#### **K6XLT Named 2007 SCRA** Member of the Year



Craig Gaevert, K6XLT, was recognized at the SCRA Holiday Party as our club's 2007 Member of the Year. Craig was honored for his outstanding performance as SCRA's Public Service Chair this past year and received an engraved plaque commemorating this award. Other members recognized with Certificates by the Board of Directors for their service to SCRA included Bob Olsten, WD6DPE (most net check-ins);



John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ (Field Day Technical Support, JOTA, and Oakmont Ham Class); Pat Coyle KG6JSL (Board of Directors, Bylaws Revision, Field Day, PCAM, JOTA, and Toaster revitalization); Brian Torr, N6IIY (Treasurer, VE, Mentoring, Program, Day Under the Oaks, Field Day, PCAM, JOTA and Holiday

Party); Fred Polkinghorn, KQ6OB (Secretary, Program Refreshments, Field Day, Oakmont Ham Class, and Club Picnic); John Felton, KE5RI (Board of Director, Repeater, Program, Field Day, Oakmont Ham Class, and Club Picnic Fox); Vicki Cero, KF6ZCT (Short Skip Editor); and Bob Arthur, KG6ZDN (Board of Director, Field Day, Club Picnic, JOTA and Webmaster activities).

### Which way to Field Day?

by Brian Torr, N6IIY

With Christmas less than a week away as I write this, it seems odd to be asking about an event that doesn't occur until late June. But my question is not so much about map directions to a physical location, but rather a question as to what "direction" SCRA should take with Field Day 2008. Should we aim for FD being a social event? Should it be an all-out contest effort? Should it focus on public awareness of

amateur radio? Should it be a means to attract more people to our hobby? Should FD be an exercise of our ability to operate under emergency conditions (this was the goal of the first FD)? Should it be an opportunity to help get new hams acquainted with HF operating?

Over the years, SCRA has gone down each of the paths listed above, and often combined several of them in one Field Day. Most have been successful. A few have been quite challenging. The good news, of course, is that we can always learn from our mistakes and we can always change our direction if one path is not to our liking.

Once we determine a direction for Field Day 2008, we need to find a location that would best serve our goal. As we have seen over the last decade, some locations are great for contesting, but are no good for public awareness. Others are good for socializing, but leave a lot to be desired in terms of public awareness or contesting.

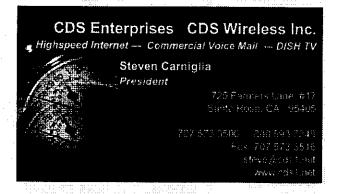
So what should be the direction for Field Day 2008?

In 2007, SCRA made positive strides in public awareness through participation in events such as Day Under the Oaks and the Wings Over Wine Country Air Show. These events, along with our inaugural one-weekend Technician Class resulted in several new hams and new club members. We have generated some great momentum.

I think it would be great if we could use Field Day 2008 as an opportunity to keep that momentum going and give these new hams more HF operating opportunities. At Field Day 2007, the Get On The Air (GOTA) station ran circles around the other two stations!

We will be discussing our Field Day 2008 goals at the January meeting. Give it some thought. And if you know of a location that might be suitable for Field Day, please let me know.

73, Brian, N6IIY



ANAKEIM. CÁ (Near Disneyland) 933 N. Euclid St., 92801 714) 539-7373 (806) 854-6046 Janet, KL7MF, Mor. saskelm@hamradio.com

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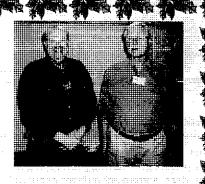
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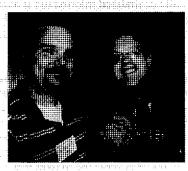






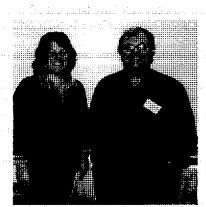
SCRA Holiday
Pot Luck Dinner
December 7,
2007



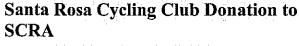












The Santa Rosa Cycling Club (SRCC) has donated \$1500.00 to SCRA in acknowledgement of SCRA's participation in SRCC-sponsored bicycle events in 2007. A letter to SCRA President David Harrison from Craig Gaevert, President, SRCC, reads as follows:

20 December 2007

Dear David:

On behalf of the over 600 members of the Santa Rosa Cycling Club, the Board of Directors is pleased to enclose a donation of \$1500.00 to Sonoma County Radio Amateurs. The donation was made possible by the success of the Club's Wine Country Century event held annually in May and attended by over 2,000 riders of all abilities. The donation is also made with the appreciation of SCRA's assistance with event communications for not only the Wine Country Century, but with my personal favorite event, The Terrible Two. Thanks again to all of the SCRA volunteers that helped make these events such a success.

Sincerely,

Craig Gaevert, President SRCC

On behalf of the Board of Directors of SCRA I'm pleased to receive this donation on behalf of the club, with our thanks to SRCC for its financial generosity, and with special thanks to our members who supported SCRA's public service activities this past year. Keep up the good work!

David Harrison, W6IBC President, SCRA

#### HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ATLANTIS STS-122 TO LAUNCH JANUARY 10

From Radio Newline December 21, 2007

NASA's Space Shuttle Program managers have targeted January 10th for the launch of shuttle Atlantis' for its STS-122 mission to the International Space Station.

The exact liftoff date from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida depends on resolving a problem with the space shuttle's fuel sensor system. The shuttles planned launches on December 6th and 9th were scrubbed because of a false read-

ing from a part of the system that monitors the liquid hydrogen section of the tank.

Once at the ISS, the main objective of STS-122 is to install and activate the European Space Agency's Columbus Space Laboratory. It will provide scientists from around the world with the ability to conduct a variety of life, physical and material science experiments.

The Columbus module also has two new Amateur Radio antennas attached to it. These will provide for an expansion of on-orbit ARISS related activities.

Seven Astronauts including Commander Steven N. Frick, KD5BZC, will be on board Atlantis when it finally heads into space.

For the latest information about the STS-122 mission, visit www.nasa.gov/shuttle. We will have more ham radio space related stories later on in this weeks newscast. (NASA)

## January Meeting: Icom's new D-Star digital repeater system

This meeting will feature Tim Barrett, K6BIV. Tim is trustee of the Mt. Diablo ARC D-Star repeater, and will be presenting an informative program on Icom's new D-Star digital repeater system. Mark your calendars for this event. See you there!"

Welcome 2008! Happy New Year SCRA Members!



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SHORT SKIP

# Oregon emergency officials say ham radio operators the unsung heroes

#### From the ARRL Web Site / December 4, 2007

When parts of Oregon were overwhelmed by wind and water during the recent storm, vital communication often was lacking, with trees down and across phone lines and cell coverage limited.

Even the state police had difficulty in reaching some of their own troops.

But ham radio worked.

In fact, amateur radio operators were heralded by state emergency officials as heroes. Ham radio is more than just a hobby to some. It can set up networks for government and emergency officials to communicate when other communication services fail.

"One of the problems in this is always communication," Gov. Ted Kulongoski said after a visit Tuesday to Vernonia and a fly-over there and other affected areas. "I'm going to tell you who the heroes were from the very beginning of this...the ham radio operators. These people just came in and actually provided a tremendous communication link to us."

A network of at least 60 volunteer amateur radio operators working along the coast and inland helped from keep crucial systems such as 911 calls, American Red Cross and hospital services connected. They relayed information about patient care and relayed lists of supplies needed in areas cut off by water.

In addition to getting an FCC license to operate, certain groups of operators are cleared by the federal government to work as emergency responders.

"You are amateur in name only," said Steve Sanders, a spokesman for District One of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, which helped in several key counties hit by the storm.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management said the radio operators were tireless in their efforts to keep the systems connected.

It was ham radio that kept New York City agencies in touch with each other after their command center was destroyed on 9-11, according to the National Association for Amateur Radio. When hurricanes like Katrina

hit, amateur radio helped provide life-and-death communication services when everything else failed.

Amateur radio works on a set of radio frequencies known as "amateur bands" just above the AM broadcast band all the way up to high microwave frequencies. Operators use their own equipment to communicate with other operators, using different equipment and frequencies than emergency responders.

So when some services won't work, they can relay messages.

Sometimes it takes creativity and a lot of leg work, such as setting up a new link on the top of a mountain when no other options are available.

The only major limitation, Sanders said, is the number of volunteers.

"This was just the poster child storm for what we do," Sander said.

#### **ARES Training Session**

The next ARES training session will cover Airmail and WinLink 2000 - two programs that tie the Internet and email to amateur radio. These programs have serious emcomm implications and they have been used very effectively as recently as the mass floods in Washington and Oregon. Watch the ARES reflector for the date, time and location or contact Rich Freitas at kf6sza@gmail.com for more information.



# New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool Released

From the ARRL Web Site December 26, 2007

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released the new pool of questions for the Amateur Extra class license. This pool will become effective for examinations given on or after July 1, 2008, and should be in service until June 30, 2012. The pool, which consists of 741 questions and 12 graphics, can be downloaded from the NCVEC Web site in Word, PDF or RTF formats. If you have any questions concerning the new Amateur Extra question pool, please contact the NCVEC's Question Pool Committee via e-mail.

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## SKIP SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.



## Large Scale Disasters – What To Expect

by Rich Freitas, KF6SZA Sonoma County ARES DEC

The following is taken from the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course, Level I

What happens to critical communication assets during the onset of disaster conditions? First, there is a huge increase in the volume of traffic on public-safety radio channels, accompanied by pro-longed waiting periods to gain access. As the disaster widens, equipment outages occur at key locations, messages are not handled in order of priority, and urgent messages are often lost. As agencies respond, the need arises for agencies to communicate with one another. Meeting that need is an up-hill battle as these agencies have incompatible radio systems, and use unfamiliar or unattainable frequencies, names, terms, and procedures. Exacerbating the situation is the fact that most agencies are reluctant to use another agency's system or to allow theirs to be used by others.

In a large-scale situation, a need arises to contact locations at distances beyond the range of a given radio or system (50 to 350 miles or more). Message reply delays are experienced leading to deferred decisions on crucial matters, message duplication and confusion. A need arises to generate and decipher handwritten messages sent through relaying stations. Simultaneously with a high volume of message traffic, stations must cope with messages having widely differing priori-ties. Also, priority and precedence designations differ among agencies if any are used at all.

In the early hours of an emergency turning into a major disaster, it takes precious time to overcome the obstacles to placing fully-activated mutual aid resources into operation. Communication is one of those vital resources. The greatest concentration of relief efforts is generally found in the incorporated cities served by agencies with paid professionals – assuming their equipment, facili-ties and personnel remain operable. While urban areas experience more concentrated damage, suburbs and isolated areas of a county suffer from remoteness from fire departments, public works, law enforcement and the services of all other agencies. All organizations scramble to respond to an unprecedented demand for service within their authorized jurisdiction.

Lack of information results in further attempted use of the telephone when the system is already saturated; calls can often be received from out-of-town but not made across town. Too little information is gathered about the public's immediate needs and ways to meet them. Distorted public perceptions develop through misinformation while essential damage-assessment report data is needed by state and federal

agencies to initiate relief aid from outside the disaster area. Broad-cast stations initially disseminate rumors in the absence of factual information. Those few people who possess an operating battery-powered broadcast band radio can tune until they find a local station that can provide helpful information; others receive such information second hand, if at all

Everywhere, people walk aimlessly seeking a route to family and friends. Many, fearful of looting, remain in hazardous buildings, or return, as do shopkeepers, to salvage valuables. As darkness falls, rumors of looting are generated – some true. Word circulates about shelter locations while some displaced persons stay at homes of friends, relatives or strangers. Others are housed at public shelters while searching, without communication, for family members elsewhere. Later, often too late, information trickles in about problem areas or cases that have been overlooked due to the lack of communication.

After-shocks, flare-up of fires, weakening or breaking of dams and new flood crests, build-up of winds, etc., result in some relief work being undone and the posing of new threats. Inter-agency communication is poor to non-existent. At the end of 72 hours, the disaster area remains in virtual isolation except for helicopter service for known critical cases and official use. Little centralized information is available. Disorganized local volunteers often lack essential skills and orientation while costly mistakes are made and systems bog down.

Stress rises among the citizenry. Little overall assessment emerges in the first 72 hours about available emergency resources and relief supplies. Shortages are apparent and growing. Travel continues to be difficult and slow while relief supplies trickle in to uncertain storage locations. Some supplies are useless. Restaurants remaining open are unable to cook without gas or to serve the masses that flood them. Normal water sources may have been cut off or contaminated and food and water shortages have become critical.

Eventually, essential functional communication networks evolve as priorities are asserted and clusters of traffic emerge. Relief efforts are mounted when someone takes charge, makes a decision, and directs the efforts of others. The command and control process of directing requires communication – the ingredient in short supply in all disasters.

At critiques following a disaster, as always, the cry is heard: "Next time we must be better pre-pared!"

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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## 2007 Club Officers

W6IBC Dave Harrison President Vice President KQ6OB Fred Polkinghorn Secretary 707-575-5871 Brian Torr N6IIY Treasurer Director **Bob Arthur** KG6ZDN KG6JSL Director Pat Coyle 707-539-5831 **Past President** John Felton KE5RI **Public Service** K6XLT 707-545-4133 Chairman Craig Gaevert

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ARRL DXCC/WAS Manager

Chuck Ternes

707 763-2528

N6OJ

**SCRA** Hotline SCRA E-Mail **SCRA Web Site** 

707 579-9608

scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com 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**

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

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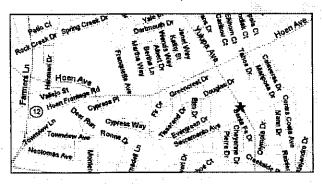


#### SCRA Club Meetings

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

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 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 fro 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/

SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

#### **CONTEST CORNER**

SHORT SKIP

by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello contesters. 1 hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and will have a great 2008. Big winter contests this month include ARRL VHF Sweepstakes and CO WW 160 meter CW contest. Happy DX'ing!

- 1 Jan ARRL Straight Key Night all bands. See: http://www.arrl.org/ contests/rules/2008/skn,html.
- 1 Jan New Years Snowball Contest CW/SSB, 80 meters. See: www.gsl.net/euleu/agb nysb.htm.
- 1 Jan SARTG New Year RTTY Contest 80-40 meters. See: www.sartg.com/contest/nyrules.htm.
- 1 Jan AGCW Happy New Year Contest CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.agcw.de.
- 5-6 Jan ARRL RTTY Roundup 80-10 meters. See: http:// www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/rtty.html.
- 5-6 Jan EUCW 160 Meter Contest CW. See: www.uft.net.
- 6 Jan Kids Day Phone, 80-2 meters. See: www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kdrules.html.
- 12 Jan Worked All Britain Top Band Phone Contest SSB, 160 meters. See: www.worked-all-britain.co.uk/contest/rules.php.
- 12 Jan 070 PSKFest 80-10 m. See: www.podxs.com/html/pskfest.html. 12-13 Jan - North American QSO Party - CW, 160-10 meters. See:
- www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php. 12-13 Jan - Hunting Lions in the Air - CW/Phone, 80-10 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za/
- 12-13 Jan Midwinter Contest CW/SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.qsl.net/pi4ylc/Engels/midwinter%20contest.htm.
- 13 Jan DARC 10-meter Contest CW/SSB. Sec: www.darc.de/referate/ dx/fedcz.htm.

- 17 Jan NAQCC Monthly Straight Key Sprint CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.arm-tek.net/~yoel.
- 19 Jan LZ Open Championship CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.linkove.com/lz-open-contest/rules/rules.htm
- 19 Jan International United Teenager Contest CW/SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/17.html.
- 19-20 Jan North American QSO Party Phone, 160-10 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.
- 19-20 Jan UK DX RTTY Contest 80-10 meters. See: www.ukdx.srars.org.
- 19-21 Jan ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes all modes, 6 meters and up. See: http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/jan-vhf-ss.html.
- 21 Jan HA DX Contest CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.mrasz.hu.
- 26-27 Jan CQ WW 160-Meter Contest CW. See: www.cq-amateurradio.com.
- 26-27 Jan BARTG RTTY Sprint 80-10 meters. See:
- www.bartg.org.uk.
- 26-27 Jan REF French Contest CW, 80-10 meters. Sec: www.refunion.org/concours.
- 26-27 Jan UBA Contest Phone, 80-10 meters. See: www.uba.be.
- 26-27 Jan Winter Field Day all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.spar-
- 26-27 Jan YLISSB QSO Party SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.ylsystem.org.
- 26-27 Jan Classic Exchange CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.qsl.asti.com/

#### From the Editor:

Questions? Comments? If you have any news, photos or any other interesting information that relates to Amateur Radio, please feel free to send submissions to ki6kno@gmail.com.

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Sun Mon		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2 7:00 PM SCRA Meeting Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center 2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa	3	4 7:30 PM Marin ARC Meeting Also Clubbourse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley	5 10:00 AM ROVARC Meeting Red Oak Victory Ship Point Richmond Directions: www.ssredoakvictory.org	
6	7		9 7:00 PM REDEX Meeting Mister McGoo's Restaurant Petaluma 6:30 PM SCRA Board of Directors Meeting	10	11	12	
13	14	7:30 PM Hamilton Wireless Association Building 549, Hamilton Field, Novato	16 7:30 PM VMARC Meeting McDougall Hall, Sonoma Dev. Center, Glen Ellen	17	18 8:00 PM SFARC Meeting Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Auditorium of Bldg. 7; 42nd & Clement St., San Francisco	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

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**JANUARY 2008** 



#### Happy Holidays

by Becky Pippin, KE6PZV SCRA Vice President elect

Happy Holidays! I hope everyone had a peaceful and joyous holiday. The SCRA Holi-

day Party was a great success and I would like to thank everyone who made it so. I was happy to see so many in attendance! Dave has charged me with composing the President's letter for January and would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to address my hopes for the coming year with SCRA.

About myself, I like to say that I was practically born in my dad's ham shack. I loved to watch my dad, Bob, WB6TGI at the radio, putting up antennas or spraying his equipment with that infamous crackle finish. Perusing his QSL cards and listening to him make contacts was so interesting to me. And, of course, the teletype machines and every gadget with a blinking light caught my eye. I found that toying with a straight key came naturally and I loved the sound of CW, even if I had no idea what the QSO was about.

I earned my tech-plus ticket in 1995 after attending a course taught by Jim, WA2EWE. My radio fell silent, though after a few years and I hadn't even turned it on until I renewed my license with the FCC in December of 2006. I decided to start fresh and looked up SCRA's repeater. Things were different from when I first joined the club, but I listened for a few months, began to attend meetings and here I am! Re-joining SCRA and attending meetings has really amped up my participation in the hobby.

This past year I actively checked into ARES nets, participated in public service events, and even acted as NCO for our weekly service net...all firsts for me! I probably would not have been so willing had it not been for the supportive and helpful membership and board. This year, I also purchased a new hand held and that opened up the world of all the goodies available (how to choose!). Even though my new Yaesu VX-3 only has 12 buttons on the whole thing, I have found its operation and even programmability to be quite enjoyable.

I am so proud of my husband Paul, KI6MSU and all of his classmates that took the technician course in October. Paul is very excited at this new prospect and we are looking into more aspects of ham radio. As always, with this hobby, there is always something new and there are many, many facets to the gem. I continue with my desire to advance my knowledge and technique and as I have been elected to club office. I find myself moving in the right direction. I am also very grateful to have as our President, Dave Harrison, W6IBC.

I very much enjoyed last year's program schedule and would like to continue to help the club provide interesting and provocative items for presentation and discussion in this year's meetings to come. And with lots of help from my fellow board members, I will try to hold steady with the duties associated with my role as program chair. Please, if anyone has any requests, ideas or considerations for future programs, do not hesitate to contact me at ke6pzv@hotmail.com.

I feel that SCRA has greatly evolved and flourished and I am so happy to be a part of such a great ham community. This year I hope to participate in as many public service events as possible and to support SCRA in any way I can. Personally, I also hope to make some HF contacts. I am excited about Kid's Day and anticipate my 9 year old daughter getting some interest in ham radio. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as vice-president and I'll see you at the next club meeting on Wed., Jan. 2 at 7: oo pm.

Becky KE6PZV SCRA Vice President elect

#### **K6XLT** named SCRA Member of the Year

Craig Gaevert, K6XLT, was recognized at the SCRA Holiday Party as our club's 2007 Member of the Year. Craig was honored for his outstanding performance as SCRA's Public Service Chair this past year and received an engraved plaque commemorating this award.

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