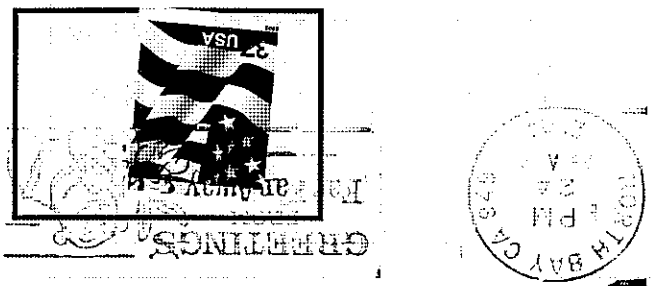


Calendar of Events

May 1	Sat	Public Service Event: Wine Country Century. Want to help? Contact John Mullian KD2L 707 575-9176 kd2l@pacbell.net
May 5	Wed	5:30 PM No-Host Dinner at Coco's, 1501 Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa
May 7	Fri	7:30 PM Martin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley
May 8	Sat	Public Service Event: Human Race - Early morning to mid-afternoon. Want to help? Contact John Mullian KD2L 707 575-9176 kd2l@pacbell.net
May 12	Wed	6:30 PM SCRA Board of Directors Meeting
May 18	Tues	7:30 PM Hamilton Wireless Assoc., Bldg 549, Hamilton Field, Novato
May 19	Wed	7:00 PM REDXA Meeting, Carrow's, Petaluma
May 19	Wed	7:30 PM Valley of the Moon ARC Meeting, McDougall Hall, Sonoma Developmental Center, Glen Ellen.
Jul 9 - 11	Fri-Sun	ARRL San Francisco Section Convention, Ferndale, CA. Hosted by the Humboldt County Clubs. Info: www.humboldt-arc.org

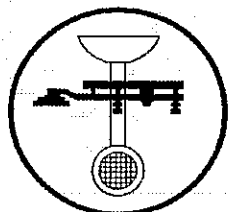
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Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116

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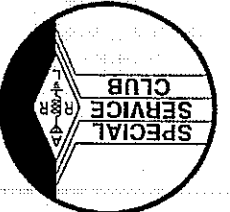


John Breckenridge II
574 Wild Oak Dr
Windsor CA 95492

Expires: 03/01/2005
WB6FRZ

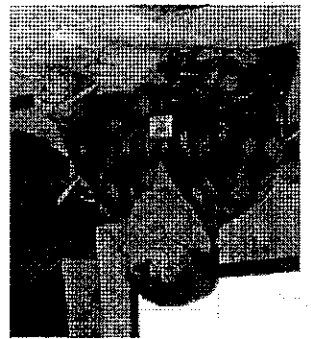


Short Skip
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QVA

by
Brian Torr Ngilly
SCRA President



As I am writing this, SCRA's first public service event, the MS Walkathon, is less than a day away. Thanks to all those that have volunteered for this event. I am glad to see that John, KD2L, was able to pull together a calendar of this year's public service events. It looks as though at each general meeting for the next several months we can look forward to John asking for volunteers for one event or another. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to find time to assist in these events.

I was really pleased at the turnout for Homebrew Night at the April meeting. The breadth of technology displayed was a true testament to the amateur radio spirit. We had designs that date from the 1920s all the way to the 21st century. I think Bob Magnani's, K6QXY, project was especially interesting. I think he had almost as much plumbing as he did wiring in that amplifier!

Field Day 2004 is beginning to shape up. The plans are for an impressive (and aggressive) antenna plan. We'll need all the help we can get for setup and tear down. But we won't want too many folks tired after the setup; we'll need plenty of operators too! Please read Josh, W6XU's, article elsewhere in this issue of Short Skip.

The Activities Chairperson position is still open. The key activity, of course, is Field Day, and we do have that covered, but we would at least like to get someone to spearhead a club picnic, such as we had last year at Lee Dibble's house. Other ideas discussed are

(continued on page 3)

FCC PROPOSES WIDE-RANGING CHANGES TO AMATEUR SERVICE RULES

The FCC has released an "omnibus" Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that seeks comments on a wide range of proposed Amateur Service (Part 97) rule changes. The FCC also denied several petitions for rule making aimed at altering portions of the Amateur Radio regulatory landscape and ordered minor changes in Part 97. The NPRM is a result of a dozen petitions for rule making, some filed more than a year ago and a few dating back as far as 2001. Comments on the proposals put forth in WT Docket 04-140 are due by Tuesday, June 15, with reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL's "Novice Refarming" plan www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/refarm/

"Because the ARRL petition addresses the operating privileges of all classes of licensees on these Amateur Service bands, we believe that the ARRL petition provides a basis for a comprehensive restructuring of operating privileges," the FCC said in its NPRM. "We note that, as proposed, no licensees would lose any spectrum privileges and that General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra Class licensees would gain spectrum for phone emissions, one of the most popular operating modes on the HF bands."

The ARRL referenced its Novice refarming proposal in its recent Petition for Rule Making, RM-10867 http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/efcts/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6516083735, which, along with three other petitions (see "FCC Invites Comments on Amateur Radio Restructuring Plans," <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/03/24/2/>)

(continued on page 8)

2004 Club Officials

President	Brian Torr	NG1Y	707 575-5871
Vice President	John Mullian	KD2L	707 575-9176
Secretary	Walter Masten	KG60XW	707 577-0711
Treasurer	Jim Lee	KE6VGV	415 892-0317
Director	Randy Black	KE6VMZ	707 546-0723
Director	Greg Gordon	AC6VJ	707 523-7077
Past President	Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	707 544-4944
Activities Chairman	John Mullian	KD2L	707 575-9176
Public Service Chairman	Greg Gordon	AC6VJ	707 523-7077
Repeater Chairman	Greg Gordon		

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	KE6EAO	707 544-1675
Public Relations	Bill McCall	W6WDM	707 538-2844
Raffles	Karl Johnston	KG6QMT	
Refreshments	Ted Decroft	KB6PTA	707 542-4008
Volunteer Exam Liaison	John Mullian	KD2L	707 575-9176
ARRL WAS/VUCC Mgr	Steve Lund	K6UM	707 823-4544
ARRL DXCC Mgr	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528

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 146.985-(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 Adhd 1 st 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 Coco's restaurant, 1501 Farmers Lane (corner of Farmers & Hwy 12), Santa Rosa. People start showing up at 5:30 PM. No RSVP is required! See you there! (except December)

NEXT MEETING May 5th 7:30 PM Program: of Elk Antennas Ray Gaschk W6FYA

(see article)

CLUB MEETINGS

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month. This month's meeting will be at:

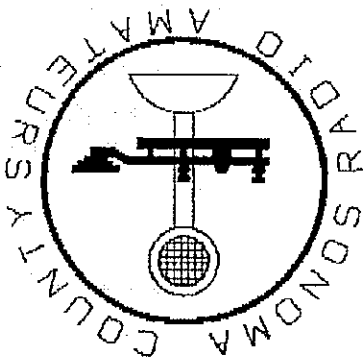
Luther Burbank Art
& Garden Center
2050 Yulupa Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA

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.

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



CONTEST CORNER

by Kevin Alt, K6BSG
 Hello contesters. Time to get warmed up for this year's field day. CQ WW CW contest is over Memorial Day weekend. Practice, practice, practice!

May 1 - Microwave Spring Sprint. See <http://www.etsdxa.org/vht.htm>.
 May 1-2 - IPA Contest - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters. See <http://www.iparc.org/>.
 May 1-2 - MARAC County Hunters Contest - CW, 80-20 meters.
 May 1-2 - ARI International Spring Contest - CW/Digital. See <http://www.ten-ten.org/rules.html>.
 May 1-2 - Indiana QSO Party - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters. See <http://www.hdxcc.org/ingp>.
 May 1-2 - ARI International DX Contest - CW/SSB/Digital, 80-10 meters. See <http://www.arl.itv/contat04.html>.
 May 1-2 - New England QSO Party - CW/Phone, 80,40,15, 10 meters. See <http://www.negp.org/>.
 May 1-10 - North American Spring Meteor Scatter Rally - VHF/UHF Bands. See <http://www.gsl.net/wasuth/Rally/NAHMSMS.htm>.
 May 2 - 2 GHz and Up World-Wide Club Contest, all bands 2.4

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GHz and higher. See <http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms>.
 May 2 - European Union Contest 2004 - CW/Phone/PSK31/RTTY/SSTV, 160-10 meters. See <http://www.uba.be/>.
 May 8-9 - Mid-Atlantic QSO Party - SSB/FM/CW, 160-10 meters. See <http://www.gsl.net/magso>.
 May 8-9 - Nevada QSO Party - CW/SSB/RTTY, 160-6 meters. See <http://members.cox.net/nvqso2004>.
 May 8-9 - Oregon QSO Party - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters. See <http://www.codxc.com/>.
 May 8-9 - Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest, 80-10 meters. See <http://www.contestvolta.com/>.
 May 8-9 - 50 MHz Spring Sprint. See <http://www.etsdxa.org/vht.htm>.
 May 8-9 - Portuguese Navy Day - CW/SSB/PSK31, 80-10 meters. See http://www.gsl.net/cqsbmgp/regulamentos_ing.html.
 May 9 - FISTS Spring Sprint - CW, 80-10 meters. See <http://www.ftts.org/sprints.html>.
 May 15 - Newcomers Run - CW, 80-10 meters. See <http://2ham.net/ARCI/index.htm>.
 May 15-16 - Baltic Contest - CW/SSB, 80 meters. See <http://www.lst.itv/bcontest>.
 May 15-16 - His Majesty King of Spain Contest - CW, 160-10 meters. For more information, send e-mail to ure@ure.es.
 May 15-16 - US Counties QSO Party - SSB, 80-10 meters. See <http://www.stpaulisland.net/countrycontest.html>.
 May 29-30 - CQ WW WPX Contest - CW, 160-10 meters. See <http://home.wob.tr.com/wpx>.
 May 29-30 - Great Lakes QSO Party - Phone/CW/RTTY/PSK31, 80-10 meters. See <http://www.mdx1.org/1ag1gp.html>.
 May 30 - QRP ARCI Hootow! Sprint - CW, 160-10 meters. See <http://2ham.net/ARCI/hoot.htm>.
 May 30-31 - MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint, 160-6 meters. See <http://www.gsl.net/midqrpclub>.

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 \$ 24 (\$6.00/qr)
 Family Membership \$ 36 (\$9.00/qr)
 Under 18 Membership \$ 12 (\$3.00/qr)
 Badge \$ 7

Badge Information

Call Sign _____
 First Name _____
 City _____

Total

Donation

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Badge

Prorated

Dues -

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

Payment Calculations:

Make checks payable to SCRA

Please Print Clearly

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
 Membership Application
 New [] Renewal []

FCC (from page 1)

remains open for comment until April 23.

The FCC also has proposed essentially eliminating its rules prohibiting manufacture or marketing of Amateur Radio Service power amplifiers capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz. Originally put on the books in 1978 to keep high-powered amateur amplifiers out of the hands of CBers, the rules now "impose unnecessary restrictions on manufacturers of Amateur Radio equipment and are inconsistent with the experimental nature of the Amateur Service," the FCC said.

The FCC additionally proposed a rule change that would make Kenwood's Sky Command system legal for operation within the US. The proposed amendment to '97.201(b) of the rules would permit auxiliary operation on 2 meters above 144.5 MHz--with the exception of the satellite subband 145.8 to 146.0 MHz--in addition to frequency segments already authorized. The Sky Command system permits the user to operate certain Kenwood equipment remotely via a VHF/UHF handheld transceiver.

In response to an ARRL petition, the FCC proposed extending the bands available for spread spectrum experimentation and use to include 222-225 MHz. On its own initiative, it also recommended including 6 and 2 meters as well. Current rules limit SS emissions to frequencies above 420 MHz.

Among other changes, the FCC also proposed to prohibit acceptance of more than one application per applicant per vanity call sign; permit retransmission of communications between a manned spacecraft and its associated Earth stations, including the International Space Station; allow current amateurs to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to acquire their call sign in memoriam; eliminate '97.509(a) of the rules, which requires a public announcement of volunteer examiner test locations and times; and add to '97.505(a) to provide Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit to any applicant holding a Technician license granted after February 14, 1991, and who can document having passed a telegraphy examination element.

The Commission ordered some changes in Part 97 without requesting comment. It ordered, among others, the revision of the definition of an "amateur operator" in '97.3(a)(1) to reflect that entry in the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS), not a license document, determines whether a

person is an Amateur Radio operator.

The FCC also adopted a technical change--in line with a recent amendment to the international Radio Regulations--to specify that the mean power of any spurious emission from a new amateur station transmitter or amplifier operating below 30 MHz be at least 43 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission, 3 dB greater than the current requirement.

The FCC turned down a petition would have established distinct CW and phone segments in the 160-meter band. Although a majority of commenters supported the proposal, the Commission said the current voluntary band plan "adequately accommodates the operating interests of all licensees who use the 160-meter band because it was based on input from those who use this spectrum."

Among several others, the FCC turned down petitions that would have imposed restrictions on the time, length or transmission frequencies of bulletins or informational transmissions directed at the amateur community. Also denied was an ARRL request to add to the special event call sign system certain call sign blocks that designate territories and possessions that have no specified mailing addresses. The FCC suggested using self-assigned indicators instead.

The FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-79A1.doc> in WT Docket 04-140 is available on the FCC Web site.

As soon as the document has been posted, comments on the NPRM may be filed via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/>>. Click on "Submit a filing." To view filed comments, click on "Search for filed comments." In either case enter the NPRM number in the "Proceeding" field as "04-140" (without the quotation marks).

SCRA's DIGIPEATER Is Back On The Air

ARES District Emergency Coordinator Rich Freitas K6FSZ made a request to the repeater committee to have the DIGIPEATER put back on the air. The repeater committee obliged Rich by installing the DIGIPEATER in the club's vaults. The DIGIPEATER is back on the air on 145.050MHz. To DIGIPEAT through it connect to W6SON, and, to connect to the bulletin board use SCRA.

Gregory Gordon AC6VJ

MAY PROGRAM Ray Gaschk W6FYA of Elk Antennas Wednesday, May 5th at 7:30 PM

Ray Gaschk, W6FYA, of Elk Antennas will be talking to us about (duh) antennas! We do not have the details of his talk at this time; please check the SCRA e-mail reflector and the SCRA web page for details as they become available.

I'll forward on any information I get from Ray as soon as I get it.

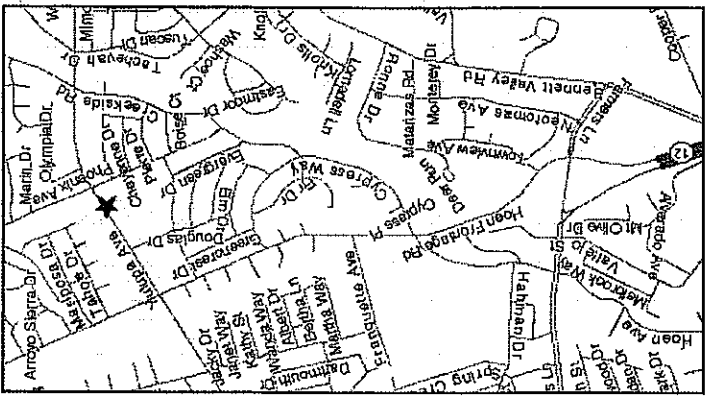
Thanks, Brian N6IIV

QVA (from page 1)

field trips to the Maritime Museum, the USS Pampanito, a new ham radio store in Sacramento, and a breakfast. Much has been written lately about Broadband over Power Line (BPL) and the effect this will have on ham radio and other HF radio services and Homeland Security. As with any legislation that could jeopardize amateur radio, hams need to keep abreast of what's happening and try to work within the system. We need to be diligent without being a nuisance. I was just reading the ARRL Letter about how some hams in Raleigh, North Carolina, are working with the local power utility and BPL equipment provider to identify the spectrum which will need to be notched out to avoid interference to the amateur radio bands. It's not an easy task, and there are still many problems to overcome, but it is a cooperative effort. Let's wish them the best of luck in this endeavor; one way or another, we will learn from their experience.

When I passed around a notepad at a meeting a few months ago, soliciting ideas for future programs, there were a lot of good ideas jotted down. I am pleased to report that next month we will have one of the requested programs, Ray Gaschk W6FYA of Elk Antennas speaking to us about antennas. If you have any other ideas for future programs, 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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MEETING LOCATION

Luther Burbank Art & Garden, 2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa (Bennett Valley)
please pass them along to me or one of the other board members.

73, Brian N6IIV

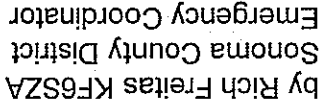
Pre-Meeting Dinner Location Change

The Board decided to change the pre-meeting dinner location to one closer to SCRA's new meeting location. So, starting with the May meeting, dinner will be at Coco's Restaurant, 1501 Farmers Lane (Farmers Lane and Hwy 12), Santa Rosa. Same time, 5:30 PM. Join the group for dinner or just sit in with a soda or coffee and some great conversation! See YOU at Coco's!

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Effective Public Service Operations

- 1) **Make sure your radio is in top operating condition.** Small problems (such as loose antenna connections, bad microphones, intermittent operation, etc.) may be just annoying during casual operation, but WILL cause major grief under the continuous/severe service of

immediately upon your return.

(10) Project a good image to the non-hams around you that are part of the event/emergency. This means acting professionally, using basic hygiene skills, etc.

(11) Above all else ... enjoy yourself! Working Public

Please join us.

FIELD DAY GOES BERSERK

Last year was outstanding with 300% more Qs and a very impressive site. Where does that leave us for 2004?

More! Bigger! A top ten national finish? Why not! How? Well... I'll admit that a few of the details have yet to be worked out. What I do know is that this must be a group effort to achieve one for the record books.

Was last year's antenna farm impressive? Hah! It was NOTHING! This means we need lots of helpers to raise our field of towers, yagis, verticals and wire antennas. Setup day is Friday, June 25, starting at 1100. It's going to be a frantic, sweaty day, but as we watch the sun set over our aluminum filled sky, we can be proud of a job well done. Then with bottles full of pizza and beer, we'll dream of tomorrow's S9++ signals and the ensuing pileups.

We also need to finalize our equipment list. If you're thinking about volunteering a radio, why not be the station (continued on page 7)

2004 meeting be approved. The motion was passed.

3) Officer and Director Reports

a) President - Brian Torr, NEJLY - Nothing to report.

b) Vice President - John Mullian, KDZL - Nothing to report

c) Secretary - Walter Masten, KG60XW - Nothing to report

d) Treasurer - Jim Lee, KE6GVJ reported that we have \$2,929 in savings and \$4,900 in checking

e) Directors

i) Randy Black, KE6VMZ - Nothing to report

ii) Gregory Gordon, AC6VJ - Nothing to report

f) Past President - Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV - The fundraiser with the sale of computer shelves is going quite well. We got some more shelves

4) Committee Reports

a) ARES - Fred, KQ6OB reported that we will have a meeting at the Blood Bank of the Redwoods

b) Mobile Comm Van - Gregory Gordon, AC6VJ - Nothing to report

c) Activities Committee - Open position. Volunteer Wanted!!!

d) Newsletter - Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV - Nothing to report

e) Public Service Committee - Position Open

f) VE Liaison - John Mullian, KDZL - Updated us on the next VE session

g) Repeater Committee - Greg Gordon, AC6VJ

i) Net Control Volunteers - Looking for volunteers for weeks 3 and 4

b) Brian Neilly showed the club his band Edge marker and portable tower assembly.
c) Pat KG6JSL showed the club his 1934 3-watt tube driven QRP transmitter.
d) Bob K6QXY showed the club his 250-watt 23-cm water-cooled amplifier and power supply.
f) Darin KG6GFC showed the club his demonstration project that shows how to activate a voice activated packet radio.

the effects of BPL
(10) Raffles - Karl Johnston, K6QMT - Was not present
(11) Announcements
a) Next Membership Meeting - May 5: Program: Elk Antennas
b) Board Meeting - April 14 at Marie Calendars
8:51 PM.
(12) Adjournment - There being no objections the meeting was adjourned at
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting 4-14-2004
MINUTES
Board Members Present: Brian Torr N6ILY, Walter Masten K6GOXW, Randy
Black K6EVMZ, Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Greg Gordon AC6VJ, Rich Freitas
K6FSZA,
Board Members Excused: John KD2L
Guests Present: None
(1) Call to Order, Verification of Quorum, Introductions 6:30 - The meeting was
called to order by President Brian Torr N6ILY at 6:30 PM. The meeting was
held at Marie Calendars, 2460 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa. A quorum
was present in that four of the seven voting board members were present
b. Approval of Minutes - Brian N6ILY moved that the minutes of the

4) Committee Reports

a ARES - Rich KF6SZA - Nothing to report
b Mobile Comm Van - Greg AC6VJ - Nothing to report
c Activities Committee - Position not yet filled -
i Field Day (26 - 27 June) was discussed
ii Randy KE6VMZ - Moved that we move the before meeting
dinner to Coco's in Farmers Lane Plaza. The motion passed
c Newsletter - Bill KH6GJV - Looking for help making the
newsletter electronic
d Public Service - John KD2L -
e VE - John KD2L - We will be having a VE session on
Saturday, April 3rd.
g Repeaters - Greg AC6VJ
! Status of Repeaters - Greg AC6VJ - The status of the
repeaters was discussed.
!! Weekly Net Control - Greg AC6VJ, 5/11 -
N8IY, 5/18 - KG6TTH, 5/25 -
!!! Greg and Randy KE6VMZ are going to map
the repeater's signals this weekend

5) Unfinished Business

a Meeting Programs - 2004
January - The Secret Wireless War, Part 2
July -
August -
September -
October -
April - "Thornbriew Nighth"
March - Through the Keyhole
February - ARRL Restructuring
January - Through the Keyhole

If you are not getting the ARRL San Francisco Section news by e-mail and you are an ARRL member, be sure to subscribe under your Members Only information or go to <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF> or <http://www.pdarrl.org/sfsec/>

captain as well? In particular, we are looking for a rig that will run full power for the SSB station, we're allowed 150W. If you have a FT1000MP, 1000D or 950SDX, I could be your new best friend! Our success is a team effort and we need the best rigs we can find. I will be bringing my 756PRO again as it worked out quite well. Please let me know what you have a.s.a.p.

We also need a few modern laptops, preferably running WinXP. We only need to install a single logging program to use. Again, please let me know.

Don't miss the June meeting where we'll reveal the Field Day plan in all of its glory. That's it for now, stay tuned for further updates. Let me know if you have any suggestions, questions or just want to sign up.

Best 73,
Josh, W6XU a.k.a. El Jefe de Field Day

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• 100W HF/6M, 50W/2M, 20W/440 MHz
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• Easy-to-Navigate menus **Low Pricing!**

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• 32 bit DSP • SSB/CW synchronous tuning
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• 101 alphanumeric memories **The Ultimate Radio!**

DR-135TP 2M mobile
• 50 Watt out • Alpha numeric display
• 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
• Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
• CTCSS/DCS Encoder/decoder built in **Low Pricing!**

FT-1000MP MKV HF Trans.
• Enhanced Digital Signal Processing
• Dual RX
• Collins SSB filter built-in
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