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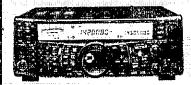
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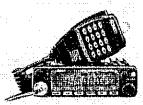




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ARES Comm Log

by Rich Freitas KF6SZA Sonoma County District **Emergency Coordinator**

Originating Third Party Message Traffic

Now that we've revived our weekly messagehandling practice on the ARES net, it's appropriate to discuss some of the important aspects of originating third party traffic. What is third party traffic? The generally accepted definition is "short written noncommercial messages between people who are not amateur radio operators".

The objective of a formal net control station is to cause these written messages to transit the traffic system, word for word, character for character, and be able to be handled without alteration via any of the common modes of transmission currently in use such as CW, SSB, VHF-FM, Packet, or PACTOR. It is desired to reproduce the message at the far end of the system exactly as it was initially sent. The main source for any volume of such traffic is usually either of two occurrences:

- 1. An unplanned event, which forces people to use the Amateur traffic networks due to failure or overload of normal regular commercial facilities or.
- 2. A planned event, such as a convention, fair or other public gathering that encourages use of the amateur traffic networks more or less as a novelty.

In either case, the average person will need help in composing their messages so they can be properly and expeditiously handled by the network operators. This will be especially so with Health & Welfare traffic coming from disaster shelters in times of emergency.

If any large volume of third party traffic is expected, the radio operator proper must be assisted by another person, or persons ("public counter" assistants), who can take care of preparing the messages for transmission. The operator will have his or her hands full just working the radio. The people detailed as counter assistants must be trained and familiar with this kind of message work, but they need not be licensed radio operators. There are several things that must be considered when taking in message traffic from the general public:

1. The average sender has no idea about putting

his message into the standard format that we require to be used, in order for the generated traffic to be capable of being properly relayed through the system. They will need assistance. 2. The word count of the message text must be kept under control to avoid network overloading. Improper or illegal content or symbols that cannot be transmitted must be kept out of the text. The message must be composed so as to convey the desired meaning without unnecessary wordage, and to minimize the possibility of being misunderstood by the recipient.

- 3. Addressing must be properly done in order for the message to be delivered at its ultimate destination.
 - a) All messages must be sent to a person or organization by name.
 - b) The address must also contain a physical location where the addressee can be found in order to deliver the message. Street number and name, rural delivery route, post office box, hotel/motel name and room (if known) are common ways of providing this information.
 - c) The address must also contain the destination City, State or Province, Country if not in USA or Canada, and postal code, if known.
 - d) If at all possible, the address should include a full ten-digit telephone number NNN-NNN, which will greatly aid message delivery.
- 4. The sender only needs to furnish the address. text and signature of the message. Normally, messages should be written either by the sender him/herself or the operator's "public counter" assistant for the sender, on plain half sheets of paper, 8 ½ by 5 ½ inches in size. This is plenty large for the average 25-word message, and will help discourage excessive wordiness in message texts. Pre-printed blanks are handy, but not necessary, for messages being sent.
- 5. Messages must be signed properly with a name so the recipient will know who sent it. The sender should also furnish local contact information so they can be reached if there is an (Continued on page 8)

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Meeting 5-5-2004 MINUTES

1) Call to Order, Verification of Quorum - The meeting was called to order by President Brian Torr N6IIY at 7:30 PM at the Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center. There were 33 people present.

Introductions

SHORT SKIP

- Officers and Directors The club officers and directors introduced themselves.
- Program -Ray Gaschk, W6FYA, of Elk Antennas
- Visitors WA6BXV Jerry from Marin County.
- New Calls and Upgrades None
- Approval of Minutes Allen K6MXI moved that the minutes of the May 7. 2004 meeting be approved. The motion was passed.
- Officer and Director Reports
- President Brian Torr, N6IIY Nothing to report.
- Vice President John Mullan, KD2L Not Present
- Secretary Walter Masten, KG60XW Nothing to report
- Treasurer Jim Lee, KE6VGV Not Present
- Directors
- Randy Black, KE6VMZ Nothing to report
- Gregory Gordon, AC6VJ Nothing to report
- Past President Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV Nothing to report Committee Reports
- ARES Rich, KF6SZA Having trouble with the ARES 2 meter repeater - Net will either meet on Simplex or 146.985 repeater with the permission of the SCRA BoD
- Mobile Comm Van John, KB6FRZ Antenna supports are getting completed
- Activities Committee Open position. Volunteer Wanted!!
- Field Day 2004 Update Josh W6XU Encouraged sign ups. Mentioned FISTS Sprint this weekend.
- Newsletter Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV Nothing to report
- Public Service Committee Position Open
- Sue, K8SUE Human Race this weekend
- VE Liaison John Mullan, KD2L Not Present
- Repeater Committee Greg Gordon, AC6VJ
- Status of Repeaters All repeaters are operational
- SCRA v NARCC Nothing to Report
- Unfinished Business None **New Business**
- Thanks for coming out to the Wine County Century
- Member Biography Rob, K6ZWB told us that he was introduced to Ham radio by his cousin when he was 13 or 14. He decided to get his Novice (end of minutes forwarded - ed.)

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting 5-12-2004 MINUTES

Board Members Present: Brian Torr, N6IIY; Jim Lee, KE6VGV; Randy Black, KE6VMZ; Gregory Gordon, AC6VJ, Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV Board Members Absent: John Mullan, KD2L: Walter Masten, KG6OXW Guests Present: Rich Freitas, KF6SZA

- Call to Order, Verification of Quorum, Introductions. The meeting was called to order by President Brian Torr, N6IIY, at 6:46pm. The meeting was held at Marie Callendar's, 2460 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa. A quorum was present in that five of the seven voting board members were present
- Approval of Minutes û Randy, KE6VMZ, moved that the minutes of the 4/14/2004 board meeting be approved. The motion passed.
- Officer and Director Reports
- a) President û Brian, N6IIY, reported that we have renegotiated our rent at Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center. The rent will now be \$40 per
- b) Vice President û John, KD2L was not present
- c) Secretary û Walter, KG6OXW was not present
- d) Treasurer û Jim Lee, KE6VGV reviewed the account balances
 - i) Randy, KE6VMZ had nothing to report ii) Gregory, AC6VJ had nothing to report
- f) Past President û Bill, KH6GJV reported that he received a letter from Don Christensen, W6DZM, who has an antenna to donate to the club or any young ham just starting out. The club does not need another antenna; Brian, N6IIY, will contact Don for more info on the antenna and will write article for Short Skip about antenna being available for young

ham.

- 4) Committee Reports
 - a) ARES û Rich, KF6SZA, reported on current status with American Red Cross. They are looking for an antenna tower.
 - b) Mobile Comm Van û Gregory, AC6VJ reported that the antenna mounts are ready to be installed. We need several more NMO mounts. c) Activities Committee û Position Open
 - i) Field Day û A simple menu has been worked out. Arrowhead has donated several cases of drinking water, but need larger bottles for cooking, cleaning, coffee. Rich, KF6SZA, has a limited number of tables and chairs available û First come, first served, Josh Fiden, W6XU, not present for update on other FD issues.
 - d) Newsletter û Bill, KH6GJV, would like to revamp the newsletter to make electronic delivery possible, but needs help.
 - e) Public Service û John, KD2L was not present to give report
 - f) VE Liaison û John, KD2L was not present to give report
 - g) Repeater Committee û Gregory, AC6VJ
 - i) Status of the repeaters û All repeaters are working. Due to lack of quorum at NARCC's April meeting, a mail-in ballot for election of officers has been sent out.
 - ii) SCRA vs NARCC Update û Waiting to hear results of County testing new frequency.
- 5) Unfinished Business
 - a) Meeting Program for July û Three possibilities discussed: Bob. WD6DPE, on carrier-current communications, Voice of Victory (how the Hallicrafters HT-4 became BC-610), Ham Radio Squares, Brian, N6IIY, to contact Bob to see if he can be ready for July. Greg, AC6VJ to send Brian, N6IIY info on Voice of Victory.
- 6) New Business û
 - a) Red, White, and Boom û Bill, KH6GJV, asked if SCRA wanted to participate by having a booth at this event on the 4th of July at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. There was not enough interest b) PCAM û Bill, KH6GJV, asked if SCRA wanted to participate in PCAM
- this year. SCRA will participate. 7) Executive Session û Session not held
- 8) Announcements û None
- 9) Adjournment û The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm

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/

SCRA's DIGIPEATER Is Back On The Air

ARES District Emergency Coordinator Rich Freitas KF6SZA 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

ARES (from page 4)

answer to their message or if some problem occurs with delivering it. This information should be written on the back of the message blank for future reference if needed.

Appropriate message numbering, precedence, handling codes, Station of Origin's callsign, check, originating point, filing time (if used) and date must then be properly appended as a preamble in order to route the message correctly through the traffic system from origin to destination. The entire message should then be carefully checked over in regard to legibility and completeness at this time. These tasks are best left to the counter assistant who is trained and knows how to do them.

At this point the message is ready to be handed to the radio operator for transmission. The written message copy is now the "document of record" for the message, and, after the radio operator notes on it the time sent, frequency, and the callsign of the station it was sent to, it should be filed in the Originating Station's "Sent" file. The FCC no longer requires copies of amateur messages to be retained, but it is a good idea to keep them on file for at least a year anyway, "just in case".

Only by careful attention to all these details will good service be provided for the public. Messages that are properly originated have a much better chance of making it to the desired destination than those which are not.

The weekly ARES net for the greater Santa Rosa area is conducted on Mondays at 7:30 PM. We are currently meeting on the SCRA repeater on 146.985, offset, 88.5PL. All ARES members and guests are invited to check-in. Please join us.

SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT **COSPONSOR LIST TOPS 100**

The number of US House members from both sides of the aisle signed on as cosponsors of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003--HR 713--has topped the century mark. The recent addition of three Republicans and three Democrats pushed the count to 103. Identical House and Senate versions of the measure, an ARRL initiative, are on their third try in Congress. Since January 1, the number of

AR 713 cosponsors has grown by 26. The Senate version, S 537, has eight cosponsors.

The Spectrum Protection Act bills would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the Commission were to reallocate primary amateur frequencies, reduce any secondary amateur allocations, or make additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

Signing aboard HR 713 so far this month were representatives Jo Ann Davis (R-VA), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Elijah Cummings (D-MD), C. A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger (D-MD), Jim Gerlach (R-PA), and Mike Thompson (D-CA). Florida Republican Michael Bilirakis sponsored the House bill, while Idaho Republican Michael Crapo introduced S 537.

Ruppersberger this month also became the 35th cosponsor of HR 1478, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003--the so-called CC&R bill. Sponsored by New York Democrat Steve Israel, the CC&R bill would require private land-use regulators such as homeowners' associations to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption.

HR 713 and HR 1478 have been referred to the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. S 537 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, reiterated that the key to passage of the measures is letters from constituents. He called upon League members to take the effort to write, call or e-mail their representatives and senators to explain the bills' importance and encourage them to consider cosponsoring the measures. "Letters from ARRL members--who also are voters--are crucial to getting the spectrum bills through Congress, and that won't happen without support from our members," he said.

Sample letters and additional information--including the bills' texts and information on how to write members of Congress--is on the ARRL's "The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003" Web page http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html and on the "HR 1478, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003" pagehttp://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr1478/>.

Those writing their lawmakers on behalf of the Spectrum Protection Act are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail < specbill03@arrl.org>. Those writing on behalf of the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478, are asked to copy their correspondence to <ccr-bill@arrl.org>.

JUNE PROGRAM

Why it's FIELD DAY, of course! Be sure to join us for the annual Field Day program where all the details of the weekend will be laid out. Field Day is one of the best Amateur Radio events of the year because it encourages everyone, regardless of skill, to participate.

Like in previous years, we will have the local Civil Air Patrol squadron joining us as well as some Boy Scouts. There will be activities besides the radio operations for the group. Nerf football, anyone? How about a Frisbee if the wind isn't up?

Food will be plentiful, as usual. For a mere \$30 per person, there will be a continental breakfast on Saturday morning, mega-hot dogs, etc, (ala Costco) for lunch, and a spaghetti feed with salad and hot bread for dinner. Desert is planned for all with a sweet tooth. The weekend will be topped off with the traditional Sunday pancake and eggs breakfast cooked by your Board of Directors. Water (thanks to Arrowhead), sodas, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate will be available all weekend. Friday (set up) evening repast will be a no host pizza run to Round Table.

If you are planning on joining in on the foodstuffs for the weekend, please send in your \$30 per person to: SCRA, P. O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, or, give the funds to Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV at the club meeting. Field Day food reservations must be prepaid and in our hands no later than June 22nd, so act now!

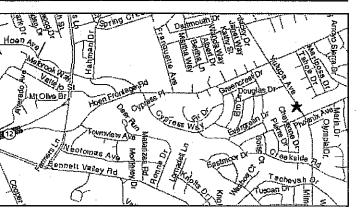
We'll see YOU at Field Day!

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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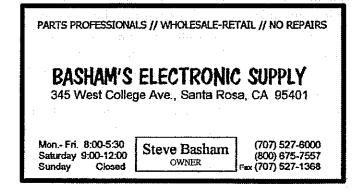
MEETING LOCATION

Luther Burbank Art & Garden, 2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa (Bennett Valley)

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!





See:

2004 Club Officials

1				
ı	President	Brian Torr	N6IIY	707 575-5871
٠	Vice President	John Mullan	KD2L	707 575-9176
	Secretary	Walter Masten	KG60XW	707 577-0711
	Treasurer	Jim Lee	KE6VGV	415 892-0317
1	Director	Randy Black	KE6VMZ	707 546-0723
1	Director	Greg Gordon	AC6VJ	707 523-7077
I	Past President	Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	707 544-4944
I				
I	Activities Chairman			
ı	Public Service Chairman	John Mullan	KD2L	707 575-9176
	Repeater Chairman	Greg Gordon	AC6VJ	707 523-7077
1				

Short Skip & Web Staff

	Editor Hank's Swap Shop Web Master	Bill Hillendahl Jeff Basham Jeff Basham	KK6JAB KK6JAB	707 544-4944 707 542-3860 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	
	ARRL WAS/VUCC Mgr	Steve Lund	K6UM	707 823-4544	
	ARRL DXCC Mgr	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528	

707 579-9608
scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com
http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com

Tuesday Night Net

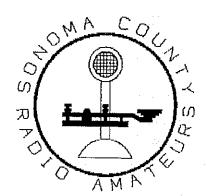
Check in to the SCRA net each Tuesday evening on the 146.985-(PL 88.5) repeater at 7:00 PM. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the area and what is listed in Hank's Swap Shop. You will also hear the weekly Amateur Radio Newsline broadcast

Short Skip Advertising Rates

Business Cards	Ø 10
	\$ 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 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



NEXT MEETING June 2nd 7:30 PM

Program:

Field Day 2004!

(see article)

The club normally meets the first month's meeting will be at:

> & Garden Center Santa Rosa, CA

The meeting starts at 7:30 PM

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.

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CONTEST CORNER

Hello contesters. There is only one contest worth

mentioning or participating in this month - FIELD

DAY!!! Things are going to be hopping up on English

June 4-7 - World Wide Major Six Club Contest - CW/SSB, 50

June 5 - QRP TAC Contest - CW, SSB and PSK31, 80-10

June 5-6 - IARU Region 1 Field Day - CW, 160-10 meters. See:

June 12 - Asia-Pacific Sprint - SSB, 20 and 15 meters only.

June 12 - Portugal Day Contest - SSB, 80-10 meters. See:

CHARLES J. TARR

Attorney at Law

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IARU Region 1 society Web sites for more information.

June 12-13 - ANARTS WW RTTY / Digital Contest, 80-

MHz only. See: http://6mt.com/contest.htm.

Hill, so plan on attending and joining the fun.

meters. See: http://www.n3epa.org/.

See: http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt.

http://www.rep.pt/dia de portugal.htm.

SHORT SKIP

by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

June 12-13 - WW South America CW Contest, 80-10 meters. See: http://www.labre.org/. June 12-14 - ARRL June VHF QSO Party. See:

http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/june-vhf.html. June 19 - Kid's Day Operating Event, 20-2 meters. See:

meters.

http://www.users.bigpond.com/ctdavies.

http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html. June 19-20 - West Virginia QSO Party - CW/SSB, 80-10

meters. See: http://www.qsl.net/wvarrl. June 19-20 - All-Asian DX Contest - CW, 160-10 meters. See: http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/4_Library/A-4-

3_Contests/2004AA_Rule.htm. June 19-20 - SMIRK QSO Party - 6 meters. See:

http://www.smirk.org/. June 19-20 - Quebec QSO Party - CW/Digital/Voice, 80-2

meters. See: http://www.raqi.ca/qqp. June 26-27 - !!!!!!!!ARRL Field Day!!!!!!!! - CW/SSB, All Bands except 30, 17 and 12 meters. See: http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/rules-fd-2004.html. Better yet, see Josh at the next club

June 26-27 - His Majesty King of Spain Contest - SSB, 160-10 meters. For more information, send e-mail to ure@ure.es.

June 26-27 - QRP ARCI Milliwatt Field Day - ARRL Field Day rules. See: ttp://2hams.net/ARCI/mwfd.htm.

June 26-27 - Marconi Memorial HF Contest - CW, 160-10 meters. See: http://www.gsl.net/ik6pti/marconi.htm.

June 26-27 - UK DX Contest - SSB, 160-10-meters. See: http://www.srars.org/ukdxcruleseng.pdf.

CLUB MEETINGS

Wednesday of each month. This

Luther Burbank Art 2050 Yulupa Avenue

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please join us at our next meeting.

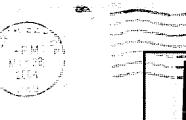
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Please Print Clearly Membership Application New [] Renewal [] Name _____ Call Sign ____ License Class ____ Date ____ Address _____ Hm Phone ____ Wk Phone _____ City/State _____ Zip ____ E-Mail ____ ARRL Member? [] Yes [] No Dues & Fees: (SCRA dues year is from 3/1 to 2/28) **Payment Calculations:** Make checks payable to SCRA Individual/Associate Member \$ 24 (\$6.00/qtr) Dues - Full Year (3/1 to 2/28) Family Membership \$ 36 (\$9.00/atr) Prorated ____ Qtrs. X \$___/qtr Under 18 Membership \$ 12 (\$3.00/gtr) Badge Other -Donation Badge Information Call Sign _____ First Name _____ Total Mail to: SCRA, P. O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

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Calendar of Events					
Jun 2	Wed	5:30 PM 7:30 PM	No-Host Dinner at Coco's, 1501 Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa SCRA Meeting, Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa		
Jun 4	Fri	7:30 PM	Marin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley		
Jun 5	Sat	10:00 AM	Red Oak Victory ARC Meeting, Point Richmond		
Jun 9	Wed	6:30 PM	SCRA Board of Directors Meeting		
Jun 15	Tues	7:30 PM	Hamilton Wireless Assoc., Bldg 549, Hamilton Field, Novato		
Jun 16	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 19	Sat		Public Service Event: Terrible Two bicycle ride. Want to help? Contact John Mullan KD2L 707 575-9176 kd2l@hotmail.net		
Jun 25-27	25-27 Fri - Sun		FIELD DAY!		
Jul 9 - 11	9-11 Fri-Sun		ARRL San Francisco Section Convention, Ferndale, CA. Hosted by the Humboldt County Clubs. Info: www.humboldt-arc.org		

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







Expires: 03/01/2005

John Breckenridge II 574 Wild Oak Dr Windsor CA 95492 WB6FRZ

Short Skip



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Repeater Station W6SON

June 2004

Volume 29 Number 6

Club Station

W6LFJ

QUAby
Brian Torr N6IIY
SCRA President

E

The activities are really starting to heat up. We've already provided support for

three public service events, the MS Walkathon, The Wine Country Century Bike Tour, and the Human Race. Thanks again to John, KD2L, for marshaling the resources to support these events. The Terrible Two Bike Tour will be June 19. This event, perhaps more than any other, is great practice for message handling. Mark the date on your calendar; we'll need as many volunteers as possible.

By the time you read this, an amateur rocket carrying ham radio gear, may have already been launched into space. The Civilian Space Xploration Team (CSXT), made a try at this back in 2002, and will try again as early as Monday, May 17 with a larger rocket. The 2002 attempt ended after three seconds when the rocket's engine exploded. This information comes from the ARRL Letter.

The team is apparently undaunted. No doubt they've seen the scenes in the movie, "The Right Stuff" showing several failed attempts by NASA to get a rocket launched successfully into space. Considering that CSXT's budget is surely several orders of magnitude less than NASA's, reaching space on the second attempt will certainly be impressive!

Field Day 2004 is coming up fast. This will be the first year I recall that we used a crane to assemble the antenna farm! There was one year when we used two bucket trucks, but never a crane. Still, we'll need lots of help for setting up the antennas and taking them down. So, even if you won't be available to help operate on Saturday or Sunday, please consider coming out Friday afternoon or Sunday afternoon for setup and tear down. Josh, W6XU, will have many more details on the operating aspects of Field Day at the June meeting.

The Activities Chairperson position is still open. 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 activities could be field trips to the Maritime Museum, the USS Pampanito, a new ham radio store in Sacramento, and a breakfast. If you could help organize one of these events, please let me know.

Another article in a recent ARRL Letter told about a Wisconsin ham who, during an extra long hand shake, asked President Bush to support amateur radio operators in America and, after the hand shake was over, continued by telling him that BPL is a real concern for hams. This reminded me of a marketing technique called "The 30 Second Elevator Speech". You've just stepped into an elevator with a potential customer and you have the 30 second elevator ride to convince this person why he or she should buy your product.

If we each had a 30 second elevator speech prepared on the topic of BPL and amateur radio, if we found ourselves with a government official that could influence decisions regarding BPL, we could "sell" them on the amateur radio position. A 30 second elevator speech is short, to-the-point, and respectful of the "customer's" time. Do you have a 30 second elevator speech on BPL and amateur radio prepared? I don't, but I'll be working on one.

73,

Brian N6IIY