

Calendar of Events

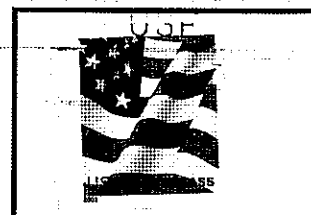
Sep 4	Wed	5:30 PM 7:30 PM	Dinner at Marie Callenders, 2460 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa SCRA Meeting, Agilent Technologies, 1400 Fountain Grove Prkwy, Santa Rosa
Sep 6	Fri	7:30 PM	Marin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley
Sep 7	Sat	10:00 AM	Red Oak Victory ARC Meeting, Point Richmond
Sep 11	Wed	6:30 PM	SCRA Board of Directors Meeting, Roundtable Pizza - Coddington
Sep 15	Sun		Sonoma County Diabetes Society Ride (Public Service Event) See SCRAPS article inside. Contact: John KD2L (707) 575-9176
Sep 17	Tues	7:30 PM	Hamilton Wireless Assoc., Bldg 549, Hamilton Field, Novato
Sep 18	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.
Sep 20	Fri	8:00 PM	San Francisco ARC; VA Medical Center, 42 nd Ave & Clement, San Francisco
Sep 28-29	Sat-Sun		Waves to Wine Bike Ride (Public Service Event) See SCRAPS article inside. Contact: John KD2L (707) 575-9176
Oct 18-20			Pacificon - Concord

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

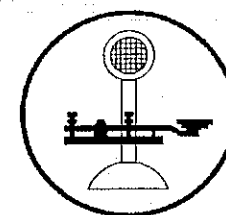
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John Breckenridge II
574 Wild Oak Dr
Windsor CA 95492

WB6FRZ

Club Station
W6LFIJ

Short Skip

newsletter of the

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

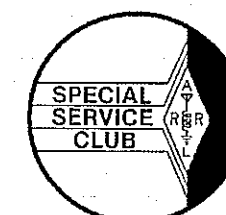
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<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

Repeaters

146.985- • 146.73- • 224.48- • 441.375+

Repeater Station
W6SON

Volume 27 Number 9

September 2002

QTC

by
Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV
SCRA President

ISS via IMAX



On Saturday, August 17th, 20 SCRA members made the trip to Sacramento to take in the IMAX movie about life on the International Space Station.

Rich Freitas KF6SZA took on the task of tracking down the movie and found it playing in Sacramento. Rich put together the details and got the trip going. So, after the small public service event held early the same morning, off went the caravan to parts East.

The ride over was uneventful, but full of chatter and good comradery as we battled the I-80 traffic. Rich's directions to the theater were right on the mark and we secured parking easily. Those that had done their homework knew that the movie was in 3-D. But, that doesn't really tell the true story of the impact of the effect. Gone are the days of the colored paper glasses that we used to use. The modern method of using polarized glasses really makes the experience a pleasure. The movie details the tour of duty of a crew on the station and how they accomplish their many tasks. There is a short segment on Amateur Radio on the ISS and how they use it to talk to schools all over the world. Segments of a school contact are shown. What was not shown was how the Ham station provides off-duty hours recreation and contact with the world below for the astronauts, a really important aspect of their life in space. After the movie, the group toured the Train Museum in Old Sacramento and played tourist in the area, capped by a wonderful dinner in one of the many restaurants.

If you haven't seen ISS on IMAX, try to find time to go. There is talk of another trip. Some where not able to make the trip and Apollo 13 has been remastered to IMAX and will start playing in late September. Talk to Mark Lockwood KK7CU if you want to go.

AMATEUR RADIO AT
PACIFIC COAST AIR MUSEUM
AIR SHOW

Brian Torr N6IY talks Ham Radio with guest at the booth.

During the weekend of August 24th and 25th, members from the Empire Amateur Radio Society, SCRA and Redwood Empire DX Association once again setup a special event station at the Pacific Coast Air Museum's (PCAM) annual open house and air show. Antique radios, Brian Torr's highspeed CW key and the HF station were the highlights at the booth. Of course, the many static and operational aircraft on display, and, the overhead flybys were the real stars of the weekend. An F-117 flying overhead was the real looker during the day.

Quite a few contacts were made on the HF station. Guests were invited to sit in and make a contact. The antique radios on display caught the eye of many a passerby prompting stories of their early days in radio either as civilians or when they were in the service.

Many thanks to those who participated and helped to put on another great event: John Hart KG6BHI, Ken Debrecht WB6NOV, Brian Torr N6IY, Brian Lukrich KG6AQT, Jeff Basham W2JAB, John Felton KE5RI, Randy Black KE6VMZ, Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Kevin French KG6ABB, John Breckeridge WB6FRZ, Greg Gordon AC6VJ, Mark Lockwood KK7CU, Cortland Richmond KA5S, Jim Lee KE6VGV

(Photos on page 8)

2002 Club Officials

President	Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	707 544-4944
Vice President	Brian Torr	N6IY	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

Editor	Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	707 544-4944
Hank's Swap Shop	Jeff Basham	W2JAB	707 542-3860
Web Master	Jeff Basham	W2JAB	707 542-3860

Contacts

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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 707 579-9608

SCRA E-Mail scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.comSCRA Web Site <http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

Tuesday Night Net

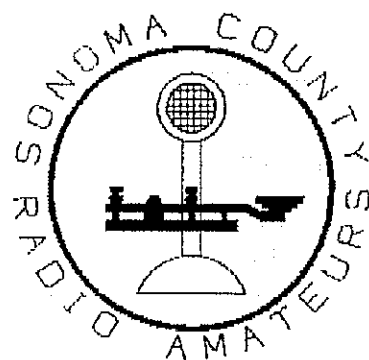
Check in to the SCRA net each **Tuesday** evening on the **146.985-(PL 88.5)** repeater at **7:00 PM**. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the area and what is listed in Hank's Swap Shop. You will also hear the weekly *Amateur Radio Newsline* broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

Business Cards	\$ 12
1 st Quarter Column	\$ 13
Each Addn'l Quarter Column	\$ 4
Full page (one side)	\$ 35
Pre-printed inserts (each)	\$ 35
Guaranteed circulation of 150 per month!	
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
September 4th
7:30 PM

Program:

Transmitter Hunting

Rich Harrington KN6FW

(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.

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!

We Appreciate Our Advertisers

Show your appreciation for our *Short Skip* advertisers by remembering them when you are shopping for goods and services.

Public Service Events Calendar

John Mullan KD2L, SCRAPS Chairman

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.

Sept 28 & 29 - Waves to Wine

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.

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Please Print Clearly

Membership Application

New [] Renewal []

Name _____ Call Sign _____ License Class _____ Date _____

Address _____ Hm Phone _____ Wk Phone _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____

ARRL Member? [] Yes [] No

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

Payment Calculations:

Make checks payable to SCRA

Individual/Associate Member	\$ 20 (\$5.00/qtr)
Family Membership	\$ 30 (\$7.50/qtr)
Under 18 Membership	\$ 10 (\$2.50/qtr)
Badge	\$ 7

Dues - Full Year (3/1 to 2/28)	\$ _____
Dues -	
Prorated _____ Qtrs. X \$ _____ /qtr	\$ _____
Badge	\$ _____
Other - _____	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____

Badge Information

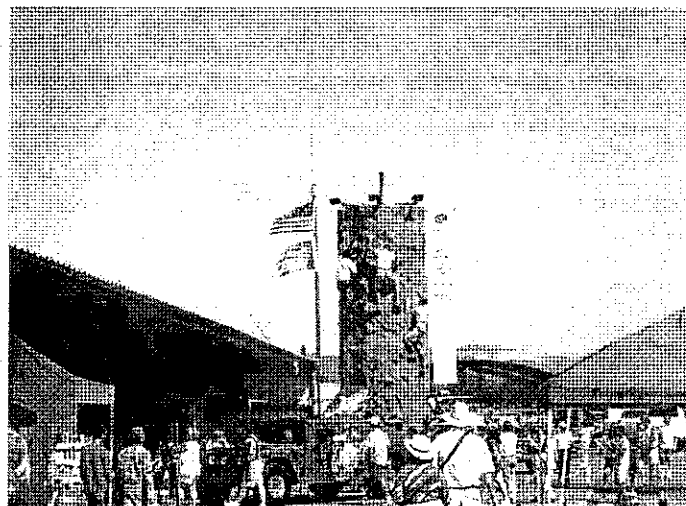
Call Sign _____
First Name _____
City _____

Total \$ _____

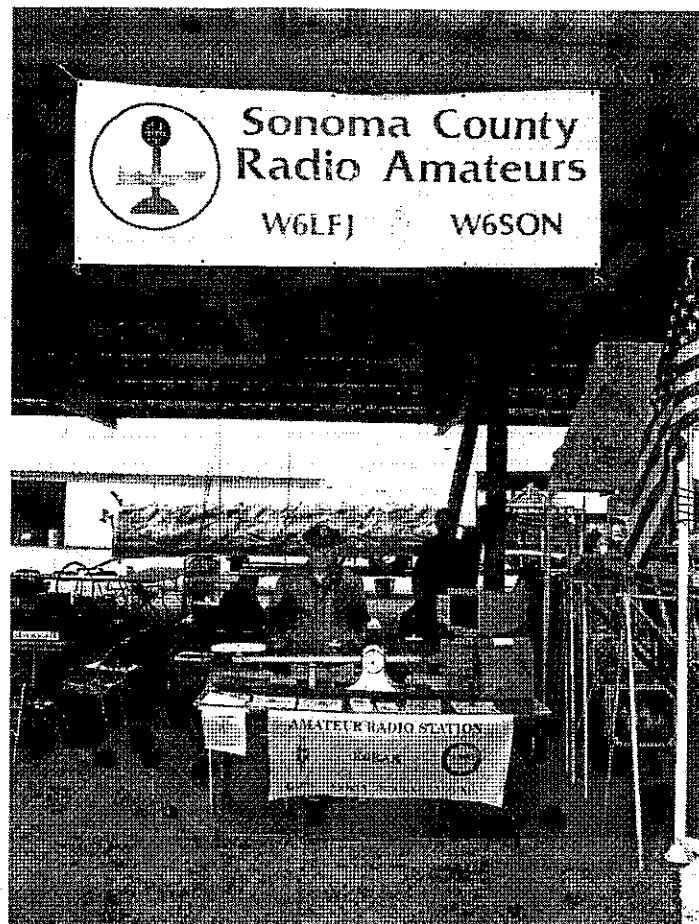
Mail to: SCRA, P. O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

6. New Business

1. IMAX Trip - Rich KF6SZA reported that we need at least 20 people before we get the group rate, and that the carpool will be leaving from St. Francis Shopping Center at Hwy 12 and Calistoga Road between 10:15 and 10:30am on Saturday, August 17, 2002.
2. Elections - Bill KH6GJV encouraged those who cannot maintain their board positions to please think of a replacement for themselves and encourage that person to run for the office. Please contact Bill if you are interested in serving on the board.
3. Member of the Year - Bill KH6GJV said that in the past the prior year's member(s) of the year ran the member of the year committee the next year. The board agreed, and Bill will contact Al K6MXI and Bob and ask if they would be willing to take this on.
7. Announcements - There were no announcement.
8. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm



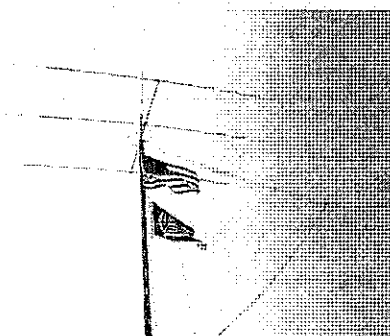
US and ARRL flag fly off the antenna tower near the Marine booth



John Felton KE5RI mans the front of the booth at the airshow



Brian Lukrich KG6AQT and Randy Black KE6VMZ work HF from the HF station

September 4TH Program

Transmitter Hunting

by Mark Lockwood KK7CU

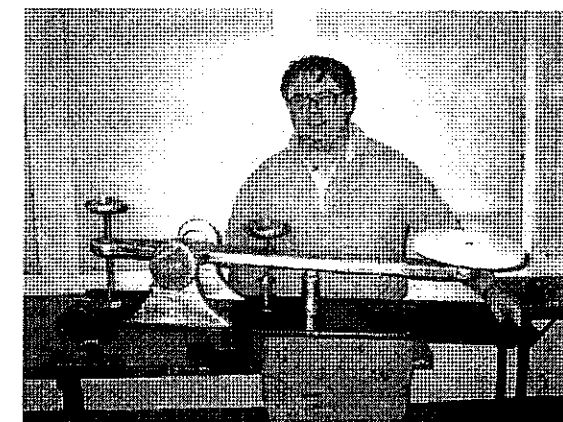
Transmitter Hunting, also known as T-Hunting, Fox Hunting, Bunny Hunting, or Radio Direction Finding, is finding the exact location of a radio transmitter. It is a skill that is useful in finding sources of interference, jammers, Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs) from downed aircraft. Most of the time though, it is a contest to find a hidden transmitter, or Fox, in the least amount of distance or time.

Now that we know what a T-Hunt is, who can participate? Do you need a certain level of license? The answer to that is no, in fact there only needs to be one licensed amateur present to act as the control operator for the Fox. That's right, the rest of the participants are not transmitting, and therefore do not need a license at all, except maybe a drivers license for hunts involving driving. What equipment do I need? Is it expensive? It doesn't have to be. The minimum equipment needed is a directional antenna, and a receiver with a signal strength, or "S" meter. Most of you already have a hand held radio that will work as the receiver. A portable directional antenna can be built for under \$20. You don't actually need an expensive Doppler to get started. Josh Fiden AD6XI, and I are working on putting together some kits for the antenna, an attenuator, and a few other things to get us started.

That leaves us with the question of how do I find the transmitter? Our speaker for September, Rich Harrington KN6FW, is a member of a group that puts on 2 or more hunts a month in the South Bay and he is going to teach us all about T-Hunting.

See You all at the September meeting.

At the August meeting, John Breckenridge WB6FRZ presented a program on the FISTS organization which promotes CW use on the bands. John was followed by Brian Torr N6IYY who challenged members to send copyable CW on a foot-operated key of his design. The copy was surprisingly good from most of the contestants.



Brian Torr N6IYY and his custom key



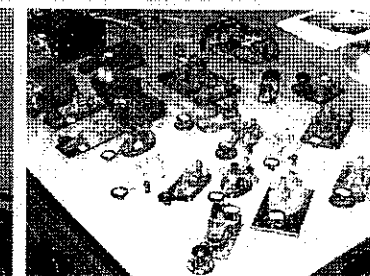
John Breckenridge shows his "swing" at the key



Rick Reiner K6ZWB takes a turn



Karl Johnston K6QMT puts his foot in it



Keys, keys & more keys

J. Mullan, Photographer

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Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 575-9176
jmullan@pacbell.net

John C. Mullan
Photographer

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ARES Comm Log

by Rich Freitas KF6SZA
Greater Santa Rosa
Emergency Coordinator

Emergency Traffic Handling

Unlike the dialogue used in normal amateur radio "rag-chewing", emergency communication dialogue is much more formal and brief. By formal we mean the use of certain proven procedures and procedure words (prowords) and procedure signs (prosigns) etc... which help insure the timely, accurate delivery of traffic.

Many "Old Timers" who have operated more extensively on the high frequency (HF) amateur bands have developed certain habits within their dialogue, which could impede emergency traffic. Many operators have never worked any of the routine health and welfare networks (such as the National Traffic System, NTS) that exist and follow, to some extent, an almost exact formal format.

Those of us who use the very high frequency (VHF) and the ultra high frequency (UHF), frequency modulated, repeater and simplex nets for routine traffic use a more brief dialogue (assisted often by a courtesy tone at the end of every transmission) thanks in some part to advanced technology.

This technology has improved the ability of the radio operator to deliver timely and accurate traffic without the use of the time proven methods that were required not too long ago. However, it is important to remember that when the time comes to handle priority and/or emergency traffic, technology can and does let us down. We have to consider the worst case (simplex, fringe area) when we are working within emergency situations.

More and more often an incident official will find it more beneficial to talk one-on-one with others especially if some complicated and difficult decisions have to be made. The non-verbal communications (change in voice tone or hesitations in speech and speech patterns) that always take place between those who are involved in a discussion often "say" just as much to a person as the words do. Generally the need for this one-on-one communications increases as the responsibility of the individual or the urgency of the traffic increases.

Third party traffic via phone patches or television would fill this requirement. This of course requires more capability (equipment and expertise in its use) on the part of the individual and the organizations that respond to an incident. Occasionally there will be a written follow-up on decisions and instructions, which are initiated via phone patch or television. Here again knowledge and experience in the proper emergency traffic handling procedures for written

traffic will enhance any organizational capability. According to the FCC the Amateur Radio Service is a voluntary, disciplined communications service guided by five traditional objectives.

1. Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
 2. Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
 3. Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules, which provide for advancing skills in both communication and technical phases of the art.
 4. Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts.
 5. Continuation and extension of the amateurs unique ability to enhance international goodwill.
- (Note: Pay special attention to the word "disciplined" and numbers 1, 3 and 4. If these are considered and observed then numbers 2 and 5 will almost naturally follow.)

ARES COMMUNICATIONS is a radio communication service certified by the Amateur Radio Relay League, and conducted by volunteer licensed radio operators, for providing emergency radio communications to public service (Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc...) organizations. It can easily be seen why the word "disciplined" and objectives 1, 3 and 4 (from above) are and should be so very important and why operational procedures are necessary.

There is a question about business communications as related to emergency communications. Both Sections 97.111 and 97.113 allow business communications during emergencies. This means that during a flood or fire you may use your radio to assist the agency even though this sort of activity is the business of the agency.

Confidentiality of information that operators have access to during an incident is of the utmost importance. It is not the responsibility of an operator to dispense incident information to anyone. The agencies have Public Information Officers who will be responsible for the release of any incident information.

(Source material: ARES Communications Operations Guide by Bill Pennington, WA6SLA)

Our weekly ARES net is at 7:30 PM on Mondays on the SCRA 146.985- MHz repeater. Please join us.

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 kh6gjbv@arrl.net. We'd love to see YOU in print!

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
Membership Meeting, August 7, 2002
MINUTES

6. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum - President Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. The meeting was held at Agilent Technologies in Santa Rosa.
 - a. Introductions
 - ii. Officers and Directors - The club officers and directors introduced themselves.
 - ii. Guest Speaker - John Breckenridge WB6FRZ introduced himself.
 - iii. Visitors - There were no visitors at the meeting.
 - iv. New Calls and Upgrades - Karl K6QMT and Michael KC6UNA announced that they upgraded to General. Rich K6ZWB announced that his son, Mike K6ZWC has recently upgraded to General. John KD2L announced the results from the last VE Session.
 2. Approval of Minutes - Randy KE6VMZ moved to approve the minutes of the July 3, 2002 membership meeting as they were printed in the club newsletter, Short skip. The motion carried.
 3. Officer and Director Reports
 - a. Officers
 1. Vice President - Brian Torr N6IY - Brian had nothing to report.
 2. Secretary - Jeff Basham W2JAB - Jeff had nothing to report.
 3. Treasurer - Vicki Cero KF6ZCT - Vicki updated the membership on the financial report.
 - b. Directors
 - i. Jim Lee KE6VGV - Jim had nothing to report.
 - ii. John Breckenridge WB6FRZ - John gave a report about the Fresh Choice fundraiser he is running for the club's communications van.
 - c. Past President - Greg Gordon AC6VJ - Greg had nothing to report.
 4. Committee Reports
 - a. ARES - Rich Freitas KF6SZA - Rich updated the club on the activities of the Santa Rosa ARES unit. Rich also told about a planned trip to the IMAX theatre in Sacramento to see "Space Station 3D". Discussion was held regarding the movie. The trip is scheduled for Saturday, August 17.
 - b. Rolling "Toaster" Communication Van - Lee Dibble KE6EAQ - Lee updated the club on the status of the toaster, and let everyone know that it needs to leave his residence by July 23rd.
 - c. Activities Committee - Mark Lockwood KK7CU - Mark did not have anything to report. Jeff Basham W2JAB gave a short summary of the Field Day Score for 2002.
 - d. Newsletter - Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV - Bill did not have anything to report on.
 - e. Public Service / VE - John Mullan KD2L - John asked for volunteers for the event on August 17, 2002, and reported that there are two events scheduled for September, and that the next VE session will be on September 9th, 2002 at 7:00pm at the regular location at Agilent.
 - f. Repeater Committee - Greg Gordon AC6VJ - Greg reported that there is a new 6 meter repeater on the air. The Empire Amateur Radio Society has put up a 6 meter repeater on 51.840MHz, negative -500 offset, and a PL of 88.5
 - a. Status of Repeaters - Greg said that all of the Clubs Repeaters are up and operating.
 - ii. Update on 146.730 Issues - Greg had no update at this time.
 5. Unfinished Business - There was no unfinished business.
 6. New Business
 1. Pacific Coast Air Museum Air Show - Bill KH6GJV reported that EARS would once again have a booth at the PCAM Air Show on August 24 and 25th. Members of all Sonoma County clubs are invited to attend. Setup will be on August 23 at 5:30pm at the airport.
 7. Member Biography - Bill Water AC6MA told about his early days of Amateur Radio.
 8. Show & Tell - There was no show and tell session.
 9. Break - There was a break from 8:10 until 8:30
 10. Program - John Breckenridge WB6FRZ and Brian Torr N6IY presented a program on the FISTS organization and Morse code.
 11. Raffle
 - a. Regular - There was no regular raffle.

2. Membership Lottery - Sue K8SUE ran the lottery. Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV won the lottery and donated \$11.72 back to the club.
12. Announcements
 1. Next Program - Mark Lockwood KK7CU and Josh Fiden AD6XI on Fox Hunting.
 - b. Board Meeting - August 14, 2002, 6:30pm at Furniture Traditions
13. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at ~9:00pm.

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting, July 10, 2002
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Brian Torr N6IY, Jeff Basham W2JAB, Vicki Cero KF6ZCT, John Breckenridge WB6FRZ, Jim Lee KE6VGV, Greg Gordon AC6VJ
Committee Chairmen Present: Mark Lockwood KK7CU, Rich Freitas KF6SZA, John Mullan KD2L

Committee Chairmen Absent: Lee Dibble KE6EAQ

Guests Present: John Fiden AD6XI, Sue Mullan K8SUE

1. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum, Introductions - President Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. The meeting was held at Furniture Traditions, 3450 Airway Drive in Santa Rosa. A quorum was present in that all 7 of the voting board members were present. Introductions were not required.

2. Approval of Minutes - John WB6FRZ moved that the minutes of the July 10, 2002 Board Meeting be approved as printed in the club's newsletter, Short Skip. The motion carried.

3. Officer and Director Reports

- a. Officers
 - i. Vice President - Brian N6IY - Brian had nothing to report.
 - ii. Secretary - Jeff W2JAB - Jeff had nothing to report.
 - iii. Treasurer - Vicki KF6ZCT - Vicki passed out the current treasurer's report and went over the financial position with the board.

- b. Directors
 - i. Jim Lee KE6VGV - Jim had nothing to report.
 2. John Breckenridge WB6FRZ - John shared comments about the last meeting, all which were positive. John suggested that the club put a like to the FISTS organization on our website, and also announced that the Fresh Choice Fundraiser is now officially over.

c. Past President - Greg AC6VJ - Greg has nothing to report.

4. Committee Reports

- i. ARES - Rich KF6SZA - Rich reported on the activities of the Santa Rosa ARES unit and announced that the next Simulated Emergency Test (SET) would be the 2nd or 3rd weekend in September.

ii. Mobile Communications Van - Lee KE6EAQ - Lee was not present to make a report. Bill KH6GJV gave the report in Lee's place. Various discussion was held.

c. Activities Committee - Mark KK7CU

- i. PCAM - Mark and Bill KH6GJV reported that PCAM is happening and that setup will be between 5:30pm and 6:00pm on August 23, 2002. Discussion regarding setup was held.
- b. T-Hunts - Mark and Josh AD6XI are working on putting together a small beginner t-hunt kit, and organizing club t-hunts again.
- Field Day 2003 - Mark asked Jeff W2JAB to reserve Youth Park and Galvin Park for next year's field day, and the field day committee will decide which site to use and drop one of them.

d. Newsletter - Bill KH6GJV - Bill had nothing to report.

e. Public Service Committee - John Mullan KD2L reported that there are three more events. 8/17 - Spring Lake, 9/15 - Diabetes Festival, 9/28 & 29 - Waves to Wine.

f. Repeater Committee - Greg Gordon AC6VJ

- a. Status of Repeaters - Greg reported that he turned down the power on 2 meters, and was told that the repeater is now very weak in places where is used to be strong. He will be turning up the power again next week. Greg also reported that 2 meters is now liked to EARS 6 meter repeater on 51.84.
- b. Tuesday Night Net Control - 9/3 AC6VJ, 9/10 KH6GJV, 9/17 N6IY, 9/24 WB6FRZ

5. Unfinished Business

- a. Meeting Programs - September - Fox Hunting by KK7CU and AD6XI, October - Satellites, November - Elections & ??, December - Pot Luck and Christmas Celebration and Awards night.
- b. Club Calendar - No Changes

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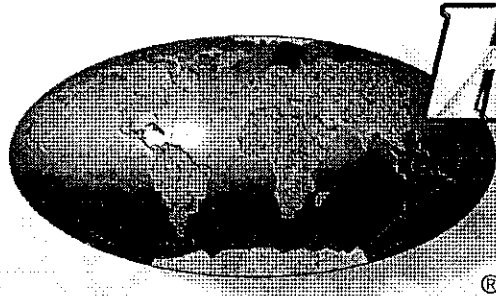
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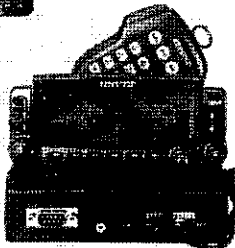
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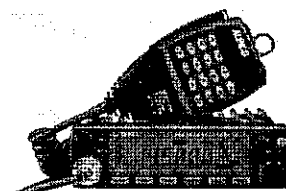
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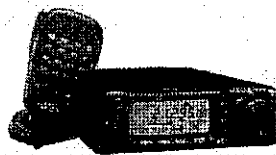
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