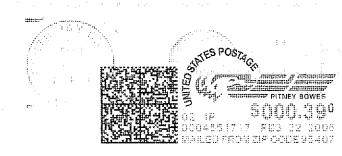
	MA	RCH 2006	CALENDA	R OF EV	ENTS	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			7:00 PM SCRA Meeting Luther Butbank Art & Gorden Center 2050 Yufupa Ave., Sonta Rosa	2	7:30 PM Marin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Rood, Mill Yalley	4 10:00 AM ROYARC Meeting Red Ock Victory Ship, Point Richmon Directions: www.ssredockvictory.org
5	6	7:30 PM Hamilton Wireless Association Building 549, Homilton Field, Novato	8 7:00 PM REDXA Meeting Mister McGoo's Restourent, Petaluma (note date change)	·· ·9 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	10	11
12	13	14	7:30 PM. YMARC Meeting McDougell Hall, Sonoma Dev. Center, Glen Ellen 6:30 PM. SCRA Board of Directors Meeting (note date change)	16	8:00 PM SFARC Meeting Veteron's Administration Medical Center, Auditorium of Bidg. 7, 42nd & Clement St., Sea Francisco	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
#. * 						

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

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W6LFJ

NUMBER 3

OLUME 31

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116 707-579-9608

http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com

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REPEATER STATION W6SON

. . .

MARCH 2006

E-Mail of Short Skip Behind in the Polls

by Kevin Alt K6BSG

At our last Board meeting, I reviewed the questionnaires thus far received from members renewing their SCRA membership. As those of you who have completed the questionnaire know, there is a question asking whether or not you would be willing to receive Short Skip via email rather than a hard copy via US Mail. At the time of my review, the results were somewhat surprising and disappointing to me. Approximately 50% of the members were willing to receive their Short Skip via e-mail, while 50% indicated they were not. The other big surprise to me was that all of the negative respondents were from members who indicated that they have broadband internet connections. We had thought that there would be resistance from those with dial-up connections due to the potential for large files and slow download times. It appears that this is not the case. I'd like to review for you why this initiative was proposed by the Board last year. It currently costs us ~\$130.00 per month to print, stamp, and mail copies of Short Skip out to the club membership. This works out to an astounding \$1,560.00 per year. This is far and away the largest single item in our annual budget and expends over 50% of our funds. What is the value added in sending out a hard copy of the newsletter? Sure, it provides an automatic reminder that the club meeting is happening in the near future, but is this the best use of our club money? We also use our club funds to maintain our repeaters and associated equipment, finance the cost of the mobile communications van, and pay for new equipment so that we may better serve the public. Even if we decided not to increase the allocated funds for new equipment and repairs to existing equipment by going to an all electronic newsletter format, we could possibly lower our annual dues without this expense. If we continue to mail the newsletter, we will likely have to raise our dues in the near future due to the ever increasing cost of printing and mailing them. These last two tasks are also very manpower intensive, requiring a club member to make two trips to the printer, with an additional trip to the friendly Post Office to put them in the mail. In short, it requires a lot of effort to get a hard copy of the Short Skip into your mailbox each month. This doesn't even include Vicki's trip from San Francisco to the printer to personally review the layout. So, I'd like to ask you to review your decision concerning electronic receipt of Short Skip and keep in mind the following:

- 1. We can generate an e-mail reminder that would be sent to all club members a few days before our monthly meetings. In fact, I'm going to speak with Jeff about initiating this regardless of the outcome of the newsletter referendum.
- 2. We intend to prepare Short Skip in Adobe Acrobat .pdf format so that anyone can easily read it on any type of computer. It should also be easy to print so that you can create your own hard copy to mark up and bring to the meeting. This software is free to download and use and is universally used for document viewing.

(continued on page 4)

March Program Introduction to Moonbounce Operating

by Bob Magnani K6QXY

If you've ever wondered about Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) communications, this is your chance to see what it's all about.

Dues are Due

We would like to make March the last month to collect dues. We will then have a better knowledge of the monies available for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

The dues are \$24 per year for individual members and \$36 per year for a family membership. If you are a current SCRA member, a renewal envelope is included in this issue of Short Skip to make it easy to send in your dues. Don't forget postage is now 39 cents.

Please take a couple of minutes and complete the membership information on the envelope flap so that we can update the roster. If the envelope is missing, please use the membership application on the inner last page. Thanks!

SHORT SKIP SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

SHUKI SKIP			SUNUMA COUNTY K.	
	2006 Club Off	icers		
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AC6VJ

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Repeater Chairman

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Volunteer Exam Liaison ARRL DXCC/WAS Mgr	Brian Torr	N60J	707 575-5871
	Chuck Ternes	N60J	707 763-2528

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

Tuesday Night Net

Remember to 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 1st Quarter Column		per month per month	
Each Additional Quarter Column Full page (one side)	\$4	per month per month	
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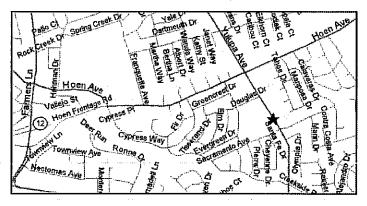
MARCH 2006

SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month. Exceptions are holidays or other big events.

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00 PM at:

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



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.

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 every month except December.

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 these websites:

http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF http://www.pdarrl.org/sfsec/

2

SHORT SKIP

SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

MARCH 2006

Contest Corner

by Kevin Alt K6BSG

Hello contesters. Highlights for March include ARRL International DX contest this weekend, and CQWW SSB contest on the last weekend. Happy DX'ing!

Mar -	DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona" - RTTY/AMTOR/PACTOR/PSK31/Clover, 10 meters	s. 12 Mar -	North American RTTY Sprint, 80-20 meters.
	See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/cqdlcont/fgdcc.htm.		See: www.ncjweb.com.
-5 Mar -	ARRL International DX Contest - Phone, 160-10 meters.	12-13 Mar -	Wisconsin QSO Party - Phone/CW, 80 meters — 70 cms.
	See: http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/intldx.html.		See: www.warac.org.
-5 Mar -	Open Ukraine RTTY Championship - 160-10 meters.	18 Mar -	10-10 Mobile Contest - any mode, 10 meters.
	See: www.ucc.zp.ua.	-	See: www.ten-ten.org.
Mar -	Spartan Sprint - CW, 80-10 meters.	18-19 Mar-	Russian DX Contest - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters.
	See: www.ARSqrp.com.		See: www.rdxc.org.
1 Mor -	AGCW QRP Contest - CW, 80-10 meters.	18-19 Mar-	CLARA and Family HF Contest - Phone/CW, 80-10 meters.
	See: www.agcw.org.		See: www.clara.comm.sfu.ca/.
1-12 Mar -	RSGB CommonwealthContest - CW, 80-10 meters.	18-20 Mar -	Virginia QSO Party - Phone/CW/Digital, 160-70 cms.
	See: www.rsgbhfcc.org.		See: www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/QSOParty.htm.
1-12 Mar -	EU EME Contest - CW/SSB, 432 MHz, 5.7 GHz & up.	18-20 Mar -	BARTG Spring RTTY Contest - 80-10 meters.
	See: www.dubus.org.		See: www.bartg.demon.co.uk.
1-12 Mar -	Oklahoma QSO Party - Phone/CW/Digital, 80-10 meters.	19 Mar -	9KCC Contest - CW/SSB, 15 meters only.
	See: www.okdxa.org.		See: www.qsl.net/9kcc/9KCCRule.htm.
1-12 Mar -	Idaho QSO Party - CW/Phone/Digital, 40 meters — 70 cms.	25-26 Mar -	CQ WW WPX Contest - SSB, 160-10 meters.
	See: www.voiceofidaho.org.		See: www.cqwpx.com.
1-12 Mar -	EA PSK31 Contest, 80-10 meters.	27 Mar -	Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint - CW/PSK31, 80-10 meters.
	See: www.ure.es/bf/concursos/eapsk31/baseseapsk31ingles.pdf.		See: www.njqrp.org/data/qrphomebrewersprint.html.

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Application

Please Print Clearly			New[] Renewal[]
Name	Call Sign _	License Class	Date
Address	H	l Phone W Ph	none
City/State	Zip	E-Mail	
ARRL Member? Yes [] No []			
Dues & Fees: (SCRA dues year	is 3/1/05 to 2/28/06)	Payment Calculations:	Make checks payable to SCRA
Individual / Associate Member		Dues - Full Year	\$
Family Membership Under 18 Membership	\$36 (\$9.00/qtr)	Dues -	¢
Onder 10 Membership Badge	\$10 (\$3.00/qir)	ProratedQts.x \$/c Badge	վու ֆ
	Ψισ	Other	\$
Badge Information		Donation	\$
Call Sign			
First Name		Total	\$
City		Mail to: SCRA, P.O. Box 116, Santa	Rosa, CA 95402

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2005

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This didn't fit in last months newsletter so here it is now. Toni Lee KF6ZCW passed this on to me. She thought it was very cool that code showed up in one of the most popular calendars...The 365 Trivia Facts Calendar. Thanks Toni. And to the right is a excerpt from an ARRL article on the "Morse Code" decision.

Morse Code

FCC Noncommittal on "Morse Code" Proceeding Action

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 13, 2006 -- Just when the FCC will act on the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, remains hazy. The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) last July proposing to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. The Amateur Radio community has filed more than 3800 comments on the proceeding, and additional comments continue to show up, even though the formal comment deadline was last October 31 (with reply comments by November 14). The next--and most-anticipated--step for the Commission is to formally adopt any revisions to its rules and conclude the proceeding with a Report and Order (R&O) that spells out the changes and specifies their effective date.

"There really is no news," an FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer told ARRL on background. "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time. We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton Hamvention."

When the FCC does act on WT 05-235, no one's expecting any major surprises: The Commission appears poised to simply drop the Morse requirement as it proposed last summer. Beyond eliminating the Morse requirement, the FCC declined in its NPRM&O to go forward with any other suggested changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges.

The proceeding began with 18 petitions for rule making--many just calling for the elimination of the Morse requirement but some asking for more far-reaching changes in the Amateur Service rules. The various petitions attracted a total of some 6200 comments. The FCC subsequently consolidated the petitions--including one from the ARRL asking the FCC to establish a new entry-level license class and to retain the Morse requirement for Amateur Extra class applicantsinto a single proceeding designated WT 05-235.

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February 13th article from the ARRL Web site

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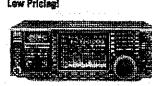




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Net Control Stations

by Rich Freitas KF6SZA Sonoma County ARES District Emergency Coordinator

There are some critical questions that need to be addressed regarding Net Control Stations regard-

less if they are for emcomm purposes or not.

- 1. Where should a Net Control Station be located?
- 2. Who should be a Net Control Station?
- 3. What types of equipment should a Net Control Station have?
- 4. What types of equipment can enhance the operation of a Net Control Station?

Simply stated, the location of a Net Control Station (NCS) should be where it can be heard easily by all participants of the net. This applies to Emergency Nets, Traffic Nets, Informal Nets, or any other type of net. The NCS must be clearly heard by all. In VHF or UHF communications this most often means the NCS must be able to have a good location for a Simplex Net or be able to access the repeater(s) in use with a full quieting signal. On HF the requirements are more towards good antennas that radiate well rather than location. In VHF you can have a 150 watt amplifier feeding a 100 ft. high gain antenna and still not be heard by the repeater simply because of terrain and line of sight issues. Compare that to a HF NCS location that simply has an efficient antenna that radiates well and the terrain issue is non existent because of the frequency in use. In non-disaster and training/ preparation times we all have many opportunities to test various solutions to this problem of having the NCS heard; in emergency situations we do not often have this luxury.

The NCS must be someone who has had training, participated in and run a net, handled traffic, and is familiar with all functional aspects of net operations. Training can be accomplished by rotating the NCS on weekly nets and, while this is somewhat "trial by fire" it is the most efficient way to gain the knowledge required to be effective at this position. Obviously, there will be some problems to be overcome by any new NCS; these can be either personal or equipment related. Who has not timed-out a repeater by talking too much or not talked enough because of "microphobia"?

There are also those times when radios die, microphones quit, connectors and cables break, and batteries run dry. It is important to always have someone available on the net to pick up for the NCS in case of a problem. There is nothing worse than having the NCS go silent in the middle of a net. The net must go on. Plan for problems and have back-ups.

The NCS must be on a reliable power system to stay on the air in the event of any power outage. The easiest is a battery-powered HT feeding an outside antenna. One

problem is that an HT can turn into a fire hot brick within the first 5-10 minutes of net operation. The repeater is designed for 100% duty cycle; the HT is designed for a 90% standby, 5% receive, and 5% transmit cycle and the NCS is doing all of the talking for the first 5-10 minutes of the net! Why do we carry spare 12V gelcells, 3-6 times larger than our HT battery, in our gokits? Because the NCS will consume a lot of power.

The way to keep a radio cool under extended usage is to use a higher-power rated radio at lower power. A 50 watt mobile radio at 7 watts out will still get hot in 15 minutes but that is infinitely better than having your HT melt in your hand before you get through the net preamble.

Additionally, there are some items that can enhance your NCS operation. A boom microphone with a foot switch keeps both hands free to manage the paperwork in front of you even if you don't have good handeye coordination. Headphones can remove outside distractions in the heat of the moment and a spare radio, in case your primary radio fails, can be a lifesaver. Also, a simple twinlead j-pole can be worth its weight in gold compared to the rubber duckie that came with your HT.

I've raised and answered a few questions regarding Net Control Stations; there are probably enough to fill all of next year's columns and more. If you've received some answers ... good. If I've raised more questions ... ask them. This is a learning process and we all can benefit from the discussion.

The weekly ARES net for Sonoma County is conducted on Mondays at 7:30 pm on 146.985MHz, - offset, 88.5PL. All ARES members and guests are invited to check-in anytime. Please join us.

(continued on page 1)

3. We intend to make it a higher quality newsletter with color, high resolution photographs, and other features which are not possible in a black and white, mass produced print job.

So, please ask yourself, would you rather have a new, cool HF radio for the mobile communications van, or a new antenna for the club to use on field day, or (fill in your own idea of how the club can improve it's portfolio of ham gear), or a stack of old Short Skips in the corner of your closet? If you haven't yet voted, I urge you to vote "YES", I would be willing to receive Short Skip via e-mail. If you have voted already and voted "NO", and I have convinced you to reconsider your answer, then please ask for a new ballot at the next club meeting, fill it out indicating that it is your second vote, and submit it to Brain Torr, NoIIY. If you have voted already and voted "YES", then I thank you for your support, and I look forward to sending you upcoming club newsletters via e-mail!

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Meeting, February 1, 2006 Minutes

- 1. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum The meeting was called to order by Vice President Kevin, K6BSG, at 7:08 pm at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center.
- a. Introductions

SHORT SKIP

- i) Officers & Directors Vice President Kevin, K6BSG, introduced those officers and directors in attendance.
- ii) Program Introduction "Last Voice From Kuwait" and disaster preparedness videos.
- iii) New Calls and Upgrades None.
- iv) Visitors: Lawrence, AE6NT, and John, KI6CAU a new ham.
- 2. Approval of Minutes It was moved by Bob, WD6DPE, and seconded by Michael, KC6UNA, to approve the minutes of the last membership meeting as published in Short Skip. The motion passed.
- 3. Officer and Director Reports
- a. President Absent No report.
- b. Vice President Kevin, K6BSG No report.
- c. Secretary Rich, KF6SZA No report.
- d. Treasurer Brian, N6IIY No report.
- e. Directors -
- i) Fred, KQ6OB Absent No report.
- ii) Jeff, KK6JAB No report.
- 4. Committee Reports
- a. ARES Rich, KF6SZA, There will be a meeting on 2/22 at 10:00 am to issue new ARES ID cards. There is a Safety Fair in downtown Santa Rosa on April 22nd; ARES will participate with a booth. EmCommWest is May 6th and 7th this year in Reno, Nevada. All members were invited to check into the Monday night ARES net. b. Mobile Comm Van - Rich, KF6SZA, - Due to the current weather
- situation there is no activity. c. Activities - This committee spot is open and we are seeking a chairperson.
- d. Newsletter Thanks was expressed to Vicki, KF6ZCT, for her continued efforts.
- e. Public Service Craig, KG6THE, reported that upcoming activities will begin after the upcoming Safety Fair. All scheduled public service events are on the SCRA website.
- f. VE Liaison Brian, NoIIY, Last Saturday at Blood Bank of the Redwoods there were 7 candidates resulting in 6 new hams or upgrades. The next VE session is in April.
- g. Repeaters
- i) Operations All repeaters are working. 146.715 is linked to 146.985. ii) Net Control Operators: 2/7-Kevin, K6BSG; 2/14 - Brian, N6IIY; 2/21 - John, KE5RI; 2/28 - Craig, K6XLT; 3/7 - Kevin, K6BSG.
- 5. Unfinished Business Items still in progress:
 - i) Finish the Comm Van Nothing new to report.
- ii) Update Club Roster There was no discussion on this item. 6. New Business - None.
- 7. Member Biography Jim, W6JRC told how he became interested in Amateur Radio.
- 8. Announcements The next Membership Meeting is on February 1st at 7:00 pm. All members are welcome.
- 9. Adjournment It was moved and seconded by Brian, N6IIY, and Bob, WD6DPE, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:26 pm. The motion passed.

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting, February 15, 2006 Minutes

Board Members Present: Kevin Alt, K6BSG; Rich Freitas, KF6SZA; Brian Torr, N6IIY; Fred, KQ6OB; Jeff, KK6JAB. President John Felton, KE5RI, was absent due to another committment.

Guests Present: None.

- 1. Call to Order; Verification of Quorum The meeting was called to order by Vice President Kevin Alt, K6BSG, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held at Brian Torr's home. A quorum was present.
- 2. Approval of Minutes-It was moved by Fred, KQ6OB, that the minutes of the 1/18/2006 meeting as printed in Short Skip be approved. The motion passed.
- 3. Officer and Director Reports
- a. President John, KE5RI, Absent. No report.
- b. Vice President Kevin, K6BSG, No report.
- c. Secretary Rich, KF6SZA, No report.
- d. Treasurer Brian, N6IIY, reported bank balances. We are beginning to receive membership renewals...
- e. Directors -
- i) Fred, KQ6OB, No report.
- ii) Jeff, KK6JAB, No report. 4. Committee Reports
- a. ARES Rich, KF6SZA, reported on the upcoming Safety Fair in Santa Rosa and EmCommWest in Reno, Nevada. There will be a faceto-face meeting held in February to issue new ID cards.
- b. Mobile Comm Van Rich, KF6SZA, reported that due to the weather there is no planned work.
- c. Activities Upcoming items will be posted on the website.
- d. Newsletter Deadline for articles this month is February 19th at 6:00 pm. There was discussion on the methods of delivering the labels to the printer and upcoming email distribution. Kevin, K6BSG, will write an article regarding the email issue.
- e. Public Service No report.
- f. County Antenna Regulations Project No report.
- g. Repeater -
- i) SCRA vs NARCC Update No activity.
- ii) Net Control Operators: 2/21 John, KE5RI; 2/28 Craig, KG6THE; 3/7 - Kevin, K6BSG; 3/14 - Craig, K6XLT; 3/21 - Fred, KQ6OB; 3/28 - Brian, N6HY.
- 5. Unfinished Business -
- a. Programs The need for a Program Chairman was discussed.
- b. Inventory still needs to be done. Bill, KH6GJV, and Kevin, K6BSG need to complete this item.
- c. The need for a Field Day Coordinator was discussed.
- 6. New Business -
- a. It was moved by Brian, N6IIY, that the NARCC Org Rep and Technical Rep be changed from Bill, KH6GJV to John, KE5RI, since Bill is no longer on the Board of Directors. The motion passed. b. There was continued discussion on possible program ideas.
- 7. Adjournment It was moved by Jeff, KK6JAB, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm. The motion passed.

