| Calendar of Events | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Jun 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 | |
| Jun 6 | Fri | 7:30 PM | Marin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley | |
| Jun 7 | Sat | 10:00 AM | Red Oak Victory ARC Meeting, Point Richmond | |
| Jun 11 | Wed | 6:30 PM | SCRA Board of Directors Meeting, Agilent Technologies | |
| Jun 17 | Tues | 7:30 PM | Hamilton Wireless Assoc., Bldg 549, Hamilton Field, Novato | |
| Jun 18 | 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. | |
| Jun 20-22 | | | San Francisco Section Convention - Ferndale www.humboldt-arc.org | |
| Jun 27-29 Fri-Sun | | in | Field Day! | |
| Jun 28 Sat | | | Public Service - Terrible Two - Contact: John KD2L (707) 575-9176 | |
| Jun 28 | Sat | | Public Service - Terrible Two - Contact: John KD2L (707) 575-9176 | |

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





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Short Skip

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Repeater Station W6SON

June 2003

W6LFJ

Volume 28 Number 5

Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV **SCRA President**

Amateur Radio is not all about Emergency **Communications**



Since the infamous September 11th, just about all you hear in the same sentence as "Amateur Radio" is the phrase "emergency communications." In some minds, the two terms have become synonymous. Frankly, my ears hurt from hearing all the hysteria.

Hams coming to the rescue in times of need is only one of the purposes of the Amateur Radio service as defined by the FCC. I was reminded of this at the International DX Convention held in Visalia this May hosted by the Northern California DX Club.

While in attendance, not once did I hear anyone mention that recently overused concept. What I did hear from the international body of attendees were related to the other four purposes of Amateur Radio, namely "advancement of the radio art," "advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases," "expansionof trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts," and to "enhance international goodwill."

In seminars and private conversations the subjects covered DX peditions, contesting skills, receiver design, antennas, working DX and the like. There was also a substantial amount of comradery exhibited amongst the attendees, some who had just made an "eyeball" QSO for the first time, and others who were getting together for the umpteenth (continued on page 8)

CALIFORNIA PRB-1 OUT OF COMMITTEE TO SENATE

California's pending Amateur Radio antenna bill, AB 1228, this week got a thumbs up from the California Senate Local Government Committee. The panel voted 7-0 in favor of moving the legislation to the Senate floor. The measure already has passed the California Assembly.

ARRL staff member and antenna expert Dean Straw, N6BV, credited excellent preparation by the bill's sponsor, Assemblyman Bob Dutton, and his staff. "Several of the senators made special mention about how they appreciated the efforts of radio amateurs over the years, and how valuable the Amateur Radio Service was, particularly in these dangerous times," said Straw, who testified on behalf of the measure. The effort now will shift to Senate passage and ensuring that Gov Gray Davis signs the legislation.

Davis vetoed an earlier measure in 2000 citing its cost to taxpayers for conducting required studies and preparing a model ordinance for localities. Straw says AB 1228 mirrors the wording of PRB-1 and does not carry any additional costs to the taxpayers this time around.

From ARRL Letter

ARRL San Francisco Section Convention June 20 - 22, 2003 Ferndale, CA

www.humbolt-arc.org

Short Skip & Web Staff

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| Volunteer Exam Liaison | John Mullan | KD2L | 707 575-9176 |
| | | | |

707 579-9608 **SCRA** Hotline **SCRA E-Mail** scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com SCRA 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 |
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| 1 st Quarter Column | \$ 13 |
| Each Addn'l Quarter Column | \$4 |
| Full page (one side) | \$ 35 |
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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 June 4th 7:30 PM

Program:

Field Day & Contesting (Meeting in Cafeteria)

(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. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio may be eligible for membership. A membership application is included in this newsletter.

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

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Public Service Events Calendar

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

June 28 - Terrible Two - Santa Rosa Cycling Club Terrible Two - This is the granddaddy of all our events in 2003. 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.

> CHARLES J. TARR Attorner at Law WAGVAC SMALL BUSINESSES. NJURED PEOPLE AND THOSE ACCUSED OF CRIM

411 RUSSELL AVENUE SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403 (707) 546-5858

Jul 19 - 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.

Sep? - Waves to Wine

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"Logbook of the World" (LoTW) beta testers for the most part have reacted positively to the latest version of ARRL's secure electronic contact-confirmation system, but some users have run into difficulties. Responding to problems encountered by some early beta testers, the League has released an updated beta version of LoTW that should resolve these issues. Beta testers are encouraged to download the new version of the software, 1.02beta, from the LoTW page http://www.arrl.org/lotw/.

"While most installations and subsequent e-mailing and uploading of log data have gone flawlessly, as expected there have been problems," said ARRL's Dave Patton, NT1N, who's been a part of the LoTW project from the start. He says the LoTW server software failed to recognize many of the new digital mode designations, such as MFSK-16 and JT6M. This caused fatal errors while digitally signing logs.

Patton says the beta update allows users to "map" any mode designation to one of the four main Amateur Data Interchange Format (ADIF) mode categories--CW, phone, image, and digital--without changing the actual log data. He said the beta upgrade also will correct other log data problems that caused fatal errors in signing a log, including allowing the signing process to complete the "good" parts of a log without crashing.

Beta testing got under way May 15. So far, the 1300 or so beta testers have uploaded upward of five million contacts to the LoTW database. Once it's ready later this year, LoTW will provide a way for amateurs worldwide to qualify for awards such as DXCC or WAS without having to first collect and submit hard-copy QSL cards.

One beta tester from Brazil lavished praised on the LoTW project. "I applaud the creators of LoTW," he wrote. "This will be, for sure, the salvation of DXing and award collecting. Please keep up this essential work!" For now, log data are limited to contacts made no more than five years ago (on or after January 1, 1998) to get a representative sampling, Patton

Patton promised "many more bells and whistles" over the weeks ahead. One of those will meld LoTW with DXCC. He noted that a major DXCC software revision, now under way, will need to be completed first.

Logging software developers now can get documentation and a Windows DLL library--as well as complete source code for the TQSL software--at the S o u r c e F o r g e W e b s i t e http://sourceforge.net/projects/trustedqsl/.

To join the beta testing program, visit the Logbook of the World--Getting Started site http://www.arrl.org/lotw/getstart.html. The beta testing period wraps up in mid-July.

All QSO data submitted to LoTW will be deleted when the beta test period ends, and users will have to obtain new digital certificates to submit log data to LoTW once it 'goes live.' As part of the security process for the live system, passwords will be mailed to US licensees at the address that appears in the FCC database. Users should make sure the FCC has their current mailing address.

Amateurs can modify their address online or via US mail by using instructions available on the FCC Web site http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/licensing/chan gingaddress.html. ARRL members may submit license modifications or renewals through the ARRL VEC http://www.arrl.org/fcc/forms.html.

From ARRL Letter

QTC (from page 1)

time

As in all aspects of life, Hams need to seek balance in their radio activities. If you focus all your attention to just one aspect of Ham Radio, you will miss out on the learning opportunities and enjoyment of the other areas. Whether it be working the satellites, rag chewing, designing and building a new Binford 2000, tickling a CW key, contesting, or playing with a new antenna design, get out there, experiment and have fun! Oh, yeah, all the knowledge you gain and skills you develop while having fun will really be useful when you are called on to serve the community during an emergency.

See you at Field Day!

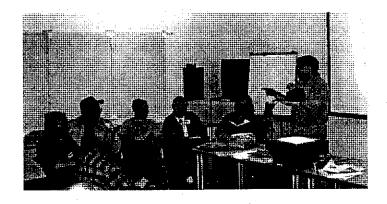
Field Day & Contesting

The June program will be held in the Agilent cafeteria and will be on Field Day preparation and some pointers on contesting. Field Day is the weekend of June 27 through 29, with setup starting Friday, 6/27 in the afternoon. Join us to hear about the preparations for SCRA's fun-filled annual FD activities.

At the last meeting......

SHORT SKIP

From the creative genius of game show mogul Brian Torr N6IIY came Ham Radio Squares. Brian acted as MC and filled the squares with nine members who tried to guide or fool the audience as to the correct answers to the questions. A sudden death round was required to break the tie between the teams. Everyone had a great time!



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!

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RICHARD C. O'HARE REGISTERED PATENT ATTORNEY (707) 525-5409 rick.ohare@rivkin.com 1330 NORTH DUTTON AVENUE SUITE 200 SANTA ROSA, CA 95401-4646 TEL: (707) 525-5400 FAX: (707) 576-7955 www.rivkinradlen.com

FIELD DAY 2003

Field Day planning has been moving ahead. Activities Chairman Josh Fiden AD6XI has been coordinating the various aspects of the event. Josh, Al Ferrera K6MXI and Bob Magnani K6QXY have laid out the antenna farm and station locations at English Hill. Master Chef John Mullan KD2L is planning a spectacular spaghetti feed for the traditional Saturday night feast. Plan on making reservations for Saturday's dinner at the June 4th meeting. SCRA will be joined by at last count 20+ Civil Air Patrol cadets and senior members.

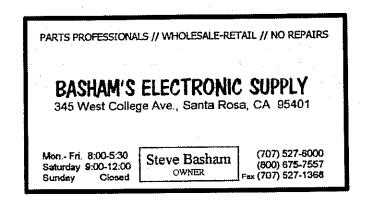
Setup starts Friday (6/27) afternoon about 1 PM. The site should be completely operational by dusk to allow for warming up operator skills and training the newcomers. Friday evening's dinner is usually a no-host run for pizza. There will be plenty of room for setting up your tent for camping.

Saturday morning comes quickly and after a continental breakfast, the contest starts at 11:00 AM PDT. Saturday lunch is still in the planning stage.

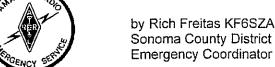
Sunday morning is highlighted by the traditional pancake, egg and bacon breakfast serviced up by SCRA Board members. And finally, contest end at 11:00 AM and take-down.

Volunteers for various activities will be requested at the meeting. Plan on joining us for Field Day, June 27 though 29. It is always a great event!





ARES Comm Log



The Quake of '03 or What to Expect at Large Scale Disasters

An interesting event occurred the other night that caused me to change the topic of this month's column; we had an earthquake. Granted, it wasn't a very large one (try telling that to my wife!) but it was definitely strong enough to awaken a substantial percentage of the local population. Just after the first shock I went into my radio room and turned on the radios and scanner; for the most part, all I heard was silence. However, on one of our local repeaters, two hams were already discussing the temblor.

The funny thing about earthquakes is that, unless you happen to be at the epicenter of a major quake, you don't really know if you're feeling a small local one or the effects of a major one that's quite a distance away. To be honest with you, this one didn't seem any stronger than the one that caused major damage in San Francisco awhile back; like ripples in a pond, you can be near the center of a small one or at the outer edge of a large one. Anyway, back to the night of the quake.

My son has a local radio show on Saturday evenings from 10:00 PM to 2:00 AM; I don't know if you've ever thought about it but radio and TV stations really don't have a lot of news people around at midnight. He called shortly after the second aftershock to see if I could find out where the quake was centered and how strong it was; listeners had already begun calling the station for information and some were even on the verge of panic. By the time I received his call I had already heard the information on the repeater and was able, thanks to ham radio, to relay the information to him to be put on the air. In retrospect, his was probably one of the few, if not the only, stations that had timely information on the quake. Using this as a segue, it's important for all of us to know what to expect at large scale disasters and to get an idea of the enormity of challenges presented by those events.

What happens to critical communications assets during the onset of disaster conditions? First there will be a huge increase in the amount of traffic on public service frequencies and phones. As the disaster widens it will cause backlogs and even failure of communications equipment. Then, as more and more agencies respond, there will be a lack of abilities to communicate with each other. This is where ARES will become an important part in the disaster.

In the early hours of a widespread disaster it will take lots of vital time to overcome the obstacles in placing fully activated agency resources into operation. Communications IS one of those resources. All of these agencies will be scrambling to the demand for services in their jurisdictions. In the meantime the public will be isolated, and possibly unable to call for help or to determine the nature of the disaster and what plans they may need to make as far as possible evacuations. Opportunities to call for help by the public are most often unavailable due to out-of-service phone lines or just overloaded circuits during the first 72 hours.

Broadcast radio stations and TV stations will initially disseminate rumors in absence of factual information and this will add to the confusion. Even if the information is true only a few people will hear these statements. Word will eventually circulate as to where shelters are located and, as this occurs, the need for reliable communications will at first be unavailable for those seeking friends or relatives. The need for this type of communication will be focused on local persons and will look for out-of-town information once things settle down, usually in a few days after the disaster occurs.

Little centralized information will be available and amateur radio volunteers from neighboring communities, and even some local members, may be denied access due to roadblocks established to limit sightseers. Disorganized local volunteers often lack essential skills and orientation, which can result in costly mistakes which result in bogged-down systems. Food and water resources will be limited and may become critical as normal water supplies may be cut-off or contaminated.

Eventually, the EMA and other public service agencies will become organized. This can take a long time, as, with any large-scale event, confusion will dominate the early hours. We need to be prepared for this to occur at any time so that if and when the time comes we will be valuable assets to our fellow citizens and served agencies. Why wait for the familiar words "we must be better prepared NEXT time" when we can plan ahead now.

The ARES net meets on Mondays at 7:30 PM on the ARES repeater on 146.835 MHz, - offset, 88.5 PL. This repeater is linked to the ARES repeater on 444.900 MHz, + offset, 88.5 PL. You are invited to check in anytime.

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Meeting 5-7-2003 MINUTES

- Call to Order, Verification of Quorum The meeting was called to order by President Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV at 7:32 PM at the Santa Rosa Agilent Technologies facility. There were more than 43 people present.
 - a. Introductions

SHORT SKIP

- Officers & Directors The club officers and directors introduced themselves.
- ii. Guest Speakers/Program Ham Radio Squares
- iii. Visitors There were several visitors.
- . New Calls & Upgrades None
- Approval of Minutes Walter Masten KG6OXW moved that the minutes of the April 2, 2003, be approved as printed in Shortskip. The motion passed.
- 3. Officer & Director Reports
 - President Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV Bob Olsten WD6DPE reported that Sarah Davis was ill. A card was passed for members to sign.
 - ii. Vice President Brian Torr N6IIY Nothing to report.
 - iii. Secretary no report
 - iv. Treasurer Jeff Basham KK6JAB Excused absence Jim Lee KE6VGV reported the account balances.
 - v. Directors -
 - josh Fiden AD6XI Nothing to report
 - ii. Jim Lee KE6VGV Nothing to report.
- Past President Greg Gordon AC6VJ Greg reported on an article in the AMSAT journal.
- 4. Committee Reports
 - ARES Rich Freitas KF6SZA Rich was not present. Walter Master KG6OXW reported on up coming events and nets.
 - b. Mobile Comm Van Greg Gordon AC6VJ Greg reported that the fuel tank hand been cleaned, coated and reinstalled. John Breckenridge WB6FRZ has started working on the antenna supports. Lee Dibble KE6EAQ has several interested parties in the GMC RV.
 - c. Activities Committee Josh Fiden AD6XI Josh advised that the FISTS Sprint was this coming Saturday. Field Day planning is ongoing. There are volunteers setup/take-down and station captains. More are needed.
 - Newsletter Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV Bill advised that the ARRL Section Manager's column will periodically appear in Short Skip.
 - Public Service & VE John Mullan KD2L John reported on the Wine Country Century and requested additional volunteers for the Human Race on 5/10.
 - f. Repeater Committee Greg Gordon AC6VJ
 - Net control volunteers Greg requested Net Control volunteers.
 - e. Status of Repeaters Greg was advised that the 146.985 repeater was "weak." He said that he would look into it.
 - f. SCRA v NARCC Greg reported on the status of the case.
- 5. Unfinished Business None
- 6. New Business None
- Member Biography Reese Willer WD6EOB discussed his entry into Amateur Radio and his interests.
- Show and Tell Al Ferrera K6MXI showed a handy magnetic flashlight;
 Walter Masten KG6OXW showed a hand made CW key.
- 9. Recess a recess was held from 8:20 PM until 8:40 PM
- Program Brian Torr N6IIY acted as MC for Ham Radio Squares. The audience participated in the game.
- 1. Raffie
- 50/50 Carrie Breckenridge, John WB6FRZ's XYL, split \$14 with the club.
- Membership deferred
- 12. Announcements
 - 1. Next Program Field Day activities and Contesting
 - 2. Board Meeting is next Wednesday at 6:30 PM at Agilent.
 - The Dayton Hamvention is May 16-18, 2003. Bill KH6GJV has some rooms reserved for anyone who is interested in going.
- ARRL San Francisco Section Convention, Ferndale June 20 22.
- Adjournment There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting 5-14-2003 MINUTES

Board Members Present: Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Brian Torr N6IIY, Josh Fiden AX6XI, Jim Lee KE6VGV and Greg Gordon AC6VJ. Members Excused: Jeff Basham W2JAB

- Call to Order, Verification of Quorum, Introductions The meeting was called to order by President Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV at 6:50PM. The meeting was held at Agilent Technologies, 1400 Fountaingrove Parkway, Santa Rosa. A quorum was present in that five of the seven voting board members were present.
- Approval of Minutes Brian N6IIY moved that the minutes of the 4-9-03 meeting be approved as submitted. The motion passed.
- 3. Officer & Director Reports

Guests Present:None

- President Bill KH6GJV Bill reported on the International DX Convention in Visalia. He advised that he had put \$10 each for W6LFJ and W6SON in the QSL Bureau accounts.
- 2. Vice President Brian N6IIY Nothing to report.
- . Secretary office vacant
- Treasurer Jeff W2JAB Not present. Jim KE6VGV reported the account balances.
- Directors
- Josh AD6XI Nothing to report.
- 2. Jim KE6VGV Nothing to report.
- Past President Greg AC6VJ Greg reported on the status of his Condor repeater.
- Committee Reports
 - 1. ARES Rich KF6SZA Not present.
 - Mobile Comm Van Greg AC6VJ The insurance renewal is in from State Farm. Josh is going to check with his carrier for another quote. The issue will be revisited at the next meeting.
 - 3. Activities Committee Josh AD6XI
 - Field Day Josh updated the Field Day planning. Josh will get together with Bill to go through the Field Day box and check out the laptops.
 - The club picnic September 20th at Lee Dibble's home, Noon to 3 PM - Details were discussed.
 - Newsletter Bill KH6GJV Nothing to report.
 - Public Service & VE John KD2L Not present. Future events: 6/28 Terrible Two; 7/19 Harvest Century; 9/? Wave to Wine; 10/12 Diabetes Society.
 - Repeaters Greg AC6VJ
 - Status of Repeaters All up and working. 146.985 reset itself and is at normal power.
 - Legal update in executive session.
 - Weekly Net Control 6/3 AC6VJ; 6/10 AD6XI; 6/17 tba;
 6/24 tba
- 5. Unfinished Business
 - Meeting Programs January - ARISS

February - Hollowstate Devices
March- Stealth Antennas
April "Homebrew Night"

May -Ham Radio Squares Repeaters June - "Field Day" & Contesting

Programs Ideas - 911 Services;

eld Day" & Contesting

December - "Christmas Party" & Photos June meeting will be

November - Elections &

held in the Agilent cafeteria.

July -

August -

October -

September -

- 2. Club Calendar No changes
- 2003 Budget Deferred to the next meeting.
- 6. New Business None.
- 7. Executive Session Legal and Membership issues
- 3. Announcements None.
- 9. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at ended at 8:30 PM

4

7

HSC Web Specials!

The items below can be found in the "Specials" area of our online shopping pages at www.halted.com...check them out and use our secure site to place your order for the holidays!

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Battery charger, NiMH HSC# 19151 \$17.50

SCSI Controller, Initio, PCI Bus HSC# 18218 New Price!

SCSI Controller, Adapted 1505, ISA Bus HSC# 17995 New Price! \$7.50

Mouse, 2-button HSC# 18731 \$3,95 Mouse, w/ numeric keypad

HSC# 80539

Scrolling mouse, translucent body HSC# 18829 \$9.50 Computer Power Supply, ATX

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Motherboard, Baby AT, 486VLB HSC# 19003 \$9.95

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Multimeter, DMM, with transistor check HSC# 80370

Multimeter, DMM, tilt-up display, nice! HSC# 80504 \$39.95

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VHS for even less!



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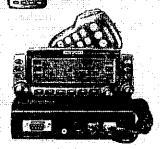
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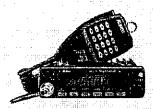




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