



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

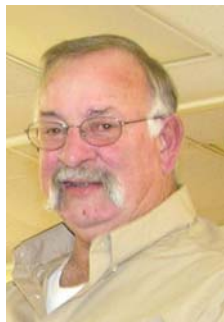
<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>



REPEATER STATION
W6SON

VOLUME 35 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2010



February SCRA Update

by Dave Santori, KF6CLG
SCRA President

As we get into the New Year we are going to look at antennas and how to make them, hide them

and enjoy them with our neighbors. The first will be a movie showing how the "what", "where" and "why" about antennas. Yes, we know that some of you have been using antennas for a long time but with the showing of the movie it might bring up questions that have been forgotten about.

A new part of the meeting will be a question and answer period where the Elmer's, hams who have been doing this for awhile, might want to answer questions from the younger hams. Let's try to have a safe year with lightning strikes, bad weather and just plain Murphy stepping up to hide us.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the February Meeting.

73,
Dave
KF6CLG

FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making to Revise and Clarify Vanity Call Sign Rules Open for Comments (Jan 28, 2010) --

Late last year, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) -- WT Docket 09-209 -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system, as well as revise certain rules applicable to club stations. Interested parties may make comments on the NPRM in the following ways: via the Federal eRulemaking Portal or via the FCC's Web site. Comments must be submitted by March 26, 2010; reply comments are due no later than April 12, 2010.

article from ARRL website <http://www.arrl.org/>

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SCRA Meeting Minutes and BOD Minutes will be posted in the March Edition of the Short Skip.

2010 Club Officers

President	Dave Santori	KF6CLG	585-1873
Vice President	Darryl Paule	KI6MSP	
Secretary	Evelyn Chavez	KI6PAY	
Treasurer	Jack Christensen	K6ROW	
Director	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB	
Director	John Chavez	KG6PEP	
Past President	Dave Harrison	W6IBC	

Committee Lineup / Contacts

Membership	John Guaraglia	KI6CAU	
Program	Becky Pippin	KE6PZV	
EmComm	Rich Freitas	KF6SZA	
Field Day	Brian Torr	N6IYY	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			
Liaison	Brian Torr	N6IYY	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
Refreshments	Jim Draeger	KI6REK	
ARRL DXCC/WAS Manager	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528
Club Raffle	Bob McQuilkin	WB6TGI	
Member Badges	Ken Rawles	N6PWV	

Short Skip & Web Staff

Editor	Dale Green	AF6OE	707 566-1989
Webmaster	Bob Arthur	KG6ZDN	

SCRA Hotline	707 579-9608
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

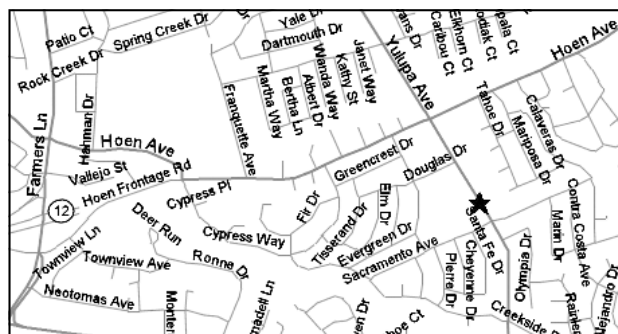
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**SCRA Club Meetings**

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

Next meeting is 7:00 PM Wednesday, February 3rd 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.

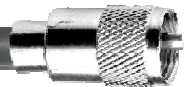
Hungry before the meeting?

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/>



Live EC-001

by
Rich Freitas, KF6SZA
Sonoma County ARES DEC

While it may not happen often, there is always the chance that you may be required to work near a helicopter landing zone during a disaster event. Take note of the following information to ensure your safety and that of those around you.

Four Ws and Four Ss

Four Ws: Wind, Wires, Way In, Way Out. Four Ss: Size, Shape, Slope, Surface. These are the considerations that helicopter pilots mull over when deciding how and whether to land off-airport.

The helicopter should take off and land into the **wind** if possible, but never downwind. Helicopters fly more efficiently with a little bit of airspeed and if you take off into a 10-knot wind, you already have 10 knots of airspeed.

Wires and other obstacles are lethal to helicopter operations. The best landing zone is the center of a clear open field. A helicopter should not have to approach or depart over nearby wires. A Robinson helicopter needs to skim across the ground, with the skids between 5' and 10' over the surface, for about 100' before lifting higher.

Way In: Most folks think that helicopters take off and land straight up and down. Maybe they did at one time, but we live in an America that is increasing obese. When we're using helicopters and cranes to sling-load people who've grown too fat to fit through a door out of their apartments, the chance of getting a helicopter full of Americans straight up and down is remote. A normal approach in a helicopter is gliding down at a 10-degree angle. A steep approach is about 15 degrees. This means you need an area that is clear of obstacles, ideally the **size** of a football field unless the pilot is a hero and the helicopter is lightly loaded. The same consideration applies for the **way out**. The best **shape** for a landing zone, if you have several

to choose amongst, is rectangular and oriented with the wind, i.e., a runway!

Helicopters can land on a **slope**, but it requires extra skill and entails some risk of dynamic rollover, which is a very common way to lose training helicopters. Try to pick an area that is flat. Dust, loose dirt, or snow on the **surface** is bad news; stuff that can blow around will blow around, possibly obscuring the pilot's vision once the helicopter comes to a hover. Paved is ideal. Grass is good.

Where the landing zone should be

The actual landing zone, where the helicopter will set down after coming to a hover, need not be large. For a Robinson R44, think "four Honda Accords parked in a box". It should be in the center of the field and positioned so that people waiting for a ride or getting out of the helicopter have no reason to go near the tail. I.e., the front of the helicopter should be toward the terminal, building, picnic table, or whatever else is the focus of the gathering. **Make sure that nobody has any reason to walk past the tail of the helicopter for any reason; the natural flow should be from the helicopter forward.**

How to mark the landing zone

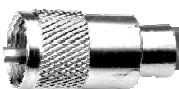
What **not** to use to mark a helicopter landing zone: Anything that can be blown around by the rotor-wash or blown up into the tail. Rope is bad. Tape is bad. Lightweight cones or plastic lawn ornaments are bad.

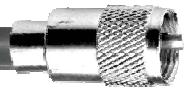
A good way to mark the landing zone is with lime or paint. Heavyweight highway traffic cones may be used as well. Steal them from an Interstate Highway project; do not buy wimpy little ones that people might use to mark off a home driveway improvement project.

Clean Up!

Walk at least 50' in every direction from the center of the landing zone, picking up trash and other loose debris.

continued on page 4





Old Short Skip Issues

If you have old copies of Short Skip around, Mike Von der Porten, AD6YB, would like to get the Club's historical information organized. Those old Short Skips tell us much about who was doing what when.

You can either bring them to a meeting, or contact Mike at mikevdpca@aim.com or (707) 545-7520.

Put a note on the Short Skips indicating your name, contact info, and if you'd like them back.

Thanks,

Mike
AD6YB

ARES - Helicopter Safety *continued from page 3*

Ground Handlers

If you're evacuating or moving unfamiliar people, have at least one ground handler for each door. The ground handler approaches the helicopter alone and stands behind the door to guide the old rider out and prevent him or her from walking backwards toward the tail rotor. The old rider is guided away and instructed to duck a bit at the edge of the rotor disk. The new rider relieved of any hats or other loose items and then led by the arm to the helicopter. The new rider is placed in the seat, helped with the seat belt, and the (fragile) door closed for the new rider.

During all phases of the operation, including when the machine is shut down, keep the crowd away from the fragile tail rotor section and also from the fragile and expensive Plexiglass windows and bubble (people like to lean up against the helicopter with their synthetic clothing, especially for photos, and scratch the bubble).

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.

Contest Corner continued from page 7

13-14 Feb – **Louisiana QSO Party** – all modes, 80-10 meters. See: lagso.w5yl.org.

13-14 Feb – **OMISS QSO Party** – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.omiss.info.

13-14 Feb – **RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest** – CW, 160 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org.

14 Feb – **North American Sprint** – SSB, 80-20 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.

14-15 Feb – **Classic Exchange** – Phone, 160-2 meters. See: qsl.asti.com/CX.

20 Feb – **Feld-Hell Super Bowl Sprint** – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

20-21 Feb – **ARRL DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

20-21 Feb – **AM QSO Party** – Phone, 80-20 meters. See: www.antiquewireless.org.

21 Feb – **FM Simplex Contest** – FM, 6 meters – 70 cm. See: www.w9rh.org.

26-27 Feb – **Russian WW PSK Contest** – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.grz.ru/contest/detail/384.html.

26-28 Feb – **CQ WW 160 Meter SSB** – Phone, 160 meters. See: www.CQ160.com.

27-28 Feb – **REF Contest** – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.ref-union.org/concours.

27-28 Feb – **UBA Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules.

27-28 Feb – **Mississippi QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 80 meters – 70 cm. See: www.arrlmiss.org.

27-28 Feb – **North American QSO Party** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.

28 Feb – 1 Mar – **CQC Winter QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.cqc.org.

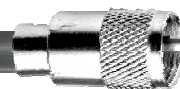
Badges & T-Shirts

Not much for Badges next month. I would like to have everyone think about whether they would like a club shirt, and if so the sizes and the color - White , Tan , Light Blue? Any ideas are welcome....

Please let me know during the break at the February meeting. The board is looking into whether or not we need to put another order in for shirts at this time.

Ken Rawles
N6PWV





2010 Classes

Basic details for SCRA-sponsored classes for this year have been set. By the time you read this article the code class will have been underway for a few weeks. This class was announced at the January club meeting and has been posted on the SCRA web page under the "Classes" link. Nevertheless I apologize for not publicizing it extensively before we started, especially if you wanted to attend. A list of the other planned classes for the year follows with specific dates. Exact dates for long-running classes and complete descriptions for all classes will be posted on the SCRA web site as soon as possible.

NOTE - All classes are contingent on help from volunteer instructors from the club; this aggressive schedule of classes will only succeed with your assistance!

Code Course

Fridays 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the Santa Rosa Red Cross:
January 15th through April 16th

On-Air Code Practice Sessions

Tuesdays 8:00 PM until 9:00 PM on the SCRA 2m repeater, 147.315 MHz + offset 88.5 Hz PL
January 5th through December 28th except for holidays

Technician License Weekend Classes

February 20 and 21 at the Windsor First Baptist Church and Santa Rosa Red Cross
April 24 and 25 at the Windsor First Baptist Church and Santa Rosa Red Cross
May 22 and 23 at the Ukiah Public Health Center
July 10 and 11 at the Santa Rosa Red Cross
October 23 and 24, location not confirmed yet

Electronic Assembly Classes

Fridays 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM at the Santa Rosa Red Cross:
March 19th
April 23rd

Assembling and Operating Your Amateur Radio Station

Fridays 6:00 PM until 8:30 PM at the Santa Rosa Red Cross:
February 26th
April 30th
July 16th
October 29th

General Class and Extra Class Instructor-led "Study Hall"

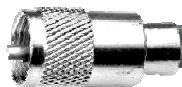
Fridays 6:00 PM until 8:30 PM at the Santa Rosa Red Cross:
May 7th through July 30th

Contact John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ for more information, to sign up for any of the classes listed, or to volunteer to help teach a class.

Sincerely,

John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ
Mentor Chairman
707 217 1017
wb6frz@arrl.net

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sandiego@hamradio.com

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Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.
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phoenix@hamradio.com

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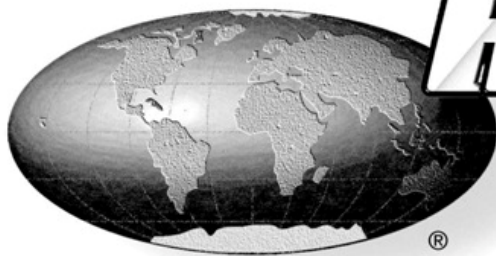
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Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.
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atlanta@hamradio.com

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

The Ultimate Radio!**DJ-196T** 2M/HT

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

Low Pricing!**DR-135TP** 2M mobile

- 50 Watt out • Alpha numeric display
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- DSP filters / Voice memory recorder
- 3 Band Parametric Mic EQ
- 3 IF roofing filters

Call Now For Low Pricing!



CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Lots of activity for a short month. Many QSO parties as well as the CQWW 160 meter RTTY contest this month. Happy DX'ing!

31 Jan-1 Feb – **Classic Exchange** – CW, 160-2 meters. See: gslasti.com/CX.

6 Feb – **Minnesota QSO Party** – all modes, all bands. See: www.w0aa.org.

6 Feb – **FYBO Winter QRP Field Day** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.azscqrptions.org.

6-7 Feb – **Vermont QSO Party** – all modes, all bands. See: vtqsoparty.westriverradio.org.

6-7 Feb – **YLISSB QSO Party** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.ylssystem.org.

6-7 Feb – **Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party** – Phone, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

6-7 Feb – **Black Sea Cup International** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.bscc.ucoz.ru.

6-7 Feb – **British Columbia QSO Party** – all modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.deltaamateurradio.com.

6-7 Feb – **Delaware QSO Party** – all modes, all bands. See: www.fsarc.org.

6-7 Feb – **XE Intl RTTY Contest** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.fmre.org.mx.

7 Feb – **North American Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.

7 Feb – **QRP Winter Fireside SSB Sprint** – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.qrparci.org.

7-8 Feb – **New Mexico QSO Party** – all modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.swcp.com/~n5zgt.

8-12 Feb – **School Club Roundup** – all modes, all bands. See: www.arrl.org/scr.

12-13 Feb – **Valentine Sprint** – Digital, 160-40 meters. See: www.podxs070.com.

12-14 Feb – **YL-OM Contest** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.ylrl.org.

13 Feb – **Asia-Pacific Sprint** – CW, 40-20 meters. See: jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt.

13 Feb – **FISTS CW Winter Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.FISTS.org.

13-14 Feb – **CQ WW RTTY WPX** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.cqwprrty.com.

13-14 Feb – **New Hampshire QSO Party** – all modes, all bands. See: www.w1fz.org.

13-14 Feb – **Worldwide Peace Messenger Cities** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.s59dcd.si.

13-14 Feb – **Dutch PACC Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.dutchpacc.com.

continued on page 4

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@arrl.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: March 1 - February 28

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 \$ _____

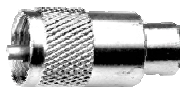
Badge \$ _____

Other - _____ \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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



Tentative Programs for 2010:

January 6 - MINI-SWAP-MEET

SCRA will be cleaning out its warehouse--- bringing lots of ham radio goodies to the meeting--- for sale to our members. Each member can bring up to TEN ham radio items to the meeting for sale or swap. No general items or computer items, please!

Remaining 2010 Programs TBD....

Tentative 2010 Club Activities:

March 27: Lake Sonoma 50 Foot Race

April 25: MS Walk - Santa Rosa (?)

April 30-May 2: Emcomm West - Reno Nevada

May 1: Wine County Century Bicycle Tour

May 8: Human Race - Santa Rosa

May 19: Tour of California Bicycle Race - Santa Rosa Segment

June 19: Terrible Two Bicycle Tour

June 25-27: Field Day

June 27: Spring Hill Bicycle Road Race (?)

August 14-15: "Wings over Wine Country" Air Show

September 26-27: MS Waves to Wine

October 9: Levi Leipheimer's Gran Fondo

October 16-17: "Jamboree on the Air"

October 15-17: ARRL Division Convention - Pacificon

December 3: SCRA Holiday Party

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

Return Service Requested