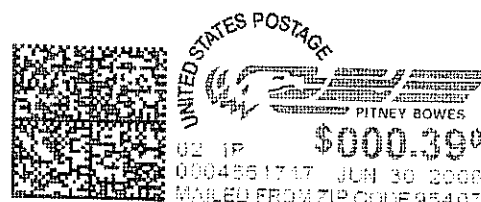


JULY 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 10:00 AM ROVARC Meeting Red Oak Victory Ship, Point Richmond Directions: www.socobradio.org
2	3	4	5 7:00 PM SCRA Meeting Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center 2050 Yukupa Ave., Santa Rosa	6	7 7:30 PM Marin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley	8
9	10	11 7:30 PM Hamilton Wireless Association Building 549, Hamilton Field, Novato	12 7:00 PM REDXA Meeting Mister McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma 6:30 PM SCRA Board of Directors Meeting (note date change)	13	14 8:00 PM SFARC Meeting Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Auditorium of Bldg. 7, 42nd & Clement St., San Francisco	15
16	17	18	19 7:30 PM VHARC Meeting McDougal Hall, Sonoma Dev. Center, Glen Ellen	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

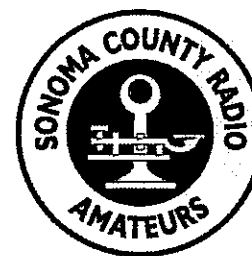
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WB6FRZ



CLUB STATION  
W6LFJ

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 7

# 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>

Repeaters: 146.985- 224.48- 441.375+



REPEATER STATION  
W6SON

JULY 2006



## President's Message

by  
John Felton KE5RI  
SCRA President

### SCRA versus NARCC— The Final Chapter

Well it has been a long time coming, but allow me a brief summary. I came to the Santa Rosa area some four years ago and I was looking for an Amateur Radio Club. Somehow, I don't recall how, I came across this one, and after attending a few meetings I paid my dues and joined the group. It wasn't long before I found that all was not well. Apparently a big battle had been brewing with the County of Sonoma and subsequently, with NARCC. Things came to a head when after being declined coordination, a lawsuit was filed against NARCC. I will go no further than to say that things got very ugly and contentious. In December of 2005 I ran for the Office of President of SCRA with the intent of accomplishing four things. The first was to establish an improved relationship with NARCC that would lead to granting of coordination of our repeater. The second was help affect positive changes in NARCC's rules and procedures. The third was to drop the lawsuit against NARCC and the fourth was to extend a friendly hand to those parties who had become estranged from SCRA.

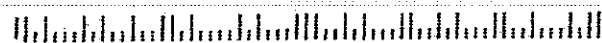
At the end of the first year as President of your club I had not yet accomplished these goals. I had managed to make contact with key people within NARCC, I had presented them, a few proposed changes to their Rules and Procedures. I had also made personal contact with the Clark Murphy, the President of Santa Clara Amateur Radio Association (SCARA). SCARA was the operator of W6UU, the repeater in San Jose that used the same frequency as SCRA. There were reportedly incidents of

SCRA interfering with SCARA. Until NARCC helped us find a usable frequency pair, it seemed that we might have to share the 146.985 Mhz frequency pair with them. I felt that it was imperative that if no alternatives were found, that we should be on friendly terms with SCARA. At the end of my first year in office it was clear that the goals I had set were not going to be met within my expected time frame. This is why I ran for a second term as your President.

I am now very pleased to announce that all four goals have been met. We have established an excellent relationship with NARCC and we have been granted Coordination on our new frequency, 147.315 Mhz. With the next week we will be drawing up official papers that will remove the objection filed against the coordination of SCARA's coordination on 146.985 Mhz. In addition we will withdraw our lawsuit against NARCC and receive from them an agreement to change certain Rules and Procedures. And lastly, I will have completed my efforts at extending a friendly hand to those involved in the original dispute. I am not offering apologies or explanations, but I have publicly stated that it is time for us to set aside our past disputes and to move on in a friendly way. More than this I cannot do.

I wish to publicly thank the officials at NARCC, especially Bob Lanning and George Burton for their friendship and cooperation. I also wish to thank SCARA's Clark Murphy for his time during our candid conversations. And most importantly, I wish to thank all of you as members of SCRA for your patience and support during these difficult times. I am honored to have been elected as your President and having been entrusted with such great responsibility.

John Felton KE5RI,  
President, SCRA



**2006 Club Officers**

<b>President</b>	John Felton	KE5RI	707 539-5831
<b>Vice President</b>	Kevin Alt	K6BSG	707 753-1783
<b>Secretary</b>	Rich Freitas	KE6SZA	707 578-9335
<b>Treasurer</b>	Brian Torr	N6IY	707 575-5871
<b>Director</b>	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ6OB	
<b>Director</b>	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707 542-3860
<b>Past President</b>	John Felton	KE5RI	707 539-5831
<b>Public Service Chairman</b>	Craig Gaevert	KG6THE	707 545-4133
<b>Repeater Chairman</b>	Greg Gordon	AC6VJ	707 523-7077

**Short Skip & Web Staff**

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<b>Hank's Swap Shop</b>	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707 542-3860
<b>Web Master</b>	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707 542-3860

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<b>Public Relations</b>	Bill McCall	W6WDM	707 538-2844
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<b>Volunteer Exam Liaison</b>	Brian Torr	N6IY	707 575-5871
<b>ARRL DXCC/WAS Mgr</b>	Chuck Ternes	N6DJ	707 763-2528

<b>SCRA Hotline</b>	707 579-9608
<b>SCRA E-Mail</b>	scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com
<b>SCRA Web Site</b>	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**

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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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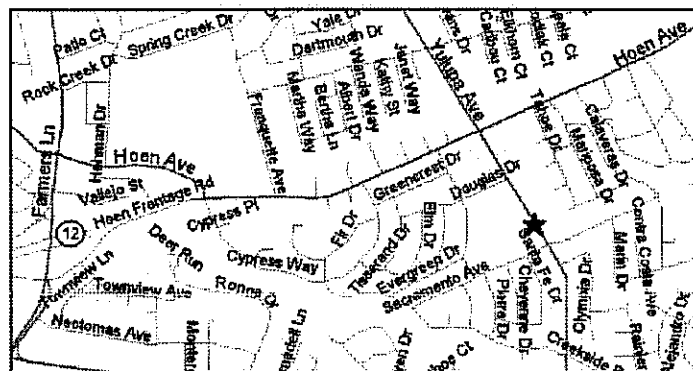


**SCRA Club Meetings**

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

Next meeting is Wednesday, July 5th 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/>

**Contest Corner**

by Kevin Alt K6BSG

Hello contesters. Well another Field Day has come and gone. We had a great time under the trees at Oakmont. Plan now to attend this fun event the last weekend of June, 2007. Fairly quiet month to allow some recovery and vacation time. HF World championship 8-9 July and CQ WW VHF contest on 16 July are highlights. Happy DX'ing!

- 1 July - Canada Day Contest - CW/Phone, 160-10, 6 and 2 meters.  
See: [www.rac.ca/service/infocont.htm](http://www.rac.ca/service/infocont.htm)
- 1-2 July - Venezuelan Independence Day Contest - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters.  
See: <http://radioclubvenezolano.org/concurso.htm>
- 1-2 July - DL-DX-RTTY-Contest - RTTY/PSK, 80-10 meters.  
See: [www.drcg.de](http://www.drcg.de)
- 2 July - DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona" - RTTY/AMTOR/PACTOR/PSK31/Clover.  
See: [www.darc.de/referate/dx](http://www.darc.de/referate/dx)
- 4-5 July - MI QRP Jul 4th CW Sprint - 160-6 meters.  
See: [www.qsl.net/miqrplclub](http://www.qsl.net/miqrplclub)
- 8 July - FISTS Summer Sprint - CW, 80-10 meters.  
See: [www.fists.org](http://www.fists.org)
- 8-9 July - IARU HF World Championship - CW/Phone, 160-10 meters.  
See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/iaru.html>
- 8-9 July - World Wide Major Six Club Contest - CW/SSB, 6 meters.  
See: <http://6mt.com/contest.htm>
- 9 July - QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint - CW, 160-10 meters.  
See: [www.qrparci.org/contest.htm](http://www.qrparci.org/contest.htm)
- 16 July - North American RTTY QSO Party - 80-10 meters.  
See: [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)
- 16 July - CQ WW VHF Contest - all modes, 6 and 2 meters.  
See: [www.cqww-vhf.com](http://www.cqww-vhf.com)
- 16 July - CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush - CW, 20 meters only.  
See: [www.cqc.org/contests](http://www.cqc.org/contests)
- 29-30 Jul - RSGB Islands-On-The-Air Contest - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters.  
See: [www.rsghifcc.org](http://www.rsghifcc.org)
- 30 July - Flight of the Bumblebees - CW, 40-10 meters.  
See: [www.arsqr.com/ars/pages/bumblebees/bb\\_rules.html](http://www.arsqr.com/ars/pages/bumblebees/bb_rules.html)

**Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Application**

Please Print Clearly New [ ] Renewal [ ]

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ H Phone \_\_\_\_\_ W Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member? Yes [ ] No [ ]

<b>Dues &amp; Fees:</b>	(SCRA dues year is 3/1/05 to 2/28/06)	<b>Payment Calculations:</b>	Make checks payable to SCRA
Individual / Associate Member	\$24 (\$6.00/qtr)	Dues - Full Year	\$ _____
Family Membership	\$36 (\$9.00/qtr)	Dues - Prorated _____ Qtrs. x \$ _____/qtr	\$ _____
Under 18 Membership	\$18 (\$3.00/qtr)	Badge	\$ _____
Badge	\$10	Other - _____	\$ _____
		Donation	\$ _____
		<b>Total</b>	\$ _____

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san@hamradio.com

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Howard, W6HOC, Co-Mgr.
So. front Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

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(800) 844-4478
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RT 13 1/4 mi. So. I-295
newcastle@hamradio.com

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(800) 854-8046
Leon, W7AD, Mgr.
Tigard 97147
from Hwy. 5 & 217
portland@hamradio.com

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(800) 444-9478
Joe, K0BSA, Co-Mgr.
John, N5EP-F, Co-Mgr.
denver@hamradio.com

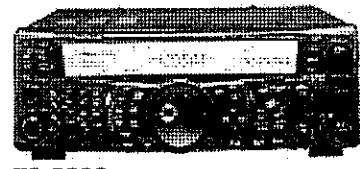
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Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.
1 mi. east of I-17
phoenix@hamradio.com

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woodbridge@hamradio.com

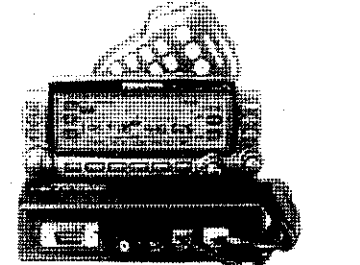
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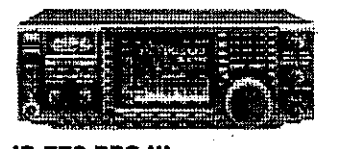
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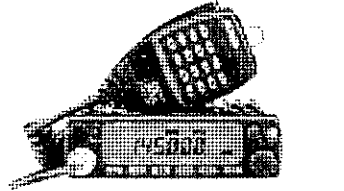
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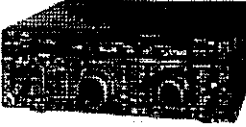
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VE Exams

Upcoming ARRL VE test sessions in the area
September 2, December 2, 2006 Marin Amateur Radio Society
Time: 9 am Walk-ins allowed
Contact: Al Weisman, W5ALW - 510.237.1978 - alweisman@juno.com
Location: MARS Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley
For more information: http://www.w6sg.net/VE-TEST.HTM

July 1, 2006 Silicon Valley VE Groupe
Time: 8 am Walk-ins allowed
Contact: Morris E. Jones - 408.507.4698 - AD6ZH@ARR.NET
Location: Hewlett Packard, 19333 Valco Pkwy Bldg. #2
Test start between 8-10:30 am
Map N37 19.490W122 00.568, Cupertino, CA 95014

This information is from the ARRL website. Always double check dates/times. For additional information from the SCRA Volunteer Exam Liaison, contact Brian Torr, N6IIV, 707.575.5871

Public Service Roundup

by Craig Gaevert
Public Service Wrangler

A big thanks to all who volunteered for the Terrible Two. It was a long, hot day and so was the radio traffic. For the first time in several years, all stations were manned, and all had a lot of traffic to pass. We did have a few issues with net control ops and we will work on improving that next year. Overall though everyone pitched in and did jobs that needed to be done. Some folks (KI6AJB, KG6ZDN) moved to stations that aren't even identified as having radio ops and kept things moving. Note too that this year we had volunteers from outside the club. The Terrible Two is a challenging event for riders and equally as challenging for all volunteers and a big round of thanks to you from Santa Rosa Cycling Club as well as SCRA.

Volunteers for the TT this year: KG6ZDN, KI6AJB, AA6YX, K6BSG, W6SQQ (Marin Amateur Radio Society), K6ZLG (Oakland), N6IIV, KG6JSL, KE6EAO, KD6OTC, KK6JAB, N3SU, KG6GFV, KC6WXX, W6JRC, K6XLT. Thank you all.

Upcoming events; fortunately the month of July is nice and quiet. I can use the break.

August 5, 2006:
Marin Cyclists Double Century. Not one of ours but if you want some more radio time and an opportunity to see how Marin does it then this event is for you. They make great use of APRS.

August 20, 2006:
Tour D'Organics. This is a new event in our calendar. We will have several rest stops to staff and sag wagons to fill - not a lot, not like the WCC. More details to follow in the August Newsletter.

September 9-10, 2006:
Waves to Wine. This year they have changed the course and we will face many challenges in supporting this event. The ride will start in Napa, go up-valley and finish at Piner HS. The second day will move out to the coast and then finishing in Petaluma. I will need a full complement of folks for both days. Unfortunately I will not be here (again) and will need to turn over operations to someone else for the weekend. I'd like to get ahead of this one and if you're available please let me know as soon as possible.

Again, Big Thanks to all Public Service volunteers.
73s
Craig Gaevert, Public Service Wrangler K6XLT

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## Train, Train, Train

by  
Rich Freitas KF6SZ  
Sonoma County ARES DEC

First of all, this is not an article written in favor of mass public transportation; it's also not a cry that the Chattanooga Choo Choo is on its way through town (I think most of you caught on to that one!). I'm sure you've all heard of the old adage of the three most important selling points of real estate: location, Location, LOCATION! Now it's time to discuss the most important reasons to train before an emergency happens.

We train to become prepared because being prepared can reduce fear, anxiety, and the losses that accompany disasters. Communities, families, and individuals should know what to do in the event of a fire and where to seek shelter during a major storm or flood. They should be ready to evacuate their homes and take refuge in public shelters and know how to care for their basic needs. People also can mitigate the impact of disasters and sometimes avoid the danger completely. By training, you are taking the necessary steps to be ready when an event occurs.

My reasons for this article are not wholly unselfish. Initially, our first priority is to take care of ourselves and our family. If we are prepared enough to do that, we can then begin to think about helping the rest of our community; if we are not prepared enough we become a liability instead of an asset. Since I am tasked with supplying communications for our community in times of need, I have a great desire to have assets rather than liabilities at my disposal!

All of us, as part of our community, are part of a system that is all about protection – protecting people and property from all types of hazards. Think of this system as a pyramid with you forming the base of the structure. At this level, you have a responsibility to protect yourself and your family by knowing what to do before, during, and after an event.

Before an event, you need to know the risks and danger signs; you should develop plans for what to do, assemble a disaster supplies kit, and volunteer to help others. During an event, you need to put your plan into action, help others, and follow the advice and guidance of your training and those in charge. After an event, you need to repair damaged property and take steps to prevent or reduce future loss.

The second and third tiers of the pyramid are the local community and the state. This level is made up of paid employees and volunteers from the private and public sectors (is the acronym "ARES" ringing a bell here for any of you?). These individuals are engaged in preventing emergencies from happening and in being prepared to respond if something does occur. Most emergencies are handled at the local level, which puts a tremendous responsibility on the community for taking care of its citizens. If support and resources are needed beyond what the local level can provide, the community can request assistance from the state. The state also coordinates the plans of the various jurisdictions so that activities do not interfere or conflict with each other.

The system is built on shared responsibilities and active participation at all levels of the process. The whole system begins with you and your ability to follow good emergency management practices – whether at home, work, or other locations.

Of course, at the top of the pyramid is the federal government. I'm not going to get into a discussion about how the Feds can come to our aid when things get really bad ... instead, I'll just let you contemplate the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and let you come to your own conclusions!

So ... where is all this taking us? Sonoma County ARES has had a number of training sessions, most of which were centered on radio communication practices. We are about to begin a new series of training meetings that will also give you the tools you need to become personally prepared. We will be discussing natural hazards (floods, storms, earthquakes, fires, etc.), technological hazards (hazmat incidents and common chemical emergencies), terrorism issues (yes, there is a threat of national terrorism in Sonoma County), and ways to recover from disaster. We will talk about the personal supplies you need and how to keep food and water safe as well as precautions against infectious diseases. And, yes, we will also devote time to the development of a local communications plan and communications issues.

I plan to begin training meetings next month (July) and hold them at least every two months. They will be on Monday evenings and they will be designed to last no more than 1? - 2 hours long. The plan is somewhat aggressive but we will never accomplish it unless we start. I hope all ARES members and anyone interested in personal preparedness will join me.

*The ARES net meets on Mondays at 7:30 pm on the SCRA repeater on 146.985MHz, - offset, 88.5PL. Members and guests are invited to check in anytime.*

## Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting, June 14, 2006 Minutes

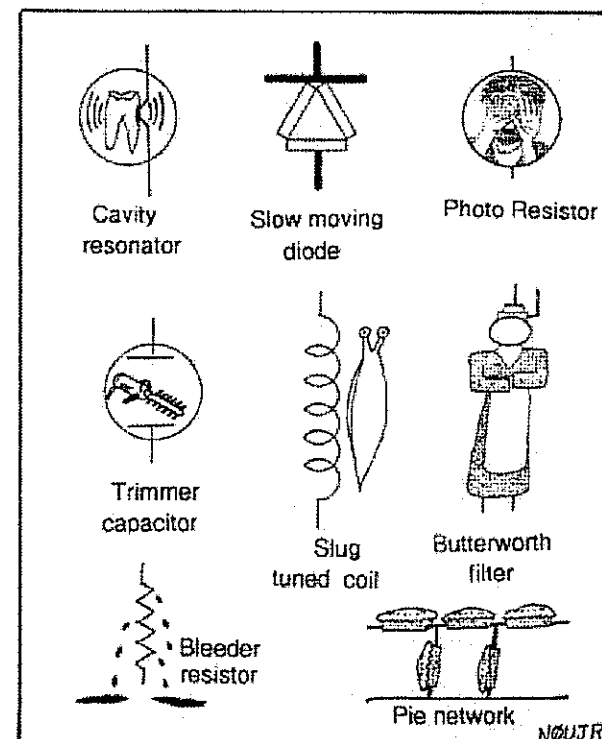
Board Members Present: Kevin Alt, K6BSG; Brian Torr, N6IY; Rich Freitas, KF6SZA. John, KB5RI; Fred Polkinghorn, KQ6OB; and Jeff Basham, KK6JAB were absent.

Guests Present: Patti Wick, KG6GFR, and Darin Wick, KG6GFQ.

1. Call to Order; Verification of Quorum – The meeting discussion was opened by Vice President Kevin Alt, K6BSG, at 6:32 pm. The meeting was held at Starbucks on Hopper Avenue. A quorum was not present in that only three voting board members were present.
2. Approval of Minutes – It was moved by Brian, N6IY, that the minutes of the 02/15/2006 meeting as printed in Short Skip be approved. The motion passed.
3. Officer and Director Reports
  - a. President – John, KB5RI, - Absent, No report.
  - b. Vice President – Kevin, K6BSG, - No report.
  - c. Secretary – Rich, KF6SZA, - No report.
  - d. Treasurer – Brian, N6IY, reported checking and savings bank balances.
  - e. Directors –
    - i) Fred, KQ6OB, - Absent, No report.
    - ii) Jeff, KK6JAB, - Absent, No report.
4. Committee Reports
  - a. ARES – No Report.
  - b. Activities – No Report.
  - c. Newsletter – No Report.
  - d. Public Service – No Report.
  - e. VE Liaison – No Report.
  - f. Repeater – No Report.
5. Unfinished Business – The board members present discussed Field Day and the items that still needed to be addressed for the event to take place. Plans are still to run a 2A station.
6. New Business – None.
7. Adjournment – The discussion concluded at 8:00 pm.

## Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Meeting, June 8, 2006 Minutes

1. Call to Order; Verification of Quorum – The meeting was called to order by Vice President Kevin Alt, K6BSG, at 7:09 pm at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center. President John Felton, KB5RI and Director Fred Polkinghorn, KQ6OB were absent; all other board members were in attendance.
  - a. Introductions
    - i) Officers & Directors – Vice President, Kevin, K6BSG, introduced officers and directors.
    - ii) Visitors – None
    - iii) Program Introduction – Field Day Final Planning.
    - iv) New Calls and Upgrades – Bob, KG6ZDN, has upgraded to Extra Class.
2. Approval of Minutes – It was moved by Bob, KG6ZDN, 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 – John, KB5RI, - Absent, No Report.
  - b. Vice President – Kevin, K6BSG, - No Report.
  - c. Secretary – Rich, KF6SZA, - No Report.
  - d. Treasurer – Brian, N6IY, reported bank balances.
  - e. Directors –
    - i) Fred, KQ6OB, - Absent, No Report.
    - ii) Jeff, KK6JAB, reported that paperwork had been submitted to update the club call signs..
4. Committee Reports
  - a. ARES – Rich, KF6SZA, - Reported on CBRT (Community Emergency Response Team) training that he had recently attended along with Jeff, KK6JAB, Bill, KH6GJV, and Lee, KB6BAQ.
  - b. Mobile Comm Van – There was general discussion if the need for a mobile comm. vehicle exists.
  - c. Activities – Open committee, no report.
  - d. Newsletter – It was mentioned that we are still working on the email version of Short Skip.
  - e. Public Service – Craig, K6XLT, requested help for upcoming events: 6/17 – Terrible Two; 8/20 – Tour d'Organics; 9/9 & 10 – Waves to Wine. Sign-up sheets were available.
  - f. VE Liaison – Brian, N6IY, reported on the last VE session held on May 20th at BBR; the next session is scheduled for August. Jeff, KK6JAB, noted that there is a new link on the SCRA website listing VE sessions within a 50-mile radius of Santa Rosa.
  - g. Repeaters
    - i) Operations – All repeaters are working.
    - ii) Net Control Operators – 6/13: Craig, K6XLT; 6/20: Kevin, K6BSG; 6/27: Bob, WD6DPE; 7/4: NO NET; 7/11: Craig, K6XLT; 7/18: Kevin, K6BSG; 7/25: Jeff, KK6JAB.
5. Unfinished Business
  - i) Update Club Roster – All dues renewals are considered in and Rich, KF6SZA, will send a roster listing to Brian for publication.
6. New Business – None.
7. Biography – None.
8. Announcements – The next Membership Meeting is on July 5th at 7:00 pm at Luther Burbank Arts & Garden Center. The next BoD meeting is at 6:30 pm on June 14th at Starbucks on Hopper Avenue. All members are welcome.
9. Adjournment – It was decided by acclamation to dispense with the Field Day planning until the BoD meeting next week. It was moved and seconded by Jerry, K6LHC, and Jeff, KK6JAB, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:47 pm. The motion passed.



Little known standard electronic symbols

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## July Program

**IRLP - Internet Radio Linking Project & VoIP - Voice over Internet Protocol Discussion**  
Wondering what all this talk about IRLP and EchoLink is? Know a little bit about VoIP technology, but want to know how it relates to Ham Radio? Jeff Basham, KK6JAB, SCRA Director, will explain everything, and answer your questions at the July Meeting!