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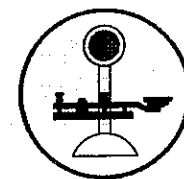
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# SHORT SKIP



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Club Station

P.O. Box 116

Repeater Station

JULY  
JUNE 1991

W6LFJ

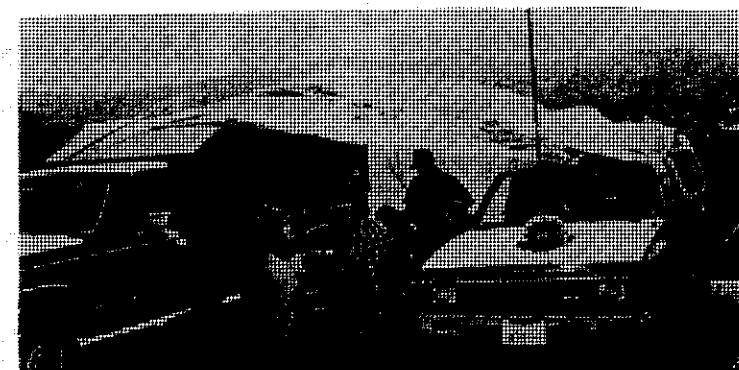
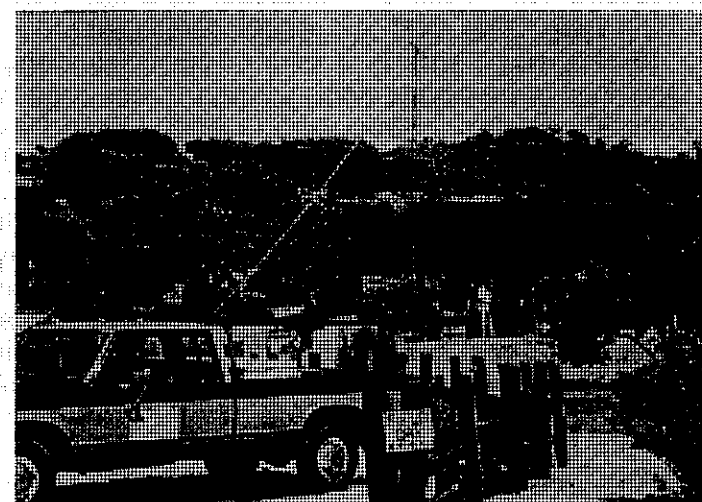
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

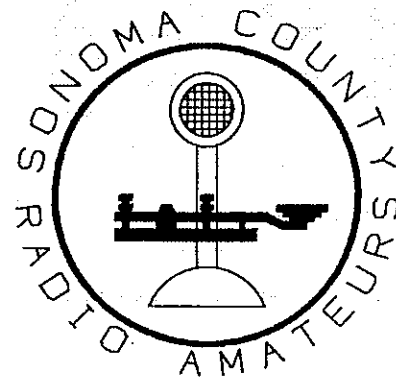
WB6PVS

VOL 16 # 6

## FIELD DAY 1991 !

Photos tnx N1AL and N6PTM





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|---|-----------------|----------|----------|
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| 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 |

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Guaranteed circulation: 200/month  
 AD DEADLINE: 10th of previous month

### ARE YOU NOT AN SCRA MEMBER?

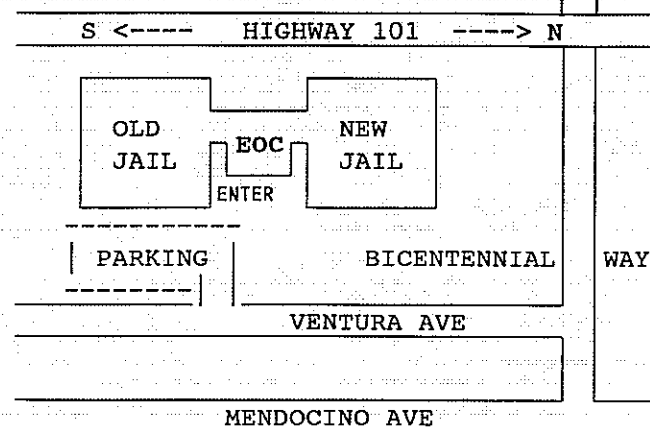
If so, then this is a complimentary copy. Our club is involved with almost every area of Amateur Radio: Repeaters (13/73), Field Day, license classes (Novice through Extra), volunteer exams, RACES, DX programs, packet radio, hidden xmtr hunts -- you name it. We invite you to attend our next monthly meeting (see below) or check into the Tuesday night SCARS net on the 146.13/73 repeater at 7PM. You will hear the latest Amateur Radio Newline broadcasts, announcements of SCRA activities and a Swap Shop. If you would like to join SCRA, please refer to the dues listed below. Hope we can have an "eyeball" QSO with you at the next meeting! 73 ...

## Club Meetings:

7:30 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center). Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome.

NEXT MEETING: July 3, 1991  
 PROGRAM: Field Day wrap up.

DUES: \$12 per year, plus a one-time \$4.00 initiation fee. Dues are pro-rated \$1/month for new members who get an SCRA call/name badge. Family memberships are \$18 per year.



## WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



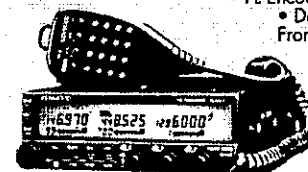
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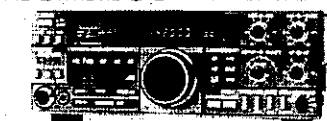


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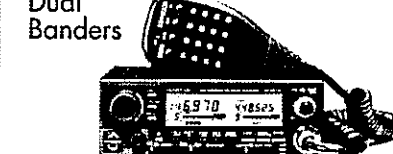
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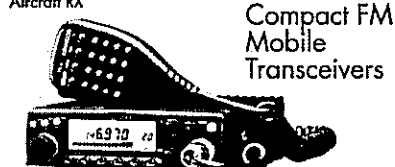
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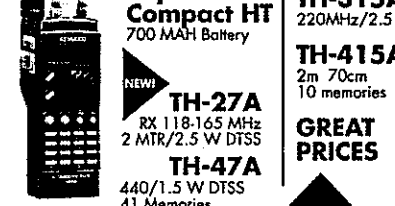
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example, a Novice on the 222 MHz band can connect to stations on the 145 MHz band where he is not allowed to transmit directly.

**PUBLIC SERVICE:** Many packet stations are used to help out with sending messages during disasters. Amateur Radio operators help out whenever they can, and many hams have their packet stations ready for portable operation to help when needed. There are many training exercises during each year to help practice and test the readiness of the emergency stations.

**OSCAR SATELLITES:** OSCAR stands for Orbital Satellites Carrying Amateur Radio. We have our OWN satellites in orbit that are dedicated for Amateur Radio use. The "PACSAT" satellites use "store-and-forward" packet operations to help distribute packet traffic around the world.

**BULLETIN BOARDS:** These carry postings similar to the stuff on Usenet (or telephone BBSs) and often have archives of useful files (such as local ham license testing sites). These are usually the same packet nodes that transport email.

**FILE TRANSFERS:** Better at 56 Kbaud (as some hams are doing), but feasible at 1200 baud. On TCP/IP, you just start it and forget it, so you can do it overnight or at some other time when you don't care how long it takes.

**DATABASES:** In some areas there are HAZMAT (hazardous materials), callsign, and repeater databases accessible via the network.

**STATION-STATION:** I almost forgot.. many people simply enjoy chatting with their neighbors -- across the street, in the next state, or half-way around the world!

*How much will a packet radio set-up cost me?*

Let's assume you own the PC already. TNCs can be purchased from about \$120.00 on up. For more money, there are several that provide for operating on many digital modes in addition to packet radio. If you already own an Amateur FM transceiver (or an HF SSB transceiver) then you have all the equipment needed. If not, a two-meter FM transceiver can be purchased for used from \$100-250.00, new from \$300.00 on up.

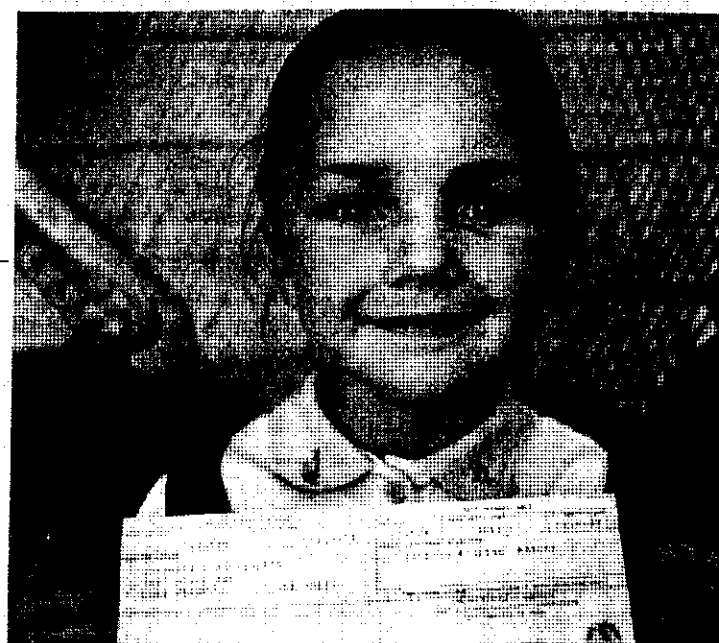
*What legal issues do I need to consider regarding packet radio? Do I need a license?*

Yes, you need a valid Amateur Radio license. If you want access to the mainstream of packet radio, you will want at least a Technician class Amateur Radio license. (Although some areas have an active packet radio network on Novice class frequencies.)

*I've tried reading about Amateur packet radio, but a lot of it is Greek to me. Please suggest some reading materials such as books and magazines that my campus or local libraries might carry.*

There are a few books, etc... but I have found that most assume that you already know about Amateur Radio. You need to find what we call (ready for another term?) an "Elmer". An "Elmer" is a friendly, helping Amateur Radio operator who will take you under his/her wing to help and guide you as much as you need. I hope that you can find someone to help you... it takes a special kind of person to be an 'Elmer' (gosh I hate that term).

Good luck with your packet radio activities. If you find this information helpful, I would be glad to hear from you.... How? Simply send me a message via the Amateur packet network, NM1D@WB1DSW.NH.USA.NA from anywhere in the world!



Five-year-old Veronica Harrington KC6TQR of Long Beach, CA passed her Novice exam last April. Currently she is studying for her Technician so she can get on the local 2 meter kids' net. Tnx 73 Magazine

## FIELD DAY 1991

The participation in Field Day this year was fantastic! We had about 70 show up for dinner Saturday night, not to mention those who didn't eat dinner but did participate in one way or another during the weekend.

We had at least 22 licensed Amateurs make Field Day contacts, with an unknown number of loggers. The CW operators were N1AL, WB6FRZ, AA6YX, N6QAV, KK6VY, WA6SEU & KK6SE. On phone we had AA6YX, WB6RLA, KK6VY, WA6OLW, N6VUC, N6OLD, W6TLK, N6GHG, WB6TMM, WA6SEU, KK6XT & KK6SE. Novice CW was handled by KB6IOT and KC6RHA. KB6PTA, KC6NDU, KC6RHZ, and KC6RDH worked 10 meter phone. The packet QSO's were made by KC6PJW and WA6SEU.

Here's how we compared with previous years. Note that this is not really a fair comparison, since the 1991 logs are un-duped. If duplicate contacts run true to average, you can subtract 5 - 10% from the 1991 totals.

### GENERAL + STN. W6LFJ:

| Band   | ----1991---- |     | ----1990---- |     | ----1989---- |     |
|--------|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
|        | CW           | SSB | CW           | SSB | CW           | SSB |
| 160    |              | 1   |              |     |              |     |
| 80M    | 179          | 144 |              | 49  | 112          | 35  |
| 40M    | 35           | 245 | 50           | 110 | 162          |     |
| 20M    | 273          | 177 | 325          | 176 | 214          | 43  |
| 17M    | 4            | 29  |              |     |              |     |
| 15M    | 86           | 3   |              | 158 | 180          |     |
| Packet | 41           |     |              |     |              |     |
| VHF    |              |     |              | 71  |              | 28  |

### NOVICE STN. KB6PTA: (N6ONZ in 1989)

| Band   | ----1991---- |     | ----1990---- |     | ----1989---- |     |
|--------|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
|        | CW           | SSB | CW           | SSB | CW           | SSB |
| 80M    | 6            |     | 7            |     | 8            |     |
| 40M    | 24           |     | 78           |     | 17           |     |
| 15M    |              |     |              |     | 95           |     |
| 10M    |              | 28  |              | 73  |              | 64  |
| TOTAL  | 648          | 627 | 460          | 637 | 788          | 170 |
|        | x 2          | x 1 | x 2          | x 1 | x 2          | x 1 |
|        | 1296         | 627 | 920          | 637 | 1576         | 170 |
| QSO    |              |     |              |     |              |     |
| Points | 1923         |     | 1557         |     | 1746         |     |

Anybody know how REDX did?

### LATE NEWS:

The next license exam session will be Monday July 15 from 7 to 10 PM at the EOC (map page 2). No registration is required. Bring your original AND a photocopy of your license (if any) as well as any certificates of completion of exam elements. It would help if you bring headphones if you are taking a code test. Also bring a photo ID and the usual pencils, calculator, etc. For more info, contact Steve WA8LLY.



## BATTERY ELIMINATOR FOR MOTOROLA PT-300

by Brian Torr N6IY

I acquired a Motorola PT-300 (cheap) with the hopes of setting it up as a dedicated, single-channel packet transceiver. Once the radio was re-crystalled for 144.91 MHz, I set out to design an AC power supply for it. There were a few musts for this supply:

- 1) Provide regulated 14.5V @ 1A minimum.
- 2) AC ripple low enough not to cause hum on transmit.
- 3) Automatic switchover to a DC power input in absence of AC power.

Ideally I wanted the entire supply to fit into the original battery case. Since the transformer was too large to fit, I settled for using a wall transformer, purchased for \$2 at a flea market, and putting everything else in the case. The transformer is rated at 16.5 VAC at 1.4 Amps.

The charger jack on the side of the nicad battery case was rewired as the DC power input. I chose a coaxial jack for the AC power input, the same type that is used for DC input on portable TVs, VCRs, etc. Since there is a rectifier connected to this jack, no harm would be done if a DC power source were connected.

### DESIGN

The power supply filter design came right out of the ARRL *Handbook*. To maintain at least a 3 volt drop across the regulator, the rectifier and filter were designed for about 18 VDC output at 1A. This gives a transformer RMS to rectified DC output voltage ratio of about 1.1.

The load resistance is  $18V/1A = 18$  ohms. The transformer winding resistance is 1.2 ohms which is divided by 2 = .6 ohm to obtain the  $R_s$  value required by the *Handbook*. Using the resulting  $R_s/R$  ratio of .033, the chart in the *Handbook* suggests RC/1000 should be about 80 or more for good regulation. This yields an RMS to output DC voltage ratio of 1.2, which is still manageable. Solving for C yields:

$$C = (80 \times 1000) / 18 = 4400 \mu F$$

Since I didn't have a standard-value 4700  $\mu F$  capacitor, I used five 1000  $\mu F$  units on hand.

The regulator used is an LM317K (3A) adjustable 3-terminal device, but an LM317T (1.5A) would suffice. The resistive divider gives a  $\pm 2$  V adjustment range centered near 14.5 V. A few bypass capacitors eliminate high-frequency oscillations.

A solid-state AC-to-DC switchover circuit was considered, but since I already had a suitable relay, I used it. I added a dropping resistor in series with the relay coil, since it was rated at 12V, and the circuit supplies 14.5V.

### CONSTRUCTION

I mounted all the circuitry on a piece of PC prototyping board. The board has large-diameter holes, necessary for mounting the rectifier and regulator. The relay is attached using wire "bales" soldered to the board, providing a good friction fit. Two screws secure the board to the bottom of the battery case.

I used parts almost exclusively from my junkbox, but all parts are available from Radio Shack. The Radio Shack part numbers are listed in the attached parts list.

### PERFORMANCE

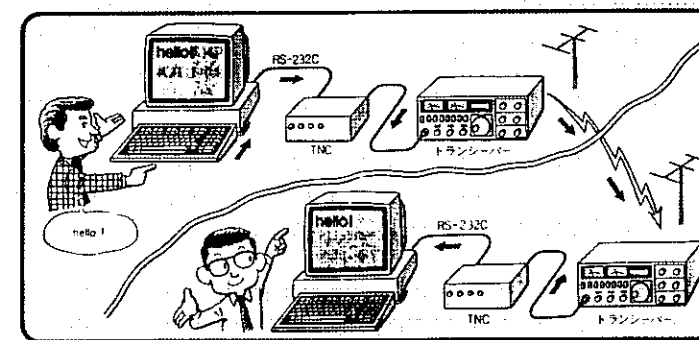
The supply works well, with very little hum on transmit. The regulator is heatsinked and is cool to the touch, even with the key down for one minute. As an experiment, I removed three of the 1000  $\mu F$  filter capacitors to see what effect they would have on the hum. The hum was quite objectionable. A total of 4000  $\mu F$  seemed to be OK, but I put all three back in for a total of 5000  $\mu F$  just to be safe.

### PARTS LIST

|    |                                     |          |
|----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| C1 | 4700 $\mu F$ 35 WVDC Electrolytic   | 272-1022 |
| C2 | 0.1 $\mu F$ 50WVDC Ceramic          | 272-135  |
| C3 | 4.7 $\mu F$ 35 WVDC Electrolytic    | 272-1012 |
| J1 | Coax DC Power Jack                  | 274-1563 |
| J2 | 9-pin D Sub Female (part of PT-300) |          |
| K1 | Relay, 12V coil, 2A, SPDT           | 275-219  |
| R1 | 220 ohm 1W carbon                   | 271-015  |
| R2 | 2.2k ohm 1/4 W carbon               | 271-1325 |
| R3 | 500 ohm linear taper PC pot         | 271-226  |
| R4 | 100 ohm 1/4 W carbon                | 271-1311 |
| U1 | 100 PIV 4A Bridge Rectifier         | 276-1171 |
| U2 | LM317T Adjustable Regulator         | 276-1778 |
| M1 | TO-220 Heatsink                     | 276-1363 |
| M2 | TO-220 Heatsink hardware            | 276-1373 |

Amateur packet radio station. The other item needed is the TNC (terminal node controller) which contains all the software and special hardware that you need. You interface your PC with the TNC via serial RS-232, just like connecting your computer to a modem. Use your favorite terminal emulation software on your PC (the same software that you use with your telephone modem will probably work fine). If you don't want to use the serial port of your computer, there are TNCs available that plug directly into the bus.

If you don't have a PC, then almost any RS-232 ASCII terminal will work with most of today's TNCs.



(Cartoon trnx CQ Ham Radio, journal of the JARL.)

The most popular packet frequencies in the USA are in the two-meter band (144-148 MHz). Check out the following frequencies. Even the typical 'police scanner' can be used:

145.01 145.03 145.05 145.07 145.09 MHz  
144.91 144.93 144.95 144.97 144.99 MHz

If there are packet radio transmissions you should hear a sound like: Bbbbrrrraaaaaaapp

*How much technical or hardware proficiency is required to use a packet radio system?*

If you can plug an RS-232 cable into a modem, and wire the TNC to your radio, then you have all the ability that you need. Most TNCs connect to the microphone plug of an FM transceiver, normally only needing push-to-talk and transmit audio connections, and a connection to the speaker audio output from the FM receiver. This consists of about five wires, and can usually be done without removing the covers of the radio (these are normally external connections).

*What's out there for me to access via packet radio and what potential is there for growth?*

This is the interesting part! I believe that packet radio is still in its infancy. It seems like every day a new application for packet radio is announced. By the time you read this, a lot of the information presented here will probably be out of date; this technology is progressing!!!

Here is a \*simple\* list that barely highlights some of the available uses of Amateur packet radio. I am SURE that I have forgotten something and left it off the list:

**EMAIL:** I personally have received email (electronic mail) from a few continents, and from all over the US. Of course, as Amateurs, we may not transmit commercial messages.

**LOCAL NETWORKS:** Here in New England we have connectivity over most of the region. I can connect to other stations from the following areas consistently: Montreal, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York. Of course, on the HF (high frequency) bands there can be world-wide connectivity.

**PACKETCLUSTER-DX SPOTTING:** "DX-ers" are Amateurs who hunt rare stations in distant (DX) locations. A packetcluster allows a couple of hundred users to be connected to the same system at one time. When any one user 'finds' a rare station on the air, he simply types the information (call-sign, frequency and mode) into his terminal, and within a minute or so, all of the other users are informed.

**DOSGATE:** A system that allows you to execute programs remotely. A DOSGATE system may have many programs for you to use over the air. You don't need to download the programs to use them; you are actually running programs remotely. DOSGATE allows those who don't have a computer to run programs via packet radio.

For example, my DOSGATE system has programs that generate sample Amateur exams, track Amateur satellites in real time, automatically look up names and addresses from a callsign database, access a local repeater database, and play games.

**GATEWAYS:** Even though you may not own any HF or UHF equipment (many packet radio operators only use a simple hand-held VHF transceiver), a gateway gives you access to other bands and operating modes. For

NEXT PAGE



## MINUTES (Continued)

5 or 6 members took advantage of the "Verbal Bulletin Board" to list want, sell or give-away items.

NOTICE: This month, the raffle was not won by Harvey or Ruth (who were not present.)

The **MEMBER LOTTERY** would have been won by KC6PEY had HE been present.

Meeting adjourned 9:41. m/s W6TLK/N6FYV  
Respectfully submitted Al Bloom N1AL, Sec. ■

## TREASURER'S REPORT

For month ending May 31, 1991

| ACCOUNT                       | REVENUE | EXPENSE |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Refreshments at meetings ..   | 8.89    | 7.20    |
| Raffle at meetings .....      | 51.75   |         |
| Fund-Raisers (ARRL).....      | 85.00   |         |
| Misc .....                    | 30.00   | 25.00   |
| Short Skip Newsletter .....   | 10.00   | 58.00   |
| Amateur Radio Newslines ..... |         | 10.74   |
| Membership Supplies.....      | 10.00   |         |
| Officers' Expenses .....      |         | 8.17    |
|                               | 195.64  | 109.11  |

## ASSETS:

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| General Fund Account | 3521.64 |
| Cash/checks on hand  | 116.02  |
| Total General Fund   | 3637.66 |
| Total Repeater Fund  | 755.43  |

- de N6VUC ■

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

**RENEW YOUR ARRL MEMBERSHIP THROUGH THE CLUB AND THE CLUB GETS TO KEEP \$2** (no expense to you). Make out your check to SCRA, and send it with your ARRL renewal form to SCRA, PO Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 or give it to the Treasurer. ■

## WHAT IS PACKET RADIO?

by Rich Bono (NM1D)

The following is the result of a non-Amateur asking some basic questions about Amateur packet radio.

*Just what IS Amateur packet radio?*

Amateur packet radio is (yet another) digital transmission method available for use via Amateur Radio which provides error free transmission and reception of messages or data between two stations. "Error free" does not mean that your typing or spelling mistakes will be fixed, but that all transmitted data will be received 100% intact, as sent. In fact, if the data cannot be delivered without errors, the transmission is eventually aborted and the user is informed that there is no longer a connection between the two stations.

The 'packet' in 'packet radio' comes from the method of transmitting your information over the air. Your data is broken up into packets (or blocks). Each packet contains the sending and the receiving station callsigns, optional routing information, and from 0 to 256 bytes of data. Each packet is acknowledged by the receiver when received. If a packet is not received correctly, then it is automatically re-transmitted several times. You normally don't have to know about all this to use packet radio, as it all happens automatically, without any thought or actions required by you.

The protocol used for Amateur packet radio is known as AX.25, similar to the commercial X.25 standard. There is also a growing TCP/IP user base. Unless you are network oriented, the details of these protocols are not important to you as a packet operator.

Most packet radio operation at this time is at 1200 baud. This may seem slow compared to networks and telephone BBSs, but what is gained is world-wide access, for NO COST. There are a growing number of Amateurs experimenting with 2400 and 9600 (or higher) baud operation, so it shouldn't be too long before these faster rates become very popular!

*What kind of equipment do I need, and how do I use it with my PC?*

Since you own a PC (personal computer), you already have the most expensive part of an

## CALL LETTER PLATES

by Troy T. Pummill, N6XMV

Here's the scoop about how to obtain California ham plates.

Go to/call the DMV and request an Amateur/CB call plate application. The completed form must be returned to DMV with the \$21 one-time processing fee. Your current vehicle plates **MUST BE SURRENDERED** at the time of application (a temporary permit is provided).

You should receive your plates in the mail in about 90 days. It may take much longer depending upon the backlog. According to DMV Special Plates Division, the ham plates are the only types still produced by hand.

In my case, I ended up making the original request, plus two subsequent requests through the Special Plates Div. because DMV was unable to exactly track the previous requests. Finally, after 6+ months, I received 2 sets of plates 3 days apart. After checking with DMV Spec. Plates to determine which set of licence plates tags were valid, I was able to keep both sets. *Tnx Usenet* ■

## PARTS STORES

If you are having trouble finding parts for home construction projects, I have a list of mail-order stores compiled by a fellow named John Woods that I downloaded from the Usenet feed at work. It's too big for *Short Skip* so I'll bring along a couple copies to the July club meeting. ■

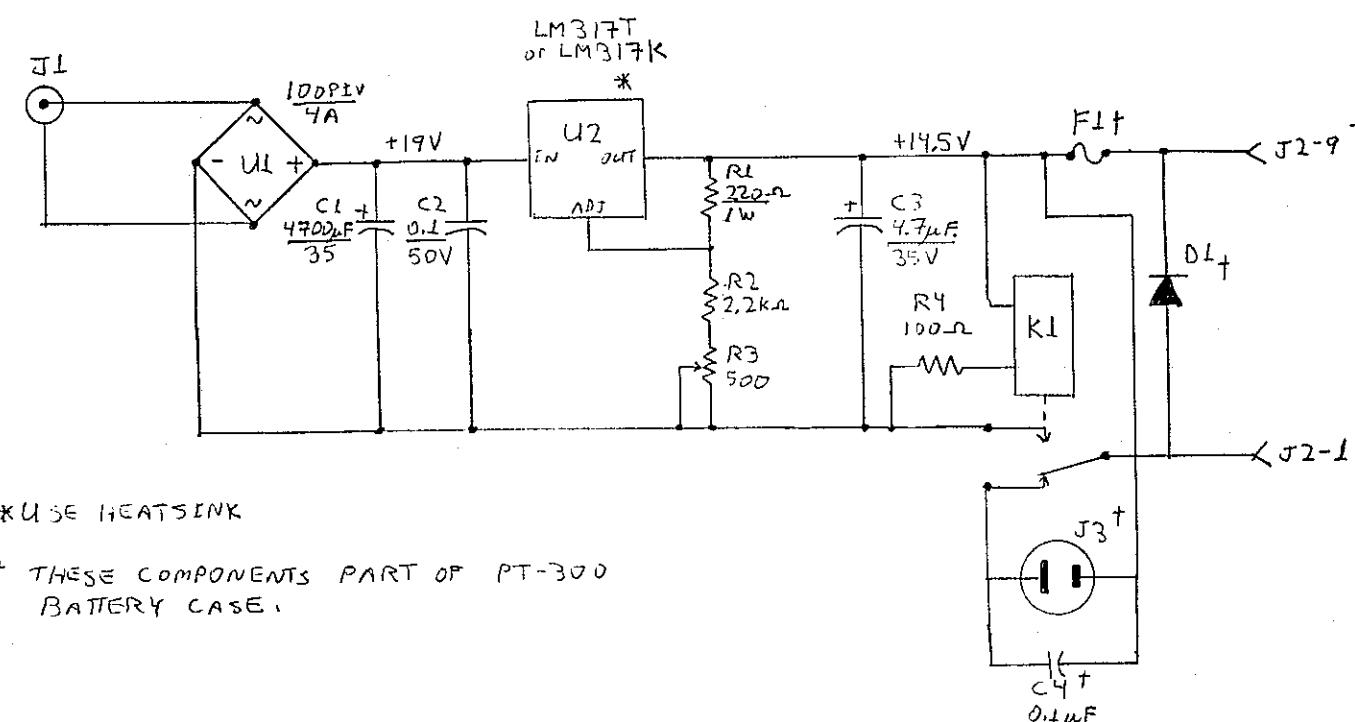
## COOS COUNTY RADIO CLUB SWAP FEST

Saturday July 7 0900-1700, North Bend OR Jr. High School. Admission \$5, pre-register \$4. Free RV/SC parking all weekend.

Coos Co. RC, POB 3494, Coos Bay OR 97420.  
503-888-2317 ■

Chod Harris VP2ML, Don and Irma Osborne WA6ACX/KF6FX, and Hank and Sarah Davis W6DTV/N6FAX attended SeaPac, the convention in northwestern Oregon. All the major commercial exhibitors were there -- Icom, Kenwood, HRO, Larsen, QCWA, DX Bulletin and many more. - W6DTV ■

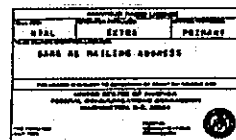
MOTOROLA PT-300 "BATTERY ELIMINATOR"



\*USE HEATSINK

† THESE COMPONENTS PART OF PT-300 BATTERY CASE.

**SUNNYVALE VEC  
EXAM SESSIONS &  
SITE LOCATIONS  
JUNE 29 - DEC. 1991**



WALK-INS ONLY, UNLICENSED THRU EXTRA CLASS. OUR EXAM FEE IS \$5.00.

CLEARLAKE SUN 11 AM, TALK-IN 146.775-  
ART KB6ECO (707) 994-0646  
JULY 7, OCT. 6

CONCORD SAT 1 PM 147.735-  
GENE WW6H @ KA6FUB  
AUG. 3, OCT. 5, DEC. 7

FREMONT TUESDAY 7 PM 147.015(+)  
GREG KJ6EP @ KJ6EP TECHNICIAN  
JULY 2, AUG. 6

FRESNO SATURDAY 10 AM 145.230(-)  
KELSEY KK6AW @ N6RAU  
AUG. 31, NOV. 2

FRESNO SATURDAY 1 PM  
BILL N6HAV @ K6RAU TECHNICIAN  
JUNE 29, JULY 27, AUG 24

HANFORD SUNDAY NOON 145.110(-)  
CARLETON AA6GZ @ N6OA  
JULY 14, OCT. 6

PORTERVILLE 2 PM 145.310(-) SUNDAYS  
PAT KG6WG @ ? OR (209) 539-2429  
AUG. 18, NOV. 17

REDWOOD CITY SAT 11 AM 145.230(-)  
DUDLEY WB6WAU @ KA6JLT  
JULY 20, AUG. 17, SEPT. 21,  
OCT. 19, NOV. 16, DEC. 21

STOCKTON WOODY W6PAG (209) 463-8985  
146.880(-) 10 AM SATURDAYS  
JULY 6, AUG. 17

SUNNYVALE 11 AM SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
145.27(-) GENE AA6IY @ N6LDL  
JULY 13 SAT JULY 28 SUN  
AUG. 10 SAT AUG. 25 SUN  
SEPT. 14 SAT SEPT. 29 SUN  
OCT. 12 SAT OCT. 27 SUN  
NOV. 9 SAT NOV. 24 SUN

WATSONVILLE FRIDAY 2PM 146.570 (S)  
BERNARD KI6R (714) 825-5341  
JULY 5

Tnx GORDON W6NLG

## THE ZIA CONNECTION

For those of you who may be planning a trip down Arizona/New Mexico way, here's a list of inter-tied repeaters. P/L is 162.2.

| ARIZONA:  |         | NEW MEXICO:     |         |
|-----------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Yuma      | 145.25- | Truth or Conse- |         |
| Quartzite | 145.31- | quences         | 145.41- |
| Phoenix   | 146.70- | Lordsburg       | 145.21- |
| Globe     | 145.25- | Alamogordo      | 145.23- |
| Showlow   | 146.70- | TEXAS:          |         |
| Tucson    | 147.15+ | Odessa          | 147.00- |
| Safford   | 145.39- | El Paso         | 145.33- |

Tnx Dick Thompson W6IAP via *On Frequency* of the North Hills Radio Club, Sacramento.



George Shedore  
Manager  
KS6W

6819 REDWOOD DRIVE  
COTATI, CA 94931

PHONE: (707) 792-2277  
FAX: (707) 792-0146

RCA/GE • Zenith • NAP • Channel Master

### ARDCO ELECTRONICS SUPPLY

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Santa Rosa, CA 95403

STEVE BASHAM  
Manager

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

### Radio Shack

STORE NO. 3855

ZANE BATES  
MANAGER

WB6SRU

510 FARMERS LANE  
SANTA ROSA, CA. 95405

TELEPHONE  
546-8423

## SCRA MINUTES

June 5, 1991



The meeting was called to order by President Jim Pelmulder N6PTM at 7:32 PM. Other officers present: Vice President Brian Torr N6IY, Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Treasurer Merlyn Pfeiff N6VUC, and Members-at-Large Phillip Gaul KC6BSI & John Wallack W6TLK.

**VISITORS:** Jane N6NTB has moved away. We will miss her enthusiasm as official greeter at meetings. Fortunately Connie N6FYV has agreed to take over. Visitors: Don Boosinger KD6HQ, Steve and Renee Feil, John Rowbotham, Bill Esch, Gary Gouger, Pete Sourek KC6UXM, and John Ronan K3ZJJ.

**UPGRADES:** Bill N6GHG has upgraded to General, and Doug KC6RHA, Pat KB6KSA, and Oliver KB6IOT all got their Technician. **NEW CALLS:** Aaron KC6URO and KC6UXN.

*Short Skip* was mailed Saturday. A half-dozen members present have not yet received it.

The **MINUTES** were approved as published in *Short Skip*. m/s N6GHG/KA6CRG

The **TREASURER'S REPORT** was accepted. \$3637.66 in the General Fund and \$755.43 in the Repeater Fund. m/s WA6OLW/N6OOA

The **REPEATER** on Sonoma Mt. is turned off right now due to 1) An intermittent microwave link to the phone line used for the autopatch and control and 2) Gradually deteriorating sensitivity which causes "pumping" on weak signals. The county techs are understaffed, and repairs on the ham gear do not have highest priority. For now, we are using the standby repeater at N6PTM's Sebastopol QTH, which has been giving quite good coverage. We expect to be back to normal in 1-2 weeks.

**EDUCATION:** John WB6FRZ's Novice class, is in the 7th week of 14, with 15 students left. (2 already passed the no-code Tech.) K6XZ's 5-to-13 wpm code class still meets every Friday at 7:30. N1AL reports most of his class passed the Technician exam last month. Al will probably start another No-code Tech class sometime after Field Day.

**EXAMS:** That exam session was a whopper. WA8LLY and helpers had 40 candidates, 31 of whom passed at least one exam element.

**FIELD DAY:** N6PTM asked how many in the room had never been on a Field Day. Over half of the (large) crowd present raised their hands. Jim explained what FD is all about. Then Al N1AL conducted a mini-contest, signing W6LFJ and "working" people in the crowd. Merlyn N6VUC acted as logger, filling out the log and dupe sheet on the blackboard. John WB6FRZ is having a practice session for Technicians and Novices this Saturday at 7.

The Chef this year is Charlie KK6WM. The steak dinner Saturday night will run \$5 each, and the big breakfast Sunday morning is free. The club will foot the remaining cost. Charlie passed around a sign-up sheet, which garnered over 60 reservations.

We plan to have 2 CW stations, at least 1 phone station, and 2 novice stations, including packet. We have 3 TA-33 beams and 5 Drake radios available.

**PUBLIC SERVICE** events coming up include the Run Through the Redwoods on June 15, the Vineman Triathlon July 20, and the Healdsburg Harvest Century bike tour July 27. Bill N6GHG introduced John Ronan K3ZJJ, leader of the Vineman Triathlon.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Mr. Ronan was one of the instigators of the famous New York Marathon, which uses over 300 hams to help coordinate over 20,000 runners each year. The Vineman Triathlon is one of only 7 true "Iron Man" events in the world. Over 400 applicants have already paid up, with 750 expected, and perhaps 1200 next year. All profits go to the "Make a Wish" foundation. 9 ham clubs, including SCRA, help out. 41 volunteers are signed up so far -- about 54 will be needed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** After break, the club regretfully accepted the resignation of Phil KC6BSI as Board Member at Large. The Board has nominated Lou N6YMQ. The nominations were closed (m/s KA6CRG/WD6CKP), and Lou was voted in by acclamation.

John W6TLK noted there will be another Marconi operating event in April 1992.

Rick K6ZWB has volunteered to be Net Control Station for June and July. (OVER)