

# SCRA INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT as of 9/12/97

## BEGINNING BALANCE

Checking	1568.43
Petty Cash	82.05
Savings	953.71
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2604.19</b>

## INCOME

ARRL	126.00
Badges	6.00
Dues:	
Initiation	12.00
Other	73.50
Flea Market	2645.40
KZST	250.00
Monthly Raffle	45.75


Quarterly Raffle	25.00
Refreshments	24.50
Donation	2.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3210.15</b>

## EXPENSES

Flea Market	1434.27
Badges, New	9.68
Newsline Phone	26.82
Refreshments	15.00
Repeater Maintenance	181.28
Short Skip	135.43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1802.48</b>

## BALANCE

Checking	978.43
Petty Cash	79.72
Savings	2953.71
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,011.86</b>



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**Next Meeting: November 5**  
**Check Net for Location!!!**

WILLOUGHBY, ROBERT J AC6KY  
535 LOMBARD AVE  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95409-3800

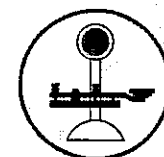
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PO Box 116

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.



Club Station  
**W6LFJ**

# Short Skip

**Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.**  
PO Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116

146.730MHz • 224.48MHz • 441.375MHz



Repeater Station  
**W6SON**

Volume 22 #10

November 1997

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Elections for club officers will be held at the November meeting, however at this time we don't have a location to meet. The meeting will **NOT** be held at HP or Cattlemens, but as of press time a suitable location has not been determined. Tune into the Tuesday night net (7PM on 146.73) for any developments.

There is an amendment to the constitution up for a vote at this meeting as well. The text of the amendment is enclosed, as well as justification and rebuttal letters. Please read these before the meeting and come prepared to vote.

## Hank's Swap Shop

Currently hosted by Ken Harrison, N6MHG  
579-9608 ext. 12 or ken@cdis1.net

*Sellers: Please let me know when your items have sold!*

## FOR SALE

Bearcat 2500 XLT 400 channel handheld scanner. Fresh battery pack w/ box and manual. Improved after-market antenna. Covers 25 MHz to 1300 MHz, no gaps. Contact Steve, AC6FR @ 707-664-8199 or email: onines@juno.com

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707-575-3233 or email: tubbytunes@metro.net

Hallicrafters S-40A Receiver. Works and is in nice shape. All original except for send/receive knob. \$90 /bo. Contact Mike, KQ6JG @ 650-871-4034 or email: Chodrick@ix.netcom.com

Radio Shack 800 MHz. Scanner Mod. 2038 - preprogrammed + 50 channels, base/mobile, covers 29 - 960 MHz. excellent condition. \$100 firm. Radio Shack Handheld scanner Pro-60. Covers 30-900 MHz with 200 channels. \$225 firm. Contact Mike, KF6ALB @ 650-359-3793

Drake TR4C 5-band transceiver with AC4 power supply. \$350. AEA IsoLoop 5-band antenna 14/18/21/25/28 MHz. With control box and 50 ft. of extra control cable. \$100. LOCAL ONLY: Model 35 Teletype machine with Teletype Corp. drawings. Free delivery within Sonoma County. \$10. QST and Ham Radio magazine binders. \$4. ea. QST in binders. Still have 1970, 71, 72, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 93, 95, 96. \$8. ea. Contact Al, N1AL @ 707-538-7115 or email: abloom@sr.hp.com

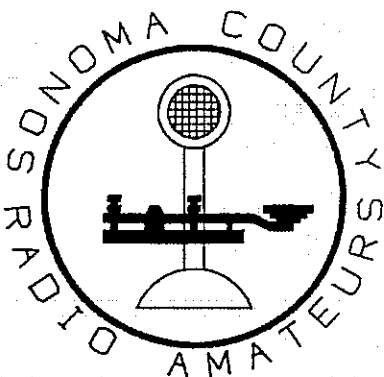
(THESE ARE FOR LOCAL SALES ONLY. WILL NOT SHIP) TV Rotator and control box. \$10. 12 V. Battery charger. \$5. QF1A HF audio filter. \$10. Audio filter, not working. HFV. FREE! Contact Ray, KF6RS @ 528-3332

## WANTED

UHF Mobile. Synthesized w/ PL tone capability. Doesn't have to be the latest and greatest, just functional and cheap! Contact Bob, N6RMW @ 707-542-5209 or email: lonewolf@cdis1.net

**Vote**

OFFICERS FOR 1997			
PRESIDENT:	Steve Carniglia	KV6A	546-7370
VICE PRESIDENT:	Rick Reiner	K6ZWB	575-4455
SECRETARY:	Steven Feil	KD6CJR	579-8346
TREASURER:	Joel Nadler	KJ6LF	545-1782
MEMBERS-	Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	538-0331
AT-LARGE:	Claude Jones	AB6OL	527-8593
REPEATER:	Kelly Cureton	KD6CJO	837-9434
ACTIVITIES:	Dave Willey	KD6KWM	577-0191
PUBLIC SERVICE:	Marie Mappus	KI6QY	644-1978
SHORT SKIP STAFF			
EDITOR:	Claude Jones	AB6OL	527-8593
(submissions) →	3612 Banyan Street, Santa Rosa, CA	95403-1557	
	E-mail	ab6ol@cds1.net	
	Fax	938-4772	
CIRCULATION:	Ken Harrison	N6MHG	
AUDIO TAPING:	John Breckenridge	WB6FRZ	
	Laurel Meyer	KC6FKX	
	Bob Phillips	N6RMW	
SWAP SHOP EDITOR:	Ken Harrison	N6MHG	539-2701



Club Meetings

7:30 pm on the 1st Wednesday each month at the Hewlett-Packard plant in Santa Rosa - except November & December meetings. (See map below) All are welcome.

TUESDAY NIGHT NET

Check into the Tuesday night SCRA net on the 146.73 repeater at 7PM. You will hear the latest Amateur Radio Newline broadcasts, announcements of SCRA activities and a Swap Shop.

ACS Notes

de Eran KD6KVO

RACES to ACS: Much has happened over the past month. Most notably, the two training sessions which were attended by approximately 130 new ACS members.

I use the term "new members" because in effect, all of us who completed and submitted the Dept of Emergency Services' volunteer contract forms are now members of the county's new ACS organization. We have come full circle, starting with the ACS Plan which was written up and accepted last year, through the writing of the SOP manual and the orientation/training.

The RACES organization that we used to have has now taken on a wider role, that of coordinating all auxiliary communications for DES, and it has truly become an Auxiliary Communications Service.

Those who have not yet completed the new paperwork are encouraged to do so as soon as possible, to facilitate participation in any future incidents or training. Ask you Unit Leader for details.

Russian River Field Trip: Join us in a self-driven tour of the Russian River area on Saturday, October 25. We plan to visit numerous sites where we would normally find ourselves operating at (and test the different routes for driving in) during a flood emergency.

Meet at the north parking lot of the DES building in Santa Rosa at 0900hrs. Those planning on driving must have a driver's license and have current vehicle insurance. More details to follow on the Monday evening ACS nets.

Web Page: Visit our new Web Page at <http://cbs.cds1.net/acs> and thank Steve KV6A for hosting our page!

Strike Team: Interested in helping other ACS organizations out of the county this winter? We'd like to plan in advance for the possibility of being asked to send an ACS Strike Team to a different part of the State.

Those interested would need to be current ACS volunteers, with at least the three hours training offered this past month, and be willing and able to travel out of county for 3-5 days. You would need to have a driver's license and vehicle insurance, and be ready to leave on relatively short notice.

Send me an email ([glago@vom.com](mailto:glago@vom.com)) if you're interested, or call me at 996-1153.

VIRGINIA HAMS TELL "HOW TO SUCCEED IN ZONING"

Hams in Virginia's Rockingham County were rewarded earlier this month for their efforts to get Amateur Radio towers excluded from a new zoning ordinance being drawn up to deal with the proliferation of cellular telephone towers. Teamed with an ARRL

Volunteer Counsel and another ham-attorney, the group quietly lobbied the county officials responsible for drafting the ordinance, so they could head off any problems at that level instead of waiting for a public hearing.

Paul Helbert, WV3J, is a member of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association of Harrisonburg, Virginia. "The most important thing we did, I think, was to go to the board members, the county's attorney and planning staff during the week before the meeting so that they had no surprise and no mystery as to our concerns," he said. Helbert credits ARRL Volunteer Counsel Paul Schwartz, KB2XX of Charlottesville, and Staunton attorney Charlie Garner, WA4ITY, for coming up with the approach.

Helbert says he found out about the proposed ordinance almost accidentally during a conversation with Bill Fawcett, WB4PWP, who's involved with commercial radio. The draft ordinance placed restrictions on the placement, erection, and maintenance of radio transmitting facilities, including antennas, towers, poles, and other support structures. The proposal was especially hard-hitting to radio transmitting installations in residential areas. The original draft made some concessions to ham radio by excluding ham towers less than 50 feet tall. Other provisions would have made it prohibitively expensive for most hams to erect a tower taller than that.

Helbert helped spread the word among area hams who, in turn, contacted individual supervisors and the Board chairman. Garner helped draft a resolution on behalf of the Valley Amateur Radio Association and the Waynesboro Repeater Association. The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association executive committee also presented arguments to members of the county board.

"At all times were the hams polite, courteous, and in no way confrontational," a story in The MARA/VARA Monitor reported. "The purpose of all this activity was not to appear adversarial [but] to simply remind the government officials of the hundreds of hours hams had spent in emergency communications support and to politely inform them that the de facto 50-foot limitation on ham towers would inhibit some hams' ability to provide that service in the future."

More than 40 hams--well identified with name and call sign badges--turned out at the September 24 meeting of the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors. Five, including Helbert and Garner, spoke on their behalf. The Board commended the ham community for its public service and remanded the proposed ordinance to the Planning Commission for a rewrite, this time to include a complete exemption for ham radio antennas. The Planning Commission adopted the changes October 9.

As an unexpected and unrequested bonus, the county Board of Supervisors also struck an existing zoning law provision that required hams to obtain a special use permit to erect a tower.

As ARRL Regulatory Information Branch Manager Tom Hogerty, KC1J, observed: "This is a good example of how hams should interact with their city and town governments when dealing with zoning issues."

- The ARRL Letter

SCRA HOTLINE 707-579-9608  
WWW <http://cbs1.net/scra>  
Short Skip On-line <http://cbs1.net/shortskip>

Next Meeting: November 5  
Location: To Be Announced

We invite you to attend our next monthly meeting (see below). Membership in SCRA is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. If you would like to join, there is a membership application in this issue.

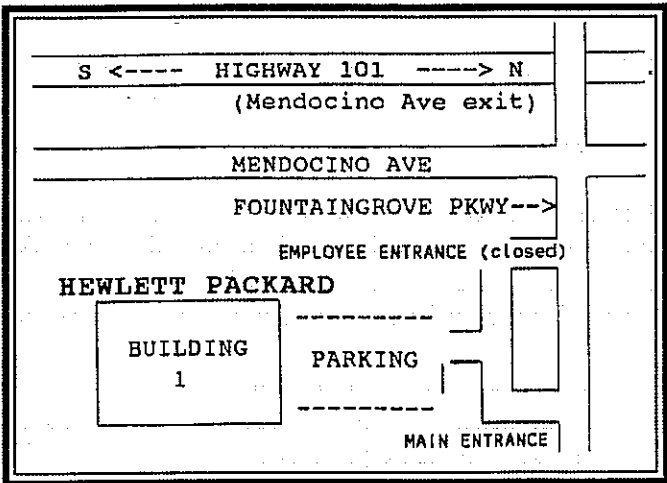
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SCRAPS  
by Marie Mappus KI6QY

The end of September has arrived and with it the end of the Public Service events. It has been an interesting summer.

Computers are wonderful when they work and horrible when they don't as we all know. Mine went down just before the UPS strike and took four weeks to get it operable again. So I was unable to keep you all informed about the status of the Public Service events. Since the Vineman and The Terrible Two are past history I will bring you up to date on these last two events. The weekend of the 21st was the Clo's Classic Bike-a-thon. The riders rode up into the wine country and then those interested in riding the "Super Thighs" segment endured Mill Creek Rd., up and back. The weather was good and everyone enjoyed the ride. It is interesting to see how this event has grown over the years. There were about 200 riders this year with 53 doing the "Super Thighs". One can almost be assured that more riders will participate next year.

My thanks to Joe KE6LNQ, Nadine KC6WUI, Dave KF6DDP, Bob WD6DPE, James KF6DHB, Kim KF6IAQ and Bill KH6GJV for your help with this event.

**WAVES TO WINE**

Now for the main event this month, Waves to Wine. Saturday started off with a bang and continued until seven-thirty when the last rider returned to the Luther Burbank Center. Traffic on the radio was continuous all day with only a few very short breaks in between. The first riders left LBC at 0700 to do the Century Loop. The first rest stop was at Childkind Preschool and from there they went to Occidental and then to Duncans Mills and on to the Bodega Harbor Yacht club for lunch. The second lunch stop was at Dunicci's Restaurant at Valley Ford. The Century Loop riders returned to the 50 - 75 loop at the Valley Ford/Tomales Rd. intersection and continued on to Del Curto Livestock ranch for a water stop. Hillcrest Elementary was next on the list and then the Countryside Preschool on Fulton Road the last rest stop.

Supplies ran short at the rest stops and there were many requests for additional supplies of food and water. Mishaps with broken spokes, flat tires, at times late riders needing to be sagged to various rest stops so that they could complete the segment of the course they wanted to ride, along with minor injuries kept Net Control busy.

The dedication of the hams who helped with this event was outstanding. Many of them worked long over their scheduled shift to fill in for operators that we did not have. This is really what amateur radio is all about. People willing to go above and beyond the call of duty when the need arises.

My most sincere thanks to Dave AA6YX, Kim KF6IAQ, June KD6LSO, Darlene KD6GCK, Jim KE6UAR, John KD2LQ, Nadine KC6WUI, Merl N6VUC, Hugh KC6UUY, Dave KF6DDP, Bob KE6TIV, Bill KH6GJV, Hollis KE6UDH and Ted KB6PTA for a job well done.

Sunday was another beautiful day and the riders headed for the wine country. They rode up through the Alexander Valley to Geyserville and then on the lunch at the Fish Hatchery. After leaving the lunch stop they continued on to Hoof Beat Park and then to the Sonoma County Water Agency Parking Lot. From there they headed back to LBC. Things are always quieter on Sunday and the main group of riders attend the Saturday event. However, the two day affair was successful and the Multiple Sclerosis Society was very happy with the amount of money raised by this event.

My thanks to Merl N6VUC, John W6TLK, Kim KF6IAQ, June KD6LSU, John WB6FRZ, Nadine KC6WUI, Brian N6IY, Joel KJ6LF, Bill KD6LTA, Hugh KC6UUY, Dan KE6SQP, Harold KD6WYF, Doug KC6RHA, Bob WD6DPE, Bill KH6GJV, Hollis KE6UDH and Bill N6GHG.

It has been an interesting and challenging year for Public Service. My thanks to all the Hams to helped with the runs, bike tours, and triathalons over the season. Hope that you will continue to help again next year and that many of the newer Hams will also help with the events. We need to have new people add their support to this part of amateur radio. The sponsors of the events are very appreciative of our help as well as the people who participate in these events. So please give it serious consideration about helping with Public Service next year.


73,  
Marie

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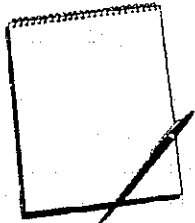
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SCRA MINUTES  
October 1, 1997  
Submitted by  
Steven Feil KD6CJQ



The October 1997 meeting was called to order by President Steve Carniglia KV6A at 7:30 PM at HP Fountain Grove. Other officers present were: Vice-president Rick Reiner K6ZWB, Secretary Steven Feil KD6CJR, Treasurer Joel Nadler KJ6LF, Members-at-Large Claude Jones AB6OL and Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Repeater Chairman Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ, Activities Chairman, Dave Willey KD6KWM and Public Service Chairman Marie Mappus KI6QY.

Visitors/New Members: There were 3 visitors present.

The minutes for the September meeting were approved: N6VUC/KM6XO

The Treasurers report by Joel Nadler KJ6LF is as published in Short Skip. Reported that the Swap Meet was approximately \$500 in the black. Asked all members renew ARRL through club to recover \$2 each.

Activities Committee Report, by Dave KD6KWM: Announced Pacifcon, also talked about different aspects of Ham Radio activities. Will pass out Elmer lists to be filled out and will be listed on the web sight. Foxhunt to resume next month. Greg AC6VJ is looking for instructors for radio classes.

Repeater Committee Report, by Kelly KD6CJQ: New antennas to be installed and all is OK at this time. Colleen KF6DHA will be net control for October. Net Control gets free donuts for the month of duty.

Public Service Committee Report by Marie KI6QY: Public service is done for the year.

ACS report by Darlene KD6GCK: ACS training to be at the JC on the fourth.

Lee had nothing new to report on the antenna ordinance.

Ken let us know the Alcatraz pictures are on the web site.

Rick WB7APG discussed a USCG radio club, they will be helping with the Boy Scouts Jamboree On The Air. Military Amateur Radio Service was also discussed.

The next regular club meeting will be the Elections. K6ZWB, KD6KWM and N6MHG are the nominating committee.

Kelly suggested the Sweetriver Saloon as a Christmas party sight. General opinion was "Let's do it."

Bill KH6GJV proposed a constitution amendment. Copies were circulated to the membership present. The motion was

seconded by KE6UAR. (sec. The motion will be published this month and discussed and voted on at the next club meeting.)

W1FD, a magazine author, is a silent key.

Claude is still looking for a Short Skip editor.

Rick K6ZWB thanked everyone for their help at the swap meet. We will hold a quarterly raffle at the Christmas meeting. Tickets will be \$5 each. Club and winner will split the pot.


The program for the evening, a slide show tour of the latest mini dx-peditions to Death Valley and Alcatraz, as well as Field Day, was presented by Bill KH6GJV.

The raffle was conducted by Ken N6MHG. Prizes were provided by World Radio, Nuts and Volts, Basham Electronics and HSC. Please patronize these fine establishments to show our thanks for this support.

James KD6GSF pulled Bill WD6DXW for the membership lottery.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:45

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**Board Meeting Minutes**   
October 8, 1997

The October 1997 Minutes of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs board meeting held at the Bank of the West on Marlow Rd. Members of the board present were: President, Steve KV6A; Vice President, Rick K6ZWB; Secretary, Steven KD6CJR; Treasurer, Joel KJ6LF; Members-at-large, Claude AB6OL and Bill KH6GJV; Repeater Chairman, Kelly KD6CJQ; Activities Chairman, Dave KD6KWM and Public Service Chairman Marie KI6QY. There was also 1 other SCRA member present. The meeting was called to order at 5:35PM by President Steve KV6A.

Steve KV6A: Discussed the Member of the Year Committee and appointed Bill KH6GJV the chairman. The other two members will be appointed per club bylaw 16.

Steve KD6CJR: There have been 10 KZST books sold to date and several more asked for. If you have reserved of want to reserve a book please contact me at 579-8346.

Joel KJ6LF: Asked Steven KD6CJR to follow up on the Franklin Park field day request. We are in the black.

Claude AB6OL: Has located a candidate for the Short Skip editor. To be announced.

(Continued on page 4)

Board Meeting Minutes (continued from page 3)

Bill KH6GJV: Apologies are in order to all who had feelings hurt regarding the proposal presented at the last general meeting. An effort is being made to resolve disputed issues.

Kelly KD6CJQ: There will be a tower trip to install the newest antennas and to do a prewinter checkup.

Dave KD6KWM: Handed out the results of the SCRA interest survey. The results are printed elsewhere in this issue.

Marie KI6QY: There may be space made available at CDF for our equipment after all. Will notify Claude regarding the decision.

To the Editor, Short Skip

I have two comments about KH6GHV's proposed changes to the Constitution. One has to do with making the trustee (me) a Control Operator, and the other regards changes in the Repeater Committee.

I so rarely monitor the repeater that it wouldn't make sense to make me an official Control Operator. I talked to Bill about this on the phone the other day. I believe his thought was that since it's my license on the line that I should have the repeater control codes. That probably makes sense: What if the FCC called me about a violation? (They would call me since I am the trustee.) Say the final amplifier started oscillating and putting out a spur on the Sheriff's frequency. It might be a good idea if I didn't have to depend on being able to contact a Control Operator to handle a situation like that.

To sum up: I don't think I should be listed in Short Skip as a Control Operator since I rarely monitor the repeater. However it might be a good idea if I had the control codes. But it's no big deal whether I do or don't. I don't think it needs to be in the Constitution.

Regarding the Repeater Committee:

A little history: Once upon a time there were two county-wide clubs in the area, SCRA and the Sonoma County Amateur Radio Service (SCARS). SCRA was known as the "Red Cross" club, because it met at the Red Cross HQ building and worked closely with them in emergency communications. SCRA was also associated with ARES (The ARRL emergency communications organization) and was mostly into HF. Field Day and the Christmas Party were the big events of the year.

SCARS was the "Repeater" Club. In those days, there was only one repeater, 146.73 on Sonoma Mt., which at that time used an aging GE commercial repeater owned by the County. SCARS was associated with RACES (part of the government's Civil Defense program). SCARS/RACE and SCRA/ARES worked together with varying degrees of success, depending on the personalities of the

people involved over the years.

Talks of a merger had been going on for years. When it finally happened, it was quite controversial, especially among some of the members of SCARS. At that point in time, SCARS had a much bigger balance in their treasury than SCRA did. Many SCARS members were worried by the fact that in previous years, SCRA had been known to blow all the money left in the treasury at the end of the year on a lavish Christmas party with catered food and expensive free raffle prizes for the members attending. That was the reason for setting up a separate Repeater Fund. All the SCARS money went into the Repeater Fund, and rules were written so that RF money could not be spent for anything but the repeater. Also, a complicated formula was set up so that 1/2 of all club income must go into the RF until it reaches a certain limit, etc. etc. Those rules were simplified in a Constitutional amendment some years later.

Also some SCARS members were worried that the HF types in SCRA would "take over" the repeater and through neglect and indifference run it into the ground. So a special "Repeater Chairman" position was set up. The RC was elected directly by the members and was given nearly absolute authority over the repeater. The idea was that the Board of Directors would not have direct control of the repeater. Instead, it would be controlled by the RC, who would be answerable to the members through the election process. In the spirit of evenhandedness, an "Activities Chairman" position was also created to make sure that traditional SCRA activities did not get short shrift. Both of those were elected positions at the time.

Since then, the Constitution was changed to make the RC and AC appointed by the Board of Directors, but the strong powers of the RC were not changed. So I can see Bill's point that maybe a little more democracy might be in order. And I agree that all official SCRA meetings should be open to the members and the minutes should be made public. When discussing control codes or personnel matters, those items can be kept off the minutes through standard procedures as spelled out in Roberts Rules of Order.

How about holding Repeater Committee meetings in conjunction with the Board meetings? Since the Board meetings are publicized, this would allow the general membership to attend if they wish. Most of the RC members attend Board meetings anyway, so combining meetings would give them an extra free evening to spend with their families.

I plan to vote against Bill's amendment, mainly because it is fairly complex and I think the SCRA Constitution is too complicated already. But I would be in favor of adding a simple statement to the Constitution that Repeater Committee meetings are open to the membership with minutes published in Short Skip and changing the rules to make Control Operator appointments subject to Board approval.

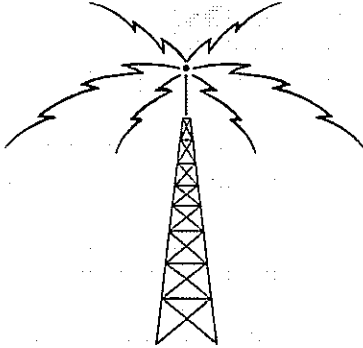
73,

Al Bloom N1AL, Trustee of W6SON



Activities Committee

Public Service	Marie Mappus	KI6QY	664-1978
Asst. Public Service	John Breckenridge	WB6FRZ	838-6398
Public Relations	Steve Carniglia	KV6A	579-9608
QSL Mgr	Fred Leoni	N6YEU	431-8202
TVI/RFI	Al Bloom	N1AL	538-7115
Antennas	Lee Dibble	KE6EAQ	544-1675
Awards	Steve Lund	K6UM	823-4544
RACES RO	Eran Glago	KD6KVO	996-1153/579-9608
Field Day	Steve Carniglia	KV6A	579-9608
Swap Meet	Rick Reiner	K6ZBW	575-4455
Education	Greg Gordon	AC6VJ	523-7077
VEC Exams	Bill Kinder	KO6ZG	894-9591
Badge Chair	Fred Leoni	N6YEU	431-8202
Refreshments	Steve Corey	N6WMW	
	Ted DeCroff	KB6PTA	
Raffle at meetings	Ken Harrison	N6MHG	
Membership lottery	James Cureton	KD6GSF	
Packet BBS	Jim Andrews	KC6PJW	795-2163
Fox Hunt	Dave Willey	KD6KWM	577-0191



Repeater Control Op's

Kelly KD6CJQ	837-9434
Hoppy WD6CKP	542-6750
Steve KV6A	579-9608
Merl N6VUC	584-3898
Ken N6MHG	539-2701
Joel KJ6LF	545-1782
Larry KD6VUM	523-0266

Application for membership in SCRA

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_

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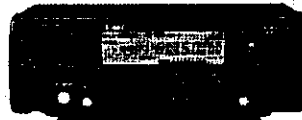
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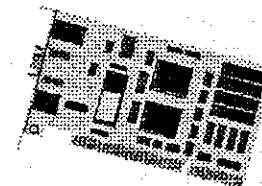
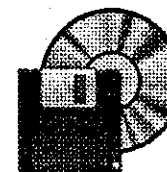
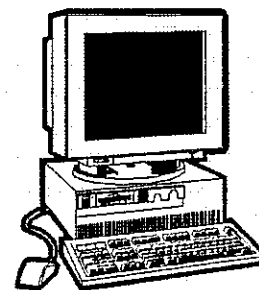
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## Proposed Change to Constitution

Article V, Section 5 - The selection, powers and duties of the Repeater Committee, Repeater Chairman, Control Operators and committee members shall be as follows:

### a. Repeater Committee

1. The Repeater Committee shall consist of the Repeater Chairman, Control Operators, the repeater license trustee and other committee members.

2. The duties of the Repeater Committee are to: I. maintain reliable amateur repeater communication capabilities; ii. to ensure proper control of access to repeater sites; iii. maintain proper relations with site owners and operators; iv. identify and attend to routine, non-policy matters pertaining to repeater operation and maintenance; v. refer all purchases of non-expendable items, as defined in the bylaws, to the Board of Directors for approval; and vi. prepare a budget of expected maintenance and equipment replacements for submittal to the Board of Directors for each fiscal year. The committee shall not vary from the approved budget or change major components of the repeater system without authorization from the Board of Directors.

3. All meetings of the Repeater Committee shall be open to all club members. The meetings shall be announced to the membership at least four days prior to said meeting by publishing a meeting notice in the club's newsletter, announcement at a regular club meeting, by announcement on a regularly scheduled club radio net or by any combination thereof. Emergency meetings may be called to deal with urgent issues with prior approval by the club President. If an emergency meeting is held, the Repeater Chairman shall make a complete report of the need for such meeting and any action taken at the next Board of Directors meeting. Control Operators may go into executive session only for the purpose of discussing actual control codes used in the operation of the repeaters and transmitters.

### b. Repeater Chairman

1. The appointment and removal of the Repeater Chairman shall be by a majority vote of the elected members of the Board of Directors. Candidates for the Repeater Chairman position shall be nominated by an elected member of the Board of Directors. The minimum qualifications for the Repeater Chairman shall be: I. possession of a class of amateur radio license that authorizes the chairman to operate all SCRA radio repeating /transmitting devices; ii. a current member of and continuous membership in SCRA for the previous five years; iii. basic technical knowledge of repeaters and radio repeating devices or a willingness to learn about such devices; iv. the ability to tactfully deal with repeater users; and v. a willingness to teach SCRA members about repeater systems.

2. The duties of the Repeater Chairman are as follows: I. preside at Repeater Committee meetings; ii. ensure that proper technical records of repeater equipment are kept current; iii. report to the Board of Directors; iv. act as liaison with the generally recognized area repeater co-ordination body, repeater site owners and operators; v. act as a Control Operator; and vi. appoint other committee members, subcommittee members and net control stations. The Repeater Chairman may appoint a vice-chairman from the Control Operator members if desired.

### c. Control Operators

1. The repeater license trustee shall automatically be a Control Operator. The appointment and removal of other Control Operators shall be by a majority vote of the elected members of the Board of Directors. Candidates for the Control Operator position shall be nominated by an elected member of the Board of Directors or by the Repeater Chairman. The minimum qualifications for Control Operator shall be: I. possession of a class of amateur radio license that authorizes the operator to operate SCRA radio repeating/transmitting devices; ii. a current member of and continuous membership in SCRA for the previous two years; iii. basic technical knowledge of repeaters and radio repeating devices or a willingness to learn about such devices; iv. the ability to tactfully deal with repeater users; and v. a willingness to teach SCRA members about repeater systems. There shall be no limit to the number of Control Operators appointed.

2. The extra duties of Control Operators are to: I. monitor SCRA radio repeating/transmitting devices; ii. initiate control code sequences as needed for the proper operation of the devices; iii. take any reasonably necessary steps to ensure compliance with federal or local laws regarding the proper operation of the repeaters and transmitters; iv. diplomatically contact and advise repeater users whose operating practice may violate applicable laws or club policy, or, whose acts may cause the repeater/transmitter to be in violation of said laws; and v. co-operate with officials from the Official Observer or other similar program in their investigation of improper operation. All alleged violations of the laws regarding repeaters/transmitters, club policy or similar incidents which require intervention by a Control Operator are to be documented and reported to the Board of Directors at their next meeting unless, in the opinion of the Repeater Chairman, the report should be made sooner.

d. Members - General members of the committee must be current club members and shall be appointed by the Repeater Chairman.

e. Term of Office - The term of office for all Repeater Committee members, except the license trustee, shall be from the January Board of Directors meeting until the following January Board of Directors meeting, or, until their successors are appointed.

## Why the proposed change to the constitution?

The discussion of the repeater committee budget at the September club meeting brought to the foreground just one of a number of issues regarding the composition and operation of the committee that has concerned quite a few members for some time. Since I joined the club in 1984, there have been significant changes. The club has grown from about 50 members meeting in the county EOC room to peaking at over 300 members and at times packing the large meeting room at HP. We have also gone from owning/operating one 2 meter repeater to owning/operating four repeaters and two digipeaters on various bands. The cost of the repeater operation has increased from being a small part of our dues to one of the largest, non-revenue offset expense item in our club budget, necessitating the recent 50% increase in our dues.

Below are listed the primary concerns with the current committee function and how the proposed constitution rectifies the issue:

1. Budget and Expenditures - At the last club meeting, Repeater Committee Chairman Kelly Cureton, KD6CJQ, properly brought the issue of purchasing a bandpass filter to the club for comment. Other club officers stated that since the cost did not exceed the committee's current budget, that the expenditure would not need approval. Not so. The club constitution and bylaws specifically require board approval for the purchase of any "non-expendable" item. A budget is a contract with the membership on how their money is to be spent. Past repeater chairmen have treated their budgetary allotment as a "blank check" to do with as they pleased. Literally, a check for the amount of the budget was given to the chairman with little oversight on the fund's use. More recently, it came to my attention that the purchase of a replacement transceiver was in the works without board approval. The comment received was that since the committee was below budget at the time, that they could do anything they wanted with the funds. If the purchase had been completed, it would have been in violation of the governing documents of the club. Knowing the parties involved, I am confident that there was no malicious intent. There was, however, a lack of understanding of the requirements under the club constitution. The proposed constitution change restates the board approval requirement and also includes a requirement that significant equipment changes be prior approved by the board which consists of your elected representatives.

2. Committee Membership and Selection - The current situation is that the board appoints a committee chairman. The chairman then selects the committee members who are designated as control operators. Under the current system, even the board has no authority over the control operators. They do not have a stated term of office. There are no minimum requirements for the committee members. They do not even have to be a club member. Looking at the current list of control operators, we have one person who is rarely on or monitoring the repeater. Under the current system, the repeater license trustee, Al Bloom, who is personally liable for the operation of the repeater is not automatically empowered as a control operator. The control operators are many times the first person to represent the club to prospective members who use the repeaters for the first time. We can all recall in the not too distant past when the 6.73 repeater was commonly known as the "un-friendly" repeater. The proposed constitution change provides for minimum qualifications to be the committee chairman, control operator and general committee member. The selection of the chairman remains with the board. The control operators would also be appointed by the board, thus bringing them under the oversight of your elected officials of the club. The proposed change also allows for general committee members who may be interested in the repeater system. The proposed change also specifies a term of office for all committee members.

3. Committee Meetings - Under the current system, the repeater committee meets privately without notice to the board or general membership. This is in direct violation of the club bylaws. These private meetings prohibit any member from participating in the discussion of where their dues go. It also prohibits members from learning about repeaters. A large percentage of our members come in to our hobby as Technician class licensees and have little working knowledge of the "machines" they spend most of their air time using. Open meetings and a repeater committee willing to teach would facilitate the learning process to all the members, and, provides future committee chairmen, control operators and members. However, there are times when the control operators need to meet in private, known as an "executive session," to discuss the control codes and specific control functions of the repeaters. The proposed change restates the requirement that the repeater committee meetings be held in public, and, provides for specific meeting notice requirements. This is a common requirement for "open" meeting rules. The proposed change also specifically allows "executive session" meetings for a limited purpose of control code issues and allows the control operators to exclude others from the executive session.

4. Committee Operation - Under the current system, all the authority of the committee rests with the chairman. This is contrary to the representative form of management that our club and other organizations use. The authority properly rests with the committee as a whole, not with one person, which is just how your board of directors operates. The chairman acts as the presiding officer at the committee meetings and is the committee's representative to the board of directors and others as directed by the board. The proposed change makes this distinction.

This analysis is not a criticism of the current repeater chairman and his operatives. Kelly and company have done a great job returning the repeaters' "friendly" reputation and have dealt with the difficult task of meeting the county's stringent requirements. This is a criticism of a "closed" management system that they inherited. This system severely limits club member participation and does not allow for proper oversight by you and your elected officials. The old, current system seemed to work well when the club was smaller and had only one repeater to manage. As the club and repeater system has grown, the old system does not properly reflect the club's organizational style and committee management needs. Please review the proposed change. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me. Please lend your support to this proposed constitution change.

73,  
Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV Member-at-Large, SCRA Board of Directors (707) 538-0331 bill@cds1.net

(Continued from other side)

changes. Besides, not all UHF radios can be modified to cover that frequency range. In the interest of fairness, the club should then provide control radios for Control Operators who don't possess 420 MHz capable equipment as possession of equipment alone should not be a consideration for being a control operator.. (Another expense...)

The Repeater Chairman should be able to decide for himself how many Control Operators he needs as the smoothness with which the repeaters may be managed can be determined, to some degree, by the number of control operators trying to control it at any given time. Even with only 6 or 7 Control Operators, there have been times when we have been trying to control on top of each other and it has caused confusion over why the repeater wouldn't do what we tried to make it do at the time. I'm not suggesting that there is some magical preset cutoff for the number of Control Operators, but I am suggesting that the person or persons who would best know when we have reached that number would be the Repeater Chairman and his committee. This is one more reason why I feel it is so important that the Repeater Chairman alone (with the advice of his committee) should be responsible for selecting his Control Operators, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

Had Bill approached the Repeater Committee or the Chairman seeking information on the feasibility of his proposals before hand, these difficulties could have been pointed out.

#### **Regarding Bill's Reasons for the Proposed Change:**

Bill suggests that the repeater operation has increased from being a small part of our dues to one of the largest, non-revenue offset expense items in our club budget necessitating the recent 50% increase in our dues. The repeater operation costs have gone up, this is true. But of course the costs will go up when we increase the number of repeaters the club owns and operates from 2 to 4. We also have 2 digipeaters, but there is generally no operating expense associated with these. I'd like to point out that this year the club budgeted \$1500 for the repeaters but it also budgeted \$2500 for our newsletter, *Short Skip*. Yes, we undoubtedly get some revenue from advertising that appears, but I'm fairly certain that it still operates in the red to at least the tune of \$1500.

Bill makes mention of the attempted purchase of a transceiver for an emergency replacement of the GE repeater when we were in a period of uncertainty of whether or not we could find a new power amplifier to replace the one that had failed. What Bill fails to point out is the nature of the transaction and how the purchased was to be handled had the board not approved the purchase, after the fact. The transceiver was advertised on the Internet and we (I) was the first to respond. It was a good price for a 100 Watt transceiver but the seller didn't want to ship COD, even if we sent him the cost of shipping and COD up front. Since I initiated the deal, I told the individual that our club would not risk monies like that and withdrew the offer to purchase. What Bill doesn't know is that Kelly told me if the BOD didn't approve the purchase after the fact, that he would buy the radio from the club, modify it to be a repeater and sell it and triple his money. Of course, nobody besides Kelly can confirm this, as it was a private comment he made to me alone. You'll just have to rely on my honesty here. (Just today, I saw a Motorola Micor that had been modified to be a repeater for sale at \$350, roughly 3 times what the asking price was of the radio we were attempting to buy...) Bill is correct, there was

certainly no malicious intent. It was simply a case of our Repeater Chairman, in an attempt to fulfill his obligation of "maintaining reliable Amateur repeater communication capabilities" in the best way he knew how, bending the rules to fit the situation (with his offer to purchase the radio from the club as a backup) to facilitate a volatile deal that we thought was the best option at the time. There simply was no impropriety involved or attempted.

Bill says that the BOD has no way to remove a Control Operator. Not true. The BOD may ask the Repeater Chairman to remove a Control Operator for good reason, and if he fails to comply, (he would not be properly fulfilling his position), the BOD may remove the Chairman by Article VI (Dismissal of Officers and Members) and replace him with someone who will comply.

Bill alleges that the Repeater Committee meets in secret. To some degree, this is true. Of the two committee meetings Kelly has called since he has been Repeater Chairman, only the first one was publicized (with no one bothering to show up besides the committee members, I might add.) The second meeting was called when he added Joel KJ6LF, and Larry KD6VUM as new Control Operators. The only subject that was discussed was control codes and how to use them. Bill has acknowledged a need for "executive sessions", and that is exactly what the second meeting was, hence it was not publicized.

#### **Summary:**

I can not support Bill's proposed change to the SCRA Constitution. Bill's amendment is too complicated and attempts to regulate the operation of the Repeater Committee and Chairman to far too great an extent, much further than any other committee. It places too stringent of qualifications on the Repeater Chairman and his Committee, much more severe qualifications than on the Officers of the Board of Directors who appoint him. This places too much importance on the Repeater Committee when it only plays a relatively small part of the whole of SCRA. Amateur radio is not repeaters alone!

We must also remember that this is a service club staffed by volunteers, not a profitable corporation where such stringent regulation is necessary. I'm sure I speak for all the members of the Repeater Committee when I say that we take great pride in the service we perform for the club. We are volunteers who enjoy doing our jobs and should be afforded a small degree of trust to execute our duties accordingly. The Repeater Committee shouldn't be regulated to the point where it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to effectively carry out our responsibilities.

Along with Al Bloom, I would also be in favor of adding a couple of simple statements to Article V, Section 5 that say the Repeater Committee meetings are open to the membership with minutes published in *Short Skip* and changing the rules to make Control Operator appointments subject to Board approval.

73,

Ken Harrison, N6MHG, Repeater Committee Member.

## Regarding Bill Hillendahl's Proposed Amendment:

First of all, I'd like to thank Bill Hillendahl for clarifying his feelings about the current Repeater Committee and stating that his analysis is not a criticism of the job we have done. Likewise, my rebuttal is not an attack on him, just further explanations, responses, and a collection of reasons why I can't support the proposal.

Let me begin with the Proposed Change itself. I did a simple "word count" study of Article V, Section 5 of our current Constitution (the powers and duties of the Repeater Chairman) and found that it contains about 179 words. The change that Bill proposes contains about 830 words. That is almost a five times increase in verbiage. What really brings that figure into perspective is the fact that our entire Article V, all seven sections describing the powers and duties of all SCRA officers is only about 701 words long! The proposed change is a bit complicated, indeed.

Neither the Activities Committee nor the Public Service Committee have outlines in our Constitution specifying step by step duties and procedures for execution of those duties. Why is the Repeater Committee singled out in this regard? Both the Activities Chairman and the Public Service Chairman are free to decide routine, non-policy matters pertaining to their respective committees. There is no such provision for the Repeater Chairman in the proposed change as everything is pre-outlined for him.

In our Constitution, both the Activities Chairman and the Public Service Chairman are free to appoint the members of their respective committees and subcommittees but the proposed change will take that power away from the Repeater Chairman. If the other chairmen are trusted to decide who they wish to have serve on their committees, why not the Repeater Chairman, too? I DO support a confirmation of Repeater Committee appointees by the SCRA Board of Directors, however. In that way, the Repeater Chairman may choose individuals who he believes will serve well together and the BOD has the final authority to decide on such appointments.

I take issue with the proposed minimum qualifications, specifically the wording "license that authorizes the chairman to operate all SCRA radio repeating/transmitting devices" and "continuous membership in SCRA for the previous" X years. "Radio repeating/transmitting devices" would encompass not only repeaters (which are both a receiver and transmitter) but ANY transmitting device the club owns. I don't \*think\* it was Bill's intention to include the club's HF transmitters that are used at Field Day, but the way this section is worded would include them. This would automatically disqualify any prospective candidate for Repeater Chairman who was not at least a Tech+ class licensee, as this would be the minimum class that is allowed to transmit on both HF transmitting devices AND those above 30 MHz.

What does "continuous membership in SCRA for the previous" X years have to do with the ability of any Repeater Chairman or Control Operator to perform their duties? Why would there be more demanding qualifications to be met for being the Repeater Chairman than for the members of the BOD who appointed him? Why would there be more demanding qualifications for being a Control Operator than for holding office on the BOD? (By coincidence, Kelly KD6CJQ who is our current Repeater Chairman, **would not qualify** to hold that position should Bill's proposal be adopted. Kelly, though he has held office in SCRA as both the Vice President in 1994 [only 4 months after he was licensed] and President in 1995 will only have been a licensed amateur, and therefore a member of SCRA for about 4 years and 4 months when

the proposed change would go into effect. The proposal would require him to have been a continuous member for 5 years in order to hold his current position.)

Indulge me while I attempt to make a point: Let us assume, though silly it may be, that every member of SCRA who had been a member for one year or more decided to renounce their membership in the club due to disgust with ensuing political turmoil. If the current proposal were adopted, the club would have to shut down their repeaters for at least one month because there would be no qualified Repeater Chairman or Control Operators who had been continuous members for 5 years or 2 years, respectively. Someone would have to propose an amendment to the Constitution to correct the error that had been made earlier. By Constitutional procedure, the change would be placed in *Short Skip* and voted upon at the next club meeting, causing a wait of 1 month or more.

I have no objection to having general members of the Repeater Committee who would be individuals interested in technical aspects of repeaters or in learning about such aspects. Our Constitution already provides for appointment of such members in Article V, Section 5, part a. "The Duties of the Repeater Chairman shall be: a. To appoint the members of the Repeater committee and its subcommittees and the repeater and net control stations." All Kelly needs to know is who might be interested in serving on such a committee or subcommittee.

By specifying a "term of office" for the Control Operators of one year, it is implied that we will have a completely new batch of Control Operators each January. A repeater, as Bill points out, can have a reputation. Do we want that reputation to be consistent or changing like the tide? The smoothness with which a repeater is managed is not something that is acquired overnight, but something that happens as a result of years of experience. It is not an easy thing for a new Control Operator to decide how to manage the case of an individual who jumps on the frequency with a foul mouth looking to get a rise out of someone. Depending on the situation, the best manner of control might be to simply ignore the individual altogether. Often times these individuals will go away after becoming bored because nobody pays them any attention. A non-seasoned Control Operator might jump the gun and jump to turn the repeater off. This might be just the attention the individual is looking for and he will be there to try the same stunt again when the repeater comes back up. Consistency in management is a very important issue when it comes to repeaters. Like Bill says, the repeaters and their operation give our club a very public reputation. (On a side note, I'd like to add that there already is an effective term of office for Repeater Committee members as the Repeater Chairman is appointed on a year to year basis and he has the authority to choose his own committee members.)

Changing Control Operators on a yearly basis is simply not feasible due to the constraints of enacting such a change. The repeaters would have to be completely reprogrammed with new control operator codes. (This is no small task, mind you...) The phone number that Control Operators may dial in to control the repeater would have to be changed on a yearly basis. (There's another expense for the club.) The repeater control frequency would have to be changed each year, too. This, as Kelly has told me, could be a problem. NARCC has grand fathered our control frequency as they want all new control frequencies to be in the 420 MHz range. NARCC has enough new requests for repeaters that it can't seem to meet without adding our yearly request for control frequency  
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