that they would not foot the integration costs (reported in the 5-figure range). The Payload Integration Office recommended that amateur radio not be flown aboard flight 51F. Needed funding was not approved until Friday, March 8 when senior NASA management directed JSC to go ahead. (W5YI)

VOLUNTEER EXAM PROGRAM TAKING OFF.

3664 candidates were examined in January with nearly 5300 examination elements being administered with a 51.3% passing rate. ARRL VE's administered 3480 elements (2/3 of the total) vs 902 in Dec. (W5YI)

FCC FACING BUDGET CUTBACKS. The Reagan administration budget includes a 1.2% (7% after inflation) cut in the FCC budget for next year. Cuts in the bureau's licensing staff in Gettysburg are considered "unavoidable." (W5YI)

A NOVICE CLASS AT HANNA BOYS CENTER has been started by the Valley of the Moon Club March 9th. There were 8 youngsters and 1 counsellor. (VOMARC)

EVENTS CALENDAR:

March 30 - Computer Fair, Sebastopol

APRIL:

Apr 1 - RACES Nets 7 PM/7:30 PM
Apr 3 - Club meeting EOC 7:30 PM
(Homebrew contest)
Apr 15 - RACES Nets 7 PM/7:30 PM
Apr 26/28 - Dayton Hamvention
Apr 27 - Morse Day, Oakland

MAY:

May 3/5 - West Coast VHF/UHF Conf.
Sunnyvale Hilton
May 3/5 - Fresno Hamfest
May 5 - Roseville Flea Market
May 8 - Club meeting EOC 7:30 PM
May 18 - Armed Forces Day, Mare Is

JUNE:

Jun 1 - SCRA FCC Tests, Contact
W6DTV (See swap shop)
Jun 5 - Club meeting EOC 7:30 PM
Jun 8/9 - VHF QSO Party
Jun 22/23 - FIELD DAY
Jun 29 - Marin Co. FCC tests.
Deadline May 29

AUGUST:

Aug 9/11 - ARRL SW Div. Convention
(Long Beach, CA)
Aug 11 - VOM (Sonoma) Flea Market
Aug 24 - SCRA Picnic

SEPTEMBER:

Sep 21 - SCRA Flea Market

DECEMBER:

Dec 7 - SCRA Christmas Party

FCC CLOSES LOOPHOLE. Former hams who have had their licenses revoked may no longer "participate in amateur radiocommunications" as an unlicensed third party according to an interpretation of the amateur rules by FCC. Several persons who had lost their amateur privileges set up a station in their home supposedly under the license of a friend with a valid ham license so they could get back on the air. FCC rules that this is illegal--both for the unlicensed person and for the ham who allows his license to be so abused.

JANUARY VE PROGRAM STATISTICS: (W5YI)

VEC/Region	Elem.	Passed/Given	%Pass
ARRL (1-13)		1752/3480	50.3%
W5YI (")		325/460	70.7%
Central Ala. (4)		177/339	40.4%
DeVry (9)		131/250	52.4%
BEARS (7)		79/147	53.7%
Metroplex (2)		75/143	52.4%
GLAARG (6)		50/127	39.4%
Sunnyvale (6)		32/78	41.0%
DARA (8)		31/71	43.7%
etc.			
TOTAL all VEC's:		2716/5290	51.3%
December 1984:		1363/2741	49.7%
November 1984:		1072/2240	48.0%

Morse Day. April 27. Sponsored by Morse Telegraph Club and Western Union. Old-time telegraphers display early telegraph equipment and operate the only remaining international landline telegraph circuit in the world, courtesy of Western Union. Optional banquet. Contact WB6TMY, Tracy, for more info.

Fresno Hamfest May 3-5. Tropicana Inn, 4061 N. Blackstone, Fresno. For info: Fresno Hamfest POB 783 Fresno, CA 93712. Talk in 34/94.

West Coast VHF/UHF Conference May 3-5, POB 4101, Fremont, CA 94539. Held at Sunnyvale Hilton Gamay Room.

Roseville (Sacramento) Flea market May 5, 9AM-3PM at Placer Co. Fairgrounds. Talk in on 144.59/145.19.

CURING INTERMOD by Steve Lund WA8LLY

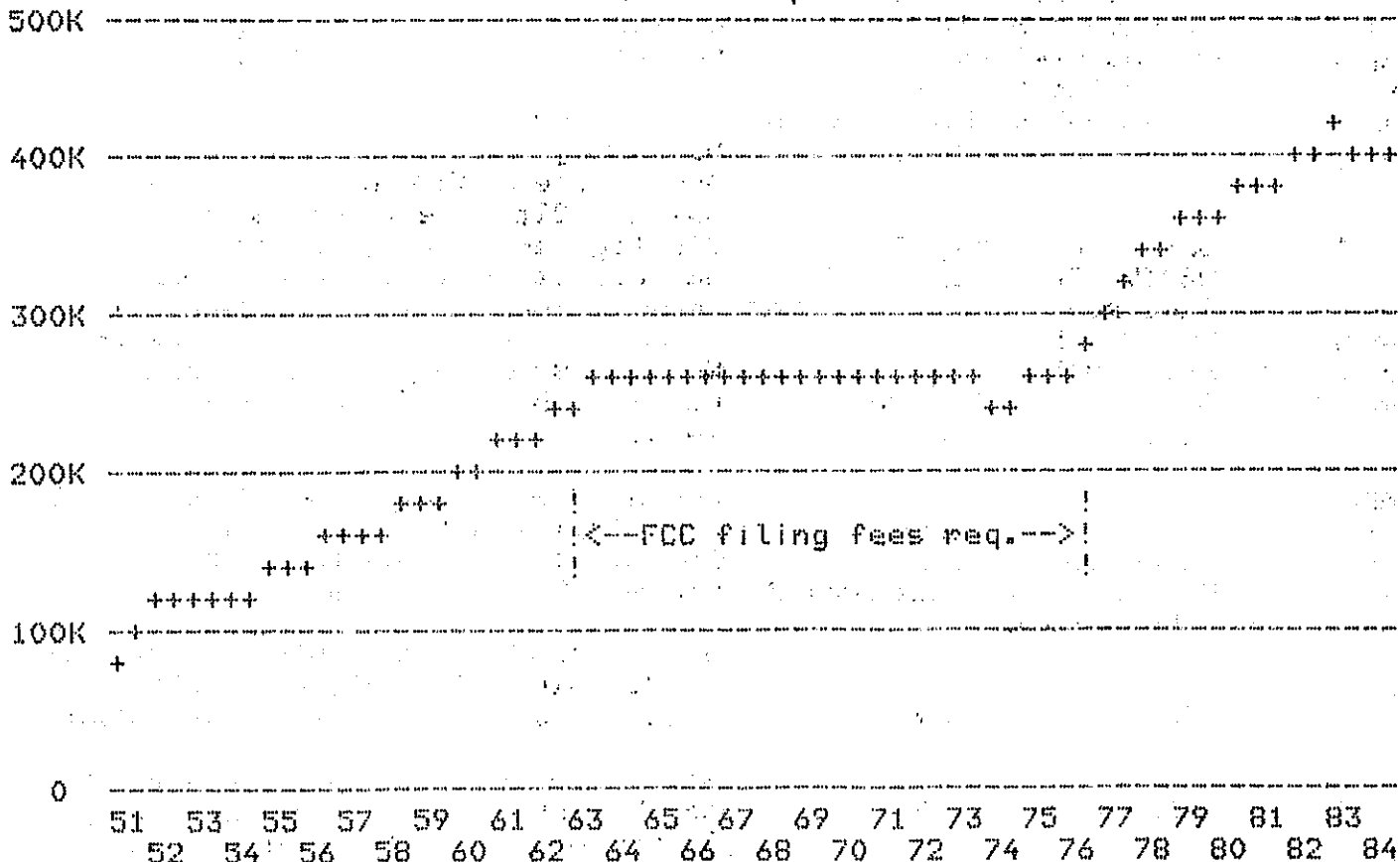
I have heard a number of club members complaining about intermod problems on 2M. The problem is particularly bad for those of us in Santa Rosa. I have experienced two types of intermod -- 1) the reception of the local pager/ radiotelephone services on various 2M channels and 2) hearing the WB6PVS repeater on all channels from 146.61 to 146.82, when the K6GWE repeater is on.

The cause of both types of intermod is the same. The problem is inadequate selectivity in the 2M receiver front end. There are two very strong local pager/ radiotelephone transmitters in the 152 MHz range, which transmit continuously 24 hours a day. The output power is high enough to cause many ham 2M receivers to go into gain compression and cause intermod products.

The cure is to improve the selectivity of your receiver. A convenient way of doing this is to add a cavity filter between your rig and antenna. The F-192/U cavity filter available from Fair Radio Sales, PO Box 1105, Lima, OH 45802 for approximately \$22 is my recommendation. All that is required to tune this filter for use in the 2M band is a screw driver and a nut driver. The February 1980 issue of Ham Radio has complete information on modifying the F-192/U for 2M use.

The filter has an insertion loss of approximately .7 dB. I have used mine at up to 150 W without any problems. The filter has completely eliminated 2M intermod problems at my QTH.

GROWTH IN THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS (Thanks W5YI Report)



HOMEBREW CONTEST

Bring your latest creation to the April meeting for the fourth annual SCRA Homebrew Contest. You do not have to be an electrical engineer to win this one. Don't forget that the winner's name is added to the plaque in the club's trophy case. The judge is Brian, KE6WL.

RULES

1. Contest open to SCRA members only.
2. Schematics or program listings should be supplied if possible.
3. Separate award category for kits.
4. Project must be amateur-radio related.
5. The equipment or program listing must be brought to the club meeting on the contest night. Exceptions will be made for large projects, such as antennas. In such cases bring a photo or other documentation.
6. Proof of operation shall constitute plugging the gear in and operating it. Otherwise submit test data to show that it works as intended.
7. The winner will receive a certificate, and his name will be engraved on the SCRA homebrew contest plaque.

ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Project: _____

JUDGING CRITERIA

Circuit complexity and sophistication of function:	_____ (15)
Novelty/ingenuity/economy of operation (original designs only)	_____ (10)
Proof of operation	_____ (15)
Utility and operating convenience	_____ (10)
Neatness, appearance, workmanship	_____ (20)
Use of surplus and/or readily available parts	_____ (15)
Judges discretion	_____ (15)
TOTAL	_____ (100)

(Numbers in parentheses are the relative weights of each factor.)

----- HANK'S SWAP SHOP -----
 Hank Davis W6DTV 7822 Washington Ave
 Sebastopol, CA 95472 823-7885
 (Noncommercial ham ads printed free)

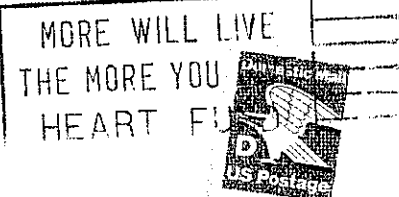
IBM PC 256k, 2 disc drives, Hercules
 card, Epson printer.
 WANTED: Antenna & Amplifier for 2M.
 Paul KA6ATN 578-1280.

-Palomar VLFA converter, 0-500 kHz
 to 80 meters. New. \$35.
 -Ten Tec Power Mite Transceiver, 5W,
 CW, 40/20M, VFO control. \$25.
 -Two Johnson Navigators, fair cond-
 ition, slight chirp. Both for \$40.
 -WANTED: Central Electronics 100B or
 200B SSB transmitter.
 WB6TMY Tracy 527-8124.

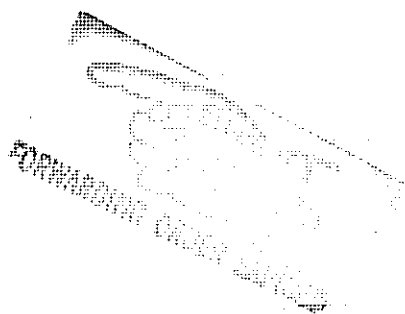
-YR901 RTTY-CW attachment to FT901.
 Almost new condition. Cost \$600
 new, any reasonable offer.
 -440 MHz AMP, 2W in, 20W out, 12V.
 Tokyo Labs HL20U. \$90.
 -SBE34. Rcvr OK, Xmtr needs work.
 \$50.
 -Microlog AKB-1 CW/RTTY keyboard.
 Works perfectly. \$100.
 Wayne W6RIA 527-0456.

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Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
 PO Box 116
 Santa Rosa, CA 95402



FIRST CLASS



JACK TENNEY
 KA6HHK
 1888 JUDSON LANE
 SANTA ROSA CA 95401

Our Records Show Your
 DUES ARE DUE
 This Month