



# HANK'S SWAP SHOP

Hank Davis, W6DTV 7822 Washington Avenue  
Phone 823-7885 Sebastopol, CA 95472  
(Noncommercial ham ads are printed for free)

WANT: PHONE PATCH. Bob N6RMW 542-5209.

ICOM 71A receiver, speech synt, remote cont.  
Phone for price. Tracy WB6TMY 527-8124.

MOTOROLA MICOR lowband, 100 watts, cables  
and manuals. \$100 each. Vince N6UMC  
526-4506 eve, 795-9444 day.

MOTOROLA 450 MHZ BASE ANTENNA. Kent  
Dreitzler 523-1700.

VIBROPLEX bug \$50. John W6TLK 833-1873.

BUTTERNUT HF5B beam, 10-20M, manual \$115.  
HUSTLER VERTICAL, 40-10M, manual \$75. Steve  
KB6LSB 573-3507.

KENWOOD TR-9000 all-mode 10W 2M xcvr \$300.  
ASTATIC SILVER EAGLE microphone \$75.  
SHURE 444D microphone \$50.  
COMMODORE RS-232 interface for MFJ1238. \$25.  
BEARCAT 250 scanner, 50 channel \$75.  
MICROLAB dummy load/40W meter 600-1850 MHz  
\$50. Garry N6ONZ 584-3425.

WANT: HF TRANSCEIVER for young novice-to-  
be. Stu WA6BTK 538-1217.

WANT: HF TRANSCEIVER for young novice-to-  
be. John WB6FRZ 838-6398.

RADIO SHACK PRO-2003 scanner, 60 channel.  
\$100. Steve N6RYA 823-5882.

RADIO SHACK HTX-100 10 meter transceiver.  
\$180. Kam KC6NDU 578-7296.

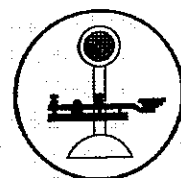
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.  
PO Box 116  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SANTA ROSA, CA  
PERMIT NO. 658

JOHN BRECKENRIDGE  
WB6FRZ  
574 WILD OAK DR  
WINDSOR CA 95492

DATED MATERIAL:  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



# SHORT SKIP



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Club Station

JANUARY 1991

W6LFFJ

P.O. Box 116

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Repeater Station

WB6PVS

VOL 16 # 1

## HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 1991!

WA6ACX

N6AHA	WA6BPA	KB6DJG	KF6FX	WD6HCX	N6KLU	WB6MJB	KI6NY	N6PWV	WA6SEU	KB6UOJ
W6AHH	KC6BSI	KA6DJY	N6FYV	KA6HGW	W6KNO	VP2ML	KA7NZO	WA6PXW	WB6SMY	N6URM
WB7AKX	WA6BTK	WD6DPE	NR6G	W2HWQ	KB6KSA	N6MRV	N6OH	N6PXY	K6SRD	KB6UWY
N1AL	K6BWV	WA6DQZ	KD6GC	KC6HXS	W6KTT	N6MSG	N6OJC	N6QAV	N6SRH	N6UXC
K6ALI	KA6BYX	W6DTV	K6GEV	KJ6HY	KB6KTX	KA6MUB	N6OLD	WA6QCL	K6TCD	N6UXD
WA6AQA	AG6C	WD6DXW	NH6GF	KD6IB	KB6KUI	KC6MYG	WA6OLW	KI6QY	KA6THB	K6UXO
N6AVD	W6CCY	K6EAN	KI6GG	N6IIY	K6KZ	K6MZ	N6ONZ	W6QYB	DJ6TJ	AA6UY
KK6BK	WD6CKP	W2EBG	N6CHG	N6INC	W6LCZ	KB6MZE	N6OOA	AA6RD	W6TLK	N6VUB
W6BNB	WB7CNJ	WB6EKV	KB6GIU	KB6IOT	W6LGQ	KC6NDU	KB6PBD	W6RIA	N6TMV	N6VUC
K6XZ	W6CPE	WD6EVL	KC6GJF	N6IRJ	WA8LLY	W6NGZ	KI6PD	N6RIG	WB6TMY	N6VUD
N6YEU	KA6CRG	N6FAX	KH6GJV	KC6IRQ	W6LOU	KC6NOE	WB6PDP	N6RMW	WB6TSO	KI6VY
N6YIG	WN6D	KC6FKX	KB6GOZ	W6ITU	KB6LSB	N6NSG	WB6PER	KF6RS	WB6UAZ	N6WEZ
N6YMQ	N6DDK	WD6FMG	N6GTF	KI6JC	W6MEO	N6NTB	N6PLQ	N6RXA	KB6UCM	KE6WL
WA6YTW	WA6DGK	WB6FRZ	W6GYV	KI6KE	N6MGY	KB6NVJ	KB6PTA	N6RXY	K6UKB	KB6WLJ
AA6YX	N1DJE	G4FSU	N6GZV	N6KIJ	N6MHG	KA1NVR	N6PTM	N6RYA	N6UMC	KD6XF

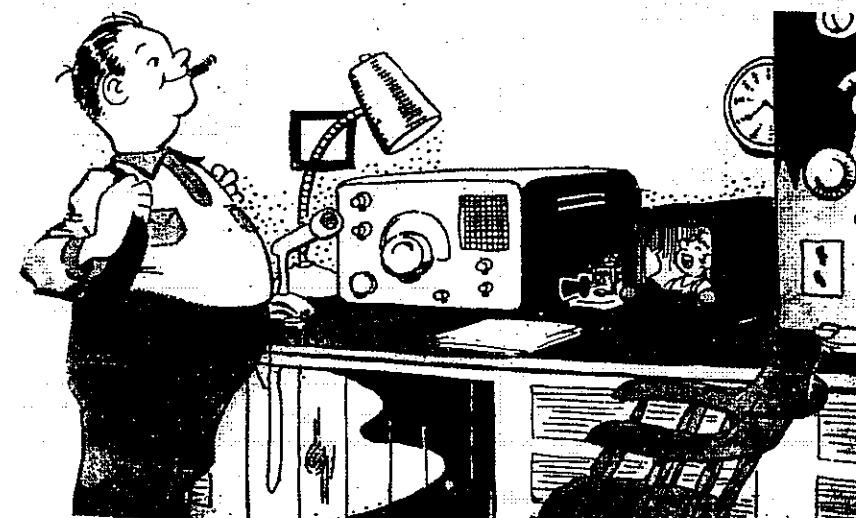
K6ZIV

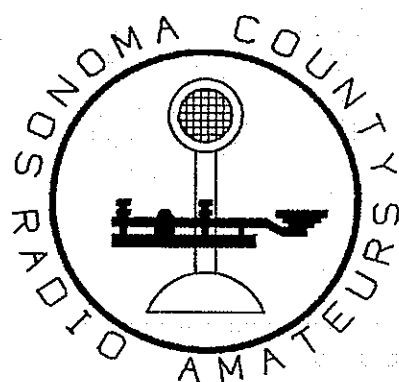
N6ZME

KB6ZOL

WA2ZPQ

K6ZWB





## OFFICERS FOR 1991

PRESIDENT: Jim Pelmulder N6PTM 823-7947  
 VICE PRESIDENT: Brian Torr N6IIV 575-5871  
 SECRETARY: Alan Bloom N1AL 538-7115  
 TREASURER: Merlyn Pfeiff N6VUC 584-3898  
 MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Philip Gaul KC6BSI 544-2572  
 John Wallack W6TLK 833-1873  
 REPEATER CHAIRMAN: Jim Rutherford WB6PER 526-2972

### SHORT SKIP STAFF:

EDITOR: Alan Bloom N1AL (e) 538-7115  
 1578 Los Alamos Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95409 (d) 577-3981  
 CIRCULATION MGR: Harvey Lawrence K6KZ  
 ADVERTISING MGR: John Wallack W6TLK 833-1873  
 SWAP SHOP: Hank Davis W6DTV 823-7885

ARRL LIAISON: Alan Bloom N1AL 538-7115  
 ASST. DIRECTOR: Chuck Sabin N6DDK 795-2371  
 BADGE CHAIRMAN: Connie Freitas N6FYV 823-9691  
 CLUB HISTORIAN:

## ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:

PUBLIC SERVICE: Bill Splaine N6GHG 431-8636  
 (days) 577-2913  
 EDUCATION: John Breckenridge WB6FRZ 838-6398  
 +WD6CKP WB7CNJ WB6TMY WA8LLY  
 TVI/RFI: Al Bloom N1AL 538-7115  
 FIELD DAY: N1AL(CW), N6PTM(ph), WB6PER(social)  
 AWARDS: Steve Lund WA8LLY 823-4544  
 VEC EXAMS: Steve Lund WA8LLY 823-4544  
 +N1AL WN6D WW6D WW6F WB6FRZ K6UXO  
 REFRESHMENTS AT MEETINGS: Bob Olsten WD6DPE  
 GREETER AT MEETINGS: Jane Vanderslice N6NTB  
 RAFFLE AT MEETINGS:  
 MEMBERSHIP LOTTERY: Bob Scolnick K6GEV  
 QSL MANAGER:

## REPEATER CONTROL OP'S:

WD6CKP Hoppy 542-6750 N6ONZ Garry 584-3425  
 WB6PER Jim 526-2972 W6TLK John 833-1873  
 WB6UAZ Kathi 544-7943 WN6D Jim 544-7943  
 N6PTM Jim 823-7947  
 INTERFERENCE COMMITTEE: WB6PER Jim 526-2972

### SHORT SKIP ADVERTISING RATES:

Business cards: \$10

\$11 First 1/4 Column  
 \$3 Additional 1/4 Columns  
 (\$32 Full Page, 1 side)

Pre-printed inserts: \$32/sheet

Guaranteed circulation: 200/month  
 AD DEADLINE: 10th 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 radio, 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 7:00 PM. You will 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. Hope to have an "eyeball" QSO with you at the next meeting! 73 ...

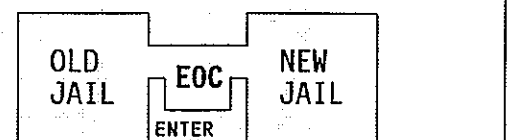
## CLUB MEETINGS:

7:30 PM, 1st Wednesday each month at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center, see map below) Anyone interested in ham radio is welcome.

NEXT MEETING: January 2, 1991

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

S <---- HIGHWAY 101 ----> N



PARKING BICENTENNIAL WAY

VENTURA AVE

MENDOCINO AVE

## WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

For A HRO 72 Page Communication Equipment Catalog Send \$1.00 to any HRO Store

NOW

9

## STORE BUYING POWER

**US TOWER CORPORATION**

**KENWOOD**

**ICOM**

**GEOCHRON GLOBAL TIME INDICATOR**

**YAESU**

**TEN-TEC**

**CUSHCRAFT CORPORATION**

**Advanced Electronic Applications**

**BULLETIN** ege has joined the **HAM RADIO OUTLET NATIONWIDE TEAM**

**NOW LOCATED IN SALEM, NH WOODBRIDGE, VA**

**THIS GIVES YOU EVEN BETTER RESPONSE WITH LOW-LOW OUTLET PRICES & RAPID DELIVERIES COAST TO COAST.**

**ALL MAJOR BRAND ACCESSORIES**

**...America's Best!**

## All Major Brands in Stock Now!



Bob Ferrero W6RJ  
 President/Owner  
 Jim Rafferty N6RJ  
 VP-National Sales Manager

**BURLINGAME, CA 94010**  
 999 Howard Ave., (415) 342-5757  
 George, Mgr. WB6DSV  
 5 miles south on 101 from SFO

**OAKLAND, CA 94606**  
 2210 Livingston St., (415) 534-5757  
 Rich, Mgr. WA9WYB  
 IS-880 at 23rd Ave. Ramp

**ANAHEIM, CA**  
 (714) 763-3033, (213) 860-2040  
**ATLANTA, GA**  
 (404) 263-0700  
**PHOENIX, AZ**  
 (602) 242-3515  
**SALEM, NH**  
 1-800-444-0047

**SAN DIEGO, CA**  
 (619) 560-4900  
**WOODBRIDGE, VA**  
 1-800-444-4799  
**VAN NUYS, CA**  
 (818) 988-2212

**FREE SHIPMENT**  
 Most items over \$100  
 UPS surface

STORE HOURS 10 AM-5:30 PM  
 CLOSED SUNDAYS

## CALL TOLL FREE

IN CALIFORNIA CALL STORE NEAREST YOU

Call any of our 800 numbers coast to coast from most parts of the country.

MID-WEST/WEST	SOUTHEAST	MID-ATLANTIC	NEW ENGLAND
ANAHEIM, 9 to 5:30 PST	ATLANTA, 9 to 5:30 EST	WOODBRIDGE, 9 to 5:30 EST	SALEM, 9 to 5:30 EST
<b>1-800-854-6046</b>	<b>1-800-444-7927</b>	<b>1-800-444-4799</b>	<b>1-800-444-0047</b>



Toll free including Hawaii. Phone Hrs: 7:00 am to 5:30 p.m. Pacific Time, California, Arizona and Georgia customers call or visit nearest store. California, Arizona, Georgia and Virginia residents please add sales tax. Prices, specifications, descriptions subject to change without notice.

## THE DISTRESS CALL

The now-discarded amateur distress call, QRRR, grew from the purpose of the first organized amateur emergency nets. They were set up in cities along the Pennsylvania Railroad to aid the "Pennsy" (and later other railroads) with train communications in the event of failure of the railroad telegraph landlines—which were frequent. The signal QRR came to be used to indicate that the calling station had railroad traffic related to some emergency. ARRL eventually adopted this call for use by any amateur who had distress traffic and later the call was changed to QRRR because of a conflict in definitions with the international Q signal QRR.

One of the first distress calls was CQD, coined by the Marconi Company about 1904 from the "general call" CQ and the letter D for "distress." The main problem with CQD was that it was supposed to be used only by ships which subscribed to the Marconi radio system and ships of one system were discouraged from communicating with ships or shore stations of other, competing, companies. The problem got so bad that it was taken up in the international radio conference in 1906 where a new universal distress call was proposed.

The American delegation suggested the letters NC which were already recognized in the International Signal Code for Visual Signalling. The German delegation proposed its own SOE which was already in use on German ships as a general inquiry signal similar to CQ (which was then used only by the Marconi system). The British delegation, of course, wanted to stick to the Marconi signal CQD.

The convention found SOE acceptable except that the final E could easily be lost in QRN so the letter S was substituted, making it SOS. The convention decided that SOS should be sent as a single code character with a sound unlike any other character, thus arresting the attention of anyone hearing it. So SOS was officially adopted, but CQD remained in use for some years, particularly aboard British ships.

It wasn't until 1912, after the Titanic disaster, that SOS became universal and the use of CQD gradually disappeared. Titanic radio operator Jack Phillips sent both CQD and SOS to be sure that there couldn't possibly be any misunderstanding.

—Louise Moreau, WB6BBO/W3WRE



## WARNING

### SAVE YOUR LIFE OR AN INJURY

Base plates, flat roof mounts, hinged bases, hinged sections, etc., are not intended to support the weight of a single man. Accidents have occurred because individuals assume situations are safe when they are not.

Installation and dismantling of towers is dangerous and temporary guys of sufficient strength and size should be used at all times when individuals are climbing towers during all types of installations or dismantlings. Temporary guys should be used on the first 10' or tower during erection or dismantling. Dismantling can even be more dangerous since the condition of the tower, guys, anchors, and/or roof in many cases is unknown.

The dismantling of some towers should be done with the use of a crane in order to minimize the possibility of member, guy wire, anchor, or base failures. Used towers in many cases are not as inexpensive as you may think if you are injured or killed.

Get professional, experienced help and read your Rohn catalog or other tower manufacturers' catalogs before erecting or dismantling any tower. A consultation with your local, professional tower erector would be very inexpensive insurance.

Paid  
for by  
the following:

**ROHN.**  
6718 West Plank Road  
P.O. Box 2000  
Peoria, Illinois 61656

## LATE SHORT SKIP?

When I first started doing *Short Skip*, I used to mail it about a week before the club meeting. At that time, it almost always arrived on time.

A couple of years ago, in response to complaints of late delivery, I moved my schedule up a week. This month for example, since the first Wednesday of January is on the 2nd, *Short Skip* must be mailed by Dec 19. I am typing this on Saturday Dec 15 so I can get the copy to the printer on Monday. With luck, they will respond in a day, which will give Hoppy and Betty 1 day to collate, fold, staple, label and mail.

Lately, I have again been getting complaints of late delivery, especially to members in the Sebastopol area. N6PTM's wife Dru has also had trouble with large mailings she has done for the Cancer Society. Several complaints have been made to the Sebastopol Post Office, with no effect. We are now trying to move our complaints up the "chain of command" until we get some satisfaction.

## YOU CAN HELP

To document our case, we need to know just when *Short Skip* was delivered in each town. Let me know when you received this issue, no matter whether it came late or early. Send me a QSL, leave a message on my answering machine, or leave a message on the KJ6FY-1 packet BBS (144.93 MHz VIA WA6LIA-1, if necessary). Thank yew fer yur support!

Alan Bloom N1AL  
1578 Los Alamos Rd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
(707) 538-7115

## Radio Shack

STORE NO. 3855

ZANE BATES  
MANAGER

WB6SRU

510 FARMERS LANE  
SANTA ROSA, CA. 95405

TELEPHONE  
546-8423

## 10 YEARS AGO

IN SHORT SKIP



Starting with the January 1981 meeting, SCRA began meeting at the Children's Day Treatment Center on Chanate Rd, courtesy of Steve KD6GC. The old Red Cross building just got too small.

Some 50 people attended the Christmas party at the Windsor mobile home park, courtesy of Jim W6CYM. Mike N6DBZ received the first Amateur of the Year award.

## REPEATER QRN

You may have noticed that the 146.73 repeater is in P/L mode a lot lately. To access it, you need an 88.5 Hz sub-audible tone encoder. The problem is broad-band intermittent noise that has been heard over most of the repeater band all the way down to the south bay. The only way to keep the repeater from constantly "kerchunking" is to put it in P/L.

When the repeater is in P/L mode, please do not use 146.73 as a simplex channel. Use '73 as a calling channel if you must, but then change to a simplex frequency (like 146.52) to continue the contact.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congrats to Bill Splaine N6GHG for winning the 1990 SCRA Member-of-the-Year award. Bill put in many, many hours of Public Service activities last year, and it is much appreciated.

Also congratulations to other award recipients at the Christmas Party Dec 12: Hoppy WD6CKP for the Newsline broadcast on the net every week, Hank W6DTV for his CDF-VIP leadership, Jim WB6PER for running RACES, John WB6FRZ for heading up the club's Educational program, Al N1AL for publishing *Short Skip*, and Bob WD6DPE for providing the refreshments at club meetings.

## FCC ESTABLISHES NEW CODELESS CLASS OF AMATEUR OPERATOR LICENSE

(PR DOCKET 90-55)

December 13, 1990

The Commission has revised the examination requirement for the Technician Class operator license, thereby creating a new codeless class of amateur operator license. After these revisions have become effective, an examinee will not be required to prove that he or she can send and receive texts in Morse code telegraph signals to qualify for a Technician Class amateur operator license.

The amateur service currently consists of five classes of licenses having increasing privileges and each being progressively more difficult to obtain. The classes are Novice, Technician, General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra.

The FCC noted that offering a codeless class of license that authorizes control operator privileges at stations which transmit exclusively above 30 MHz, provides an entry level opportunity to otherwise qualified persons who find telegraph a barrier to pursuing the purposes of the amateur service.

Therefore, the FCC has established the Technician Class as the codeless class of license. This license includes all amateur privileges above 30 MHz. The Commission also amended the rules to grandfather frequency privileges below 30 MHz to current Technician Class licensees.

In addition, the Commission decided to retain the Novice Class operator license in order to provide an alternate entry level operator license opportunity to persons who desire to pursue the purpose of the amateur service and who can pass a telegraphy requirement in place of the more comprehensive written examination requirement for the codeless Technician Class operator license.

Action by the Commission December 13, 1990, by Report and Order (FCC 90-///). Commissioners Sikes (Chairman),

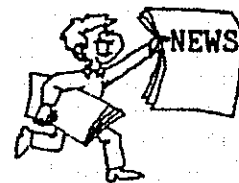
Tnx KE3Z at ARRL via UNIX Usenet

QST DE WIAW  
ARRL BULLETIN 54 ARLB054  
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
NEWINGTON CT DECEMBER 13, 1990  
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

FCC announced on December 13 that new Technician Class license applicants will not have to demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to have all privileges above 30 MHz. Implementation is expected by February 1991. Techs who obtain their licenses prior to that date will be grandfathered, meaning they will continue to have their present HF privileges.

The codeless Technician written exam will have 55 questions. New Technicians wanting HF privileges will be required to hold a CSCE for element 1A, that is 5 WPM, which must be administered by three accredited VEs. There will be no call sign designator to indicate whether or not a Technician has passed a code test, but FCC will have records of who has passed.

More details will be forthcoming in February QST.



**NO-CODE IS HERE!** New Technician licensees won't have to pass the 5 wpm code test. VHF and above frequencies only. The full text of the FCC public notice appears elsewhere in this month's *Short Skip*.

**NO-CODE FOR THE HANDICAPPED.** On Dec 13, FCC amended the rules to waive the 13 and 20 wpm (but not the 5 wpm) test for those with a physician's certificate stating that they are severely handicapped and cannot pass a telegraphy exam. Tnx KE3Z via Usenet

**ARRL 220 PETITION DENIED.** The US Court of Appeals has denied ARRL's petition to review the reallocation of 220-222 MHz to the land mobile service. Tnx WIAW bulletin.

## Another perspective on the cost of Amateur Radio

Gary Myers, K9CZB

The cost of Amateur Radio equipment is frequently blamed for some of the problems that our hobby/service is experiencing. More and more Amateurs are saying, in print and in conversation, that the high price of gear is discouraging young people and retirees from joining our ranks.

Some even say that Amateur Radio equipment has been priced out of the reach of the average wage-earner. Before we devote too much concern to this "problem," let's put a few things in perspective.

When I got my Novice license in 1955, my friends and I were earning \$1 per hour or less at our summer jobs (mine paid \$.60 per hour) and \$1 was the going rate for lawn mowing. Today's teenagers earn \$3-4 per hour (or more), and they won't touch a lawn for less than \$5 or \$10.

Although I started with all homebrew equipment (a regenerative receiver and a 6AG7 oscillator with 5W input on 80 and 40M), by dint of a lot of hard work, I was able to purchase a new Hallicrafter SX-99 receiver, a Globe Chief 90 transmitter kit (CW only) and a Heath VF-1 VFO kit soon after I upgraded to General in 1956, at age 16.

Those basic pieces cost me \$220, using the 4:1 earnings ratio between then and now, today's 16-year-old should be able to buy an \$880 transceiver. A Yaesu 747 with an Astron (or similar) power supply can be purchased new for less than that — and look at the performance and features, compared to my 1956 gear!

Today, anyone can homebrew a transmitter and receiver that would be superior to my homebrew Novice gear, for well under \$100. Remember, that's really less than \$25 by 1955 standards.

How about kits? Back then, the popular beginners' kits were the Heath AT-1 transmitter (\$30 — crystal control, with about 20W out) and AR-2 receiver (\$25). Today, a Heath HW-9 CW transceiver kit has a vastly superior receiver and a VFO, with a signal that's only about one S unit weaker, for about the same relative cost.

On the adult level, the average family's income today is about \$25,000, compared to less than \$6,000 in the mid-50s. A typical adult 1955 Amateur's rx/tx combo was the equivalent of a SX-96 (\$250) and a Viking

Ranger (\$300 for CW and AM — no SSB). At 4:1, that translates to \$2,200 for a transceiver today ... not too shabby.

Our Novices now have access to voice communications in our most exciting DX band, as well as the use of FM repeaters and digital communications. There are at least two bells-and-whistles 10M rigs that are available for less than the cost of a table model color TV. A 220 MHz handheld can be purchased for less money than many teenagers have invested in their heavy metal compact disc collections.

So, we are getting better equipment today, for about the same (or even less) relative cost, and our entry-level license conveys privileges that didn't even exist in 1955. What, then, is the difference?

For starters, as a teenager I didn't have a computer, an ATV or dirt motorcycle or my own stereo system. My high school band didn't travel to Europe, and we didn't have a ski club that spent winter break in Colorado. Designer jeans and Nintendo games didn't exist. Nobody would have known what "instant gratification" meant.

Working adults were different, too. Motor homes that cost half as much as a house wouldn't have sold very well in 1955. Foreign travel was uncommon. Hobbies were more accessible than good restaurants and live entertainment. People pushed their lawnmowers, and cleared their driveways with shovels. The average person's home electronics inventory consisted of an AM radio, a monochrome TV, and a record player. Nobody had heard of "yuppies" or "personal luxury cars."

One seldom, if ever, heard retirees complain about a lack of time. Retirees needed to conserve their money, but they had the time to putter around in the garden and workshop, play cards, fish in the local river or enjoy hobbies like Amateur Radio.

Times have changed. Today, people of all ages spend breathtaking amounts of money, by 1955 standards, on nonessentials: a PC-compatible or Mac computer system, a snowmobile, a projection TV, a camcorder, a sailboat. In my community, it is fairly common for people to invest \$2000 or more in a riding lawnmower, a rototiller and a snowblower, and then spend upwards

of \$500 per year on a health club membership so they can get some exercise.

And if you think that \$6,000 for a transceiver is ridiculous, check out the price of a ski or bass boat, complete with motor and trailer — something that can be used only on good-weather weekends, and for less than half of the year in much of our country. Same goes for recreational vehicles. Nearly everyone owns at least a few very expensive toys, so it's obvious that people can afford to buy Amateur Radio equipment. Why, then, don't more become Amateurs?

People have more money to spend on luxuries and recreation, but they also have more opportunities for fun and diversion. More people are doing more things than ever before, and nobody admits to having any spare time.

We seem to be suffering from cultural hyperthyroidism, and we want to live every day as if we were in a beer commercial. The pace of life has accelerated, and the emphasis is on the physical rather than the cerebral: as a society, we value the rush of adrenalin more than the quiet glow of accomplishment.

Amateur Radio just isn't as exciting to most people as sailing or snowmobiling, and it doesn't provide the comfort or status of a cruise ship vacation. A winter week in Aspen would more than buy a new rig, but schussing down the slopes usually wins out over dit-dahing around the bands. Physical fitness buffs are not attracted by the prospect of spending long hours studying for a license, in order to spend more long hours seated in front of a radio.


The aura of mystery and excitement that once accompanied radio communications no longer exists in a world of cellular telephones and satellite TV. Ready access to travel has dulled our curiosity about far-away places. Today, no one is awed by an Amateur's ability to talk to the world.

And Amateur Radio is the antithesis of instant gratification. An up-front investment of time and effort is required before you can begin to participate, in direct contrast to the modern plug 'n play lifestyle. We are an impatient society that demands immediate yet effortless access to fun, entertainment, excitement and status. Access to Amateur Radio is neither immediate nor effortless, it is not perceived as exciting, and it confers no status at all.

The fact is that people have plenty of money to spend on those things that they consider to be fun or important to their image. In our culture Amateur Radio simply is neither. And that, my friends, is our real problem.

WORLD RADIO, December 1990



**DX  
NEWS**

**MOZAMBIQUE.** The recent operation by Lloyd and Iris Colvin, C9QL and C9KG, has been approved for DXCC credit.

**AFGHANISTAN, YA.** License in hand, Romeo Stepanenko, UB5JRR is ready to activate YAORR December 23. Contact NT2X for details.

**ALBANIA, ZA.** Apparently the final obstacle has been overcome by the Hungarian team. The Albanian authorities have agreed to approve 10 visas for the long-awaited ZA expedition. Although licenses have been issued in the past, this approval has been unobtainable.

**BOTSWANA, A2.** A22AA is frequently found on 28 MHz ssb at 1100 UTC.

**BRUNEI, V8.** Look for Gerald, V85GA on 20 meters after 2200 UTC. He has been on SSB at 14226 KHz, and ARQ at 14081 KHz, this week. QSL direct only.

**CAMEROON, TJ.** TJ1BJ likes 21300 KHz at 1230 UTC. QSL to K4UTE.

**CHATHAM ISLAND, ZL7.** ZLOAAD/7 and ZLOADN/7 are due Dec. 20 for two weeks of operating.

**FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, V6.** V63AO is frequently on 28495 KHz at 0100 UTC. QSL to Nishi at box 296, Ponapei 96941.

**GLORIOSO, FR/G.** No sign of FR5ZU/G so far. A December operation from Glorioso has been widely anticipated.

**IVORY COAST, TU.** TU2MA has been active on 7 MHz cw after 0130 UTC. QSL to BP 520 Abidjan. TU2QQ likes 17 meters after 1130 UTC. QSL direct only.

**LAOS, XW.** In a move that caught almost everyone by surprise, JA3UB has been signing XW8UB this week. Try 14 MHz CW at 0000 UTC. QSL to JA3UB.

**MALDIVE ISLAND, 8Q.** 8Q7BX by I4ALU will be QRV December 24 to January 5. Try 14002 KHz at 0130 UTC.

**MALI, TZ.** TZ6VV is active on 14 MHz SSB at 0030 UTC. QSL to K4UTE.

**MAYOTTE, FH.** Look for FH5EJ on 14035 KHz at 0300 UTC.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2.** P29AC is often on 14002 KHz at 1200 UTC.

**QATAR, A7.** A71CD likes 14252 KHz at 1700 UTC. QSL to WA4JTK.

**SEYCHESLLES, S79.** S79MST is regularly on 14188 KHz at 1800 UTC. QSL to G4IRG.

**SRI LANKA, 4S.** On weekends, 4S7EP meets WA2VUY on 28446 KHz at 1200 UTC.

**SVALBARD, JW.** JW0GB has been visiting 14165 KHz at 1230 UTC. QSL via WB4ZBI. JW1QCA prefers pileups on 14201 KHz at 0100 UTC. QSL via LA1QCA.

**SWAZILAND, 3D2.** 3DA0BK likes 28495 KHz after 1800 UTC. Franz says QSL to Box 122, Eveni.

**TOGO, 5V.** 5V7SA visits 21335 KHz often, usually around 1630 UTC. QSL via WB4LFM.

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6.** A61AD is now QRV on the new bands. He has a fine signal on 24960 KHz at 1200 UTC, and has been accomodating requests for CW 10 and 17 meter contacts. QSL via WB2DND with a large business size SASE.

**VIETNAM, 3W.** 3W4DK and 3W4VL have been active on 7 MHz at 1200 UTC, 28 MHz CW 0000 UTC, 21 MHz SSB 0200 UTC. QSL via UA3DK.

notes: VK9TR is not due back on Wwillis Island for at least six months. VK9NS is investigating VK0 as an alternative to his planned S2 expedition. QSL cards for 708AA have begun to appear. New arrangements for 701AA correspondence will be announced shortly. Please remember to hold your Yemen cards for submission until after March 1, 1991. Logs for Kingman Reef and Palmyra Island 1988 expedition will be closed January 15, 1991. If you need K9AJ/KH5K or WORLX/KH5 QSL cards, write WA2MOE now. Be sure to include a SASE.

Thanks to W1AW, N2KW, and the Tristate DX Packetcluster network for the above info.

**COLUMBIA**

I was monitoring wednesday at night trying to contact the Shuttle and when I went to bed, my computer and KAM was "doing the job" for me. Here is what it copied:

WA4SIR>KA5SFD/V: <UA>:  
WA4SIR>KS5H/V: <UA>:  
WA4SIR>W2DTC/V: <D>:  
WA4SIR>KB4SYV/V: <IO>:  
#793-is your SAREX QSO number.  
Thanks for the connect  
from the Space Shuttle Columbia.

WA4SIR>AB4SF/V: <UA>:  
WA4SIR>VE3MX/V: <UA>:  
WA4SIR>K4GMP/V: <UA>:  
WA4SIR>AB4SF/V: <IO>:  
#794-is your SAREX QSO number.  
Thanks for the connect  
from the Space Shuttle Columbia.

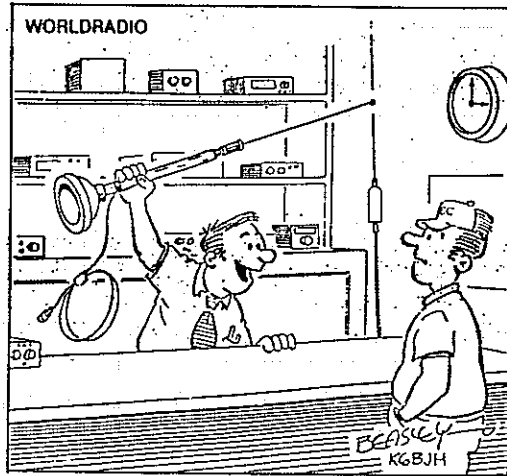
The time was 01:57:59: EST or 06:57:59 UTC.  
Lucky guys. They don't sleep as early as I do. Lionel, KC4CLD    Tnx KJ6FY PBBS

RCA/GE • Zenith • NAP • Channel Master

**ARDCO ELECTRONICS  
SUPPLY**  
950 Piner Rd  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403


STEVE BASHAM  
Manager

(707) 527-6000  
(800) 675-7557



WORLD RADIO

— BEATS THE HECK OUT OF A MAG MOUNT, AND IT ALSO HAS ANOTHER USE! —

**WERE YOU A  
MEMBER OF SCRA  
IN YEARS PAST?**

It's been quite awhile since we brought this up, so it's time to ask again:

Please, if you have any of the following issues of Short Skip in your collection, contact Al Bloom N1AL so we can photocopy them for our records. Call 577-3981 (days) or 538-7115 (eves).

Vol. II (1977) all except issue 7.  
Vol. III (1978) issues # 1 3 4 7 9 11 12.  
Vol. IV (1979) issue # 4.

Also, some of our pre-1985 issues are in poor shape, so if you decide to throw away any old copies, throw them this way instead!

Issues missing are marked with "0":

Vol	Year	#1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
I	1976	X	X	X	X	X	X	--Not Printed--					
II	1977	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0
III	1978	0	X	0	0	X	X	0	X	0	X	0	0
IV	1979	X	X	X	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NP

Vol. V (1980) thru the present are complete.

Thanks to Bob WD6DPE, Betty AG6C, Terry WA6RNF, Warren WB6RHP & Brian KE6WL for their past donations.

**S.F. FCC OFFICE CLOSING!**

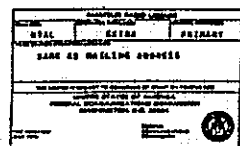
The San Francisco FCC office is moving January 2, 1991 to a new facility in Hayward. New address and phone numbers:

Federal Communications Commission  
3777 Depot Rd, Room 420  
Hayward, CA 94545-2756

Recorded Info. (415) 732-1716  
Public Number (415) 732-9046  
FTS 536-7300

Public office hours will remain from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. Tnx N6SPY via W6TLK

## AMATEUR EXAMS IN NORTHERN CA



**UNLICENSED-EXTRA:**  
 1. WALK-INS ONLY  
 2. SOME WALK-INS  
 3. PRE-REG. PREFERRED  
 4. PRE-REGISTER ONLY

**UNLICENSED-TECH ONLY:**  
 A. WALK-INS ONLY  
 B. SOME WALK-INS  
 C. PRE-REG. PREFERRED  
 D. PRE-REGISTER ONLY

DEC. 29 STOCKTON--11:30 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 JAN. 06 CLEARLAKE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 JAN. 12 SUNNYVALE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 JAN. 13 HANFORD---NOON -- 1 408 255-9000  
 JAN. 17 TURLOCK-----7 PM A 209 883-2968  
 JAN. 26 FAIRFIELD---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 JAN. 27 SUNNYVALE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 FEB. 02 CONCORD----1:30 PM 1 408 255-9000  
 FEB. 03 CHICO-----?? ?? 3 916 342-1180  
 FEB. 09 SUNNYVALE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 FEB. 09 FRESNO-----10 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 FEB. 16 NOVATO-----9 AM 1 415 867-8950  
 FEB. 17 PORTERVILLE---2 PM 1 408 255-9000  
 FEB. 24 SUNNYVALE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 MAR. ?? SEA RANCH-----1 408 255-9000  
 MAR. 02 MODESTO-----9 AM 1 209 883-2968  
 MAR. 09 SUNNYVALE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 MAR. 09 NOVATO-----9 AM 1 415 897-8950  
 MAR. 24 SUNNYVALE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 APR. 06 CONCORD----1:30 PM 1 408 255-9000  
 APR. 07 CLEARLAKE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 APR. 07 HANFORD---NOON -- 1 408 255-9000  
 APR. 07 CHICO-----?? ?? 3 916 342-1180  
 APR. 13 SUNNYVALE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 APR. 13 SONORA-----9 AM 1 209 586-4917  
 APR. 28 SUNNYVALE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 MAY 04 SUNNYVALE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 MAY 04 FRESNO-----10 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 MAY 18 TURLOCK-----9 AM A 209 883-2968  
 MAY 19 PORTERVILLE---2 PM 1 408 255-9000  
 MAY 26 SUNNYVALE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 JUNE 01 CONCORD----1:30 PM 1 408 255-9000  
 JUNE 01 MODESTO-----9 AM 1 209 883-2968  
 JUNE 02 CHICO-----?? ?? 3 916 342-1180  
 JUNE 08 SUNNYVALE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 JUNE 09 NOVATO-----9 AM 1 415 897-8950  
 JULY 07 CLEARLAKE---11 AM 1 408 255-9000  
 JULY 14 HANFORD---NOON -- 1 408 255-9000

SUNNYVALE VEC, BOX 60142, SUNNYVALE CA 94088  
 UPDATES & CORRECTIONS TO: SP W6NLG @ KA6JLT



## COMING EVENTS:

SCARS NET: 146.73 MHz  
 Tuesdays at 7 PM.

VE EXAMS HOTLINE NR:  
 408-984-8353

### JANUARY: 1991

Dec 31-Jan 1 - Straight Key Night  
 2 - SCRA meeting 7/7:30 PM  
 7 - RACES etc. Net, 7:30 PM  
 5-6 - ARRL RTTY Roundup  
 12 - Santa Rosa Computer Show-Fairgrounds  
 17 - CDF/VIP Meeting 7:30 PM  
 18 - Deadline for February *Short Skip*  
 19-21 - ARRL VHF Sweepstakes  
 21 - RACES etc. Net, 7:30 PM  
 25-27 - CQ Worldwide 160M Contest, CW  
 Jan 26-Feb 3 - ARRL Novice Roundup

### FEBRUARY:

Jan 26-Feb 3 - ARRL Novice Roundup  
 3 - Santa Rosa Computer Show-Fairgrounds  
 6 - SCRA meeting 7/7:30 PM  
 11-15 - ARRL School Club Roundup  
 15 - Deadline for March *Short Skip*  
 16-17 - ARRL DX Contest, CW  
 22-24 - CQ Worldwide 160 M Contest, Phone

### MARCH:

1 - 1987 DUES PAYABLE!  
 2-3 - ARRL DX Contest, Phone  
 9 - Foothill College Flea Market

## 6TH DISTRICT CALL SIGNS

AS OF DEC. 1, 1990

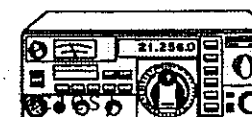
EXTRA	ADVANCED	GEN/TECH	NOVICE
AA6ZU	KK6TN	-----	KC6PPF

If you hold a group D callsign (Novice) in Region 4 or 6 and upgrade to Technician or General and request a change of callsign, you will be issued a new group D callsign.

73 Gordon W6NLG, Sunnyvale VEC.

## W1AW SCHEDULE

(Note new 15/10 meter freq)



### --- TIMES ---

SLOW CODE PRACTICE: (5 to 15 wpm)  
 MWF: 6AM, 4PM. TThSSn: 1PM, 7PM.

FAST CODE PRACTICE: (35 to 10 wpm)  
 MWF: 1PM, 7PM. TTh: 6AM. TThSSn: 4PM.

CODE BULLETINS: (18 wpm)  
 Daily: 2PM, 5PM, 8PM. MTWThF: 7AM.

RTTY BULLETINS: (BAUDOT/ASCII/AMTOR)  
 Daily: 3PM, 6PM, 9PM. MTWThF: 8AM.

VOICE BULLETINS:  
 Daily: 6:30PM, 9:30M.

### --- FREQUENCIES ---

CODE PRACTICE AND CW BULLETIN FREQS:  
 1,818 3,581.5 7,047.5 14,047.5 21,067.5  
 28,067.5 50,080 and 147,555 KHz.

RTTY BULLETIN FREQUENCIES:  
 3,625 7,095 14,095 21,095 28,095 and  
 147,555 KHz.

VOICE BULLETIN FREQUENCIES:  
 1,890 3,990 7,290 14,290 21,390 28,590  
 50,190 and 147,555 KHz.

A DX Bulletin replaces the normal bulletins on Fridays UTC (Thursday evenings PDT).

In an emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins: Voice on the hour, RTTY at 15 minutes past, and CW on the half hour.

## OTHER CODE PRACTICES:

W6QIE 3590 KHz 5-30 WPM  
 Daily except Mon 8 PM

K6RAU 3760 KHz LSB Monthly course for beginners. (New session starts 1st Monday) Monday thru Friday 6:30-7:00 AM

W6ADO 7100 KHz 7/14/21/28 WPM  
 3 minutes each speed. Text is religious tracts. 24 hours a day

## TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR MONTH ENDING November 30, 1990



ACCOUNT	REVENUE	EXPENSE
Refreshments at meetings ..	7.90	7.20
Dues and Initiations .....	14.00	
Fund-Raisers (ARRL).....	30.00	28.00
Fund-Raisers (Flea Market) ..	125.00	
Badges .....	8.00	5.31
X-mas party prizes.....		200.00
Misc .....		100.00
Short Skip Newsletter .....	126.00	38.18
Training and Education ....		7.67
Amateur Radio Newsline ....		5.52
Membership Supplies.....	3.50	
	314.40	391.88

### ASSETS:

General Fund Account	2247.75
Cash/checks on hand	47.02
Total General Fund	2294.77
Total Repeater Fund	755.43

- de KC6BSI

Jim Peimulder  
 N6PTM

(707) 823-7947

### NOB HILL ELECTRONICS REPAIR

Amateur - Commercial - Scanners  
 TV - VCR's - Audio

Sta. Lic. No.  
 26191

2801 Gravenstein Hwy. No.  
 Sebastopol, CA 95472

