



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>

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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

VOLUME 34 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2009



January 2009

by Dave Santori, KF6CLG
SCRA President

Hello my name is Dave Santori
KF6CLG welcome to the 1st
column from the new 2009
president, not much of a letter

writer but I will strive to keep you informed of what
is going on in Ham radio as it pertains to us at SCRA.

With your continuing Help this club will again par-
ticipate with our excellent participation in Public Ser-
vice with the first being the Amgen tour in February.

Mentoring Last year we had 63 people take tech
classes with a 90%+- successful technician license
completion rate. This year we hope to give more
classes which will include all license grades.

There will be no increase in dues this year as this
goes to press.

I would like to thank all of you that helped with net
control on Tuesday night, this year with your help we
can continue the excellent job that was done last year.
Keep open a Tuesday night to be net control.

Respectfully
Dave KF6CLG
President
SCRA

Congratulations!!
2008 Member of the Year
John Breckenridge WB6FRZ



Photo courtesy of Dave Harrison, W6IBC

JANUARY MEETING PROGRAM

- BASIC APRS -

January's meeting program will feature a
presentation of basic Automatic Position Re-
porting System equipment. This will include a
demonstration of how to set up a basic station
for transmission and reception of APRS data
and display. Everything you need to know to
get on the air and internet with APRS.

2009 Club Officers

President	Dave Santori	KF6CLG	585-1873
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Activity	Dave Santori	KF6CLG	707-585-1873
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Public Relations	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707-291-7355
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ARRL DXCC/WAS Manager	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528
Club Raffle	Bob McQuilkin	WB6TGI	

Short Skip & Web Staff

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Webmaster	Bob Arthur	KG6ZDN	

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SCRA E-Mail	scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com
SCRA Web Site	http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com

Tuesday Night Net

Remember to check in to the SCRA net each **Tuesday** evening on the **147.315+(PL 88.5)** repeater at **7:00 PM**. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the area. 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

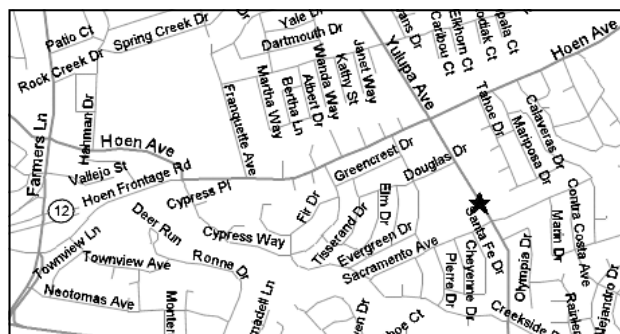
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**SCRA Club Meetings**

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

Next meeting is 7:00 PM Wednesday, January 7th 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/>

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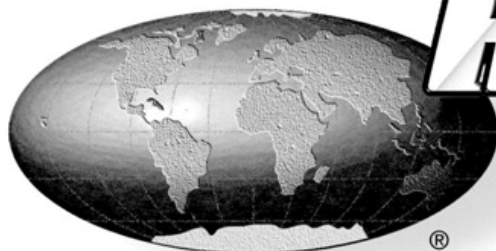
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Low Pricing!



Radiogram Message Format

by

Rich Freitas, KF6SZA
Sonoma County ARES DEC

For our next training session we will be learning about formal message handling; this article is to, hopefully, give you a "head start" on the subject. While the skills involved in accurately copying formal message traffic is an important part of disaster communications, it is also crucial for emcomm operators to develop the ability to formulate those messages. A thorough understanding of the elements of formal message traffic will enable us to accomplish one of the basic tenants of emergency communications: the ability to pass traffic through numerous stations with 100% message accuracy.

Following is a description of the different parts of the Amateur Radio Message format. Some sections are **OPTIONAL** and I recommend they not be used unless needed. The use of a pre-printed message form, while useful in some situations, is not absolutely necessary for handling traffic; the main issue is that you commit the format to memory. You may use any paper or form you find appropriate.

Message Number (Mandatory)

This can be any number the originating station chooses. Most start with '1' the first of each year or event. Once a message is numbered, that same number remains with the message until delivered.

Precedence (Mandatory)

The Precedence of the message determines what order the messages will be handled. Most of the time all messages are handled on every net session. The following four precedences are used in ascending order of priority:

ROUTINE – 99.99% of all messages have this precedence. These messages will be handled last.

WELFARE – This message is either an inquiry to the health and welfare of an individual in a disaster area or a report of the health and welfare of an individual. These messages will be handled before 'Routine' traffic.

PRIORITY – These messages have specific time limits. They are also for official messages not covered by the 'Emergency' category. This traffic will be handled before 'Welfare' or 'Routine'.

EMERGENCY – This category is reserved for any message having life and death urgency, to any person or group of persons, which is transmitted by Amateur Radio in the absence of regular communication facilities. When in doubt, do NOT use this precedence. This traffic will be handled first and immediately.

Handling Instructions (Optional)

Handling instructions are sometimes used to tell the various stations along the way what the desires of the originating station are. If not needed, it is best not to use. On phone, the sending station would say, "Handling Instructions x", where 'x' is explained below.

HXA (Followed by a number) – Collect landline delivery authorized by the addressee within 'n' miles.

HXB (Followed by a number) – Cancel message if not delivered within 'n' hours of filing time.

HXC – Report the time and date of delivery to originating station.

HXD – Report to the originating station the identity of the station from which you received the message plus the time and date.

HXE – Delivering station to get a reply from the addressee and originate a return message.

HXF (Followed by a number) – Hold delivery until 'x' date.

HXG – Delivery by mail or landline toll call not required. If toll or other expense is involved, cancel message and reply to originating station.

Station Of Origin (Mandatory)

This is the call sign of the Amateur Radio Station generating (originating) this message. This call sign, along with the message number, serve as the 'serial number' of this message. Any future reference to this message would be: "NUMBER 'nn' of CALL 'nnxnnn'."

Check (Mandatory)

This is a count of the number of words used in the **TEXT** (only) of the message. Words in the address or signature are not counted. Groups of figures, letters, combinations of figures and letters, and "X" are counted as words. This is the method used to make sure that the **TEXT** is received without error. Both the sender and receiver should end up with the same word count.

(continued on page 5)

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(ARES - Radiogram Message Format continued from page 4)

Place Of Origin (Mandatory)

This field is the city and state of either the Station Of Origin or the person in the Signature. In most cases this will be the same place.

Time Filed (Optional)

The time the message was originated. You may either use UTC or Local time. Most messages do NOT use this field; it is only useful if the message has a short time value.

Date (Mandatory)

This is the date the message was originated. In Amateur Radio we use month and day. The year is NOT used. If the message is over a year old it should be sent to the circular file.

Addressee (Mandatory)

This is the name and address of the person to which this message is going. It looks like the address on an envelope used in snail mail. Include a phone number if you have it. The more information here, the easier the delivery will be.

Delivering Station Info (Optional)

This section is rarely used. If the message is to be mailed or hand delivered, it is nice to put your (the delivering station) info here so the addressee can reach you if there is any question or they want to send a return message. Most messages are delivered by phone.

Text (Mandatory)

Finally! This is the message you are sending for the signature person to the addressee. It should be brief (usually no more than 25 words) and in telegram style. No punctuation is used. The letter 'X' is used (similar to STOP in telegrams) to end one idea and start another. Many messages do not even have an 'X' in them. As Amateur Radio is non-commercial, the TEXT should have no commercial value. Each Radio Amateur is the judge of what is commercial and what is not.

Signature (Mandatory)

This is the name of the person sending the message. It may be the name or call of the originating station. However, it is usually the name of a 'third party' for whom the originating station is generating the message.

Received (Optional)

This is for the handling station to write down from whom they received the message. This field is only for the book-keeping of the handling station.

Sent (Optional)

This is for the handling station to write down to whom they sent the message. This field is only for the bookkeeping of the handling station.

The weekly ARES net meets on Mondays at 7:30 pm on 147.315 MHz, + offset, 88.5 PL. All members and guests are welcome. Please join us.





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2008 SCRA Holiday Party

Photo courtesy of Dave Harrison, W6IBC

SCRA Public Service Update

No sooner will New Years be over than we will start right off our first public service event of the year, the Tour of California in February. Our schedule for 2009 looks like this (Dates are on Saturdays unless otherwise noted):

Tour of California, 15 Feb (Sunday): This year's route will arrive in Santa Rosa from the east. We will require as many folks as we can to be on the course. We will have an immense length of road to cover.

More to come shortly.

Lake Sonoma 50, 28 March: A reprise of the same event from last year.

We will need about 8-9 hams to cover this event spread around Lake Sonoma. And like last year, it will be a simplex event.

MS Walk, April - date to be determined.

Wine Country Century, 2 May: Santa Rosa Cycling Club's biggest event.

Human Race, 9 May

Terrible Two, 20 June

MS Waves to Wine, 12-13 September (Sat-Sun)

At this time I'm not certain that the Spring Hill Road Race will return in July. We'll see what develops.

As always, all hams are welcome to participate.

Craig Gaevert
SCRA Public Service Coordinator
k6xlt
k6xlt@sonic.net

(Contest Corner - continued from page 7)

23-25 Jan – **CQ WW 160 Meter Contest** – CW, 160 meters. See: www.CQ160.com.

24-25 Jan – **YLISSB QSO Party** – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.ylssystem.org.

24-25 Jan – **REF French Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.ref-union.org/concours.

24-25 Jan – **BARTG RTTY Sprint** – 80-10 meters. See: www.bartg.org.uk.

24-25 Jan – **Winter Field Day** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.spar-hams.org.

24-25 Jan – **UBA Contest** – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.uba.be.

25-26 Jan – **Classic Exchange** – CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.qslasti.com/CX.

31 Jan – **WAB Top Band Phone Contest** – SSB, 160 meters. See: www.worked-all-britain.co.uk/contest.



Photo of recipients of Certificates of Appreciation from the BoD. Left to right: Dave KF6CLG, Darryl KI6MSP, John KE5RI, Bob WB6TGI, Becky KE6PZV, Rich KF6SZA, Fred KQ6OB, Greg AC6VJ, Pat KG6JSL, Brian N6IY, John KG6PEP. (Not pictured are Dale KI6KNO, Bob KG6ZDN, Lee KE6EAQ, Craig K6XLT and Brian N7MOE).

Photo courtesy of Dave Harrison, W6IBC

CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. I hope that everyone had a very happy holiday season. Unfortunately, by the time you read this, the New Year's Day contests will already be over, but I've left them in for future reference. I'll try to remember and put them in the December column next year. For the rest of the month, there are a couple of interesting 160 meter contests as well as Winter Field Day and North American QSO parties. Happy DX'ing!

1 Jan – ARRL Straight-Key Night – CW, 80-6 meters.

See: www.arrl.org/contests.

1 Jan – New Years Snowball Contest – CW/SSB, 80 meters. See: www.ev5agb.com/contest/agb_nysb.htm.

1 Jan – SARTG New Year RTTY Contest – 80-40 meters. See: www.sartg.com.

1 Jan – AGCW Happy New Year Contest – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.agcw.org.

3-4 Jan – ARRL RTTY Roundup – 80-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

3-5 Jan – EUCW 160 Meter Contest – CW. See: www.uft.net.

4 Jan – Kid's Day – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html.

10 Jan – 070 PSKFest – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.podxs070.com.

10-11 Jan – Hunting Lions In the Air – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: <http://lionshuntingintheair.lionwap.org/>.

10-11 Jan – MI QRP Club Jan QRP Contest – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.miqr.org.

10-11 Jan – Midwinter Contest – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters.

See: www.qsl.net/pi4ylc/Engels.

10-11 Jan – North American QSO Party – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.

11 Jan – DARC 10 Meter Contest – SSB/CW, 10 meters.

See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm.

17 Jan – Feld-Hell WAS Sprint – Digital, 160-10 meters.

See: www.feldhellclub.org.

17-19 Jan – International United Teenager Contest – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.grz.ru/contest/detail/17.html.

17-18 Jan – UK DX RTTY Contest – 80-10 meters. See:

www.ukdx.srars.org.

17-18 Jan – HA DX Contest – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.ha-dx.com.

17-18 Jan – North American QSO Party – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.

17-19 Jan – ARRL January VHF Sweepstake – SSB/CW, 6 meters and up. See: www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/jan-vhf-ss.html.

22 Jan – NAQCC Monthly Straight Key Sprint – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.usatek.net/~yoel/.

(continued on page 6)

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.

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 []

Receive Short Skip Newsletter by E-mail: Yes ___ No ___

Dues & Fees:

(SCRA dues year is 3/1/05 to 2/28/06)

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Badge	\$10

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Mail to: SCRA, P.O. Box 1116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Tentative Programs for 2009:

January 7: Basic APRS by Pat Coyle KG6JSL

Club Activities:

TBD

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

Return Service Requested