

Board Meeting Minutes (from page 8

SECRETARY's NOTES: N1AL noted that the FCC's callsign proposal is all set. *Short Skip* is now more expensive since postal rates have gone up. Correspondence included info on callsign license plate stickers, a salt-water power pack, and the National Scholarship Research Service. Al also gave the VP a copy of club equipment at N1AL and donated a Dremel tool to mark SCRA property.

REPEATER: WB6PER says that Mike is not yet done with the Repco, but it is in operational condition if needed.

PACKET BBS: N6PTM had a number of implementation questions. Any bulletin board depends on the continuous presence of a willing system operator. We should be aware that technological progress guarantees that any static system would soon become obsolescent. Since our system is so dependent on other systems over which we have no control, SCRA should become more involved with packet radio outside the club. Perhaps we should promote and participate in a

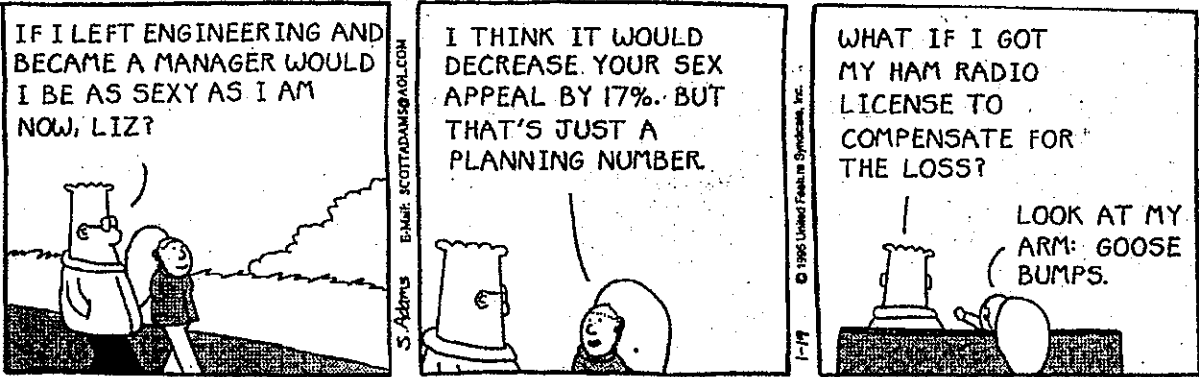
county-wide organization. Finally, Jim felt we should consider having some member-only features on the BBS.

KC6PJW noted that he is grooming another sysop who could move into his place much as Jim did when WX3K moved out. Right now, he is scrambling to re-establish links and get the system back to the state it was in before. He wonders if we shouldn't have a Packet Chairman, much like the Repeater Chairman. Jim is withdrawing his offer to sell the BBS equipment to SCRA until an implementation plan is complete.

The Board decided that N1AL, KC6PJW and AA6YX will form a subcommittee to come up with a proposal for how the packet BBS should be structured. Possible ideas include an independent packet club outside of SCRA, a committee within SCRA like the Repeater Committee, or some intermediate level of support. The proposal will be presented to the board at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18. m/s WB6PER/N1AL
Respectfully submitted by Secretary Al Bloom N1AL.

Dilbert/Scott Adams



DATED MATERIAL:
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

JOHN BRECKENRIDGE
WB6FRZ
574 WILD OAK DR
WINDSOR, CA 95492

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PO Box 116
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

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SHORT SKIP



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

MARCH 1995

Club Station
W6LFI

P.O. Box 116
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Repeater Station
WB6PVS

VOL 20 #3

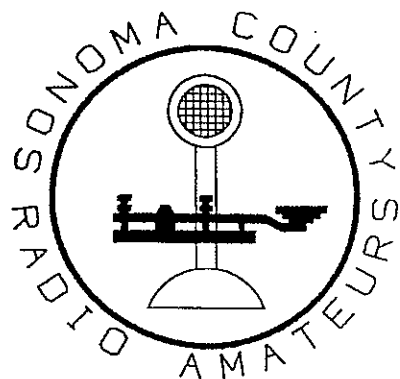
Scenes from the recent flood operations:



Photos thanks to Michael Van der Porten KD6ZZD



Stephen Jeppson N6RBZ at OES, 0300 1/9/95



OFFICERS FOR 1995

PRESIDENT:	Kelly Cureton	KD6CJQ	837-9434
VICE PRESIDENT:	Dave New	AA6YX	829-6608
SECRETARY:	Alan Bloom	N1AL	538-7115
TREASURER:	Angela Dickey	KC6OCD	795-1269
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:	Jim Andrews	KC6PJW	795-2163
	Marie Mappus	KI6QY	664-1978
REPEATER CHAIRMAN:	Jim Rutherford	WB6PER	526-2972
ACTIVITIES CHAIR:	Joel Nadler	KJ6LF	545-1782

SHORT SKIP STAFF:

EDITOR:	Alan Bloom	N1AL	538-7115
1578 Los Alamos Rd, Santa Rosa 95409 alanb@sr.hp.com			
AX.25 packet address: n1al@wx3k.#nocal.ca.usa.noam			
SWAP SHOP EDITOR:	Greg Cowles	KE6FXK	829-1583

QRV: Jim Durkin KE6FSK BBS: DonnKing KD6ZVG CIRCULATION: June Linnehan KD6LSU
AUDIO TAPING: John Breckenridge WB6FRZ, Laurel Meyer KC6FKX, Bob Phillips N6RMW

Activities Committee:

Pub. Service: Marie Mappus KI6QY 664-1978
 Pub. Relatns: Steve Carniglia KK6VY 579-9608
 QSL Mgr: Fred Leoni N6YEU 431-8202
 TVI/RFI: Al Bloom N1AL 538-7115
 Antennas: Joe Senft KM6TN 578-5824
 John KM6LI, Shep NH6ZY, N1AL
 Awards: Steve Lund WA8LLY 823-4544
 VEC Exams: Claude Jones AB6OL 527-8593
 N1AL WX3K WW6D AC6ET
 WB6FRZ N6PHP AB6XR KK6XT
 AA6YX KC7VS WA8LLY
 Education: Steve Carniglia KK6VY 579-9608
 N1AL WB6FRZ KC6RHA KK6VY
 WB6TMY K6XZ K6ZWB KC7VS
 Refreshmnts at meetings: Bob Olsten WD6DPE
 Field Day: Steve Carniglia KK6VY 579-9608
 Raffle at meetings: Dave Willey KD6KWM
 Membership lottery: James Cureton KD6GSF
 RACES RO: Jim Pelmulder N6PTM 823-7947
 Badge Chair: Fred Leoni N6YEU 431-8202
 Packet BBS: John WX3K and Jim KC6PJW

Repeater Control Op's:

WB6PER Jim 526-2972 N6PTM Jim 823-7947
 WD6CKPHoppy 542-6750 N6VUC Merl 584-3898
 KD6CJQ Kelly 837-9434

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

Club Meetings:

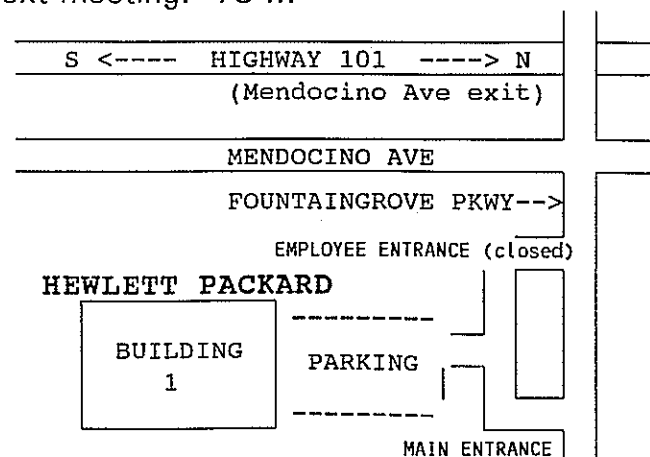
7:30 PM, 1st Wednesday each month at the Hewlett Packard plant in Santa Rosa. (See map below.) All are welcome.

Next Meeting: March 1, 1995
Program: Amateur Radio Contesting,
Northern California Contest Club.

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 Newslines 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 ...



SCRA Member Directory Questionnaire

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____

Birthdate (year optional) _____

Year first licensed _____ Spouse's Name _____ Spouse's call _____

Children's Names/Calls _____

Profession _____ Employer _____

Hobbies other than ham radio _____

Electronics Experience (other than ham radio) _____

Ham Radio Interests: Packet _____ DX _____ Homebrewing _____ Traffic handling _____

EME _____ Satelites _____ Two Mtr FM _____ Contests _____ Public Service _____ RACES _____

Others (Please elaborate) _____

Special skills: (Foreign languages, Computer whiz, Etc.: _____)

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 _____

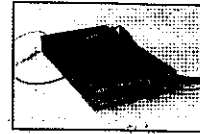
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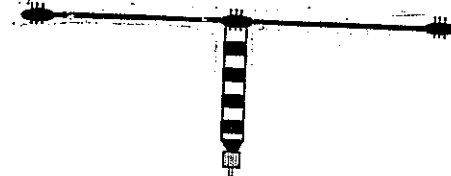
- 50/144/220/440 MHz Synthesized Transceivers
- VHF power amplifiers
- All-mode HF receivers
- QRP CW Transmitters
- Etc...



- MFJ accessories
- Code keys
- Wire Antennas
- Surplus Electronics
- Tools, parts, Etc...

ARRL BOOKS:

- ARRL Handbook
- License Manuals
- Antenna Books
- Etc...



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I'm Quitting...

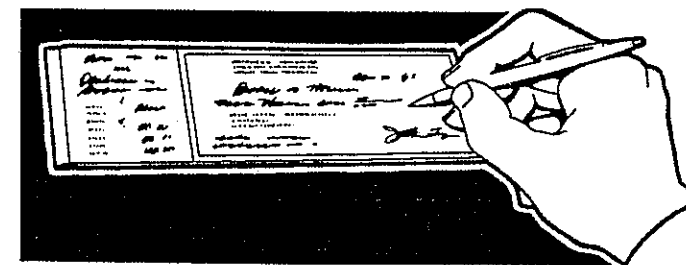
SCRA needs a new *Short Skip* editor. I will be resigning as of the April issue. Hopefully the new editor will be on board by then so we can work on next month's issue together.

Short Skip has had the same editor now for over a decade. It's time for a change. I have really enjoyed doing it, but my life has gotten so crowded that I just don't have the time any more.

The main requirement of the new editor is enthusiasm. You will also need a computer and access to a letter-quality printer. (Perhaps the club could help work something out if you don't have one.) Desk-top publishing software can be a lot of fun and can contribute to an impressive-looking product, but is not necessary. (I just use Wordstar, a standard word processor.)

Please contact me or any club officer if you are interested. — AI N1AL

Dues are Due!



Check your mailing label: If it says "dues are due," then our records show you haven't paid yet. Please send your check to SCRA, POB 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Since the Treasurer can't make it to the March meeting, mail-in payment is best.

Also, if you haven't filled in the Questionnaire on page 11, Rick K6ZWB would like a copy. And if your address, callsign or license class has changed, let us know so N1AL can update the roster. The application on page 11 is ideal for the purpose.

Choose Your Own Callsign!

ARRL Bulletin 7 January 25, 1995

The FCC has announced its intention to implement a vanity call sign program, and also to resume the issuance of club and military recreation station licenses. In a Jan 24 news release, the commission released a general outline of the new program.

Amateurs will be eligible to apply for a call sign of their choice in four "gates." The first group eligible to apply will be previous holders of a call sign or the close relative of a deceased previous holder of a call sign. The second group will be amateur Extra class licensees, then Advanced class licensees, then all others. The FCC will announce the opening of each "gate" by public notice.

The FCC said that the first gate will open as soon as a new application form, FCC form 610-V, is available and the commission's licensing facility is prepared to begin processing the applications — no sooner than April, according to FCC staff. Applications for club station licenses will be accepted as soon as the FCC's report and order on this matter is released. Club station call signs will be issued systematically, unless under the fourth "gate" the trustee of an existing club station applies for the call sign of a deceased member as a vanity call sign for the club.

The fee for the use of vanity call signs will be 7 dollar(s) per year, or 70 dollar(s) for a ten-year license term, according to Wireless Telecommunication Bureau staff. However, on January 12, 1995, in a notice of proposed rule making, the FCC proposed a fee of 3 dollar(s) per year, for fiscal year 1995 (which began October 1, 1994).

Amateurs will be able to list up to 25 call sign choices, from any call area, FCC staff said. It is expected that it will be several weeks before the new form 610-V is approved.

More information was in July 1994 QST, page 84, June QST, page 81, and February QST, page 84. (pr docket 93-305). Downloaded by Donn KD6ZVG

Jim Peimulder
 N8PTM

(707) 823-7947

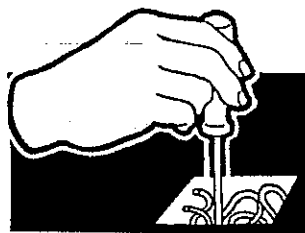
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Tweak 'n Peak

by John Zantek WX3K



The Packet Tweak 'n Peak session at the February SCRA meeting was a resounding success and yielded some very interesting facts that supported WX3K's assumptions about packeteering in Sonoma County:

Number of packet stations benched	19
Number of stations overdeviating	16
Highest deviation measured	5.5 kHz
(We won't mention who won that booby-prize, but he knows)	
Lowest deviation measured	2.8 kHz

Honorable Mentions:

- (1) The BEST MECHANICAL assembly:
WB6FRZ
- (2) The MOST ACCURATE signal:
KC6SSF & KD6KWM (tie)
- (3) The HALL OF FAME award:
KC6SSF with his original
TAPR TNC-1

Some info....

- (1) To get a TNC into Cmd Mode from HOST mode: Alt-192, ASCII q, Alt-192
- (2) To get a TNC into Cmd Mode from KISS mode: Alt-255, Alt-192, Alt-255
- (3) I am extremely impressed with the new Kantronics line, including the KAM Plus, KPC-3, and KPC-9612. Small, low supply needs, and easy to tune; all necessary pots are easily accessible.
- (4) The MFJ-1278 continues to be a nightmare that generates its own noise up the audio line, regardless of shielding.
- (5) Shielded wire for TNC-to-radio cables. JUST DO IT!
- (6) HTs are not the best radios to use for packet. By their very nature of design, they're a compromise on receive filtering and can suffer badly from adjacent signals.
- (7) Audio impedance mismatches. Don't assume that the audio output (AFSK out) of your TNC matches the audio input (MIC in) of your radio. A mismatch generally has any combination of three results:

- a. Distorted tones
- b. Inability to lower deviation to acceptable levels
- c. Very narrow adjustments for TNC audio drive; goes from too much to not enough by barely touching a trim pot.

- (8) Throw away the wall transformer. Power the TNC from the DC supply that's powering your rig. It's clean and will provide current on demand.

That's it for now. I may think of something later, but these jumped out at me after last night's marathon.

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STEVE BASHAM
Manager

Coming Events:

MARCH:

- 1 - SCRA meeting 7/7:30 PM
- 1992 DUES PAYABLE!
- 4 - License exams, Marin ARC
- 4-5 - ARRL DX Contest, Phone
- 5 - Livermore Flea Mart 510-447-3857
- 6 - RACES etc. Net 7:30 PM
- 11 - Foothill College Flea Market
- 13 - RACES etc. Net, 7:30 PM
- 16 - CDF/VIP Meeting 7:30 PM
- 18 - Deadline for April Short Skip
- 20 - RACES etc. Net 7:30 PM
- 25 - License exams, Sonoma Mt RS
- 25-26 - CQ Worldwide Prefix Contest, Phone
- 27 - RACES etc. Net, 7:30 PM

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Rich, WA9WYB, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp

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Lawrence Expwy.
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(800) 854-6046
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Tigard-99W exit
from Hwy. 5 & 217

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(303) 745-7373
(800) 444-9476
Joe, KD0GA, Mgr.

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1702 W. Camelback Rd.
(602) 242-3515
(800) 444-9476
Gary, WB7SLY, Mgr.
East of Highway 17

ATLANTA, GA 30340
6071 Buford Highway
(404) 263-0700
(800) 444-7927
Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.
Doraville, 1 mi.
no. of I-285

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(703) 643-1063
(800) 444-4799
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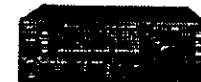


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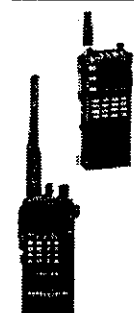


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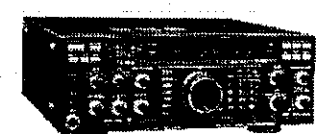


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SCRA MINUTES

February 1, 1995

Submitted by Secretary
Al Bloom N1AL



The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ at 7:41 PM. Other officers present were Vice President Dave New AA6YX, Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Treasurer Angela Dickey KC6OCD, Activities Chairman Joel Nadler KJ6LF, Repeater Chairman Jim Rutherford WB6PER, and Members-at-Large Marie Mappus KI6QY and Jim Andrews KC6PJW. Due to a schedule conflict, we met in HP's big auditorium instead of the usual room.

VISITORS AND UPGRADES: We had 4 visitors and 3 upgraded licenses this month.

The **MINUTES** were approved as printed in *Short Skip*. m/s N6VUC/KC6GCD

The **TREASURER'S REPORT** shows over \$3000 total.

REPEATER: N6VUC heard someone say the repeater is weaker in Marin Co. WB6PER notes there are a number of holes in coverage in Marin.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Marie KI6QY says the season begins around the end of March, beginning of April.

EDUCATION: Steve KK6VY notes three upcoming classes. WB6FRZ's code class (all speeds) starts next Wednesday at HP. There will also be a code net on the 146.73 repeater. K6ZWB passed around a sign-up sheet for his constructin class. The project will be a single-band QRP transceiver. Jim WA2EWE is planning another no-code Technician class. Call Jim at 573-0277.

Whoever has K6ZWB's copy of *200 Meters and Down*, please let Rick know you have it.

ACTIVITIES: KJ6LF is thinking about raffling off a packet station to raise money for the BBS. The Homebrew Contest is this April, with N6IY as Chairman. We need ideas for a location for Field Day. WB6PER says the campout will be under the full moon in May.

NET CONTROL STATIONS are KE6FXK in Jan, KE6TYL in Feb, N6IY in Mar and AA6YX in April. There will be a NCS training session 1/2 hour before the next club meeting.

AA6YX would like to start a "new tradition," donut holes (small badges) to be handed out to visitors, good for one free donut. There was a nice letter in the Press Democrat by Connie Sabin thanking the RACES members for their service in the recent floods.

PACKET FUND: W6NEO pledged \$50 for the Packet Bulletin Board System. By the time the meeting was over we had \$125 from three people.

The **PROGRAM** was a description of County packet radio system by Jim KC6PJW. WX3K was turned off as of Tuesday night, and Jim is in the process of getting everything set back up. One suggestion to avoid interference is to avoid the peak hours (5 PM, 10 PM and 8 AM). Before the WX3K BBS went off the air, KC6PJW BBS was averaging 100 connections per day of average 6 minutes length.

During the meeting, John WX3K ran a packet station test and adjustment clinic in the back room.

A motion was made to purchase the BBS system from KC6PJW using money from donations and fundraisers. The motion passed with one opposed. m/s KD6FPN/KH6GJV

KC6OCD asks that any donations to the Packet Fund be so noted on the check's memo line so the money can be properly credited.

KD6KWM's **RAFFLE** had prizes thanks to HSC and Ardco.

The **MEMBERSHIP LOTTERY** this month was won by N6OH.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM. m/s AA6YX/N6PTM
Respectfully submitted by Al Bloom N1AL.

Treasurer's Report

de Angela KC6OCD December, 1994

ACCOUNT	REVENUE	EXPENSE
Activities (Xmas party)....	1375.00	1375.00
Flea Market	230.00	422.00
Misc (trophies/awards).....		525.00
Repeater (phone).....		57.00
Short Skip Newsletter	296.00	237.00
Officers' Expenses		74.00
Total	528.00	1315.00

ASSETS:		
Checking Account	2115.16	
Savings Account	896.00	
Cash/checks on hand	24.00	
Total	3035.16	

Board Meeting Minutes

February 8, 1995

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ at 5:38 PM in the meeting room at the Northbay Savings Bank. Other officers present were Vice President Dave New AA6YX, Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Treasurer Angela Dickey KC6OCD, Repeater Chairman Jim Rutherford WB6PER, Activities Chairman Joel Nadler KJ6LF, Members-at-Large Marie Mappus KI6QY and Jim Andrews KC6PJW. Also present were five other SCRA members.

AA6YX announced that the March **PROGRAM** will be either AA6KX or N6IP of the NCCC speaking on contesting.

NEWSLINE is short of funds again. The Board voted to send in the \$100 we budgeted for it. m/s WB6PER/AA6YX

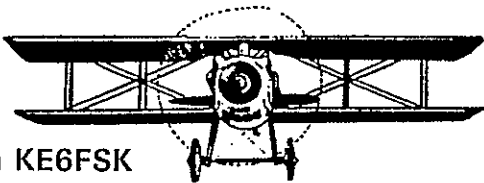
KC6OCD may not be able to attend next month's meeting.

ACTIVITIES. KJ6LF notes that Field Day, the Flea Market, and the Homebrew Contest are coming up this year. WB6PER says the campout will probably be May 20/21.

PUBLIC SERVICE: KI6QY has the Windsor Road Race April 1, the Super Cities Walk April 2, and the Wine Country Century May 6. The SCRAPs picnic will be in August.

DUES for the year are supposed to be voted on by the club at the February meeting, as KC6PJW discovered by reading the Constitution. We'll vote on it next meeting. WB6PER thinks we may need to raise dues next year. (Continued p 12)

QRV



by
James Durkin KE6FSK

I have said many times before (I hope you pardon my saying again) that one of the primary reasons I became a ham operator was my interest in becoming more involved within the community. I was not aware at the time of just how many avenues of involvement were available. Fortunately, I was able to make some interesting contacts (and connections) that enlightened me as to how far this "hobby" could be taken.

Sonoma RACES

One unique individual who has immersed himself in public service is Eran Glago KD6KVO, the emergency coordinator for the Sonoma RACES group. His involvement goes beyond the standard stereotype of an Amateur Operator.

Eran informed me there are two designated EOCs in the City of Sonoma. The main one is located at the Police Department and the backup is located at the Fire Department. These two Emergency Operation Centers service both the City of Sonoma and the Sonoma Valley (pretty much what is covered by Zone 3 of the Fire Services). The City of Sonoma's RACES group is sepearate from the County RACES organization and is under the auspices of the Sonoma Police Department.

Eran's group has been called on in the past to help with some interesting incidents. One was a suspicious fire in the city where the RACES members were asked to guard the potential evidence. The city had to staff the buildings over the night until the investigators could arrive the next morning. In order to preserve the evidence, the building had to be staffed by city paid employees or trained city volunteers.

On July fourth, the City of Sonoma activated city RACES for a fire watch, looking for dangerous fireworks and juvenile delinquents who often use the holiday as an excuse to set fires and cause a fair amount of vandalism. The visible presence of a ham operator with his HT in hand can be quite a deterrent. I was once asked if I was a Town Monitor (whatever that is) because I happened to have my HT with me.

The city RACES group is often called in to help with traffic control during parades and special events, in addition to being the eyes and ears for the police and fire departments during these times. As the rapport with city agencies grows, the number of activities also grows. Eran reports the city has been very generous in providing needed equipment. The radio room is now one of the most advanced communication centers in the area, rivaled only by the county EOC.

One of the key factors in the Sonoma RACES group's success is the extensive training offered. Many classes in emergency procedures and tactical operations give expertise that volunteers can fall back upon during a

real crises. Every RACES net has one specific drill message to be copied. And every member carries a "phone card" for more efficient call-up should an actual emergency arise.

Communications equipment includes two 2 meter voice radios, a complete 2m and 220 packet station, 220 and 440 Mhz voice radios, and an HF rig for emergency backup. One member of the group is one of the top ATV operators around: Mr. Kermit Parker, W6JFN, was flown into Humboldt County to set up ATV surveillance during the Redwood Summer Protests. He has also outfitted the CHP helicopters in the North Bay area with ATV equipment (once in conjunction with a prison riot).

During 1994, Marie Mappus KI6QY helped coordinate 1,444 hours of volunteer work for the March of Dimes, Easter Seals, MS, Special Olympics, Human Race, Society for independent Living, and so on. I personally had the pleasure to be on the sag wagon for the Super Cities Walk, a very good experience. As a RACES member, my awareness of the expansiveness of ham Radio was humongously growing. But what if these particular activities don't interest you? You can always provide a new service yourself. If you see a need, just jump in there and do it. Paul Bowman, N6WZR, did.

PAL-HAM

In Long Beach, California, Detective Paul Bowman saw an increasing need to get inner-city kids involved in more positive activities. The Police Athletic League was fine, but there are many kids who are either intimidated or just not interested in athletic activities. That's where PAL-HAM comes in.

PAL-HAM is an amateur radio program designed to bring cops and kids together. Paul directs the program under the auspices of the Long Beach Police Department. They currently have 20 licensed kids. They have held five classes in the past year, and plan to continue the tradition with five more next year. All of their classes are free and teach a code/no-code course based on the ARRL *Now You're Talking* textbook. All equipment was donated, most of it directly or indirectly by members of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach W6RO, and the Long Beach Repeater Associates K6CHE. All of the instructors are volunteers. Parents can also take the classes, but they must purchase their own books and are encouraged to help out with the snacks.

Once the kids have their license, they are encouraged to participate in the Long Beach Marathon, the Cancer Walk, the Roughneck Roundup, the Special Olympics and other community events by assisting with communications. This has certainly helped cut down in gang activities by providing an outlet that otherwise would not be available.

Do you want to get involved? Need help in planning or executing a program? Just ask around. There are plenty of hams out there who are willing to help. There is always someone who has the right answer to the right question. All you have to do is ask... And be ready to jump in with both feet.



New ARPS Maps

73, Ken, W7KKE @ KA6EYH.#nocal.ca

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