Have you ever wondered WHAT IF?

The following article was written by Randy Long, WOAVV, although I have done some simple editing. I think it is well worth considering - Rich Freitas KF6SZA, Sonoma County DEC

Have you ever wondered what if ARES ceased to function as it has? Have you ever wondered how things would work if there was never training? Have you ever wondered what you would do if you tried to get through in an emergency and no one could hear you? Have you ever wondered how you would feel if one of your family members died of an injury because you hadn't tested your portable antenna and had no other means of communication and it didn't work? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be the EC of your group, know that there were people whose skills needed help, offer that help, only to have them respond "We'll be fine ... we always get it done in the emergencies"? Have you ever wondered how well your favorite football team would do if they only practiced their skills as much as you practice your emergency operating skills?

Life is full of choices and opportunities. We have choices as to what we consider important to us; setting priorities is something we do every day, consciously or unconsciously. Where we live, what kind of house we live in, who lives with us. How important those people are to us can be determined in many cases in how we spend our time. Planning ahead and making sure we take appropriate precautions to protect ourselves and those we care about is certainly one way we demonstrate this. An example of one choice we might make is when you decide to buy a house, would you buy one built on solid rock or would you prefer one built on sand from a river bottom? Would you prefer to plan ahead and have food in your shelves at home or have to scramble every time you wanted something to eat? Would you rather know what you nee to know and be comfortable with it or would you rather always be trying to catch up?

Amateur Radio as we all know is a hobby. It's a hobby that has many uses...one of which is emergency communications. Even though it is but one facet of life, it can be important to us, our families, and our communities. If you were on the receiving end of services provided by an ARES group, would you think you were being served by the brightest and the best if you encountered someone with less than proficient skills? Would you trust your family's well being and care with someone who had less than practiced skills? I am guessing not. I am betting that you want the very best trained, very best equipped, and very highest level of proficiency person watching out for them and you!

Whether you are an old hand who had "been there, done that" or the newest ham in the hobby, I am sure you would admit that you can still learn from training. Have you ever wondered what your ARES group would function like if you were the best trained and equipped ham in the group? Have you ever wondered how much more you might be able to offer if you had better training or skills? Have you ever wondered how much better things might function if people in your group practiced more together or became more familiar with their equipment? Have you ever wondered how not participating in nets, exercises or training might influence someone else's participation? Have you ever wondered who some people use as an example for what they will do? Are you being the best example you can be? Have you ever wondered what ARES or amateur radio in general would be like if there were no good examples?

We all have a responsibility to make good decisions. Making good decisions affects us directly, our families. friends and communities. We can choose to do everything half-hearted and "get it done" or we can choose to be the best at what we do. Take some pride in how we conduct ourselves as individuals and as a team. We can choose to show ourselves, our families and our communities that we are the best at what we do, even though the only compensation is the feeling of being proud of our accomplishments in helping others.

Where do you stand? Is your training the best it can be? Is your equipment always at its peak in terms of preparedness for an emergency? Do you have better ways to teach something that might benefit others in ARES? How involved and committed are you to being the best you can be? No one but you can answer any of these questions, but certainly as sure as you made the choices you have made, you know the answers. What will you do from here? Think about it and decide what kind of operator von will become.

The ARES net meets on Mondays at 7:30 pm on 147.315 MHz, + offset, 88.5 PL. All members and guests are invited to check-in.

Safety Fair

by Rich Freitos KF6SZA and Bill Hillendahl KH6GIV

On Saturday, April 22nd, members of Sonoma County ARES porticipated in the Safety Fair put on by the City of Santa Rosa. Held at Old Courthouse Source, the event was part of a week long commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 1906 earthqueke that devastated downtown Santa Rosa.

Section Manager/Section Emergency Coordinator Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Sonoma County District Emergency Coordinator Rich Freitas KF6SZA, Public Information Officer Jeff Basham KK6JAB, Brian Torr N6IIY, Kevin Alt K6BSG, and Pat Coyle KG61SL assembled and manned the display booth. The booth included a video on Amateur Radio participation in emergencies and literature on the service. Brian brought along one of his NVIS antenna designs that was used by the HF station in the booth. Pat added a 1955 Zenith emergency radio and a modern crank-up radio to the display.

Fair participants were also treated to exhibits by Red Cross, Salvation Army, Santa Rosa Fire and Police, Blood Bank of the Redwoods, the Sonoma County Sheriffs

(continued on page 5)

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting, April 12, 2006 Minutes

Board Members Present: John Felton, KE5RI; Rich Freitas, KF6SZA; Brian Torr, N6IIY; Fred Polkinghorn, KQ6OB; Jeff Basham, KK6IAB. Kevin Alt, K6BSG was absent.

Guests Present: None.

SHORT SKIP

1. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum - The meeting was called to order by President John Felton, KE5RI, at 6:40 pm. The meeting was held at John Felton's home. A quorum was present in that all but one voting board members were present.

2. Approval of Minutes - It was moved by Fred, KQ6OB, that the minutes of the previous Board Meeting as printed in Short Skip be approved. The motion passed.

3. Officer and Director Reports
a. President – John, KE5RI, - No report.

b. Vice President - Kevin, K6BSG, - Absent, No report.

c. Secretary - Rich, KF6SZA, - No report.

d. Treasurer - Brian, N6IIY, stated that dues are still coming in. He will submit forms to the Secretary of State as required.

i) Fred, KQ6OB, - No report.

ii) Jeff, KK6JAB, - Absent, no report.

4. Committee Reports

a. ARES - Rich, KF6SZA, reported that he and Bill, KH6GJV, had conducted a NIMS training session for Sonoma County VOAD. EmComm West will be held the first weekend in May in Reno, NV.

b. Activities - No report.

c. Newsletter - Discussion was held regarding the logistics of printing and mailing the newsletters. Poll results for email distribution are still coming in.

d. Public Service - No report.

e. Repeater -

i) NARCC Meeting - John, KE5RI, reported that he had attended the recent NARCC meeting. There was discussion regarding UHF band crowding and the future potential of re-farming the frequencies. ii) SCRA will be utilizing 147.315 MHz, + offset, 88.5 PL, as a 2 Meter test frequency.

iii) Net Control Operators: 4/18 - Fred, KQ6OB; 4/25 - Craig, K6XLT; 5/2 -???; 5/9 - John, KE5RI; 5/16 - Fred, KQ6OB; 5/23 - Brian, N6IIY; 5/30 - Jeff, KK6JAB.

5. Unfinished Business -

a. Programs - The May Membership Meeting will be a Field Day

b. Inventory still needs to be done. Kevin, K6BSG, stated it will be done in May.

c. Emailing of Short Skip is still pending transferring of the files to pdf format.

d. The potential need for a Membership Chairman was further discussed.

6. New Business - None

7. Adjournment - It was moved by Jeff, KK6JAB, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm. The motion passed.

Department, and many other organizations that help out in times of need. The hit of the event was a series of demonstrations by local FEMA-trained search does. A highlight of the day was the sight of a firefighter descending on a line from



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Meeting, April 6, 2006 Minutes

1. Call to Order; Verification of Quorum - The meeting was called to order by President John Felton, KE5RI, at 7:15 pm at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center. All board members were in attendance.

a. Introductions

i) Officers & Directors -President, John, KE5RI, introduced officers and directors.

ii) Visitors - Jeff Curtis

iii) Program Introduction - Boat Anchor and Home Brew Night.

iv) New Calls and Upgrades - None.

2. Approval of Minutes - It was moved by Bob, WD6DPE, and seconded by Bob, KG6ZDN, to approve the minutes of the last membership meeting as published in Short Skip. The motion passed.

3. Officer and Director Reports

a. President - John, KE5RI, - The battery disposal box was brought to the meeting.

b. Vice President - Kevin, K6BSG, - Contest Report.

c. Secretary - Rich, KF6SZA, - Reported on status of the newsletter email effort.

d. Treasurer - Brian, NoIIY, reported bank balances and mentioned that dues need to be paid.

e. Directors -

i) Fred, KQ6OB, - No report.
ii) Jeff, KK6JAB, - Reported on his trip to Las Vegas for the "Baker to Vegas" event - a foot relay race of about 150 miles.

4. Committee Reports

a. ARES - Rich, KF6SZA, - The upcoming EmCommWest in Reno, NV on May 5th and 6th and the Santa Rosa Safety Fair on April 22nd were discussed.

b. Mobile Comm Van - Rich, KF6SZA, - Due to the current weather situation there is no activity.

c. Activities - Open committee, no report.

d. Newsletter - Thanks was expressed to Vicki, KF6ZCT, for her continued efforts.

e. Public Service - Craig, KG6THE, presented a list of upcoming events: 4/29 - MS Walkathon; 5/6 - Wine Country Century; 5/13 -Human Race. Sign-up sheets were available.

f. VE Liaison - Brian, NoIIY, - The next VE session is scheduled for April 20th at 9:00 am, Blood Bank of the Redwoods.

g. Repeaters

 i) Operations - All repeaters are working.
 ii) Net Control Operators - 4/11: Brian, N6IIY, 4/18: Fred, KQ6OB; 4/25: Craig, K6XLT; 5/2 - Dave, W6IBC.

iii) John, KE5RI, reported his attendance at the NARCC meeting. New officers were elected. They are considering a re-farming of the 2-meter frequencies near the end of next year.

5. Unfinished Business

i) Update Club Roster - This will be done once all dues are in. ii) John, KE5RI, solicited interest in helping on Field Day; a sign up sheet was passed around.

6. New Business

i) The VOMARC hamfest is in Sonoma on May 29th at the Vets Bldg. On 1st Street.

ii) Tracy, WB6TMY, requested help with his antenna; there were 7. Program - Boat Anchors and Home Brew projects were presented and

discussed. 8. Announcements - The next Membership Meeting is on May 3rd at

7:00 pm. The next BoD meeting is at 6:15 pm on April 12th at John Felton's home. All members are welcome.

9. Adjournment - It was moved and seconded by Bob, WA6NIV, and Rollie, KB6AQW, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:26 pm. The motion passed.

The main message of the day was that people need to be prepared for a minimum of three days and, in some cases, up to three weeks in a disaster like a massive quake. Civilians need to realize that emergency personnel will be tending to the largest, most serious situations first. As Bud Souza of the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force said, "You can't wait for someone to rescue you, because they'll all be busy."

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SHORT SKIP

SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS INC

MAY 2006

VE Exams Upcoming ARRL VE test sessions in the area

May 20, 2006 Hamilton Wireless Association

Time: 9 am Walk-ins allowed Contact: William B. Smith - 415.456.4481 - AB6MT@SONIC.NET VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: Hamilton Wireless Association Club Station, Hamilton Field/Building 549 Son Jose Drive, Novato, CA 94949

June 3, September 2, December 2, 2006

Marin Amateur Radio Society Time: 9 am Walkins allowed

Contact: Al Weisman, W5ALW - 510,237,1978 - alweisman@iuno.com Location: MARS Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley

For more information: http://www.w6sg.net/VE-TEST.HTM

This information is from the ARRL website. Always double check dates and times. For additional information from the SCRA Volunteer Exam Ligison. contact Brian Torr. N611Y, 707.575.5871

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Repeater Coordination Summary

by John Felton KE5RI

As most all of you know by now we have changed our English Hill repeater frequency to 147.315 Mhz, + 600 Khz offset, PL 88.5 Other than the change of frequency, nothing else has changed. We have the same system configuration and the same coverage. You should not see any difference. This frequency was found with the help of NARCC and they have been extremely helpful in this regard. There have been a few bumps in the road but I believe that we are close to our goal of coordination. I am now designated the SCRA Organization Representative (ORG REP) to NARCC as well as the Technical Representative. This change was made with the approval of your Board of Directors. I applied for coordination on 147.315 Mhz in mid February of this year and we have had a "presence" on this frequency for about the past month. Despite what you may have heard while monitoring this frequency, only SCRA is properly positioned to receive coordination. I am fully confident that we will receive our Coordination Certificate in the near future. Thank you all for your patience and understanding. I will continue to keep you updated as we

P.S. The frequency of the system at Castle Rock will remain unchanged for the present. It is anticipated that it too will shift to 147.315 Mhz in due order.

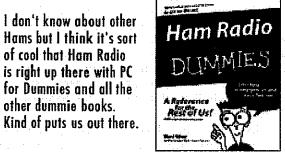
Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Public Service Events

Craig Gaevert KG6THE, SCRA Public Service Wrangler

I still need hams for the Wine Country Century on May 6th. The six volunteers I currently have are not enough to staff the event. I still need hams to staff rest stops and sag wagons along with one or two Net Controls. I do have enough volunteers for the Human Race. Future dates include June 17th for the Terrible Two, August 20th for the Tour d'Organics, September 23-24th for Waves to Wine. Valunteer early, Volunteer aften. Thanks to those that have already volunteered.

I don't know about other Hams but I think it's sort of cool that Ham Radio is right up there with PC for Dummies and all the other dummie books.

Craig Gaevert, 707.478.9387 or k6xlt@sonic.net.



SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, IN MAY 2006

200	6 Club Off	icers	
President	John Felton	KE5RI	707 539-5831
Vice President	Kevin Alt	K6BSG	707 753-1783
Secretary	Rich Freitas	KE6SZA	707 578-9335
Treasurer	Brian Torr	NGIIY	707 575-5871
Director	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ60B	***
Director	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707 542-3860
Past President	John Felton	KESRI	707 539-5831
Public Service Chairman	Craig Gaevert	KG6THE	707 545-4133
Repeater Chairman	Greg Gordon	AC6VJ	707 523-7077
Short	Skip & We	b Staff	
Editor	Vicki Cero	KF6ZCT	415 279-3859
Hank's Swap Shop	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	
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
Refreshments			
Volunteer Exam Ligison	Brian Torr	N6IIY	707 575-5871

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

N6OJ

707 763-2528

ARRL DXCC/WAS Mgr Chuck Ternes

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	\$12 per month
1st Quarter Column	\$13 per month
Each Additional Quarter Column	\$4 per month
Full page (one side)	\$35 per month
Pre-printed inserts (each)	\$35 per month

For more information, Contact the Editor

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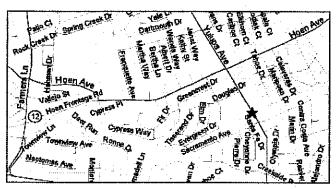


SCRA Club Meetings

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

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 3rd 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/

SHORT SKIP

SONOMA COUNTY RADIO.

MAY 2006

Contest Corner

by Kevin Alt K6BSG

Hello contesters. Big contest for this month is CQ WPX CW contest on Memorial Day weekend. Also new Area 7 QSO party and eta-Aquarids meteor shower rally which is happening now. Check them out. Happy DX'ing!

29 Apr-7 May - North American Spring Meteor Scatter Rally - all modes, 6 meters - 70 cm. See: www.ykc.com/wa5ufh/Rally/NAHSMS.htm.

Microwave Spring Sprint, 0600-1300 local, all frequencies > 902 MHz. See: www.etdxq.org/yhf.htm.

MARAC County Hunters Contest - CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.morac.org.

- 10-10 International Spring Contest - CW/Digital. See: www.ten-ten.org.

6-7 May - Indiana QSO Party - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.hdxcc.org/inqp.

6-7 May - ARI International DX Contest - CW/SSB/Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.qsl.net/contest ori.

Kew England QSO Party - CW/Phone, 80-10 meters.

See: www.negp.org. 6-7 May - 7th Area QSO Party - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters.

See: www.7gp.org.

6-7 May - IPA Contest - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.iparc.org. EU EME Contest - any mode, 1.2 GHz.

See: www.dubus.org.

Radio Club of America QSO Party - SSB, 80-15 meters, separate times per band. See: www.radio-club-of-america.org.

FISTS Spring Sprint - CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.fists.org/sprints.html.

13-14 May - Armed Forces Amateur/Military Crossband Communications Test SSB/Digital, 80-17 meters.

See: www.netcom.army.mil/mars/news/.

13-14 May - CQ-M International DX Contest - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.cq:m.andys.ru:

13-14 May - Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest, 80-10 meters. See: www.contestvolta.com.

13-14 May - 50 MHz Spring Sprint, all modes. See: www.etdxa.org/vhf.htm.

13-15 May - Mid-Atlantic OSO Party - SSB/FM/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.magp.info.

20-21 May - 40th Annual Baltic Contest - CW/SSB, 80 meters.

See: www.lrsf.lt/hcontest. 20-21 May - All America Contest - CW, 80 - 10 meters.

See: www.powerline.com.br/cwjf.

20-21 May - EU PSK DX Contest, 80-10 meters. See: www.stors.org.

20-21 May - His Majesty King of Spain Contest - CW, 160-10 meters. For more information, send e-mail to ure@ure.es.

20-21 May - US Counties QSO Party - SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.stpculisland.net/countycontest.html.

20-21 May - All America Contest - CW, 80 - 10 meters. See: www.powerline.com.br/cwif.

27-28 May - CQ WW WPX Contest - CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.cowpx.com.

QRP ARCI Hoofowl Sprint - CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.argarci.org/contest.htm.

28-29 May - MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint - 160-6 meters. See: www.qsl.net/migroclub.

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

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riedse Frint Clearly	with which by the EQ.		New [] Renewal []	
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	MAY 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
	1	2	3. 7:00 PM SCRA Meeting Luther Burbank Art & Gerden Center 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santu Rosa	4	7:30 PM Marin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mall Valley	6 10:00 AM ROYARC Meeting Red Oak Victory Ship, Point Richmool Directions: www.ssredoakvictory.or Wine Country Century See article on page 4		
7	8	7:30 PM Hemäten Wireless Association Budding 549, Hemäten Field, Novato	7:00 PM REDYA Meeting Mister ArcGoo's Rastourant, Petalura 6:30 PM SCRA Board of Directors Meeting (note date change)	11	12	13		
14	15	16	1 7.7.30 PM YMARC Maeting McDeugoll Holl, Socomo Bev. Center, Glen Ellen	18	19 8:00 PM SFARC Meeting Veteron's Administration Medical Center, Auditorium of Bilg, 7, 42nd & Clement St., Son Francisco	20 VE Exam 9 AM TO Noon Blood Bank of the Redwoods 2324 Bethards Dr., Santa Rosa (see wifide on page 1)		
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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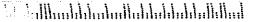
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Short Skip

The Newsletter of

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MAY 2006



President's Message

John Felton KE5RI SCRA President

Voluntarism in Today's World

I could ask you to look up the meaning but I know that is unnecessary. You already know what it means. Busy, busy, busy, we are all BUSY. Some of us are busier

than others. The question must be asked. Are you too busy to contribute just a little time to the good of the group? Are you one of those people who enjoys participating in events as long as YOU don't have to actually DO anything? I have observed over the years that in any organization, whether it be work or hobby related, that people fall into three groups. Let's look at them:

Group I

This group usually consists of about ten percent of the organization. People in Group I can always be depended upon to pitch in to get the job done. They don't wait to be asked, they just look around and start doing what needs to be done.

Group II

This group is usually made up of about eighty five percent of the organization. They will help out when asked and play an important part in accomplishing the intended goal. They are in indispensable resource.

Group III

They don't do ANYTHING except bitch and complain about how things are run or how things turn out. They are part of the problem, not part of the solution. Luckily this group represents only about five percent of the total. Fortunately for SCRA, in our organization this number is very low.

Now that we got that out of the way, ask yourself what group you are in? In what group do you want to be? The point is that for any event or worthwhile endeavor, a certain amount of energy is required. Is it fair to sit back and enjoy the fruits of the efforts of Group I with

out making a small contribution of your own? Any job when split up into smaller pieces is easy.

This brings me around to the point of all this. Field Day is coming rapidly upon us. It is scheduled for the last weekend in June. (part of Friday, June 23, all day Saturday the 24th, and part of Sunday, the 25th.) It will be held at the same location as last year at the corner of Oakmont Drive and Highway 12. If it is going to happen, and I believe it will, we are going to need a small commitment from each participant.

Please think this over. Our next membership meeting's program is dedicated to planning this year's event. I, for one, believe Field Day is an very important part of our commitment to the community. If you agree, please consider "pitching in". See you next month as a Group I or Group II member.

John KE5RI

VE Exams

If you've been studying for a new license or upgrade, your next apportunity to take your test is coming up on **May 20, 2006.**

SCRA will be histing VE exams on May 20, from 9am until noon, at the Blood Bank of the Redwoods, 2324 Bethards Dr. in Santa Rosa.

All test elements will be administered. Please arrive by 9:15am to be signed in.

Directions: From Hwy 101, take Hwy 12 east toward Sonoma. Turn right onto Farmers Lane. Turn left onto Bennet Valley Road. Turn left on Bethards Drive.

Candidates should bring the following:

- One (1) photo ID or two (2) non-photo ID
- Social Security Number or FCC Registration Number (FRN)
- Original and photocopy of your current amateur radio license (if licensed)
- Original and photocopy of any valid CSCEs (if applicable)
- · Radiotelegraph license, if held
- #2 Pencil and eraser
- \$14.00 exam fee. Checks may be made payable to "ARRL-VEC"

Calculators may be used, but it must be demonstrated that all memories and programs have been erosed.

If you have any special needs, please contact Brian Torr, N611Y in advance: n6iiy@arrl.net (707) 575-5871

Good Luck!