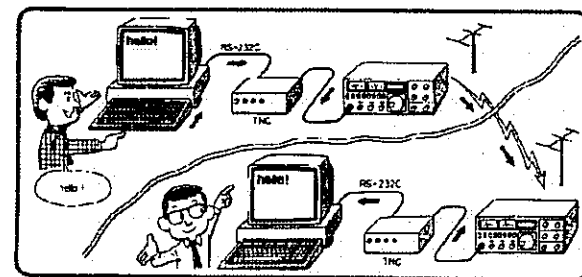




JIM, KC6PJW & NANCY, KD6KVJ are proud to announce the birth of their first harmonic:

Hannah Christine Andrews:
born 6/19/95 @ 9:38 AM
7 lbs 8 ounces
19 inches

Studying for ham ticket to start shortly!



PACKET CHANGES

KD6KWM 145.09
KC6PJW 145.07

Sonoma, Reyes & Arena nodes remain on 145.73.

Modem access on KD6KWM PBBS
577-0502, 1200 baud - 8,N,1. Please leave a note to SYSOP giving voice phone # so I can call you for a password.

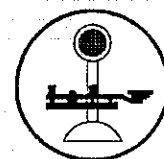
DATED MATERIAL:
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

JOHN BRACKENRIDGE
WB6FRZ
574 WILD OAK DR
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Club Station
W6LFJ

SHORT SKIP



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
PO Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Repeater Station
WB6PVS

Volume 20 #7

July 1995

Ham helps with rescue

ALAMEDA - A foundering sailboat and its seasick crew hitched a ride to shore with the Coast Guard on Friday, after a ham radio operator across the continent picked up the vessel's faint mayday.

Despite the weak signal, Doug Burrows in Edmonton, Alberta said there was no mistaking the urgency of the call he heard Thursday morning.

It came from the 42-foot Grenadier, drifting helplessly 120 miles off the California coast after 24-foot waves smashed a bulkhead and took out the rudder.

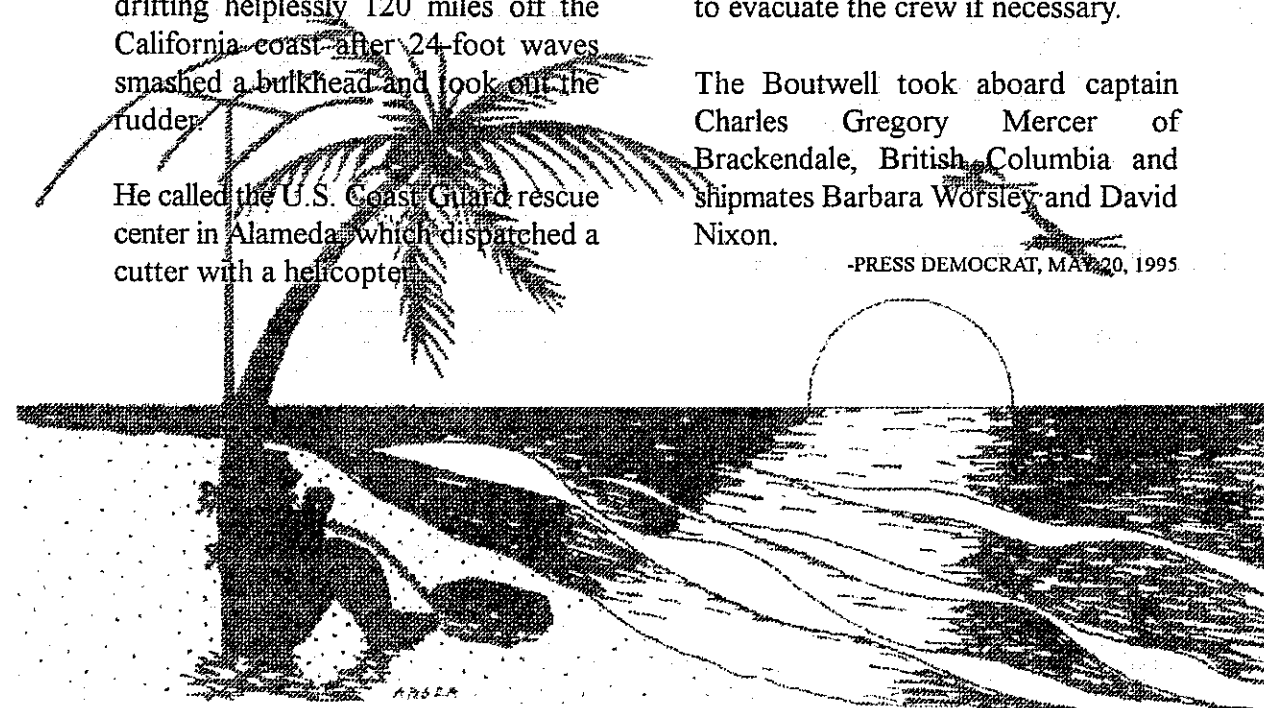
He called the U.S. Coast Guard rescue center in Alameda, which dispatched a cutter with a helicopter.

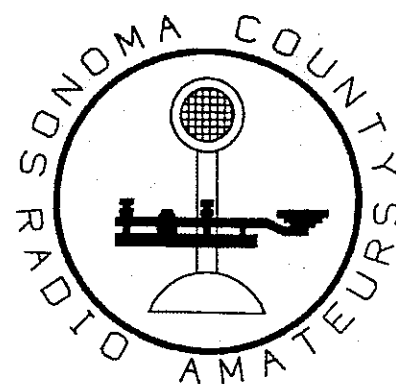
Burrows made another call to the Edmonton Space and Science Centre, where a 120-foot antenna helped ham operators Ben Poitras and John Marles pinpoint the grenadier's signal and establish contact.

Poitras relayed messages between the boat and the Coast Guard throughout the day. The Coast Guard cutter Boutwell arrived on the scene Thursday evening, and relieved another ship that had been standing by to evacuate the crew if necessary.

The Boutwell took aboard captain Charles Gregory Mercer of Brackendale, British Columbia and shipmates Barbara Worsley and David Nixon.

-PRESS DEMOCRAT, MAY 20, 1995





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AD DEADLINE: 10th of previous month

Club Meetings:

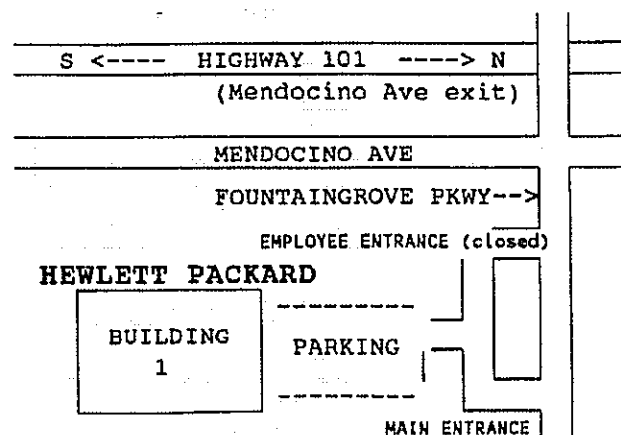
7:30 pm, 1st Wednesday each month at the Hewlett-Packard plant in Santa Rosa. (See map below)
All are welcome.

Next Meeting: July 5, 1995

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 ...



New Members & Corrections

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| HOLLIS A HENDERSON | 4950 BURNSIDE RD | SEBASTOPOL, CA 95472 | 824-9310 |
| MIKE WEIHMAN N1DJE | 6073 HYLAND WAY | PENNGROVE, CA 94951 | 795-1756 |
| MATT HOLMES W2JEG | 84 SEQUOIA CIR | SANTA ROSA, CA 95401 | 528-9288 |
| JOHN C MULLAN KD2LQ | 330 MANKA CIRCLE | SANTA ROSA, CA 95403 | 575-9176 |
| MICHAEL FERRARA WA2ZPQ | 5410 GATES RD | SANTA ROSA, CA 95404 | 577-4479 |
| JAMES CURETON KD6GSF | 8551 CURRY CT | WINDSOR, CA 95492 | 837-9434 |
| JIM PORTEOUS N6HZL | 1819 BRENTWOOD RD | OAKLAND, CA 94602 | 510-531-6396 |
| DAVE DUCHESNEAU KD6LSA | 125 FRANCIS CIRCLE | ROHNERT PARK, CA 94928 | 585-1704 |
| MICHAEL GENTLE KE6QHH | POB 566 | MONTE RIO, CA 95462 | 865-1373 |
| DOUGLAS CARTER KC6RHA | 1139 GUAYMAS ST | SANTA ROSA, CA 95401 | 528-9116 |
| DEL BEAUPRE WW6S | 504 OAK VISTA CT | SANTA ROSA, CA 95409 | 538-0958 |
| DAN LEAKE KE6SQP | 1232 HURLBUT AVE | SEBASTOPOL, CA 95472 | 823-7025 |
| PEGGY GENTLE KE6TIS | POB 566 | MONTE RIO, CA 95462 | 865-1373 |
| ROBERT BRATBERG KE6TIV | 1507 AMANDA PL | SANTA ROSA, CA 95403 | 571-8063 |
| JOSHUA MELCON KE6TIW | 2960 MIDDLE TWO ROCK RD | PETALUMA, CA 94952 | 778-1359 |
| JAMES C ROBINSON KE6UAR | 16820 LAURI LANE | OCCIDENTAL, CA 95465 | 874-3958 |
| CAROLE GRAY-WEIHMAN KE6UMK | 6073 HYLAND WAY | PENNGROVE, CA 94951 | 795-1756 |
| CHERYL FERRARA KE6UML | 5410 GATES RD | SANTA ROSA, CA 95404 | 537-0709 |
| JERRY RICKSECKER AB6VN | 509 KELLER ST | PETALUMA, CA 94952 | 763-2069 |
| SAL CARUSO KC6WTO | 3989 SHADOWHILL DR | SANTA ROSA, CA 95404 | 539-4661 |
| ROBERT CRISS WA6WXX | 4425 HOEN AVE | SANTA ROSA, CA 95405 | |
| CRAIG COMBES KC6YKD | 1029 MACKEY CT | SEBASTOPOL, CA 95472 | |
| BEVERLY RICKSECKER KD6ZUL | 509 KELLER ST | PETALUMA, CA 94952 | 763-2069 |

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 _____

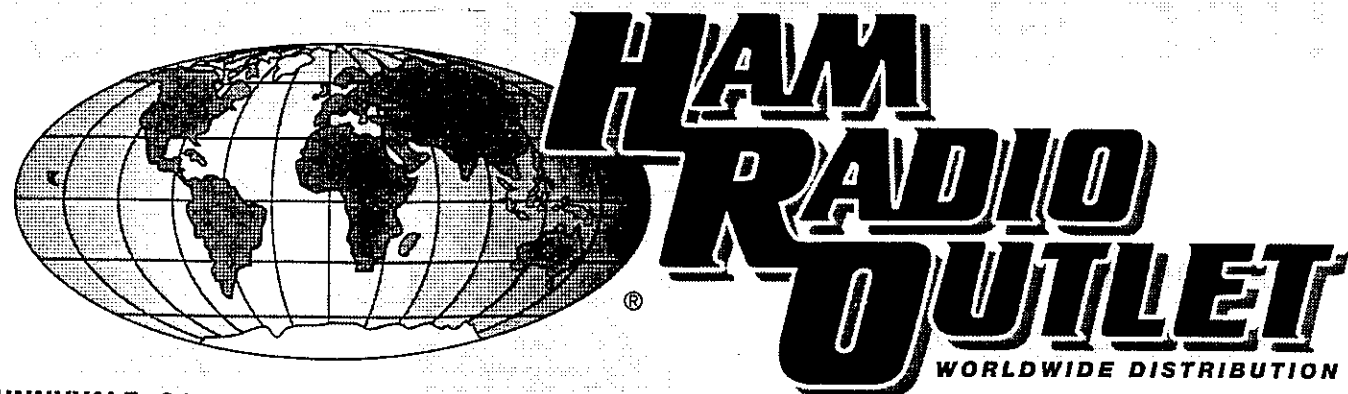
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Fill in this section exactly as you want it to appear on your badge.

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First Name _____

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Gary, WB7SLY, Mgr.
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Doraville, 1 mi.
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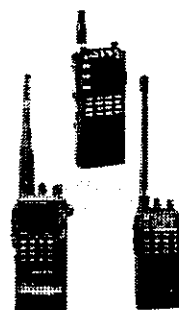


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SHORT SKIP

SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

JULY 1995

SCRAPS

SCRA PUBLIC SERVICE

By Marie Mappus KI6QY



Another beautiful day for the hams working on a public service event. This time it was the Mini Vineman. We were at the Airport Business Complex bright and early on Sunday, June 11. The event began with the swim portion of the Vineman. Five hundred and twenty swimmers braved the cold water of the Russian River. The first swimmer was out of the water in about twenty minutes. A quick change from the wet suit and into clothes for the bike and run portions. The first entrants reached the finish line in about two hours. The last one returned about twelve fifteen.

The event went smoothly without mishap. Many thanks to Lee, KE6EAQ, George, KD6WIR, Steve, N6WMW, Doug, KC6RHA, Jim, W2EWE, Adam, KD6POC, Jim, KE6UAR, John, KE6RMC, Ross, AC6ET, Hoppy, WD6CKP, and Richard, KE6SKT.

After the unexpected rain we had the early part of the week, Saturday, June 17 was overcast and cool, a good day for the Terrible Two. The riders left Santa Rosa at 05:30 and headed for Calistoga. They then went to the Geysers, an elevation of 1600 ft. From there, the riders headed for Warm Springs Dam and lunch. The afternoon took the riders out Skaggs Spring Road to Stewart's Point and down Highway one to Fort Ross. Then to Monte Rio and back to Santa Rosa. It was a grueling 200 plus mile ride and only the best are able to complete the route. The first rider returned at 14:50.

This was the twentieth anniversary for the Terrible Two. For many years, the event was handled by the Santa Rosa Club using members driving the route and telephoning information back to the base. SCRA began supplying communications in about 1987 and have been doing so every year since then. The popularity of the event has become wide spread and every year the number of participants has increased. When SCRA first began supplying communications, there were approximately 29 riders who participated. This year, the number has increased to 143 riders and 139 bikes. There were four tandem bikes in the event this year.

My thanks to Rudy, N6KLU, Doug, KC6RHA, Nadine, KC6WUI, Peter, N6JBV, Gary, KC6BOF, Angela, KC6OCD, Rick, KC6UXI, Steve, KC6NEO, George, KD6WIR, Wilber, N6MGY, Dave, KD6KWM, and Frank, N6LAJ. Your help is always appreciated.

The July events are the Harvest Century and the Vineman. There has been an enthusiastic response to my requests for people to participate in these events. THAT'S GREAT! THANK YOU.

Again, if you have signed up to help with one of the above events and find you are unable to participate, please call me at 707-664-1978 as soon as possible and let me know. There are times when I have more volunteers than there are openings and I want to use all of the people I can.

REMINDER: the SCRAPS picnic for the volunteers is August 12, at Finley Park. You will receive a notice in the mail closer to the time of the picnic. We look forward to seeing you there.

Coming Events

JULY:

- 5 - SCRA meeting 7/7:30 PM
- 8 - SCRA VE FCC Exams, HP Santa Rosa
- 8-9 - IARU HF World Championship
- 8-9 - CQ Worldwide VHF Prefix Contest
- 15 - Deadline for August Short Skip
- 22 - Harvest Century Bike Tour
- 30 - Vineman Triathlon

AUGUST:

- 2 - SCRA meeting 7/7:30 PM
- 5-6 - ARRL UHF Contest
- 12 - SCRAPS picnic
- 12 - VOMARC VE FCC Exams, Glen Ellen
- 19 - Deadline for September Short Skip

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SCRA MINUTES

June 7, 1995

Submitted by Secretary
Al Bloom N1AL

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ. Other officers present were Vice President Dave New AA6YX, Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Treasurer Angela Dickey KC6OCD, Repeater Chairman Jim Rutherford WB6PER, and Members-at-Large Marie Mappus KI6QY and Jim Andrews KC6PJW.

VISITORS AND UPGRADES: We had 9 visitors. Upgrades included KD6LNQ and KE6IIB to General, N6IYY to Advanced, and KK6VY to Extra. Jim KD6GCD is now KE6UAR.

The **MINUTES** were approved as printed in Short Skip. m/s N6VUC/N6PTM The **TREASURER'S REPORT**, showing \$5397 total, was approved. m/s K6ZWB/N6KLU.

REPEATER: KD6CJQ noted that your P/L (subaudible tone encoder) will occasionally be necessary to access the 146.73 repeater, due to noise or interference.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Marie KI6QY thanked the volunteers who helped with the Special Olympics and the Human Race. Coming up in June are the Terrible Two bike ride and the Mini Vineman triathlon. In July, we have the Healdsburg Harvest Century on the 22nd and the Vineman on the 29th.

EDUCATION: Steve KK6VY pointed out that summer is generally a "coasting period" as far as classes are concerned. John WB6FRZ is tutoring a prospective ham. The SMRS is running a 1-day class on June 17 with the test the 18th.

A new **REFRESHMENT CHAIRMAN** has volunteered: Jim Hudson KD6WIS will be serving the coffee and donuts now that Bob WD6DPE has finally "retired."

ARRL: ARRL Assistant Director Jim N6PTM announced that Art Samuelson W6VV has agreed to serve out John Wallack W6TLK's term as San Francisco Section Manager. There is a cabinet meeting, called by SF Division Director Brad Wyatt K6WR this Saturday.

ANTENNA COMMITTEE: ARRL Volunteer Counsel Lee Dibble KE6EAQ has been attending County Planning Commission meetings concerning new antenna ordinances. Lee has written a model ordinance, and is looking to members for input and comments.

KK6VY noted that Lee and others modeled the new RACES T-shirts while providing communications at the recent Rose Parade. We had 10 or 12 people sign up for classes.

PACKET BBS: The packet bulletin boards in the county are changing frequencies as of July 1: KD6KWM will go to 145.09 and KC6PJW to 145.07. SONOMA node will stay on 145.73.

FIELD DAY was the topic for the rest of the meeting. The main SCRA group will be signing W6LFJ from the picnic site at the Two Rock US Coast Guard Training Center. The turkey dinner Saturday night will be catered by Willy Bird's and is for the whole family: \$7 for adults \$3.50 children. A Sunday breakfast will be provided for FD participants. A second "fanatical" group will operate N1AL from a different site. Saturday dinner will likely be peanut butter sandwiches...

The main group will be 4A, meaning 4 transmitters plus novice, packet, VHF and satellite. We'll have a bucket truck for installing antennas. The two CW stations will be headed up by KH6GJV and KM6XO, with the two phone stations ramrodded by K6ZWB and N6PTM. WA2EWE, KD6POC, and KB6PTA will shepherd the novice station, and KC6PJW will take care of satellite, packet and other bonus points. SCRA#2, signing N1AL will operate 2A with 2 CW stations and a VHF.

RAFFLE prizes were picked up by Rick K6ZWB with ticket sales by Jim KE6FSK.

KD6KWM won the **MEMBERSHIP LOTTERY**, collecting a big pile of quarters from KD6GSF.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 PM. m/s N1AL/AA6YX

Respectfully submitted by Al Bloom N1AL.

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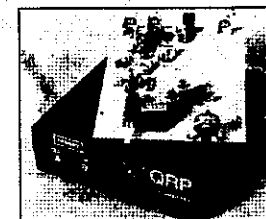
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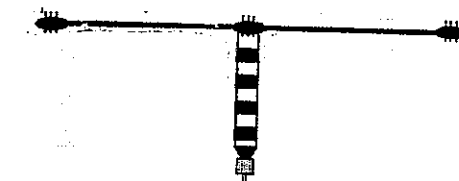
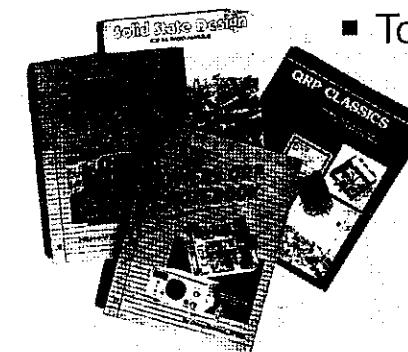
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1938 Logbook

(Continued from Page 7)

Tracy works principally at the Bolinas transmitting site but goes to Point Reyes as needed. The equipment at Bolinas consists of 23 Henry 5 kW transmitters working into various big arrays. Operators at KPH may also receive and key the transmitters by land line at their sister station WCC on Cape Cod, MA! Essentially they can work the world from the KPH location using frequencies on 4, 8, 12, 16, 22 MHz.

The receiving station monitors 500 kHz for emergency traffic and also uses this frequency for traffic. When contact is made, KPH will QSY with the caller to 426 kHz, or the other listed frequencies, to handle traffic. A few years ago the Coast Guard discontinued monitoring this SOS frequency because ships were supposed to get modern and install automatic satellite equipment, etc., etc. However, it is a fair guess that there still may be 5000 ships out there which don't have all that neat new equipment and still rely on the manly and womanly art of CW to conduct their business, including sending SOS if they have to! By 1999, it is decreed worldwide, that all ships must carry satellite as well as HF capability communications equipment, which will probably be SITOP. The good old CW key will be optional. How many ships do you think will carry that CW key?

You might think that after working CW all day, with a smattering of RTTY operation, that Tracy would opt for a little SSB phone. Ho ho ho, not at all. At home he stays on CW with an SX-42 receiver and a Globe Chief transmitter driving a pair of 811s at 200 watts feeding a 135-foot center-fed Zepp. Look closely at the photo here. You can recognize that Globe Chief exciter as one of Leo Meyerson's, W0GFQ, World Radio Laboratory's rigs from the 1950s! Tracy says it is the best exciter he's ever had. He is also a true believer in crystal control and has about 100 crystals on hand. In the evening you can catch him chatting on the air, using Leo's transmitter on the Novice bands which he likes, mostly on 3.712, with some activity on 7.137 MHz.

You'll also find Tracy active in the annual Marconi Day celebration every April 22. Look for him on the frequencies mentioned above; amateur frequencies, that is! Tracy's friend and fellow operator at KPH, Bill Melony, W6HTG, passed away in 1993 and Tracy inherited all his old logs. That's where Tracy first saw those red-covered ARRL logs and decided to resurrect them. You know the rest of the story, and we hope you all will want to add this bit of nostalgia to your home station. Remember, you can get one from QCWA HQ while they last-six bucks. Thank you, Tracy.

73 + 25, Jack, W6ISQ WR

(Reprinted from WORLD RADIO, May 1995)

CODE CLASS STATISTICS

by John Breckenridge WB6FRZ

| Beg Spd | End Spd | Spd Incr | Spd Goal | Pctc Mins Daily | Pctc Hrs Total | Pctc Hrs for 1 WPM Spd Gain |
|---------|---------|----------|----------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 0 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 42 | 54 | 5.4 (*1) |
| 0 | 8 | 8 | ? | 57 | 73 | 9.1 (*1) |
| 0 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 66 | 54 | 6.8 |
| 3 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 30 | 38 | 7.6 |
| 3 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 28 | 36 | 7.2 |
| 3 | 13 | 10 | 20 | 55 | 70 | 7.0 |
| 3 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 23 | 29 | 14.5 |
| 3 | 12 | 9 | 13 | 44 | 56 | 6.2 (*3) |
| 5 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 15 | 19 | 9.5 |

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|-----------|
| 6 | 10 | 4 | 13 | 25 | 32 | 8.0 |
| 6 | 8 | 2 | 13 | 23 | 29 | 14.5 |
| 8 | 12 | 4 | 13 | 51 | 66 | 16.5 |
| 8 | 15 | 7 | 15+ | 44 | 56 | 8.0 (*2) |
| 8 | 19 | 11 | 25 | 67 | 86* | 7.8 |
| 10 | 15 | 5 | 16 | 59 | 76 | 15.2 (*2) |

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|---|----|-----|------|-----------|
| 13 | 14 | 1 | 20 | 11 | 14 | 14.0 |
| 13 | 17 | 4 | 20 | 103 | 133* | 33.3 |
| 13 | 15 | 2 | 20 | 34 | 43 | 21.5 |
| 13 | 18 | 5 | 22 | 39 | 50 | 10.0 (*3) |

*Most of these hours were from on-the-air contacts, and not necessarily at or above their upper copying speed.

*1-Passed 5WPM element during/at completion of course
*2-Passed 13WPM element during/at completion of the course
*3-Passed 20WPM element during/at completion of the course

➤50 to 65 hours practice (45 - 60 min / day for 11 weeks) to learn the code and get to 8 wpm.
➤30 to 65 hours practice (30 - 60 min / day for 11 weeks) to get from 3 wpm to 10 wpm.
➤30 to 70 hours practice (30 - 60 min / day for 11 weeks) to get from 6 wpm to 10 wpm, or 8 wpm to 14 wpm.
➤40 to 50 hours practice (30 - 45 min / day for 11 weeks) to get from 13 wpm to 17 wpm.

QRV

By James Durkin KE6FSK

Well, it seems that my first article (in re. the "true" father of radio) has opened a proverbial can of worms. This is good. I do not claim to be the absolute authority on anything, let alone radio. However, Tesla is my hero. He probably always will be, and as a HAM operator, I am always amazed at the similarities between the "mad" inventor and the average, everyday, homebrewer. I am equally amazed at the inventiveness of some con artists. Oh, don't get me wrong, I believe in giving due when due is deserved. And, as I have stated before, I have no intentions of detracting from anyone's contributions to any field of endeavor. Which brings to mind an even earlier claim to the first radio to be built, this from Nathan Stubblefield, a Kentucky farmer who, at first glance, was a genius way ahead of his time (not to mention Tesla and Marconi).

Stubblefield gave a most interesting demonstration on his farm in 1892. He had two telephone boxes lying on the ground about 200 feet apart and apparently not connected by wires. He had invited the townsfolk from the near-by village of Murray to witness his scientific marvel. When he and his son conversed between the two telephones both could be heard, one in a clear and present voice, the other in the tinny electronic sound of the telephone of the day. When his experiment was concluded, however, instead of the expected cheers and congratulations, he was greeted by snickers and cat calls. He angrily packed up his wares and never repeated the demonstration. He did manage to be granted a patent, but the document is nonsensical and nothing can be made from it. Did Stubblefield actually build a wireless? It is highly doubtful, but to this day there are those who hold to his claim. Personally, I'll stick with Tesla, who in many respects remains as obscure as Stubblefield.

Historically, we know that Tesla often did the impossible, leaving little or no trace as to how he accomplished his feats other than through the testimony of the throngs of adoring public and media that witnessed his works of magic. Using apparently nothing other than two plates, he once lit an entire theatre with the source of the light quite undetectable. We know he once used the entire Earth as a gargantuan capacitor (for what purpose, however, escapes me). These devices worked. He lit up a room, he lit up the sky. He didn't destroy mankind. He lived to tell about it. Tesla was fascinated by, if not obsessed with, lightning. On more than once occasion, he would be seen standing in the middle of a thunderstorm, observing how the lightning strikes would travel in waves. This mad inventor was rivaled

only by John Muir for eccentricity. Muir was certainly another genius, but of another calling. "Crazy John" didn't care a thing about how lightning would travel, but was concerned about experiencing the storm as a force of nature. That's why during an intense gale, Muir could often be seen hugging the top of a Ponderosa Pine. But, that's another story.

Like the great library of Alexandria, most of Tesla's work vanished forever as his workshop burned. All of his projects and prototypes up to that point were destroyed. And, like Alexandria, we may never know just how much was lost. All we can conjecture is, whatever it was, it worked. Once it worked, it was usually set aside in order to begin a new project. Were it not for Tesla's mentors, he surely would have starved. As it was, he spent his last days a pauper.

I would be remiss if I didn't point out that some of Tesla's projects failed. They didn't fail due to some malfunction. Some failed due to lack of funding. Others failed due to political pressure or bad publicity from his competitors (most notably, Edison). Some succeeded in spite of the opposition. Tesla's greatest vision, and deepest failure, was his famous Radio Tower. Tesla had already devised a remote control ship and submarine. Both worked well. Tesla envisioned entire fleets of ships, submarines and aeroplanes being controlled by radio, thus alleviating man from the rigors of combat. Tesla began designing and building his tower.

The tower itself looked like a great wooden frame mushroom. It had wires of every length and fashion jutting to and fro. The light bulbs attached to it seemed to have no other purpose than to cosmetically draw attention. But, with Tesla, who can say? It was without a doubt a work that combined technology with art. It was, indeed, a sight to behold. It was the world's first antenna farm. And, it was doomed from the start. Tesla never had the chance to try his new remarkable device. This, in itself, was a shame, but more so when we discover his claim that he discovered a method to individually send and received multiple signals from not only the same antenna at the same time, but on the same frequency as well. If true, the only thing that comes close in today's day and age would be digital communications. And, if that be the case, I would say there is a whole new playing field out there for experimenters and home brewers. Tesla was not one to make a claim unless he could back it up with at least a demonstration.

One of Tesla's political downfalls was when he announced he could destroy the entire planet with a series of "sympathetic vibrations." The concept was simple. A crystal goblet will shatter when it vibrates to the

oscillations of certain high notes. The resonance of an instrument causes secondary, or "sympathetic" resonance that can result in a structural or molecular breakdown, depending on the frequency and amplitude and the material in question. Tesla never said just what use this doomsday device was for, nor how much power would be required to drive the device. In fact, he never claimed he had a device like it, nor intended to build one. It didn't matter. If Tesla said it could be done, then it could (or more likely, would) be done. That's just the way it was. No questions asked. As a result, science experienced a major turning point in our country's history. Science became evil. It had to be controlled.

It is a well known fact that only a very small portion of Tesla's work is on file in the U.S. Patent Office. What is generally not known is that an even greater bulk of his work remains classified to this day. This information can be confirmed through the National Security Agency and the Department of Defense. As to what exactly these documents and devices entail and why they remain classified, however, one can only guess. Even reputable firms dealing with science and research have been unsuccessful invoking the Freedom of Information Act. These works remain covered, and will probably do so until the government deems it safe to release the information. It seems that Tesla was not only ahead of his time, but ours as well.

Hiram Percy Maxim made things quiet. Edison made things glow. Tesla lit up the sky and made grown men shudder with the awe of an innocent child. There were no others like him. It is unlikely there ever will be again. But if you can just capture a small portion of the wonderment and place it in your next project, you have achieved something that few people have. You have captured the MAGIC!

And who knows? Maybe you'll still be able to talk to Elvis on Mars...
Then again...

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Board Meeting Minutes

June 14, 1995

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ at 5:45 PM in the meeting room at the Northbay Savings Bank. Other officers present were Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Treasurer Angela Dickey KC6OCD, Activities Chairman Joel Nadler KJ6LF, and Member-at-Large Jim Andrews KC6PJW.

CORRESPONDENCE received by N1AL included the annual club report form to ARRL.

Al announced that the "#2" Field Day group will probably be at the Hewlett Packard site after all.

ANTENNA COMMITTEE: Chairman Joe Senft KM6TN explained that the latest delay in Santa Rosa's new antenna ordinance activity is caused by worries about the relationship with satellite dishes. They do like the idea of having a common ordinance in the various jurisdictions throughout the county. Lee KE6EAQ has made up an antenna survey form that would go in the newsletter. N1AL suggested that perhaps it could be combined with the upcoming packet BBS promotional mailing, so it could cover the entire county.

New **PACKET BBS** frequencies will be KC6PJW 145.07 and KD6KWM 145.09, with the SONOMA, REYES and ARENA nodes on 145.73. The forwarding link on the 440 band will be moving due to QRM to ATV operations.

PICNIC EXPENSES ran \$100 over budget. The board voted to reimburse the total amount spent (\$350). m/s N1AL/KJ6LF

Treasurer KC6OCD will present an update of year-to-date **FINANCES** at the next general meeting. The FD budget is \$650. Angela may still be moving around August.

Bill KH6GJW predicts that the **PACKET** group will meet again soon to get the program off the ground.

The **ARRL CABINET MEETING** was attended by Jim N6PTM. Topics discussed at the meeting were enforcement of FCC rules, need for a candidate to run for Section Manager in the San Francisco section, new Assistant Director candidate Tracy WB6TMY, and the fact that ARRL is more important than ever now that amateur frequencies are being eyed greedily by companies involved in the explosion in wireless technology.

The board then moved (m/s N1AL/KJ6LF) to temporarily adjourn. The meeting then adjourned at 6:50.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Al Bloom N1AL.

1938 Logbook, Courtesy of One of Us

by John Troster W6ISQ

After all these years, a "friend" is back: the old time, spiral bound, red ARRL log book, the kind you used in the '30's, with 37 lines to the page. And why were there 37 lines per page? Not only back, but available. Here's the scoop. Tracy Reese, WB6TMY, (QCWA of course), rediscovered a copy of this old logbook, and liked it so much he wrote to and received from ARRL, permission to reproduce it, which he did at his own expense. He made a few copies, sent one to GM Jim Walsh, W7LVN at QCWA HQ. Jim liked what he saw and figured QCWA fellas and gals would love them. So Jim cleared with Tracy to print a first batch of 200 for sale. Tracy donated the idea, and the logs are offered at a few farthings over cost to all who want them--for old time's sake.

You can buy one of these long-out-of-print-logs for six bucks from QCWA HQ, 159 E. 16th Ave, Eugene, OR, 97401. Note: original ARRL price was three for a dollar! Don't have to be a QCWA member to get one, the offer is open to all. Only difference between the new log and the old one is that this new one has a plastic spiral binder while the old one was metallic. Cover and pages are true replicas.

Tracy has a particularly interesting job, one little thought about in this fast-expanding electronic age of satellites and raging SITOR, AMTOR and all the other TORS. Tracy handles ship-to-shore HF bands CW traffic at station KPH in Bolinas, California, just north of San Francisco.

When I called him at KPH, I was told he was "on the key." Sure enough, he was transmitting CW traffic using a bug, at about 15 wpm, to a ship at sea. Exact copy is mandatory in this commercial business. Receiving the general gist of the message is not acceptable. So, keep the speed down. No glitches, no misspellings ... exact. Ditto receiving.

Tracy is following a long tradition of wireless telegraphers, and he likes to relate the story of his station's predecessors. Station KPH, was founded by DeForest Wireless Telegraph Company in 1904 as station "PH" in the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. In '06 the station was moved to the Union Trust Building by the new owners, Occidental and Oriental Wireless Telegraph Co. You remember 1906 - the San Francisco earthquake which destroyed both previous station locations. After the quake, PH was moved to Russian Hill, but there was a problem. Local citizens complained of the unbearable noise of the straight spark and that induction noise was received in the telephones, destroying conversation.

The early operators at "PH" pioneered the use of a station log book. In their spare time they wrote down what was happening at the station and at the same time, composed some notable poetry also preserved in the log. For example:

The night was dark,
That static as bad,
The power went off,
GEE, - I was glad.

In 1912, the Marconi Company, which owned Cape Cod Radio "CC," purchased the station, and Marconi himself lived near the site for a while. After World War I, the newly formed Radio Corporation of America took over and moved the station north to a transmitting site at Bolinas and a receiving site at Marshall, which was later moved 17 miles further north to Point Reyes. During the next 30 years the station became one of the best known ship-to-shore stations on the West Coast.

KPH is now owned by MCI International. Any-one wishing more information about historic KPH, and how it works, call toll free 800/556-1443.

You will receive a free FAX description of the station and services. The voice on the 800 number is Tracy's.

Tracy took the long way around to KPH. He was born in Burbank, California and moved to Big Bear in the mountains east of Los Angeles, at an early age. In high school, with the help of Zane Mills, WB6FLN, he got the call WN6KXH, and went on the air with a Johnson Ranger and a 240-foot Windom antenna. Then off to Arizona State University as a broadcast major and speech minor. A ten-year coast-to-coast odyssey followed, with Tracy working at nine different small radio stations as disc jockey, chief engineer, whatever was needed, even five months as general manager at a station in New Hampshire.

Early on, Tracy decided he wanted to stay in broadcasting; so he set about acquiring FCC Commercial licenses: First Class Phone in 1967, Amateur Extra in 1974, Second Class Telegraph in 1974, First Class Telegraph and Radar Endorsement in 1977. The code we use as amateurs is the International Morse code. Tracy also copies the original Morse code, the land line telegraph, which uses the different length of dashes and adds spaces to some letters. For that he uses a sideswiper. How many of you readers are still adept at that Morse? It used to be printed in the handbooks, but not anymore.

(Continued next page)