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\$125. George KN6S 523-2436.

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\$100. Bill N6GHG 431-8636.

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575-9119.

WANT: PADDLES and electronic keyer.
KC6SOT 795-5228.

WANT: HEATH SB500 2 meter inverter.
Larry KF6WV 874-1000. [Continued p10]

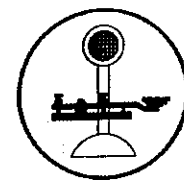
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SHORT SKIP



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Club Station

OCTOBER 1991 W6LFJ

P.O. Box 116

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

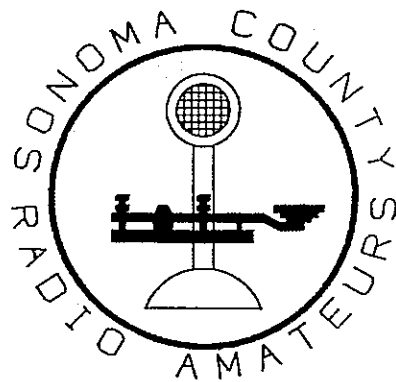
Repeater Station

WB6PVS VOL 16 # 10

**YOUR HARDWORKING, ERUDITE *SHORT SKIP*
EDITOR IS LOOKING FOR ARTICLE
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS...**



AMATEUR RADIO NEWS SERVICE



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	John Wallack	W6TLK	833-1873
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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
 Ast. Director: Chuck Sabin N6DDK 795-2371
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Activities Committee:

Pub. Service: Bill Splaine N6GHG 431-8636 (days) 577-2913
 Flea Market: John Wallack W6TLK 833-1873
 QSL Mgr: John Wallack W6TLK 833-1873
 TVI/RFI: Al Bloom N1AL 538-7115
 Awards: Steve Lund WA8LLY 823-4544
 VEC Exams: Steve Lund WA8LLY 823-4544
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 N6OLD AA6RD K6UXO AA6YX
 Education: John WB6FRZ 838-6398
 +N1AL KF6WV K6XZ K6ZWB
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 Greeter at Meetings: Jane Vanderslice N6NTB
 Raffle at meetings: Philip Gaul KC6BSI
 Membership lottery: Bob Scolnick K6GEV
 Club Flyer: Gary Gouger KC6WTE

Repeater Control Op's:

WB6PER Jim 526-2972 N6PTM Jim 823-7947
 WD6CKP Hoppy 542-6750 W6TLK John 833-1873
 N6VUC Merlyn 584-3898

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?

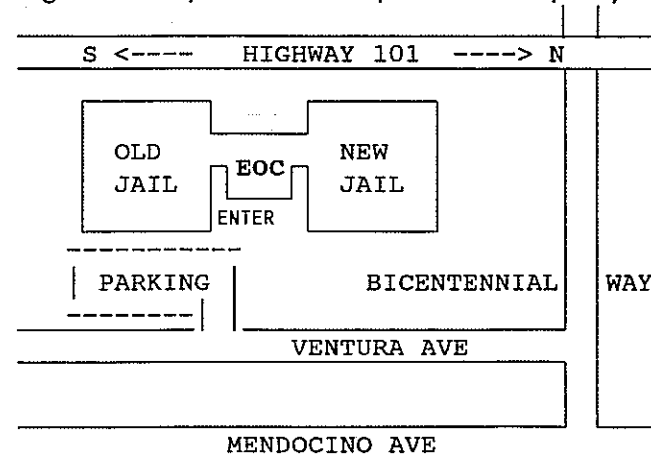
IF SO, then this is a complimentary copy. Our club is involved with almost every area of Amateur Radio: Repeaters (13/73), Field Day, license classes (Novice through Extra), volunteer exams, RACES, DX programs, packet radio, hidden xmtr hunts -- you name it. We invite you to attend our next monthly meeting (see below) or check into the Tuesday night SCARS net on the 146.13/73 repeater at 7PM. You will hear the latest Amateur Radio Newsline 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, 1st Wednesday each month at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center). Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome.

NEXT MEETING: October 2, 1991
 PROGRAM: Packet and Traffic Nets

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.



HSC ELECTRONIC SUPPLY

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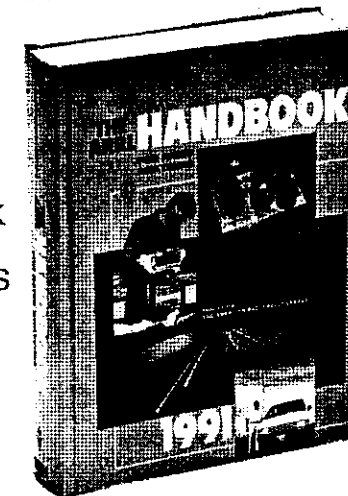
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SCRA MINUTES

September 4, 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 Member-at-Large John Wallack W6TLK.

VISITORS: Visitors were Rick KC6UXI, Mike McDowell KC6ZRT, Chester Smith, Steve Feil, and Joe Senft KC6YXQ.

The **MINUTES** were approved as published in *Short Skip*. m/s AA6YX/K6ZWB

The **TREASURERS REPORT** shows \$3739.50 in the General Fund and \$755.43 in the Repeater Fund. Sarah moved we have a party. Report accepted m/s WA6OLW/WD6DPE

PUBLIC SERVICE events coming up are the Waves to Wine on Flea Market weekend, Sept. 28/29. Bill N6GHG needs 16 people each day. "Clo's bikeathon" is this Sunday.

EDUCATION: John WB6FRZ's next novice class will start Sept 30. Al N1AL plans a no-code Tech class soon thereafter. At the last construction class, Doug KC6RHA showed how to expose and etch PC boards.

We will have **VE EXAMS** at the flea market if we get enough VE's. Steve WA8LLY expects 60-70 applicants.

The **FLEA MARKET** is fast approaching. N1AL has notified the ham magazines and sent notices to northern California ham newsletter editors. The big 1200+ mailing will go out shortly.

FM Chairman John W6TLK says he needs lots of help. John passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

The **PROGRAM** was a video and talk on Amateur satellite communications by W6CCY. WA8LLY pleaded with everybody to stay out of the 145.8-146.0 MHz satellite band. When you are on FM, you can't hear the SSB/CW satellite crowd, but they can sure hear you!

New **REPEATER** autopatch code sheets are available from Treasurer N6VUC. K6ZWB notes we still have some bandits trying to access the patch -- mostly without success.

W6DTV asks if we are going to have a radio clinic at the flea market this year. Brian N6IY says we probably will.

There was no **RAFFLE**, as Raffle Chairman Phil KC6BSI is down with a bad back.

The **MEMBER LOTTERY** would have been won by Herb WD6FMG had he been present.

Meeting adj. 9:00 PM. m/s N6GHG/WA6OLW

Respectfully submitted Sec. Al Bloom N1AL ■

HANK'S SWAP SHOP (continued from p12)

PALOMAR P410X pre-amp 160/6 M \$75.
MASTER CONTR. 110V, 4-pos. w/lights \$10.
MICRONTA meter, 50 k ohms, \$20.
VIKING 2000, filter RF \$25.
HEADPHONES ask. Bill KA6JLP 823-5652.

HEATH 5228 VTVM \$50. **CONWAY** mint digital meter, V, Ohm, AC, plug-in pwr \$35. Hank W6DTV 823-7885.

6 PR CABLE, #18 wire, shield & gnd. Good control cable .50/ft. John W6CCY 823-1357.

ASDEN PCS-4000, with manual \$225.
GENAVE GMT-1000 4 ch 140-175 MHz, 40W good for packet \$200. Al W6MEO 538-4935.

WANT: 40 FT TOWER, crank-up or foldover. **BASIC IBM CMPTR**, mono, Citizen dot matrix prntr, software \$300. Phil KC6BSI 544-2572.

TRISTAO TOWER 55 ft freestanding crank-up, **HY-GAIN TH7DX** beam, 50-ohm balun, 15 ft 2-inch mast, guy arms, 3 - 150 ft coax, **T2X TAILTWISTER**, control, 150 ft cont. cable **TRX 89** tower raising fixture \$1100. Bud KD6XF 763-2119

WANT TO BORROW for copying: operating and service manuals for Kenwood VFO-520, Heath HD-10 keyer & HM-2140 SWR meter, and ICOM 22S manuals and possible 4 MHz mods. I will pay all postage and copying costs. Darrel WD6BOR 996-4494. ■

FLEA MARKETS

We don't yet have any info on the 1991 SCRA flea market since Sept 28 is past the *Short Skip* deadline. However, I heard an interesting rumor at the Foothills College flea market in Los Altos on Sept 14.

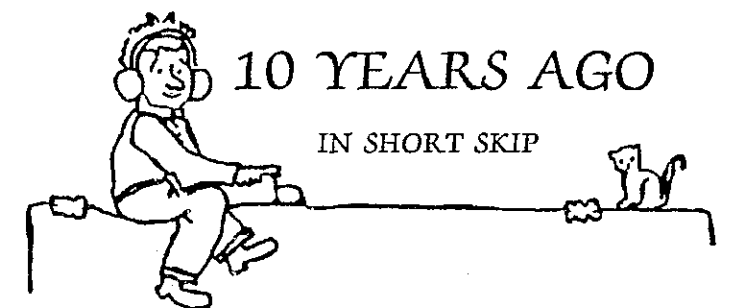
The rumor (and I heard it from several people) is that this may well be the last Foothills flea market -- not only for this year, but for good. If it does come back next year, it will likely be at a different location.

In the meantime, the **LIVERMORE AMATEUR RADIO KLUB** holds a flea market on the first Sunday of every month all year. Location is Las Positas College on I-580 at Airway Bl in Livermore. Setup starts at 7 AM for vendors (\$10 per space). Talk-in on 147.045 (+). For more info, call Gil Gray WU7R 415-462-5055.

The **VALLEY OF THE MOON ARC** is planning a swapmeet, "ham" and egg breakfast, hamfest, VE exam and general rag chew for Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Sonoma Community Center, 274 East Napa St, Sonoma. Sellers' spaces sell for \$10, and they will have a limited number of tables available.

They plan on having low-band antennas up for rig testing, and should have operating packet and ATV stations. The Community Center is only one block from downtown Sonoma, so if the whole family would like to come over, there are shops, museums and other attractions galore. *Tnx Darrel WD6BOR* ■

Leftover photos from FD: [Tnx Ted KB6PTA]



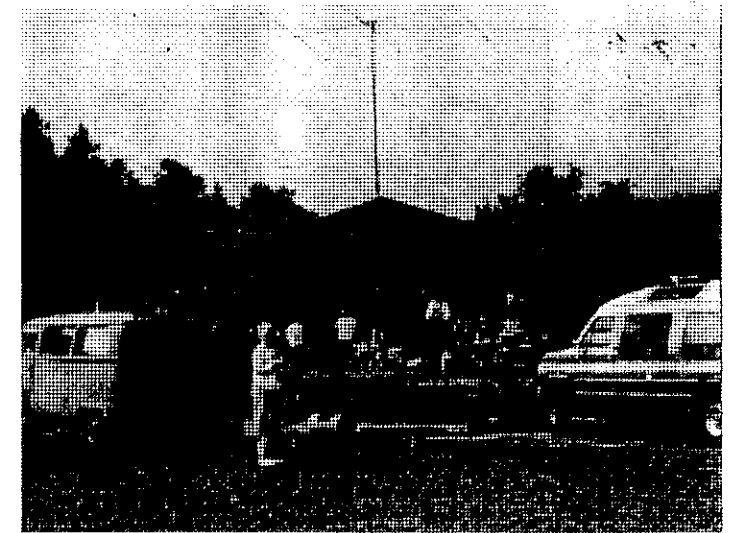
In October 1981, the SCRA/SCARS Merger Committee consisted of (SCRA) Lyle Meek (now WW6F) and Gary Davis WB6PMN. The Constitution/Bylaws Committee was Al N1AL, Chuck N6DDK and Don W6DZM. For SCARS, the Merger Comm. was George KN6S and Hank W6DTV. Bylaws were studied by Van W6GFY, Bob K6XZ and Warren WB6RHP. An organization chart of the new club covered an entire page.

Chod VP2ML wrote about DX QSL'ing. Hmm, good article. I think it's worth a reprint.

New calls for the month were Sarah N6FAX, Martha N6FBB and Jerry N6FCV. ■

HELP!

Harvey K6KZ and Ruth WA6AQA have been faithfully folding, fastening and mailing *Short Skip* for some time now, and could use some help. Perhaps you would be willing to do it once every other month, or at least act as a backup for when Harvey and Ruth go on vacation. It takes an evening and a trip to the Santa Rosa post office. If you can help, call me (Al Bloom N1AL 538-7115) or the Lawrences (829-2350). ■



QST DE W1AW:

ARRL BULLETIN #38
SEPTEMBER 14, 1991

FCC has clarified procedures for severely handicapped applicants for 13 or 20 wpm Morse code exemptions. Exemption requests including a physician Certification of Disability and Patients Release may only be submitted through administering VE teams. Those VEs must sign the Form 610 application and must issue a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination to the applicant indicating that Element 1C credit is given and specifying any resulting upgrade earned.

FCC also has amended rule section 97.505 to require that physicians only issue a Certification of Disability when the duration of the applicants disability will extend for more than 365 days. Therefore, effective October 31, 1991, all physician Certifications of Disability must be dated.

For further information contact the ARRL VEC.

ARE YOU ON 10 METERS?

I would appreciate getting the name and phone number of a Santa Rosa amateur that operates AM on the 10 meter band. I have an old Heathkit "Tener" that I would like to communicate with. Thanks for your help.

Gene Blechman WA6IHD, 6373 Stone Bridge Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95409. 538-8738

PUBLIC SERVICE
HONOR ROLL

by Bill Splaine N6GHG



SCRAPS - the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Public Service volunteers have been very busy since June *Short Skip* when I last published their names and hours. We hammed it up in five events for a total of 293 operator hours, including my hours, most of which were organizational. These community-minded amateurs were:

HARVEST CENTURY: 51 hour

Lou	N6YMQ	Hoppy	WD6CKP
Don	W6CPE	Kirt	KC6IDG
John	KK6XT	Phil	N600A
Aaron	KC6URO	Wilbur	N6MGY
Betty	AG6C	Bill	N6GHG

DAY ON THE RIVER: 11 hours

Kathy	KC6UXJ	Bill	N6GHG
Nadine	KC6WUI		

STRIDE FOR LIFE: 17 hours

Marie	KI6QY	Wilbur	N6MGY
Rudy	N6KLU	Bill	N6GHG
Hoppy	WD6CKP		

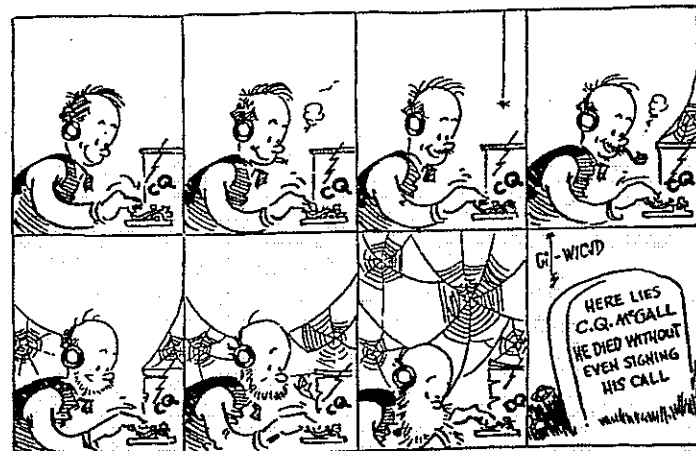
RUN THE REDWOODS: 14 hours

Brian	N6IYY	Bob	K6GEV
Bill	WA6OLW	Bill	N6GHG
Lou	N6YMQ		

VINEMAN TRIATHALON: 199 hours

Mark	KC6RKZ	Bob	WB6EKV
Hoppy	WD6CKP	Mike	KC6PLE
Jim	N6PTM	Rick	N6RXA
Hans	KI6PD	Phil	KC6BSI
Jim	KC6PJW	Dave	AA6YX
Betty	AG6C	Harvey	K6KZ
Wilbur	N6MGY	Ruth	WA6AQA
Pete	KC6UXM	Merlyn	N6VUC
Bob	WD6DPE	John	W6TLK
Bill	WA6OLW	Bob	K6GEV
May	N6GZV	Bob	N6RMW
Brian	N6IYY	Chuck	N6DDK
Rick	K6ZWB	Lou	N6YMQ
Don	KD6HQ	Georgia	N6GX1
Bob	KC6SOT	Ken	N6GZU
Phil	N600A	Bill	N6GHG

Disclaimer: Any omissions or mistakes are unintentional. Volunteers, thanks for your generous help. -- Bill N6GHG

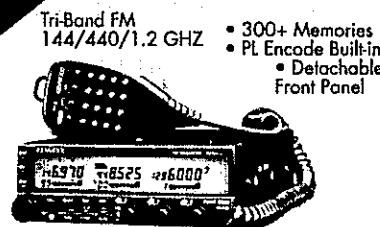


WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

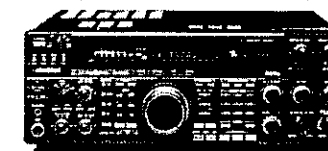


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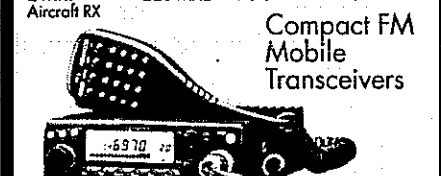
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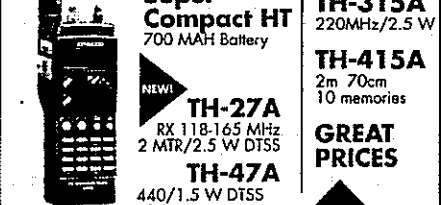
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(619) 580-4900
Tom, KM6K, Mgr.
Highway 163 and
Claremont Mesa Blvd.

OAKLAND, CA 94606
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(415) 534-5757
Rich, WA9WYB, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp

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San Diego Fwy. at Victory Blvd.
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Curtis, WB4KZL, Mgr.
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14803 Build America Drive
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(800) 444-4799
Curtis, WB4KZL, Mgr.
Exit 54, I-95, South to US 1

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Tnx Telephone pioneers Radio Club newsletter via Ren AA6UY.



TIME CONVERSION

Most references to time of day in Amateur Radio are in terms of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). It's a good idea to have a station clock set to UTC so you don't have to waste time converting from local time to UTC for log entries.

Converting Local Time to UTC

UTC	AST/EDT	EST/CDT	CST/MDT	MST/PDT	PST
0000	2000	1900	1800	1700	1600
0100	2100	2000	1900	1800	1700
0200	2200	2100	2000	1900	1800
0300	2300	2200	2100	2000	1900
0400	0000	2300	2200	2100	2000
0500	0100	0000	2300	2200	2100
0600	0200	0100	0000	2300	2200
0700	0300	0200	0100	0000	2300
0800	0400	0300	0200	0100	0000
0900	0500	0400	0300	0200	0100
1000	0600	0500	0400	0300	0200
1100	0700	0600	0500	0400	0300
1200	0800	0700	0600	0500	0400
1300	0900	0800	0700	0600	0500
1400	1000	0900	0800	0700	0600
1500	1100	1000	0900	0800	0700
1600	1200	1100	1000	0900	0800
1700	1300	1200	1100	1000	0900
1800	1400	1300	1200	1100	1000
1900	1500	1400	1300	1200	1100
2000	1600	1500	1400	1300	1200
2100	1700	1600	1500	1400	1300
2200	1800	1700	1600	1500	1400
2300	1900	1800	1700	1600	1500

BAY AREA REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO W6ERS

Ham Loses Appeal Over Radio Tower

A federal appeals court ruled yesterday that ham radio operators are not entitled by federal communications statutes to build lofty antennas.

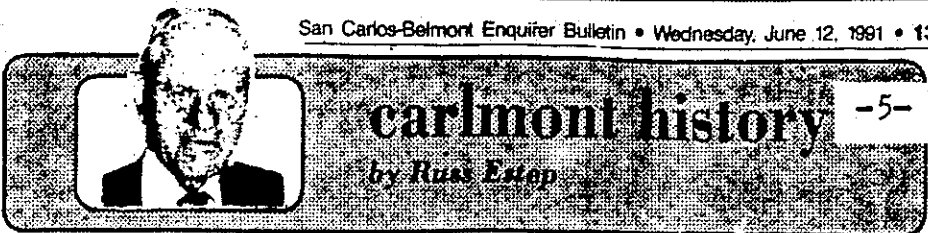
The U.S. Court of Appeals denied a claim by Burlingame resident Vernon Howard, a licensed amateur radio operator, who argued that federal law guaranteed his right to build a 51-foot antenna tower in his back yard.

The three-judge appeals panel also rejected Howard's contention that the city of Burlingame violated his free speech rights by initially denying his 1987 application to build the tower after his neighbors objected to the project.

The court ruled that Federal Communications Commission regulations entitle ham radio operators only to a fair consideration by city officials of their applications to build antennas, and a reasonable effort consistent with local zoning goals to accommodate the projects.

The decision upholds the ruling of a federal district judge in San Francisco who validated Burlingame's authority to regulate the heights of backyard antennas ever 25 feet high.

San Carlos-Belmont Enquirer Bulletin • Wednesday, June 12, 1991 • 13



Many years before radio station KPO moved their station to Belmont, it was set up atop the Hale Brothers store on Market Street in San Francisco. While there it operated with 500 watts of power, but when power was increased to 50,000 watts the transmitting antennas and station were moved to Belmont.

The Hale Brothers had a sister named Mrs. Brown, who had a son named Orrin Brown. He was interested in radio and had a ham station with the call letters of 6CKV, and he had a good "fist."

Orrin was a quiet, likable fellow with many friends. His uncle employed him at the San Francisco radio station as announcer for a children's program. He had hundreds of young listeners. He took the name of "Uncle something or other." Children scrambled to tune him in. The program was very popular.

Orrin was young and sometimes forgetful. After one program, it was reported that he forgot to turn off his microphone. He spoke rather loudly, "Now you little animals. This ought to take care of you for a while. I think you're a bunch of bums."

The text was said to have been a little more rough than this. His uncle immediately fired him. Orrin later worked for Eimac (Eitel and McCullough) in one of their top jobs. He is retired now and lives in Southern California.

In the early years, KPO always gave as their announcement, "KPO, Hale Brothers and the Chronicle."

The company wanted to have a better location, so in the summer of 1932 they purchased 27 acres in Belmont. It was east of the new Bayshore Highway, slightly north of Ralston Avenue.

The FCC had given them permission to construct towers and to increase their power up to 50,000 watts. The cost of the new station was reported to be \$425,000. The station was completed and went on the air Aug. 15, 1932. Their broadcasts could be heard much farther away then.

Following completion of the station changeover, KPO joined the National Broadcasting Company and began announcing NBC. But back to Orrin Brown. His on-the-air activities continued as a ham operator. It was Orrin who made the first low-power contact across the Pacific Ocean late one night when operating his ham station with Bill Eitel, who later started "Eimac."

One of their transmitting tubes had a broken glass envelope and the boys had been enjoying sandwiches of white Karo syrup. The broken radio tube rolled across the operating table and the filament landed in the syrup. The boys had a new glass envelope installed on the tube and discovered that the tube would stand higher voltage without burning out. They had the syrup analyzed and obtained a patent. Reports are that this was the first patent of the Eimac Company, and it went on from there to become one of the largest manufacturers of transmitting tubes in the world.

Orrin Brown earned his retirement in Southern California by helping Eimac and the world to make radio what it is today.

QSL'ing

by Chod Harris VP2ML

The bands are hot. A large number of DXpeditions will activate rare and seldom-heard spots around the world. [Ed note: see DX News this month!] The contest season begins, providing many hams with their best shot at exotic DX. Working DX should be the easiest part of the DXCC quest for the next few months. The most difficult part might be getting the QSL card to confirm that contact. You can improve your QSL return rate by avoiding these common mistakes:

NOT IN THE LOG: Be sure you worked the DX station, not another station at the same time. Ask for a confirmation if you have any doubt.

TIME WRONG: DXpeditions and contest stations work hundreds of contacts per hour, and a time error of only 5 minutes puts you on a different log sheet. Keep an accurate clock on UTC, and check it frequently against WWV.

DATE WRONG: Remember that the UTC date changes before the local date. Write the date day/month/year, with the month spelled out: 30 Sept 91.

WRONG ADDRESS: The Callbook addresses are often dated, or a QSL manager might be the best way to QSL. Listen to the station you worked, and if he doesn't explain how to QSL in 15 minutes, ask him for the best way.

IMPROPER RETURN POSTAGE: If you send your QSL with a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE), the best way, be careful to include the proper postage. US stamps for stateside managers, but International Reply Coupons (IRCs) for foreign managers.

NOT ENOUGH PATIENCE: QSLs via the bureau can take a year or two in each direction, Russian cards even longer. And even QSL managers must wait for the end of the DXpedition, return of the logs, printing of the cards, and the often-formidable task of opening, sorting, checking and answering thousands and thousands of cards.

[Reprinted from October 1981 Short Skip]

USING A PC BOARD? If you build something using a PC board, make a photocopy of the foil side of the bare board before you add components. This makes a good reference if you need to look for solder bridges. [Tnx: W8ZRL via ARRL Field Forum]

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DX NEWS



SAINT BRANDON ISLAND, 3B7. Jacky, 3B8CF/3B7, is active from this Indian Ocean island on 7005, 14035, and 21035 kHz CW, listening up. For SSB, check the DX nets on 14160, 14256, 21335, and 21355 kHz. QSL to home call 3B8CF. This counts the same as Agalega Island, 3B6, for DXCC purposes.

ALBANIA, ZA. IARU announces Albania will be on as early as Monday, Sept. 16, with an international group of instructors & operators. The callsign will be ZA1A. Check 14020, 21020, and 28020 kHz for CW, and 14145, 21245, and 28345 kHz for SSB. QSL route for the initial operation is Northern California DX Foundation Inc, PO Box 1, Los Altos, CA 94023, USA. Bureau cards go via W6OAT.

After this initial operation there will be lots of activity by both local and visiting amateurs, including the CQ WW SSB Contest in October.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V73. New operator Ken, V73ZX, can often be found on 28380 kHz. He will be there for quite some time.

JUAN DE NOVA, FR/J. Yoland, FR5AI, expects to operate as FR5AI/J Oct. 15 through Nov. 28 from this Indian Ocean island.

LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0. Frank, HB9NL/HB0 will be active from September 7 to October 19 on all bands 160 through 10 meters, including the WARC bands, using CW, SSB, RTTY and ARQ. QSL via the Bureau or direct to HB9NL.

4U1VIC. Mario DL4MFM informs OPDX 4U1VIC will be activated during CQWW SSB. There will be 25 operators from the RRDXA.

ST. VINCENT, J8. W8KKF, KP2A, WX9E and WA8LOW will operate J80D in the CQWW SSB Oct. 26th and 27th. Each operator will sign J8/callsign two days before and one day after the contest. 160-6 meters including WARC bands. QSL as announced.

BANGLADESH S2. Erik, WZ6C, was reported active again as S21NQ on 14002 kHz on Sept. 13 at 2323z for about one hour and again on Sept. 14 at 2330z. QSL via W4FRU.

SOUTHERN SUDAN ST0. Dennis, ST0DX, continues active and was found on 18115 kHz around 1730z handing out stateside contacts. He has also been active on RTTY, check 21083 kHz around 2030z. QSL to WA2NHA.

TURKOMAN & UZBEK UH8,UI8. Jim, WOJRN, informs OPDX that Vlad UA4FDS and Paul UA4FEG will stop in UH8 and UI8 sometime in October for 2 weeks. CW/SSB on all except WARC bands. They will probably use their callsign /UH8 and /UI8. QSL UA4FDS to VLAD ZAYTSEV, P.O. Box 555, Penza 440061 USSR. QSL UA4FEG to Paul Bogachev, P.O. Box 222, Penza 440011 USSR.

SAN FELIX XQ. Pedro CE3BFZ reports that John XQOX will be active again from San Felix in October. Micki CE3ESS has finished all the U.S. cards for XQOX for his last operation and is now working on the cards for Europe. Few cards have gone astray so if you do not have your cards in another month or so, you may want to submit again.

LAOS XW. XW8KPL was active September 12 on 21264 kHz around 1815z.

Thanks to Paul, KB1BE, Nao, NX1L, the Conn. DX Assoc, OPDX/BARF80, the No. Ohio ARS, No. Ohio DX Assoc, Ohio/Penn Packet Cluster Network, DL4MFM, NT2X, W8KKF, OH0XX, K8YSE and WOJRN for the above info. ■

TREASURER'S REPORT

For month ending August 31, 1991

ACCOUNT	REVENUE	EXPENSE
Refreshments at meetings ..	10.84	
Raffle at meetings	58.00	
Dues and Initiations	146.00	
Badges		25.79
Short Skip Newsletter	74.00	
Amateur Radio Newsline		11.69
	288.84	37.48

ASSETS:

General Fund Account	3358.79
Cash/checks on hand	380.71
Total General Fund	3739.50
Total Repeater Fund	755.43

- de N6VUC ■

GIVE HF A SHOT!

by Scott Cannon N6LMQ

We continually have new hams joining our ranks, due to the excellent classes going on. While many newcomers are drawn to Amateur Radio because of the utility of two meter hand helds and phone patches, our hobby has many other exciting and challenging facets.

One of the easiest and cheapest is HF communications. For me, the real fun of ham radio is rag chewing with folks in exotic places and getting QSL cards from all over the world. It's a real kick to tail-end a New Zealand station and have him say "Hi Scott, nice to hear you again!"

HF operating is different from 2 meters. Here are a few basic notes for newcomers.

We nearly always use phonetics to give a callsign -- November Seven Lima Mike Oscar, not just N7LMQ.

In general, higher frequency bands are good for farther distances, but fewer "openings." To start with, simply pick the highest band on which you hear activity. Point the beam antenna East in the morning and West in the evening. Once you find a station, turn the beam until he sounds loudest.

Most QSLs begin with one station calling CQ. Don't be shy. Just say "CQ" six or so times, then give your call once or twice and standby. If you hear someone else calling CQ, just repeat his call and give yours. You don't need to repeat his callsign again -- just give yours at least every 10 minutes and at the end.

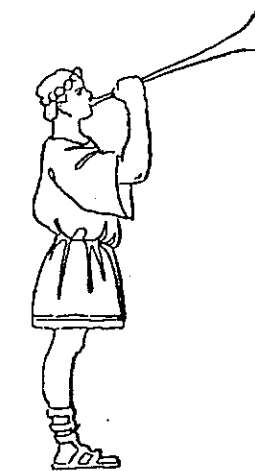
Traditionally, in the first round of a QSO, you give your location (QTH) and his signal report. If he is a popular DX station, that's probably all you'll get. He wants to move on and work others. Otherwise, now is the time to get acquainted. Although this may be heresy to some, my best QSOs are not about radio, but about families, golf, travel, woodworking, etc.

QSL cards can be a lot of fun. Until you do a lot of DXing, mail cards to all stations directly. You will find a few stations who will QSL you first. It is much too expensive for most stations to return cards directly -- they come via the bureau. [This is a free service provided

by volunteers. In the 6th call district the bureau address is: ARRL Sixth District DX QSL Bureau, PO Box 1460, Sun Valley, CA 91352. Send 5 x 7.5" SASE's with your call in the upper left corner. They also sell SASE's for 3 for \$1.00. If your callsign has other than a "6" in it (like N1AL) then see September 1991 QST, page 64 for instructions.]

The best way to learn and become comfortable is just to go down to the shack, jump in, make a few mistakes, and learn by listening and doing. HF is fun -- try it and you'll like it!

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COMING EVENTS:

SCARS NET: 146.73 MHz
Tuesdays at 7 PM.

VE EXAMS HOTLINE NR:
408-984-8353

LARK Fleamart 1st Sunday,
Livermore 415-462-5055

OCTOBER:

- 2 - SCRA meeting 7/7:30 PM
- 5-6 - California QSO Party
- 7 - RACES etc. Net 7:30 PM
- 16-18 - Pacificon '91 Concord.
- 17 - CDF/VIP Meeting 7:30 PM
- 17 - RACES Board planning meeting
- 18 - Deadline for November *Short Skip*
- 19 - ARRL Simulated Emergency Test
- 21 - RACES etc. Net 7:30 PM
- 26-27 - CQ Worldwide DX Contest, Phone
- 10/10 International Net, CW/RTTY

NOVEMBER:

- 2-3 - ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
- 6 - SCRA meeting 7/7:30 PM
- 15 - Deadline for December *Short Skip*
- 16-17 - ARRL Sweepstakes, Phone
- 23-24 - CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW

DECEMBER:

- 4 - SCRA Christmas party (tentative)
- 14-15 - ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- 13 - Deadline for January *Short Skip*
- 31 - ARRL Straight Key Night