

SHORT SKIP



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

JULY 1994

Club Station

W6LFJ

P.O. Box 116
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Repeater Station

WB6PVS

VOL 19 #7

Hold Incoming Welfare Traffic

By Greg Pool, WH6DT
273 San Bernabe Drive
Monterey, CA 93940-6123

During a disaster, we hear many Amateur Radio stations passing welfare traffic. It is the easiest traffic to pass; there is no time limit and it is the most visible part of emergency communications.

Many times an operator will sit on a 40 or 20 M frequency because they have everything set up for a phone patch into a specific area of the country. Sometimes operators are given free long distance accounts to place those calls. Everyone can hear the anguish in the voices over the phone, and the caller thanks the radio operator over and over for their dedication and service.

That kind of instant gratification can be intoxicating for the rest of the Amateur Radio community to the point of passing welfare traffic without considering the consequences. From my own experience in disaster communications, most welfare traffic is supportive but not necessary. In fact, holding on to that initial query will probably get you an answer faster than if you had actually sent it.

Incoming vs Outgoing

Let's divide it up. There is *incoming* welfare traffic where a party sends a message to a party within the disaster area; and there is *outgoing* where the party within the disaster sends a message to the outside.

What does it take to run an outgoing message? It takes an operator in the disaster area and anybody on the outside willing to pass it. Usually there are more than enough volunteers to help deliver it.

But incoming is much more intensive. Not only does the operator on the inside accept the traffic, they either find a runner or run it themselves. Rarely are either of these choices viable options. You cannot leave your station, the person next to you already has 20 things to do, and the phone lines must be left open for civilian and disaster relief agencies.

Thus, incoming welfare traffic is a luxury. The victim will get word out eventually, even originate their own outgoing message. If they are dead, they are dead; your message will not help them. If they are injured, then a disaster relief agency will attend to them; but if you are a thousand miles away, what more can you do? By sending that message, you tax the relief effort even more.

We Were Not Thinking

The Amateur Radio response to the Northridge Earthquake in Los Angeles was replete with bad habits. Many operators sent and accepted incoming welfare traffic on many of the HF nets and on packet; there were very few "outgoing-only" nets. In the San Francisco Bay Area, one Amateur Radio operator provided his phone number to a local TV station so that people could contact him to send incoming welfare traffic.

We were not thinking beyond just being on the air. We were not thinking about what it took to pass that traffic into the disaster area. We were not thinking about what passing incoming traffic took away from those truly in need.

Many of the stations accepting the incoming traffic used local phone lines to contact the disaster parties, and in the first few days the success rate was terrible. In doing so, however, it meant that someone who had emergency- or priority-related traffic could not use the phone lines because they were being tied up needlessly.

It is a matter of precedence and responsibility. The best thing you can do is not originate or accept any incoming welfare messages in the first week after the disaster. There is usually nothing the sending party can do anyway except wait or sponsor a disaster relief agency. Why tie up the network needlessly?

Instead, stand by to originate and accept outgoing messages. You will not handle as much traffic, and I may not hear (or see) your callsign as often; but you will have freed up an operator in a disaster area to become part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Section Leader
published by the
American Radio Relay League

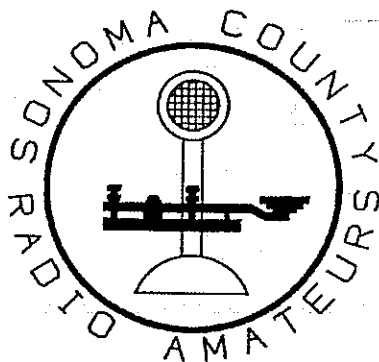
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Club Meetings:

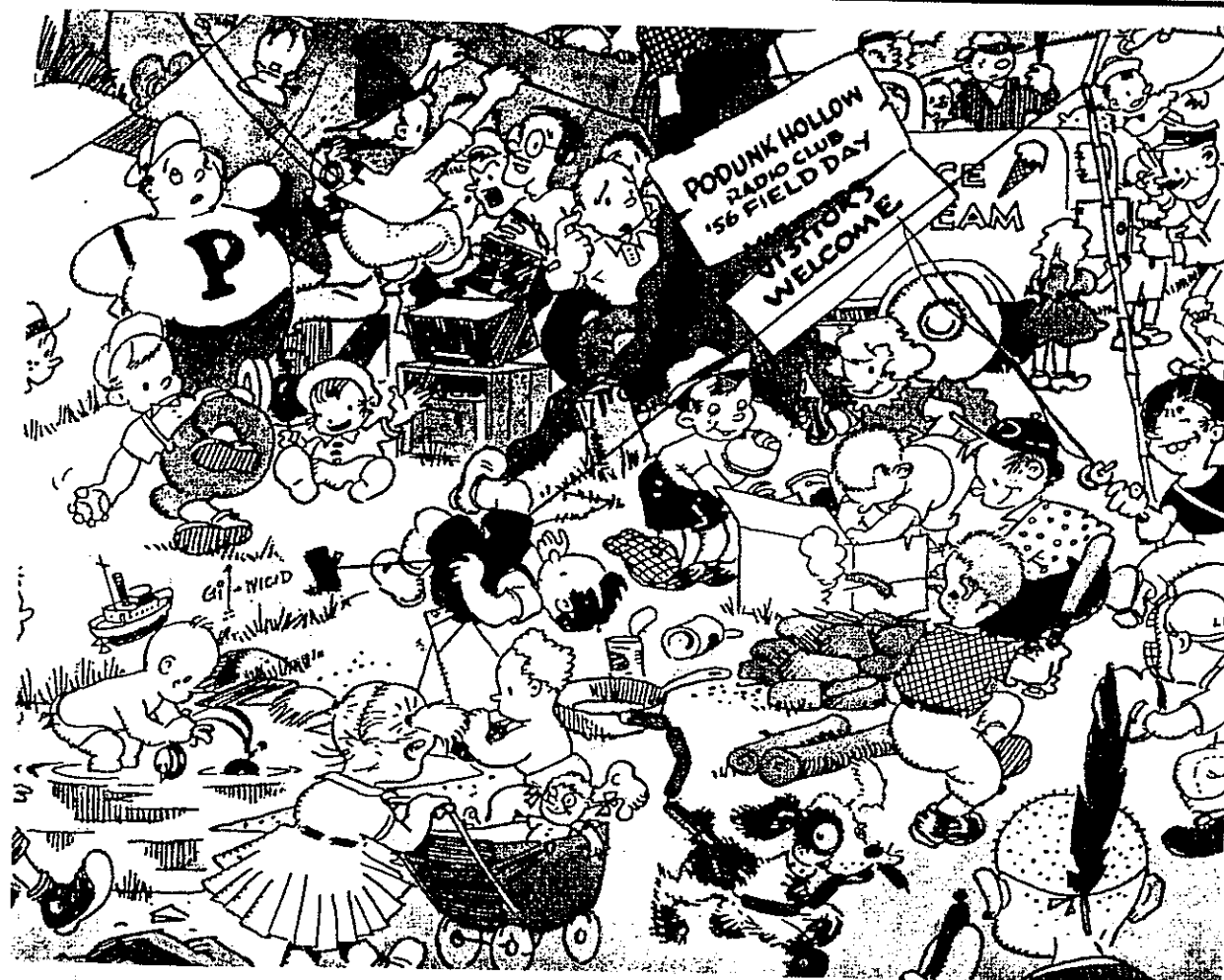
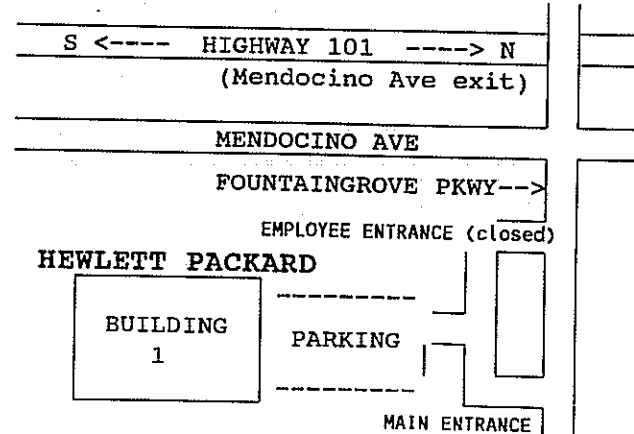
7:30 PM, 1st Wednesday each month at the Hewlett Packard plant in Santa Rosa. (See map below.) All are welcome.

Next Meeting: July 6, 1994

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. Membership in SCRA is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. If you would like to join, there is a membership application on page 11. Hope we can have an "eyeball" QSO with you at the next meeting! 73 ...



Application for Membership in SCRA

Name _____ Callsign _____ Lic. Class _____
Addr. _____ Phone Nr _____ () New Mbr
_____ ZIP _____ Date _____ () Renewal

Dues: \$12/year, \$18/year family. New members also pay a \$6/person initiation fee. Dues for new members *only* are pro-rated \$1 (\$1.50 family) per month, starting at renewal time, March 1.

I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN:

- () Public Service Events
- () RACES or ARES Emergency services
- () Field day, other operating events
- () Helping with SCRA Flea Market
- () Acting as club Net Control Station
- () Helping with *Short Skip* newsletter
- () Taking a Novice class
- () Teaching a Novice class
- () Taking an upgrade class
- () Teaching an upgrade class

() Other _____

Badge (New Members only)

Fill in this section exactly as you want it to appear on your badge.

Callsign _____

First Name _____

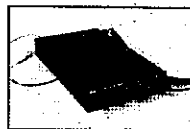
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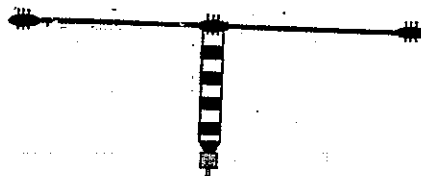
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The Bear Truth Of The Matter!

by Kathy Mahan KC6UXJ



Everyone who attended the SCRA Campout at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park had a great time! No bear, but tons of great food for the barbecue on Saturday night and brunch on Sunday morning was absolutely scrumptious.

There were about 40+ for dinner and about 15 - 20 camped out Saturday evening and we had another 20+ for brunch. The weather couldn't have been better and it was a perfect time to put faces with voices, make new friends, break bread with old ones and make some memories.

As fate would have it, a couple, 2 camp sites over from Jim, WB6PER just happened to be camping at Sugarloaf for the night. Leo, KC6WYE and his wife Pam from Winters. We introduced ourselves and invited them to join us for dinner and then again for brunch. They had a wonderful time and wanted to thank everyone for their hospitality....Speaking of thanks, Jim, WB6PER and myself would like to thank everyone for attending, for having fun and for all your help with food preparation Saturday and Sunday and that grueling chore of clean up. It went fast with everyone pitching and nary a crumb could be found by noon Sunday. Hope to see all of you and more of you again next year!



SCRAPS: SCRA Public Service

By Marie Mappus KI6QY



May Events

The Friday before the *Human Race* it rained hard and we awoke to a wet and soggy Saturday morning. However, the event was scheduled to go regardless of the weather. The number of people who came out for the event was far fewer than expected. SCRA participated in only the bike part of the Race. On that wet morning participants were Nadine WC6WUI, Bill KD6LTA, Clarence W6IZR, Jack KN6IO, Tony KE6WYH, Frank KC6WUG, and Marie KI6QY. It was a disappointing ride for the participants. The advanced route had to be closed due to the muddy road. The Hams who rode in the event as bike mobiles returned splattered with mud. Everyone left hoping that next year the weather would cooperate.

On the 22nd of May the *Special Olympics* were held at Sonoma State. The excitement was high as the participants marched around the field lead by the Two Rock Coast Guard color guard. The program was divided into walks, runs, wheelchair events, and broad and high jumps. The participants were awarded medals for first, second and third place in the events. Jack KN6IO, Sarah N6FAX, Mike KD6LYU, Connie N6FYV and Marie KI6QY gave communication support to the event.

The club received a letter of thanks from the Director of the Special Olympics. My thanks to all the amateurs who helped to make both of these events a success. You were great.

Upcoming events for July are the Harvest Century Bike Tour on July 23rd (contact Bill Splaine N6GHG), and the Vineman on July 30th (Doug KC6RHA or Kathy KC6UXJ). In August is Day on the River on the 14th. For participants in the Public Service Events the SCRAPS picnic will be on the 20th and the Easter Seal's Miracle Ride on the 27th. Mark your calendar for these events.



Let's To Simplex

By Jim Rutherford WB6PER

Some of you hams predate repeaters, but not many. Repeaters have become such a big part of Amateur Radio that this club has not one, but two of them. We have the second repeater because we know the club members are repeater freaks, and we always want to have a repeater on the air. Without a repeater, some of us would not be able to talk to each other but, most of us would.

If we turned the repeater off for one day we would be surprised at our ability to communicate. I have run simplex nets from the RACES radio room at the county EOC and was surprised that I could talk to every base station in the county that checked in.

We buy these fancy radios that have so many bells and whistles that we can't figure out how to use them all, and yet we forget about the most basic function, *SIMPLEX*.

Some hams in Sonoma County operate lots of simplex. If you scan some popular simplex frequencies you will hear people like Tracy WB6TMY. (There are others but it's been so long since I listened to simplex I've forgotten.) Tracy scans the input of the repeater. If he hears someone on the input he knows he can work them simplex. My guess is that, excluding distant mobiles, most of us could get along just fine without the repeater.

We have become a mobile society. Many of us spend most of our time in the car; the rest of us are at work and not listening. This mobile communications hobby demands that repeaters be available to help us keep in touch. Amateur Radio has developed just like all other communications services, we are state of the art in the repeater business.

The repeater is a busy place and perhaps that's the reason we gravitate toward it. But, let's not forget that "rag chewing" is just as much fun on simplex and doesn't tie up the repeater. Some night, just for fun, try listening to the input of the repeater — this will tell you who you can simplex with.

Let's look at the simplex frequencies available in northern California and why they are important. The Northern Amateur Relay Council of California Inc. (NARCC) coordinates all frequencies from a line between Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo to the northern California border. NARCC is sanctioned by the FCC to coordinate all repeater, simplex and packet frequencies in our area.

If you decide to "wing-it" on your own un-coordinated simplex frequencies you will not only be illegal, you may easily interfere with another amateur system that you are not aware of. Just because you don't hear anyone does not mean the frequency is open for simplex. If we all play the Amateur Radio game with the same rules we will all be able to share the frequencies without stepping on each others toes.

Lets give simplex a try and see if we can talk direct. I think you will discover that with a 10 watt radio and a good antenna you can simplex to most of the county. One way to check it out is to put your radio on the input of the repeater on the next net and see how many stations you can hear.

I travel the highways out of my own area at least a couple of times a year. I always scan 6.52 and the local repeater in an area and almost always talk to someone on simplex. The farther you travel away from the cities the more people depend on simplex. Give a call on the national calling frequency, 146.52, occasionally and see if anyone is listening.

Two Meter Voice Simplex Frequencies

146.415	146.550	147.480
146.430	146.565	147.495
146.445	146.595	147.510
146.475	147.405	147.525
146.490	147.420	147.540
146.505	147.435	147.555
146.520	147.450	147.570
146.535	147.465	147.585

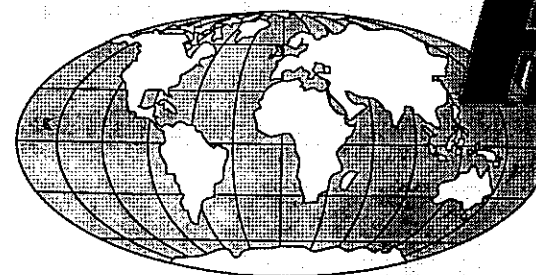
Two Twenty Voice Simplex Frequencies

223.400	223.460	223.520
223.420	223.480	223.54
223.440	223.500	

Four Forty Voice Simplex Frequencies

446.000	446.500
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Board Meeting Minutes

June 8, 1994

The meeting was called to order by President Merle Pfieff N6VUC, at 5:37 pm in the meeting room at the Northbay Savings Bank. Other officers present were Vice President Kelley Cureton KD6CJQ, Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Treasurer Mike Michlig KN6JQ, Repeater Chairman Jim Rutherford WB6PER, Activities Chairman Mike Knope KD6LYU, Members-at-Large Marie Mappus KI6QY and Kathy Mahan KC6UXJ, and President Emeritus Rick Reiner K6ZWB. Also present were SCRA members Hoppy Bravin WD6CKP, Jim Pelmulder N6PTM, Joe Senft KM6TN, Greg Cowles KE6FXK, and Ted DeCroff KB6PTA.

The CAMPOUT drew 43 for dinner and 24 for breakfast, reported Jim WB6PER. Jim was reimbursed \$244.

REPEATER: We also need to write a check for \$164 to Mike Aber for expenses in installing the batttery backup system. It was finished while the repeater was off the air due to a power amplifier malfunction. Jim suggested that, since Mike earns his living repairing repeaters, that the club should pay him for his time, even though Mike will not send a bill. After discussion, it was voted that Jim should send a letter in the club's name, expressing the club's appreciation for the assistance Mike has rendered SCRA (several times) and offering to pay for his time. m/s WB6PER/K6ZWB

REPCO STANDBY REPEATER UPGRADE: The club authorized the Board to spend up to \$1500 for this project. Jim WB6PER proposes that we do the following: 1) Purchase an S-Com model 7K controller for approximately \$800, install it on the Sonoma Mt. repeater, and swap the old RC-85 controller into the Repco. The new controller is more flexible and powerful than the RC-85 and is still fully supported by the company (unlike the RC-85). 2) Purchase an Astron rack-mount heavy-duty repeater power supply with battery backup provision for the Repco for around \$300. 3) Employ Mike Aber to do the work professionally for around \$250-\$300. Including misc. parts and supplies, total cost should be \$1300-\$1500. The above will give the club a first-class backup repeater as well as upgrade the Sonoma Mt. machine. Motion passed. m/s WB6PER/K6ZWB

Other repater news: The autopatch phone line was borrowed by the County during the elections. The new autopatch codes go into effect July 7. Jim will delete old non-members from the autoslot list. Jim is putting the machine in permanent P/L because he is bugged by the kerchunking.

NEWSLINE is again short of funds. We will send them \$100 as budgeted. m/s K6ZWB/KC6UXJ

SWAP SHOP Editor Jim Hudson KD6WIS has to resign because of personal commitments. Greg Cowles KE6FXK has volunteered to take over.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Marie KI6QY reported on upcoming events.

FIELD DAY: Mike KD6LYU reported that everything is coming together. Mike will check on getting a portapotty. We can rent a pancake cooker from Big-4 Rentals for \$10.

PATCHES are ordered and due July 3, says Kelly KD6CJQ.

ANTENNA COMMITTEE Chairman Joe Senft KM6TN reports we met with the Santa Rosa City Attorney on the 27th and gave him our proposed ordinance as well as one from Newport Beach. We will hear back after July 1. They seem anxious to find an equitable solution.

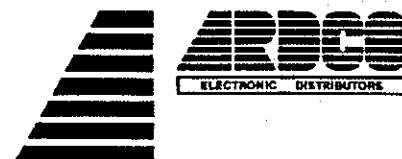
N6PTM reported on the *long* PLANNING MEETING Saturday with ARRL Director Brad Wyatt.

CORRESPONDENCE: N1AL received permission from the Coast Guard for the Field Day site. The club also received a nice thank-you letter from the Special Olympics.

K6ZWB feels the \$250 limit on spending by the Board (written many years ago) should be increased to \$500. Jim N6PTM will add that to his other constitutional change and present them at the next club meeting.

Rick also will submit a membership questionnaire to be published in *Short Skip*.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM. m/s K6ZWB/KC6UXJ
Respectfully submitted by Al Bloom N1AL.



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Nicad Batteries -- The Official Word

by Alan Bloom N1AL

I recently acquired an engineering handbook published by Sanyo, maker of "Cadnica" brand nickel-cadmium rechargeable batteries. It lays to rest some myths dear to the hearts of radio amateurs. In the following, the quoted material is from Sanyo's book.

Note: "C" is the amp-hour capacity of the battery. For example, if you have a 5 A-hr battery, a charging rate of "0.1C" is 0.5A.

The memory effect:

"Nickel-cadmium batteries have a 'memory effect' in which the voltage drops by 2 levels during discharge after shallow charge/discharge cycles. In application when discharge end voltage is highly established, apparent decreases in capacity and operating voltage are shown."

A graph shows a series of discharge curves (voltage versus time) for a battery under the following conditions: (1) Fresh battery, (2) First discharge after 100 cycles, (3) Second discharge after 100 cycles, (4) Third discharge after 100 cycles. "Cycles" consist of a 0.1 C charge for 10 hours followed by a 1C discharge for 10 minutes. The "discharge curve" is measured after a final 0.1C charge for 16 hours followed by a discharge rate of 1C.

The four curves are almost identical. As near as I can read the graph, the first discharge after 100 memory cycles drops to 1V after about 63 minutes, compared with about 66 minutes for the fresh battery. The second and third discharges show an even smaller difference.

Bottom line: Yes there is a memory effect, but it is very small and not worth worrying about.

Charging:

"As long as a Cadnica battery is charged at an input rate below the specified value [typically 0.1C] internal gas pressure remains at a low level. However, heat generated by gas recombination causes a rise in cell temperature. When overcharging is repeated often, heat deteriorates the cell and shortens its service life."

So don't overcharge excessively. It's OK to leave your battery on the charger overnight (depending on the charger design, up to 18 hours or so if the battery was well-discharged) but don't hook it up to the charger and go away for a week.

Discharging:

"The number of cycles Cadnica batteries can withstand depends on the depth of discharge... When the cell is discharged to a greater depth, the number of cycles decreases."

Some folks have recommended that occasionally you intentionally completely discharge your nicads to eliminate the memory effect. The above implies that that's a bad idea.

Storage:

"Cadnica batteries can be stored at temperatures ranging from -30 degC to 50 degC without essential deterioration in performance. The organic materials, such as gasket or separator, may deteriorate or become deformed at high temperatures during prolonged storage. Thus it is recommended that Cadnica batteries be stored at temperatures below 35 degC if there is a possibility of prolonged storage surpassing 3 months." [35 degC = 95 degF]

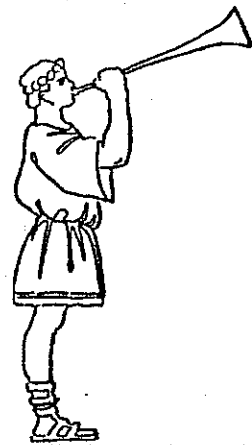
"Either charged or discharged Cadnica batteries may be stored indefinitely. ... Though the capacity is recovered with a couple of charge/discharge cycles in either case, the capacity of a discharged battery is more quickly achieved."

Unlike lead-acid batteries, nicads are perfectly happy being stored in a discharged state. In fact, they prefer it.

"Batteries should be recharged prior to use after prolonged storage."



The reason for that is that various cells in the battery can lose their charge at different rates. If you then use the battery without recharging, the weakest cell can become reverse-charged by the other stronger cells. That can kill a battery.



COMING EVENTS:

SCARS NET: 146.73 MHz
Tuesdays at 7 PM.

NEWHAM HOTLINE:
1-800-326-3942
SCRA INFO HOTLINE:
(707) 579-9608
VE EXAMS HOTLINES:
(408) 984-8353/255-9000

JULY:

- 3 - Livermore Flea Mart 510-447-3857
- 4 - RACES etc. Net 7:30 PM
- 6 - SCRA meeting 7/7:30 PM
- 9 - Foothill College Flea Market
- 9-10 - IARU HF World Championship
- 9-10 - CQ Worldwide VHF Prefix Contest
- 17 - Deadline for August *Short Skip*
- 18 - RACES etc. Net 7:30 PM
- 21 - CDF/VIP Meeting 7:30 PM
- 23 - Harvest Century Bike Tour, N6GHG
- 30 - Vineman Triathlon, KC6RHA/KC6UXJ

AUGUST:

- 6-7 - ARRL UHF Contest
- 13 - Reno Hamfest 702-856-2826
- 13 - Foothill College Flea Market
- 14 - Day on the River event
- 20 - SCRAPS picnic
- 26-28 - ARRL SW Div. Conv. 619-278-4284
- 27 - Easter Seal Miracle Ride

SEPTEMBER:

- 17 - SCRA Flea Mart, Seb. Holy Ghost Hall
- 17 - Clo's Classic
- 17 - Splendor in the Saddle, Healdsburg
- 18 - March of Dimes WalkAmerica
- 24-25 - CQ Worldwide RTTY Contest

OCTOBER:

- 7-9 - Bakersfield hamfest, POB 473, 93302
- 21-23 - Pacificon '94 Concord 510-932-6125
- 29-30 - CQ Worldwide DX Contest, Phone

NOVEMBER:

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

DECEMBER:

- 10-11 - ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- 31 - ARRL Straight Key Night

New Members & Corrections



EDWIN SCHMID
POB 5022
SANTA ROSA, CA 95402
526-4408

KEN HARRISON N6MHG
812 JACK LONDON DR
SANTA ROSA, CA 95409
539-2901

KEVIN SLUCKER WA2KDK
POB 1216
KENWOOD, CA 95452
833-2774

KENNETH DeBRECHT
WB6NOV POB 358
COTATI, CA 94931
792-2634

MAX MEIERHANS KE6BXX
1890 SCHAFFER RD
SEBASTOPOL, CA 95472
829-8231

FRANK 'GLEASON KB6OK
6043 DELLA CT
ROHNERT PARK, CA 94928
584-0908

JOAN M CALKINS KE6DRQ
617 G ST
PETALUMA, CA 94952
762-2348

RUBEN MANDUJANO KD6PJT
501 W GRANT ST
HEALDSBURG, CA 95448
433-5772

BLAINE SPOTSWOOD KE6EAV
POB 4644
SANTA ROSA, CA 95402
544-6433

STEPHEN JEPPSON N6RBZ
3243 SANTA ROSA AVE
SANTA ROSA, CA 95407
528-1230

MICHAEL BRITT KD6GAD
76 BROOKWOOD AVE
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
539-4030

BOB PHILLIPS N6RMW
1508 PLUMERIA DR
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403
542-5209

PGIL SEILER K6GIF
122 BOAS DR
SANTA ROSA, CA 95409
539-2987

ROSS COLLINS KD6VBV
5350 EUNICE ST
ROHNERT PARK, CA 94928

ANDREW RAIKE KE6HID
5190 MONTECITO AVE
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
575-8559

JOHN ROWBOTHAM KC6WTJ
1143 LOMBARDI LANE
SANTA ROSA, CA 95407
526-5314

AURELIA ANDERSON KC6HXS
617 G STREET
PETALUMA, CA 94952
762-2348

SHEP JENKS NH6ZY
886 PLEASANT HILL RD
SEBASTOPOL, CA 95472

SCRA MINUTES

June 1, 1994

Submitted by Secretary
Al Bloom N1AL



The meeting was called to order by President Merl Pfeiff N6VUC at 7:34 PM. Other officers present were Vice President Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ, Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Treasurer Mike Michlig KN6JQ, Activities Chairman Mike Knope KD6LYU and Member-at-Large Marie Mappus KI6QY.

VISITORS: We had 7 visitors to the meeting. Several new **UPGRADES:** KD6VBV is now an Extra, KC6WTJ is an Advanced and another member upgrades to Tech+. WB6TMY got his commercial satellite endorsement.

The **MINUTES** were approved as printed in last month's *Short Skip*. m/s WA2EWE/KA6CRG

The **TREASURER'S REPORT** from Mike KN6JQ shows \$345 outgo for the repeater upgrade. There is \$6136 in the General Fund and \$864 in the Repeater Fund. Report approved. m/s KB6PTA/N6KLU

SUBMARINE OPERATING: The USS Pampanito, a WWII sub at the San Francisco Maritime Museum, is on the air. Joe KM6TN and others operate a special event station signing <callsign>/NJVT on Sundays and Mondays.

REPEATER: N6PTM reported that the Sonoma Mt. repeater is currently QRT because of a bad power amplifier. The club's standby repeater is filling in the gap from 3 miles north of Sebastopol. Repairs are imminent.

The autopatch/autoslot codes will be changed soon. Details in *Short Skip*.

The Repco standby repeater needs upgrading. A battery backup system is being adapted for it. Also, it needs a new controller to add features such as timers, courtesy tones etc. Jim moved that the Board be authorized to exceed the normal \$250 spending limit, not to exceed the amount budgeted for the repeater (\$1500), to upgrade the Repco, using good engineering judgement. After much discussion, the motion passed with 5 opposed. m/s N6PTM/WD6CKP

PUBLIC SERVICE: Marie KI6QY reported on upcoming public service events. The SCRAPS picnic is Aug 20 in Finley Park.

EDUCATION: N6PTM reported for Education Chairman Steve KK6VY that traditionally there are no classes in the Summer. They should resume in September. Old instructors (perhaps that should be "former" instructors) should return room keys. Anyone with info on classes should call the SCRA info hotline and leave Steve a message.

VE EXAMS: Dave AA6YX reported on the upcoming exam session.

A HEALTH AND LEISURE FAIR June 4 will have an Amateur Radio booth staffed by SCRA and the Valley of the Moon ARC, according to N6PTM. Jim also will be attending the ARRL Div. Director's cabinet meeting June 4 with W6TLK, N6PTM and WX3K.

PATCHES: Kelly KD6CJQ asked for a vote on what kind of cloth patches (with the club logo) we should get. After spirited voting, the results were to go with 200 of the 3 1/2 inch patches.

NET CONTROL STATION for the Tuesday night club net will be Kelly KD6CJQ in July and Adam KD6POC in August. Thanks to Jim WA2EWE for taking it the last two months.

PACKET BBS's have some new rules to follow from the FCC. Sysop John WX3K asked for suggestions on how to authenticate the identity of stations originating messages.

ANTENNA COMMITTEE: Joe Senft KM6TN, Ken McTaggart N6KM and John Wallack W6TLK met with the Santa Rosa City Attorney last Friday to further discuss changes to the antenna ordinance. John wanted to especially thank Ken who is an attorney and the former Mayor of Sonoma for his help. The Secretary will write a letter of appreciation.

The new **RAFFLE CHAIRMAN** is Jim KE6FSK, replacing Lynn KD6TYL who had to resign due to personal commitments.

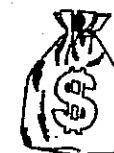
PROGRAM: FIELD DAY. N6VUC showed a humorous video of a previous Field Day. Then we had status reports from USCG Liaison John WX3K, Food Chairman Harold KD6WYF, Public Relations Darlene KD6GCK, generator expert Hoppy WD6CKP, Phone Chairman Rick K6ZWB, CW Chairman Dave AA6YX, Novice Co-Chair KB6PTA (with KD6HQ), Bonus Point Chr. KC6PJW, and Paperwork Instructor N1AL. There will be a final organizing meeting June 15 at 5:30.

The **RAFFLE** was ably handled by Jim KE6FSK. KC6PJW's **MEMBERSHIP LOTTERY** would have been won by KC6FKX had she been present.

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 PM. m/s N6PTM/WD6CKP
Respectfully submitted by Al Bloom N1AL, Secretary.

Treasurer's Report

de Mike KN6JQ May, 1994



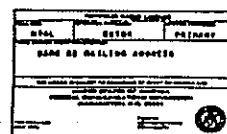
ACCOUNT

Refreshments at meetings ..	1.00
Dues and Initiations	384.00
Fund-Raisers (ARRL)	2.00
Raffle at meetings	47.00
Repeater (phone).....	(17.00)
Repeater (maint/upgrade)...	(345.00)
Short Skip Newsletter	(50.00)
Membership Supplies	73.00
Officers' Expenses	5.00
Total income	433.00
Total expenses	491.00

ASSETS:

General Fund Account	6112.00
Cash/checks on hand	24.00
Total General Fund	6136.00
Total Repeater Fund	864.00

Marin/Sonoma VE Council FCC Exams



Date	Time	Sponsor	Place
May 14	1700	SMRS	USCG Two Rock
Jun 4	0900	MARC	Hamilton Field Novato
Jul 9	0900	SCRA	HP, Santa Rosa
Aug 13	0900	VOMARC	Sonoma Dev Center
Sep 10	0900	MARC	Hamilton Field Novato
Sep 17	0900	SCRA	Sebastopol Flea Mart
Oct 8	1700	SMRS	USCG Two Rock
Nov 12	0900	VOMARC	Sonoma Dev Center
Dec 3	0900	MARC	Hamilton Field Novato
Dec 17	1700	SMRS	USCG Two Rock

Warning: Test dates subject to change or cancellation without notice.

(Note: Pre-registration recommended for VOMARC and SMRS sessions. Call the appropriate contact person listed below.)

Contact Persons:

SCRA:	Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Dave (707) 527-0981
MARC:	Marin Amateur Radio Club Recording (415) 883-9789
VOMARC:	Valley of the Moon Am. Radio Club Jim (707) 996-6461
SMRS:	Sonoma Mt. Repeater Society Dale (707) 762-9414

Willits VE Program:

10:00 am, June 11, Sept 10, Dec 10. Brook-trails Fire Dept. Contact Don (707) 459-3980.

Candidate requirements:

1. Photo identification or two non-photo IDs.
2. Original and photocopy of license, if any.
3. Original CSCEs from earlier tests, if any.
4. Radiotelegraph license, if held.
5. Doctor's medical exemption, if applicable.
6. Fee is \$5.75, except Novice test is free.

Directions to the Test Sites:

SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER (VOMARC), Glen Ellen. Talk-in 145.35-. AAA map Sonoma County G11. From the south, take Hwy 116 from Petaluma (or Hwy 37 to 121 to 116), then north to Arnold Drive. Go past El Verano, toward Glen Ellen. When you enter the State Hospital "Sonoma Develop-

mental Center" in Eldridge, turn left at Wilson (one block before flashing light/stop sign). Go west on Wilson to the McDougall building.

From the north, go south on Hwy 12 to Arnold Dr. Turn right, go through Glen Ellen to the state hospital "Sonoma Developmental Center" in Eldridge. Turn right onto Wilson (one block past the flashing light/stop sign) and go to the McDougall building.

HAMILTON FIELD (MARC), Building 549, Novato. Talk-in 147.33+, AAA map Marin County D4. From Hwy 101 take Nave Lane or Hamilton Field exit. Get on east side Frontage Road. Go to main gate of Hamilton. Drive east, over railroad overcrossing. Turn right onto Crescent Dr. Keep to right (one way), follow MARS signs, going left to San Carlos Drive. Turn left, then right up access road toward red/white checkered water tower to Bldg 549. Note: speed limits enforced!

US COAST GUARD BASE (SMRS), Two Rock. Talk-in 146.91- AAA map Sonoma County H8. From Hwy 101 in Petaluma, take East Washington St exit and go west through central Petaluma. Washington turns into Bodega Ave. About 10 miles west, turn onto Tomales Road (Coast Guard signs are posted). Go west on Tomales Rd to "USCG Training Center" main gate. Turn left, go up road to Colorado St, turn left and go down to the Bauer building. Note: Speed limits enforced!

SANTA ROSA HEWLETT-PACKARD (SCRA), 1400 Fountain Grove Parkway. (Same as club meeting place.) Talk-in 146.730-. AAA map Sonoma County E9. Coming from 101 south, take Bicentennial off ramp, go east until it joins Fountaingrove Parkway. Enter the visitors gate (second gate). Coming from the north, take the first offramp into Santa Rosa, follow the signs to Mendocino Ave, going over the freeway. After crossing the freeway, go straight onto Fountain Grove Parkway. Enter the visitors gate, second gate at HP.

SEBASTOPOL FLEA MARKET (SCRA), (9/17/94 ONLY) Holy Ghost hall, 7960 Mill Station Rd. Talk-in 146.73-. AAA map Sonoma Co. F7. From the south, take Hwy 101 to Cotati then Hwy 116 north (second 116 exit) to Sebastopol. From Santa Rosa take Hwy 12 west to Sebastopol and turn right onto Hwy 116. Turn left onto Mill Station Rd: the Holy Ghost hall is on your immediate right (1/2 block). ■



of Amateur Radio

by Brad Wyatt K6WR
ARRL Div. Director

Update on the Effort to Save the 13 cm Band:

By the deadline of May 11, the ARRL and several members filed Comments on the NTIA plan. Each cited current activity on the band plus plans and commitments made which would be destroyed if the plan were adopted. Thanks to each of you who helped by writing!

ARRL still needs more hard documentation of current activity by ATV and any other operations at 2.3 GHz. There are a list of questions as a guideline for documentation and a four page NTIA report available from me. Just ask!

Be assured that ARRL has several actions underway to try to turn this situation around, but *all* depend on your documentation of current 2.3 GHz activity and plans.

Vanity "Preferred" Callsigns - Latest News:

At the ARRL National Convention, an FCC official indicated that implementation should occur by the end of the year. The basic outline of the ARRL Comments filed on FCC Docket 93-305 is contained in the June 1994 Pacific Division Director's Update.

Congressional Legislative Report:

HJR 199 has 238 co-sponsors in the House. With a majority we can now plan to bring up the resolution for consideration. The identical resolution in the Senate (SJR 90) now has 45 co-sponsors. We need 4 more for a majority in the Senate. In the Pacific Division, we still need to convince 11 California Congressmen [including one local to Sonoma County, Rep. Dan Hamburg] and both California Senators Feinstein and Boxer.

HR 2623 (Amateur Radio Volunteer Protection Act) has 75 co-sponsors in the House (the sole co-sponsor from the Pacific Division is Ron Dellums from the CA 9th District) — not yet introduced in the Senate. Keep writing letters to your congressional delegation with copies to Steve Mansfield, Legislative Mgr. in ARRL HQ so he can use them when visiting your congressional delegation in Washington. Steve met with key Congressional members June 8 - 10 to lay out the strategy for introduction of HJR 199 and SJR 90. More details as they develop.

Antenna Ordinances:

Rusty Epps W6OAT, continues to lead a Division-wide effort to develop a database of antenna ordinances and related materials. Rusty reports that data is coming in from all parts of the Division — thanks! Send all material to Charles K. (Rusty) Epps W6OAT, 651 Handley Trail, Redwood City, CA 94062.

New FCC-ARRL Amateur Auxiliary Agreement:

The new agreement, signed in late February 1994, centralizes submission of interference reports for enforcement by Amateur Auxiliary members. Particularly difficult cases will be submitted through the Section Official Observer Coordinator to ARRL HQ and then through the ARRL General Counsel to the FCC Field Operations Bureau General Counsel in Washington DC. The goal of this mechanism is to provide a tracking process for all difficult cases until conclusion. The new Training Guide is in the hands of the Amateur Auxiliary. Similar implementation information is being sent from the FCC FOB Washington DC office to the various FOB Field Offices. As with any new program, it is expected that there will be some "fits and starts", but there is the potential of much better enforcement activity in the long range.

Discussions within the Pacific Division probably will generate a number of implementation questions to be submitted to ARRL HQ. Please forward any questions and comments to Rick Palm, K1CE, Manager of Field Services at ARRL HQ. An article on this program is expected in a near term issue of QST.

FCC Now Has a Full Staff of Commissioners:

With two recent additions, the FCC has finally been brought to the full complement of five Commissioners. The views on Amateur Radio of the two new members are unknown. ■

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



Repeater News

by Jim Rutherford WB6PER

Our repeater has gone through some changes lately that we hope will make it more reliable and user friendly.

Emergency Power

The Battery back-up system has been completed which will allow automatic AC to DC power switching in the event of a power failure on Sonoma Mountain. When the repeater switches to DC power it will say "DC power alert" every 5 minutes until a control operator turns off the message.

Under normal usage the repeater will stay on the air for several days while operating on the batteries, which will be plenty of time to correct any site problems. However if we are in a state of emergency, that time could be shortened depending on the amount of traffic necessary to complete the mission.

Controller Upgrade

The controller has been upgraded and will be upgraded again soon.

These upgrades will bring the repeater into a more state of the art condition and allow more flexibility for the control operators and users.

Autopatch

You may have noticed that the courtesy tone changes at 2200 Hrs and returns to normal at 0600. During this time the autopatch is not available unless a control operator is available to enable it. This night mode has been created to keep unauthorized phone patches from being made in the middle of the night when idle hands should be asleep.

There is also a feature that will allow a user to test the DTMF tones on their mic. Just ask a control operator to help you if you have reason to believe your tones are out of sorts.



New Autopatch Codes

The main changes you will see will be in the autopatch. All the codes will be changed and go into effect on July 7, 1994, the day after the next club meeting. By then everyone will have gotten this information in *Short Skip* or at the July meeting.

The emergency autoslots contain all of the police and fire numbers in the county. To call the county 911 operator simply enter 911, after giving your callsign. Other emergency numbers are 912, 913 etc.

The autopatch code will be 12 and the autoslot code will be 14. One way to remember these codes is to visualize that the autopatch code goes across your keypad and the autoslot code goes down your keypad starting in the upper left corner.

The proper way to use the patch is to key your mic, give your callsign so it can be plainly understood, then enter the appropriate code followed by the phone number or slot number. Here are some examples:

911 = Key your mic, say (callsign), enter 911 on your key pad. **Autopatch** = Key your mic, say (callsign), enter 12(phone number). **Autoslot** = Key your mic, say (callsign), enter 14(autoslot number).

The phone hang-up code is "#". The controller must see a one second signal after you key up before it will act on your # code. The best way to hang up the phone is to say goodbye to your phone contact and while still keyed up enter the #, then unkey and make sure the repeater says the phone patch is off, then give your call sign.

Emergency Autodial Numbers

910 = AAA Road Service
 911 = County Sheriff (911 Operator)
 912 = CHP (All Counties)
 913 = Santa Rosa Fire/Police
 914 = Sebastopol Fire/Police
 915 = Rohnert Park Fire/Police
 916 = Petaluma Fire/Police
 917 = Cloverdale Fire/Police
 918 = Sonoma City Fire/Police
 919 = CDF Fire



Emergency Procedures

When using the Emergency patch make sure you know the proper jurisdiction's number before making the call. If you see an accident on any highway or county road it is CHP's responsibility. However, if you believe there is personal injury involved call the proper fire/police number, this will get an ambulance rolling faster. Get your thoughts together, make the call and say "I am reporting a (type of incident)," unkey.

The most important part of making an emergency call is not to get long winded. The emergency operator is trained to get the proper information from you. If you allow them to ask questions you will get the message through faster than if you try to adlib the incident. Say only a few words in each transmission and unkey momentarily to allow the operator to interrupt you if necessary. If it makes you more comfortable, you can tell the operator that you are on a two way radio and can only hear when you unkey.

Miscellany

During all autopatches the radio operator is in control of the conversation. When you key and talk, the other party cannot be heard by anyone, even if they talk. It is ok to make a personal call to a business number. However, if you are put on hold and music is played, you must terminate the patch immediately.

Autoslots are pre-programmed numbers that allow you to call your home by entering only 4 or 5 digits instead of 9 or 10, similar to a auto dial phone. These numbers are programmed by the Repeater Chairman.

Confidential Codes

Of course all of these codes are private and confidential. Sharing them with any one is not cool. If your buddy wants the codes let him get them from the proper source. The patch has been misused and abused in the past and the control operators are sensitive about proper identification and procedure.

If you have a problem with the patch, please feel comfortable in calling me or any control operator on the radio or phone before 2100 and we will be happy to help you out. Our phone numbers are listed on page two of Short Skip. 73, Jim WB6PER