



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

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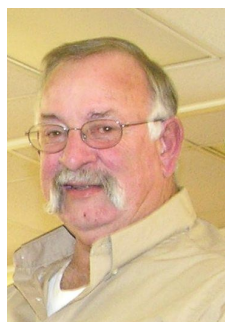
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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

VOLUME 35 NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2010



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dave Santori, KF6CLG
SCRA President

ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING
TIME OF OUR YEAR is Home brew
and Boat Anchor Night. In saying that it
leads us into The August Meeting which is

Home Brew and Boat Anchor Night. Now is the time to break
out of storage that equipment, which is old or (heavy) or just
equipment that you might want to share with the club. That is
what Home brew and Boat Anchor stands for.

I would like to thank all that helped out at Field Day
from Brian N6IYY to the short time I spent there. Without all
and I mean all that participated we could not have had as good a
turn out as we did. See the article in this Short Skip covering
Field Day.

We had a gathering of SCRA Hams showing off their
skills in front of old timers showing off old equipment like
steam operated, one gallon a minute to run to a factory run by
belts with one power source. Yes I am talking about the pen-
grove power and implement mea sum.

Just a reminder we are going to have our annual memo-
rial picnic in September.
Stay healthy keep on talking

Dave S. KF6CLG
SCRA President

Club Picnic Saturday September 11th

The SCRA annual picnic, now known as the Robert C.
McQuilkin Memorial Picnic, will be held at Howarth
Park, Cypress Point picnic area. Cypress Point is next
to the boat launch ramp. The picnic will kick off about
10:00 am, and go until 3:00 pm. There will be a Fox
Hunt, so bring your hunting rig.

The board voted to make this year's picnic pot luck, so
please keep in mind what kind of dish you want to
bring. The club will be supplying the meat. We have a
good budget to work with so I think along with the usu-
al hamburgers and hot dogs we will also be having
salmon, tri-tip, and chicken. We are going to need
some volunteers to help make the picnic a success. Are-
as most needing help are setup, cleanup, and pot luck
dish coordinator. I will be in Massachusetts the week-
end before the picnic; it is also likely I will be working
out of town the week before the picnic. It is very im-
ported that members step forward to help out to make
this event come together.

Picnic Chair Person
Jim Draeger, KI6REK
Home 576-1058, Cell 480-9751
jim@draegerdesigns.com

August 4, 2010 Meeting Announcement:

Home Brew & Boat Anchor Night

Come join us for our annual Home Brew &
Boat Anchor Night. Feel free to bring some of
your own gear to display.



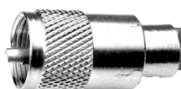
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Vice President	Darryl Paule	KI6MSP	
Secretary	Evelyn Chavez	KI6PAY	
Treasurer	Jack Christensen	K6ROW	
Director	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB	
Director	John Chavez	KG6PEP	
Past President	Dave Harrison	W6IBC	

Committee Lineup / Contacts

Membership	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB	
Program	Darryl Paule	KI6MSP	
EmComm	Rich Freitas	KF6SZA	
Field Day	Brian Torr	N6IYY	575-5871
Activity	Dave Santori	KF6CLG	585-1873
Public Service	Craig Gaevert	K6XLT	545-4133
Mentoring	John Breckenridge	WB6FRZ	217-1017
Repeater	John Felton	KE5RI	
Volunteer Exam			
Liaison	Brian Torr	N6IYY	575-5871
Antenna Ordinance-Legal	Lee Dibble	KE6EAQ	544-1675
Public Relations	Bill McCall	W6WDM	538-2844
Public Relations	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	291-7355
Refreshments	Jim Draeger	KI6REK	
ARRL DXCC/WAS Manager	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	763-2528
Club Raffle			
Member Badges	Ken Rawles	N6PWW	

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
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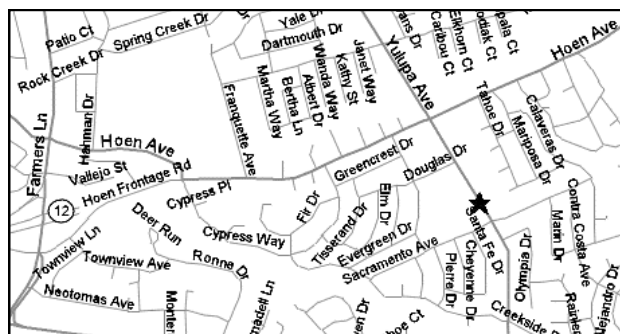
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**SCRA Club Meetings**

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

Next meeting is 7:00 PM Wednesday, August 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/>



Public Service Roundup

With the last couple of months being so busy, it sure was pleasant to have a nice quiet July. A perfect opportunity for the Wrangler to head out of town and ride an event instead of working one. Michelle and I headed for Medford for the Northwest Tandem Rally over the July 4th weekend. We had nice cool weather (odd for Medford) and some real nice riding. Unfortunately we had little opportunity for any radio action.

August will bring the annual Wings over Wine Country Airshow. Look elsewhere in this issue for information on working at this event. Always a good show and a good opportunity to show folks ham radio.

We have two more events on the calendar and no time like now to get the word out. September 25-26 is Waves to Wine, followed in two weeks by Levi's Gran Fondo. For Waves to Wine, the course is unchanged from last year. It does appear that they are expecting more riders than last year so look to be busy as usual. Saturday the event will start in San Francisco and finish in Rohnert Park. Sunday will start at Rohnert Park and finish somewhere north of Healdsburg. I think they have changed the finish to Asti, but am waiting for confirmation. We'll be looking for the full complement of folks to staff Net Control and several rest stops. We'll take SAG s too. And as in previous years we will be operating on the Marin system for most of Saturday.

The Gran Fondo, on October 9, will be even bigger this year with some 6000 riders signed up. I've already been to a few planning meetings and it will be an interesting event. Operations will be very similar to last year with an Incident Command being set up at the Occidental fire station and NC at Finley. We learned a few things last year and W6IBC has provided some insight into how to make it a little better. Once again the needs are for NC, rests stops and SAGs.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone out for these events – should be good fun.

Craig
Public Service Wrangler
K6XLT

SCRA Meeting Minutes - July 2010

Pat KG6JSL moved to accept the minutes from last months [club meeting](#). Seconded by Lorenzo N6LAV. Approved

Bob KD6ZDE did a presentation on QRP, Thanks Bob

Repeater report from John KE5RI. Discussion was about the "noise" from repeater. More diagnosis was needed.

Jack K6ROW did the treasures report

John WB6FRZ did a report on mentoring and the technician class upcoming that weekend. How the class has changed with the new question pool.

Brian N6IYY did a recap of field day. Also the upcoming VE session for July 17th 2010

Dave W6IBC mentioned the up coming public service events. The Waves to Wine bike ride in September.

Pat KG6JSL talked about PCAM [on August 21, 22](#). The club has a special event call of K6J for the PCAM. Pat is asking for volunteers to staff the special event station.

No old business
Net control for July and August

W6IBC 7/13
K6HKY 7/20
N6IYY 7/27
Sutter KI6ZON 8/3

Meeting adjourned at 2045

Darryl
KI6MSP Vice President
Acting Secretary



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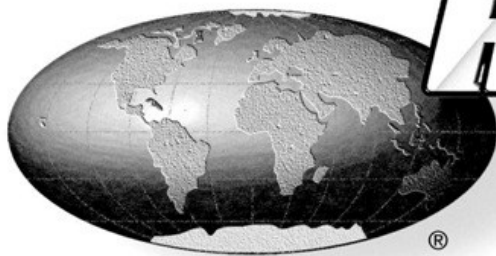
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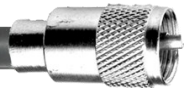
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SCRA at Penngrove Power and Implement Museum's Powerup

By Dave Harrison W6IBC

Many of us hams love things mechanical. So, it just seemed natural for the club to be present at the annual Penngrove Power and Implement Museum's power up event on Saturday, July 10th. This is the second year our club has been invited to participate, following donation to the museum of the club's World War II vintage generator three years ago. The museum is the brainchild of Steve and Nancy Phillips, who (like many of us) are avid collectors of all things mechanical in nature. They've assembled a most impressive collection of mechanical engines, devices and contrivances, from sewing machines, jeeps, to the largest gasoline engines around. One huge six-cylinder engine is so large it has its own out-building. A crowd favorite is the 28 cylinder Pratt and Whitney rotary aircraft engine from Howard Hughes' 'Spruce Goose' wooden aircraft. It made so much noise that everyone held their ears (some of us knew this and took our ear plugs with us).

ters. We also had a VHF-UHF station in operation during the event. Many people stopped by our booth to learn more about ham radio and to discuss old time radio in general. My thanks to those members helping out this year including Brian N6IYY, Jim K6HKY, John KE5RI, John KM6XO, Jack K6ROW and Pat KG6JSL.



Another view during one power up showing some of the antique radios SCRA displayed. (If you look closely, you'll see Brian's earplugs in place.)
Photo Courtesy of Dave W6IBC.



A view of the SCRA booth staffed by Brian N6IYY, John KE5RI and Jim K6KHY - *Photo Courtesy of Dave W6IBC.*

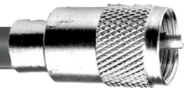


A view of the Pratt and Whitney engine during a power up. Almost everyone is protecting their ears.
Photo Courtesy of Dave W6IBC.

One very large two-cylinder diesel engine put out perfect smoke rings. For more information and some cool photos, check out their website:
www.penngrovepower.org

For this event SCRA used one of its new pop-up sun shades. We put up a tower for dipole antennas and worked a number of stations on 40 meters and 20 me-





SCRA Meeting Tech Discussion Time

On the agenda of future SCRA monthly meetings will be a "tech discussion time" when the floor will be opened to questions about any amateur radio-related issues. This is the time to ask if anyone has had experience with that perplexing radio programming problem you have been having, or maybe just a question about the best band and time to use to make a contact with someone in Ohio. Chances are that someone in the group will either know the answer or be able to direct you to some publication, website or person that can help. The collective experience and knowledge of people at the club meeting will be available to you and your issue. Come prepared to get answers to your radio questions at the next club meeting!

Very 73,

John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ
Mentor Committee Chairman

SCRA GRANTED SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE FOR PCAM

We have received confirmation that we have been granted a Special Event license to broadcast as a Special Event Station at the Pacific Coast Air Museum Wings over Wine Country air show on August 21-22. This is a superb opportunity to publicize the Club and the event itself. We will be operating on 14 and 7 meters, depending on band conditions, and will describe the show to other hams who can send a request to us for a QSO card. The air show itself, always good, is being billed as the best yet. We need volunteers to help operate for both Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers this year will not only be able to see the Show, but make contacts describing the show and the Club. Contact Pat Coyle, coylaw@sonic.net, and we will also have a sign-up sheet at the August meeting.

Pat Coyle KG6JSL

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Brian also wants some signage for the GOTA station. John WB6FRZ agreed to help Brian load the crank-up tower and other supplies beforehand. The educational activity will be at 3PM and dinner will be at 5PM on Saturday June 26th. The GOTA station captain Saraj KU6F may not be available for the entire event.

Dave W6IBC reported on preparations for the Penngrove Power and Implement Museum event on July 10, 2010 and asked for volunteers.

Pat KG6JSL reported that the engine alternator aboard the SCRA club van ("toaster") has stopped working. A new alternator will cost \$165. Mike AD6YB moved, and Darryl KI6MSP seconded, that the club authorize Pat to spend not more than \$210 for the alternator, and for rotating a tire from the out-of-round wheel to a spare good wheel.

John KG6PEP discussed the possibility of using RF ID tag technology as an interface for APRS. John will investigate this possibility further and report back to the board.

Meeting adjourned at 8PM.





Field Day 2010 Recap

Field Day 2010 turned out to be a very nice weekend. Not too hot (last year, temperature's soared over 100 degrees), but unfortunately some of the bands weren't too hot either. Still, we managed to make quite a few contacts. The SSB and VHF/UHF stations turned in a much better performance this year than last year. The SSB station made 25% more contacts than last year and the VHF/UHF station tripled the number of contacts (there was an opening on 6m that was responsible for most of these contacts).



The GOTA and CW stations did not do as well, primarily due to lack of operators. Our key (no pun intended) CW operator had to tend to some sick children, and many of the GOTA operators from last year were not available to work the GOTA station this year. It just goes to show that we need to keep cultivating new hams to help keep our scores up.



Still, the GOTA station did give a few new hams their first HF contacts, and it is always a pleasure being there when this happens.

Kudos to John, WB6FRZ, for inviting Steve Freitas, the

Windsor Chief of Police and Sonoma County Sheriff-Elect, to our Field Day. Steve visited early Saturday afternoon. This was worth 100 bonus points. This is the first time I can recall that we ever earned this bonus.

John also headed up the Educational Activity, and copied the W1AW Field Day bulletin, worth another 100 bonus points each.

We just missed making the minimum of 5 contacts on natural power (time ran out), so that was 100 points we got last year that we didn't get this year. Thanks for John, WB6FRZ and Charles, KJ6DSD for their efforts.

Time also ran out on originating a message to our ARRL section manager, but it was not for a lack of trying on the part of John Felton, KE5RI.

Bob Arthur, KG6ZDN, and Charles Sikes, KJ6DSD, were able to make a satellite contact via AO-51; unfortunately, we were not able to confirm their callsign as being legitimate. This would have been worth another 100 bonus points.

Reprising their roles from last year, Pat, KG6JSL did a wonderful job with dinner Saturday evening. And Dave, W6IBC (substituting for Dave, KF6CLG) served up a Continental breakfast

Sunday morning. Thanks for keeping the operator's "fueled"!

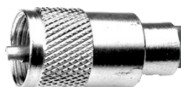


Thanks also to those that e-mailed me photos taken at Field Day. I will be including some of them with our Field Day submission. My favorite was the picture of the make-shift sun-shades for the SSB and CW stations. It just helps to prove that hams will do what it takes to get the job done. If you have any more photos, please e-mail them to me.



Not counting guests that dropped by, we had a total of 33 people participating in Field Day this year. And everyone pitched in and helped one way or another, and several helped in many ways. Field Day is a big undertaking, but with this kind of help, it runs a lot smoother! Thanks to all who participated!

73,
Brian Torr, N6IYY
SCRA Field Day 2010 Chairman
(Photos Courtesy of Brian N6IYY)



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
June 9, 2010

Meeting called to order at 6PM by SCRA President Dave KF6CLG at Star Family Restaurant, Windsor, CA. Board members present: Dave KF6CLG, Darryl KI6MSP, Jack K6ROW, Mike AD6YB, John KG6PEP, Dave W6IBC. Other members present Brian N6IYY, John KE5RI, and Pat KG6JSL.

SCRA Vice President Darryl KI6MSP reported on the Human Race. Receipts from the agencies do not agree with the amounts of donations to the club. Darryl will follow up with the agencies. Membership meeting programs for September and October are not finalized: Darryl is waiting on confirmations from ARRL Section Manager Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV and Maritime Radio Historical Society leader Richard Dillman of K6KPH.

SCRA Treasurer Jack K6ROW reported that contributions have exceeded budget projections by about one thousand dollars.

The Board confirmed the membership vote to designate the club picnic as "The Robert C McQuilkin Picnic" as a tribute to SCRA member Bob WB6TGI (sk).

Minutes from the May 12, 2010 Board meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected. John KG6PEP will notify SCRA secretary Evelyn KI6PAY of the changes before publication in Short Skip.

Mentoring chair John WB6FRZ has completed the accounting process for class supplies and will henceforth subtract class materials and supplies costs from ham class fees collected (not to exceed \$20 per student with out Board approval), and remit remaining sums to the club treasury following each fee-based class.

The Board thanked John WB6FRZ for his effective educational efforts which have increased club membership and participation.

President Dave KF6CLG asked the board members to review the website and check for completeness, correctness and spelling and let the webmaster Bob KG6ZDN know of any needed changes or corrections.

Repeater chair John KE5RI reported that something or some circumstance is presently causing apparent desensitization of the repeater receiver during a period of time around sundown. It is not clear whether the problem is equipment related, or is atmospheric in origin. The board discussed the differences between echolink and IRLP, and the repeater chair will be working on adding IRLP to the repeater system.

Field Day Chair Brian N6IYY reported on the status of Field Day 2010 preparations. Further details include invitations to elected public officials and served agency officials,

Continued on Page 6



CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Lots of state QSO parties this month along with the annual ARRL UHF Contest. South African DX contests may also be fairly interesting following the recent World Cup tournament. Happy DX'ing!

1 Aug – **South Africa DX Contest** – SSB, 80-20 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.

1 Aug – **European HF Championship** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: lea.hamradio.si/~scc/eahfc.html.

6 Aug – **NS Weekly Sprint** – CW, 160-20 meters. See: www.nccsprint.com/rules.html.

7 Aug – **TARA Grid Dip Contest** – Digital, 160-6 meters. See: www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_grid_rules.html.

7-8 Aug – **10-10 Summer Phone QSO Party** – Phone, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

7-8 Aug – **ARRL UHF Contest** – all modes, 432 MHz and up. See: arrl.org/contests.

7-8 Aug – **North American QSO Party** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: ncjweb.com.

8 Aug – **Straight Key Weekend Sprint** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com/sprint/

wes.

11-12 Aug – **CWops Mini-CWT Test** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.cwops.org/onair.html.

14 Aug – **Maryland-DC QSO Party** – all modes, 160 meters – 70 cm. See: mdcqsopar.tv.w3vpr.org.

14 Aug – **Feld-Hell Monthly Sprint** – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

14-15 Aug – **Worked All Europe** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.waedc.de.

14-15 Aug – **Keymen's Club of Japan Contest** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.jarl.com/kcj.

16 Aug – **ARRL Rookie Roundup** – Phone, 80-6 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

21 Aug – **Silent Key Memorial Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: qrparci.org.

continued on back page

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.

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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:

August: Home Brew & Boat Anchor Night

Tentative 2010 Club Activities:

June 6: Event TBD

June 19: Terrible Two Bicycle Tour

June 25-27: Field Day

August 21-22: PCAM “Wings over Wine Country”

September 25-26: MS Waves to Wine

October 9: Levi Leipheimer’s Gran Fondo

October 16-17: “Jamboree on the Air”

October 15-17: ARRL Division Convention - Pacific

December 3: SCRA Holiday Party

Contest Corner continued from page 9

21 Aug – **ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest** – all modes, 10G+. See: arrl.org/contests.

21-22 Aug – **SARTG WW RTTY Contest** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.sartg.com/contest/wwrules.htm.

21-22 Aug – **Russian District Award Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: rdaward.org/rdac1.htm.

21-22 Aug – **North American QSO Party** – Phone, 160-2 meters. See: ncjweb.com.

21-23 Aug – **New Jersey QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.qsl.net/w2rj.

28-29 Aug – **Hawaii QSO Party** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.karc.net.

28-29 Aug – **Ohio QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.ohqp.org.

28-29 Aug – **ALARA Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: alara.org.au.

28-29 Aug – **YO DX Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.hamradio.ro.

28-29 Aug – **SCC RTTY Championship** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: lea.hamradio.si/~scc/rtty.html.

28-29 Aug – **Kansas QSO Party** – all modes, 80-2 meters. See: www.ksqsoparty.org.

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

Return Service Requested