

CLUB STATION

W6LFJ

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116 707-579-9608

http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com

Repeaters: 147.315+ 224.48- 441.375+



VOLUME 33 NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2008



Celebrate, Reflect, Share

by Dave Harrison, W6IBC SCRA President

The Holiday Season is one of my favorites. It marks the time we typically gather together with family and friends for meals and sharing of gifts. It is the season of lights, decorations, and music,

and the wide-eyed wonder of small children contemplating and receiving gifts from Santa. In keeping with a longstanding tradition, SCRA will be celebrating the holiday season with its annual Christmas Party this month. If you haven't already reserved your place at our party, please send in your reservations pronto. Our Christmas Party is where we celebrate what has been accomplished in 2008, and where we recognize those who have made our 2008 a successful year. It's also a wonderful time to gather and enjoy each other's company over an excellent meal to which all of us present contribute. This year your Board of Directors has approved acquisition of a brand new 2 meter handheld transceiver to be given away as a door prize. We'll have other door prizes, some of which are not ham-radio-specific. As outgoing president, I hope to see and greet all of you and your family at our party.

This season is also a time for reflection. For me, it marks the end of my tenure as your president. The two years have passed by very quickly, and I hope each of you has enjoyed the past two years as much as I have. We've seen the club prosper and grow, thanks to the substantial efforts of so many of you who participate and support SCRA in so many positive, tangible ways. You know who you are and what you've contributed, and although I might not mention you by name, rest assured you have my personal thanks for all that you have contributed to SCRA's success during my tenure.

Our Christmas Party also includes passing of the SCRA gavel to our new SCRA President. I'm truly excited by enthusiasm being manifested by the newly elected SCRA leadership team, led by incoming SCRA President Dave Santori KF6CLG. Dave and his team are off to a fast start, and are sure to continue policies and activities that will make your continued membership in SCRA desirable and rewarding. As we look forward we should

recognize that at our core we are a public service oriented organization. We provide public service communications and facilities for local events. We train to provide reliable communications in the event of an emergency. And, we train newcomers in the mystery and art of effective amateur radio communications. While we're carrying out these important activities, we get to know and respect each other better, and we're having a great time from our participation in SCRA.

The Holiday Season also reminds us that there are too many of our fellow citizens in our community who are less fortunate than ourselves. Our food banks are low on the essentials of life, and the need for our generosity has never been greater. Please consider donating food, time, and money to help the less fortunate. Buying a present for a needy child will make you feel really good. Also, don't overlook opportunities to share ham radio with others.

And so I thank you for the privilege of leading this club over the last two years, and bid you farewell. I'll be moving from the front table back to my usual seat in the second row at our meetings. While I'm moving back, I hoping many of you will consider moving forward, by increasing your level of commitment and participation in this wonderful organization; and, while you're doing so, please support our national organization for amateur radio, the ARRL. While I'm saying "Good bye" as your outgoing president, I hope to see you at our meetings and activities, and on the air. I'll be around, and I hope you will be, too!

73, Dave W6IBC



2008 Club Officers

President Dave Harrison W6IBC 707-838-8155 KE6PZV Vice President Becky Pippin Secretary Fred Polkinghorn KQ6OB **Treasurer** Pat Coyle KG6JSL **Director** John Chavez KG6PEP KF6CLG Director Dave Santori **Past President** John Felton KE5RI

Committee Lineup / Contacts

	•		
Membership	John Guaraglia	KI6CAU	
Program	Becky Pippin	KE6PZV	
EmComm	Rich Freitas	KF6SZA	
Field Day	Brian Torr	N6IIY	707-575-5871
Activity	Dave Santori	KF6CLG	707-585-1873
Public Service	Craig Gaevert K6XLT		707-545-4133
Mentoring	John Breckenridge	WB6FRZ	707-217-1017
Repeater	John Felton	KE5RI	
Volunteer Exam	OOIIII I OIIOII	ILLOIN	
Liaison	Brian Torr	NOUV	707 575 5074
Liaison	Brian Torr	N6IIY	707-575-5871
Antenna Ordinance- Legal	Lee Dibble	KE6EAQ	707 544-1675
Public Relations	Bill McCall	W6WDM	707 538-2844
Public Relations	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707-291-7355
			101-231-1333
Refreshments	Darryl Paule	KI6MSP	
ARRL DXCC/WAS			
Manager	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528
manage.	OHOOK TOTTIOS	14000	
Club Raffle	Pob McQuillein	WESTCI	
Ciub Kaiile	Bob McQuilkin	WB6TGI	

Short Skip & Web Staff

Editor	Dale Green	KI6KNO	707 566-1989
Webmaster	Bob Arthur	KG6ZDN	

SCRA Hotline 707 579-9608

SCRA E-Mail scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com SCRA Web Site scra@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. 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

Short Skip is published monthly and copyright 2008 by the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Permission to reprint articles is granted provided the source is properly credited. Items printed do not necessarily represent the views of the SCRA or its editors. Letters, photos and articles sent to Short Skip are subject to editing and may or may not be printed.

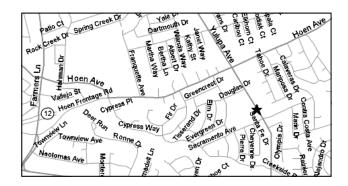


SCRA Club Meetings

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

SCRA Holiday Party is 6:30 PM Friday, December 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 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 Membership Meeting Minutes, November 5, 2008

Call to Order - President Dave W6IBC called the meeting to order at 7:05 at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center. Business Meeting:

- 1.**Approval of Minutes** The minutes were approved as written in the November issue of Short Skip.
- **2. Treasurers Report** Pat KG6JSL review the YTD income and expenses. The club is in good shape financially. This was help by the decision to distribute Short Skip electronically. Now that the club is a non-profit 501.C3 corporation, club dues may be tax deductible. Pat advised members to discuss this with their tax advisor.
- **3. Programs** Becky KE6PZV announced that the annual Holiday Party will be held at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center on Friday, December 5. The Club will provide the entree, soft drinks and coffee. Members are being asked to bring a side dish and/or dessert. BYOB is permissible.
- **4. ARES** Rich KF6SZA reported that the next ARES training will be conducted on Monday, November 17 at TLC Architect. He also invited members to check-in on the ARES net on Monday nights at 7:30.
- **5. Mentoring** John WB6FRZ reported that in the last year 63 new Hams have been licensed as a result of our Ham classes.
- **6. Raffle** Bob WB6TGI announced that the raffle would be a 50/50 split for the rest of the year.
- **7. Refreshments** Darryl KG6MSP announced that the price for all refreshments is \$1 each.
- **8. VE Program** Brian N6IIY reported that the next VE session will be in December. A specific date has not been selected.



- **9. Donation to the Maritime Radio Historical Society** The Club donated a microfiche reader and a library of past issues of QST to the Maritime Radio Historical Society. Dave W6IBC read a thank you letter from that organization.
- **10. Review of PACIFICON** Brian N6IIY gave a review of Pacificon which was held on October 17-19. There were several program tracks including QRP, Emergency Communications, and antennas. There was also a flea market and a large room of commercial displays.
- 11. Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) John KE6PEP reported that the Boy Scout JOTA was held in Windsor on October 18-19. Approximately 500,000 Scouts and 30,000 Hams participated worldwide. There were 95 Scouts who participated locally. John anticipates 200 participants next year. The Club had a number of stations including PSK-31, IRLP, code practice, as well as a CW and voice station. The Club also brought our Comm Van (Toaster). John thanked all the members who participated.
- 12. Election of New Board Fred KQ6OB announced the slate of candidates for next years Board. The slate of officers included Dave KF6CLG for President, John KG6PEP for Vice President, BeckyKE6PZV for Secretary and Pat KG6 JSL for Treasurer. No additional candidates were nominated from the floor. The Club voted to accept these candidates by acclamation. There were three candidates to fill the two positions as Club Directors. These included Darryl KI6MSP, Bob WB6TGI and Mike AD6YB. Darryl KI6MSP and Mike AD6YB were elected by secret ballot.
- **13. Public Service** Craig K6XLT review the summary of public service events as written in the November Short Skip. He thanked everyone who participated in the many events. Craig also presented the Club with a check for \$500 as a contribution from the MS Society.

14. Net Control Operators -

December 9 – Craig K6XLT December 16 – Darryl KI6MSP December 23 – Bob WB6TGI December 30 – John KG6PEP

15. Board Meeting – Dave W6IBC announced that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12 at Narsi's Restaurant at 6:30.

Program – The program was a very lively game of Ham Jeopardy. The members were divided into two teams who answered questions on Ham radio. Many thanks to Brian N6IIY and John WB6FRZ for preparing and running the contest

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.



Minimal Acceptance Performance Standards

by Rich Freitas, KF6SZA Sonoma County ARES DEC

The following is partially taken from an article written by Wayne Barringer, KB6UJW.

Many volunteer organizations have a proud history of service to their local communities. Most of us know of one or more volunteers in our community who has sacrificed their free time with family, loved ones and friends just to volunteer. Yet, all across North America, a growing level of frustration exists among volunteer communicators. Opportunities to participate continue to almost evaporate from year to year and many amateur radio operators are now turning to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs at the local level to find volunteer opportunities needing communications capabilities. What exactly is going on?

The question might better be phrased as "What are we doing wrong?" Why? Because we need to ask ourselves ... what have we been doing to increase and demonstrate our proficiency levels since Sept. 11, 2001. Let's face it, first responders, emergency management officials and governments at all levels have been forced to review response plans and upgrade their equipment capability. Training mandates, as well as training tempos, have increased. New and faster ways of sharing information have replaced legacy systems that were older and slower than before 9/11. Maybe it's time to reduce the time spent proclaiming how much we've helped and contributed during past disasters and emergencies. What difference does it make what happened five, ten or more years ago?

The ONLY thing your local served agency cares about is what you can offer them TODAY! While they probably appreciate your contributions, they are asking less and less for you to contribute in some meaningful way. This has increased frustration, resulting in some to look for "alternative" possibilities and opportunities.

NEWS FLASH! The reliance we place on the volunteer coordinators of our served agencies and affiliated organizations needs to go by the wayside and be replaced by a personal investment in our own destiny if we want things to change. Why? Because the volunteer coordinator "portion" of their position is a collateral duty. There are very, very few full time volunteer

coordination positions out there. Yet we, as loyal followers of the current volunteer structure, proudly display or "agency" ID cards while complaining most of the time we want to do more. Go Figure!!

If we want more opportunity, we have to create it. And in order to create it, we need to start investing in ourselves, create a system that requires more involvement, more training, more evaluations and more opportunities to interface with the public and show what our investment can do for them.

What about the phonetic alphabet? How many of YOU know it, use it, and practice it? Mistakes are OK during a practice net but we need to be tracking and celebrating increases in operator proficiency.

What about training? How many of you know that it is part of our organizational membership? And what about those of you who want to be part of the membership but never seem to be able to make it to the training sessions? Are you just too busy to be bothered? Membership is much more than just numbers ... it is about participation.

What about your goals and objectives? If you are still waiting for "someone else" to decide them for you, you are missing a real opportunity. Being prepared is not simply having a go-kit in the back of your closet while not having the slightest idea what to do in an emergency. Do you know how to program your radio without having the manual in front of you? Can you set up a temporary station in a short period of time or are you just worried about which hand to hold the microphone in? Do you know how to format and pass formal written traffic and can you effectively use the proper prowords necessary? Do you know how to operate under ICS protocol or do you have trouble just remembering what the initials stand for?

Requirements of an organization are not meant to burden the members but to prepare them to do their job as efficiently and effectively as possible with the means at hand. It's easy to display your ID card and complain that you are never asked to do anything, but it's a whole new level of commitment to take advantage of the opportunities you are given to show that you are truly a prepared volunteer.

The Sonoma County ARES Net meets weekly on Mondays at 7:30 PM on the SCRA 147.315 MHz (+ offset, 88.5 PL) repeater. All members and guests are invited to check-in. Please join us.

ANAHEIM, CA

(Near Disneyland) 933 N. Euclid St., 92801 714) 533-7373 (800) 854-6046 Janet, KL7MF, Mgr. anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA

1525 W. Magnolia Blvd, 91506 (818) 842-1786 (800) 854-6046 Èric, K6EJC, Mgr. Magnolia between

S. Victory & Buena Vista burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA

2210 Livingston St., 94606 (510) 534-5757 (800) 854-6046 Mark, WI7YN, Mgr. I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA

5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123 (858) 560-4900 (800) 854-6046 Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA

510 Lawrence Exp. #102, 94085 (408) 736-9496 (800) 854-6046 Dan, K6DN, Mgr. So. from Hwy. 101 sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NEW CASTLE. DE

(Near Philadelphia) 1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720 (800) 644-4476 Rick, K3TL, Mgr. RT.13 1/4 mi., So. 1-295 newcastle@hamradio.com

PORTLAND, OR

11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy. 97223 (503) 598-0555 (800) 854-6046 Leon, W7AD, Mgr. Tigard-99W exit from Hwy. 5 & 217 portland@hamradio.com

DENVER, CO

8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231 (303) 745-7373 (800) 444-9476 John, N5EHP, Mgr. denver@hamradio.com

PHOENIX, AZ

1939 W. Dunlap Ave., 85021 (602) 242-3515 (800) 444-9476 Gary, N7GJ, Mgr. 1 mi. east of I-17 phoenix@hamradio.com

ATLANTA, GA

6071 Buford Hwy., 30340 (770) 263-0700 (800) 444-7927 Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr. Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285 atlanta@hamradio.com

WOODBRIDGE, VA

(Near Washington D.C.) 14803 Build America Dr. 22191 (703) 643-1063 (800) 444-4799 Steve, W4SHG, Mgr. Exit 161, I-95, So. to US 1 woodbridge@hamradio.com

SALEM. NH

(Near Boston) 224 N. Broadway, 03079 (603) 898-3750 (800) 444-0047 Chuck, N1UC, Mar s@hamradio.com Exit 1. I-93: 28 mi. No. of Boston

salem@hamradio.com

STORE BUYING POWER



KENWOOD



TS-2000 HF/VHF/UHF TCVR

- 100W HF, 6M, 2M 50W 70CM
- 10W 1.2 GHz w/opt UT-20 module
- Built-in TNC, DX packet cluster
 IF Stage DSP Backlit Front Key Panel

Call Now For Special Price!

TH-F6A

2M/220/440

- · Dual Chanel Receive
- 1 1300 mHz (cell blocked) Rx
- . FM, AM, SSB 5w 2M/220/440 TX, FM
- 435 Memories
- · Li-Ion Battery

Call For Low Price!



TM-D710A 2M/440 Dualband

- 50w 2M & UHF
- Optional Voice synthesizer
- Echolink ® Ready w/ 10 memories
- ilt-in TNC . Sky Command II+ · GPS I/O Port
- . Choice of Green/Amber LCD backlight

Call Now For Special Introductory Price!

OAKLAND, CA

2210 Livingston St., 94606 (510) 534-5757 (800) 854-6046 Mark, WI7YN, Mgr.

I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp oakland@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA

sunnyvale@hamradio.com

510 Lawrence Exp. #102, 94085 (408) 736-9496 (800) 854-6046 Dan, K6DN, Mgr. So. from Hwy. 101





IC-706MkIIG HF/VHF Transceiver

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

- 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!

COAST TO COAST







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 WIRES compatible

Great Price!



FT-857D

Ultra compact HF, VHF, UHF

- 100w HF/6M, 50w 2M, 20w UHF
- DSP included 32 color display
- 200 mems
 Detachable front panel

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!**

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, November 12, 2008

Board Members Present: David W6IBC, Fred KQ6OB, Becky KE6PZV, Pat KG6JSL, Dave KF6CLG, John KG6PEP, John KE5RI

Newly elected Board Members: Darryl KI6MSP and Mike AD6YB

Guests Present: Bob KE6TGI, Brian N6IIY, Joy KI6ASJ and John WB6FRZ.

Call to Order: Verification of Quorum – President Dave W6IBC called the meeting to order at 6:50 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 October BOD meeting were approved as written in Short Skip.
- **2. Treasurer's Report** –Pat KG6JSL reported the club is in good shape financially. He also acknowledged the receipt of a donation of \$500 from the MS Society.
- **3. Repeater** John KE5RI reported that has arranged the receipt of a free laptop for programming the repeater. Dave W6IBC reported that the Oak Ridge repeater on 146.715 is using the Club's W6SON call sign and is not under Club control. The Board authorized Dave W6IBC to contact Greg AC6VJ to request that the SCRA call sign not be used on his repeater.
- **4. Raffle** Bob KE6TGI reported that the raffle netted \$49 at the November meeting.
- **5. Mentoring/Class** John WB6FRZ reported that 63 Hams have received their licenses this year as a result of the Club sponsored Ham classes. Of these 63 Hams, 20 have joined the Club. John will conduct another Ham class on November 15-16 at the Sebastopol Fire House. To date 19 people have signed up including 10 CAP cadets. John will hold another Ham class in San Francisco on November 22-23. Approximately 28 students and teachers are expected for this class.
- **6. VE Exams** Brian N6IIY reported that the examination fees will increase to \$15 on January 1.

- 7. Christmas Party Dave W6IBC reported that plans for the Christmas Party are well under way. Joy KI6ASJ has volunteered to organize the decorations. Brian N6IIY will order the entrée which will include ham, turkey and gravy. Members will be asked to bring side dishes and desserts. Dave W6IBC will look into obtaining some prizes. The Board authorized \$200 for that purpose. There will also be a door prize. Bob WB6TGI will hand out tickets at the door. Darryl KI6MSP will provide refreshments which will include soft drinks, tea and coffee.
- **8. January Program** Pat KG6JSL has volunteered to make a presentation on APRS.

New Business

- **1. Expense Protocol** Pat KG6JSL reviewed a draft of a new expense protocol. After some discussion, the Board tabled the approval of the protocol until the new Board takes over. The Board also approved Pat to purchase 500 carbonless receipt forms for \$83.
- **2. News Line Donation** The club usually makes a yearly donation to Amateur Radio News Line which the club plays each week as part of the Tuesday evening SCRA service net. The Board approved a donation of \$30.
- **3. 2009 Program Planning Meeting** Dave KF6CLG announced that there will be a program planning meeting with the new Board in early January.
- **4.** The Board will not hold a BOD meeting in December unless circumstances require a meeting.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.



Congratulations new SCRA Officers 2009 Officer Lineup

President: Dave Santori, KF6CLG Vice President: John Chavez, KG6PEP Secretary: Becky Pippin, KE6PZV Treasurer: Pat Coyle, KG6JSL

Director: Mike Von der Porten, AD6YB

Director: Darryl Paule, KI6MSP

Past President: Dave Harrison, W6IBC



Name Badges Ready for Pickup

The following badges will be available at the next meeting:

SUE: K8SUE
BOB: W6KCA
BILL: KI6MST
ARLEN: W6UHG
JERRY: KI6PBA
JUDY: KD6GSY
DYLAN: KI6GVH
LENNY: WB6QAZ

JIM: KU6F

VINCE: KI6LGV MIKE: KI6RKP TOM: KE6VGW GREG: KI6TID TODD: KI6TIH ELAINE: KI6TIJ

Pat Coyle KG6JSL, Treasurer

DX PROPAGATION: SCIENTISTS AY THAT THE NEW SUNSPOTS ARE HERE

from Radio Newsline www.arnewsline.org

Improved band may soon be on their way. Scientists say that after more than two years of few sunspots, even fewer solar flares, the sun is finally showing signs of life.

David Hathaway is a sunspot forecaster of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville Alabama. In his opinion the solar minimum is behind us. He said that in October scientists counted five sunspot groups,. Hathaway says that this may not sound like much, but in a year with record-low numbers of sunspots and long stretches of spotlessness, five is significant.

Even more significant is the fact that four of the five sunspot groups belonged to Solar Cycle 24. That's the new and long-awaited next installment of the sun's 11 year solar cycle. Hathaway says that October was the first time sunspots from new Solar Cycle 24 outnumbered spots from old Solar Cycle 23.

Hathaway adds that this is a good sign that the new cycle is taking off. This will be welcome news to the ears of hams who have waited a long time to work some new and possibly rare DX. (NASA)



'08 Weekend Technician Course Summary and a Glimpse at Tentative Classes for '09

2008 in Summary

What a fantastic year this has been for radio classes! We held four Technician classes this year: February 23, May 31, September 20, and November 15. At our last class of the year 8 very happy people earned their amateur radio licenses. This brings the total number of new licensees for the year to 58. Of interest is that a few non-local folks decided to travel to take our courses. We had: 1 from Penngrove, 1 from Glenn Ellen, 1 from Calistoga, 2 from Ukiah, 1 from San Francisco, 2 from Pittsburg, and 1 whose residence is listed as Redmond, Washington. Of the 58 who took our course without having a license when they entered the door, 56 earned their Technician, 1 earned their General, and 1 walked out with Amateur Extra privileges. To all these new hams I extend a hearty "well done, welcome," and commend you to strive to operate always to the highest levels of dedication, professionalism and excellence.

Thanks!

These classes were accomplished in no small part with much help from:

- dedicated club volunteer instructors
- instructor and refreshment guru Darryl, KI6MSP
- a virtual army of volunteer examiners led by VE Liaison Brian, N6IIY
- the kind folks at Oakmont and the Sebastopol Volunteer Fire Department who graciously provided free use of their facilities
- SCRA webmaster Bob, KG6ZDN, who relentlessly posted upcoming classes on our web page the ARRL, who posted and publicized our classes on their web site
- HSC Electronics Supply, who posted class flyers on their kiosk
- all who contacted friends and acquaintances to take the course and earn their amateur radio licenses

Last, but critically important, are all SCRA members who greet, welcome, and mentor all new licensees. All class efforts would be futile if members of our club ignored or turned a deaf ear to those new licensees just entering our hobby. I salute you all for welcoming all with open arms. I thank you all very much for the fantastic support, without which our classes would not have succeeded.

2009 Tentative Classes

With suggestions from our members and instructors, I plan to expand our offering of classes in 2009 to include some topics for those already licensed and ready to learn more about amateur radio and electronics. Exact dates and times are to be confirmed, and some are to be determined, but here is a lineup of classes that I would like to coordinate for our club:

Jan. 24/25 – Technician Course

Feb. 6 (Friday evening) – Assembling a Station, and Operating Procedures

Feb. 13,20,27, March 6,13,20,27, April 3,10,17 (**Friday evenings**) – General License Course

July 18/19 - Technician Course

Aug. 7 (Friday evening) - Assembling a Station, and Operating Procedures

Nov. 14/15 – Technician Course

Ten Dates TBD –AM/FM Broadcast Receiver Construction Class – Solder, troubleshoot, align new receiver kit on a single PC Board

Best Regards,

John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ SCRA Education and Mentor Chairman wb6frz@arrl.net

CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello contesters. Last chance to exercise your contesting skills in 2008. Several 160 meter contests as well as the ever popular December meteor scatter contest. There is also a New Year's Day contest on January 1st, so keep an eye out for information regarding that. Happy DX'ing and happy holidays.

4 Dec – **Top Band Sprint** – CW, 160 meters. See: <u>qrparci.org/contests</u>.

5-7 Dec – **ARRL 160 Meter Contest** – CW, 160 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contest.

6 Dec – **TARA RTTY Melee** – 160-10 meters. See: http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara melee rules.html.

6-7 Dec – **Top Operators Activity Contest** – CW, 80 meters. See: www.procwclub.yo6ex.ro.

11-15 Dec – **North American Meteor Scatter** – Digital, 6-0.7 meters. See: www.sportscliche.com/wb2fko.

13 Dec – **Russian 160 Meter Contest** – Phone/CW.

See: www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results/.

13-14 Dec – **ARRL 10 Meter Contest** – Phone/CW.

See: www.arrl.org/contest.

13-14 Dec – 28 MHz SWL Contest – Phone/CW.

See: hamradio.nikhef.nl/cie/nl/.

13-14 Dec – **PSK Death Match** – 80-10 meters. See: www.mdxa1.org/deathmatch.html.

13-14 Dec – **Croatian CW Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.hamradio.hr.

14 Dec – **Great Colorado Snowshoe Run** – CW, 20 meters. See: www.cqc.org/contests/snow2008.htm.

20 Dec – **OK DX RTTY Contest** – 80-10 meters. See: www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM.

20 Dec – 4 Jan – Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO

Party – Phone/CW, 160-0.7 meters. See: <u>arlhs.com</u>.

21 Dec – **Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint** – CW,

160-10 meters. See: <u>qrparci.org/contests</u>.

26 Dec – **DARC Christmas Contest** – Phone/CW, 80-

40 meters. See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcx.htm.

27 Dec – **RAC Winter Contest** – Phone/CW, 160-0.7 meters. See: www.rac.ca.

27 Dec – **RAEM Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.srr.ru/CONTEST/cup raem engl 07.php.

27-28 Dec – **Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge** – CW, 160 meters. See: <u>jzap.com/k7rat/stew.rules.txt</u>.

27-28 Dec – **Original QRP Contest** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.grpcc.de.

28 Dec – **070 Club QRP DX Scramble** – Digital, 20

meters. See: www.podxs070.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.

			70		
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Application					
Please Print Clearly			New [] Renewal []		
Name	Call Sign _	License Class	Date		
Address		1 Phone W F	Phone		
City/State	Zip .	E-Mail	- 59		
ARRL Member? Yes [] No [] Receive Short Skip Newsletter by E-mail: Yes_ No					
Dues & Fees: (SCRA dues year	is 3/1/05 to 2/28/06)	Payment Calculations:	Make checks payable to SCRA		
Individual / Associate Member		Dues - Full Year	\$		
Family Membership Under 18 Membership	\$36 (\$9.00/qtr) \$18 (\$3.00/qtr)	Dues - ProratedQts.x \$/	/atr ¢		
Badge	\$10 (\$3.00/qir)				
baage	410	Badge Other	\$		
Badge Information		Donation	\$		
Call Sign		Tarif			
First Name		Total	\$		
City		Mail to: SCRA, P.O. Box 116, Santa	a 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 N6IIY and Emcomm aspects of Field Day Rich KF6SZA

July 2: DXpeditions and DXing, Brian N6IIY

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 (Jim McLaughlin WA2EWE) November 5: SCRA Jeopardy Brian N6IIY (Club elections night)

December 5: (Friday) Holiday Party 6:30PM

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

Return Service Requested

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 N6IIY)

August 16-17: PCAM Wings over Wine Country (Pat KG6JSL) **September 13-14**: MS Waves to Wine (Public Service, Craig K6XLT)

October 17-19: Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air (John KG6PEP) October 17-19: ARRL Pacific Division PACIFICON convention

December 5: (Friday) Holiday Party 6:30PM