



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

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Ham Radio

by Dave Santori, KF6CLG
SCRA President

What is a ham? Well, when I entered into this hobby hams where the people who talked to the world. Mostly it was Morse code, a lot of dots and dashes. Than as the years melted away voice was very popular and the things that were done were weather spotting, public services events and many more interesting endeavors such as Packet radio, APRS, D-star, moon bounce, satellites, so many to mention I guess that's what a ham does, not what a ham is. Below is what the ARRL says a ham is. Thanks to the ARRL for letting us reprint this article:

"Ham"

"Ham: a poor operator. A 'plug.'"

That's the definition of the word given in G.M. Dodge's The Telegraph Instructor even before radio. The definition has never changed in wire telegraphy. The first wireless operators were landline telegraphers who left their offices to go to sea or to man the coastal stations. They brought with them their language and much of the tradition of their older profession.

In those early days, spark was king and every station occupied the same wavelength--or, more accurately perhaps, every station occupied the whole spectrum with its broad spark signal. Government stations, ships, coastal stations and the

increasingly numerous amateur operators all competed for time and signal supremacy in each other's receivers. Many of the amateur stations were very powerful. Two amateurs, working across town, could effectively jam all the other operators in the area. When this happened, frustrated commercial operators would call the ship whose weaker signals had been blotted out by the amateurs and say "SRI OM Those #&\$!@ HAMS ARE JAMMING YOU."

Amateurs, possibly unfamiliar with the real meaning of the term, picked it up and applied it to themselves in true "Yankee Doodle" fashion and wore it with pride. As the years advanced, the original meaning has completely disappeared.

Courtesy of Amateur Radio Relay League, Inc., March 19, 2000

March 2009 Meeting Program

Cross Band Repeating and Repeaters

Darryl Paule, KI6MSP will be presenting the program on What is cross banding?, reasons to cross band, types of equipment needed, FCC rules about identification and a solution of the rules. Come join us for a live demonstration of cross banding. See you there!



2009 Club Officers

President	Dave Santori	KF6CLG	585-1873
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Secretary	Becky Pippin	KE6PZV	
Treasurer	Pat Coyle	KG6JSL	
Director	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB	
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Field Day	Rich Freitas	KF6SZA	
Activity	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707-575-5871
Public Service	Dave Santori	KF6CLG	707-585-1873
Mentoring	Craig Gaevert	K6XLT	707-545-4133
Repeater	John Breckenridge	WB6FRZ	707-217-1017
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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 Newslines* broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

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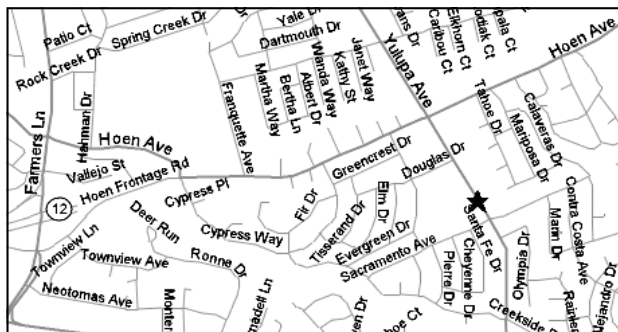


SCRA Club Meetings

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 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.pdarrl.org/sfsec/>



Stealthy Antenna

After completing the Technician course with John Breckenridge WB6FRZ, I was excited to try my hands at making a stealthy antenna. I decided to go with a lamp pole look. It is a J pole type antenna. On Feb 7 2009 I took it to John and we adjusted and tested the SWR. It is a good set up at 147.5 with a 1.65:1 SWR. I am attaching pictures from the day we tested it. It was a lot fun to make and I am excited to come up with another idea very soon.

73,
Steve Lyman KI6VKJ
Patty Lyman KI6VKI



Ham Gear Donated to SCRA

On February 21, 2009, Mrs. Arlene Parnay of Forrestville made an unconditional donation of her late father's ham station equipment to The SCRA. Donated items, in storage for over 20 years, include a working Kenwood TS-830S HF transceiver, a Yaesu FL DX 2000 HF Linear Amplifier, an Icom IC-245 Multi-Mode 2 meter transceiver and power supply, a Realistic DX-150A Short Wave receiver, a Heathkit audio generator, a Genave CB transceiver and miscellaneous other items. The Club is very grateful to Mrs. Parnay and will be issuing a tax receipt to her in accordance with IRC 501(c)(3). These items will be on display at the March 2009 membership meeting. SCRA gratefully appreciates donations of ham equipment, as well as other contributions, which support and advance the Club's charitable efforts in providing public service, emergency response and training in all aspects of amateur radio.

Dave Harrison, W6IBC
Past President

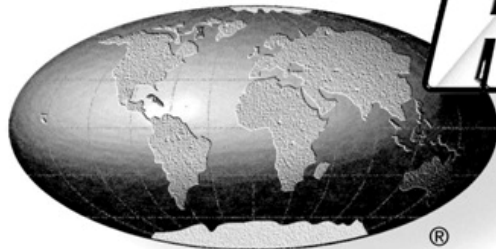
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:

Public Service got off to a soggy start on the President's Holiday weekend with the the first stage of the Amgen Tour of California. Probably 99.5% of the time, public service is a pretty casual affair, usually dry and comfortable. Not so the ATOC this year. The forecast wasn't good to start and one could only hope that it wouldn't be as bad as they were forecasting. No such luck as some 45 hams from as far away as Willits responded to the call to patrol the streets in support of the city's volunteer coordination. Probably due to less than perfectly clear instructions some hams were out there as early as 9. Most found shelter for a couple of hours until the Women's Criterium started at 1 p.m.. Rich, KF6SZA and myself set up net Control on the second floor of the Chamber building on First St. and had plenty of company until about 11:30 - noon as hams made their way to their assignments. NC was good fun until we had to get down to business. No sooner did the start time for the women arrive and it seemed like the heaven's made sure their race was good and wet. Meanwhile the men had already left Davis for SR but the tour communications loaded in the helicopters were grounded due to low cloud ceilings in the Sacramento Valley. Thus there was little no information on the race until much later.

The women completed their race, we called in a few medicals for the paramedic crews and the rain let up. About an hour later everyone started to make their way to their posts as we prepared for the tour to enter the city. Still we couldn't get much out of the tour communications or the web site. Finally around 3:30 there was brief video shot somewhere on Silverado Trail and just as quickly it was gone. Fortunately I placed KG6BHI in Calistoga and got an early report on when they arrived there. Next thing you know we got a report from KE5RI that the CHP had come through and then the breakaway rider. And of course the rain really seemed to start coming down again. The rest of the pack arrived and before long they were in the downtown circuit. Portions of the peloton were held at Brookwood and 4th creating complete chaos. The rest of the guys raced their 3 laps and Francesco Mancebo won the stage. Meanwhile our hams were out there in the rain just like the



The blurr shown above is the Amgen Tour of California Peloton as it crossed through Railroad Square in Santa Rosa during the final laps to the Finish Line. Photo courtesy of Dale Green, AF6OE.

thousands of spectators and some really wet racers. As Levi Leipheimer noted, imagine stepping into a shower and turning on the cold water full force and just stand there for 4 hours and you get a sense of what both hams and cyclists went through on this soggy Sunday. While we saw lots of room for improvement, particularly if we do this next year, but I can say that the city was very pleased with the ham turnout and the work that everyone did. A big tip of the chapecau to all that braved the elements for a job well done.

Coming up on March 28 is the return of the Lake Sonoma 50. This year Dave Harrison is going to coordinate the event, giving the wrangler a much needed break. There are still some openings for the various aid stations and I believe an NC assignment or two. This event is just about the complete opposite of the ATOC. Travel to the aid stations is a chal-

lenge in some cases and we will be working on a simplex frequency. There is no repeater that adequately serves the area (subject to further review) and besides sometimes it is just a little more interesting to run a simplex net - it is good practice. Contact Dave to volunteer.

Near future, the Wine Country Century is May 2, same date as EmmComm West / Pacificon. If you aren't attending that event I can really use your help with the WCC. Remember that SRCC is one of our biggest supporters - it would be nice to have a good turnout to support them.

Finally, I keep expecting someone to pick up on this but haven't noticed anyone take the bit. So I will. We spend a lot of time working public service events and much of it is simply to practice our communication skills with a goal of improving for the day when we are called upon to use them. So when I heard 'Sully' Sullenberger talk about how much pilots practice the kind of landing he made in the Hudson, he noted that pilots practice and practice for something that has a less than 1/2% chance of ever happening. But it went well for 152 people that day because he practiced and practiced for something that did happen. See you at the next event.

73s
Craig, K6XLT
Public Service Wrangler



Portable Generator Safety

by
Rich Freitas, KF6SZA
Sonoma County ARES DEC

Portable electric generators offer great benefits when outages affect your home, place of business, or emergency assignment. At some point you may be assigned to an emergency facility or shelter where generators are in use. Here are some guidelines for safely connecting and operating portable generators.

Don't connect your generator directly to the facility's wiring.

Connecting a portable electric generator directly to your building's wiring can be deadly to you and others. A generator that is directly connected to permanent circuits can 'backfeed' onto the power lines connected to the facility. Utility transformers can then "step-up" or increase this backfeed to thousands of volts—enough to kill a utility lineman making outage repairs a long way from where you are. You could also cause expensive damage to utility equipment and the generator. The only safe way to connect a portable electric generator to your existing wiring is with a transfer switch. The transfer switch transfers power from the utility power lines to the power coming from your generator.

Never plug a portable electric generator into a regular household outlet.

Plugging a generator into a regular outlet can energize "dead" power lines and injure neighbors or utility workers. Connect individual appliances that have their outdoor-rated power cords directly to the receptacle outlet of the generator, or connect these cord-connected appliances to the generator with the appropriate outdoor-rated power cord having a sufficient wire gauge to handle the electrical load.

Don't overload the generator.

Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator. Overloading your generator can seriously damage valuable appliances and electronics. Prioritize your needs. A portable electric generator should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment.

Never use a generator indoors or in an attached garage.

Just like your automobile, a portable generator uses an internal combustion engine that emits deadly carbon monoxide. Be sure to place the generator where exhaust

fumes will not enter the building. Only operate it outdoors in a well-ventilated, dry area, away from air intakes, and protected from direct exposure to rain and snow, preferably under a canopy, open shed or carport.

Use the proper power cords.

Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage. Don't use extension cords with exposed wires or worn shielding. Make sure the cords from the generator don't present a tripping hazard. Don't run cords under rugs or other items where heat might build up or cord damage may go unnoticed.

Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.

Don't cut corners when it comes to safety. Carefully read and observe all instructions in your portable electric generator's owner manual. Also, to prevent electrical shock, make sure the generator is properly grounded as noted in the manufacturer's manual.

Do not store fuel indoors or try to refuel a generator while it's running.

Gasoline (and other flammable liquids) should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass safety containers. They should not be stored in a space if a fuel-burning appliance is nearby. Gasoline vapors are heavier than air and the vapor from a gasoline can travel invisibly along the ground and be ignited by pilot lights or electric arcs caused by turning on the lights. Avoid spilling fuel on hot components. Put out all flames or cigarettes when handling gasoline. Always have a fully charged, approved fire extinguisher located near the generator. Never attempt to refuel a portable generator while it's running.

Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting down your generator.

Avoid getting burned.

Many generator parts are hot enough to burn you during operation.

Keep children away from portable electric generators at all times.

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 check-in. Please join us.



SCRA February 2009 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm by President, Dave Santori, KF6CLG. A quorum was present.

Introductions

Program: Operating Practices presented by John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ and Craig Gaevart, K6XLT.
Break

Business Meeting

Minutes approval: Dave, W6IBC moved that the meeting minutes from January be accepted as published in Short Skip. Bill, KH6GJV seconded, all in favor.

Reports:

Treasurer: Pat, KG6JSL reported that the club is in "good shape financially". The \$500 deficit for the year was wiped out by the \$2,000 donation from the Santa Rosa Cycling Club. Donations have made up the largest part of this year's income with membership dues being second.

Public Service: Craig, K6XLT reported that he has more than 50 volunteers signed up for the Tour of California bike race and that the Lake Sonoma 50 will be March 28.

Mentoring: John, WB6FRZ reported that the technician course on January 24th and 25th had five students and five licenses were issued after the exam. John will hold an assembly class on February 9 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. A general class will be starting February 13 and going until April 17 from 6:00pm to 6:30 with an extra class the same dates from 8:30pm to 10:00pm.

ARES: Rich, KF6SZA invited all to check in to the ARES net on Monday nights at 7:30pm on the SCRA repeater. Rich also reported that EMCOM West is the first weekend in May in Reno, NV.

VE: Brian, N6IYY reported that there had been a VE session the week prior and that the next one would be _____ at 9:15am and that the fee for the exam would be \$15.00

New Business

The Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center has raised the amount of rent for the use of the meeting place to

\$50 per month and has agreed to charge SCRA \$200 for the use of the hall for the December Holiday Dinner. The Board of Directors has agreed to the new amounts for monthly rent and the fee for the holiday dinner. Dave asked that the membership approve the Board's decision. John, KE5RI moved that the new rates be accepted. Rich, KF6SZA seconded and all were in favor.

Net control operators: 2/17 = Darryl, KI6MSP 2/24 = John, KG6PEP 3/3 = Brian, N6IYY 3/10 = Fred, KQ6OB

John, WB6FRZ announced that he has and will be hosting code practice on the SCRA repeater directly after the Tuesday night net.

Club Roster: Pat, KG6JSL reported that he is waiting for the current membership dues to come in. The 2009 roster should be out in about a month.

Badge Chair: Ken Rawles, N6PWV has volunteered to be the new badge chairman.

Silverado AM Radio Society will be having an Open APRS presentation at their February meeting on 2/17 at 7:00pm.

Dave, KF6CLG put out a request for a volunteer to take the open position of refreshment chairperson. No volunteers came forward.

Raffle: Bob, WB6TGI reported that the sale of raffle tickets totaled \$58 for the 50/50 raffle.

Adjournment: Dave, W6IBC moved that the meeting adjourn. Rich, KF6SZA seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

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Great Service, Satisfied Customer

Recently I have purchased a few items over the phone from HRO in Oakland, with the most recent purchase being a mobile antenna and mount. I called and spoke with Mark at HRO in Oakland on a Thursday afternoon. He helped me choose the right gear to meet my needs and within my price range. After placing the order I asked Mark if there were a chance the items could be shipped that same day in order for me to have them by the weekend. He was extremely polite and said he that it was unlikely as the store had limited staff that particular day and it was 4:30 in the afternoon. I totally understood and joked that I should have called earlier in the day. Well to my excitement, Mark knew how Hams like to have their newly purchased gear to enjoy on our weekends, so he made a special effort to get the antenna and mount out that same day. I was surprised to see the UPS package on my doorstep when I arrived home from work on Friday afternoon. Of course I immediately tore into the package and installed my new antenna on my truck. So, thanks Mark for the EXCELLENT service and going the extra mile to make a customer happy. You have a very satisfied customer up here in Sonoma County.

73,
Dale
AF6OE
Short Skip Editor

SCRA February 2009 BoD Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by President, Dave Santori, KF6CLG at 6:30pm. A quorum was present.

Board Members present: Dave, KF6CLG – Dave, W6IBC – John, KG6PEP – Mike, AD6YB – Becky, KE6PZV – Pat, KG6JSL – Darryl, KI6MSP

Committee Chairs Present: Bob, WB6TGI – John, WB6FRZ – Brian, N6IYY – John, KE5RI

Guests Present: Dale, AF6OE – Bill, KH6GJV – Anthony, KE6EIO – Jim, KE6VGV

Dave began the meeting with an email request that he received from a new ham who was looking for some assistance with his radio. Dave, W6IBC agreed to contact the new ham (KI6VHI).

Membership: Dave reported that he will now use MS Excel for some of the database. The membership application on the SCRA website was corrected. Bill, KH6GJV asked about printing up and using a 4x6 card for information at club meetings. Dale, AF6OE asked about designing a tri-fold information hand out.

January meeting minutes approval: Dave, W6IBC moved that the minutes be accepted as published in the Short Skip. Corrections: At the January meeting, Darryl, KI6MSP was to print up details on the Refreshment Chair Duties and one of the motions did not pass unanimously.

Mentoring: John, WB6FRZ wrote up a description of the Mentoring Chair's duties. Dave, W6IBC summarized and refined John's description, John did not agree with rephrased version. John requested that the summary of the Mentoring Chair's duties be adopted with some changes.

John is concerned about the definition of "beginning of term" and if the mentoring chair person is required to hold an extra class license.

Dave, KF6CLG tabled the discussion until the March meeting. Any questions or comments until then can be directed to John, WB6FRZ or Dave, W6IBC.

Treasurer's Report: The income burst of membership dues will top off in the next month or two.

2009 Budget: \$3,500 has been assumed for donations and may be a bit high, if it came down to \$2,500, the budget would still be okay.

Question: Should donations be included in the budget at all? If donations are taken out of the budget, it would show a deficit of \$700.

Toaster:

Dave, W6IBC moved that the budget be accepted with the adjustment of donations from \$3,500 to \$1,500 and the addition of \$50 in maintenance for the comm van. All were in favor, motion carried.

continued on page 8



BOD Minutes continued from page 7

Treasurer's proposal for expenditures: Pat presented a proposal for expenditures under \$500. This allows members to be reimbursed for putting out their own money for purchases that are under \$500 and previously approved by the board. Dave, W6IBC moved to accept the provision with a modification to the wording in section 3b. Pat will re-write the provision and submit to the board via email. All in favor, motion carried.

Mentoring classes accounting: Mike, AD6YB recommended that the board accept the amount presented by John, WB6FRZ for each class after each class and for the Treasurer to repay John for his expenses.

Comments: Jim, KE6VGV asked if an MOU is needed. Dave, W6IBC asked if the amount of money expended by John, WB6FRZ for supplies could be amortized over the course of the classes. Bill, KH6GJV added that this issue needs to be taken to the membership.

John, WB6FRZ will not present his bill for supplies purchased for classes to the board for reimbursement. He will instead present a check to the treasurer for the amount received for each class after each class and the treasurer will then reimburse John that amount.

Pat agreed to make a presentation to the membership regarding this matter at the March membership meeting.

A point was made that an idea to help use some of the supplies that have been purchased is to use them to print items for other club uses. Dave, KF6CLG will speak to John about this idea.

Repeater: Mike, AD6YB asked a question regarding John, KE5RI being able to make necessary purchases for the repeater as needed. All present agreed that John, KE5RI should be able to make purchases for the repeater as needed.

All control operators have what is needed to control the repeater.

An MOU is needed to be written up regarding SCRA use of CalSites location. Dave, W6IBC agreed to write up an MOU.

Repeater ID: How do we want the repeater to ID itself? Dave, KF6CLG will bring this question to the membership at the next meeting.

Use of 440 repeater: John, KE5RI referenced his report in the February Short Skip. Do we use our UHF system and risk detection by PAV PAWS or not use the UHF system and

risk another repeater possibly getting the same frequency coordination? Jim, KE6VGV voiced his concern regarding the board's direction of John and the use of the club's UHF system.

The decision to use the UHF system (linked or not) will be taken to the membership at the next meeting.

Bill, KH6GJV commented that PAV PAWS not only detects incoming missiles, but also "space junk" and is necessary for the protection of equipment in orbit. Bill also commented that the risk of UHF activity detection is still great.

Dave, W6IBC moved that the UHF system be unlinked until the issue is brought to the membership. All were in favor, motion carried.

Dave, W6IBC asked about development of 220 at the Castle Rock site. John, KE5RI said that it is possible and Bill, KH6GJV commented that it would be difficult.

Broadband internet connection at English Hill and Castle Rock: A connection has been offered and will be of no cost to the club. Dave, W6IBC moved that the broadband connection be installed. All present were in favor, motioned carried.

Dale, AF6OE asked about "bug" problems with the 2M repeater. John, KE5RI explained that the "bug" occurred during programming and that when the weather permits, he will go to the repeater and "kill the bug".

Programs:

March Cross Banding

April

Field Day: Brian, N6IYY reported that the club has been granted a permit from the City of Santa Rosa for the use of Youth Community Park for Field Day 2009. Brian requested that the spending of \$320 for the use of the park be accepted by the board. Dave, W6IBC moved that the board pay the \$320 for Youth Park field day use. All present were in favor, motion carried.

Activities: Red Oak Victory Ship would be happy to have radio operators for their event during the first full weekend in June

May 16 & 17, the Penngrove Power & Implementation Museum will be open and available for hams to operate their radios with the generator that was donated.

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Member Badges

The following member badges are available for pickup at the next meeting:

Jerry KI6PBA
 Mike KI6RKP
 Judy KD6GSY
 Jim KU6F
 Arlen W6UHG
 Greg KI6TID
 Todd KI6TIH
 Tom KE6VGW
 Bill KI6MST
 Lenny WB6QAZ
 Dylan KI6GHV
 Vince KI6LGV
 Sue K8SUE
 Bob W6KCA

Thank You,
 Ken Rawles, N6PWV
 Badge Chairman

BOD Minutes continued from page 8

PCAM:

New Business:

Website: Dave, W6IBC agrees to help out with text entries, any other work needs to be done by Webmaster, Bob Arthur, KG6ZDN. Dave, KF6CLG asked if a button can be added to the webpage to link the SCRA website to other ham clubs in the area. The board approved adding the button, the issue needs to be taken to Bob, KG6ZDN. The board also approved a request that the club's 501(c)3 status be displayed on the website.

Tri-fold club information brochure: Dale, AF6OE said that a tri-fold brochure is very possible. Dale will work with Mike, AD6YB on the design.

9:05pm –Meeting adjourned

Contest Corner continued from page 10

21-23 Mar – **Virginia QSO Party** – All modes, 160 meters – 70 cm. See: www.gsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party.

21-28 Mar – **BARTG Spring RTTY Contest** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.bartg.org.uk.

22 Mar – **9KCC Contest** – SSB/CW, 15 meters. See: www.9k2hn.com/9kcc.

22 Mar – **QRP ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.qrparci.org.

28-29 Mar – **EU EME Contest** – Phone/CW, 2 meters and 10 GHz+. See: www.dubus.org.

28-29 Mar – **CQ WPX SSB Contest** – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.cqwpix.com.

EMCOMMWEST to Include ARRL Pacific Division Convention

EMCOMMWEST 2009 -- an ARRL specialty convention devoted entirely to emergency communications -- will host this year's Pacific Division Convention (Pacifcon) at the Circus Circus Hotel Resort in Reno, Nevada May 1-3.

Supervisor of the ARRL's Field and Public Service Team Steve Ewald, WV1X, will host an emergency communications forum and deliver the keynote address. Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, former Special Counsel of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, will be the speaker at the Saturday evening banquet; Hollingsworth will also present a forum on the legal aspects of emergency communications.

Other forums in the works include an introduction to the work of Public Information Officers (PIO) and the PR-101 Course; how to create an effective ARES® team (and even how to create an ARES team from scratch); how to work with ARES from an Emergency Manager's view; packet software and operations for emergency communications; practical emergency communication functions for ATV; how to creating a Section-wide intercom using EchoLink and VoIP, and more! SKYWARN and storm spotter training will also be offered. ARRL Pacific Division Director Bob Valio, W6RGG, and Vice Director Andy Oppel, N6AJO, will lead the ARRL Forum.

On Saturday, May 2, look for the Reno Spring Hamswap to start at 6 AM adjacent to the hotel (corner of Sixth and Sierra). Everyone is invited to swap and sell. Bring your own tables or swap out of the back of your vehicle.

Registration is now available online via the EMCOMMWEST Web site.



CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. A couple of big events for March. ARRL International DX contest next weekend as well as CQWW contest the last weekend of the month. Or, if SHF is more your cup of tea, try the EME contest instead. Happy DX'ing!

27 Feb – 1 Mar - **CQ WW 160 Meter SSB** – SSB, 160 meters. See: www.CQ160.com.

28 Feb – 1 Mar – **UBA Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.uba.be.

28 Feb – 1 Mar – **Mississippi QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 80 meters – 70 cm. See: www.arrlmiss.org.

28 Feb – 1 Mar – **North American QSO Party** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.

28 Feb – 1 Mar – **CQC Winter QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.cqc.org.

1 Mar – **High Speed CW Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. For information e-mail hsc-contest@gmail.com.

1-2 Mar – **North Carolina QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.w4nc.com.

3 Mar – **DARC 10-Meter Digital “Corona”** – Digital, 10 meters. See: www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport/.

7-8 Mar – **ARRL International DX** – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

7-8 Mar – **Open Ukraine RTTY Championship** – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.ucc.zp.ua.

14 Mar – **AGCW QRP Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.agcw.org.

14-15 Mar – **Heavy Metal Rally** – Phone/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.xelrcq.org.

14-15 Mar – **RSGB Commonwealth Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.rsgbhrcc.org.

14-15 Mar – **EA PSK31 Contest** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.ure.es.

14-15 Mar – **Idaho QSO Party** – All modes, 160 meters – 70 cm. See: www.nx7tt.com.

15 Mar – **North American RTTY Sprint** – Digital, 80-20 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.

15-16 Mar – **Wisconsin QSO Party** – All modes, all bands. See: www.warac.org.

17-22 Mar – **CLARA and Family HF Contest** – Phone/CW, 80-15 meters. See: www.clara.comm.sfu.ca/contest.html.

21 Mar – **10-10 Mobile QSO Party** – All modes, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

21-22 Mar – **Russian DX Contest** – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.rdx.com.

21-22 Mar – **Oklahoma QSO Party** – All modes, 80-10 meters. See: www.okdxa.org.

21-22 Mar – **North Dakota QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 160-2 meters. See: k0ln.com.

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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 af6oe@arrrl.net.

**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 ____Qts. x \$____/qtr \$ _____

Badge \$ _____

Other - _____ \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Mail to: SCRA, P.O. Box 116, 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