

Club Station  
**W6LFJ**

# Short Skip

newsletter of the

**Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.**

P. O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116

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<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

**Repeaters**

**146.73- • 224.48- • 441.375+**



Repeater Station  
**W6SON**

Volume 26 Number 8

August 2001

## Spunko's Sparks

By  
Gregory Gordon  
AC6VJ  
SCRA President



In this issue of Short Skip you will find Jim Maxwell, W6CF, ARRL's Pacific Coast Director's findings in the mediation between SCRA and the County of Sonoma. I would first like to thank Jim Maxwell for all the time that he put into it and for putting up with the aggravation that both sides vented on him. I would also like to thank the other members of SCRA's Board of Directors for the support they've shown me as repeater chairmen. And last of all, I'd like to thank the general membership for being patient in this matter and showing great restraint on the repeater. I hope everyone will continue this restraint until September 16<sup>th</sup> when the County will have completed removing their repeater according to Mr. Maxwell's recommendation.

From: "Riley Hollingsworth" <RHOLLING@fcc.gov>  
To: "Bob Lanning NARCC" <w6opo@arrl.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2001 12:31  
Subject: repeater coordination

Hi Bob. I've been asked whether, from our perspective, a repeater coordination goes to the equipment owner or to the licensee. In our view, and this is true in the Land Mobile arena as well, who owns the equipment is not relevant to who is responsible for and has the authority for the radio operation. We look only to the licensee/trustee/control operator entity. thanks

## ARRL Pacific Division Director Jim Maxwell W6CF Announces Conclusions in 146.73 Repeater Debate

*On July 16, 2001, Jim Maxwell, who had been working to resolve the repeater issue between SCRA, NARCC and the County of Sonoma/Jack Rosevear, issued his conclusions on the matter. The entire text of Jim's letter is reprinted here.*

To: Greg Gordon, Bob Lanning, Jack Rosevear  
Cc: Leonard Gwinn, Christopher Helgren

Gentlemen:

When I volunteered to act as mediator in the dispute between the English Hill and Sonoma Mtn. repeaters on 146.73 MHz earlier this year, I naively expected it to be a relatively straightforward exercise. I expected that we would all pull together to find a solution, and that we would find that solution in short time.

That has not happened. As the months passed and I became more and more familiar with the issues, I came to the realization that a friendly resolution might be impossible to achieve. After my meetings with Sonoma County OES and the Board of SCRA on Wednesday, July 11, I came to the final conclusion that the time has come to move into a new, and hopefully, final phase of this mediation process. I have therefore listed several recommendations below that represent my last effort at achieving a solution to this problem. Some of you will not care for those recommendations. However, they result from what I believe to be a realistic assessment of the technical issues, and I believe that the recommendations have potential for bringing

*(Continued on page 3)*

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## Tuesday Night Net

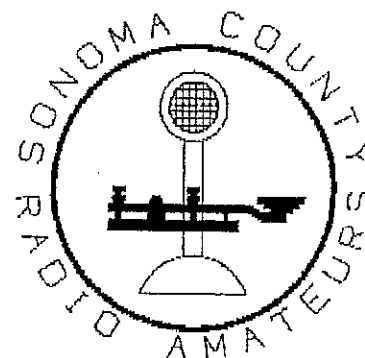
Check in to the SCRA net each **Tuesday** evening on the **146.73- (PL 88.5)** repeater at **7:00 PM**. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the area and what is listed in Hank's Swap Shop. You will also hear the weekly *Amateur Radio Newsline* broadcast.

## Short Skip Advertising Rates

Business Cards	\$ 12
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Full page (one side)	\$ 35
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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

**August 1st**

**7:30 PM**

**Program:**

**Spark Gap Transmitters**

video

(see article for details)

## 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!

**Jim Maxwell** *(continued)*

this unhappy matter to a close.

I understand fully that there are other disagreements between the two principal parties, SCRA and Sonoma County OES, as well as between various individuals. My mediation activities and this memo have not and shall not address those disagreements. My recommendations should not be interpreted as endorsing either side with regard to those disagreements; they will have to be addressed at a different time, in a different forum.

Throughout this exercise I have attempted to deal with all of you fairly and impartially. I believe I have done just that. Dealing fairly and impartially, however, does not mean that I have been blind to the realities of the situation. It is now time to discuss realities, to "lay it on the line," so to speak.

First, my conclusions.

A. I conclude that the SCRA claim for coordination of their 146.73 MHz repeater on English Hill is valid. I believe that SCRA also held a valid coordination for Sonoma Mtn. on 146.73 MHz prior to the shutdown. As the coordination holder for the Sonoma Mtn. repeater, SCRA had the right to terminate operation of that repeater, and they did. In making this statement I understand fully that the subject of "to whom is a coordination issued?" is under active review by NARCC.

B. After SCRA abandoned the Sonoma Mtn. site, Sonoma County caused a change to be made in the NARCC database, designating a new organization representative and a new call sign for the Sonoma Mtn. repeater. NARCC accepted the changes, based upon their assumption that the owner of the repeater equipment (Sonoma County) held the coordination, and was therefore authorized to make such changes. However, that assumption is inconsistent with FCC practice, which leads me to conclude that the change should not have been accepted. Sonoma County, as the equipment owner and site owner, has the right to set rules of access to its equipment and facility, or terminate such access, as it sees fit. However, Sonoma County has no standing with regard to licensing or coordination of the former SCRA repeater on Sonoma Mtn.

C. I conclude that when SCRA terminated their operation on Sonoma Mtn. and so notified NARCC, their coordination expired. Thus, when the County caused a new organization representative and call sign to be entered in the NARCC data base, the appropriate response from NARCC should have been to inform the County that a) Sonoma Mtn. was no longer coordinated for 146.73 MHz; b) even though Sonoma County is a government agency and owns the equipment, they have no greater standing in the matter than any other possible applicant for coordination on Sonoma Mtn. on 146.73 MHz; and c) a coordinated repeater was operating on that same frequency at a nearby location, English Hill.

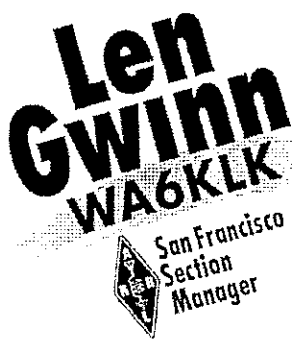
Based on the foregoing conclusions I make the following recommendations.

1. I recommend that the two repeater groups (SCRA and the Amateur group managing KD6LSO), plus NARCC, immediately launch a vigorous cooperative effort to find a new 2-meter frequency pair for the KD6LSO repeater. On July 11 the two groups agreed to continue a frequency search, attempting to identify a new frequency pair for both repeaters. I recommend that the July 11th agreement be modified to the extent that a frequency for only Sonoma Mtn. be sought. This search should be completed no later than Sept. 16, 2001.

2. While the frequency search is in progress I recommend that KD6LSO continue to operate as an uncoordinated repeater, but that the two groups develop a cooperative plan to reduce interference on 146.73 MHz. This may include a temporary time sharing plan.

3. If a new pair is identified with a high likelihood of success, then I recommend that a reasonable amount of additional time be granted the Sonoma Mtn. group to transfer their operations to the new frequency pair.

4. If no new frequency pair has been identified for Sonoma Mtn. by the end of the two-month search period, then I recommend that the KD6LSO repeater on Sonoma Mtn. cease operations on 146.73 MHz. However, taking into account the demonstrated value of the Sonoma Mtn. system for public service, I also recommend that the SCRA and Sonoma Mtn. groups then make a good faith effort to find a way such that Sonoma Mtn. can operate on 146.73 MHz on an emergency-only basis. Such operation can be authorized



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in accordance with Paragraph VII(4) of the NARCC Policies and Procedures document of Oct. 17, 1998. I recognize the difficulty in such an arrangement, for it would likely put Sonoma County ARES and Sonoma County ACS in competition with one another for repeater resources during an emergency situation. I can only hope that reason will prevail and that a suitable accommodation can be worked out, such as a joint operational plan.

5. Only as a last resort do I recommend that this matter be referred to the FCC. Hams have a long and honorable history of self-policing; let's keep it that way.

I will be happy to meet with any of the three involved groups at a mutually agreeable date and time. I will be away until Monday, July 23, although I will have email capability while gone.

73. Jim, W6CF  
James A. Maxwell, W6CF  
PO Box 473  
Redwood Estates, CA 95044

### Public Service Events Calendar

John Mullan KD2L, SCRAPS Chairman  
(707) 575-9176 kd2l@pacbell.net

#### August 11 - Vineman

Full distance triathlon, see description of Half Vineman and double all the distances. Starts early in the day (6:30 AM) and goes until 10:00 PM; 3 observers at beach, 8 bike course rest stops, 5 run course rest stops, possible sag wagons

#### Sept 28 & 30 - Waves to Wine

A two day bike ride to benefit the Northern California MS Society. This event raises many dollars for MS research. Headquarters is at the Luther Burbank Center in Larkfield. Saturday is a ride of varying distances through western Sonoma County (Waves). Sunday is a ride, again of varying distance, through northern Sonoma County (Wine). 10 rest stops each day possible sag wagons

**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](mailto:kh6gjv@arrl.net). We'd love to see YOU in print!

*J. Mullan, Photographer*

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[jmullan@pacbell.net](mailto:jmullan@pacbell.net)

John C. Mullan  
Photographer

## August Program

The August program will be a video on Spark Gap transmitters. Come join us for a return to radio of yesteryear where transmitters were transmitters (all band/all mode) and Hams were darn careful around them!



### ARES Comm Log

by Rich Freitas KF6SZA  
Greater Santa Rosa  
Emergency Coordinator

Gone Fishin' See you next month!

The ARES net meets on Mondays at 7:30 PM on the SCRA repeater 146.73 (- offset, 88.5PL). Join us!

## ULS at SCRA Meetings

John Mullan KD2L will have a computer at the meeting for members to register with the FCC's Universal Licensing System. Most Hams have not registered which is required to make any changes or upgrades to your license, even an address change. John will be available to help you through the process. The FCC computers run on east coast time, so you have to use the ULS before the meeting or at the break.

## California QSO Party Coming! October 6 & 7

CQP is the premier state QSO party. Last year there were over 7,000 active hams involved in some way or other. The vast majority get on the bands and give a few QSOs to the more serious contesters, but then stick around and join in the activity looking for those CA counties. We are again doing advance planning work to insure that all 58 CA counties will be on the air and active during this event. In fact, if you happen to be in one of the rarer counties you can easily have a pile up.

CQP is not just for HF. It also includes 6 and 2 meters. Unknown to many, CQP also has a club competition. It can be a great club activity to organize your club to get as many members as possible on the air and send in their logs to help your club achieve a high total score.

Full rules and other information is easily available at <http://www.cqp.org>.  
Tks & 73, Al AD6E

[AD6E@arrl.net](mailto:AD6E@arrl.net)

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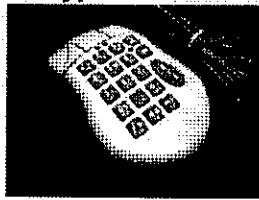


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- Accurately turns your voice to text
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HSC#18364 \$19.95

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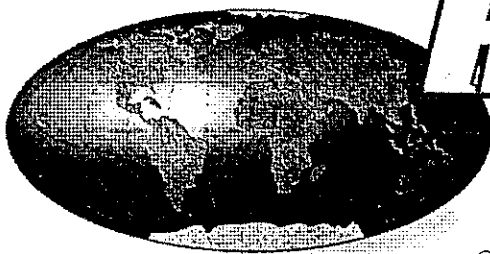
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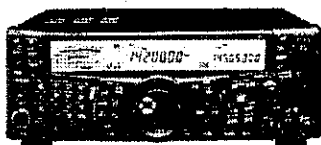
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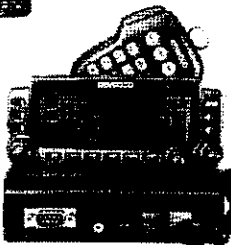
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- Wideband RX, 6M-2M-440TX
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**FT-100D** HF/6M/2M/70CM Trans.

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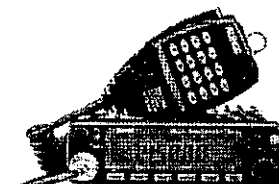
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**DJ-196T** 2M HT

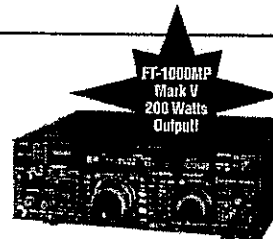
- 5 Watt out
- 40 memories
- Alphanumeric Display
- CTCSS + DCS Built-in
- "S" Meter
- Auto Dialer

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**DR-135TP** 2M Mobile

- 50 Watt out • Alpha Numeric Display
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- 100W, Power supply built-in

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## Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Membership Meeting 7-11-2001

## MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum - The meeting was called to order by President Gregory Gordon AC6VJ at 7:36 PM at the Santa Rosa Agilent Technologies facility.
  - a. Introductions
    - i. Officers & Directors - The club officers and directors introduced themselves.
    - ii. Guest Speaker - The ARRL Antenna video was summarized.
    - iii. Visitors - Brian Chatfield, Larry Gonzales
    - iv. New Calls & Upgrades - AD6XI to extra (ex KG6FMR),
    - v. Announcement - Jim Lee KE6VGV announced that on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2001, him and Toni KF6ZCW, were married.
2. Approval of Minutes - Bob WD6DPE moved that the minutes of the June 6, 2001 membership meeting be approved as printed in Shortskip. The motion passed.
3. Officer & Director Reports
  - e. Treasurer - Jim Lee KE6VGV gave the club's financial rundown.
  - b. Officers -
    - Vice-President - Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV - Bill was not present to make a report.
    - Secretary - Jeff Basham W2JAB reminded members to pick up their membership badges, and reported that a new batch of badges came in. Jeff also invited members to review the binder of other club's newsletters that the SCRA receives.
  - c. Directors -
    - Rich Freitas KF6SZA - Rich invited all members to check into the ARES net on Monday evenings at 7:30pm on the 146.730MHz.
    - John Mullan KD2L - John reported that the next VE session will be July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2001 in the same room as the meetings.
    - Rick Reiner K6ZWB - Rick reported that notices for the Swap Meet have been sent to the various ham magazines.
4. Committee Reports
  - a. Activities Committee - Bill McCall W6WDM - A field day critique was held, it was commented that the dinner was FANTASTIC as usual.
  - b. Newsletter Editor - Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV and Bill McCall W6WDM - Jeff W2JAB explained that the Baby Picture in the newsletter was the result of conspiracy between Bill H. and his parents. Jeff's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday is tomorrow.
  - c. Public Service - John Mullan KD2L passed out signup sheets for the Healdsburg Harvest Century. He also reported that he is not sure if the hams will be needed for this year's Vineman - they are experimenting with Cellular Phones.  
Current list of Public Service Events: 7/21 - Healdsburg Harvest Century; 8/11 - Full Vineman; 9/29, 30 - Waves to Wine
  - d. Repeater Committee - Greg reported that all bands are up and running and that 2 meters is having problems hearing and talking. He will investigate soon. Greg also reported that he is going to start hold Repeater Classes again in the near future.
  - e. Update on SCRA/County of Sonoma dispute - Greg AC6VJ reported that the board had a meeting with Jim Maxwell, W6CF, before the general meeting, and that the issue should be well on its way to a solution by Pacificon in October.
5. Unfinished Business - None.
6. New Business
  - a. Greg AC6VJ reminded the membership that elections are forthcoming. Jim reported that since this is his second year as Treasurer that the club will need a new Treasurer this year.
7. Show & Tell - None.
8. Recess - There was a 10 minute break.
9. Program - John WB6FRZ presented the ARRL Antenna Video.
10. Raffle - There were no raffles held due to the light attendance.
11. Announcements
  - a. Greg AC6VJ reported that the next program presentation will be announced in Short Skip, and that the Board meeting is next Wednesday at Furniture Traditions, 6:30pm.
12. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm

## Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting 7-18-01

## MINUTES

- Board Members Present: Greg Gordon AC6VJ, Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Jeff Basham W2JAB, Jim Lee KE6VGV, Rich Freitas KF6SZA, John Mullan, KD2L
- Board Member Absent: Rick Reiner K6ZWB
- Committee Chairmen Present: Greg Gordon AC6VJ, John Mullan KD2L, Bill McCall W6WDM
- Committee Chairman Absent: Brian Lukrich KG6AQ
- Guests Present: Brian Torr N6IY, Sue Mullan K8SUE
3. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum, Introductions - The meeting was called to order by President Greg Gordon AC6VJ at 6:45PM. The meeting was held at Furniture Traditions, 3450 Airway Drive. A quorum was present in that six of the seven voting board members were present.
  4. Approval of Minutes - John Mullan KD2L moved that the minutes of the June 13, 2001 board meeting be approved as corrected. The motion passed.
  5. Officer & Director Reports
    - a. Treasurer - Jim Lee KE6VGV
      - i. Current Financial - Jim KE6VGV reported that the club is in good shape.
      - ii. Review and acceptance of audit report - Jim KE6VGV is going to contact Lee Dibble, so that this audit can take place.
    - b. Officers
      - i. VP - Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV
        - i. Inventory - Bill reported that the club inventory is not yet complete. He said that he has a few more people to contact regarding club property.
      - ii. Secretary - Jeff Basham W2JAB
        - i. Mail & Communications - Jeff distributed the mail to the appropriate officers.
        - ii. Hank's Swap Shop/CDS - Jeff explained what was said and done and the result of the recent incident on Hank's Swap Shop involving CDS. Greg AC6VJ asked Jeff to draft an apology letter to CDS from the board.
        - iii. Jeff reminded the Board that he will not be present at the August general meeting. Brian N6IY agreed to cover the secretarial duties for the evening.
    - c. Directors
      1. John Mullan KD2L - John reported that the next SCRA V.E. session is this coming Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup> @ 9:00am @ Agilent.
      2. Rich Freitas KF6SZA - Rich had nothing to report.
      3. Rick Reiner K6ZWB - Rick was not present to make a report.
  4. Committee Reports
    1. Activities Committee - Bill McCall W6WDM
      - i. SCRA Swap Meeting - September 22, 2001 - Bill had nothing new to report. Discussion regarding the Swap Meet took place.
    - b. Newsletter - Bill KH6GJV and Bill W6WDM - Bill reported that the deadline is going to be the end of this week. He also reported that Bob Mengleberg got married.
    - c. Public Service Committee - John Mullan KD2L
      - b. John reported that he is in good shape for the Healdsburg Harvest Century which is this Saturday. He also said that he is not sure if we will be needed for the Full Vineman. He will be in touch with the Vineman chairman to find out.  
Current list of Public Service Events: 7/21 - Healdsburg Harvest Century; 8/11 - Full Vineman; 9/29&30 - Waves to Wine
    - d. Repeater Committee - Greg Gordon AC6VJ
      - i. Net Control Operators - 8/7 - AC6VJ, 8/14 N6IY, 8/21 - KH6GJV, 8/28 - KD2L/K8SUE
      - ii. Status of Repeaters - Greg reported that 2 meters, 220 and 440 are up and running on English Hill. 2 meters is deaf, and partially mute. Discussion was held regarding possible solutions to the problem. John KD2L moved that the club spend \$300.00 to purchase a new DB Products 440 antenna from CalSites. The motion carried.
      - iii. Status of Mediation with Jim Maxwell - Greg passed out a letter from Jim Maxwell containing Mr. Maxwell's conclusions from the mediation. The board and guests discussed this letter.

5. Unfinished Business
  - a. Meeting Programs - August - WB6FRZ with a video on Spark-Gap Transmitters, September - Dr. George Rothbart, Inventor of the Internet Repeater, Oct - TBA, Nov - Elections, Dec - Christmas Party @ Michele's.
  - b. Club Calendar - No Changes.
  - c. Field Day - Brian N6IY presented the board with suggestions for Field Day 2001. The suggestions were discussed, and will be discussed again closer to Field Day 2001.
6. New Business
  - a. Field Day Packet - Jeff W2JAB reported that he still needed several items for the Field Day Packet, which needs to be mailed by July 24th.
7. Announcements - No Announcements.
8. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM

C  
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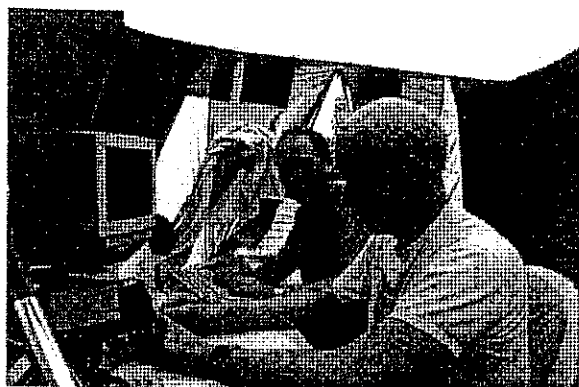
415 884 1904

Fax 707 573 3516

E-Mail [steve@cdis.net](mailto:steve@cdis.net)<http://www.cdis.net>

## More Field Day Photos





FD  
photos  
by Bill  
KH6GJV



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.  
Membership Application

Please Print Clearly

New [ ] Renewal [ ]

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	\$ 20 (\$5.00/qtr)
Family Membership	\$ 30 (\$7.50/qtr)
Under 18 Membership	\$ 10 (\$2.50/qtr)
Badge	\$ 7
ARRL Dues (over 65)	\$ 34 (\$28)

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Dues - Full Year (3/1 to 2/28) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues -

Prorated \_\_\_\_\_ Qtrs. X \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /qtr \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Badge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Badge Information**

Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

### Calendar of Events

Aug 1	Wed	5:30 PM	Dinner at Marie Callenders, 2460 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa
		7:30 PM	SCRA Meeting, Agilent Technologies, 1400 Fountain Grove Prkwy, Santa Rosa
Aug 3	Fri	7:30 PM	Marin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley
Aug 4	Sat	10:00 AM	Red Oak Victory ARC Meeting, Point Richmond
Aug 8	Wed	6:30 PM	SCRA Board of Directors Meeting, 3450 Airway Dr., Santa Rosa
Aug 15	Wed	7:00 PM	REDXA Meeting, Carrow's, Petaluma
	Wed	7:30 PM	Valley of the Moon ARC Meeting, McDougall Hall, Sonoma Developmental Center, Glen Ellen
Aug 17	Fri	8:00 PM	San Francisco ARC; VA Medical Center, 42 <sup>nd</sup> Ave & Clement, San Francisco
Aug 18-19			Pacific Coast Air Museum Special Event Station (see article inside)
Aug 27	Mon	7:00 PM	Willits ARS Meeting, Brooktrails Firehouse, Willits
Sep 22	Sat		SCRA Swapmeet & VE Session; Lewis Road School, 2230 Lomitas Ave/Lewis Road, Santa Rosa

**Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.**

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