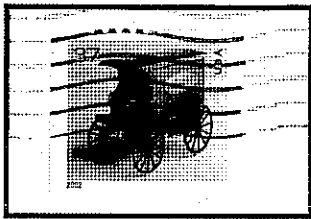


Calendar of Events

Sep 3	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 5	Fri	7:30 PM	Marin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley
Sep 6	Sat	10:00 AM	Red Oak Victory ARC Meeting, Point Richmond
Sep 10	Wed	6:30 PM	SCRA Board of Directors Meeting, Agilent Technologies
Sep 13-14	Sat-Sun		Public Service - Waves to Wine - Contact: John KD2L (707) 575-9176
Sep 16	Tues	7:30 PM	Hamilton Wireless Assoc., Bldg 549, Hamilton Field, Novato
Sep 17	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	Sat	Noon - 3 PM	SCRA Picnic - Lee Dibble's 1290 Parsons Drive, Santa Rosa.
Oct 17 - 19			Pacificon - San Ramon - info: www.pacificon.org

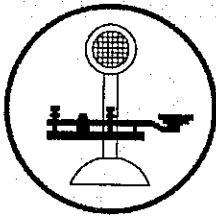
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
P. O. Box 116
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116

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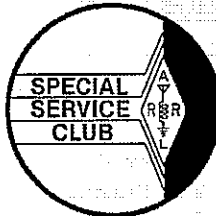
Expires: 03/01/2004

John Breckenridge II
574 Wild Oak Dr
Windsor CA 95492
WB6FRZ



Club Station
W6LFJ

Short Skip
newsletter of the
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
P. O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116
(707) 579-9608
<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>
Repeaters
146.985- • 146.73- • 224.48- • 441.375+



Repeater Station
W6SON

Volume 28 Number 9

September 2003

QTC
by
Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV
SCRA President



BPL

This edition of Short Skip has two articles on the BPL issue. BPL is the short term for the proposed Broadband over Power Line proposal by the telecom industry to bring high speed internet and other services to rural communities not served by phone line based DSL or cable TV high speed service.

Supposedly, BPL service will not be offered in urban communities as they are serviced by land wired and cabled providers. So, we are told it will not effect us.

As I understand it, the signal in a BPL system will be a low power radio signal impressed on the unshielded power lines and tapped off at the user by a modem similar to how we have a modem attached to our DSL or cable. The frequencies in use will range from what we term as HF through low VHF.

Have you ever had a contact with a station running QRP (very low, under 5 watts)? Aren't you amazed at the distance a low level RF signal can travel?

According to the articles I have read, in areas that BPL has been tested, the floor noise level in the HF bands rose significantly. Imagine BPL being used on a nation wide or continent wide basis. According to some experts, the effect will seriously degrade HF and low VHF communications for many radio services, not just the Amateur Service.

BPL appears to be a serious threat to the future of Amateur Radio. Please do some research and form your own opinion. Please let the ARRL know your thoughts on BPL.

BPL ADVOCATES' COMMENTS LACK
TECHNICAL SUBSTANCE,
ARRL REPLY COMMENTS SAY

The ARRL says Broadband over Power Line (BPL) proponents failed in their comments to the FCC to substantiate their claims that the technology will not cause widespread interference. In reply comments filed August 20--the FCC's deadline to receive comments in the Notice of Inquiry, ET Docket 03-104--the League said that if the FCC is going to rely on industry statements in making decisions on BPL deployment, the industry should back up its assertions with technical studies and hard data and make these public.

"Unfounded assurances that BPL will not cause interference are no substitute for real-world measurements," the League declared, "and the FCC should rely on documented test results and an impact of interference potential based on scientific, not marketing, criteria."

A form of power line carrier--or PLC--technology, BPL would use existing low and medium-voltage power lines to deliver broadband services to homes and businesses using frequencies between 2 and 80 MHz. Some BPL proponents--primarily electric power utilities--already are testing BPL systems in several markets and want the FCC to relax radiation limits.

"Power lines are ubiquitous, and attempts by the BPL industry to obtain relaxed emission classifications based on operating environment are obviously illogical and frivolous," the ARRL said. BPL would impact not only hams but public safety low-band VHF systems and other mobile systems, the League's comments added.

In contrast to the BPL advocates' "blanket statements" of no interference from BPL field trial sites, the ARRL said its own field tests "lead inescapably to the conclusion that BPL will, if deployed, create widespread harmful interference." It predicted signal levels of up to 30 dB over S9 on a typical amateur transceiver, "well beyond what would preclude amateur HF communications entirely."

To dramatize its point, the League urged the
(Continued on page 4)

2003 Club Officials

President	Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	707 544-4944
Vice President	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707 575-5871
Secretary			
Treasurer	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707 542-3860
Director	Josh Fiden	AD6XI	707 874-3940
Director	Jim Lee	KE6VGV	415 892-0317
Past President	Greg Gordon	AC6VJ	707 523-7077
Activities Chairman	Josh Fiden	AD6XI	707 874-3940
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	KK6JAB	707 542-3860
Web Master	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707 542-3860

Contacts

Antenna Ordinance/Legal	Lee Dibble	KE6EAQ	707 544-1675
Public Relations	Bill McCall	W6WDM	707 538-2844
Raffles	Karl Johnston	K6QMT	
Refreshments	Ted DeCroff	KB6PTA	707 542-4008
Volunteer Exam Liaison	John Mullan	KD2L	707 575-9176

SCRA Hotline 707 579-9608
SCRA E-Mail scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com
SCRA Web Site <http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

Tuesday Night Net

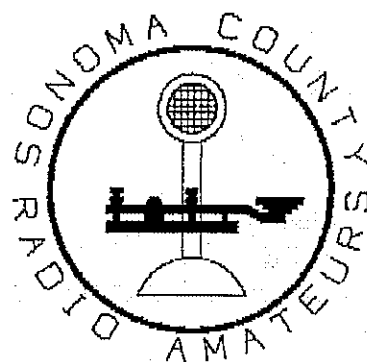
Check in to the SCRA net each **Tuesday** evening on the **146.985-(PL 88.5)** repeater at **7:00 PM**. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the area and what is listed in Hank's Swap Shop. You will also hear the weekly *Amateur Radio Newslines* broadcast.

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 3rd
7:30 PM

Program:

Echolink
 by
 Jim Jackson WA6DDM
 (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.

Public Service Events Calendar

John Mullan KD2L, SCRAPS Chairman

kd2l@pacbell.net (707) 575-9176

Sep 13 & 14 - Waves to Wine

Contest Corner by Kevin Alt K6BSG

Hello testers. Hang on the major contest season is about to begin! For you RTTY operators, the CQ RTTY WW DX contest is this month. Also check out the Rattletap Contest - bugs only and several all digital contests. Here is the round-up for September:

Sep 1-2 - **MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint**, see <http://www.qsl.net/miqrpclub/>.
 Sep 6 - **First PSK63 Contest**-Sponsored by the Digital Radio Reflector, 0000Z-2359 Sep 6. 80-10 m, just above PSK31 freq. See <http://www.netsync.net/users/obrienai/quickpsk.htm>.
 Sep 6-7 - **All-Asian DX Contest**-Phone, see June QST or <http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/0-2.htm>.
 Sep 6-7 - **IARU Region 1 Field Day**-SSB-sponsored by IARU Societies, 160-10 meters. See June QST or <http://www.iaru.org/>.
 Sep 7 - **North American Sprint**-CW, 0000Z-0400Z Sep 7. See [Feb QST](http://www.ncjweb.org/) or <http://www.ncjweb.org/>.
 Sep 7 - **DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest**-Digital Modes-sponsored by the Deutsche Amateur Radio Committee, 1100Z-1700Z Sep 7. See <http://www.darc.de/referate/hf/contest/>.
 Sep 10-12 **YLRL Howdy Days**-CW/SSB -adio League, 1400Z Sep 10-0200Z Sep 12. See <http://www.qsl.net/yrl/yrlcontests.html>.
 Sep 13 - **Second-Class Operators Club (SOC) Marathon Sprint**-CW, from 1800Z

to 2400Z Sep 13. See Sep QST for more details.
 Sep 13-14 - **WAE DX Contest**-SSB, 0000Z Sep 13-2359Z Sep 14. See Aug QST or <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/>.
 Sep 13-14 - **Louisiana QSO Party**-CW/Phone, 1400Z Sep 13-0200Z Sep 14 and 1400Z-2000Z Sep 14. Frequencies: 80-2 meters. See <http://www.tchams.org/users/contest/lagp/lagprules.html>.
 Sep 13-15 **ARRL September VHF QSO Party**, 1800Z Sep 13-0300Z Sep 15. See Aug QST or <http://www.arrl.org/contests>.
 Sep 14 - **North American Sprint**-SSB, 0000Z-0400Z Sep 14. See Feb QST or <http://www.ncjweb.com/>.
 Sep 14 - **3rd Annual FISTS Coast to Coast Contest**-CW--0000Z-2400Z Sep 14. See http://www.tomochka.com/k7ff/fnw_c2c03.html.
 Sep 14-15 - **Tennessee QSO Party**-CW/Phone - 0800Z Sep 14-0100Z Sep 15. See http://www.k4ro.net/tcg/tqp/tqp03_rules.html.
 Sep 20-21 **ARRL 10 GHz + Up Cumulative Contest**, 0600 local Sep 20-midnight local Sep 21 See July QST or <http://www.arrl.org/contests>.
 Sep 20-21 - **Washington State Salmon Run**-CW/SSB - 1600Z Sep 20-0700Z Sep 21 and 1600Z-2400Z Sep 21. 160 - 6 meters. See <http://www.wvdx.org/>.
 Sep 20-21 - **South Carolina QSO Party**-Phone/CW/Digital - 1300Z Sep 20-2100Z Sep 21. 160 - 70 cm. See <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/2695/SCQSOWeb.htm>.
 Sep 20-21 - **QRP Afield**-CW/Phone/Digital - 1500Z Sep 20-0300Z Sep 21, 160-10 m. See <http://www.qsl.net/wq1rp/main.htm>.
 Sep 20-21 - **Collegiate QSO Party**-CW/SSB/Digital, 160-10 m. See <http://www.qth.com/collegiate/qsopartycentral.htm>.
 Sep 21 & Sep 28 - **Scandinavian Activity Contest**-CW 1200Z Sep 20-1200Z Sep 21, Phone, 1200Z Sep 27-1200Z Sep 28. See <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/text/sacnsc.txt>.
 Sep 22 - **Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint**-CW/PSK31 - 80-10 m, CW and PSK31 are considered separate bands. See <http://www.njgrp.org/data/grphomebrewersprint.html>.
 Sep 27 - **Alabama QSO Party**-CW/Phone - 1800Z-2400Z Sep 27. 160 m-70 cm. See <http://web.dbtech.net/~dxcc/rules1.htm>.
 Sep 27-28 - **CQ WWRTTY DX Contest**-sponsored by *CQ Magazine* from 0000Z Sep 27-2400Z Sep 28. 80-10 m. See <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/awards.html>.
 Sep 27-28 - **Scandinavian Activity Contest**-SSB-1200Z Sep 27-1200Z Sep 28 See Sep QST.
 Sep 27-28 - **Texas QSO Party**-CW/Phone/Digital - 160- 2 m. See <http://www.txqp.org/>.
 Sep 27-28 - **Rattletap Contest**-CW-sponsored by College Amateur Radio Association (CARA), 2100Z Sep 27-0100Z Sep 28. all amateur bands, use a bug to make QSOs or work stations using bugs. See <http://www.qth.com/collegiate/rattletap.htm>.
 Sep 28-29 - **The Classic Exchange**-CW/Phone - 160 - 10 m. See <http://qsl.asti.com/CX>.

CHARLES J. TARR

Attorney at Law

WA6VAC

REPRESENTING CONSUMERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES,
 INJURED PEOPLE AND THOSE ACCUSED OF CRIME

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

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Membership Application

New [] Renewal []

Please Print Clearly

Name _____ Call Sign _____ License Class _____ Date _____

Address _____ Hm Phone _____ Wk Phone _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____

ARRL Member? [] Yes [] No

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

Badge Information

Call Sign _____
 First Name _____
 City _____

Payment Calculations:

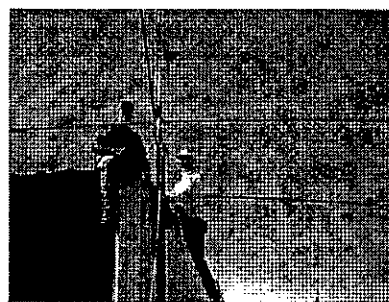
Make checks payable to SCRA

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

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

contact, monitor the air waves with the receiver and learn a little CW. Of course there were plenty of aircraft displays and spectacular live aircraft events to entertain the crowds.

Keeping Amateur Radio in the public view were Ron Gove KG6KTP, Jeff Basham KK6JAB, Kevin French KG6ABB, Rich Freitas KF6SZA, Karl Johnston K6QMT, Kevin Alt K6BSG, Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, John Breckenridge WB6FRZ, Bob Tuttle K6OEQ, Pat Coyle KG6JSL, John Chavez KG6PEP, Brian Torr N6IYY, Brian Lukrich KG6AQT and Bill McCall W6WDM. Many thanks to all that participated. It was a great weekend.



Ron KG6KTP & John WB6FRZ



Brian N6IYY & John KG6PEP

BPL (continued from page 1)

From ARRL Letter

Commission to view video <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/#video> shot during recent ARRL test-and-measurement forays to BPL field trial communities in four states. The ARRL said the type of degradation expected from BPL would transform 20 meters from a band with worldwide communication capabilities to one of limited regional communication capability.

"ARRL has, in fact, done what the BPL industry should have done--brought an amateur station to the trial area," the League said. "When it did so, the interference was manifest and widespread and would be so even to an untrained observer."

The League also noted that comments in the proceeding so far have been silent on the interference susceptibility of BPL to ham radio signal ingress. The League predicted that even as little as 250 mW of signal induced into overhead power lines some 100 feet from an amateur antenna could degrade a BPL system or render it inoperative.

The ARRL called on the FCC to stop acting like a cheerleader for BPL. "It is past time that the Commission acted in its proper role as a steward of the radio spectrum and recognized the interference potential of BPL to the sensitive incumbent licensed services in these bands," the League concluded. "The Commission cannot stretch the Part 15 regulations as far as would be required to accommodate BPL."

The League's complete reply comments are available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/reply-comments-index.htm> along with more information <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2003/07/08/1/>. Additional information and video clips are on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/.

To support the League's efforts in the BPL fight, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>.

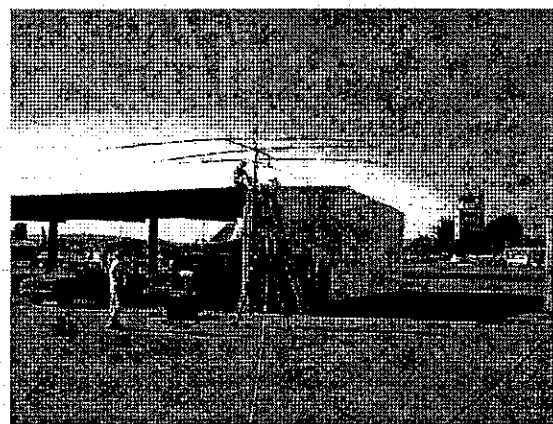


ARES Comm Log

by Rich Freitas KF6SZA
Sonoma County District
Emergency Coordinator

On Vacation

The weekly ARES net for the greater Santa Rosa area is conducted on Mondays at 7:30 PM on 146.985 MHz, - offset, 88.5 PL; it is currently linked to 444.900 MHz, + offset, 88.5 PL. You may use either of these frequencies. All ARES members and guests are invited to check-in. Please join us.



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Meeting 8-6-2003

MINUTES

- i. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum - The meeting was called to order by President Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV at 7:30 PM at the Santa Rosa Agilent Technologies facility. There were more than 30 people present.
 - a. Introductions
 - i. Officers & Directors - The club officers and directors introduced themselves.
 - ii. Guest Speakers/Program - Alan Bloom N1AL on Grid Dip Oscillators
 - iii. Visitors - There were several visitors.
 - iv. New Calls & Upgrades - none
 - ii. Approval of Minutes - Bill Waters AC6MA moved that the minutes of the June 4, 2003, be approved as printed in Shortskip. The motion passed. Bob Oisten WD6DPE moved that the minutes of the July 2, 2003, be approved as printed in Shortskip. The motion passed.
 - iii. Officer & Director Reports
 - i. President - Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV - Bill reported on PCAM coming the weekend of August 22 to 24.
 - ii. Vice President - Brian Torr N6IYY - Brian reported on the progress on the roster.
 - iii. Secretary - no report
 - iv. Treasurer - Jeff Basham KK6JAB - Not present.
 - v. Directors
 - i. Josh Fiden AD6XI - Nothing to report.
 - ii. Jim Lee KE6VGV - Jim advised that there were a number of badges to be picked up.
 - Past President - Greg Gordon AC6VJ - Greg reminded that the club picnic would be on Sept 20th at Lee Dibble KE6EAQ's home.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. ARES - Rich Freitas KF6SZA - Not present.
 - b. Mobile Comm Van - Greg Gordon AC6VJ - Greg showed the 10 meter radios he acquired for the CommVan. Bill KH6GJV had gotten an RV cover for the vehicle.
 - c. Activities Committee - Josh Fiden AD6XI - Josh discussed the issue of Broadband over Power Lines (BPL), the possible removal of the CW requirement for US Hams and asked the group who would be interested in a trip to the USS Pampanito in San Francisco.
 - d. Newsletter - Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV - Bill mentioned the article on California's version of PRB-1 and antennas.
 - e. Public Service & VE - John Mullan KD2L - No report.
 - f. Repeater Committee - Greg Gordon AC6VJ
 - d. Net control volunteers - Greg requested Net Control volunteers.
 - e. Status of Repeaters - Greg reported on the status of the repeaters. Greg's new 10 meter repeater on 29.640 MHz (-100 KHz) is operational.
 - f. SCRA v NARCC - Greg reported on the status of the case. At SCRA's attorney's request, FCC's Hollingsworth sent a letter saying that issues with repeater coordination were to be handled locally by the parties or in state court if needed. The FCC was not going to get involved.
5. Unfinished Business - None
6. New Business - None
7. Member Biography - Ron Bracklow W6BR talked about his entry and interest in Ham Radio. Ron started out as a teenager in CB splatting in the neighborhood. A local Ham hunting down the source of the problem and introduced him to Amateur Radio.
8. Show and Tell - Skipped
9. Recess - a recess was held from 8:20 PM until 8:40 PM
10. Program - Alan Bloom N1AL showed his grid dip oscillator and how it is useful for many projects.
11. Raffle
 1. 50/50 - Michael Silva KC6UNA split \$3 with the club.
 2. Membership - The membership raffle was lost by Michael Hassett N6WRM.
12. Announcements
 1. Next Program - Echolink
 2. Board Meeting is next Wednesday at 6:30 PM at Agilent.
 3. Pacificon - San Ramon, CA October 17 - 19, 2003
13. Adjournment - There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM

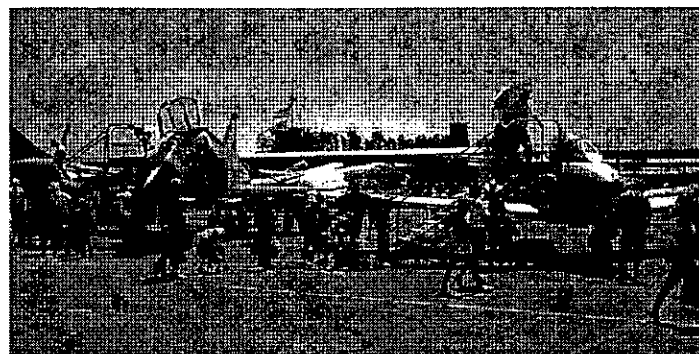
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting 8-13-2003

MINUTES

- Board Members Present: Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Brian Torr N6IYY, Josh Fiden AD6XI, Jim Lee KE6VGV and Greg Gordon AC6VJ.
Board Members Excused: Jeff Basham KK6JAB
Guests Present: Rich Freitas KF6SZA and Randy Black KE6VMZ
1. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum, Introductions - The meeting was called to order by President Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV at 6:40PM. 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.
 2. Approval of Minutes - Brian N6IYY moved that the minutes of the 6-11-03 meeting be approved as amended. The motion passed. Jim Lee KE6VGV moved that the minutes of the 7-9-03 meeting be approved as amended. The motion passed.
 3. Officer & Director Reports
 1. President - Bill KH6GJV - Bill reported that John Felton KE5RI had undergone bypass surgery and that he was doing fine.
 2. Vice President - Brian N6IYY - Brian reported on the roster progress.
 3. Secretary - office vacant
 4. Treasurer - Jeff KK6JAB - No report.
 5. Directors
 1. Josh AD6XI - Nothing to report.
 2. Jim KE6VGV - Nothing to report.
 6. Past President - Greg AC6VJ - Nothing to report.
 4. Committee Reports
 1. ARES - Rich KF6SZA - Monroe Hall is being sold. The CommVan will need a new place to park. Blood Bank needs help setting up their station.
 2. Mobile Comm Van - Greg AC6VJ - Rich KF6SZA is still working on a paint job; Bill has an RV cover for the vehicle.
 3. Activities Committee - Josh AD6XI
 1. Club Picnic - Sept 20th from Noon to 3 PM at Lee Dibble's.
 2. Bill handed out the income and expense report for Field Day.
 3. Josh proposed an out-of county station for CQP.
 4. Newsletter - Bill KH6GJV - Nothing new to report.
 5. Public Service & VE - John KD2L - John was not present.
 6. Repeaters - Greg AC6VJ
 1. Status of Repeaters - Greg reported on the status of the repeaters.
 2. Legal update - in executive session.
 3. Weekly Net Control - 9/2 - AC6VJ; 9/9 - N6IYY; 9/16 - AD6XI; 9/23 - KH6GJV; 9/30 - KG6OXW
 5. Unfinished Business
 1. Meeting Programs

January - ARISS	July - Field Day review
February - Hollowstate Devices	August - Al Bloom N1AL on Grid Dip Meters
March - Stealth Antennas	September -
Echolink or Voice of America	October -
April "Homebrew Night"	November -
May - Ham Radio Squares	
 2. Elections & Repeaters

June - "Field Day" & Contesting	December - "Christmas Party" & Photos
---------------------------------	---------------------------------------
 3. Programs Ideas - 911 Services; Echo Link; Voice of America
 6. Club Calendar - No changes
 7. New Business - Meeting Location - Brian suggested that with the personnel changes at Agilent, the club may want to be looking for another meeting location.
 8. Executive Session - Legal issue.
 9. Announcements - None.
 10. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at ended at 8:20 PM.



NTIA EXPRESSES "BROAD CONCERNS" IN BPL COMMENTS

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has weighed in on the FCC's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) initiative. While urging the FCC to "move forward expeditiously" with its inquiry into BPL, the NTIA expressed "broad concerns" about interference to government users. The NTIA also has launched an extensive modeling, analysis and measurement program for BPL. A Commerce Department branch, NTIA administers spectrum allocated to federal government users.

"Notwithstanding BPL's potential benefits, the Commission must ensure that other communications services, especially government operations, are adequately protected from unacceptable interference," the NTIA said in late-filed comments in the BPL Notice of Inquiry. "In tailoring its rules to promote BPL deployment, the Commission must be certain to provide all communications stakeholders with adequate protections against BPL emissions that may cause unacceptable radio frequency interference."

Until releasing its comments this month, the NTIA has been largely silent on the issue since last spring. In an April 24 letter, then-NTIA administrator Nancy J. Victory applauded the FCC's decision to launch its inquiry into BPL, but called on the Commission to make sure that BPL does not cause harmful interference to other services.

In early July, Frederick R. Wentland, NTIA's associate administrator in the Office of Spectrum Management, told the FCC that the NTIA did not favor Current Technologies LLC's <http://www.currenttechnologies.com/> request for a permanent waiver of the field strength limit specified for Class B emissions under FCC Part 15 rules. A Maryland BPL developer, Current Technologies already is field testing and marketing the technology.

Wentland worried that the pole-mounted interfaces and outdoor power lines used for BPL could interfere with public safety communication in the 30 to 50 MHz range. He told FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Edmond J. Thomas that the "unobstructed and ubiquitous nature of this BPL application, and perhaps other aspects of BPL, differs considerably from the situations presently found in typical unintentional radiators" operating under Part 15.

Wentland--named recently to succeed Victory as NTIA

administrator on an interim basis--also invited the FCC to coordinate its own BPL measurement activities with those of the NTIA.

The NTIA's comments, which have not been posted on the FCC Web site, are available on the NTIA Web site http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/fccfilings/2003/bplcomments_08132003.htm

From ARRL Letter

MORE COUNTRIES DROP MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT

Two more countries have joined the small, but growing, list of administrations that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test to have access to HF. Others have indicated they will do so soon. Affected countries also have granted HF privileges to their amateurs who hold "no-code" VHF/UHF licenses.

Joining Switzerland, Belgium, the UK and Germany are Norway and the Netherlands. Waiting in the wings are Austria and New Zealand.

The actions are in response to the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 decision to delete the requirement to prove Morse code ability from the international Radio Regulations, leaving individual administrations to decide if they want to retain it or not.

The Norwegian Post and Telecommunication Authority <<http://www.npt.no/>> reportedly has told the Norwegian Radio Relay League <<http://www.nrrl.no/>> that the three former license classes--with LA, LB and LC call sign prefixes--were combined into one class on August 19. Those holding LC call signs have been issued new LA-prefix call signs, and those holding LB-prefix call signs may apply for LA call signs if they wish.

The Netherlands Radiocommunications Agency <<http://www.agentschaptelecom.nl/>> announced this week that Morse proficiency will cease to be a requirement for HF access as of September 1. The Netherlands' Class A and C licenses--which correspond to CEPT Classes 1 and 2 respectively--will enjoy the same privileges, although they'll retain their distinctive call sign prefixes for now. The change does not affect the Class N license, which permits 2-meter and 70-cm operation only. A letter to all amateurs was to go out this week to all hams in the Netherlands.

Information from Austria's IARU member-society, the Austrian Experimental Radio Transmitters Union (OeVSV) <<http://www.oevsv.at/>>, indicates that country will grant provisional HF access to all CEPT Class 2 licenses "sometime in September," pending formal changes.

New Zealand telecommunications authorities plan to remove the requirement for Morse competency from the General class syllabus as part of the next round of updates to that country's radio communications regulations. The change is expected to go into effect later this year.

In the US, six unrelated petitioners have requested the FCC to delete the requirement that applicants pass the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse code test to gain HF access and make related changes in the Amateur Service rules (Part 97). The FCC has not yet invited public comment on any of these petitions--some information from RSGB, No-Code International and Kees Murre, PA2CHM


From ARRL Letter

Echolink

September's program will be on Echolink presented by **Jim Jackson WA6DDM**. Jim is a Professor of Clinical Science at the San Francisco State University. Jim says that Echolink is not a replacement for RF transmitters but rather an adjunct. Echolink has become a contemporary portal for 'new' Amateur Radio operators because in order to use the medium, you must first be a licensed Amateur Radio operator. The reason for this is because many Echolink stations are connected to radio transmitters and one must be licensed to operate an Amateur Radio transmitter. This encourages many of the "digital generation" to become Hams. Many "repeaters" and "links" are popping up all over the map. You can call "CQ" from your computer to Switzerland, South Africa (ZS2CLI-L), India (VU2NTE), Russia (UA9OXC-L), Thailand (HS0ZER-I), etc... The calls with a "L" signify that the station is a "link" to a radio repeater and you can use it just like any local VHF/UHF radio repeater. The Echolink medium has something for everyone, new operator and seasoned old-timer. The best part of Echolink is no QRM or QRN and the software is FREE! All you need is any computer that uses Windows, a microphone, and the free software downloaded from the Internet. Oh yeah, you also need an Internet connection! That's all there is to it. Join the new radio revolution.

At the August meeting, **Alan Bloom N1AL** presented his update of the Grid Dip Oscillator. Al described how he designed a modern circuit for the device and how he put it together. Al also described the various uses for a grid dip oscillator in today's modern shack.

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 kh6gjr@arrl.net. We'd love to see YOU in print!



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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SCRA FIRST ANNUAL FALL PICNIC

Saturday, September 20th SCRA will have a pool side, potluck picnic for SCRA members at Lee Dibble's house at **1290 Parsons Drive in Santa Rosa, from 12:00 - 3:00**. The Club will provide free hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, condiments, cold sodas, and water. Please bring your whole family and either a salad or desert to share and anything else you would like to drink. Don't forget your swim suit and towel!

Please **RSVP ASAP** so we'll know how much to buy. Gregory AC6VJ 523-7077 ac6vj@cdis1.net

SCRA & EARS at PCAM

Once again this year, members of SCRA and the Empire Amateur Radio Society got together and put together an Amateur Radio demonstration booth at the annual Pacific Coast Air Museum's Air Show at the Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport. PCAM estimates that over 15,000 people visited the air show this year.

The booth contained operating HF and VHF stations, a general coverage receiver, an aircraft band receiver to monitor the "Air Boss" during the aerial events, antique radios and information on Ham Radio. Guests were invited to try their hand at making an HF

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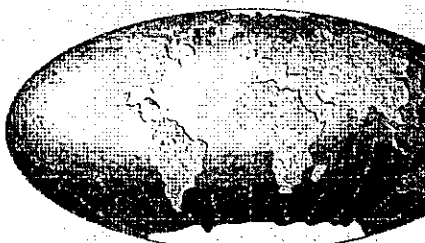
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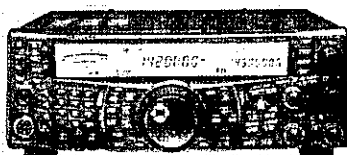
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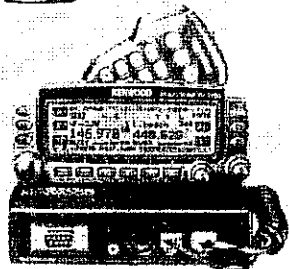
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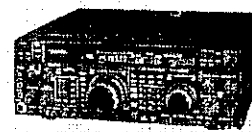
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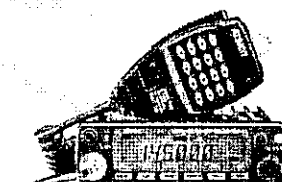
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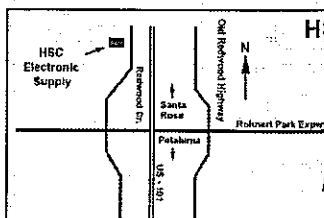
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