

Calendar of Events

Dec 31/Jan 1			ARRL Straight Key Night
Jan 3	Wed	7:00 PM	VE Paper-Only Session, Agilent Technologies, Santa Rosa
		7:30 PM	SCRA Meeting, Agilent Technologies, Santa Rosa
		5:30 PM	Dinner before at Marie Callenders, 2460 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa
Jan 10	Wed	6:30 PM	SCRA Board of Directors Meeting, 3450 Airway Dr., Santa Rosa
Jan 6	Sat		Kid's Day 2001 (see article inside for details)
Jan 10	Wed	6:30 PM	SCRA Board of Directors Meeting, 3450 Airway Dr., Santa Rosa
Jan 13	Sat	9:00 AM	Technican Class License Class, SRJC, Lark Hall Room 2042
			(see article inside or call Bill at 707 544-4944 for details)
Jan 17	Wed	7:00 PM	REDXA Meeting, Carrow's, Petaluma
	Wed	7:00 PM	Valley of the Moon ARC Meeting, Sonoma Police Dept.
Jan 20	Sat	9:00 AM	VE Session, Agilent Technologies, 1400 Fountaingrove Parkway, Santa Rosa, Building 1

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
P. O. Box 116
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

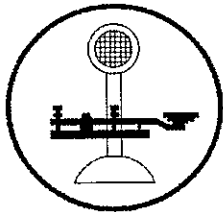
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WB6FRZ



Club Station
W6LFJ

Short Skip

newsletter of the
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
P. O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116
(707) 579-9608 scra@cds1.net
<http://cgs1.net/scra>
Repeaters
146.73- • 224.48- • 441.375+



Repeater Station
W6SON

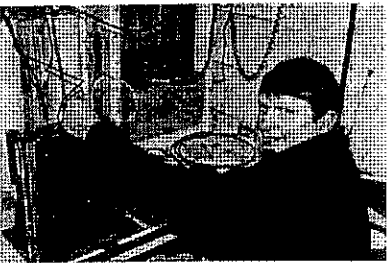
Volume 26 Number 1

January 2001

Happy New Year

SPUNKO'S
SPARKS

By Gregory Gordon,
AC6VJ
President, SCRA



I hope you all had wonderful holidays and now we have a brand new year! I'm hoping in the beginning of this year the club will be able to get its repeaters installed on English Hill and Castle Rock without inconveniencing the members in times when the repeaters are down in the process of moving. We already have a repeater class going which is involved in this project, and, any and all members are welcome to join us. We make field trips to the above-mentioned commercial repeater sites and everyone gets hands-on experience. (Both sites have grand views, by the way!)

The Board is in the planning stages of another fantastic Field Day. We have already reserved the space at Youth Park on Piner Road across from the high school. Do plan to come and get on the air and make some contacts.

I am hoping that we can have another successful Swap Meet this year by carrying on all the fine work Rick has done in the past in organizing the event. Hopefully, the site will again be the Lewis Adult Education Center. Start stockpiling your surplus electronics now!

73, Greg

Marie Mappus KI6QY
Life Member



At the Christmas party on December 6th, Marie Mappus KI6QY was awarded a Life Membership in SCRA for her many years of dedicated service to the club and to the amateur radio community.

Marie and her husband, Rudy N6KLU (SK), first became interested in the hobby in the early 1980's when on a trip to visit their son in Texas, they parked their RV in a campground where a Ham had also camped and was operating a station. Marie and Rudy starting studying and in 1984, Marie earned her first license and joined SCRA. Marie now holds an Advanced class license.

Marie's favorite part of the hobby is public service. She was SCRA's Public Service Chairman in 1987 and from 1994 through 1997. In that capacity, Marie helped build SCRA's public service program to what it is today. Her effort has been of benefit not only to the club, but to all the organizations the club's program has served. The public service events provide training and experience for Hams that they can use in the event of real emergencies.

(continued on page 3)

2001 Club Officials

President	Greg Gordon	AC6VJ	707 523-7077
Vice President	Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	707 544-4944
Secretary	Jeff Basham	W2JAB	707 575-9354
Treasurer	Jim Cardillo-Lee	KE6VGV	415 892-0317
Director	Rich Freitas	KF6SZA	707 578-9335
Director	John Mullan	KD2L	707 575-9176
Past President	Rick Reiner	K6ZWB	707 575-4455

Activities Chairman
Public Service Chairman
Repeater Chairman

Greg GordonAC6VJ707 523-7077

Short Skip & Web Staff

Editor	Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	707 544-4944
Editor	Bill McCall	W6WDM	707 538-2844
Audio Taping	Jeff Basham	W2JAB	707 575-9354
Hank's Swap Shop	Jeff Basham	W2JAB	707 575-9354
Web Master	Jeff Basham	W2JAB	707 575-9354

Contacts

Antenna Ordinance/Legal	Lee Dibble	KE6EAQ	707 544-1675
Public Relations	Bill McCall	W2WDM	707 538-2844
Raffles	Jeff Basham	W2JAB	707 575-9354
Refreshments	Ted DeCroff	KB6PTA	707 542-4008
TV/RF Interference	Alan Bloor	N1AL	707 538-7115

SCRA Hotline707 579-9608

SCRA E-Mailscra@cds1.net

SCRA Web Sitehttp://cgs1.net/scra

Tuesday Night Net

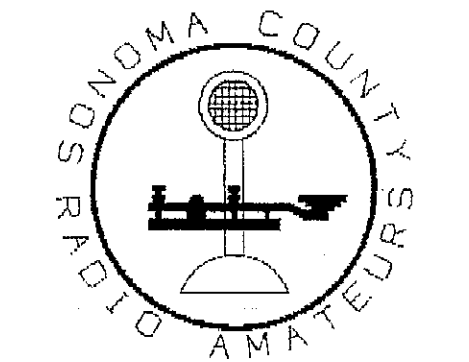
Check in to the SCRA net each Tuesday evening on the 146.73-(PL 88.5) repeater at 7:00 PM. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the area and what is listed in Hank's Swap Shop. You will also hear the weekly Amateur Radio Newsline broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

Business Cards	\$ 10
1st Quarter Column	\$ 11
Each Addn'l Quarter Column	\$ 3
Full page (one side)	\$ 32
Pre-printed inserts (each)	\$ 32

Guaranteed circulation of 200 per month!

For more information, contact the Editor.



CLUB MEETINGS

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month at:

Agilent Technologies
1400 Fountaingrove Parkway
Santa Rosa, CA

The meeting starts at 7:30 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please join us at our next meeting. Membership in SCRA is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. A membership application is included in this newsletter.

Interested? For more information, contact any SCRA officer, director or member.

NEXT MEETING

January 3rd

7:30 PM

Program:

Cell Phone Technology

HUNGRY BEFORE THE MEETING?

JOIN US FOR DINNER! We meet at Marie Callenders restaurant, 2460 Mendocino Avenue (corner of Mendocino & Chanate), Santa Rosa. People start showing up at 5:30 PM. No RSVP is required! See you there!

SCRA President Rick K6ZWB thanks Santa Rosa Cycling Club President Bill Ellis for their donation

Judy Gordon & Greg AC6VJ

Santa & Mrs. Claus

Mr. & Mrs. Bill McCall W6WDM

Straight Key Night

The annual ARRL Straight Key Night is on for 24 hours, starting January 1, 2001 at 0000 UTC through 2400 UTC (that's 1600 12/31 to 1600 1/1 PST). The event is to get back to the "basics" of operating without all the bells and whistles that we have become accustomed to using. The emphasis is on "rag chewing" and not on hard core contesting. Many participants end up qualifying for the "Rag Chewers Club" by making one 30 minute QSO.

For more details, see the article on page 99 of the December 2000 QST, or check out the Contest web page at www.arrl.org/contests. "See" you on the air!

Marie K16QY receiving Life Membership from Rick K6ZWB

Rick K6ZWB & Greg AC6VJ handing off the Presidency

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Membership Application

New [] Renewal []

Please Print Clearly

Name _____ Call Sign _____ License Class _____ Date _____

Address _____ Hm Phone _____ Wk Phone _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____

Dues & Fees: (SCRA dues year is from 3/1 to 2/28)

Individual/Associate Member	\$ 18 (\$1.50/mo)
Family Membership	\$ 27 (\$2.25/mo)
Under 18 Membership	\$ 9 (\$0.75/mo)
Badge	\$ 7
ARRL Dues (over 65)	\$ 34 (\$28)

When renewing your ARRL membership, please do it through SCRA. We get to keep \$2 for each SCRA member. Thanks!

Payment Calculations: Make checks payable to SCRA

Dues - Full Year (3/1 to 2/28)	\$ _____
Dues - Prorated _____ Mos. X \$ _____/mo	\$ _____
Badge	\$ _____
ARRL Dues	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Mail to: SCRA, P. O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Badge Information

Call Sign _____

First Name _____

City _____

Autoslot Request:

Licensed SCRA members are able to request an auto-dialing "autoslot" for the repeater phone patch. Complete the information below and send the form to the club.

Name _____ Call _____

Phone # for slot _____

Repeater Class (continued)

Looks just like CalTrans – one person working and three people watching!

Intended to broaden the knowledge base of repeater systems in the club, the instruction will help ensure that we have qualified control operators for the future. Our repeaters play a vital roll in county emergency communications in addition to providing reliable day-to-day conversation for many of us.

TECHNICAN LICENSE CLASS Starts January 13, 2001

The **Empire Amateur Radio Society** and **SRJC's SAREX Project** are holding another Technician license class starting on **Saturday, January 13, 2001**. The eleven week course starts at **9:00 AM** and runs until Noon. The class will be held in **Lark Hall room 2042**, adjacent to the SAREX station. Parking at the JC on Saturdays is free. The class cost is \$20 per person and a discount is offered for additional members of one's immediate family. **The first class session on January 13th is FREE and provides a introduction to Ham radio.** To reserve a place in the class and for more information, call **707 544-4944** or e-mail ear@cdis1.net. Bring that person that you know who has been interested but has not gotten started in our favorite hobby!

Are you a budding author? Write an article for *Short Skip* on a Ham radio-related subject, technical or non-technical. E-mail the article to kh6gjv@arrl.net. We'd love to see YOU in print!

Christmas Party was a BLAST!

Once again, the annual Christmas party was held at Michele's restaurant near Railroad Square. Many commented on the well prepared and generous quantity of food that was served. This year the event was held in the larger meeting room which easily and comfortably handled the bigger crowd that last year. Enjoy the following photos of the festivities.



Jessica KG6AAZ, Mom Esther & Sue K8SUE



Toni KF6ZCW & Jim KE6VGV



Mariiyn KE6PZP & Jon KM6XO

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Marie Mappus KI6QY (continued)

Marie said that she also enjoys DX and hopes to work more in 2001.

Marie has passed on the interest in radio to her granddaughter, Kim. When Kim was age ten, Marie helped her study and Kim passed tests to earn a Technician class license with the call sign KF6IAQ. Kim is now fourteen and will be visiting Marie this coming Summer.

Many thanks, Marie!

VOLUNTEER EXAM SESSIONS & INFO

By John Mullan KD2L
VE Liaison

Paperwork Only VE Test Session - On January 3, 2001 at 7:00 PM, a limited test session will be offered for those amateur radio operators who desire to file paperwork to upgrade their license. This session will be held at Agilent just prior to the regular SCRA meeting in the regular meeting room and is primarily for those holders of the Technician (Plus) class license who passed the old element 3 (General Class theory) and who now qualify for a General class license. Others who hold CSCE credit who wish to file paperwork to upgrade are also welcome. It is important to note that **NO TESTS WILL BE ADMINISTERED**. Candidates should bring their current license, and a copy of the license; plus the original and copies of all qualifying paperwork (i.e. licenses or CSCE) and the necessary test fee (\$10).

Full VE Test Session - On Saturday, January 20th at 9:00 AM, a full testing session will be conducted at the Agilent Technologies Santa Rosa campus, 1400 Fountaingrove Parkway. The session will be held in building #1. As above, candidates need to bring all necessary documentation and the test fee to take the qualifying tests.

Effective **January 1, 2001**, the test fee for ARRL VEC administered test sessions will be **\$10**. This is a radical jump from the previous fee of \$6.65. The FCC has removed the cap from the fees which may be charged, and the ARRL VEC has found that their out of pocket

costs have risen with the advent of the ULS system. For those who may not be aware, since mid 2000 the various VEC's have been responsible for nearly all processing for license upgrades, including inputting the data into the FCC computer system. Previously the VEC's mailed the processed paperwork to the FCC in Gettysburg for final processing, now the only thing the FCC is doing is actually printing the license and dealing with special cases.

ARLS026 AO-40 Still Silent

AMSAT OSCAR-40 remains silent, and command stations on the ground still have been unable to reestablish contact with the Amateur Radio satellite. It had been hoped that an onboard computer timeout expected on or about December 16 would restart the beacon telemetry and give the ground crew some clues as to why AO-40 suddenly stopped transmitting on December 13.

AMSAT-Germany's Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, of the AO-40 team, said nothing was heard over the weekend, and command stations tried to re-establish communication by sending blind commands. If the reset had occurred, the satellite would have been restored to its post-launch configuration and attempt to transmit on 70 cm. However, the 70-cm transmitter has been problematic, and the satellite likely still would need to be reconfigured for 2-meter transmission at that point to be heard on Earth.

The AO-40 team is continuing to investigate reports of weak signals on the 2-meter downlink frequency of 145.898 MHz that seem to be coming from AO-40, but it has discounted reports of telemetry heard there as a hoax. Other reports persist of a weak, unmodulated carrier, however.

Guelzow said today that the AO-40 team is encouraged by a report from the North American Air Defense Command--NORAD. The report indicates that AO-40 was found to be in one piece, that the orbit was exactly where it should be, that the radar cross-section was as expected, and that no other pieces were found. Guelzow said the NORAD data counter rumors "which no one on the inner team believed" that AO-40 might have exploded.

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton said ground controllers were exploring several options.

When and whether the satellite will be heard from again depends, in part, on whether AO-40 has picked up any of the "blind commands" sent by ground controllers. Guelzow says that if no commands were accepted by the IHU-1 onboard computer since contact was lost December 13, then a "command-assist" watchdog routine on December 21 will cycle the satellite through various receive, transmit, high-gain and low-gain antenna modes. If AO-40 did pick up some commands, Guelzow said, the command-assist watchdog will be reset for another 10 orbits. That could extend the wait until sometime after Christmas.

Guelzow says the "watchdogs" are software resets. Ground controllers want to avoid doing a hard re-boot of the main computer, which is considered a last resort. "There is no need to hurry, and the command team doesn't want to miss any option," he said.

For more information, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site, <http://www.amsat.org>. (From ARRL Newsletter)



ARES Comm Log

by Rich Freitas KF6SZA
Greater Santa Rosa
Emergency Coordinator

Here are a couple of photos taken during the Simulated Emergency Test in November. It was such a success, the group has decided to have additional SETs throughout the year. I'll let you know when the next one is planned.



Zach KG6ABA and Vicki KF6ZCT operate at Sutter Hospital



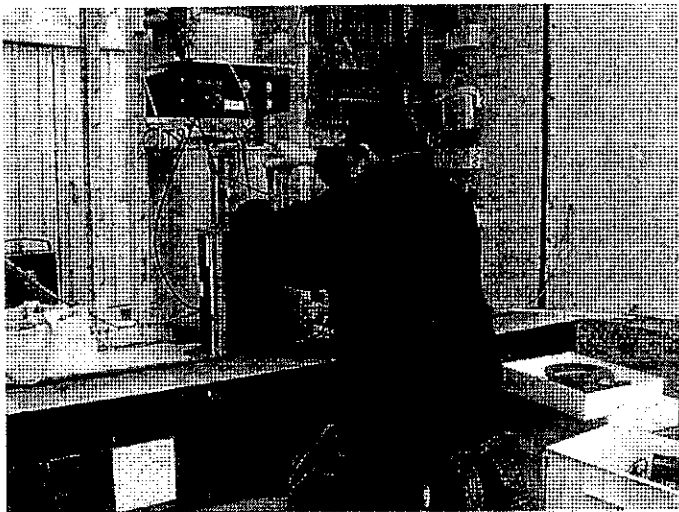
Toni KF6ZCW and Jim KE6VGV handle traffic from the Vets Bldg.

The Santa Rosa ARES net meets Monday at 7:30 PM on 147.45 simplex. Everyone is welcome to check-in.

SCRA Repeater Class Notes

By Rich Freitas KF6SZA

Why is it that trips to repeater sites always take place on cold, damp mornings? That's exactly how it was during the last meeting of the repeater class. The class is being taught by our new President and illustrious repeater-meister Greg Gordon (AC6VJ). So far, students have been treated both to classroom instruction on the components and workings of a repeater and actual hands-on experience at one of the SCRA repeater sites. These photos taken at the English Hill site were shot while some maintenance issues were being tackled on the 70 cm. unit.



Greg AC6VJ working on the Uniden

Combining radio theory with practical application, Greg walked us through the steps even though some of us were a bit mystified as to what we were actually doing.

(Continued on page 8)

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting 12-13-2000

MINUTES

2000 Board Members Present: Rick Reiner K6ZWB, Greg Gordon AC6VJ, Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Jim Cardillo-Lee KE6VGV and Rich Freitas KF6SZA.

2001 Board Members Present: Greg Gordon AC6VJ, Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Jim Cardillo-Lee KE6VGV, Rick Reiner K6ZWB, Rich Freitas KF6SZA and John Mullan KD2L.

2000 Board Members Absent: Bill McCall W6WDM

2001 Board Members Excused: Jeff Basham W2JAB

Committee Chairmen Present: John Mullan KD2L.

Guests Present: Sue Mullan K8SUE and Brian Torr N6IY.

1. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum, Introductions - The meeting was called to order by President Rick Reiner K6ZWB at 6:48 PM. The meeting was held at Furniture Traditions, 3450 Airway Drive. A quorum was present in that five of the six voting board members were present.
2. Approval of Minutes - Greg AC6VJ moved that the minutes of the Board meeting of November 8, 2000, be approved as printed in Shortskip. The motion passed.
3. Officer & Director Reports
 - a. Treasurer
 - i. Current Financial - Jim KE6VGV reviewed the current account balances.
 - ii. 2001 Budget - There being no objection, this matter was carried over to the next meeting.
 - iii. Year-end Financial Review - There being no objection, this matter was carried over to the next meeting.
 - b. Officers
 - i. Secretary
Mail & Communications - Bill KH6GJV distributed the mail to the appropriate officers and presented the newsletters that the club had received. Bill presented a letter from the ARRL requesting funds for the spectrum protection effort. The consensus was that a hat be passed at the next meeting for a donation. Bill advised that the World Radio ad was expiring. Bill moved that \$65 be authorized to pay the annual ad fee. The motion passed. Bill noted that World Radio provides six free subscription cards with the ad. Bill advised that the P. O. Box rental bill had been received. Bill moved that \$44 be authorized to pay the annual fee. The motion passed. Bill presented an detailed invoice for office expenses and copies that he had incurred from March through November. The invoice totaled \$121.29 and did not include long distance phone calls or postage. Bill donated the cost of the expenses to the club.
 - c. Directors - None
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Activities Committee - Jeff Basham W2JAB
 - i. Christmas Dinner (Michele's) - The dinner meeting was discussed. The feeling was that the meeting and food was great. The larger room was preferred. The general consensus was that the meeting be held at Michele's again next year.
 - b. Newsletter - Bill KH6GJV and Bill W6WDM - Bill KH6GJV advised that the deadline for articles would be the 17th.
 - c. Public Service Committee - John KD2L reported that there had been some interest expressed by a member in helping out with First Night. The consensus of the Board was that First Night was not a project for the club as it really involved traffic control

- d. Repeater Committee - Greg Gordon AC6VJ
 - i. Status of Repeaters - Greg advised that everything seemed to be working normally. He reported on the progress at English Hill and Castle Rock. Greg AC6VJ moved that up to \$697.45 be authorized to reimburse him for equipment purchases and the amount be deducted from the donated funds. The motion passed.
 - ii. Meeting with DES Director Vern Losh - Greg reported that he and Bill had met with Vern Losh, thanked him for the use of the Sonoma Mountain site, asked for possession of the GE Master II radio and assured him that SCRA was supportive of the DES programs with continued use of the club's radio systems. Greg also talked to Joe Perez who stated that he could not give away county property. Greg reported that Joe had asked SCRA to consider swapping frequencies with the 145.35 owners. The Board discussed the issue and decided that there was no benefit to SCRA to accommodate the frequency swap.
 - iii. Net Control Operators - 1-2 VJ, 1-9 IY, 1-16 RMW, 1-23 SUE, 1/30 GJV
5. Unfinished Business
 - a. Meeting Programs - Jan - Cell Phone Technology
Future program ideas - Cell Phone Technology, Surface Mount Devices, CATV Systems, Force 12, Heathkit History, CQWriter, Jim Maxwell W6CF on RFI certification, Howard Nurse on Heathkit.
 - b. Club Calendar - No changes
6. New Business
 - a. Board Retreat - Greg suggested that the Board have a retreat for planning as has occurred the last couple of years. The retreats were helpful in planning the year's activities. The meeting was set for Saturday, December 30th. Time and place to be announced.
7. Announcements - Rick thanked the Board members for all their support this year. Rick stressed that the Board should concentrate on "going forward."
8. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
Membership Meeting 12-6-2000

MINUTES

The December membership meeting was the annual Christmas party. No formal business was conducted so minutes were not taken.

Dayton Hamvention 2001

May 18 through 20, 2001 is really just around the corner. That is when the next grand-daddy of all Ham radio conventions and swap meet occurs in Dayton, Ohio. If you have not experienced the Hamvention, now is the time to sign up to go in 2001. Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV has started to collect names of those who are interested in going. The hard part is getting room reservations as the Hamvention attracts about 30,000 from all over the world, so rooms are scarce. Bill has blocked 10 rooms at a nightly room rate of \$68 plus taxes, and that is whether you have 1 or 2 people in the room. That is a significant reduction from the room rates paid in the last couple of years. The group is getting ready, so if you are interested in going, contact Bill at 707 544-44944 or kh6gjb@arrl.net



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Two 50-pin Centronics daisy-chain connectors & SCSI switch on rear panel

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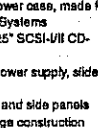
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Solid, heavy gauge construction

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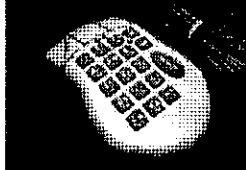
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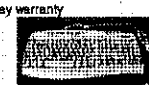
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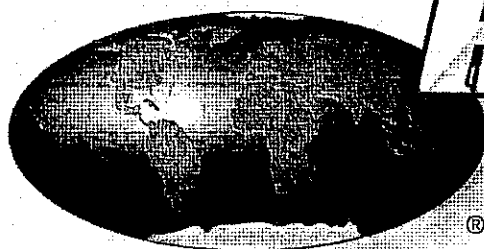
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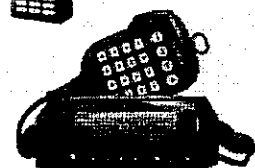
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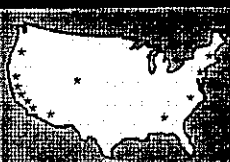
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