



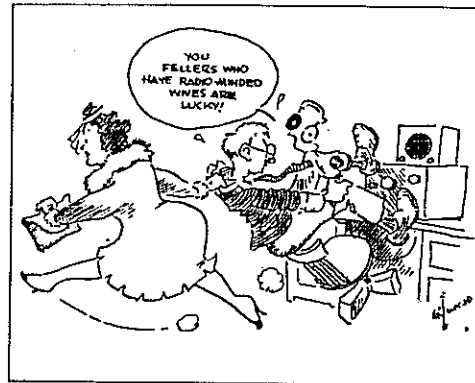
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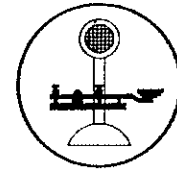
full-screen or single-line editing, block transmission mode, user-definable (macro) soft keys, 110-9600 baud (keyboard switch selectable), high-resolution display, several pages of screen memory, 105-key keyboard, and much more. Will deliver in Santa Rosa area. Cost \$4500 new, just \$39. Also have some 2621 and 2622 terminals: More modern styling, but not as powerful. \$29. Proceeds go to SCRA. Al Bloom N1AL (days) 577-3981, (nites) 538-7115. ■



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SHORT SKIP



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

OCTOBER 1988 Club Station W6LFJ

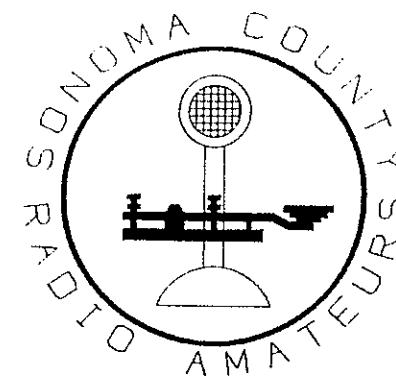
P.O. Box 116 Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Repeater Station WB6PVS

VOL 13 # 10

SCRA FLEA MARKET, 1988:





OFFICERS FOR 1988

PRESIDENT: Russ O'Neill N6KMJ 823-9691
 VICE PRESIDENT: Glen Crownover N6DNB 938-5986
 SECRETARY: Alan Bloom N1AL 538-7115
 TREASURER: Jim Pelmulder N6PTM 823-7947
 MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Chuck Sabin N6DDK 795-2371
 Bob Sones WB6EKV 546-3873
 REPEATER CHAIR: Hoppy Bravin WD6CKP 542-6750
 ACTIVITIES CHAIR: Steve Schaffer KD6GC 546-8860

SHORT SKIP STAFF:

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 1578 Los Alamos Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 (d) 577-3981
 CIRCULATION MGR: Tracy Reese WB6TMY
 SWAP SHOP: Hank Davis W6DTV 823-7885

ARRL LIASON: Alan Bloom N1AL 538-7115
 ASST. DIRECTOR: Chuck Sabin N6DDK 795-2371
 BADGES CHAIR.: Hank Davis W6DTV 823-7885
 CLUB HISTORIAN: Connie Freitas N6FYV

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:

PUBLIC SERVICE: Bob Sones WB6EKV 546-3873
 PROGRAM CHAIR.: Bob Olsten WD6DPE 546-5593
 REFRESHMENTS @ MEETINGS: Bob Olsten WD6DPE
 GREETER AT MEETINGS: Jane Vanderslice N6NTB
 MEMBERSHIP LOTTERY: Warren Klinger WB6RHP
 QSL MANAGER: Doug Bender WW6D
 VEC EXAMS: Steve Lund WA8LLY 823-4544
 WA6ACX N1AL K6ANP AG6C WD6CKP WN6D WW6D
 W6DTV WW6F WB6FRZ KF6FX W6RIA WB6UDR WU6W
 EDUCATION: Steve Lund WA8LLY 823-4544
 WA6ACX, WW6D, WB6PDP, W6TLK, KF6WV
 AWARDS CHAIRMAN: Steve Lund WA8LLY 823-4544
 XMAS PARTY: Steve Schaffer KD6GC 546-8860
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REPEATER CONTROL OP'S:

WD6CKP Hoppy 542-6750 W6DTV Hank 823-7885
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 WB6UAZ Kathi 544-7943 WN6D Jim 544-7943
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Business cards: \$10

\$11 First 1/4 Column
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 (\$32 Full Page, 1 side)

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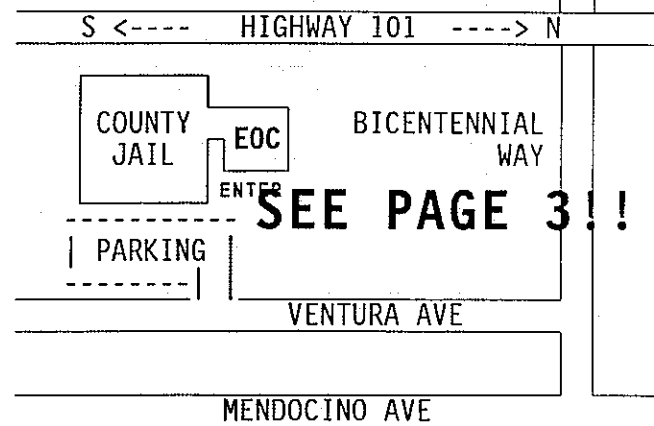
Guaranteed circulation: 200/month
 AD DEADLINE: 15th of previous month

ARE YOU NOT AN SCRA MEMBER?

IF SO, then this is a complimentary copy. Our club is involved with almost every area of Amateur Radio: Repeaters (13/73), Field Day, license classes (Novice through Extra), volunteer exams, RACES, DX programs, packet (145.03), hidden xmtr hunts -- you name it. We invite you to attend our next monthly meeting (see below) or check into the Tuesday night SCARS net on the 146.13/73 repeater at 7:00PM or on 28.400 MHz at 7:30 PM. You'll hear the latest Westlink Amateur Radio news broadcast, announcements of SCRA activities, and a Swap Shop. If you would like to join SCRA, please refer to the dues listed below. We hope to see you at the next meeting! 73!

CLUB MEETINGS:

7:30 PM, 1st Wednesday each month at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center, see map below) All are welcome to attend.
 NEXT MEETING: October 5, 1988
 PROGRAM: "LOWFER", Low Frequency Experimental Radio = 170 kHz QRP. Talk by KG6EK/WY6G.
 DUES: \$12 per year, plus a one-time \$4.00 initiation fee. Dues are pro-rated \$1/month for new members. With membership, comes an SCRA call/name badge. Family membership: \$18



SCRA MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 1988



The meeting was called to order by President Russ O'Neill N6KMJ at 7:30 PM. Other officers present were Vice President Glen Crownover N6DNB, Treasurer Jim Pelmulder N6PTM, Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Repeater Chairman Hoppy Bravin WD6CKP, Activities Chairman Steve Schaffer KD6GC, and Member at Large Chuck Sabin N6DDK.

Jane N6NTB introduced the VISITORS: Scott Ensley, Mary Sherman, Steve Miller N6RHQ, Steve Carniglia KB6LSB and Herb WY6G.

The PROGRAM was a videotape of the new ARRL film "The New World of Amateur Radio" that emphasizes space communications as well as the diversity of Amateur Radio. Everyone seemed favorably impressed with the quality of the production.

The MINUTES were approved as printed in Short Skip. m/s WB6RHP/K6GEV

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jim N6PTM says we have \$1305.64 in the General Fund and \$1943.67 in the Repeater Fund. Approved. m/s KD6GC/K6GEV

REPEATER: Hoppy WD6CKP reports all quiet on the Western Front. We do have one or more "Kerchunkers" bringing up the machine.

EDUCATION: Steve WA8LLY is ready for the VEC exams Sept 17. 610 forms are available. We still need a room to hold Novice classes starting sometime after the Flea Market.

ACTIVITIES: Steve KD6GC reported that the Picnic came off nicely. The Windsor mobile home park has been reserved for the Christmas Party thanks to George KS6W. Mark your calendars: Saturday Dec 17. The catering fee will run around \$10 a plate.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Phil N600A, standing in for Bob WB6EKV, discussed the Bodega Bay to Breakers event, with communications provided by 10 Amateurs.

BADGES: Rather than reading off a list of

calls, Jim N6PTM suggests you contact him if you are a new member and have not yet received your badge.

--- BREAK ---

FLEA MARKET: Al N1AL announced the rather exciting news that we have lost our site for the Flea Market coming up in 10 days. Seems the Armory decided to move their National Guard duty weekend to Sept 17. We found out about it this morning. There is a parking lot available at the Sonoma Co. Fairgrounds, and we'll probably move the Flea Mart there. We will try to get out a mailing to previous attendees early next week. Al also passed around a sign-up sheet for F.M. volunteers.

WD6CKP asked for a volunteer for NET CONTROL STATION for September.

The MEMBER LOTTERY of \$24.50 was lost by KB6FHT. It will be held over for next month.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 8:56 PM. m/s KD6GC/WA6ACX.

Respectfully submitted by Al Bloom N1AL, Secretary. ■

TREASURER'S REPORT



FOR MONTH ENDING AUGUST 31, 1988

ACCOUNT	REVENUE	EXPENSE
Activities (Picnic)		50.00
Refreshments at meetings ..	8.00	5.97
Dues and Initiations	44.00	
Fund-Raisers	45.00	41.00
Misc		30.21
Short Skip Newsletter	84.00	79.31
Membership Supplies.....	20.75	
Officers' Expenses		5.00
	201.75	211.49
ASSETS:		
General Fund Account	1115.75	
Cash/checks on hand	189.89	
Total General Fund	1305.64	
Total Repeater Fund	1943.67	

de N6PTM

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MEETING CHANGE

DON'T GO TO THE EOC for the meeting this month, as it was pre-empted by the County. The meeting will instead be at:

MLS (Multiple Listing Service)
Real Estate Center
#154 Stony Point Crl
Santa Rosa

From Hwy 101, take Hwy 12 West (toward Sebastopol), and turn North on Stony Point Road. Turn West at West 9th St. ■

NEW/RENEWED MEMBERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>David Sanchez
XE1RCU
POB 231
Guerneville, CA 95446
527-1725</p> <p>Don Connelly
N6SRH
6495 Burnside Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
829-0521</p> | <p>Mike Schumacher
KG6YL
5822 Lowell Ct.
Cotati, CA 94928
795-2555</p> <p>Richard A. Nyberg
737 Bordeaux Dr.
Petaluma, CA 94952
778-7543</p> |
|--|--|

We now have 174 members. ■

10 YEARS AGO

IN SHORT SKIP



Vol III, # 10 was a short issue (unless I'm missing a page). The Editor noted that it was overheard on the local repeater that Rose WA6CWL was "pushing 55". Years or MPH, he didn't say. Don WD6GMR did a good job in the Calif QSO Party with his new 15M beam. An earthquake drill was held Sept 29. Terry WA6RNF was the auctioneer for the auction at the club meeting. ■

NAME THAT NOMINEE...

The Prez will be appointing a Nominating Committee at the October meeting. Elections for club officers will be in November. Get'cher inputs in now.

The Chairman of the Member of the Year Committee will be announced at the October meeting. Start thinking about who has done the most for the club in the past year. ■

HERE'S THE "COOK TENT" AT THE FLEA MARKET, WITH ZACH LIGHT AND BOB OLSTEN WD6DPE ON THE RECEIVING END OF THE PILEUP.



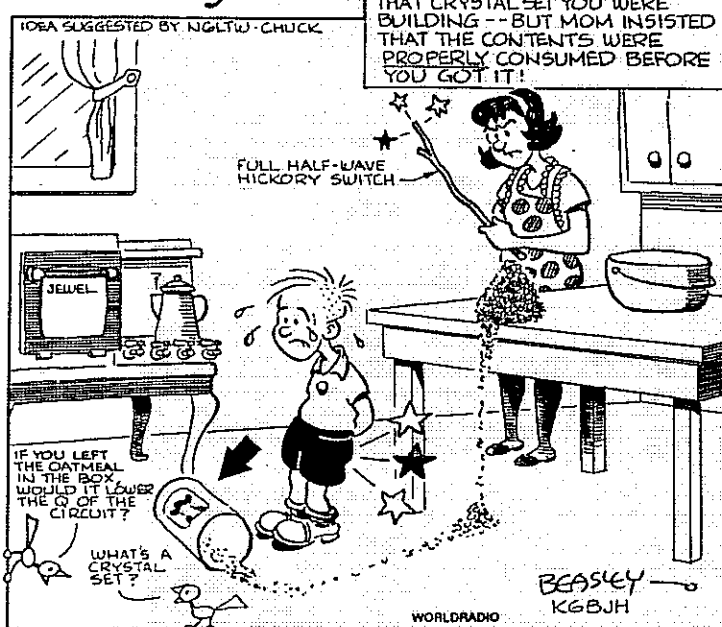
NEWS MEDIA GUIDELINES

The ARRL has adopted a new set of guidelines for amateurs' use when working with the media. The guidelines were developed by the ARRL Ad Hoc Committee on Amateur Radio and the Media.

- Amateur radio operators may assist news media representatives in their efforts to gather information for relay to the public from areas where normal communications have been disrupted.
- Amateurs may ask questions of, or relay media questions to, amateurs in the emergency area. The responses may be electronically recorded by media representatives.
- Amateur radio should not be used to assist the news media in gathering information when telephones or other commercial means of communication are available.
- Amateur radio should not be used to facilitate the operation of any business.
- Amateur radio operators should depend on their own judgement in dealing with the news media and in operating their station in the public interest, convenience & necessity. ■

(Thanks, the ARRL Section Leader.)

Yesteryears



CHRISTMAS PARTY



Here is the latest information regarding the SCRA Christmas Party; more will follow in upcoming issues of Short Skip.

DATE: Saturday, December 17
PLACE: Windsor Mobile Home Park (KS6W's pad)
TIME: 6 PM to 10 PM

There will be a catered dinner, prizes for members, awards, a live band (compliments of Walt N6OH), dancing, socializing, and general revelry!

The dinner will cost \$10, BUT the club is picking up \$2 per person, so you will get the whole evening for a pittance, \$8 per person!

- Ham with honey apple glaze
- Rice Pilaf
- Veggies in season
- Tossed green salad with
toasted almond dressing
- Orange cheesecake

There will be soft drinks, coffee, tea -- BYOB if you want something stronger! This is the big, major social event of the year for the club, so a good turnout is expected. We will be asking for RSVP's, probably in November. Stay tuned for further information as the time draws nearer. If you would like to volunteer to help with the party, please call me. ■

Steve Schaffer KD6GC (work) 527-3101
 (home) 546-8860

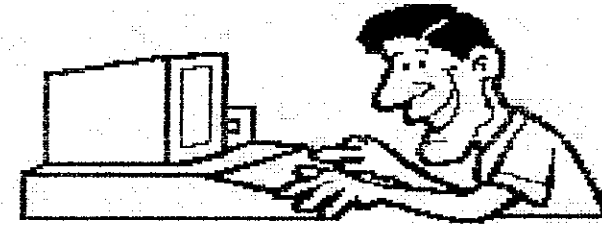
DONUTS

WD6DPE is looking for a volunteer to buy the donuts for club meetings. Bob will still bring the coffee pot and coffee. Give him a call at 546-5593. ■

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 Saturday
 9 am to 5 pm



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HSC has the largest complete stock of Tripplite battery back-ups, surge suppressors, power supplies, inverters, and line stabilizers.

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Special Sale on PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE !!
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 Regular \$28.50 now only \$21.97
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 Regular \$39.50 now only \$29.97

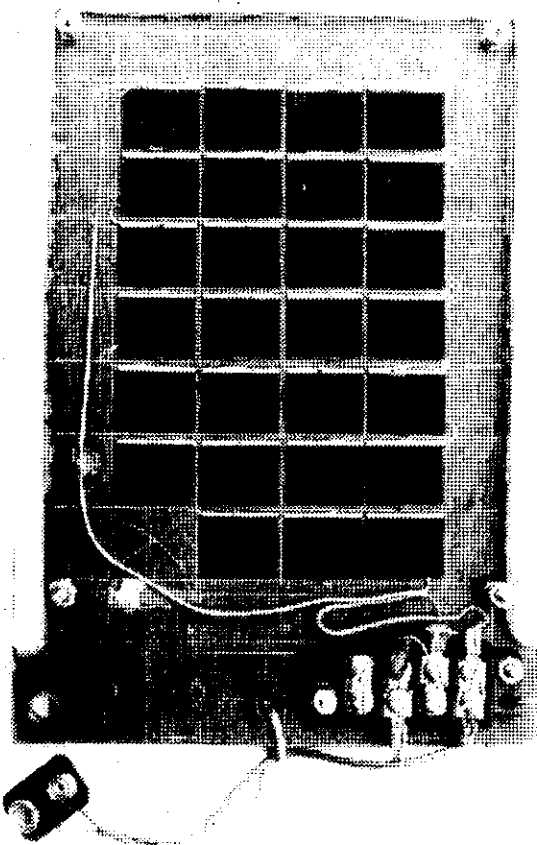
We are now carrying a large selection of all the popular computer magazines.

BACKPACKING WITH SOLAR

Years ago, I purchased a 2 meter handheld radio when I started backpacking in the Trinity Alps. I decided it would be nice if I could recharge the batteries while out in the woods, so I built a solar charger. I ordered some small 1/2" by 3/4" photo cells from a radio flyer. I mounted the cells on a piece of fiber board (I think it came from an old clipboard) with silicon seal. I put a piece of clear plastic over the cells to protect them which reduces the output about 15%. The whole board is about 6" by 8". An LED in series with the output prevents the cells from discharging the batteries as well as indicating that the battery is charging.

I tie the solar panel on top of the pack -- it will more-or-less maintain the battery while hiking, depending on how much sun is available. In camp, a 4-5 hour charge will completely recharge a dead battery. The charger works well and has kept the radio going on a 9-day and an 11-day trip. ■

- de Carl KD6KC



Thanks R.A.I.N. newsletter

CLICHÉS

Cliches are a *bad scene*, a *real can of worms*. There is a *crying need* for us to *brook no delay*, but *take the bull by the horns* and consign these *worse-for-wear phrases to oblivion*.

As a matter of fact, we all occasionally feel *at a loss for words*, and in our attempt to *leave no stone unturned* to find the *mot juste*, we *pick and choose* from among our *standard repertoire* of "*diamonds in the rough*", even though the *bitter truth* is that it might be *better left unsaid*.

Now, *far be it from me* to cast stones at those poor writers who *burn the midnight oil* in their *poor but honest* attempt to wax *eloquent* in dispelling our *blissful ignorance* and make their subject *clear as crystal*. Sometimes you have to *stick to your guns* and *forge ahead* in the face of *overwhelming odds*, even when the cliché *sticks out like a sore thumb*. In the last *analysis*, sometimes there is *method to your madness*: there is *more there than meets the eye*. But, the *bottom line* is that *nine times out of ten*, the cliché is simply the *path of least resistance* and must be *avoided like the plague*.

- de N1AL

COMING EVENTS:

Don't forget SCARS nets on Tuesdays.

OCTOBER:

- 1-2 - California QSO Party
- 3 - RACES etc. Net 7:30 PM
- 5 - SCRA meeting 7/7:30 PM
- 14-16 - ARRL Pac. Div. Convention, San Jose
- 15 - NARCC Meeting, Stockton
- 15-16 - Simulated Emergency Test
- 17 - RACES etc. Net 7:30 PM
- 20 - CDF VIP Meeting 7:30 PM
- 29-30 - CQWW SSB DX Contest

NOVEMBER:

- 5-7 - 10-10 CW 10 Meter Contest
- 5-7 - ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
- 19-21 - ARRL Sweepstakes, Phone
- 26-27 - CQ Worldwide CW DX Contest

VE EXAMS HOTLINE NR: 408-984-8353

EDITORIAL



Packet radio is not well-suited to rag chewing. Even for a touch-typist, it is MUCH easier to just pick up a mic and talk than it is to hammer it out on a keyboard.

The true value of packet is its ability to *network* via our system of packet bulletin board systems (PBBS). Networking allows you to contact a person without having to know when and where he hangs out on the bands -- you only need to address your message to his "home" PBBS's callsign. You can post general announcements and commentary to be read and responded to by all. ARRL bulletins, FCC announcements, VEC-FCC exam schedules, California weather reports, DX bulletins, RACES bulletins (from Sacramento), and a condensed version of the W5YI Report are only a few of the items regularly available on the bulletin boards.

Unfortunately, there are no PBBS's in Sonoma County (other than some "Personal BBS" systems with no forwarding and limited capabilities.) The one I use is N6IIU-1 down on the Peninsula. This is OK for N1AL at 1800 feet a.s.l., but many folks down in the valley can't hit N6IIU-1. Also, it is perhaps the busiest PBBS in Northern California, and can be very hard to break into at times.

Sonoma County needs its own PBBS. This could become a common gathering-point for local packeteers as well as providing links into and out of the County to the rest of the world. I would *love* to get involved in this, but I simply don't have the time to make a long-term commitment (Short Skip, club Secretary, Flea Market, Field Day, ARRL Tech. Coordinator, CDF, club digipeater, not to mention job and girl friend.)

If you would like to take this on as a project, I think we could get the club behind it (we spent much less money than was allocated for packet this year.) I would be willing to help on getting the equipment together and working. I will donate two assembled and tested Xerox 820 single-board computer boards and a monitor. We would

need to add a case, a keyboard, a power supply, disc drives, two TNC's, a 220 or 440 MHz radio, a 2 meter radio, and antennas. If our experience with the digipeater is any indication, much of this could be donated.

Although the Xerox is a CP/M (non-IBM-compatible) machine, it's still very popular for packet bulletin boards. Version 12.2 of WØRLI's (now N4XI's) bulletin board software has just come out and now features a configuration program to make the system easy to customize. There's a version available on EPROM to allow automatic re-start in case of power failure.

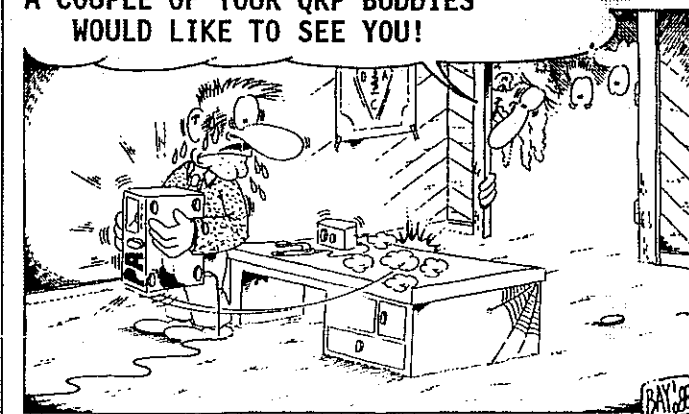
Although most of the message forwarding is done automatically by the software, the SYSOP (system operator) job is still quite time-consuming. If you still think this sounds interesting, give me a call, and we can talk about what is needed and maybe presenting a proposal to the club. ■

- de N1AL (phone # on page 2)

146.13/73 IS WHERE?

It's in Hayfork, which is about half-way between Eureka and Redding, about 150 miles as the crow flies N of "our" 146.13/73 on Sonoma Mt. Active operators up there include part-time Sonoma Countians Herb K6QXB and Louise N6FYL. ■ (Thanks R.A.I.N.)

A COUPLE OF YOUR QRP BUDDIES WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU!



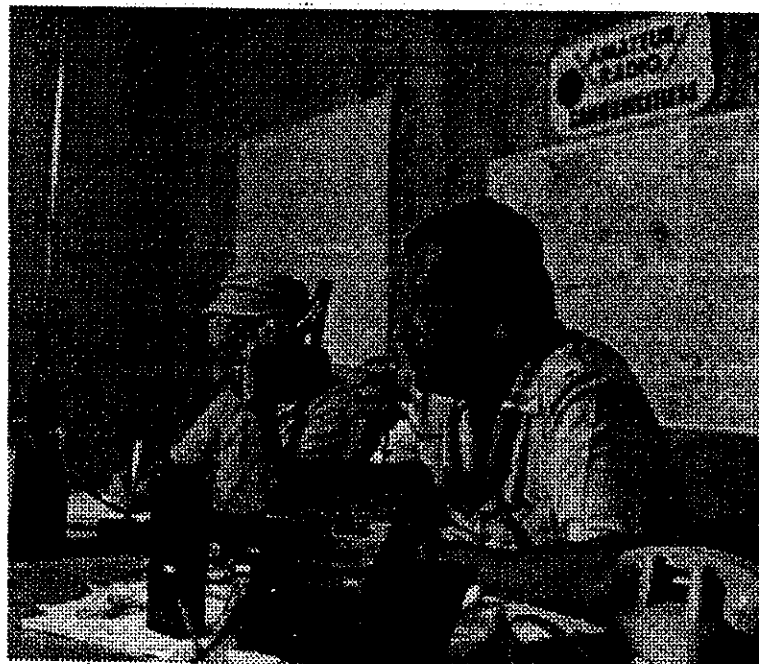
cq-DL 8/88 501

CDF-VIP NEWS



The local VIP group has been very active in CDF communications in the recent spate of fires in Northern California. We hope to have a complete report in the next issue.

Hams in the Redwood ARC in Humboldt County have really got their VIP group going this year with 24 trained amateurs ready to go. Voice and packet are being used. They are investigating acquiring a communications van as well as ATV capability. They also planned a display at the Humboldt County Fair. This was all reported in a nice article in the Statewide CDF publication "Communique". (Thanks R.A.I.N.) ■



Cal W6MCI & Frank N6SNO at the CDF FIO in Grass Valley at the 49'er Fire. (Tnx WF6J via On Frequency of the North Hills RC.)

Did Anybody take any photos of local Amateurs on fire duty?



Recently, I have noticed an intermittent problem with my packet station. I sometimes get excessive "re-tries", even on strong local stations. I had already checked out my Kantronics KPC-2 TNC and Drake UV-3 on a spectrum analyzer: the frequency was right on, the modulation was nice and clean, and the deviation was 3.5 kHz, which is just about optimum.

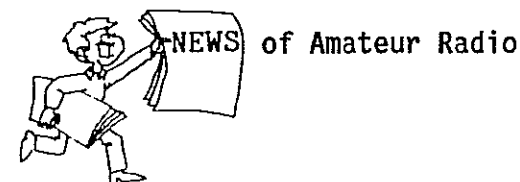
Recently, I tried to connect to myself through the club's WB6PVS-1 digipeater on 145.03. Although I live a quarter mile away and was running a 160 Watt amplifier, I couldn't get through! Without the amplifier it played fine! ??? Bad amplifier?

Nope. It turned out it was RF getting into the Kantronics KPC-2 TNC audio output. I could hear the distortion and hum on my HT tuned to 145.03 -- when I turned off the amplifier, it disappeared.

Here's how I cured it. First, I added a 390 pF disc ceramic capacitor between ground and pin 1 (AFSK out) of J2, the "Radio" connector. This didn't work. What fixed it was to bypass both power supplies and the + input of the LM 358 AFSK output amplifier with 470 pF disc ceramics. (Add three 470 pF capacitors, with one end soldered to pin 3 and the other end to pin 4, 5 or 8 of U2.) While capacitor values are not super-critical, around 400 pF or so is roughly series-resonant on 145 MHz. Use very short leads when making the connections.

Now I have the pleasure of retry-free packet radio. I leave the rig on 24 hours a day on 145.03 with the antenna pointed towards Sacramento. I can hit a NETROM node ("PINE") near Sacto with solid copy. If you can't hear me direct, the path is "C PINE VIA WB6PVS-1, NIAL". When you connect, then type "C WA6XYZ" or whatever, or "C CQ" to send a CQ. ■

- de NIAL



220 MHZ REPORT AND ORDER WAS RELEASED by FCC Sept 6. (NIAL will have a copy available at the next club meeting.) While the effective date is 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, Amateurs may continue to use 220-222 MHz until final service rules are adopted by the FCC. This is not expected to occur for many months. [ARRL]

ANYONE FOR THE 17 METER BAND? FCC Docket 88-467 proposes to permit General and above to operate 18.068-18.168 (CW/digital) and 18.110-18.168 (phone,FAX,SSTV). Power limit will be same as other bands: 1.5 KW. [ARRL]

AMSAT WILL LAUNCH FOUR SATELLITES IN 1989. All 4 "Micro-satellites" (9x9x9", 22lb) will be launched from a single European Space Agency Ariane rocket. Two will be store-and-forward packet satellites, one operated by AMSAT-NA, one by AMSAT-Argentina. Another will carry Brazil's Project DOVE (Digital Orbiting Voice Encoder). The fourth will include a low-resolution camera. ARRL is assisting in the design and construction, with some financial assistance from the Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Society. [ARRL]

CB-DRUG CONNECTION. 11 meter CB is being openly used to deal drugs on the highways of California, according to state Attorney General John Van de Kamp. Southern Calif. truck stops are open markets for cocaine, amphetamines and marijuana. [Westlink]

THE SONOMA EMERGENCY VAN NEARS COMPLETION. It has been painted, final sign lettering is being done, and carpets are being laid. The generator trailer has been assembled, and mounting of the generator is imminent. [VOM]

LOOK FOR P40V on Aruba in the CQWW CW DX Contest October 29-30. As part of an attempt to break the all-time world record, a group of 17 contest veterans is offering a free, handsome certificate to all who work them on at least 4 bands. They will QSL 100%.

Thanks to the ARRL Letter, Westlink Report, & Valley of the Moon ARC for the above info.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

PO=PREREG. ONLY.
PP=PREREG. PREFERRED
WO=WALK-INS ONLY
SW=SOME WALK-INS

- OCT 1 CUPERTINO----9AM-WO-408-243-8349
- OCT 8 LOS ALTOS HILLS--WO-408-255-9000
- OCT 14-16? ARRL CONV SJ-WO-408-243-8349
- OCT 16 SUNNYVALE---11AM-WO-408-255-9000
- OCT 16 FRESNO---12 NOON-WO-209-924-4872
- OCT 16 TECHACHAPI-----????????????????
- OCT 20 LOS GATOS---7PM-WO-408-294-3575
- OCT 29 NEVADA CITY-----PP-916-273-2326
- NOV 3 BAKERSFIELD-----WO-805-833-8846
- NOV 5 CONCORD---1:30PM-WO-408-255-9000
- NOV 5 CUPERTINO----9AM-WO-408-243-8349
- NOV 12 LOS ALTOS HILLS--WO-408-255-9000
- NOV 12 JACKSON-----PP-209-295-7947
- NOV 19 CUPERTINO----9AM-WO-408-243-8349
- NOV 20 SUNNYVALE---11AM-WO-408-255-9000
- NOV 20 SANTA CRUZ---1PM-WO-408-255-9000
- DEC 3 CONCORD-----WO-408-255-9000
- DEC 3 VISALIA-----WO-????????????
- DEC 3 CUPERTINO----9AM-WO-408-243-8349
- DEC 3 NOVATO-----WO-707-897-8950
- DEC 10 LOS ALTOS HILLS--WO-408-255-9000
- DEC 17 CUPERTINO----9AM-WO-408-243-8349
- DEC 18 SUNNYVALE---11AM-WO-408-255-9000
- JAN 14 LOS ALTOS HILLS--WO-408-255-9000
- JAN 15 SUNNYVALE---11AM-WO-408-255-9000

TNX TO: N6IIU PBBS, & the SUNNYVALE VEC ARC
BOX 60142, SUNNYVALE, CA 94088-0142
UPDATES & CORRECTIONS TO: SP W6NLG @ W6CUS ■



We'd like to thank NIAL for volunteering to serve on the Board of Directors again.