



To Volunteer or Not

by
Rich Freitas KF6SZ
Sonoma County ARES DEC

By the time you read this, the year's public service events will be over except for one ... and perhaps our largest event of the year ... Waves to Wine. Also, you probably fall into one of two categories: either you've participated in public service events, had a lot of fun, and learned some new communications skills or, you've managed to go another year without volunteering and you're just doing your own thing. After all, why should you spend your time working public service when you'd rather be rag-chewing or DXCC?

Besides the fact that each and every one of us who holds an FCC-assigned amateur radio callsign is mandated with providing public service as a condition of our license, there are a lot of operating skills we can learn. Every bike race, foot race, or walkathon we support provides us with a substantial amount of valuable experience. Whether you are net control or a checkpoint operator, you will learn the discipline necessary to support emergency communications. You're probably already a very good talker but these events will teach you to be a good listener. You will also learn how to relay information when direct communications do not reliably work and how to concisely transmit messages with minimum wording and maximum accuracy.

Think of public service as a practice field – a low risk method of learning skills that will be useful when the situation becomes critical ... skills you cannot learn during an emergency event because there simply isn't enough time to teach them to you. As hams, most of us enjoy talking; that's one reason we're hams. We like to talk about nearly anything and most of us can spend hours doing just that. But, when a net is running at full steam handling traffic, there is no time for idle chatter. Transmissions must be short and to the point and they must be accurately delivered to the intended recipient.

Take the opportunity to volunteer – it will sharpen your operating skills. These public service events also give us the opportunity to educate non-hams about our hobby and to demonstrate its usefulness to others.

Everyone benefits: you, our served agencies, and amateur radio in general.

So ... what's it going to be? Are you going to step up to the plate and offer your services while enjoying a nice day with your fellow hams or are you going to let another year go by while letting others promote amateur radio for you?

The weekly ARES net for Sonoma County is conducted on Mondays at 7:30 pm on 147.315 MHz, + offset, 88.5 PL. All ARES members and guests are invited to check-in. Please join us.



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Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting, August 9, 2006 Minutes

Board Members Present: Kevin Alt, K6BSG; Brian Torr, N6IHY; Rich Freitas, KP6SZA, Fred Polkinghorn, KQ6OB. John Felton, KE5RI, and Jeff Basham, KK6JAB were absent.

Guests Present: None.

1. Call to Order; Verification of Quorum – The meeting discussion was opened by Vice President Kevin Alt, K6BSG, at 6:51 pm. The meeting was held at the home of Brian, N6IHY.
2. Approval of Minutes – It was moved by Brian, N6IHY, that the minutes of the 07/12/2006 meeting as printed in Short Skip be approved. The motion passed.
3. Officer and Director Reports
 - a. President – Absent, No report.
 - b. Vice President – Kevin, K6BSG, - No report.
 - c. Secretary – Rich, KP6SZA, - No report.
 - d. Treasurer – Brian, N6IHY, reported checking and savings bank balances.
 - e. Directors –
 - i) Fred, KQ6OB, - No report.
 - ii) Jeff, KK6JAB, - Absent, No report.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. ARES – Rich, KP6SZA, reported that the next ARES training session is August 28th. The topic is Natural Disasters. It was also reported that Red Cross "CPR Saturday" is upcoming. The pole for the Red Cross antenna will be installed soon.
 - b. Activities – Brian, N6IHY, checked on Spring Lake for next Field Day but the date is taken. He will check to see if we can get on a waiting list. There was also discussion about potential other sites for next year.
 - c. Newsletter – No Report.
 - d. Public Service – It was mentioned that the Waves to Wine event still needs volunteers.
 - e. VE Liaison – No Report.
 - f. Repeater – No Report.
5. Unfinished Business
 - a. Meeting Programs
 - i) Sept. – BBQ and T-Hunt video (Brian, N6IHY, to organize)
 - ii) Oct – A Saturday picnic with a T-Hunt
 - b. Membership Roster will be published in the next Short Skip
 - c. The potential purchase of a PC Projector is ongoing.
6. New Business – It was mentioned that elections are coming up and we need to explore potential candidates. There was also discussion regarding streamlining the membership meeting business section in favor of program time.
7. Adjournment – It was motioned by Fred, KQ6OB, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. The motion passed.

Silent Key

George Shedore, KS6W, my predecessor here at HSC became a Silent Key on July 31, 2006. He was living in Huntersville N.C at the time and was 74 years old. Some of the old timers in the club will remember him I'm sure because he was quite active in the club at one time and was President of the club at least once also.

Thanks, Ed Jacobson W1EJ

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Meeting, August 2, 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.
 - a. Introductions
 - i) Officers & Directors – President, John, KE5RI, introduced officers and directors.
 - ii) Visitors – None
 - iii) Program Introduction – Last Best Chance.
 - iv) New Calls and Upgrades – None.
2. Approval of Minutes – It was moved by Dave, W6IBC, and seconded by Tracy, W6TMY, to approve the minutes of the last membership meeting as published in Short Skip with corrections (ie. Callsign of K6XLT). The motion passed.
3. Officer and Director Reports
 - a. President – John, KE5RI, - No Report.
 - b. Vice President – Kevin, K6BSG, - No Report.
 - c. Secretary – Rich, KP6SZA, - No Report.
 - d. Treasurer – Brian, N6IHY, reported bank balances.
 - e. Directors –
 - i) Fred, KQ6OB, - No Report.
 - ii) Jeff, KK6JAB, - No Report.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. ARES – Rich, KP6SZA, - Reported on the last training session "Personal Preparedness" and the next session that is titled "Natural Disasters".
 - b. Newsletter – No Report.
 - c. Public Service – Craig, K6XLT, noted that the Tour d' Organics event is pending. He still needs volunteers for Waves to Wine on 9/9-9/10.
 - d. VE Liaison – Brian, N6IHY, reported the next session is August 26, 9:00 am, at BBR.
- e. Repeaters
 - i) Operations – All repeaters are working.
 - ii) Net Control Operators – 9/5: Brian, N6IHY; 9/12: Dave, W6IBC; 9/19: Craig, K6XLT; 9/26: Fred, KQ6OB; 10/3: Kevin, K6BSG.
5. Unfinished Business
 - a. Update Club Roster – The roster is planned to be included in next month's Short Skip.
 - b. Brian, N6IHY, reported on last Field Day results.
6. New Business
 - a. There was discussion regarding possible sites for a club picnic.
 - b. Bob, WD6DPE, reported that "CPR Saturday" sponsored by Red Cross is 8/12 this year.
7. Biography – Fred, KQ6OB, relayed his experiences in amateur radio.
8. Show & Tell – John, KE5RI, showed a CW keyer built from a kit and a High Sierra screwdriver antenna.
9. Adjournment – It was moved and seconded by Bob, WD6DPE, and Bob, WA6NIV, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:23 pm. The motion passed.

If it's **September** that means it's time for **HSC's**



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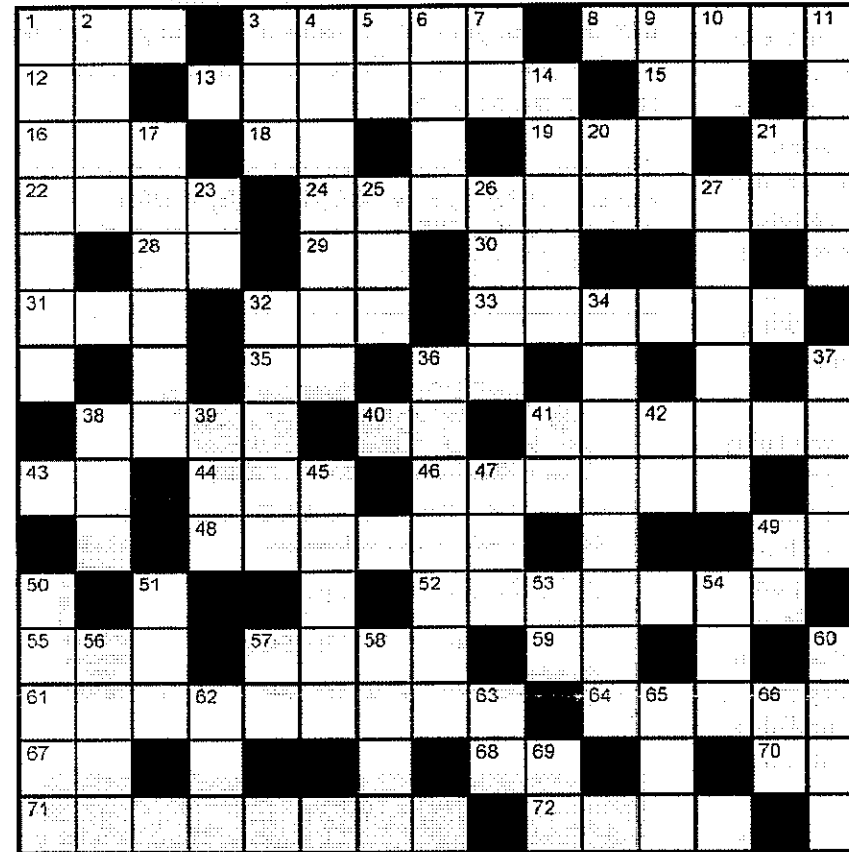
<p>HSC Electronic Supply of Santa Clara 3500 Ryder Street Santa Clara, CA 95051 408-732-1573 <i>At the corner of Ryder and Central Expressway, one block east of Lawrence Expressway</i></p>	<p>HSC Electronic Supply of Sacramento 4837 Amber Lane Sacramento, CA 95841 916-338-2545 <i>One block north of Auburn Blvd. off College Oak Blvd. Use Madison exit from I-80</i></p>	<p>HSC Electronic Supply of Rohnert Park 5681 Redwood Drive Rohnert Park, CA 94928 707-585-7344 <i>One-half mile north of Rohnert Park Expressway on west side of US 101</i></p>
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Since 1964!...

The Toy Makers

The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzle! by H. Ward Silver, NOAX ARRL Website August 18, 2006

What could be better than walking into the shack and getting a whiff of that great new radio smell? It wouldn't happen without the busy radio manufacturers that create all these great toys. This week's puzzle features all those things that go with getting and giving the gadgets of radio. Hold on to your wallet!

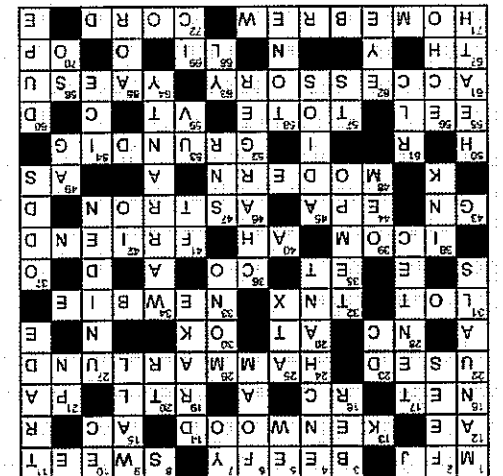


- 11. Barter
- 14. Maker of the famous twins
- 17. Largest American radio manufacturer
- 20. Switch that creates the transceiver
- 21. Omnipresent junction
- 23. Battery power
- 25. PC power supply style
- 26. Half of stereo
- 27. Scanner maker
- 32. Speed of an auction
- 34. Guarantee of repair
- 36. Brings batteries back to life
- 37. Chances
- 38. Sign checks with this
- 39. Initial manufacturer of parts or equipment (abbr)
- 41. Prefix for gear from 64 Across
- 42. Part of what Old MacDonald had
- 45. Say this to warn-out gear
- 47. Measure of signal and noise (abbr)
- 49. Most conductive metal (chemical symbol)
- 50. Made green kits
- 51. The three primary component types
- 53. Creates the ionosphere
- 54. Weights down antennas in the winter
- 56. Is there one of these in here?
- 57. Prefix for gear from 13 Across
- 58. Often sub-audible
- 60. Deceive
- 62. Used to look for defects
- 63. Female ham
- 65. Makes wide-band receivers
- 66. Simplest contest category
- 69. Prefix for gear from 38 Across

- Across**
- 1. Manufactures a little of everything
 - 3. A guy that can lift a DX-100 with one arm
 - 8. Best kind of deal
 - 12. Run these letters together to get a Morse "R"
 - 13. One of the "Big Three"
 - 15. Wall power
 - 16. What's left after expenses
 - 18. Wireless operation (abbreviation)
 - 19. Oldest type of semiconductor logic
 - 21. Abbreviation for your station amp
 - 22. Pre-owned
 - 24. Made Super-Pro receivers
 - 28. Unenergized relay contacts
 - 29. Type of crystal cut
 - 30. Works fine
 - 31. Purchased as a group
 - 32. CW abbr for "thank you"
 - 33. A rookie
 - 35. Two shortest Morse letters
 - 36. Military boss (abbr)
 - 38. One of the "Big Three"
 - 40. Battery energy capacity
 - 41. Take one of these along to look at gear
 - 43. Said to Irene by Samuel Morse
 - 44. Federal agency that cleans up PCBs
 - 46. Popular power supply manufacturer
 - 48. Equipment using current technology
 - 49. Stand-by (CW prosign)
 - 52. German world-band radio maker
 - 55. Slippery seller
 - 57. Carry or haul
 - 59. Abbreviation for "hollow-state" devices
 - 61. Supporting equipment or device
 - 64. One of the "Big Three"
 - 67. Suffix to indicate numeric order
 - 68. Battery metal (chemical symbol)
 - 70. Rig controller (abbr)
 - 71. Best manufacturer of all
 - 72. Makes dials turn

- Down**
- 1. Operating instructions and diagrams
 - 2. Charges
 - 3. Measure of data channel quality (abbr)
 - 4. Cast a spell on the buyer
 - 5. Which directions a dipole running NS radiates best
 - 6. Packing material
 - 7. Program that optimizes yagi designs
 - 9. Where the waris hang out
 - 10. ARES leader

The Solution...
no peeking!



2006 Club Officers

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	N6IY	707 575-5871
Director	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ6OB	
Director	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707 542-3860
Past President	John Felton	KE5RI	707 539-5831
Public Service Chairman	Craig Gaevert	KG6THE	707 545-4133
Repeater Chairman	John Felton	KE5RI	707 539-5831

Short Skip & Web Staff

Editor	Vicki Caro	KF6ZCT	415 279-3859
Hank's Swap Shop	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707 542-3860
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	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ6OB	
Volunteer Exam Liaison	Brian Torr	N6IY	707 575-5871
ARRL DXCC/WAS Mgr	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528

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

Tuesday Night Net

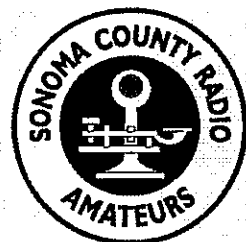
Remember to check in to the SCRA net each **Tuesday** evening on the **147.315+(PL 88.5)** repeater at **7:00 PM**. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the area and what is listed in Hank's Swap Shop. You will also hear the weekly *Amateur Radio Newline* broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

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1st Quarter Column	\$13 per month
Each Additional Quarter Column	\$4 per month
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For more information, Contact the Editor

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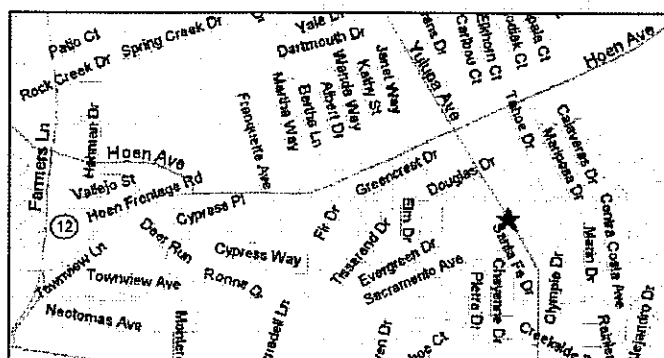


SCRA Club Meetings

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

Next meeting is Wednesday, September 6th 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.pdarrrl.org/sfsec/>

Contest Corner

by Kevin Alt K6BSG

Hello contesters. Check out the "Get your feet wet" contest if you have been thinking about entering the world of CW contesting. Also Earth-Moon-Earth contest. Happy DX'ing!

- 2 Sep - Russian RTTY WW Contest, 80-10 meters. See: www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results/index2.shtml.
- 2-3 Sep - All-Asian DX Contest - Phone, 80-10 meters. See: www.jarl.or.jp/English.
- 2-3 Sep - IARU Region 1 Field Day - SSB, 160-10 meters. See IARU Region 1 society Web sites for more information.
- 3 Sep - DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest - Digital Modes. See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/cqdlcont/fgdccc.htm.
- 4-5 Sep - MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint - 160-6 meters. See: www.qsl.net/miqrclub.
- 8-10 Sep - G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest - CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.fists.org.
- 9 Sep - Second-Class Operators Club (SOC) Marathon Sprint - CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.qsl.net/soc.
- 9-10 Sep - WAE DX Contest - SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.darc.de/referate/dx.
- 9-11 Sep - ARRL September VHF QSO Party - 6 meters and up. See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/sepvhf.html>.
- 10 Sep - North American Sprint - CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.
- 10-11 Sep - Tennessee QSO Party - CW/Phone/Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.k4ro.net/tcq/1qp/1qp06_rules.html.
- 12-14 Sep - YLRL Howdy Days - CW/SSB, all bands. See: www.ylrl.org.
- 15-18 Sep - Get Your Feet Wet Weekend - CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.fists.org.

- 16 Sep - QRP Afield - CW/Phone/Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.qsl.net/wq1rp/main.htm.
- 16-17 Sep - ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest - All modes. See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/10-GHz.html>.
- 16-17 Sep - ARRL EME Contest - 2.3 GHz and up. See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/eme.html>.
- 16-17 Sep - Scandinavian Activity Contest - CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.sk3bg.se/contest/sacsc.htm.
- 16-17 Sep - Washington State Salmon Run - CW/SSB/Digital, 160-6 meters. See: www.wwdxc.org.
- 16-17 Sep - South Carolina QSO Party - Phone/CW/Digital, 160 meters - 70 cm. See: www.kf4ghc.net.
- 16-17 Sep - QCWA Fall QSO Party - Phone/CW/Digital, 160-10 meters. See: <http://qcwa.org/2006-qso-party-rules.htm>.
- 18 Sep - North American Sprint - SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.
- 23-24 Sep - CQ Worldwide RTTY DX Contest - 80-10 meters. See: www.cq-amateur-radio.com.
- 23-24 Sep - Scandinavian Activity Contest - SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.sk3bg.se/contest/sacsc.htm.
- 23-24 Sep - Texas QSO Party - CW/Phone/Digital, 160-2 meters. See: www.txqp.org.
- 24-25 Sep - Classic Exchange - SSB, 160-2 meters. See: <http://qsl.usfi.com/CX>.
- 25 Sep - Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint - CW/PSK31, 80-10 meters. See: www.njqrp.org.
- 30 Sep-2 Oct - TOEC WW Grid Contest - CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.sk3bg.se/contest/toecwwgc.htm.
- 30 Sep-2 Oct - Arkansas QSO Party - CW/SSB/PSK31, 80-2 meters. See: www.arkan.us.

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Application

Please Print Clearly New Renewal

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ARRL Member? Yes No

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Mail to: SCRA, P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

SEPTEMBER 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 7:30 PM Marin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley	2 10:00 AM ROVARC Meeting Red Oak Victory Ship, Point Richmond Directions: www.saradokstorky.org Marin Cyclists Double Century See Page 3
3	4	5	6 7:00 PM SCRA Meeting Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa	7	8	9 Waves to Wine 2006 See Page 1
10 Waves to Wine 2006 See Page 1	11	12 7:30 PM Hamilton Wireless Association Building 549, Hamilton Field, Novato	13 7:00 PM REDXA Meeting Master McGee's Restaurant, Petaluma 6:30 PM SCRA Board of Directors Meeting (note date change)	14	15 8:00 PM SFARC Meeting Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Auduborn of Blvd. 7, 42nd & Clement St., San Francisco	16
17	18	19	20 7:30 PM VMARC Meeting McDougal Hall, Sonoma Dev. Center, Glen Ellen	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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Short Skip

The Newsletter of
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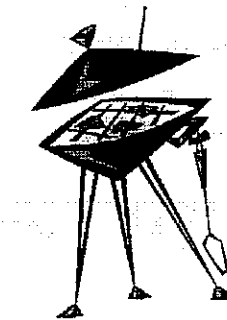
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VOLUME 31 NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2006



2nd Annual Wienie Roast

The Roast will be followed by the September General Meeting with a program all about Fox Hunting

by
Brian Torr N6IYY, SCRA Treasure

Come join us at our September meeting on September 6. We will start off with the 2nd Annual Wienie Roast. The hot dogs and soft drinks will be provided by the club. If you would like to bring a side dish (potato salad, chips, dip, cookies, dessert), that would be great. If so, bring enough for about four people (unless you don't mind taking alot of it home!). The Wienie Roast starts about 6pm at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave, in Santa Rosa.

Following the Wienie Roast will be our regular September meeting. The program will be a short video on Fox Hunting (aka Transmitter Hunting, T-Hunting). If you have any Fox Hunting gear or techniques you would like to show off or demonstrate, please bring it along. A few of us were involved in an exercise earlier this year with the Civil Air Patrol where we used Fox Hunting to find a (simulated) downed plane, and it was quite an adventure! We are hoping to include a Fox Hunt as part of our club picnic this fall, so come and see what you'll need to be prepared.

VE Exams Yield Two New Hams

We held a VE Session on Saturday, August 26 and had two candidates. Both candidates earned their Technician Class license. Congratulations to Sandee Dearden and Lothar Reichertz! And thanks to the VEs that participated: Dave Harrison, W6IBC, Rick Reiner, K6ZWB, Rich Freitas, KF6SZA, and Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV. Our next VE session will be in November, tentatively either November 11 or November 18.

Brian Torr, N6IYY

Waves to Wine 2006

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'm still in need of hams for Waves to Wine 9-10 of September. I have several rest stop shifts that need to be filled or if you wish you can ride along as a SAG. I think for the most part we can tailor a shift to suit your needs. If you are available please get back to me before Friday evening. After that Bill Hillendahl has graciously agreed to manage the event while I take off on a long anticipated vacation.

Again, Big Thanks to all Public Service volunteers.

73s
Craig Gaevrt
Public Service Wrangler K6XLT

VE Exams

Upcoming ARRL VE test sessions in the area

September 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>

September 24, 2006 Silverado Amateur Radio Society
Time: 1 pm Walk-ins allowed
Contact: Richard Rau - 707.252.6276 - K06FR@ARRL.NET
Location: Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa, CA 94559

This information is from the ARRL website. Always double check dates/times. For additional information from the SCRA Volunteer Exam Liaison, contact Brian Torr, N6IYY, 707.575.5871