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Adam KD6POC @ 573-0277.

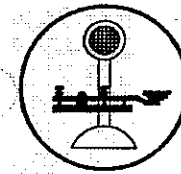
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SHORT SKIP



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
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W6LFJ

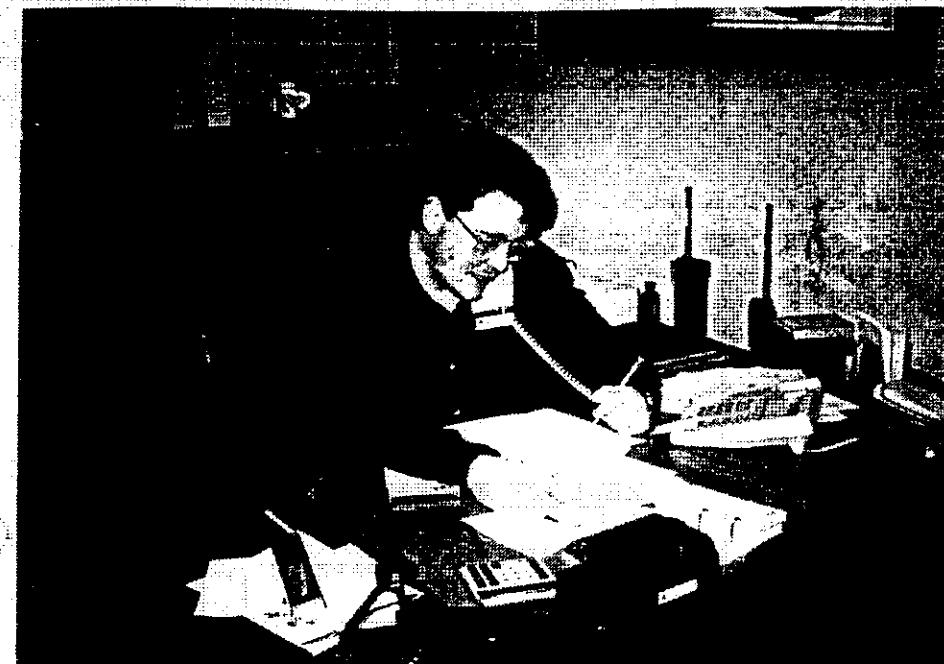
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WB6PVS

Volume 20 #5

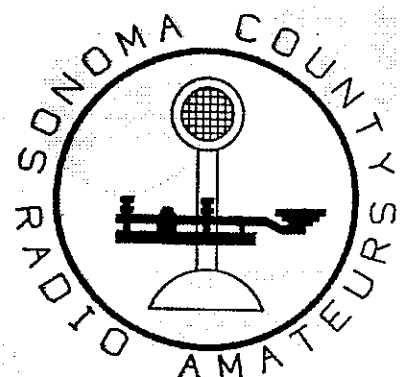
May 1995



OES "Ready Room" (early AM)
January Floods 1995
Tim Exline, County EMS (center)
Photo by Michael Von der Porten KD6ZZD



Michael Von der Porten
@ OES helping with phones
Photo by Stephen Jeppson N6RBZ



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3612 Banyan Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95403-1557	(On line soon!)		
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SWAP SHOP EDITOR:	Greg Cowles	KE6FXK	829-1583

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

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 Raffle at meetings: Dave Willey KD6KWM
 Membership lottery: James Cureton KC6GSF
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 823-7947
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 Packet BBS: John WX3K and Jim KC6PJW

Repeater Control Op's:

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 WD6CKP Hoppy 542-6750 N6VUC Merl 584-3898
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 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.

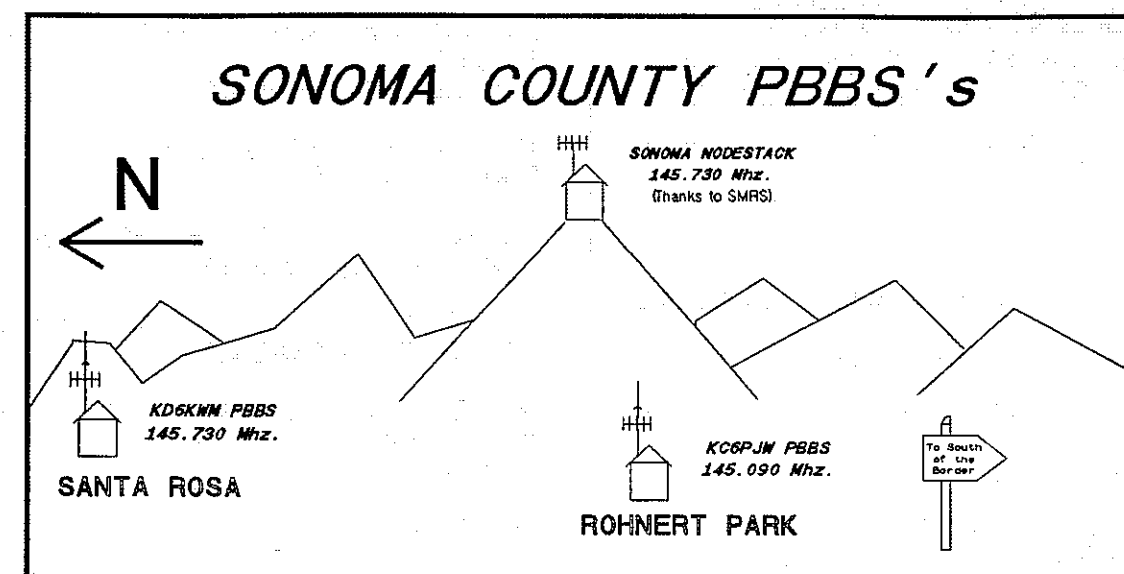
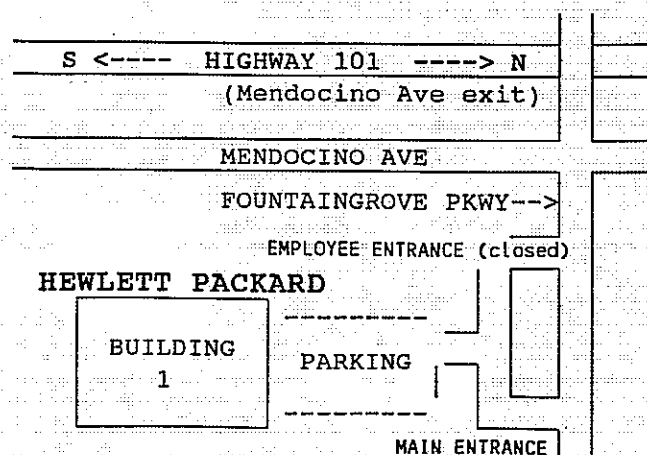
Next Meeting: May 3, 1995

Program: Speaker on CW
 Business Meeting after break

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 transmitter 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 ...



Both Jim KC6PJW and Dave KD6KWM are trying to redistribute the user base. But we need your help!

Try logging onto both the KC6PJW PBBS (145.090 Mhz) and the KD6KWM PBBS (145.730 Mhz) directly without going through SONOMA node. Whichever one has a better signal to your home QTH, please make this one your home PBBS (by using the "NH KD6KWM" or the "NH KC6PJW" command). Be sure to do this on BOTH PBBS so we can keep the forwarding of your messages straight.

Application for Membership in SCRA

Name _____ Callsign _____ License Class _____

Address _____ Phone # _____ () New
 _____ ZIP _____ Date _____ () Renewal

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

ARRL dues: \$25/year, \$20 over 65 with proof of age. (Under 17 rates require application form). Make checks payable to **SCRA**.

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 or Technician class
- () Teaching a Novice or Technician class
- () Taking an upgrade class
- () Teaching an upgrade class
- () Helping with VEC license exams
- () Other _____

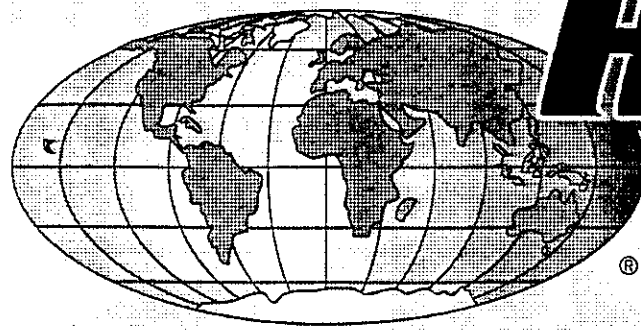
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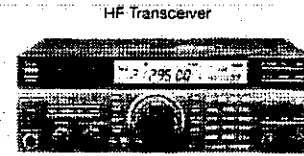
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Third Annual SCRA Campout!

by Kathy Mahan KC6UXJ

Well, we're going to do it again this year and we hope you will join us for the 3rd annual SCRA campout. Please join us on Saturday, May 6th and Sunday, May 7th for a *camping get-a-way!*

As in the past two years, we'll all rendezvous at *Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park* on Adobe Canyon Road off Highway 12 in Kenwood on Saturday afternoon (or earlier). There are always those camping enthusiasts who camp out both Friday and Saturday and please feel free to do so. *Remember* though to bring your own dinner on Friday if you plan to camp.

Saturday's **POTLUCK DINNER** is a culinary extravaganza. Everyone is invited to attend just the potluck dinner on Saturday and enjoy the fun and frivolity even if you don't plan to spend the night. Chicken for the barbecue will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a food dish for dinner that evening. We'll let you know what we need or if you have a favorite dish just let us know. (*Warning:* There may be a \$5.00 vehicle fee if you plan to just come for the meals Saturday and/or brunch

on Sunday.) *Beverages will not be provided* - Please be sure to bring your own.

SUNDAY BRUNCH is just as delicious as Saturday's potluck and again you may want to only attend the brunch. We just ask that everyone who comes to the brunch contribute either eggs, bacon, juice etc. (Again, we'll let you know).

FACILITIES provided at Sugar Loaf are flush toilets, water faucets, drinking fountains, hiking trails and picnic areas. There are no showers!

RESERVATIONS: To place your reservation call MISTIX 1-800-444-7275 and they will give you all the information you need. Their hours are 8AM - 5PM Mon - Sun. Be sure to inquire about how many vehicles to a campsite so that you can double up with friends and save a few dollars.

IMPORTANT: Please RSVP to Kathy KC6UXJ (823-4980) or Jim WB6PER (526-2972) so we know who is attending and also to plan on food for dinner on Saturday and brunch on Sunday.

THINGS TO REMEMBER: Campout May 6 & 7, mark it on your calendar. Call Mistix to make your reservations and be sure to make them early. Call Kathy or Jim so we have an idea of number attending and also plan food. Come and enjoy the great outdoors!

The following memorandum of understanding was approved by the SCRA Board of Directors at the April board meeting:

Statement of Intent

The purpose of this statement is to clarify SCRA's relationship with fund-raising efforts for the furthering of amateur packet radio in the Sonoma County area.

Since the KC6PJW BBS is the packet gateway system designated by the Northern Calif. Packet Assn. for the north coast area, and since Jim KC6PJW presently has the longest-running and most fully-functional PBBS in the area, it is logical for him to be the focal point for receiving funds. Jim will set up a separate bank account with a name such as "Packet BBS Fund" or "Sonoma County Packet Users Group" or similar to collect donations, with Jim having signature authority for the account. Expenditures from the account will be by Jim's decision, with advice from the packet community. Jim's intention is to use funds not only for past, present and future KC6PJW bulletin board expenses, but for other local packet activities as seems appropriate. Jim agrees to keep a record of all income and expenditures from the account, in case donors have questions about how the money is being spent.

SCRA believes that the packet system in general, and the KC6PJW BBS in particular, are valuable assets to the amateur community and would like to support these efforts as much as possible. In the past, SCRA has purchased callsign database software to use on the WX3K and KC6PJW BBS's, and expects to continue that support in the future. Perhaps specific equipment purchases or paying for new features such as telephone access might be further ways the club can help. These questions can be decided upon by the board and the club members at the appropriate time.

However, SCRA's major contributions will probably be publicity and fund raising. The club offers to send out a promotional mailing to county radio amateurs to publicize the BBS and solicit donations to the packet fund, if such a mailing is deemed advisable by the fund-raising committee. Packet news is good material for the club newsletter, and announcements of Users Group meetings and other packet news can be made on the Tuesday night net on the 146.73 repeater. Club meetings are good venues to promote packet radio and disseminate information about the system to SCRA members. Similarly, the packet BBS is a good place to promote the club and to post news and information about SCRA.

The above is admittedly a rather loosely-organized and informal arrangement, but that appears to agree with the desires of the BBS users as expressed at their first meeting on Feb 24.

SCRA MINUTES

April 5, 1995

Submitted by Secretary
Al Bloom N1AL

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ at 7:35 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.

VISITORS AND UPGRADES: We had 7 visitors. WA6OLW's new Extra license was helped by John WB6FRZ's code class.

The **MINUTES** were approved as printed in *Short Skip*. m/s KE6FSK/N6VUC. The **TREASURER'S REPORT**, showing \$4713 total, was approved. m/s KE6FSK/N6VUC.

CAMPOUT: Jim WB6PER mentioned the upcoming campout May 6/7 at Sugarloaf Park.

REPEATER: Jim also discussed operating practices on the repeater. Never acknowledge a jammer (unidentified transmission). If you want to enter a conversation, just give your call sign -- don't use "break."

PUBLIC SERVICE: Marie KI6QY noted that we had two runs last weekend. The Wine Country Century and Human Race are coming up in May, and possibly the Special Olympics.

EDUCATION: Before the meeting tonight, Steve KK6VY led a short informal "course" in how to be Net Control Station. John WB6FRZ's code class covers from 0 to 20 wpm. Three have passed the test so far, two at 5 wpm and one at 20 wpm. The code practice net is still Sunday nights at 6 PM. Jim WA2EWE may do a General class if there is enough interest. (Sounds like there might be -- 6 hands were raised.) Rick K6ZWB's construction class starts April 24. Bill WA6OLW will do an Extra class if there is enough interest. The Sonoma Mt. Repeater Soc. is running a Technician cram course starting May 10 at the Petaluma Community Center.

Rick says the **MEMBERSHIP SURVEY** has over 100 respondents so far.

VE EXAMS are this Saturday, under Claude AB6OL.

FIELD DAY: will be at the Two Rock Coast Guard Base again this year, June 24-25.

ACTIVITIES: Joel KJ6LF reminded everyone that we need a new Refreshment Chairman to give Bob WD6DPE a breather. KE6FSK volunteered for Net Control Station for June. Congratulations to AB6OL, the new *Short Skip* Editor.

Kelly KD6CJQ wants to be Activities Chairman next year.

ARRL NEWS: John Wallack W6TLK announced that he will not be running for re-election as Section Manager. Nominations are now open.

PACKET BBS: Dave KD6KWM provided instruction sheets on how to determine which PBBS to access.

QRV will indeed be in the newsletter again next month after the old Editor forgot it last month.

HOMEBREW CONTEST: There were lots of antenna entries this year. Nick W6OLO entered a sensitive temperature sensor. Steve KK6VY had a 15-element 440 MHz beam designed with the YAGI program. Ed AB6OL built an Oak Hills 40 meter transceiver and a tuner and antenna to match. Mike KD6ZZD brought a 2 meter power amplifier. John WB6FRZ modified his Ten Tec Scout transceiver for more convenient operating. Charley WA6BPA built both a quad and j-pole Yagi antenna for 2 meters -- he liked the quad better. Donn KD6ZVG also built a 4-element quad and a 35 watt 2 meter amplifier to go with it. Adam KD6POC had several projects: an electronic transmit/receive switch from the 1970 Handbook, a modified 30 meter Ramsey transmitter/receiver kit, and a monitor oscillator/keyer from Oct 1955 *QST*. Dave KD6KWM built a j-pole antenna from copper water pipe and the fixture for soldering the pipes. There was also the finished version of the breadboard WWV receiver/timekeeper shown by a representative of TrueTime Co. last year (non-entry).

And the winners: Steve KK6VY in the antenna category and John WB6FRZ in the non-antenna category.

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

The **MEMBERSHIP LOTTERY**, ably supervised by James KD6GSF, would have been won by N6IRJ had she been here.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM. m/s AA6YX/N1AL

Respectfully submitted by Al Bloom N1AL.

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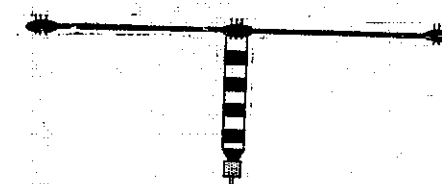
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Give us a break, PLEASE!

by Jim McLaughlin, WA2EWE

Just the other day, as my co-worker got in my truck to begin our morning ride-share commute, we heard the following exchange on the 2 meter radio.

"BREAK."

"WHO'S THAT BREAKER...GO AHEAD BREAKER!"

"YEA, THANKS FOR THE BREAK FELLAS, THIS IS K*6*** BREAKING, I JUST WANTED TO SAY HELLO..."

At that moment, my rider exclaimed with obvious lament, "Hey there Jim, I see you've got your CB set on." So, I offered an excuse suggesting that it must have been one of those repeaters where they sometimes sound like CB'ers. When I reached to turn off the source of my embarrassment, I saw with disbelief that we had been listening to the SCRA repeater on 146.730. This was an innocent conversation that sounded like CB radio without the "F" word. Since it seems this sloppy radio operating is on the rise, now is a good time to remind ourselves of a definition or two.

In radio, there is a variety of jargon, radio phraseology, repeater-speak, and radiotelephone procedure. Each radio service has its vocabulary of correct, understood, and expected terms and phrases. Make the correct choice of words and you will fit right in. Use the wrong choice and you will stand out like a sore thumb, or worse. The wrong choice of words can sometimes cause confusion. We must learn how to get along in each distinct radio service, and there is no universal glossary to help.

There are many examples of words and phrases which are used in one radio service which are not used or are used quite differently in another service. In CB radio, saying "BREAK" has been accepted as the way to interrupt a conversation. The word BREAK is also used in military radio and in the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). It is used to indicate a pause in a long transmission to allow time for a message to be copied by hand, or to allow for higher priority traffic to interrupt. The intent for the word BREAK here is to signal a pause in transmission without inviting another transmission to transmit. It does not signal an emergency, but allows emergency traffic to be passed if it is absolutely necessary. But in Amateur Radio, BREAK signals an emergency. Given that, let's now focus on Amateur Radio, interrupting a conversation, and the word BREAK.

Let's start with the book entitled NOW YOU'RE TALKING. It is widely used as a text for new ham classes and for exam preparation. Chapter 9 tells us, "To join a conversation in progress, transmit your call sign during a break between transmissions... Don't use the word 'BREAK' to join a conversation-unless you want to use the repeater to help in an emergency. To make a distress call over a repeater, say 'BREAK BREAK' and then your call sign..."(p9-13, 9-14 Second Edition, 1994)

From the TECHNICIAN question pool we find the following:

T2C03 What is the proper way to interrupt a repeater conversation to signal a distress call?

- A. Say "BREAK" twice, then your call sign.
- B. Say "HELP" as many times as it takes to get someone to answer.
- C. Say "SOS", then your call sign.
- D. Say "EMERGENCY" three times.

Do you know the answer? Surely you selected A.

In the ARRL Operation Manual, as well as the ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs we find the following definition:

BREAK: the word used to interrupt a conversation on a repeater only to indicate that there is an emergency.

The definitions and ways of operating being discussed here are considered part of good operating practice. Subpart B, 97.101 states that each amateur station must be operated in accordance with "...good radio practice." So, this means that we must use the word BREAK correctly in order to be in compliance with this rule. Keep in mind that to use the word incorrectly could result in a misunderstanding resulting in a false message or a deceptive signal. We wouldn't want to signal a false alarm because false signals are against Subpart B, 97.113.

Another aspect of good amateur practice is to speak naturally. That shouldn't be hard and it leaves no room for doubt. It also means that you will not sound like a police dispatcher or a CB'er. A good example of how to do this is on the SCRA net. Net control directs that the words EMERGENCY TRAFFIC be used to signal an emergency. Even if you only get one syllable across before someone hits the PTT to continue the rag chew, there is an excellent chance you will be understood. Since the words EMERGENCY TRAFFIC are plain English, they are part of good amateur radio practice and nobody will mistake you for a CB'er on the wrong radio just trying to say hello to your good buddy.

Like the boy who cried wolf; sloppy use of the word BREAK might leave someone misunderstood when help is desperately needed. So, when we hear the word BREAK interrupting, we must yield to the emergency traffic or correct our fellow hams in need of a little friendly reminder. When we want to join in a conversation where we belong, we can interrupt by simply stating our call sign during the pause.

After all this, it is clear that what my friend and I heard on the SCRA repeater was really an accidental false transmission of an emergency where there was no emergency at all. It was sloppy use of the word BREAK. It was sheer ignorance or carelessness on the part of those using the word BREAK incorrectly, reflecting poor amateur radio operating practice. Some hams may have a tendency to take some of their old habits from one radio service and bring them to Amateur Radio, and we know it is a serious mistake to do this on ham radio with the word BREAK. It could be a sign of a CB'er with a ham ticket. So please, let's all make an effort to polish our operating skill and help our fellow hams improve as well. We do not want to sound like CB'ers, police dispatchers, or air traffic controllers. Speak naturally. We want to sound like radio amateurs.

Board Meeting Minutes

March 12, 1995

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ at 5:45 PM (after a membership packet folding session starting at 5:30) 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, and Members-at-Large Marie Mappus K16QY and Jim Andrews KC6PJW. Also present were five other SCRA members.

AA6YX notes the program for the May meeting will be a history of Morse code by ARRL Vice Dir. Jim Maxwell W6CF.

KC6OCD has reconciled the old accounts on the computer.

PACKET FUNDRAISING: N1AL asked that the Board approve the Statement of Intent letter clarifying SCRA's relationship with the county-wide packet system. WB6PER moved, KJ6LF seconded that the letter not be accepted as it is too nebulous. WB6PER also moved to provide \$250 for a packet promotional mailing, but then withdrew the motion since that was already done last month. The motion was voted on and failed. Then N1AL moved, KC6OCD seconded, that the letter be accepted. The motion passed with two opposed. WB6PER later commented, and KJ6LF agreed, that they will support the board decision 100%.

Jim KC6PJW notes that KD6KWM's second packet BBS is up and running. KD6ZKA is a remote sysop for both systems.

N1AL asked to buy a callsign database on CD-ROM for the upcoming Flea Market mailing. KC6PJW has one he can loan. Al is working on a machine to send on-the-air Morse code by remote control.

PUBLIC SERVICE: K16QY went over upcoming events. Marie has called Mike Abad at the USCG base about Field Day.

ANTENNA COMMITTEE Chairman Joe Senft KM6TN briefly reviewed the current status of the Santa Rosa ordinance. SR City Attorney Leavitt re-wrote our proposal with different words, but basically the same content. Joe has submitted it to ARRL Volunteer Counsel Ken McTaggart N6KM for review. So far, things look very good.

WB6PER suggested that the Activities Chairman speak first at meetings, so he can introduce the other activities before they have a chance to "steal his thunder."

KD6CJQ covered several Field Day details.

HOME BREW CONTEST: Rick K6ZWB is making up certificates. Contest Chairman Brian N6IY would like to make some runner-up certificates, since there were a couple of entries that just barely lost out to the winners.

The meeting adjourned abruptly at 7:00 to make room for another group who reserved the room.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Al Bloom N1AL.

QSL TO (FORMER) USSR

This might be worth passing along to your readers...

Jack Fleming, WA0RJY ex-CN2JF ex-CT1/WA0RJY
oolon@eskimo.com
Seattle, WA http://www.eskimo.com/~oolon/ DON'T PANIC!

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Wed, 5 Apr 95 13:15:33 EDT
From: Jim Reisert AD1C 05-Apr-1995 1313
<reisert@wrksys.ENABLE.dec.com>
To: qslroutes@wrksys.ENABLE.dec.com,
dx@wrksys.ENABLE.dec.com
Subject: FWD: QSL-bureau of New Independent States, ex-USSR

From: Oleg.A.Chernozyomov
<victoria@rada1.saratov.su>
Newsgroups: rec.radio.amateur.misc
Subject: QSL-bureau of New Independent States, ex-USSR
Date: Tue, 04 Apr 95 09:07:09 +0400
Organization: Radio-Autograph
Lines: 27

Hello, All,

I hope, this list would be useful for better QSL-ing with ex-USSR territories.

EK - Box 22, Yerevan 375000 Armenia
ER - Box 6637, Kishinev-50, 277050 Moldavia
EU - Box 469, c/o EU1AO, Minsk-50, 220050 Byelorussia
EX - Box 1100 A.R.U.K. Bishkek, 720020 Kirghizia
EY - Box 303 (T.A.R.L.) Glavpochtamt, Dushanbe 734025 Tajikistan
EZ - Box 555 (T.R.A.L.) Ashgabat 744020, Turkmenia
UK - Box 0, Tashkent, 700000, Uzbekistan
UN - Box 112, c/o UN9PC, Karaganda 470055 Kazakhstan
UR - Box 56, U.A.R.L. Kiev-1 252001 Ukraine
4K - Box 165 ROSTK DVPSTO, 4K7DWA, Baku 370000 Azerbaidjan
4L - Box 1, Tbilisi 380002 Georgia
UA - Box 59 U.R.R., c/o RZ3AZO Moscow 105122 Russia
Box 88 C.R.C.R.F Moscow, Russia

Special thanks to Valery Kharchenko, RA6YR for the information

73, Oleg Chernozyomov
UA4CIF

Box 4, Saratov 410601 Russia
victoria@rada.saratov.su

QRVby James Durkin KE6FSK

Every now and then, one comes across bits of information that seem to defy the common view of things. Some of these are rumors. Some of these are just misinterpreted facts. Others are out and out blatant misrepresentations. But, whatever the reason, they fascinate us. They stimulate the imagination. Sometimes, they even impart a certain moral message (usually in the guise of a parable).

One of the most famous of these involves a woman (usually elderly) who puts her beloved pet (usually a cat, or a french poodle) into the microwave to dry it after a bath. The results are quite predictable. We laugh... Or, we display our disgust (and proceed to tell it to the next person). But the moral is clear to our subconscious, if not to our conscious, minds. We learn to be careful, or at least read the owner's manual.

A common story I have heard off and on since childhood involves some lone driver, usually a female, who picks up a hitch hiker in the middle of nowhere on a "dark and stormy" night. During the trip, the woman becomes nervous, almost to the point of total paranoia. Suddenly, as she turns toward the man, he quite simply disappears. Later she finds that the very same man has been picked up at the same spot and disappears at the same place at the same time of the same day this supposedly occurs. Just another Ghost Story? Or perhaps a reminder to be wary of picking up strangers? Either way, it fuels our imaginations.

I personally heard of a fellow HAM who was working on his experimental microwave radio when he unexpectedly walked in front of his satellite dish while it was transmitting. Aside from frying his new haircut, the story should have ended there. But, OH NO! It seems this fellow HAM was able to clearly hear voices during that incident. He was subsequently visited by agents from the C.I.A. who forced him to shut down his station. All this would be fine, if I had a name or a call sign. But, alas, the information was given second (third or fourth, maybe?) hand. But, I can vouch for the HAM that relayed the information. At least, I think I can.

Since I am suppose to report the truth , I am going to give you information that I checked out personally. I will leave it to you to decide whether I am telling the truth. I would recommend that you check it out at your local library, though. You may be surprised.

Samuel Morse did not invent Morse Code... Oops! Did I step on some toes? Well, sorry about that, but the system of using dits and dahs was common not only among the Native American Indian at the time, but was well known among African tribes as a means of communicating. Hundreds of years before, seafarers used dits and dahs using a flash lantern to communicate from one vessel to another. However, up until Mr. Morse, a universally standard code was not available. Indeed, Morse Code did not become International until well after his death.

The FAX (facsimile) machine is quite a useful tool today, and from the sales records, is growing even more popular. It's design uses a diode laser in conjunction with an infrared scanner that digitally encodes each pixel so that it can be transmitted along standard telephone

lines. The technology involved is truly one of today's marvels... Of course, it's been around since the Civil War. Hogwash, you say?

The first facsimile machines were developed and use during the Civil War to exchange images (maps, reference points, even faces of persons targeted by the Union). The machine was quite simple. It involved having whatever was to be sent have a screen placed over it. Then the operator would use a three (dit or dah) point code to let the operator on the other end with the same type of screen know what to fill in or leave blank. With the three digit code, even four shades of grey could be sent and received. This transmission was done over standard telegraph lines and could take hours. But, it was an effective means of transmitting images precisely and with continuity over great distances. It could be said it was the first SSTV with the emphasis on SLOW!

Edison beat out AT&T by a good half a century by inventing the first solar powered radiotelephone. Okay, so it wasn't exactly radio, but the only thing that connected the transmitter with the receiver was air. Did I say solar powered? Well, it did use the Sun. It also used a battery or two. Am I confusing you?

Okay, so it wasn't solar powered in the sense we use today. It did, however, use a mirror on a diaphragm that resonated light when sound was applied. It simply converted sound waves to light waves. His receiver used a light sensor to sense the variations in the light, and convert those variations back into sound waves. In many schools, the Edison Light Phone is still used in science projects. With the advent of IR LEDs and DETECTORS, these projects have become more compact, reliable, and inexpensive. Their range, however is quite limited, and their reliability is dependent on how accurate and steady the device is. Edison, being a practical man, never tried to market the device, even as a toy. The price of such a unit at the time would have prevented all but the wealthy from indulging in it. It still is interesting to note, though, that the transmitter was nothing more than a tin can with a surgical rubber diaphragm with a mirror glued to it. Just take away the diaphragm and add string, now what do you have?

It has been said that, except for isolated cases, every new science is built upon a previous science. I hope the examples I've given show just that. And in that spirit, I would like to point out that HAMs are in a very unique position to make new discoveries. One of the most fun a HAM can have is playing around with some simple device and either improving on it, or finding a new use for it. This is the essence of inventing, and inventing is its own reward (not to mention, you may just end up becoming rich).

Notable exceptions such as Galileo, Tesla, and Von Braun still developed their sciences using known physical phenomena. Even Prof. Steven Hawking applies repeatable experiments to demonstrate quantum physics with its myriad mysteries. But, it doesn't take an exception, or even a genius, to make something new. All it takes is a willingness to look at old things in a new way. That may mean you will have to learn how to be a child all over again. But, that's not such a bad deal. Is it?

SHORT SKIPSONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.MAY 1995

W2SEX?

Here's a little tid-bit you can run in your May-June newsletters. NOTE: This is NOT an April fool's joke - this is for real. (get out your callbook and look W2SEX up - it's a real call...) -John KF2XC

SPECIAL EVENT STATION W2SEX will be on the air to commemorate the Field Day Wedding of Ruthie, AA2IO and John, N2NEP. The W2SEX Callsign will be used from 8:00 PM LOCAL time on Friday, June 23 until 9:00 AM LOCAL time on Saturday morning June 24. We will be operating from Hickory Lake, NY (NW of Watertown) on all General Subband Frequencies, both CW & SSB. We will also be using the Watertown Repeater on 147.255 + offset for any Tech's that can bring up that repeater. Ruthie & John will be tying the knot around noon on Saturday, officiating the ceremonies will be Tracie, KB2RNG. QSL INFO: For a certificate, send a 9 x 12 SASE & ur QSL to K2DB, 86 Close Hollow Drive, Hamlin, NY 14464

73 & hope to work you in the pile-ups

SCRAPS:SCRA PUBLIC SERVICE

By Marie Mappus KI6QY

The season for Public Service Events has begun. On April 1, we participated in the **Windsor Road Race**. It was a beautiful day and there were about two hundred and fifty or more people riding in the race. It was a nine mile loop and the men's Pro Class had to ride a hundred miles. The women's Pro class had to ride forty-five miles. It was amazing that with all these riders there were no serious accidents. So for the Amateur Radio Operators it was a very quiet day. My thanks to Bill KH6GJV, Phil N6OOA, Bill WA6OLW, Chuck N6DDK, Tim KD6TXH, Wilbur N6MGY and Rudy N6KLU.

Sunday April 2 was another day for the amateurs to assist with a Public Service Event. This time it was the **Super Cities Walk**, which was held in downtown Santa Rosa. This was another uneventful day with no major incidents occurring. Many thanks to Kelly for being Net Control, June KD6LSU, Ted KB6PTA, Gary KD6FOB, Lee KE6EAQ, Nadine KC6WUI, George KD6WIR, Hoppy WD6CKP and Paul WD6FBN.

The upcoming events for May are **Wine Country Century** on May 6, **Human Race** on May 13, and the **Special Olympics** for which no specific date is available at this time. Hope that many of you will participate in these events.

'73 - Marie

Other Public Service Events:

- June11 - Mini-Vineman17 - Terrible Two
- July23 - Harvest Century Bike Tour30 - Vineman

THANKS AL!

by Fred Plante W6LOU

Just a short note from one of the older club members, myself for over 50 years when SCRA had only 27 members (when I was president) back in the 40's.

Congratulations to Alan Bloom N1AL for the most wonderful job done as secretary and editor of Short Skip. A big thank you to Al for all the work & time spent for this club.

Q Signalsby Al Bloom N1AL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
I	N	T	E	R	M	O	D	U	L	A	T	I
14	O	E		C	O	A	X	I	A	L		N
	17	Q	C	W	A		P		19	C	A	S
	21	S	H	E		C	L	E	A	R		F
	27	L	N	B		F	A	D	E	S		29
31				32		33			34		35	
O	B	O		H		D	I	F	P		A	T
36	C	A	L	L	U	P		T		39	S	T
	41	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	C	A	T	I
44	E	K	G				45	B	O	A		46
		48									R	47
C		Y	A	G	I	A	N	D	U	D	A	S

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