

CLUB STATION  
W6LFJ

# Short Skip

The Newsletter of  
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

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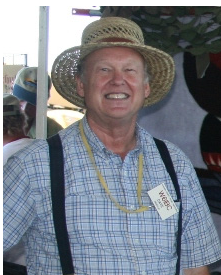
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REPEATER STATION  
W6SON

VOLUME 33 NUMBER 3

MARCH 2008



## Let's Build Something Together

by Dave Harrison, W6IBC  
SCRA President

There's no arguing the point that we live in a complicated world. And Ham Radio can seem very complex and mysterious to

those who have little contact with it. For those of us who have more than a casual interest, ham radio issues can turn out to be really complex and for that reason and others, very interesting. For example, our speaker at our January Club meeting asked us "how many of you still build your own radios?" Only a smattering of hands went up from the audience. Not surprising, since it's darn hard to compete with commercially designed ham radios that are attractively priced and offer every whiz-bang feature you can think of, and many others that never even crossed your mind. (But, be sure not to misplace your instruction manual!)

The fact that we have access to reasonably priced yet complex commercial amateur radio equipment should not discourage us from venturing into the exciting world of ham radio construction, whether it's a new antenna, an antenna tuner, an SWR meter or some other project. "Homebrew" is easier than you might think, but you will need some basic skills, and some clear instructions or a basic understanding of how electronic circuit components connect and work together to accomplish a desired result.

I can't speak too highly of the satisfaction I've derived over the years from hooking up components into circuits, and circuits into radio systems, and ultimately putting them on the air and making them work. For sure, some of my creations have worked better than others. And, I always try to figure out what's wrong or deficient when something doesn't work. Along the way I've accumulated some very helpful test equipment that sheds light on the failures and problems in my designs and frequently aids improved design and better performance.

I've learned how to solder, and to form sheet metal into boxes and panels, with holes for control elements such as volume and

tuning controls. I've learned about resistors, capacitors, inductors, transistors, transformers and tubes. And, I've developed a certain fondness for constructing low power radio projects on bare (unpatterned) copper-cladded circuit board, using a construction technique correctly described as "ugly construction". To learn more about components, I highly recommend the ARRL's on-line course in Analog Electronics. (The companion Digital Electronics course is also first rate!)

This month, we're fortunate to have two home brew construction experts talk to us about basic construction practices. Our treasurer, Pat Coyle KG6JSL, and our repeater chairman-trustee, John Felton KE5RI, are teaming up to share some basic ham radio construction techniques with us and answer our questions about the art of home brewing. Our March 2008 meeting should be very interesting, and I hope all of you will make an effort to attend.

My personal thanks to our public service "wrangler" Craig Gaevert K6XLT and to all of our members who participated in the Amgen Tour of California event. Ham radio worked very well at this event, and each of you who participated should be proud of the job very well done. Also, our thanks to Tim Bosma W6MU for his excellent presentation at our February meeting covering space communications, and to Tim Barrett K6BIV who enlightened us about the new D-Star digital mode and equipment at our January meeting.

My personal thanks also to each of you who made this last year a success for SCRA. Dues are now due for 2008, and I hope each of you will not hesitate in sending or bringing in your membership renewal. See you March 5<sup>th</sup>!

73, Dave Harrison, W6IBC

### >>>> EMAIL ADDRESSES <<<<

**Make sure to submit your E-mail address to Rich Freitas at [kf6sza@gmail.com](mailto:kf6sza@gmail.com) to receive your Short Skip Newsletter in electronic version (PDF).**

### 2008 Club Officers

<b>President</b>	Dave Harrison	W6IBC	
<b>Vice President</b>	Becky Pippin	KE6PZV	707-874-9390
<b>Secretary</b>	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ6OB	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pat Coyle	KG6JSL	
<b>Director</b>	John Chavez	KG6PEP	
<b>Director</b>	Dave Santori	KF6CLG	
<b>Past President</b>	John Felton	KE5RI	

### Committee Lineup / Contacts

<b>Membership</b>	John Guaraglia	KI6CAU	
<b>Program</b>	Becky Pippin	KE6PZV	707-874-9390
<b>EmComm</b>	Rich Freitas	KF6SZA	
<b>Field Day</b>	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707-575-5871
<b>Activity</b>	Dave Santori	KF6CLG	707-585-1873
<b>Public Service</b>	Craig Gaever	K6XLT	707-545-4133
<b>Mentoring:</b>	John Breckenridge	WB6FRZ	707-217-1017
<b>Repeater</b>	John Felton	KE5RI	
<b>Volunteer Exam</b>			
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### 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. 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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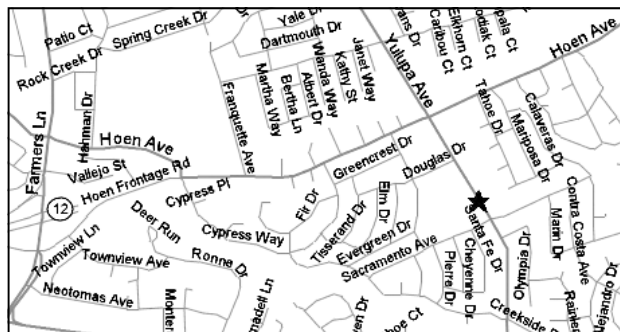


### SCRA Club Meetings

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

Next meeting is 7:00 PM Wednesday, March 5th 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 web-sites:

<http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF>  
<http://www.pdarrrl.org/sfsec/>

## **Membership Meeting Minutes**

### **February 6, 2008**

**Call to Order** - President Dave W6IBC called the meeting to order at 7:00 at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center.

**Program** - Our speaker was Tim Bosma, W6MU who spoke on the International Space Station (ISS) and their program to speak with school children around the world. Tim maintains the ground receiving station at Santa Rosa Junior College. Since 2000, the amateur radio operators aboard the ISS have talked with over 330 groups of school children in grades 5-8. Tim also spoke about the upcoming launch of another Suit Sat. The new and improved Suit Sat will have voice, SSTV and packet.

Break followed by Business Meeting

**Approval of Minutes** - The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report** - Pat, KG6JSL reported that the club was solvent. He also reminded the club that annual dues should be submitted by March 1. Pat presented a preliminary budget which will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

**Repeater Report** - John, KE5RI reported that we are still receiving interference from the repeater in the south bay. He is in contact with the trustee to try and resolve this problem. John has requested a final bid for our new 2M repeater. John also showed the club how to enhance the performance of our HTs by adding a 19" counterpoise to the base of the antenna.

**PAVEPAW** - John KE5RI reported that amateur radio operators have secondary privileges on the 440 band. The government is claiming that a number of 440 repeaters in the vicinity of Beal Air Force Base are interfering with their PAVEPAW radar system. They have ordered 75 of these repeaters to be shut down. No such action has been requested for our 440 repeater.

**ARES** - Rich KF6SZA reported that the ARES group met on February 4 to hear a presentation on Winlink 2000. The program allows the sending of e-mail and attachments via VHF, UHF and HF radio. Rich also reminded everyone that EMCOM West is coming up on May 2-4. He also encouraged all interested members to check in to the ARES Net on Monday nights at 7:30.

**New Logo** - Dave W6IBC showed the old and new logos in color and black and white. After some discussion, John KE5RI motioned that we accept the new logo in black and white. Daryl KG6MSP motioned that we table the colored logo for now. Both motioned passed. Becky KE6PZV was requested to obtain a quote for patches, caps and T-shirts using the old colored logo.

**Short Skip** - The Short Skip newsletter is now being distributed via e-mail. All members were requested to supply an updated e-mail address when they submit their 2008 membership renewals.

**Public Service** - Craig K6XLT reported that a final e-mail with updated assignments for the Tour of California would be sent out in the next two days. Craig also asked the club

whether they are willing to support a 50-mile run around Lake Sonoma on April 12. There was enough interest for Craig to commit the club to this event. Other Public Services include Wine Country Century on May 3, the Human Race on May 10, and the Terrible Twos on June 21.

**Program Ideas** - Dave W6IBC presented the final list of programs for 2008.

**Field Day** - Brian N6IY reported that he is still trying to get permission to hold the club's Field Day at Youth Park.

**SCRA Web Page** - The club logo needs to be added to the new web page. It was also suggested that we add a membership application and a list of the new board members. Separate pages with information on ARES and the repeater will also be added.

#### **Net Control Operators**

3/4 -- Dave W6IBC

3/11 - Bob KE6TGI

3/18 - Craig K6XT

3/25 - Jack K6ROW

4/1 -- John KE5RI

**Ham Class** - John KB6FRZ reported that the next Ham class will be held on February 23-24. Eleven people have signed up so far. John is also thinking of holding courses for Morse code and the General Class license.

**JOTA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - John KG6PEP thanked all the hams who supported the Boy Scouts JOTA program in October. All participants present received an official JOTA patch.

**Ham License Plates** - Jack K6ROW reported that the California DMV has resolved the problem and will now issue Ham license plates without the space before the suffix.

**Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

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## **LATEST NEWS ON PAVE PAWS**

(ARRL website Feb 27, 2008)

The FCC, ARRL representatives and agents of the various US Air Force units working on developing a plan to mitigate alleged interference from 70 cm ham radio repeaters to PAVE PAWS radar systems on both coasts met February 20 via conference call. The purpose of the conference was to review the status of the mitigation plans at both sites: the Massachusetts Military Reservation on Cape Cod and Beale AFB, north of Sacramento, California.

Thanks to the cooperation and assistance of the involved repeater owners on Cape Cod, ARRL Regulatory Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said, "I am pleased to be able to pass along that at this time that the Department of Defense has determined that the levels of harmful interference to the PAVE PAWS radar site on Cape Cod have been sufficiently reduced.

*(continued on page 8)*

## ARISS - Amateur Radio on the International Space Station

For those of you who missed last month's meeting, you missed an excellent presentation on ARISS by Tim Bosma, W6MU.



Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) is a volunteer program which inspires students, worldwide, to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math through amateur radio communications opportunities with the International Space Station (ISS) on-orbit crew. ARISS has contacted over 330 schools promoting science and technology to our young minds and hopefully hams of the future. Students learn about life on board the ISS and explore Earth from space through science and math activities. ARISS provides opportunities for the school community (students, teachers, families and local residents) to become more aware of the substantial benefits of human spaceflight and the exploration and discovery that occur on spaceflight journeys along with learning about technology and amateur radio.



ARISS is an international working group, consisting of delegations from 9 countries including several countries in Europe as well as Japan, Russia, Canada, and the USA. The organization is run by volunteers from the national amateur radio organizations and the

international AMSAT (Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation) organizations from each country. Since ARISS is international in scope, the team coordinates locally with their respective space agency (e.g. ESA, NASA, JAXA, CSA, and the Russian Space Agency) and as an international team through ARISS working group meetings, teleconferences and through electronic mail.

During the meeting we learned about the second anniversary of SuitSat-1, February 3, 2006, which was an old Russian Orlan spacesuit fitted with an amateur radio transmitter, temperature sensors and materials created by students around the world, including voice recordings and artwork and then tossed overboard to float free into orbit. It eventually fell out of orbit and burned up in the atmosphere but not before sending back valuable measurements, other important data and

providing listening pleasure for many amateur operators from all over the world.

We also learned about the past few crews that have been prolific in performing school contacts (Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, Suni Williams, KD5PLD, Clay Anderson, KD5PLA). Topics also included two L/S band Antennas that are being installed on the European Columbus Module and the development of SuitSat-2 that is planned for deployment in the Fall of '08. For more information on ARISS: <http://www.rac.ca/ariss>.

Thank you Tim for taking the time to speak to SCRA and giving a very informative and educational presentation on ARISS.

73  
Dale  
KI6KNO

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## Public Service Notes

First, big Thanks to all who participated in the volunteer net for the Tour of California. The event was again a success and amateur radio played a part in making it a safe event. And as it was throughout most of the Tour, it rained on Tuesday morning. Probably one of the few time we've had to work in the rain. The crowds were big and noisy – a real challenge. One of the best bonuses was working with the city. By doing this event Santa Rosa meets FEMA requirements for a disaster preparedness exercise. Good stuff!

On the horizon, we will be providing support for the Lake Sonoma 50. This is a 50 mile run on 12 April that will require about a dozen or so hams. We will be working from about 0600 to about 2100. We expect that this will be a simplex exercise since the locations of the rest stops and such should preclude repeater access. There will be an exploratory team to check this out. Some positions will involve a little hiking and some lucky person will get a boat ride to his/her assignment. It will be a new venue so we will have some things to work out.

In the future, note these dates:

**3 May:** Wine Country Century

**4 May:** MS Walk

**10 May:** Human Race

**21 June:** Terrible Two (if you only work one event a year this is the one)

**13-14 September:** MS Waves to Wine (**note date change**)

Craig Gaevert  
K6XLT  
"Public Service Wrangler"

## Board of Directors Meeting, February 13, 2008

**Board Members Present:** David W6IBC, Fred KQ6OB, Pat KG6JSL, Becky KE6PZV, Dave K6CLG and John KG6PEP

**Guests Present:** Bob KE6TGI, Paul KI6MSU, Rich KF6SZA, Brian N6IY

**1. Call to Order:** Verification of Quorum – President Dave W6IBC called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held at Narsi's Restaurant, Santa Rosa. A quorum was present.

### Old Business

**1. Approval of Minutes** – The minutes from the January BOD meeting was reviewed and approved.

**2. Treasurer's Report** – Pat KG6JSL gave a treasurer's report which was approved.

**3. Electronic News Letter** – Dave W6IBC reported that the club needs to get the permission of each member to send out Short Skip via e-mail. It was decided to include a letter with the membership renewal form with a check off line on the renewal form granting this permission.

**4. Membership Committee** – John KI6CAU has accepted the position of Membership chairman. The board decided that John be responsible for distributing rosters to club members.

**5. Ham Class** – Rich KF6SZA showed a new bound manual which they would like to use at the next ham class. The board authorized Rich to purchase 25 copies of the new manual at a price not to exceed \$6 each.

**6. Web Page** – Dave W6IBC reported that he had Jeff KK6JAB place the club logo on the web page. It was suggested that the size of the logo be increased. Dave will discuss this action with Jeff.

**7. Repeater Committee** – John KE5RI reported that the interference from the repeater in the south bay is very bad. He reported that David Price W6FUL who appears to be the new trustee for this repeater has installed a corner reflector antenna and reduced his power to 5 watts. Although the interference is less, their signal is still received with full quieting in the Santa Rosa area. If this continues, John may need to file a complaint with the FCC. John also reported that he will pick up the new Kenwood repeater next Saturday. The final cost for the repeater will be \$1250.50. John also purchased a Pro attenuator needed for the installation.

**8. Programs** – The topic for the March meeting is "Basic Construction Practices".

**9. Activities** – Dave KF6CLG was requested to setup a club visit to the Jeremy O'Brien for a Saturday in April.

**10. Field Day** – Brian N6IY reported that Youth Park is available for Field Day. However, the cost maybe prohibitive. Brian was requested to contact Paul Hess, Director of Emergency Planning for Santa Rosa to see if these fees can be reduced or eliminated.

**11. Update of SCRA Listing on ARRL Website** – Fred

KQ6OB reported that the information on the ARRL website is two years old. Fred was requested to update this information.

**12. Budget** – Pat KG6JSL presented a preliminary budget for 2008. After some input, the board requested Pat to prepare a final budget which will be present to the club at the next meeting.

**13. 501C3 Status** – Pat KG6JSL reported that he has received financial statements for the past 3 years and is now ready to file for a non-profit status.

**14. New Logo** – Becky KE6PZV was asked to obtain quotes for the old patches, hats and T-shirts.

### New Business

**1. Committee Chairs** – Bob WB6TGI has accepted the position of Raffle Chairman. Fred KQ6OB was asked to contact Daryl KI6MSP to see if he would be willing to accept the position as Refreshment Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

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## SCRA Field Trip - March 22nd

The SCRA group is going to visit the U S National Maritime Historical Park and the USS Pampanito at its berth at Pier 45, Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco. Further details will be provided later.

For more info check out the following link:  
San Francisco National Maritime Park Association  
<http://www.maritime.org/index.htm>

Dave Santori KF6CLG  
Activity Chairman

---



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## Disaster "Go-Kits" Update

by Rich Freitas, KF6SZ  
Sonoma County ARES DEC

The following article by Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, ARRL Southeastern Director, appeared in the ARES-E Letter.

I am routinely asked "what personal items do I need to take when sent to a disaster area"? The short answer: Take everything you would need to survive on a camping trip for a week, plus some disaster specific items. Our Go-Kits need to be always on our minds and ready to go. A complete Go-Kit will help us provide better support to our served agencies.

Your kit will need to be tailored to meet your specific needs but the following is a suggested minimum content list. Prepare and test your kit well before the next event, as you may need to hit the ground running when called.

The idea of your personal kit is to help you survive, be more comfortable and protect yourself from unknowns the best you can. We cannot be productive nor do our job if we are a burden on the system. Your communications equipment "Go-Kit" is a separate list. Remember to register with your local EC, and never self-deploy to a disaster scene.

**Training cards:** Training cards/certificates for ARRL, FEMA and other certifications are important items to take with you. Laminate your training cards to protect them. Minimal training includes FEMA IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800 and ARRL EC-001, EC-002 and EC-003.

**Served agencies** are requiring volunteers to have certain training and experience before deploying them. Training will help you to know the lingo, procedures and processes. Red Cross First Aid and CPR training is also a must. A good way to get general training is to enroll in the next Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class. Then, take the Red Cross training, and the ARRL and FEMA Independent Study online courses.

**Vaccinations and medications:** Tetanus, Hepatitis-A, Hepatitis-B, TB all are recommended vaccinations. (Check with your doctor to make sure you get the right shots). **Personal prescription medications:** copies of all prescriptions, including generic names for meds and a note from the prescribing physician on letterhead stationary for controlled substances and injectable medications should be carried. Also: First aid kit or CERT kit; First Aid Quick Reference card and equipment manuals in zip lock bags; acetaminophen, aspirin, ibuprofen, or

other medication for pain or fever; mild laxative; anti-diarrheal tablets; throat lozenges; antacid; antifungal and antibacterial ointments or creams; cough suppressant/expectorant.

**Documentation:** Addresses, e-mail and phone numbers for family, friends, work, doctors; ID cards - make copies of everything in your wallet and leave them with someone at home; paper, pencils; reference material, e.g., frequencies, net schedules, operator instructions for all equipment; reading material for spare time; ARES message forms.

**Personal:** Cash or traveler's checks, change; cell phone, battery, charger; waterproof watch; moist towelettes for sanitation; disinfectant; laundry detergent; toilet paper; towel (highly absorbent, travel towels if possible); extra pair of prescription glasses, copy of prescription; soap, shampoo, anti-perspirant, shaving kit; tooth brush and paste; lip balm; sunglasses; ear plugs, eye shades; Kleenex.

**Clothing:** Gloves (leather, medical, non-latex types); comfortable, light-weight long pants, long-sleeved shirts; sturdy shoes and boots (at least two pairs); rain gear; rubber boots; hat/cap; hard hat; safety goggles; dust mask or cotton T-shirt to filter air.

**Food and Water:** Bottled water; water filters/purification system, tablets; nonperishable food items; Power Bars.

**Camping items:** Candles, matches, lighter in a Ziplock bag; Ziplock bags; flashlight and extra batteries or shake/crank-flashlight; can opener; garbage bags (they double as ponchos) and plastic ties; paper towels; fire extinguisher; duct tape; tent; compass; signal flares; hand tool kit; Spare AA, C, and D batteries; knife, such as a Swiss Army Knife or Leatherman; fork, knife, spoon kit; insect repellent containing DEET (up to 50%); sunscreen (preferably SPF 15 or greater); crank-powered weather radio; Pair of FRS radios and spare batteries; ropes of various lengths; pillow, bedding; air-mattress; bungee cords; chemical illumination sticks; electrical tape; small hand saw, or tree limb saw; small Teddy bear for yourself or in case you find an upset child.

Put your go-kit supplies in re-sealable plastic containers, and then pack them full of trash on the way out. Take a spare everything.

The idea of your Go-Kit is to prevent you from becoming a problem in the disaster relief effort.

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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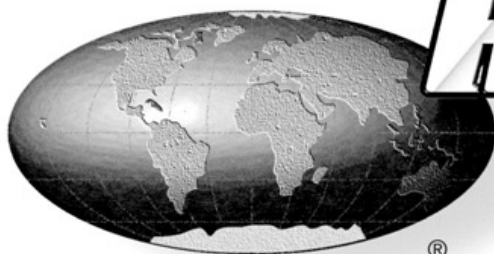
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### TM-D700A 2M/440 Dualband

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- Receives 118-1300 mHz (cell blocked)
- Remote Head Inst. only (kit included)
- 200 Memories • Built In 1200/9600 baud TNC
- Advanced APRS Features
- Dx Packet Cluster
- Tone Scan • GPS/VC-H1/PC Ports

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## YAESU



### VX-7R

- 50/2M/220/440 HT
- Wideband RX
- 900 Memories
- 5W TX (300mw 220Mhz)
- Li-Ion Battery
- Fully Submersible to 3 ft.
- Built-in CTCSS/DCS
- Internet WIRESS compatible

**Great Price!**

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**(800) 854-6046**  
Howard, W6HOC, Mgr.  
So. from Hwy. 101  
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

### OAKLAND, CA

2210 Livingston St., 94606  
(510) 534-5757  
**(800) 854-6046**  
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.  
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp  
oakland@hamradio.com



### IC-706MkIIIG HF/VHF Transceiver

- All mode HF/6M/2M/70CM
- 100W HF/6M, 50W/2M, 20W/440 MHz
- AF-DSP • Plug and Play Filters - No Soldering
- Easy-to-Navigate menus

**Low Pricing!**



### IC-756 PRO III All mode Transceiver

- 160-6M @ 100W • Enhanced Rx performance
- 32 bit IF DSP • SSB/CW Synchronous tuning
- Enhanced 5 inch color TFT w/spectrum scope
- Selectable IF filter shapes for SSB & CW
- Multiple DSP controlled AGC loops
- Advanced CW functions
- 101 alphanumeric memories

**The Ultimate Radio!**



### DJ-196T 2M/HT

- 5 Watt out
- 40 memories
- Alphanumeric display
- CTCSS + DCS built in
- "S" meter
- Auto Dialer

**Low Pricing!**



### DR-135TP 2M mobile

- 50 Watt out • Alpha numeric display
- 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

**Low Pricing!**



### FT-857D

- Ultra compact HF, VHF, UHF
- 100w HF/6M, 50w 2M, 20w UHF
- DSP included • 32 color display
- 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 required)

**Call for Low Price!**



### FT-2000 HF + 6M tcvr

- 100 W w/ auto tuner
- built-in Power supply
- DSP filters / Voice memory recorder
- 3 Band Parametric Mic EQ
- 3 IF roofing filters

**Call Now For Low Pricing!**

## Amateur Radio Supports Amgen Tour Of California

Local hams played an important role during the Stage 1 entry and Stage 2 departure of the Amgen Tour Of California on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Led by our public service chairman and Santa Rosa Cycling Club President, Craig Gaevert K6XLT, hams from our club and from other local organizations served as course marshals and communicators during this event. Paul Hess, Santa Rosa's Emergency Services Coordinator, specifically thanked the amateur radio operators: "Thanks also to all of our Amateur Radio Volunteers from several local amateur radio associations and groups. Craig Gaevert was our amateur radio coordinator for the two days and did an amazing job of helping us to fill positions and keep things safe." If you participated, you know we all had a terrific time supporting this event.



SCRA Members Joy Cunningham KI6ASJ, Jack Christensen K6ROW, and Craig Gaevert K6XLT outside the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Volunteer Center on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>. (W6IBC photo)

## Technician Class Success!!

SCRA held another Technician Ham Class on Feb 23 & 24 and had great success. There were 13 who passed their Technician Level Exam. Thanks to John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ, Rich Freitas, KF6SZA, all of the lecturers that participated during the class and the VE team who helped administer the exams. Thanks to you we have brought in more fellow HAMs.

### *PAVE PAWS (continued from page 3)*

As part of this determination, they are not rescheduling additional follow-up testing for that area (Cape Cod) until sometime in 2009."

During the update discussion of the Beale AFB PAVE PAWS site in California, the DoD was able to report that there was a reduction in harmful interference at the radar, though work remains to be done to bring the situation at that site to a successful conclusion. DoD officials announced that a new round of testing is scheduled during the spring at Beale, and that they will share the results after the next round of testing is complete.

## Time to Renew Your SCRA Membership

It's time to renew your membership. Please send your membership dues payment to P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 or bring it with you to this month's meeting on Wednesday March 5. Don't forget to include your email address on your renewal form to make sure to receive your Short Skip Newsletter in electronic form (PDF).

## March Meeting Topic:

"HAM RADIO CONSTRUCTION TIPS"

Have you ever wanted to build a ham radio project, but didn't know where or how to start, well, the March SCRA meeting is for you. Pat KG6JSL and John KE5RI will present a program on ham radio construction tips and techniques. They also will help you construct an antenna counterpoise for your handheld VHF transceiver if you bring it to the meeting. See you there!

# HSC Electronic Supply

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707-585-7344





## CONTEST CORNER

by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Another exciting month for contests. Phone portion of ARRL DX contest this weekend along with the CQWW DX contest, phone portion at the end of the month. Happy DX'ing!

- 1-2 Mar - **ARRL International DX** – Phone, 160-10 meters. See: [www.arrl.org/contest](http://www.arrl.org/contest).  
 1-2 Mar - **Open Ukraine RTTY Championship**, 160-10 meters. See: [www.ucc.zp.ua](http://www.ucc.zp.ua).  
 2 Mar - **DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona"**, 10 meters. See: [www.darc.de/referate/dx/cqdlcont/fgdcc.htm](http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/cqdlcont/fgdcc.htm).  
 8 Mar - **AGCW QRP Contest** CW, 80-10 meters. See: [www.agcw.org](http://www.agcw.org).  
 8-9 Mar - **RSGB Commonwealth Contest**, CW, 80-10 meters. See: [www.rsgbhfcc.org](http://www.rsgbhfcc.org).  
 8-9 Mar - **Idaho QSO Party**, all modes, 160 meters-70 cm. See: [www.nt4tt.com](http://www.nt4tt.com).  
 8-9 Mar - **EA PSK31 Contest**, 80-10 meters. See: [www.ure.es](http://www.ure.es).  
 8-9,12 Mar - **Oklahoma QSO Party**, all modes, 80-10 meters. See: [www.okdxa.org](http://www.okdxa.org).  
 9 Mar - **North American RTTY Sprint**, 80-20 meters. See: [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com).

- 9-10 Mar - **Wisconsin QSO Party**, all modes, 80 meters-70 cm. See: [www.warac.org](http://www.warac.org).  
 11,15 Mar - **CLARA and Family HF Contest**, Phone/CW, 80-15 meters. See: [www.clara.comm.sfu.ca/contest.html](http://www.clara.comm.sfu.ca/contest.html).  
 15 Mar - **10-10 Mobile QSO Party**, all modes, 10 meters. See: [www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org).  
 15-16 Mar - **Russian DX Contest**, all modes, 160-10 meters. See: [www.rdx.org](http://www.rdx.org).  
 15-16 Mar - **EU EME Contest**, Phone/CW, 432 MHz/5.7 GHz. See: [www.dubus.org](http://www.dubus.org).  
 15-17 Mar - **Virginia QSO Party**, all modes, 160 meters-70 cm. See: [www.qsl.net/sterling/VA\\_QSO\\_Party/](http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/).  
 16 Mar - **QRP ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint**, CW, 80-10 meters. See: [www.qrparci.org](http://www.qrparci.org).  
 16 Mar - **9KCC Contest**, Phone/CW, 15 meters. See: [www.9k2hn.com/9kcc](http://www.9k2hn.com/9kcc).  
 20-30 Mar - **Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party**, all modes, 160-10 meters. See: [arlhs.com](http://arlhs.com).  
 22-24 Mar - **BARTG Spring RTTY Contest**, 80-10 meters. See: [www.bartg.org.uk](http://www.bartg.org.uk).  
 29-30 Mar - **CQ WPX SSB Contest**, Phone, 160-10 meters. See: [www.cqwp.com](http://www.cqwp.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](mailto:ki6kno@gmail.com).

## 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

Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Calculations: Make checks payable to SCRA

Dues - Full Year	\$ _____
Dues -	
Prorated _____ Qtrs. x \$ _____ /qtr	\$ _____
Badge	\$ _____
Other - _____	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

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

## **Tentative Programs for 2008:**

**January 2:** D-Star Tim Barrett K6BIV, (program completed)

**February 6:** Satellite Communications, ARISS and the SRJC Earth Station, Tim Bosma W6MU

**March 5:** Basic Ham Radio Construction Practices, Pat KG6JSL and John KE5RI

**April 2:** Backup power sources for Ham Radio, Dave W6IBC  
May 7: Antenna Night, antennas and counterpoises, NVIS, Fred KQ6OB

**June 4:** Field Day Preparations, Brian N6IYY and Emcomm aspects of Field Day Rich KF6SZA

**July 2:** DXpeditions and DXing, Brian N6IYY

**August 6:** Boatanchor/Homebrew night (Group presentation)

**September 3:** Repeater update, how a repeater works, SCRA's repeater system now and in the future, John KE5RI

**October 1:** Digital Night update: IRLP-how to make it work. APRS, essentials and requirements, hands on digital (TBD)

**November 5:** SCRA Jeopardy Brian N6IYY (Club elections night)

**December 5:** (Friday) Holiday Party (date shift from Wed to Fri confirmed by phone 1-14-08 W6IBC)

## **Club Activities:**

**February 8-19:** Amgen Tour of California (Public Service)

**March 22:** Field Trip to SF Maritime Museum USS Pampanito, Dave KF6CLG

**April (day TBD):** ARES Safety Fair, Rich KF6SZA

**April 12:** Lake Sonoma Run

**May 3:** Wine Country Century (Public Service, Craig K6XLT)

**May 2-4:** ARES Emcomm West, Reno NV Rich KF6SZA

**May 4:** SRJC Day Under the Oaks (Dave W6IBC)

**May 4:** MS Walkathon (Public Service, Craig K6XLT)

**May 10:** Human Race (Public Service, Craig K6XLT)

**June 21:** Terrible Two Bicycle event (Public Service, Craig K6XLT)

**June 27-29:** Field Day (Brian N6IYY)

**August 16-17:** PCAM Wings over Wine Country (Pat KG6JSL)

**September 13-14:** MS Waves to Wine (Public Service, Craig K6XLT) \*\*\*Note Date Change\*\*\*

**October 4:** SCRA Picnic and Fox Hunt (Becky KE6PZV)

**October 17-19:** Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air (John KG6PEP)

**October 17-19:** ARRL Pacific Division PACIFICON convention

**December 5:** Holiday Party

**Optional activity (TBD July?):** Mini DXpedition, KPH visit

**Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 116**  
**Santa Rosa, California**  
**95402-0116**

**Return Service Requested**