



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>



REPEATER STATION  
W6SON

VOLUME 34 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2009



## February 2009

by Dave Santori, KF6CLG  
SCRA President

As you might have heard, the year has started off with us hitting the ground. The mentoring chairman John WB6FRZ has

already had a Technician Licensing Course on the 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>. The class went very well. Thank you for all who helped.

It seems that our February Program is just in time. The upcoming program is going to be on Amateur Radio Operating Procedures---Required, Preferred, Customary---With special emphasis on Public Service Participation.

As you listen to our repeater, it is working very well thanks to John KE6RI.

Respectfully,

Dave KF6CLG  
SCRA President

## February 2009 Meeting Program:

John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ, and Craig Gaevert, K6XLT, will co-host a presentation on Amateur Radio Operating Procedures at the SCRA general club meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Amateur radio communications are open for all the public to hear. We often forget that our operating procedures say as much about our competence and effectiveness as communicators as the words that we say, or fail to say, on the

air. John will cover examples of good operating practices as well as some not-so-good procedures during casual contacts on VHF and HF using voice and CW modes. Some FCC requirements will be considered as they apply to preferred and customary practices. Some discussion of DXing, contesting and casual net operations will be included if time permits. All in attendance will be asked to participate. Craig will focus on public service voice net operations, particularly as they apply to the volunteer communications activities supported by SCRA. Best practices will be presented for those working public service events at communications checkpoints in the field as well as the varied responsibilities and qualifications of the net control operator.

73,

John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ  
SCRA Mentoring Chairman



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<b>Activity</b>	Dave Santori	KF6CLG	707-585-1873
<b>Public Service</b>	Craig Gaevert	K6XLT	707-545-4133
<b>Mentoring</b>	John Breckenridge	WB6FRZ	707-217-1017
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<b>ARRL DXCC/WAS Manager</b>	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528
<b>Club Raffle</b>	Bob McQuilkin	WB6TGI	

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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**

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Each Additional Quarter Column	\$4 per month
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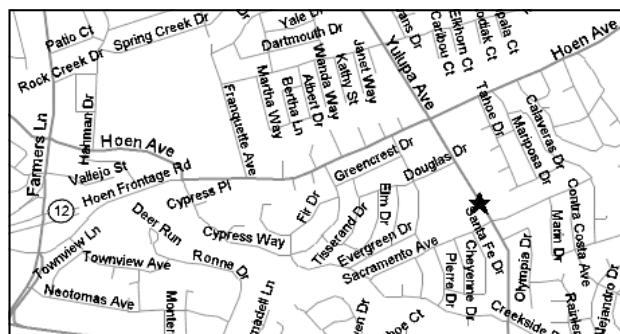
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**SCRA Club Meetings**

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

Next meeting is 7:00 PM Wednesday, February 4th 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/>

## SCRA Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2009

- Meeting called to order by President Dave Santori, KF6CLG at 6:58pm.
- Introduction of new Board of Directors and all in attendance.
- Dave presented a new video projector donated to the club. Pat will write a letter of thanks on behalf of the club.
- Pat Coyle, KG6JSL presented a program on APRS.
- Break
- Business meeting called to order at 8:15pm.
- Raffle chairman Bob McQuilkin, WB6TGI thanked N6PWB for the donation for the club to raffle.
- November meeting minutes approval: Dave Harrison, W6IBC moved to approve the minutes as printed in the December Short Skip. Bob, WD6DPE seconded the motion. Minutes as printed were approved by the membership.
- Treasurer's Report: Cash flow is short by approximately \$500.00 due to the purchase of the new repeater system. However, dues and donations offset that amount. Craig, K6XLT inquired about a \$2,000 donation to the club from the Santa Rosa Cycling Club. So far, the check has not been received, Pat to investigate.
- Repeater Report: John Felton, KE5RI was asked why the repeater is still operating with the internal controller. John explained that he needs to build a circuit for tone squelch decoding for security. John will have the circuit completed by the end of next week.
- Public Service Report: Craig, K6XLT reviewed the calendar for the year so far. The next event is the Tour of California on February 15. Craig recommends that volunteers bring HTs and warm clothing. The Lake Sonoma 50 will be on March 28, the Wine Country Century will be on May 2 and the Spring Hill Road Race will be on May 30.
- Mentoring Report: John Breckenridge reported that the next technician course is scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a general license course every Friday between February 13<sup>th</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup>. The education schedule has been posted to the SCRA website. John is looking for anyone interested in helping with instruction.
- ARES Report: Rich Freitas, N6SZA reported that the next ARES Training Session will be held at TLCD Ar-

chitecture on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The topic will be Written Radio Message Handling with some written message traffic practice. Rich also invited everyone to check into the Monday evening ARES net. Dave made a note that an area on the club website needs to be established for ARES information.

- Old Business: Dave presented a certificate to Craig, K6XLT for his service to the club in the area of Public Service (the award was to be presented at the holiday party, but Craig was not able to attend).
- Net Control Operators: 1/13 = Brian, N6IY 1/20 = Jack, ROW 1/27 = Darryl, KI6MSP 2/3 = Dale, KI6KNO 2/10 = Bob, WB6TGI
- Raffle – Brian, N6IY was the winner of the evening's 50/50 raffle (\$20.00).
- Before adjournment, Dave mentioned that the club is in need of a refreshment chairman.
- Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Bob, WD6DPE seconded the motion. All in attendance were in favor.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

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### Contest Corner continued from page 11

- 14-15 Feb – **Louisiana QSO Party** – all modes, 80-10 meters. See: [laqso.w5vl.org](http://laqso.w5vl.org).
- 14-15 Feb – **OMISS QSO Party** – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: [www.omiss.info](http://www.omiss.info).
- 14-15 Feb – **RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest** – CW, 160 meters. See: [www.rsgbhfcc.org](http://www.rsgbhfcc.org).
- 15 Feb – **North American Sprint** – SSB, 80-20 meters. See: [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com).
- 15-16 Feb – **Classic Exchange** – Phone, 160-2 meters. See: [www.qsl.asti.com/CX](http://www.qsl.asti.com/CX).
- 21-22 Feb – **ARRL DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests).
- 21-22 Feb – **AM QSO Party** – Phone, 80-20 meters. See: [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org).
- 21-22 Feb – **REF Contest** – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: [www.ref-union.org/concours](http://www.ref-union.org/concours).
- 27-28 Feb – **Russian WW PSK Contest** – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: [www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/384.html](http://www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/384.html).
- 28 Feb – 1 Mar – **UBA Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: [www.uba.be](http://www.uba.be).
- 28 Feb – 1 Mar – **Mississippi QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 80 meters – 70 cm. See: [www.arrlmiss.org](http://www.arrlmiss.org).
- 28 Feb – 1 Mar – **North American QSO Party** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com).
- 28 Feb – 1 Mar – **CQ WW 160 Meter SSB**. See: [www.CQ160.com](http://www.CQ160.com).
- 28 Feb – 1 Mar – **CQC Winter QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.cqc.org](http://www.cqc.org).



## Effective Public Service Operations Revisited

by

Rich Freitas, KF6SZA  
Sonoma County ARES DEC

*The following article appeared nearly 5 years ago. With the upcoming schedule, I think it's time for everyone to revisit this issue. Remember ... the amateur radio license that you have is a privilege – not a right. Public service is one of the reasons the amateur radio service exists.*

Yes, it's Public Service time again! All of us need to remember that Public Service is one of the reasons the FCC has granted us the use of the many frequency bands we enjoy. Each and every one of us OWES it to our community to spend some time working these events. If we all worked just one event each year there would be plenty of volunteers to ensure the success of every Public Service request we receive. Besides, it's a chance to get out in the sunshine, meet some new people, and practice your radio skills.

The following items are taken from the *ARRL Field Forum*; Volume 13 Number 2 by William L. Continelli, AB2CA:

### **Make sure your radio is in top operating condition.**

Small problems (such as loose antenna connections, bad microphones, intermittent operation, etc.) may be just annoying during casual operation, but WILL cause major grief under the continuous/severe service of net/emergency operation.

**Don't operate your handheld with it hanging on your belt.** Using the radio while it's strapped to your waist reduces your effective radiated power by more than 10 dB. That's a 90% reduction in power! Hold the radio in your hand with the antenna in the clear.

**Regarding antennas,** those 3" rubber dummy loads may be cute but you're throwing away 3-6 dB of power when using one. (If you're *really* into math, compute the loss of a 3" rubber dummy load used on a belt clip!) A telescoping half-wave has a gain of as much as 10dB over a 3" rubber duck and a quarter-wave provides a 4-6 dB improvement. Even a 12-15" rubber duck will boost your signal by 3-6 dB over the 3" ones. Remember that one dB can mean the difference in whether or not a critical

message gets through.

**Have charged batteries and spare battery packs!** If you also have a dry cell battery case, fill it with alkaline batteries. Make sure you have enough batteries with you to carry you through, even on high power.

**Use headphones or an earphone** rather than a speaker/mike. Most earphones will plug directly into your HT. Low cost stereo headphones are widely available and will work perfectly with your HT using a mono-to-stereo adapter. The headphones also have the advantage of concentrating the communications in your ears while partially shutting out the outside noise. Headphones will also prolong battery life by allowing the radio to operate at lower audio output. A speaker/mike is the worst thing you can use – it doesn't cut the outside noise, it doesn't save batteries, and where is that HT while you're using the speaker/mike?? (Hint – see #2 above!)

**Speak slowly and clearly** when transmitting! You may take pride in your ability to run your words together and mumble but the station on the other end may be in a noisy environment and may not receive your message.

**Check out your ability to use simplex.** Even if the operation is being conducted on a repeater, there may be "dead spots," the repeater may go down, or, sad to say, there may be jamming. Even if you can only work the two or three stations closest to you, a message can still be relayed. To maximize your simplex range, please reread #2 and #3 above!

**Listen to net control** and direct all communications through him/her. Identify your station when calling net control and keep all communications direct and to the point.

**If you must leave the radio** or the area to which you have been assigned, first seek permission and acknowledgement from the net control station, make your "time off" as short as possible, and check back in with NCS immediately upon your return.

**Project a good image** to the non-hams around you that are part of the event/emergency. This means acting professionally, using basic hygiene skills, etc.

**Above all else ... enjoy yourself!** Working Public Service events is a rewarding experience and a fun way to give something back to the community.

The weekly ARES net for the Greater Santa Rosa Area meets on Mondays at 7:30 PM on 147.315 MHz, + offset, 88.5 PL. All ARES members and guests are invited to



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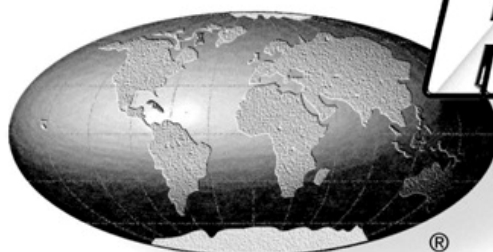
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### DJ-196T 2M/HT

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## Public Service for February 09

This month we start off with the Amgen Tour of California on February 15. To date, I have some 32 volunteers to work this event. This is a huge turnout and the largest group I've ever had. We will be assisting the City of Santa Rosa in coordinating volunteer efforts and monitoring course conditions during the races. There will be two races during this day starting with a Women's criterium in the downtown in the early afternoon, followed by the arrival the men's peloton after a 100 mile race from Davis by way of Calistoga. All in all, should be a noisy and exciting day.

On March 28 we will be supporting the 2nd running (literally) of the Lake Sonoma 50. This is a 50 mile endurance foot race around the west arm of Lake Sonoma. It is just about the complete opposite of the ATOC. It will be primarily an HT event and will be operated on a simplex frequency, in many ways mirroring what one might expect in an emergency situation with little or no power available. Dave Harrison, W6IBC will be coordinating this event, giving the wrangler a break from his ever increasing public service calendar. Please contact Dave if you're interested in working this fine event. If it is anything like last year, it will have some nice schwag as well.

In a future PS column I'll hope to demystify participating in public service events - for you newly minted hams, it is not as hard or as intimidating as you think.

73s  
Craig Gaevert  
K6XLT

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## DUES AND TAXES

Yeah, it's that time of year. Dues and Taxes. Membership dues of \$24.00 are payable by March 1, 2009. The good news is that not only have dues not gone up, they are now tax

deductible because of our being granted charitable status by the IRS. Is this a great club, or What!!

We are asking that all renewals be submitted with a completed membership application form which is attached as a separate document to this edition of Short Skip. We are trying to get all the membership information current and correct so we can prepare a membership roster for distribution to all members. The Board of Directors feels that this will increase communication and comradre among members for the benefit of all. Even if your information has not changed, PLEASE give us a new application form with your dues. If you cannot print out the attached form, give us the information on a separate sheet of paper. Print or write clearly so that dummies can read it. Send your information and payment to SCRA, Box 116, Santa Rosa, Ca., 95402, or bring it all to the membership meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2009. Membership forms will be available at the meeting.

Dues and contributions to the Club are now tax deductible. Documentation satisfactory to the IRS is your cancelled check or a cash receipt. If you pay in cash the Treasurer will have receipts. Many members make an additional contribution of a few bucks above and beyond the membership dues and that is not only appreciated but is also tax deductible with your check (or receipt) as verification. The IRS rules change if you make a contribution in excess of \$500.00 or make a donation of tangible property. Talk to the Treasurer for more information if you have such a contribution you wish to make. You may also wish to remember the Club in some small way in your Will. Any contribution is tax deductible to your estate.

With our charitable status you may also deduct actual, unreimbursed, expenditures you make for club activities, such as gasoline for public service events. Keep documentation or receipts. The value of your time is NOT deductible. Since two members of the Board of Directors are attorneys, we have to tell you that you should consult a tax professional for tax advice.

The Officers and Directors appreciate your continued support of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs and look forward to a good year with your participation.

Pat Coyle, KG6JSL  
SCRA Treasurer





## REPEATER REPORT

As many of you may have noticed, the our UHF repeater (441.375 + offset, PL 88.5), is again active and interconnected to our VHF repeater (147.315 + offset, PL 88.5). Please feel free to use either one.

You might ask, "Why are we now using UHF with PAV PAWS problems lurking in the background?" The answer is simple. Notification by PAV PAWS/FCC of interference complaints have ended their third round. It is now highly unlikely that we will be contacted. Although our UHF repeater has always been up and running, our decision to discourage its use also has a down side. Any time a frequency appears "unused" for an extended period, generally 30 days, it opens up the possibility that another party can apply for coordination on that frequency. This we do not want to happen. Another question also has to be taken into consideration. Given that we were try to "fly under the radar" (pun intended), at what point would we again encourage the use of our UHF system? No matter how long we waited, at one point we would resume operation and the same situation would exist with the PAV PAWS system.

John Felton  
KE5RI  
Trustee W6SON  
Repeater Chairman  
Organization Representative to NARCC

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**Steven Carniglia**  
President

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steve@cds1.net  
www.cds1.net

## SCRA BoD Meeting Minutes for 1/14/09

- Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by President Dave Santori, KF6CLG.
- Quorum present (John, KE5RI – Pat, KG6JSL – Dave, KF6CLG – Dave, W6IBC – Mike, AD6YB – Becky, KE6PZV – John, KG6PEP – Brian, N6IY – John, WB6FRZ – Darryl, KI6MSP and Bob, WB6TGI)
- Dave, W6IBC moved to approve the November meeting minutes as published in Short Skip. All in favor, motion carried.
- Dave, W6IBC moved to rename the Committee Chairs as written in the by-laws. Motion put to a vote, all in favor, motion carried.
- Two chairs are open: Membership and Refreshments. Mike, AD6YB to be named Membership Chairman. Put to vote, all in favor. Mike to write up resolution on definition of Membership Committee.
- Membership - Dave, KF6CLG to keep a copy of the membership list.
- Mentoring and Raffle Committees not yet in existence. John, WB6FRZ would like to hold the chair for mentoring. John will write up a definition of the Mentoring Committee. Bob, WB6TGI would like to hold the chair for raffle. Bob will write up a definition of the Raffle Committee.
- Membership Renewal - Pat, KG6JSL will write an article in the Short Skip. The article will include an announcement that dues are due and an explanation of the club's tax-exempt status. The electronic copies of Short Skip may also include a printable PDF version of the membership renewal form. All Members will be asked to fill out a renewal form regardless of membership status in order to establish current records.
- Repeater Committee - Dave, W6IBC moved to have John, KE5RI continue as the SCRA's NARC representative. All present were in favor, motion carried. Dave, W6IB moved to accept John, KE5RI as the Repeater Committee Chair and License Committee Chair and the Repeater Trustee. All present were in favor, motion carried. The Board agreed to give John, KE5RI one month to get the new repeater system fully operational.
- Control Operators - The current repeater control operators are: Brian, N6IY – Bob, WB6TGI – Craig, K6XLT and Dave, W6IBC.
- License Committee - Need to appoint members to this committee. Mike, AD6YB moved that the same people named as Control Operators should also be appointed to the License Committee. All present were in favor, motion carried.

*(continued on page 8)*







## BOD Meeting Minutes - Continued from page 7

- Field Day Committee - Dave, W6IBC moved to appoint Brian, N6IYY as Chairman of the committee. All present were in favor, motion carried.
- Transfer of club records from past Secretary Fred, KQ6OB to present Secretary Becky, KE6PZV - Done. John, KE5RI delivered the records to the meeting.
- Reports
- Secretary: Nothing to report at this time.
- Treasurer: Transfer of signatures on club checking account. Becky, KE6PZV and John KE5RI to be removed and John, KG6PEP and Dave, KF6CLG to be added. The necessary paperwork was completed at the meeting. Al Ferrer's will - Contingent to Al's will, the SCRA is to have use of the antennas on English Hill for one year. Bob has given SCRA permission to continue use of the site. Need Memorandum of Understanding. Bob to confirm verbal permission of SCRA's use and access of English Hill site. John, KE5RI will speak to Bob.

- \$2,000 check received from Santa Rosa Cycling Club. Letter on file.

- Letter received from Expanding Young Horizons. The group has requested a donation from SCRA. Dave, W6IBC asked that if SCRA gives a donation, how does promoting EYH promote SCRA. Pat, KG6JSL moved to contact the group and make an offer of \$50 donation with a letter offering SCRA involvement in the group's March 11 event at SRJC. All in favor, motion carried. Pat, KG6JSL will contact Expanding Young Horizons.

- Pat, KG6JSL presented a receipt given to him by past Secretary Fred, KQ6OB. The receipt was from the SCRA 2007 picnic. The Board approved payment of the receipt to Fred. Pat, KG6JSL presented a receipt for the SCRA 2008 Holiday Party from Brian, N6IYY. The Board approved payment of the receipt to Brian. Bob, WB6TGI presented a receipt from the last membership meeting. The Board approved payment of the receipt to Bob. Pat requested repayment for the Post Office box rental. The Board approved repayment to Pat.

- Toaster - Pat, KG6JSL reported that an estimate was run on the Toaster and it will cost approximately \$60.00 to have the brakes serviced. Dave, KF6CLG moved to have the brakes on the Toaster serviced. All present were in favor, motion carried. The

Toaster also needs work on a battery system. The Board agreed to table further discussion until the next meeting. A budget is also to be written up by Pat and will be presented at the next Board meeting.

- Education money reimbursement to John, WB6FRZ. Monies collected for classes so far, does not offset the cost spent because a large stock of supplies has been purchased. At this time, the amount of supplies purchased needs to be approved by the membership before reimbursement to John, WB6FRZ can happen. A decision needs to be made on how the book-keeping for classes is to be handled. The Board agreed to table further discussion until the next meeting.

- LBA&GC to raise rent for the meeting hall.

The rent will increase to \$50 per month (verses the current \$40 per month). The club will also be charged a \$200 fee for use of the facility for the December Holiday party. Dave, KF6CLG moved to accept the raise in monthly rent and to pay the \$200 for the Holiday party in order to lock in that date. This issue will be taken to the membership. All present were in favor, motion carried.

▪ Programs - Darryl, KI6MSP to look for a CERT presenter and John, KE5RI to look into a COPE presenter.

▪ Field Day 2009 - Brian, N6IYY reported that the City of Santa Rosa has SCRA penciled in for the last weekend in June to have use of Youth Park on Fulton Rd. Brian will follow-up with the City of Santa Rosa.

▪ New Business -

- Dave, W6IBC requested an inventory of SCRA property. Need to go through a process of cataloging everything that the club owns. John, KE5RI will look through everything at his house. Dave, KF6CLG asked that anyone present who may be storing club property to please look for and identify it.

- Mike, AD6YB asked a question regarding the existence of any club auditing. The Board agreed to table this discussion until the next meeting.

- Voice ID for the repeater. This topic will be discussed at a future board meeting.

- Code practice sessions on the repeater in a controlled net. Dave, W6IBC moved to approve code practice sessions. All present were in favor, motion carried.

▪ Dave, KF6CLG moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.





## Next VE Session: Saturday, February 7, 2009

If you've been studying for a new license or upgrade, your next opportunity to take your test is coming up on Saturday, February 7. SCRA will be hosting VE exams on February 7, starting at 9am, at the Blood Bank of the Redwoods, 2324 Bethards Dr. in Santa Rosa. All test elements will be administered. Please arrive by 9:15am to be signed in. Testing will begin shortly thereafter.

Directions: From Hwy 101, take Hwy 12 east toward Sonoma. Turn right onto Farmers Lane. Turn left onto Bennet Valley Road. Turn left on Bethards Drive. Please park on the street (parking lot is for blood donors).

Candidates should bring the following:

- One (1) photo ID or two (2) non-photo ID
- Social Security Number (if you are not licensed) or FCC Registration Number (FRN, if you are upgrading)
- Original and photocopy of your current amateur radio license (if licensed)
- Original and photocopy of any valid CSEs (if applicable)
- #2 Pencil and eraser
- \$15.00 exam fee. Checks may be made payable to "ARRL-VEC"

Calculators may be used, but it must be demonstrated that all memories and programs have been erased. PDAs and cell phones with calculators may not be used! If you have any special needs, please contact Brian Torr, N6IYY in advance.

Good Luck!

Brian Torr, N6IYY  
[n6iyy@arrl.net](mailto:n6iyy@arrl.net)  
 (707) 575-5871



Picture of Darryl, KI6MSP presenting material at the past Technician Course. Photo courtesy of John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ

## Results of the Weekend Technician Course on January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

I am pleased to report that by the time you read this article the FCC should have issued call signs to the five excited newly-licensed amateurs that participated in our most recent weekend Technician video course. Please join me in welcoming them warmly into amateur radio. I extend congratulations also to the other two brave souls who did not attend the class but nevertheless answered the challenge of the FCC exams and earned new privileges at the volunteer exam on Sunday after the course. Do you remember the day you passed the exam(s) that earned your first license in amateur radio? Do you remember how many questions you had about how it was all supposed to go together and work? Join me in helping our newcomers get started in any way that you can.

73,

John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ  
 SCRA Mentoring Chairman

## List of 2009 SCRA Classes

SCRA is sponsoring the following classes this year. If you wish to attend any of these classes and have not already signed up please contact John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ, via email at [wb6frz@arrl.net](mailto:wb6frz@arrl.net) or by phone at 707-217-1017.

73,

John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ  
SCRA Mentoring Chairman

Class Description	Date(s)/Duration	Times	Location
Assembling a Station and Operating Procedures	Friday, Feb. 6	6:00 PM until 8:30 PM	Santa Rosa Red Cross Building, 5297 Aero Drive, Santa Rosa (cross street: Airport Blvd)
General License Course	Fridays, Feb. 13 through April 17	6:00 PM until 8:30 PM	574 Wild Oak Drive, Windsor
Technician Video Course	Saturday and Sunday, July 18 and 19	8:00 AM until 5:30 PM	Santa Rosa Red Cross Building, 5297 Aero Drive, Santa Rosa (cross street: Airport Blvd)
Assembling a Station and Operating Procedures	Friday, August 7	6:00 PM until 8:30 PM	Santa Rosa Red Cross Building, 5297 Aero Drive, Santa Rosa (cross street: Airport Blvd)
Technician Video Course	Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 14 and 15	8:00 AM until 5:30 PM	Santa Rosa Red Cross Building, 5297 Aero Drive, Santa Rosa (cross street: Airport Blvd)
AM/FM Broadcast Receiver Construction Class	To Be Determined	To Be Determined	To Be Determined



APRS Program by KG6JSL at January's meeting. Photos courtesy of Jim Draeger, KI6REK.



## CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Lots of activity in February. Check out one of the state QSO parties, or one of the "romantic" contests for Valentine's Day. Happy DX'ing!

1 Feb – QRP Winter Fireside SSB Sprint – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: [www.qrparci.org](http://www.qrparci.org).

3 Feb – Spartan Sprint – CW, 80-10 meters. See: [arsqrp.pbwiki.com](http://arsqrp.pbwiki.com).

7 Feb – Minnesota QSO Party – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: [www.w0aa.org](http://www.w0aa.org).

7 Feb – FYBO Winter QRP Field Day – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.azscqrptions.org](http://www.azscqrptions.org).

7-8 Feb – Vermont QSO Party – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: [www.w1bd.org](http://www.w1bd.org).

7-8 Feb – Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party – SSB, 10 meters. See: [www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org).

7-8 Feb – Worldwide Peace Messenger Cities – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.s59dcd.si](http://www.s59dcd.si).

7-8 Feb – Black Sea Cup International – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.bscc.ucoz.ru](http://www.bscc.ucoz.ru).

7-8 Feb – British Columbia QSO Challenge – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: [www.deltaamateurradio.com](http://www.deltaamateurradio.com).

7-8 Feb – New Mexico QSO Party – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: [www.swcp.com/~n5zgt](http://www.swcp.com/~n5zgt).

7-8 Feb – XE Int'l RTTY Contest – 80-10 meters. See: [www.fmre.org.mx](http://www.fmre.org.mx).

7-9 Feb – Delaware QSO Party – all modes, 160-10 me-

ters. See: [www.fsarc.org](http://www.fsarc.org).

8 Feb – FM Simplex Contest – Phone, 6 meters – 70 cm.

See: [www.w9rh.org](http://www.w9rh.org).

8 Feb – North American Sprint – CW, 80-20 meters. See: [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com).

9-13 Feb – School Club Roundup – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: [www.arrrl.org/scr](http://www.arrrl.org/scr).

13-14 Feb – Valentine's Day Sprint – Digital, 160-40 meters. See: [www.podxs070.com](http://www.podxs070.com).

13-15 Feb – YL-OM Contest – Phone, 160-10 meters. See: [www.ylrl.org/ylcontests.html](http://www.ylrl.org/ylcontests.html).

14 Feb – Asia-Pacific Sprint – CW, 40-20 meters. See: [jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt](http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt).

14 Feb – FISTS CW Winter Sprint – CW, 80-10 meters. See: [www.FISTS.org](http://www.FISTS.org).

14-15 Feb – CQ WW RTTY WPX – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: [www.cqwprrty.com](http://www.cqwprrty.com).

14-15 Feb – Northern New York QSO Party – all modes, 80 meters – 70 cm. See: [www.nnyara.org](http://www.nnyara.org).

14-15 Feb – New Hampshire QSO Party – all modes, 80 meters – 23 cm. See: [www.w1fz.org](http://www.w1fz.org).

14-15 Feb – Dutch PACC Contest – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.dutchpacc.com](http://www.dutchpacc.com).

(continued on page 3)

### 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 [ ]

Receive Short Skip Newsletter by E-mail: 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 1116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402





## **Tentative Programs for 2009:**

**January 7:** Basic APRS by Pat Coyle KG6JSL

**February 4:** Amateur Radio Operating Procedures---Required, Preferred, Customary---With emphasis on public service communications. Presented by John WB6FRZ Mentoring Chairman and Craig K6XLT Public Service Chairman

**March 4:** Cross Band Repeating and Repeaters---Methods and Issues Presented by Darryl KI6MSP SCRA Board Member at Large

**April 1:** Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) What it is, How it works, and how you can use it. Presented by Jeff KK6JAB IRLP Node Manager for KF6SZA Repeater

**May 6:** Local Emergency Response Teams and Training---CERT, COPE

**June 3:** ARRL Field Day Preparations. Presented by Brian N6IYY SCRA 2009 Field Day Chairman

**July 1:** Amateur Radio Equipment Night---The latest offerings from the Ham Radio Commercial Suppliers

**August 12:** (Note Second Wed in August) Annual Homebrew and Boatanchor Night

**December** --Annual Club Holiday Party

## **Club Activities:**

**February 15:** (Sunday) TOUR OF CALIFORNIA

**March 28:** LAKE SONOMA 50

**April:** MS Walk. Date to be determined.

**May 2:** Wine Country Century bicycle tour.

**May 9:** The Human Race, Sonoma County Volunteer Center.

**June 20:** Terrible Two 200 mile bicycle tour.

**June 27-28:** Field Day

**August 15-16:** Pacific Coast Air Museum's Wings over the Wine Country

**September 12-13:** (Saturday-Sunday) MS Society Waves to Wine.

**October 16-18:** Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

### **To Be Announced:**

Club Picnic and Fox Hunt (Date TBA)

Visit to the Red Oak Victory Ship in Richmond, CA (Date TBA)

Visit to and operate Amateur Radios from the Penngrove Power and Implement Museum in Penngrove, CA (Date TBA)

**Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 116**

**Santa Rosa, California**

**95402-0116**

**Return Service Requested**