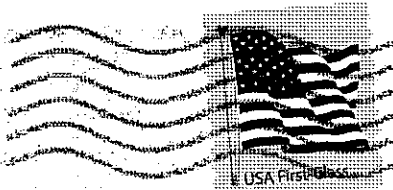


JUNE 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 7:30 PM Marin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shore Road, Mill Valley	2 10:00 AM ROVARC Meeting Red Oak Victory Ship, Point Richmond Directions: www.ssrredoakvictory.org
3	4	5	6 7:00 PM SCRA Meeting Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa	7	8	9 9:30 AM VE Session Blood Bank of the Redwoods
10	11	12	13 7:00 PM REDXA Meeting Mister McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma 6:30 PM SCRA Board of Directors Meeting (note date change)	14	15 8:00 PM SFARC Meeting Veterans' Administration Medical Center, Auditorium of Bldg. 7, 42nd & Clement St., San Francisco	16 Terrible Two Bike Race
17	18	19 7:30 PM Hamilton Wireless Association Building 549, Hamilton Field, Novato	20 7:30 PM VMARC Meeting McDougall Hall, Sonoma Dev. Center, Glen Ellen	21	22 Field Day Oakmont Field	23 Field Day Oakmont Field
24 Field Day Oakmont Field	25	26	27	28	29	30

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Short Skip

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CLUB STATION
W6LFJ

VOLUME 32 NUMBER 6



REPEATER STATION
W6SON

JUNE 2007



Heading for the Field

by Dave Harrison, W6IBC
SCRA President

The ARRL-backed Field Day, June 23-24, is one of our Club's most important and interesting technical and social activities this year. Why is that so, you ask? First, Field Day gives us an annual opportunity to test our skills at rapidly setting up and successfully operating portable equipment on the high frequency bands in a field setting. This activity is essential club training to prepare for a real emergency. The origins of Field Day go back to 1933 when it was started as "a test of the emergency availability of portable stations and equipment," (F.E. Handy in QST, 1933). Today, Field Day provides a broad demonstration of what amateur radio has to offer in case of a communication emergency, when conventional means and paths are disabled or overloaded. We spend much of the year training for emergencies using our VHF-UHF local repeaters and resources. Field Day completes the "emcomm" picture by demonstrating our club's capability for emergency operation on high frequencies to provide regional and national radio communications paths, and not just local capability.

Second, Field Day affords us the opportunity to work together as a team. It moves us from a passive mode to an active mode, and it strengthens our interest in, and understanding of, amateur radio. We put up interesting large antenna systems that probably wouldn't fit in at our homes for one reason or another. We get to use different kinds of radio equipment on different bands and in different modes. We operate the radios in a "contest mode" that hones and polishes our on-air skills in passing traffic. In one important aspect, Field Day is a contest with points for contacts, and it draws upon our competitive spirit.

Third, the social aspects of Field Day cannot be underestimated. We "camp out" together for a 24 hour period, and get to know each other better. We typically have communal meals and a barbecue on Saturday night. This social aspect

of Field Day fosters club interest and vibrancy and gives us a chance to showcase amateur radio to the public. Field Day is not only a test of our radio capabilities, it's a lot of fun. I really hope you'll be part of our Field Day activity this year. Even if you can't stay overnight, please drop by our site and enjoy the festivities. We'll be looking forward to seeing you.

During May SCRA provided communications for several public service events including the MS Walkathon, the Wine Country Century and the Human Race. Don't overlook the Terrible Two event on June 16th. Thanks to all of our members who participated in May, and a special thanks to Craig, K6XLT, for planning and pulling these events together as Public Service Chairman. A great job!

Our May 2nd program featuring Dale, NX6S, covered some very interesting technical territory relating to antennas and antenna analyzers. Many thanks to Dale for coming up the Wine Country and presenting the program. Thanks also to Al, K6MXI and Bob, K6QXY for bringing ARRL columnist Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ (QST's "The World Above 50 MHz") to our meeting. Gene had some interesting comments to give us concerning the Air Force PAVE-PAWS radar system issue confronting 440 repeaters in our area. Our repeater chairman, John KE5RI also had news to report on that front. Stay tuned!

On Sunday May 6th we had a very successful day at the Santa Rosa Junior College's annual open house, known as Day Under the Oaks. Our day began by witnessing a radio contact between Astronaut Sunita Williams aboard the International Space Station and ten local students via the earth station located in Lark Hall and managed by Tim, W6MU. Later Brian, N6IYY and I manned an information table, promoting ham radio and our club with a live APRS demonstration which was very well received.

Our next meeting program, June 6th, features Mike Polkinghorn, K6PUD, speaking on the topic of Amateur Radio Digital Modes. We'll also be explaining the logging software that will be used at Field Day. See you there! For those of you wanting to license or upgrade, don't forget our VE session on June 9th.

2007 Club Officers

President	Dave Harrison	W6IBC	
Vice President			
Secretary	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ6OB	
Treasurer	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707 575-5871
Director	Bob Arthur	KG6ZDN	
Director	Pat Coyle	KG6JSL	
Past President	John Felton	KE5RI	707 539-5831
Public Service Chairman	Craig Gaevert	K6XLT	707 545-4133
Repeater Chairman	John Felton	KE5RI	

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Web Master	Bob Arthur	KG6ZDN	

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Refreshments	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ6OB	
Volunteer Exam Liaison	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707 575-5871
ARRL DXCC/WAS Mgr	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

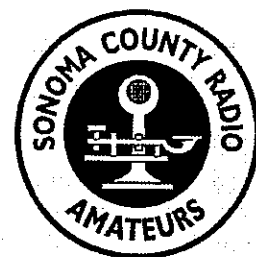
Remember to check in to the SCRA net each **Tuesday** evening on the **147.315+(PL 88.5)** repeater at **7:00 PM**. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the area and what is listed in Hank's Swap Shop. You will also hear the weekly *Amateur Radio Newsline* broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

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Full page (one side)	\$35 per month
Pre-printed inserts (each)	\$35 per month

For more information, Contact the Editor

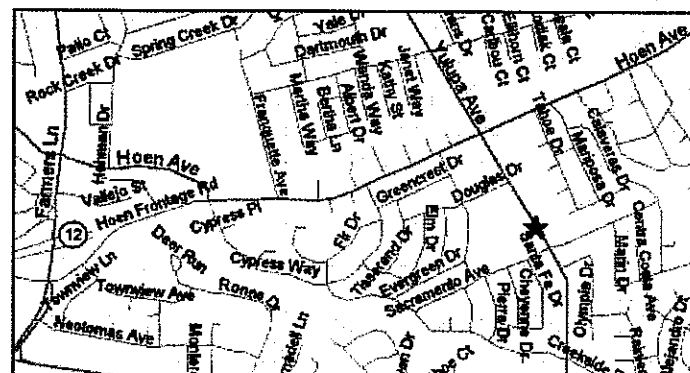
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**SCRA Club Meetings**

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

Next meeting is Wednesday, June 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 testers. Ok, it's time for Field Day once again. The club has plans for another great outing to Oakmont. I hope to see everyone out there the weekend of 23-24 June. There is also the annual ARRL VHF contest and a meteor scatter event. Happy DX'ing!

- 2 Jun - IARU Region 1 Field Day - CW, 160-10 meters.
See: IARU Region 1 Society Web sites for more information.
- 2 Jun - Look Around in the Field Contest - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters.
See: mysite.verizon.net/vze7v384/nj2om/index.html.
- 2-3 Jun - 2007 Alabama QSO Party - SSB/CW, 160-10 meters.
See: www.AlabamaQSOParty.org.
- 2-3 Jun - SEANET Contest - CW/SSB/Digital, 160-10 meters.
See: www.sabah.net.my/seanet/contest_rules.htm.
- 9 Jun - Portugal Day Contest - SSB, 80-10 meters.
See: www.rep.pt/pdf/contest_portugalday.pdf.
- 9 Jun - Bill Windle QSO Party - CW, 160-2 meters.
See: www.firstclasscw.org.uk.
- 9-10 Jun - ANARTS WW RTTY/Digital Contest - 80-10 meters.
See: anarts.com.au/rules2007.htm.
- 9-10 Jun - GACW WWSA CW DX Contest - 80-10 meters.
See: gacw.no-ip.org.
- 9-11 Jun - ARRL June VHF QSO Party - all modes, 6 meters and up.
See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/june-vhf.html>.
- 10 Jun - Asia-Pacific Sprint - SSB, 20 and 15 meters only.
See: jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt.
- 15-17 Jun - Summer Meteor Scatter Contest - FSK441, 144 MHz.
See: solair.eunet.yu/~s.ilic/summer_msc.htm.
- 16 Jun - Kids Day Operating Event - Voice, 80-2 meters.
See: www.arrl.org/FandES/eod/kd-rules.html.
- 16-17 Jun - West Virginia QSO Party - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters.
See: www.qsl.net/wvsarc.
- 16-17 Jun - All-Asian DX Contest - CW, 160-10 meters.
See: www.jarl.or.jp/English.
- 16-17 Jun - SMIRK QSO Party - CW/Phone, 6 meters only.
See: www.smirk.org.
- 16-17 Jun - Quebec QSO Party - CW/Digital/Voice, 80-2 meters.
See: www.rqgi.ca/qgp.
- 17 Jun - Spanish Islands Contest - CW/SSB/RTTY, 80-10 meters.
See: www.ea5ol.net/die.
- 23-24 Jun - ARRL Field Day - all modes, all bands.
See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/fd.html>.
- 23-24 Jun - His Majesty King of Spain Contest - SSB, 160-10 meters.
See: <http://ure.es/>.
- 23-24 Jun - QRP ARCI Milliwatt Field Day - all modes, all bands.
See: www.qrparki.org.

**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 ☐

Dues & Fees: (SCRA dues year is 3/1/05 to 2/28/06)

Individual / Associate Member	\$24 (\$6.00/qtr)
Family Membership	\$36 (\$9.00/qtr)
Under 18 Membership	\$18 (\$3.00/qtr)
Badge	\$10

Badge Information

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Payment Calculations: Make checks payable to SCRA

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Total	\$ _____

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

ARRL Submits Plan to Mitigate Repeater Interference to Military Radars

NEWINGTON, CT, May 11, 2007

The ARRL has submitted an interference mitigation plan to the US Department of Defense (DoD) as part of an effort to resolve reported interference from dozens of 70 cm amateur repeaters to US military radar systems on both coasts. Since Amateur Radio is secondary to government users from 420 to 450 MHz, hams must not interfere with primary users and, under the rules, can be forced to cease operation. Earlier this year, the US Air Force asked the FCC to order dozens of repeater systems to either eliminate interference to its "PAVE PAWS" missile and satellite detection and tracking radars in Massachusetts and California or shut down.

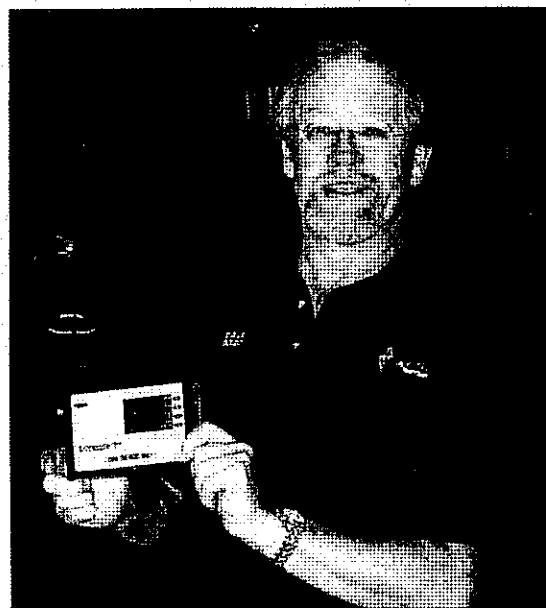
"We are waiting the response of the DoD representative to the proposal and will continue to provide information as to its status when it becomes available," commented ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND. The interference mitigation plan has four primary steps.

- All repeaters the DoD has identified as potential interference sources will immediately and temporarily reduce transmitter power output (TPO) to 5 W.
- The ARRL will conduct Longley-Rice studies on each repeater system to determine what further mitigation techniques might apply to individual repeaters. These could include relocating the system, the use of directional antenna systems to create nulls towards the PAVE PAWS site, permanent power reductions or a combination of these techniques.
- The DoD will review ARRL's studies to determine if the proposals will meet DoD's unspecified field strength requirements to mitigate the potential interference satisfactorily.
- Once the DoD reviews and approves the proposals, the ARRL will provide the recommendations to respective repeater frequency coordinating groups and the FCC.

The situation affects 15 repeaters within less than 100 miles of Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and more than 100 repeaters within some 140 miles of Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento, California. PAVE PAWS facilities occupy essentially the entire 70 cm band -- one factor that makes mitigation difficult. Feeding upward of 1800 active antenna elements, the broadband radar transmitters emit an average power output of more than 145 kW.

Henderson says the two frequency coordinating organizations involved would be expected to disseminate individual mitigation strategies to applicable repeater owners and trustees. They, in turn, would be responsible for implementing the proposals or developing alternative proposals that protect the radar systems to the same extent as the

continued on page 5



May Speaker, Dale O'Hara NX6S

Dale, NX6S, designer of the Timewave TZ-900 AntennaSmith antenna analyzer, spoke at our May membership meeting about antennas and antenna analyzers. He discussed the background and factors that led him to design the TZ-900.

Next VE Session: June 9, 2007

If you've been studying for a new license or upgrade, your next opportunity to take your test is coming up on June 9. SCRA will be hosting VE exams on June 9, starting at 9am, at the Blood Bank of the Redwoods, 2324 Bethards Dr. in Santa Rosa. All test elements will be administered. Registration ends at 9:30am and testing will begin shortly thereafter.

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. Please park on the street (parking lot is for blood donors).

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 erased. If you have any special needs, please contact Brian Torr, N6IYY in advance.

Good Luck! Brian Torr, N6IYY n6iyy@arrl.net (707) 575-5871

Field Day 2007 Announcement

by Dave Harrison, W6IBC

At our last meeting one of our members asked me, "what should I expect at Field Day?" A great question for sure! This year, SCRA returns to a site at Oakmont, a large plowed field awaiting development approval. For the past two years SCRA has been granted the privilege of using this site by the landowner. It's a large open space adjacent to west of Highway 12, and south of Oakmont Boulevard. We'll probably set up about mid-field under the trees.

We plan to set up our camp and antennas on Friday afternoon, June 22nd, after work, and before sundown. We'll be setting up three stations and three antenna systems, including a tri-band beam atop a crank-up tactical tower. One of our stations will be operating in single sideband mode on the high frequency bands including 80, 40, 20, 15 and possibly 10 meters. Another station will be operating in CW and digital modes on the same bands. We will again have a beginner's station, known as a GOTA or "get on the air" station, probably operating in single sideband mode. Our stations will be located in RVs, trailers or in tents, and we will be using several small generators to provide necessary power. If there is sufficient interest and participation, we will operate at least one station throughout Saturday night. We may also put several low power QRP stations on the air, as well as VHF and UHF stations. Your board has decided not to sell the Toaster before this year's Field Day, and we presently plan to have it at our site as one of the operating positions and resources. This decision should help the club decide whether there is a future for the Toaster as a club asset, or whether we should continue efforts to sell it.

I plan to set up a small tent and cot which will be my home for the two night duration of the event. I hope you will also consider spending at least one night at our site. We'll have a "porta-potty" at the site, along with a supply of water. Please bring plenty of sun block, bottled drinking water, and enthusiasm to this year's Field Day. Kids are very welcome, but will need supervision, given the

obvious hazards associated with this event. Also, we may encounter some Poison Oak in the vicinity of the trees, so be on the lookout for that.

We'll have a communal barbecue meal on Saturday night, with a \$5.00 charge for each adult to cover expenses. Kids under 12 will be free. On Sunday morning your Board of Directors will cook and serve up breakfast for everyone present, resuming a longstanding club tradition. Coffee and soft drinks should be available throughout the event. (We'll have our usual donation can available as well, for the drinks).

We'll need a team of workers to help with Friday night antenna setup, and another team of workers to help with Sunday afternoon tear down. If you can't come out for the entire weekend, please consider joining us for one of our work parties, or just drop by and say hello and do some operating or logging. Field Day 2007 promises to be a great club activity, and I hope you'll plan to be a part of it. See you at Field Day!

73, Dave, W6IBC

Notice To Members Regarding Bylaws Revision




The SCRA Board of Directors has made considerable progress in revising the club's Bylaws. A final draft will be available at the June meeting for pickup by interested parties, or it can be obtained by email from Pat KG6JSL (coylaw@cs.com) in Word Perfect format, or from Dave, W6IBC (w6ibc@arrl.net) in Word format. The Board of Directors will vote on adopting the new bylaws at its regular meeting on June 13. If the Board adopts the bylaws, they will be presented to the membership at the July 5th (Thursday) regular membership meeting for adoption. At the same time a motion will be made to rescind the current Club Constitution. That vote requires a two-thirds majority (supermajority) to pass. Please plan on attending the regular membership meeting on June 6th and the next meeting on July 5th so that your voice can be heard concerning this important matter.

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Disasters and Implications to Amateur Radio Part III

by Rich Freitas KF6SZA, Sonoma County
ARES District Emergency Coordinator

This is the final of three articles exploring the characteristics of disaster response.

Nature of Amateur Radio

Amateur Radio has a nature that makes it extremely useful in disasters; it also has a nature that makes it extremely un-useful in disasters. The downside is that almost nobody knows what Amateur Radio is or does; however, when communications fail, Amateur Radio comes on. Amateur Radio is less likely to be forced off the air because it has equipment redundancy (nearly every ham seems to have at least 10 radios), alternate power supplies, and is willing to take as many car batteries as required to keep communications going. Amateur Radio is not tied to the specific locations, agencies, or types of disasters; it can be flexibly used for multiple types of disasters. Despite having thousands of hams, Amateur Radio is a scarce resource – may be too old to respond, physically unfit to respond, only want to do CW or contesting or DXing, or have never participated in emergency training. If you expect 100 hams, you will get 10.

Amateur Radio is also one of the worst at giving situation reports despite the fact that everyone can hear them and should be informed; it is also not user-friendly – nobody knows who you can talk to, where you are to use you, or how to use a radiogram form. Messages sent by Amateur Radio have a much lower chance of getting responded to; this is because there may be no answer available, the message got to the wrong person, the person who got the message has much higher priorities, the message is tied up in the paperwork pile, or because the sending or receiving operator never followed up to see why an answer hadn't come through.

Implications for Amateur Radio

If the Incident Command System (ICS) is the best management system in the world, we should use it to structure the Amateur Radio response. Don't wait to be called. Even if you are told not to respond, you can still prepare for mobilization and monitor the situation; it is better to ramp up fast and then stand down rather than to wait until being called and working from a "catch-up" position. Develop a working relationship with government and served agencies; if they tell you they will call you only if they need you, it is time to do discuss how they plan to call you when all communications have failed. Amateur Radio will not be able to cover all locations requiring communications so avoid being sent to useless locations – use your expertise

to make suggestions where amateur communications can be of the greatest use.

If the disaster is widespread and Amateur Radio is dispersed, use Amateur Radio to assemble a systematic and thorough report on what areas are affected. Look for holes in the system; areas with no amateur to give a good or bad damage assessment must be ruled out by having someone take a look. Whether or not an area is affected, the emergency services need to know. Expect that Amateur Radio will be unable to move easily due to blocked roads, traffic congestion, or damaged bridges. Just like the emergency services may be unfavorably affected, so will Amateur Radio. Repeaters may be working or out-of-service; be prepared to use both simplex and repeater communications by training on both methods.

People will insist on using phones and phones will be a huge priority for the response – the faster the phone system is repaired, the faster the response will be able to work. Take the time to compile a list of cell phone numbers for key people. When the phones come back on, begin to stand down the Amateur Radio team rather than burn them out. And, spend as much time as possible following up on messages and trying to "close the loop".

Structuring Your Response

Use a formal and complete Incident Command response including organization, objectives, terminology, and operational periods. Send regular situation reports over the air and post them on the internet (if possible) as well. Assign one person to ensure the nets get the latest and read the situation reports on the air – a minimum of once an hour on operations frequencies and once every 15 minutes on check-in frequencies. Go-Kits should be one bag for personal gear and one for a single station set-up. If one person can't carry it ... it is too much. Inform surrounding Amateur Radio groups of the possible need for mutual aid; don't be an example of why Amateur Radio operators are often the worst communicators.

Omit things from your Incident Command System and Standard Operating Procedures by conscious and methodical intent rather than simply forgetting to do it. If you don't need a safety officer, don't assign one ... but don't forget it. Use non-hams to assist in non-radio operations. They can do member callout, logging of net traffic, writing situation reports, updating other clubs, covering for bathroom breaks, providing logistics support, timing situation reports, or taking pictures. Take lots of pictures ... it makes your "lessons learned" much more interesting even if nobody learns your lessons.

Be flexible! Disasters are never what you thought they were going to be. Things happen faster than you can react or think about and there are no right answers ... especially when information is unavailable or incorrect (as it usually

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Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting, May 9, 2007 Minutes

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. was called to order at 7:05 PM on May 9, 2007. Present at the meeting were President David Harrison, W6IBC, Treasurer Brian Torr, K6IYY, Past President John Felton, KE5RI, Director Bob Author, KG6ZDN, Director Patrick Coyle KG6JSL, and John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ. Pat, KG6JSL, was appointed acting secretary for the meeting.

Dave, W6IBC, reported on club participation in the Wine Country Century and advised the Santa Rosa Junior College has invited to club to participate in its annual Day under the Oaks, with a scheduled QSO with the International Space Station.

Brian, N6IYY, reported on the need for two signatures on club bank accounts. He also reported that the next VE Session was scheduled for June 9, 2007, at Blood Bank of the Redwoods. A report on membership renewal was made and there are still some members who have not renewed.

Pat, KG6JSL, reported on efforts on the Toaster. It was decided to defer immediate sale and explore the possibility of keeping and using the Toaster.

Articles and Bylaw revisions: An extended discussion of proposed revisions of the Bylaws of the club for tax exempt status was held, including discussion and consideration of comments received from members. The Board recommended revisions of specific provisions and deferred recommendation on other provision until consideration by the membership. It was planned that revised Bylaws would be presented to the membership at the June membership meeting for review, discussion and approval if appropriate.

Field Day: An extended discussion was held regarding arrangements for field day. The target will be three stations with set-up to be the afternoon of June 23, 2007. Dave, W6IBC, volunteered to manage food. Brian, N6IYY, will supervise antenna construction. John WB6FRZ, volunteered to help with transportation and set up.

PCAM: Brian, N6IYY reported that he is following up and will report further as matters develop.

Mentoring: Brian, N6IYY, reported he is getting a good response to his request for Elmers.

Inventory: Dave, W6IBC, advised that the inventory of club assets is proceeding and a report will be made when completed.

Repeaters: John, KE5RI, reported that an issue to be considered is whether we should seek coordination of 147.315 at the Castle Rock repeated. This issue was tabled for the time being. John further reported that he had received an email concerning possible interference of our system with a San Jose system that has applied for coordination on our frequency. The email advised of claimed interference and to protect time lines, John has protested the application by the San Jose station to NARCC for coordination of that system. There ensued a discussion of the necessity of a field survey and test of our coverage and service area which will be undertaken. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Pat Coyle, KG6JSL, Acting Secretary

June Program

Mike Polkinghorn, K6PUD, will be presenting a program covering amateur radio digital modes. To stay up to date, don't miss this timely program! See you at our June Meeting on June 6th

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Meeting, May 2, 2007 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Dave, W6IBC. Another officer present was Treasurer Brian, N6IYY. Pat, KG6JSL, was appointed acting secretary. Guest of Al Ferrara was Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, author of QST magazine's The World Above 50 MHz column.

Dale O'Harra, NX6S, presented the program on antenna analyzers. Dale is an engineer and long time radio amateur who designed the AntennaSmith antenna analyzer which he has licensed to Timewave. His analyzer presents graphic display of all antenna measurements and has a computer interface. The presentation was very interesting and informative.

Repeater Chairman John Felton, KE5RI, reported of interference alleged by military installations on the UHF bands and that the Mt. Diablo repeater has been ordered to shut down. Discussion followed and it was noted that the alleged interference may be a system problem rather than actual interference.

John, KE5RI, moved and passed that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted.

Reports: Treasurer Brian, N6IYY gave the Treasurer's report.

Repeater: John, KE5RI, reported on the NARCC meeting in Concord. He stated that UHF repeater allocation has been filled and a committee has been formed to study narrowing band width use allocations. John reported that our system is up, the amplifier is installed and is working well. Public Service: Craig, K6XLT, reported that the club provided support for the MS Walk and all went well. Upcoming are the Wine Country Century bicycle event on May 5, 2007, and the Human Race on May 12, 2007. Volunteers are needed for both events. Upcoming on June 16, 2007 is the Terrible Two bicycle race and volunteers are needed. Emergency Service: Rich, KF6SXA, expressed thanks for the good attendance at the recent training session. ECCOM West is May 9, 2007. Rich will schedule more training sessions and will advise of dates.

Mentoring: Brian, N6IYY, advised that the program is doing well but requested more volunteers to act as Elmers. VE Session: Brian announced the next VE session is June 6, 2006, at the Blood Bank of the Redwoods. A discussion followed regarding the revised question pools.

Old Business:

Bylaws: Pat, KG6JSL, explained the status to the revision of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to qualify the club for Public Benefit status with attendant tax advantages. Pat moved, and Michael, KC6UNA, seconded the motion that revised Articles of Incorporation be adopted and submitted to the Secretary of State for filing. A quorum of the membership was present and the motion passed unanimously. Pat advised that the Board of Directors would continue to review the club bylaws and take comments from members and present proposed revisions to the membership.

Field Day: John, KE5RI, gave a history of field day and a discussion ensued regarding the theme of this year's field day activities, whether we should structure the event for point gathering or as a more social and learning event. The consensus was that the theme should be as a social and learning event. John, WB6FRZ also expressed his views concerning field day operations.

Toaster: Pat, KG6JSL reported that the Toaster was displayed for sale in April at the Auto Mart. There were two parties interested by no solid offers. Further repairs to the Toaster would be made. A discussion ensued regarding sale of the Toaster and sentiment was to defer immediate sale and see if it could be put to use by the Club.

New Business: Dave, W6IBC, discussed access to the club email

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Disasters and Implications to Amateur Radio Part III

is). Things will not work, things will go wrong, and any decision you make will be determined by others, who were not there, to be the wrong decision. Also, people are unrealistic in what they expect the responders to do. It takes awhile for things to get organized and rumors will start in the absence of reliable official information. Finally, no matter how many frequencies you have, you can only listen to one or two at the most; emergency organizations wanting more frequencies will still experience communications failures.

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.

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Membership Meeting, May 4, 2007 Minutes

broadcasts. A discussion was held regarding appropriate messages for broadcast.

Dave, W6IBC, reviewed programs and activities planned. The club was invited to attend the Santa Rosa Junior College Day Under the Oaks activity, including a scheduled QSO with the International Space Station and a club table at the event. Dave announced that digital modes would be the subject of the June meeting presentation.

Dave announced that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held at 6:30 PM on May 9, 2007, at Narsi's restaurant at Coddington, Santa Rosa.

Net Control volunteers for the club Tuesday night net were

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ARRL Submits Plan to Mitigate Repeater Interference to Military Radars

mitigation strategy would.

Cooperation will be the key to a successful resolution of the situation, Henderson says. "Although ARRL has no means to compel compliance with the mitigation strategies, each repeater is absolutely obligated not to interfere with these radars," he emphasized. "Failure to implement the mitigation strategy or otherwise eliminate interference attributed to an individual repeater will result in immediate FCC action."

Henderson points out that the FCC is aware of and monitoring this situation and will act as necessary to protect the radars from interference. He stresses, however, that the US military is aware of the critical role Amateur Radio repeaters play in disasters and emergencies, and a wholesale shutdown of US 70 cm Amateur Radio activity is not under consideration.

A US Air Force contractor identified the allegedly problematic repeater systems last summer, but the situation didn't become critical until the Air Force contacted the FCC in

March. ARRL officials met with Defense Department representatives later that month to discuss alleged interference to the PAVE PAWS radar sites, and last month Henderson contacted Amateur Radio frequency coordinating organizations in both affected areas -- the Northern Amateur Relay Council of California (NARCC) and the New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC).

Ed. Note: The SCRA 440 Repeater was not among the 105 Northern California repeaters initially listed for possible shutdown.



W6MU at the SRJC ARISS

The W6MU at SRJC ARISS Contact shows Tim Bosma, W6MU at the controls of the Santa Rosa Junior College Earth Station, and file of students awaiting the chance to talk with Astronaut Suni Williams during SRJC's Day Under the Oaks annual open house.



Field Day photos courtesy of Bill, KH6GJV, and ARRL SF Section Newsletter, Nov. 2006.

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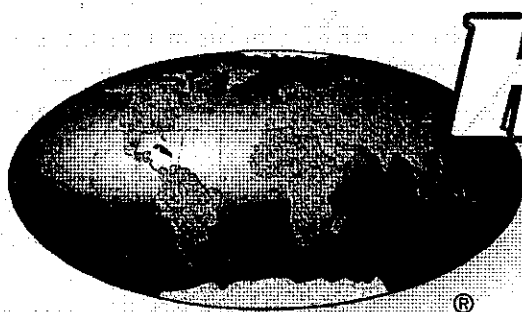
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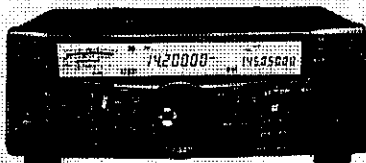
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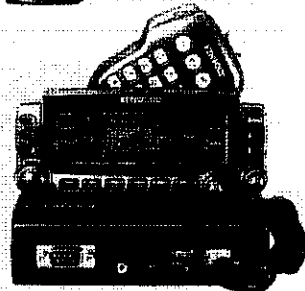
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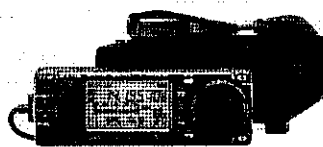
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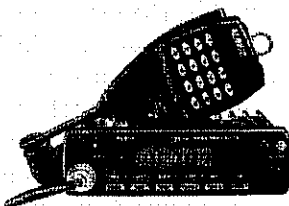
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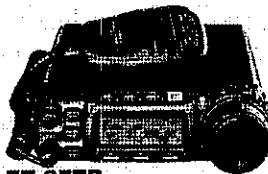
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