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SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

Iay	2002	
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			Calendar of Events
Apr 27	Sat	8:00 AM	VOMARC Hamfest, Sonoma Vets Bldg., 126 First St. West, Sonoma; Swap Meet, Breakfast, T-Hunt, VE session. Talk-in on 145.35- (PL88.5)
May 1	Wed	5:30 PM 7:30 PM	Dinner at Marie Callenders, 2460 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa SCRA Meeting, Agilent Technologies, 1400 Fountain Grove Prkwy, Santa Rosa
May 3	Fri	7:30 PM	Marin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley
May 4	Sat	·	Wine Country Century (Public Service Event) See SCRAPS article inside. Contact: John KD2L (707) 575-9176
May 4	Sat	10:00 AM	Red Oak Victory ARC Meeting, Point Richmond
May 8	Wed	6:30 PM	SCRA Board of Directors Meeting, 3450 Airway Dr., Santa Rosa
May 15	Wed Wed	7:00 PM 7:30 PM	REDXA Meeting, Carrow's, Petaluma Valley of the Moon ARC Meeting, McDougall Hall, Sonoma Developmental Center, Glen Ellen.
May 17	Fri	8:00 PM	San Francisco ARC; VA Medical Center, 42 nd Ave & Clement, San Francisco
May 18-19 Sat - Sun		un	ALCATRAZ! See article inside for details.
May 27	Mon	7:00 PM	Willits ARS Meeting, Brooktrails Firehouse, Willits

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Short Skip

ewsletter of the

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146.73- • 224.48- • 441.375+



Repeater Station W6SON

Volume 27 Number 5

May 2002

QTC
by
Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV

"In time of crisis you will not rise to the occasion, you will sink to your level of training."

SCRA President

If you were present at the April meeting and heard **Bart Lee KV6LEE** talk about his experience in New York during and immediately after 9/11, you heard him make this statement and explain why. So where do you get training?



One of the most obvious sources of training is from the American Radio Relay League through its Amateur Radio Emergency Service program (ARES) and Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses (ARECC). Local

representatives in the ARES program are San Francisco Section Emergency Coordinator Lee Dibble KE6EAQ, Sonoma County District Emergency Coordinator Mike Knope KD6LYU, Santa Rosa EC Rich Freitas KF6SZA, Sea Ranch EC Bob Sears AA6VS and Sonoma EC Ken McTaggart N6KM. The local ARES groups provide training, exercises and activities to enhance net, message handling and other communications skills. Additional training is also available in subjects that can supplement an operator's knowledge in related subjects.

The ARRL's ARECC course has three levels which are available as internet based self-study programs. Level I starts with the basics and introduces the student to theory of emergency communications, agencies, message formatting and transmission. Level II gets more advanced and expands the knowledge of subjects introduced in Level I. Level III is designed to educate persons in management positions in emergency communications. Lee Dibble, Rich Freitas and I have completed all three courses. Lee and Rich assisted in writing both the Level II and III courses.

(continued on page 8)

FCC's Hollingsworth Finds No Enforcement Issue with County/KD6LSO Repeater

SCRA Testing on 146.985(-) PL 88.5

Conduct of Two Groups Very Different

In his March 25, 2002, letter to Jack Rosevear KD6LSO, the trustee for the County of Sonoma's repeater, Riley Hollingsworth, Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement stated that the FCC found "no enforcement issues" in the manner in which the County of Sonoma operated the 146.73 MHz repeater through its employee, Rosevear. The pertinent paragraphs of the letter are below:

You (Rosevear) responded in detail by letter dated December 13, 2001, explaining that there was no overlap in your operation of, or responsibility for, the repeater and your duties as a county employee. You explained that the county had no role in the operation or control of the repeater, but had been a long-time owner of the site and most of the equipment even when the repeater was coordinated to Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

We have reviewed your response and find it satisfactory. We find no enforcement issues in this matter regarding either the county's role in the repeater or the granting of coordination to KD6LSO. Accordingly, we have closed our inquiry.

SCRA's Board discussed the matter and the FCC's letter to Rosevear at the April 3rd general membership meeting. The membership concurred with the Board's multiple path action plan which includes testing repeater operation on a new frequency. The test frequency is 146.985 MHz, minus offset with a PL of 88.5 Hz.

The most telling aspect of the issue is the manner in which the two groups conducted themselves during the dispute.

(continued on page 4)

	6.		
President	Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	707 544-4944
Vice President	Brian Torr	N6IIY	707 575-5871
Secretary	Jeff Basham	W2JAB	707 542-3860
Treasurer	Vicki Cero	KF6ZCT	415 673-3859
Director	John Breckenridge	WB6FRZ	707 838-6398
Director	Jim Lee	KE6VGV	415 892-0317
Past President	Greg Gordon	AC6VJ	707 523-7077
Activities Chairman	Mark Lockwood	KK7CU	707 332-4836
Public Service Chairman	John Mullan	KD2L	707 575-9176
Repeater Chairman	Greg Gordon	AC6VJ	707 523-7077
}			

Short Skip & Web Staff

Contacts

Antenna Ordinance/Legal	Lee Dibble	KE6EAQ	707 544-1675
Public Relations	Bill McCall	W2WDM	707 538-2844
Raffles	Mark Lockwood	KK7CU	707 332-4836
Refreshments	Ted DeCroff	KB6PTA	707 542-4008
TV/RF Interference	Alan Bloom	N1AL	707 538-7115
Volunteer Exam Liaison	John Mullan	KD2L	707 575-9176

SCRA Hotline SCRA E-Mail SCRA Web Site 707 579-9608

scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com

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.

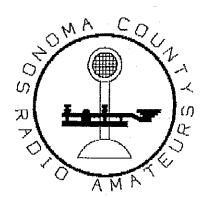
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For more information, contact the Editor.

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!



NEXT MEETING May 1st 7:30 PM Program: How to Hold a Honkin'

How to Hold a Honkir Big Field Day by Michael Polkinghorn K6PUD (See article)

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.

Short Skip is published monthly and copyright 2002 by the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Permission to reprint articles is granted provided the source is properly credited. Items printed do not necessarily represent the views of the SCRA or its editors. Letters, photos and articles sent to Short Skip are subject to editing and may or may not be printed.

Public Service Events Calendar John Mullan KD2L, SCRAPS Chairman

May 4 - Santa Rosa Cycling Club Wine Country Century - This is a major event, with in excess of 1000 riders on a variety of length bicycle rides. This is not meant to be a race, but rather a long distance ride. Ridden distances are 200 km, 100 miles, 100 km and 35 miles. Start/Finish is at the Luther Burbank Center. Rest Stops are scattered over Sonoma County including the Alexander Valley School, Wohler Bridge, Monte Rio, Occidental, Sebastopol and Lake Sonoma. Sag vehicles are also used. See http://www.srcc.com/wcc/html for more information.

June 1 - American Lung Association Two Rock and Roll Bike Trek - new event this year. Base of operations at Sonoma State University. 10, 35, and 65 mile courses through West Petaluma, Two Rock and South Sebastopol. Rest stops at Hessel Grange, Plaza Park in R.P., Tomales, Laguna school, and Two Rock.

June 22 - Terrible Two - Santa Rosa Cycling Club Terrible Two - This is the granddaddy of all our events in 2002. It starts before the sun comes up and finishes at 11:00 PM. In between bicycle riders will attempt to ride 200 miles, with 16,000 feet of climb. While this is not a race, some riders treat it as if it were. This event has resulted in some major injuries to riders in the past, which have caused our communications to be of vital importance. See http://www.srcc.com/tt.html for more information. Start/Finish is at the Willowside School on Hall Rd. Rest stops are in Calistoga, Lake Sonoma, Gualala, Fort Ross, Monte Rio.

Sag wagons are used for this event as well. The progress of each rider is tracked over the course, resulting in a large amount of traffic over the net. This event is on Saturday of Field Day weekend.

Jul 20 - Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce Harvest Century Ride - A low key family oriented bicycle event. Start/Finish at Healdsburg High School, several rest stops and sag wagons. Good food when you are finished.

Sept 15 - Sonoma County Diabetes Society ride - Another low key, family oriented ride. Start/Finish at the Airport Business Park. Rest stops at the EAA hangar on Windsor Rd, at Hoofbeat Park in Healdsburg and on Starr Rd. Several sags. More good food at the end of the day.

About sag wagons for these events: given that a lot of the vehicles used for sag wagons are whatever the volunteer driver has available with a bike rack, sometimes there is not a lot of room for a radio operator as well as the driver and then bike riders and bikes. Because of this we are often seeing sags without radio operators. This is the choice of the event organizers. We wish we could get radios into each and every one of these sags. Several regular sag drivers have gotten their licenses to help out on these events. If you have the opportunity, talk up the hobby with the sag drivers without radio ops.

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Dues & Fees: (SCRA dues year	ar is from 3/1 to 2/28)	Paym	ent Calculations:	Make check	s payable to SCRA	
Family Membership Under 18 Membership	\$ 20 (\$5.00/qtr) \$ 30 (\$7.50/qtr) \$ 10 (\$2.50/qtr)	Dues - Pro	rated Qtrs. X \$			
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Call Sign First Name		Total		\$		
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QTC (continued from page 1)

We are instructor/mentors for all three courses. The courses are \$40 to League members and students have eight weeks to complete each course. To date, the ARECC courses offer the best compilation of material to fully acquaint an operator with the subjects and practice to have a good understanding of how to be of assistance in an emergency or even day-to-day radio traffic. Of course, one must keep their skills sharp by continual practice. For more information on ARECC, go to the ARRL website.



Another valuable source of training is the California Department of Forestry's Volunteer in Prevention (VIP) program. The VIP locally is headed by Fire Prevention Specialist Harry Martin and consists of both Ham and non-Ham volunteers. Harry

and CDF really know how to treat their volunteers and show their appreciation at every turn. Each monthly meeting is a training session on a wide variety of subjects. Currently, the training involves a review of the Incident Command System and other subjects in preparation for the coming fire season. VIPs are also invited to attend many courses offered to regular CDF employees. Opportunities in a variety of positions, many not related to communications, are available to VIPs along with the associated training. CDF and Harry openly cooperate with ARES and encourage multiple membership. For more information on the VIP program, go to the CDF website at www.fire.ca.gov or call Harry Martin at 707 576-2570.

In Sonoma County, the county Department of Emergency Services (DES) has adopted the Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS). Unless you are a member of the Petaluma, Sea Ranch or Sonoma units, which double as ARES units and are headed by Mike Knope KD6LYU, EC Bob Sears AA6VS and Ken McTaggart N6KM, respectively, there has been very little training or education offered. Mike, Bob and Ken are very experienced leaders who for years, long before the ACS concept was developed, worked hard to provide education and motivation to the volunteers in their units. At a February 25th ACS meeting, DES personnel advised the ACS volunteers that they will not provide message handling, emergency communications procedures, equipment operation and other such technical training.

Whichever program you choose, and you can choose more than one, be sure to take advantage of all the education and practice that you can. Not only will it help you become a better radio operator, the knowledge and experience can be invaluable to your family and neighbors when an emergency arises.



May 2002

Jim Cline KE6JIQ and his lovely XYL enjoy the bountiful meal served up by the MS Society after the walk.

Generator Being Worked Over

Alan Ferrera WA6MXI, Bob Magnani K6QXY and friends have been working over the club's WWII Navy generator. The project is still a work in process, but Al says that it will be ready for Field Day in its new/old battleship gray paint.









May Program How to Hold a Honkin' Big Field Day

Join us on Wednesday, May 1st, to hear Michael Polkinghorn K6PUD talk about how a 10+A (that's 10 or more stations) Field Day is put on. While we do not anticipate throwing that many stations on the air, it will certainly be interesting to see how it's done.

Michael received the call KD6PUD in 1992 while attending college in Chico, CA.. At that time, he was a member of GEARS which held a 7A Field Day each year. He joined the WVARA when he moved to the South Bay. While a member there, the club went from operating a 2A station to an 18A station. When Michael upgraded to Extra, he changed his call to K6PUD. He is an avid DXer, contester, VHF enthusiast and QRP operator.

If you missed the April meeting, you missed a very informative presentation by Bart Lee KV6LEE who spoke on his experience helping out in New York for several days on and following September 11th. Bart passed on his observations and suggestions on emergency operations. Bart stressed the



necessity of training and practice so that Hams will have the skills necessary to handle major events like in New York.

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!

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Alcatraz

Reservations are being accepted for the over-night at Alcatraz. The dates of the event are May 18th and 19th. The cost per person will be \$100 for adults, \$50 for kids 9 to 17. Children under 9 years of age are not permitted to stay overnight. The event is a fund-raiser for EARS and SCRA activities. A maximum of 35 persons can stay overnight. However, if you want to join us for the day, you can contact the boat service and get tickets for a day trip. Full payment must be received with your reservation. Reservations forms will be at EARS meetings and SCRA meetings. Forms can also be printed from the club website. Checks are to be made out to Bill Hillendahl (he advanced the park fee) and mailed to P. O. Box 4151, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. You can call Bill at 707 544-4944 or e-mail kh6giv@arrl.net. Look for more information at the meetings, in Shortskip, EARS' Propagator and on the nets. It will be great. Stay tuned!

SCRA's Mobile Communications Unit The "Toaster"

If you have not had a chance to come by and help, make it a point to do so. The project is fun and you get to be on the ground floor of designing and building the club's mobile communications center. The "Toaster" will be able to be used at public service events, Field Day, ARES events, and, of course, true emergencies should the need arise. The vehicle will also be a good public relations device to keep Amateur Radio in the mind of the general public. Work parties are held each Saturday from 10 AM until about Noon at Lee Dibble's home, 1290 Parsons Drive, Santa Rosa. Come and join the fun!

Fresh-Tasting "Toaster" Fundraiser

By John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ

The club needs your help in a tasty fund-raiser for the "Toaster!" As many of you know, the club has taken on the project of restoring a motor home (the "Toaster") and transforming it into an effective portable communications center. To raise funds for this task, we are asking YOU to help sell coupon books for tasty deals at Fresh Choice restaurants. The price is \$5 per book and contains \$85 worth of coupon savings at any Fresh Choice restaurant. Buy several to sell or as gifts, or get one for yourself and family. Either way you win, and the community is served by making it easier for your club to complete work on this worthy project. For details, contact John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ at (707)838-6398 or come to the next club meeting.

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ARES Comm Log

by Rich Freitas KF6SZA Greater Santa Rosa Emergency Coordinator

Training II

In the March issue of *Short Skip*, I spent the whole column discussing the relative merits of training in the ARES organization and why it is so important to maintain it at a competent level. If you read the article (Gee, I hope someone reads these things otherwise I'll probably begin pasting a copy of last Sunday's comics in this space!) you should be aware of why training is so important in disaster planning. I'd again like to address training; but this month I'd like to do it from a reciprocal point of view. Yes, the training we obtain for the purpose of helping our served agencies is vitally important. However, have you ever thought of the value of the training you can receive from the served agencies that can help you in other aspects of your life?

Coming first to mind are the obvious classes such as CPR and First Aid that many served agencies offer. You may never use these skills in the service of ARES and a served agency but you may have many opportunities to use them in your personal life. We would all agree that the odds for household accidents greatly outnumber those for community disasters. Of course, you can pay the requisite \$40-\$60 and take a course in CPR at a number of convenient locations; the cost of a basic first aid course is probably close to that amount, too. As a member of ARES, in concert with our served agencies, these courses are free. As another example, last month I took a course in Defensive Driving Techniques that was offered by the California Division of Forestry (CDF). This 3 1/2 hour course was taught by an outside driving instructor that teaches and consults across the state. On the open market this course would probably cost \$150-\$200 the cost to me as a member of a served agency was \$0.

And, there are many, many more training opportunities available that can enhance your life. Some courses such as Damage Assessment may only be useful when we are pressed into service as a result of a disaster callup. Conversely, training topics such as photography, ATV (yes, that's amateur television not All Terrain Vehicle), and video production may appeal to the hobbyist who wants to improve his vacation memories.

The bottom line is that there are training opportunities available that are free for the asking. ARES is not a one-sided proposition you get back as much, if not more, than you give. Whether you aspire to public service and volunteerism, you simply want to know that you are

prepared for a disaster event, or you wish to trade a little of your time in exchange for training to benefit your personal life, ARES has a spot for you.

Our weekly ARES net is at 7:30 PM on Mondays on the SCRA repeater. Please join us.

FCC (continued from page 1)

SCRA's leadership kept their repeater as low profile as possible by not using any controller voice announcements, and, by keeping the identifiers in CW and only as minimally required by FCC regulation.

They also kept their public comments civil, business-like and issue oriented.

In stark contrast, the ACS group invoked lengthy voice announcements from their controller which heightened inter-repeater interference. ACS members and leaders engaged in personal attacks and name calling.





Bruce Johnston K6RBF working the MS Walk-a-thon

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
Membership Meeting, 3 April, 2002

1) Call to Order, Verification of Quorum - The meeting was called to order by President Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, at 7:33pm at the Santa Rosa Agilent Technologies facility

a) Introductions

SHORT SKIP

 i) Officers & Directors - The club officers and directors introduced themselves. Secretary Jeff Basham, W2JAB, and Directory Jim Lee, KE6VGV were excused.

ii) Guest Speaker - Bart Lee, KV6LEE was introduced

iii) Visitors - Hiro, AH6CY, Kevin, WA7WYE, and Al McKenna introduced themselves.

iv) New Calls and Upgrades - None

2) Approval of Minutes - It was moved and seconded by Bill Waters, AC6MA and Sue Mullan, K8SUE that the minutes as printed in Short Skip be approved. The motion passed.

3) Officer and Director Reports

 a) Vice President - Brian, N6IIY, made plea for members to consider acting as Net Control for Tuesday night nets. It's good practice for Public Service events.

b) Secretary - No report (Jeff W2JAB was excused)

 c) Treasurer - Vicki KF6ZCT updated the membership on the current financial status. Mock-ups of T-shirts for Alcatraz were shown. Please vote on color.

d) Directors

i) Jim Lee KE6VGV- Excused

ii) John Breckenridge WB6FRZ - Presented \$130.00 check for proceeds of "Toaster" fundraiser (ongoing). See John for more details.

e) Past President - Greg AC6VJ - Has free arc welder for the taking.
4) Committee Reports

a) ARES - Rich KF6SZA gave update on ARES. There would have been article in Short Skip, but his article got bumped. There will be an EMCOMM convention April 20 & 21 near Redding. That same weekend, there will be a Safety Fair at the Walmart parking lot in Rohnert Park. Also, check into ARES net on Mondays, 7:30pm 146.73 pl 88.5

b) Rolling Toaster Communications Van - Lee KE6EAQ reports that Toaster is still up on blocks. We need to pick up the pace. Come out; you'll learn something. 10am every Saturday at 1290 Parsons Dr., SR. Donations for amateur radios requested.

 c) Generator - Al Ferrera WA6MXI reports that generator is primed, ready for final coat of paint.

d) Activities Committee - Mark Lockwood KK7CU reports that we need station captains to sign up for Field Day. Not sure if we will be class 2A with a Get On The Air (GOTA) station or perhaps 3A without GOTA.

i) Alcatraz - Be sure to vote on color of T-shirts. Now taking reservations for trip. Cost is \$100 for adults, \$50 for kids 9 to 17 years of age. The proceeds support the club's repeaters and the "rolling toaster" Price includes dinner Saturday night and continental breakfast Sunday morning. Jim Lee, KE6VGV will be cooking. Reservations are first come, first served. Rich KF6SZA showed QSL card. This is not primarily a radio event, so radio operation will be somewhat. "covert".

e) Newsletter Editor - Nothing to report

f) Public Service - John Mullan KD2L, reports that upcoming events are MS Walkathon on April 7 from 8am to 1pm and Wine Country Century bike ride on May 4. Need lots of operators for May 4.

g) VE Session - John KD2L reported that the next VE session will be Saturday, April 20 at Agilent Technologies in Santa Rosa (same room as SCRA meeting). \$10 exam fee, all exams will be given.

h) Repeater Committee -

i) English Hill up and running OK. Controller at Castle Rock needs replacement. Recommends replacing with RLC-4 (~\$600). Greg has sold SCOM controller for \$450. The sale of SCOM and other equipment more than offsets cost of RLC-4. Motion to purchase RLC-4 moved and seconded by Rich KF6SZA and John KD2L. Motion passed.

ii) Letter from Riley Hollingsworth, FCC, presented to membership. Brian N6IIY presented alternatives to operating on 146.73 MHz. Discussion ensued. Perhaps we could use 440 MHz repeater instead, but coverage not as good as 2m. Public Service events really need a wide coverage repeater. Might try 440 MHz for some public service events. FCC and ARRL do not want to get involved in coordination issues. SCRA may file for reconsideration of FCC decision, but process may take up to a year. Meanwhile, will look

into new frequencies (two have been provide by NARCC).

5) Unfinished Business - None

6) New Business - None

7) Member Biography - None (Jeff W2JAB was excused)

8) Show & Tell - None (Homebrew projects to be presented later)

9) Recess - There was a 10 minute break from 8:35 to 8:45pm

10) Program - Bart Lee, KV6LEE, delivered a great presentation on what it was like to participate as a Shift Supervisor for Red Cross communications after the 9/11/2001 World Trade Center attacks. Many lessons learned. Bart was there when it happened and stayed for over a week afterwards.

a) 50-50 Raffle - Vicki Cero, KF6ZCT won \$12 in the 50-50 raffle b) Lottery - Ken Christensen, W6LCZ, was selected for the membership lottery. Ken was not present and the lottery rolled over.

12) Announcements - None

13) Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 pm. Respectfully submitted by Brian Torr, N6IIY, acting Secretary

Minutes of the April 10, 2002, Board of Directors meeting did not arrive in time for publication.



Allan Ferrera WA6MXI and Pat Coyle KG6JSL work net control at MS Walk-a-thon

CHARLES J. TARR

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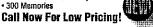
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