



CLUB STATION
K6SON

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116 707-579-9608

<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 37, Number 5

May 2012



May SCRA Update

by Darryl Paule, KI6MSP
SCRA President

If you think April was a great, exciting month, then there will be more!

First of all I want to recap April: To start off the month there was a tech class, where we had five participants. All five passed and one even got his General license. Two of the students came from distant places. One was from Vacaville. The other came from Visalia. Congratulations to all!

I also want to thank Bill W6VSY who did an exceptional presentation on the Maritime Radio Historical Society, <http://www.radiomarine.org> Also I want to thank Greg K6SRO for his part of the presentation. I've been to MRHS about five years ago, and really enjoyed seeing all of the radios that were used in the early days of maritime communications.

There are a couple of great opportunities to participate with MRHS:

First you can arrange a tour of MRHS.

Secondly you also have an opportunity to volunteer to work and learn the rich history of maritime radio.

Contact Greg K6SRO at: gregf@pon.net to schedule a tour or to volunteer. There is a video presentation of this presentation on the club Web site. Look under resources.

The Lake Sonoma 50, One Rugged Run, saw a lot of runners with mud up to their knees, since the course had gotten a lot of rain just up to the event. Yet we

provided excellent communications, and the run was a great success. I want to thank Dave W6IBC for managing this event and to all that participated.

As of this writing we also have the Boy Scout Redwood Regional Challenge where we will provide communications for this event.

There is also the MS Walk that we will provide communications support for this important event.

Working these and other public service events is a lot of fun, and you get to not only support these events you also get to review your radio operating skills. If you are new you have the opportunity to be paired up with someone to assist you in learning how to operate. These skills are the same basic skills used in EMCOM. For the opportunity to work public service events contact Craig K6XLT at k6xlt@sonic.net

Other upcoming events are the Human Race, Wine Country Century bike ride, and the AMGEN bike tour.

For the past four years SCRA has partnered with the Human Race in raising funds to support the volunteer center. Aside from SCRA supporting the Human Race & the Volunteer Center, there is the 211.org information and referral information, working with community resources to support people looking for housing, food, doctors, dentists, etc. The Web link for more information on the Volunteer Center is: <http://www.volunteernow.org/211.org> or www.211.org

SCRA is providing the communications support for the Human Race. I'd like to invite you to also support the Volunteer Center as well as SCRA.

[Continued on page 3.](#)



2012 Club Officers

President	Darryl M. Paule ki6msp@arrl.net	KI6MSP 707-544-8874
Vice President	Charlie Sikes	KZ6T
Treasurer	Steve Bramble	KI6TUR
Secretary	Mike Von Der Porten	AD6YB
Director	Dave Harrison	W6IBC
	Brian Torr	N6IYY
Past President	Dave Santori	KF6CLG

Committee Lineup/Contacts

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Antenna			
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ARRL DXCC/WAS			
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Club Raffle	John Chavez	KG6PEP	
Member Badges	Ken Rawles	N6PWV	

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

Tuesday Night Net

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

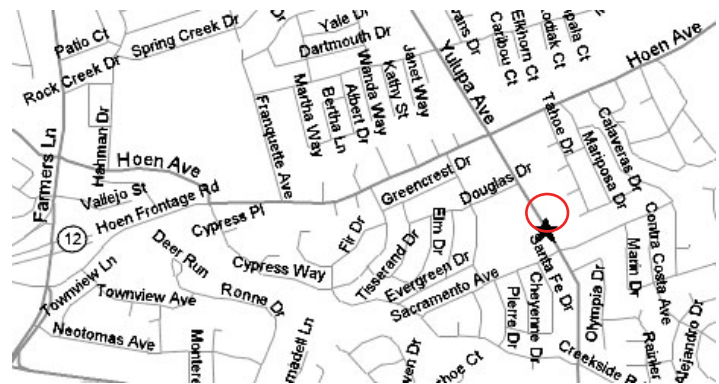
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SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Exceptions are holidays or other big events.

Meeting location:
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 Star Restaurant,
1350 Farmers Lane, 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 this Web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/san-francisco>



President's Message, continued.

Here is the web link to donate:

<http://www.humanracenow.org/goto/SonomaCountyRadioAmateurs>

This AMGEN tour will be different from those past. This time Santa Rosa will be the start & finish for the start of this years tour. This will not only showcase Santa Rosa, but it will also showcase SCRA. According to Craig he will need at least 45 radio operators on May 13th. So be sure to contact Craig to reserve you spot for this huge, fun event.

Since Amateur radio is 99 hobbies in one, there is an area that there hasn't been a lot of focus on. That part is the science of amateur radio. The club just had a very successful kit building class hosted by Dave W6IBS. In the development stage are two classes that are in process of being developed.

One of the classes will be a basic electronics class. The other will be a basic design class. IE: you have an idea of a project that you want to build, yet you don't know how to go about designing your project. These classes will probably be ready for the fall or winter when the public service is complete. Be sure to check the Short Skip and the SCRA Web site for details.

Also there will be some other "How To" presentations on the club Web site. These will be in development over the next several months.

How to put together Power pole connectors

How to use an antenna analyzer

How to use an antenna tuner

How to solder

How to solder PL-259 connectors

How to plan for you public service event, what do I need?

What is in my GO-kit?

Field Day is not too far off, June 23rd & 24th. This is a great opportunity to participate in seeing how amateur radio works in an EMCOM type setting. All of our power to operate will either come from generators or solar panels. For further information contact Brian N6IYY at n6iyy@arrl.net There will also be further information in the Short Skip and the Web site.

I also want to thank our Webmaster Sutter KI6ZON

for keeping the Web site going while our hosting company had to deal with a Denial of Service issue. Sutter put the club Web site on his personal server. The hosting company which is one of our sponsors, CDS Enterprises, has now resolved its issues.

Also don't forget the VOMARC hamfest April 28th at the Sonoma Veterans building. Here is the web link with all of the details: <http://vomarc.org/events.html>.

Mark your calendars for the different day for the July meeting. Since the 4th is on club meeting night, the meeting will be on July 11th.

73

Darryl

KI6MSP

Membership meeting programs for 2012

May

- APRS

June

- Field Day presented by Brian Torr N6IYY
- Movie Night

July

- Program to be determined

August

- Boat Anchor / Homebrew Night

September

- Radio Telescope presented by Keith Payea AG6CI

October

- Digital Modes

November

- Club Elections, Game Night

December

- No Program, Holiday Party



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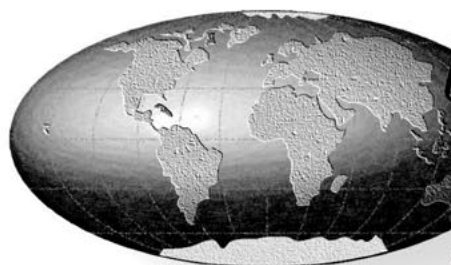
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- Internet WIREs compatible

Great Price!



FT-857D

- Ultra compact HF, VHF, UHF
- 100w HF/6M, 50w 2M, 20w UHF
- DSP included • 32 color display
- 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 required)

Call for Low Price!



FT-2000 HF + 6M tcvr

- 100 W w/ auto tuner
- built-in Power supply
- DSP filters / Voice memory recorder
- 3 Band Parametric Mic EQ
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- Easy-to-Navigate menus

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IC-756 PRO III All mode Transceiver

- 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
- 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

Low Pricing!



Repeater Committee Report

The expanded repeater committee is doing a fine job. We are moving ahead rapidly with projects that had been on the back burner. Within a short time, (we can't give you promise dates), the requested additional features will be one the air. They are IRLP, APRS, and a voting repeater system. More information will be published as each piece is phased in.

As a side note, I would like to thank the group, and especially David Harrison (W6IBC), for his observation that the attenuator that we were using to compensate for the difference in power level from the repeater output to the power amplifier input, may be causing desensitization of the receiver. I disagreed with him on this issue. I wish to state publicly that Dave was correct and I was wrong. Since changes were made to eliminate the attenuator, system performance improved significantly. My thanks go to David and the other members of the committee who got the job done. Thanks guys!

That's it for this month.

John, KE5RI
Trustee
Repeater Co-Chair



Cut out for your VIP Discount Card

Group Build Idea

I'd like to share an idea with you. Now I thought it was a pretty original idea until I shared it with another club member. While I was explaining my idea to him, he started to twitch and kick and pull his hair out. I had to ask if it was something I had said. Well, turns out he had this same brilliant idea but hasn't been able to get any support for it.

Enough teasing Charlie. Now for the idea. We were thinking about a group build project or team building projects. Our thought was to have the club sponsor a kit built radio station. Working as teams, we would construct all the necessary components; power supply, transceiver, antenna tuner, swr/power meter, and antenna. (As much or as little as we have the manpower to build) Each team, working independently, would give a short report or presentation at the membership meeting. It could be a great learning experience for everyone involved as well as just being a whole lot of fun. And if it really took off, we could do it again only we'd rotate the teams, each member building a different component the second time around, so that we could all keep learning.

After every team had finished and tested their piece of the station, we could demonstrate it at the membership meeting or another event like Field Day. Then when we'd all had our fun, we could auction off the whole station to recover the club's expenses.

So there it is, my not so original brilliant idea. I'm throwing it out there to get people talking about it and generate more interest. The goal isn't to make it too hard. It doesn't need to be rocket science for all of us to learn from it. At the same time, it shouldn't be a dumbed down project either. Lets all challenge ourselves and learn a little bit more about this magic we call radio.

John KG6PEP





Public Service Roundup for May 2012

First up, Dave Harrison's (W6IBC) report from the Lake Sonoma 50:

Lake Sonoma 50 Successfully Launches 2012 SCRA Public Service Calendar

For the fourth year in the last five (2011 was flooded out) SCRA supported the Lake Sonoma 50, a grueling footrace along the shore of the western reach of Lake Sonoma. The race started at 6:30am at the South Lake Trailhead where net control was situated. The runners turned around at No Name Flat parking lot on Rockpile road, some 25 miles distant, and then covered the same course on the return trip. While the course was muddy, the weather was ideal, and both men's and women's course records were broken by wide time margins. 246 runners began the race, and when the radio net ended, 19 runners had dropped out and did not finish and several runners (walkers) were still on the course.

Radio operations began around 6:30 AM and lasted until 8:15 PM when the crew at Island View aid station began their return boat trip to the marina. SCRA had operators at five rest stops along this course, with Doug KF6LMB serving at Island View. Charlie KZ6T set up a cross-band station at Warm Springs Creek, the most distant from net control. Fred KQ6OB had the morning shift at Wolfuw Springs, with Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF filling the afternoon shift. Jack K6ROW had Liberty Glen in the morning, while Darryl KI6MSP and Henry KI6VKL provided the afternoon shift. Ed N2WD served at the No Name Flat aid station. Basically, all aid stations other than Warm Springs used hand held 2 meter transceivers operating simplex. Net control operators included Craig K6XLT, Dave KF6CLG, Pat KG6JSL, Brian N6IYY, Dan WA6CRB and Dave W6IBC. Dan W6CRB also acted as logistics shadow during the afternoon hours when the logistics truck progressively closed down each aid station. Radio traffic included tracking times of lead groups of male and female runners inbound and outbound at each aid station, and tracking those who did not complete the race. Requests from aid stations for runner water and nutrients were also handled. Event photos taken by Ed N2WD and video taken by Charlie KZ6T have been posted on the SCRA user's group bulletin

board: scra-user-group@googlegroups.com.

The race directors were effusive in their praise for the ham radio team, noting that they could not rely on cell phone coverage to manage the event. My personal thanks for all who volunteered and served so ably: a picture perfect day and a wonderful way to kick off our 2012 public service calendar, and get our radios and our traffic handling techniques tuned up for bigger events to follow.

73, Dave W6IBC
Event Ham Radio Coordinator for SCRA

By the time you read this, the MS Walk will have occurred and we'll have an update next month.

Most importantly though we have the heavies hitting in the next few weeks. May 5 will see the double header of the Wine Country Century and the Human Race. Santa Rosa Cycling is one of this club's biggest sponsors so the full turnout for the WCC is much appreciated. Pretty sure that Darryl (KI6MSP) has a full crew for the Human Race but won't hurt to check in with him.

The following week will see the arrival of the spectacle that is the Tour of California (ATOC). Our duties will be on Sunday, May 13, for the day's first stage. This stage will start in the downtown with two laps of the city center before the racers head out and up to the Windsor area. They will return to do one quick lap of the downtown before they head out to the coast. About 3 hours later they will return to a finish in the downtown. Our assignment, as in the past, is to man corners to support the volunteers in closing and managing the course. It is no easy feat as you are the communication link for folks that want to know what's going on in the race and for us to advise everyone how the race is going. In the past it has taken close to 50 hams to make this work and this year we may even need more. And maybe we'll finally be lucky enough to have some really pleasant weather. It can't rain here every time the race comes through, can it?

At the moment, I don't have a lot of hams signed up for ATOC so I would really appreciate it if you can help out this day. Be forewarned that it will be Continued on next page...



Public Service Roundup continued

an interesting day – expect to spend most of the day from about 0930 to 1630 in the downtown, with one short and one long break in between activities. Figure roughly 0930 to 11 at the corners, 12-13 back at your assignment, then 1500-1630 for the finish.

After May we'll get a long break to the Terrible Two on June 16 but at least you can put that on your calendar.

If you're interested, I'm always happy to have someone else step forward and manage some of these events. I'll be available to give you the support you need to make your management of these a success. Overall they are usually pretty straightforward and don't require a lot of logistics.

For more info please feel free to contact me at k6xlt@sonic.net

Craig
K6XLT
Public Service Wrangler



Net Control Morning Shift with Dan WA6CRB at the controls, with Dave KF6CLG and Pat JG6JSL enjoying the beautiful weather (W6IBC photo).

VE Sessions

Our next VE exam is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, from 9am until noon, at First American Title Company, 3333 Mendocino Ave, Suite 100. All test elements will be administered.

Please arrive by 9:15am to be signed in. Testing will begin shortly thereafter.

Directions: From Hwy 101 (heading north), take Bicentennial Ave east toward Mendocino Ave. Turn right onto Mendocino Ave, Take the first right (one block south of Bicentennial) Turn right immediately into the parking lot. First American Title is at the corner nearest the intersection of Mendocino and Bicentennial Avenues.

Candidates should bring the following:

- One (1) photo ID or two (2) non-photo ID
- FCC Registration Number (FRN, if you have one) or Social Security Number (if you do not have an FRN)
- If you have had any FCC license assigned to you, amateur or otherwise, or had any prior business with the FCC, you probably have an FRN.
- Original and photocopy of your current amateur radio license (if licensed)
- Original and photocopy of any valid CSCEs (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. The calculator function in a cell phone or PDA may not be used! If you have any special needs, please contact Brian Torr, N6IY in advance.

Good Luck!

Brian Torr, N6IY
n6iiy@arrl.net
(707) 575-5871

**CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG**

Hello testers. Lots of contest activity in May including the annual CQ WW contest over the last weekend of the month. If UHF is your thing, then check out one of 2 microwave contests over the first weekend of the month. Happy DX'ing!

5 May – **Microwave Spring Sprint** – all modes, 902 MHz and above. See: sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints.

5-6 May – **2 GHz and Up World Wide Contest** – all modes, 2.3 GHz and above. See: www.ham-radio.com/sbms.

5-6 May – **10-10 Spring CW Contest** – CW, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

5-6 May – **7th Area QSO Party** – all modes, 160-2 meters. See: 7qp.org.

5-6 May – **Indiana QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.hdxcc.org/inqp.

5-6 May – **Radio Club of America QSO Party** – SSB, 80-15 meters. See: www.radio-club-of-america.org.

5-6 May – **ARI International DX Contest** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.ari.it.

5 May – **New England QSO Party** – all modes, 80-10 meters. See: www.neqp.org.

8 May – **ARS Spartan Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.arsqrp.blogspot.com.

8 May – **OK1WC Memorial Contest** – Phone/CW, 80-2 meters. See: www.hamradio.cz/ok1wc.

9 May – **CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Test** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.cwops.org/onair.html.

11 May – **SNS and NS Weekly Sprints** – CW, 160-20 meters. See: www.nccsprint.com/rules.html.

12 May – **FOC QSO Party** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.g4foc.org.

12 May – **EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.eucw.org.

12-13 May – **Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.contestvolta.com.

12-13 May – **Armed Forces Communications Test** – Phone/Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.netcom.army.mil/mars.

12-13 May – **CQ-M International DX Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.cq-m.andys.ru.

12-13 May – **Portuguese Navy Day** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.nra.pt.

12-13 May – **Nevada Mustang Roundup** – all modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.nvqsoparty.info.

12-13 May – **FISTS Spring Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.fists.org/sprints.html.

12-13 May – **50 MHz Spring Sprint** – all modes, 6 meters. See: sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints.

13 May – **Worked All Britain** – LF Phone – SSB, 160-40 meters. See: www.worked-all-britain.co.uk.

17 May – **NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: naqcc.info.

19 May – **Portuguese Navy Day** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.nra.pt.

19 May – **Feld-Hell Hamvention Sprint** – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

19-20 May – **EU PSK DX Contest** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.eu.srars.rog.

19-20 May – **His Majesty King of Spain Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.ure.es.

19-20 May – **Baltic Contest** – SSB/CW, 80 meters. See: www.lrsf.lt/bcontest/english/rules_html.htm.

20 May – **Run For the Bacon** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.fpqrp.org.

Continued on next page...





Come Join SCRA at Field Day 2012 June 22, 23, 24

ALERT!! Field Day is just over eight weeks away! We will again be having Field Day at the Youth Community Park (aka “the skateboard park”), 1725 Fulton Rd, in Santa Rosa (across the street from Piner High School). As hams, the world is our playground, so what better place to have Field Day than in a public park. Field Day is one of our best opportunities to demonstrate amateur radio to the public.

Plans are coming together, but there are still lots to do in the next few weeks. We still need to tie up a few loose ends. We may be operating as a “3A” classification, meaning that we will have three HF transmitters. One of these will be on SSB, another on CW and a third on PSK-31. We need station captains and radios for both the SSB and CW stations, so if you can help us with this, please let me know. The CW station will again be in the SCRA communication van (the “Toaster”).

We will also have a Get-On-The-Air, or GOTA, station. I encourage all of our recently-licensed hams and even those old-timers that have not had an opportunity to get on the HF bands in the last year to give the GOTA station a try. It will be operating on SSB. We will need control operators (General or higher) to allow the unlicensed and under-licensed hams the ability to work HF. We get extra points if there is always a mentor at the GOTA station.

We will also have VHF/UHF/Satellite station. Last year, using relatively simple antennas, we were able to make a satellite contact. I’m sure we can do at least as well this year.

Pat Coyle, KG6JSL, will be coordinating the dinner Saturday night. A donation of \$10 gets you both dinner Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning.

We will also be having an Educational Activity. The exact time and content of this activity has not yet been determined, so watch for announcements on the SCRA website and your e-mail for further details.

We need your help!

First of all, I would like to hear from anyone who is

hoping to participate in any way in Field Day this year. Even if you might only be there to observe for an hour or two to help logging, cooking, or whatever, please call me or send me an e-mail.

Specific areas where we need help are:

1. Radios for the SSB, CW and GOTA stations
2. Station captains for the SSB and CW stations
3. Control operators for the GOTA station.
4. Laptop computers to use for logging.
5. Coax cable and UHF(f) to UHF(f) adapters. It’s a real bummer when the station and antenna are separated by 120’ and you only have 100’ of coax!
7. “Tour Guides” to help show visitors around our Field Day site and explain what we are up to

We will begin setup around 4pm on Friday, June 22. We will try to get most of the antennas set up before sundown. Setup will continue Saturday morning, June 23. The operating begins at 11:00am and runs until 11:00am Sunday morning, June 24. We will immediately start tearing down at 11:00am Sunday and should be leaving the park by 3:00pm.

Hope to see you all there!

Brian Torr, N6IIY
Tel: (707) 575-5871
n6iiy@arrl.net

Contest Corner, continued

26-27 May – **Worldwide EME Contest** – Phone/CW, 1.2 GHz. See: www.dubus.org.

26-27 May – **CQ WW WPX Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.cqwpw.com.

27 May – **QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.qrparci.org/contests.

28-29 May – **MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.miqrp.org.



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
 P.O. Box 116
 Santa Rosa, California
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Raffle Update

OK. We're doing well on the raffle. Lots of you are supporting it. That means that we can keep adding more prizes. More prizes means more chances to win! This month, we'll have another UHF/VHF HT, 5 Watt foldable solar charger, a tool set for your house or car, some Andersen Powerpoles, a General class study manual. You get the idea. There are some good prizes but you have to play to win. So show up at this month's membership meeting on 5/2/2012 and bring an extra \$5 or \$10 to spend. You could be this month's big winner. Did I forget to mention the DVOM? John KG6PEP, raffle fairy

To join the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, visit [our Web site](#), or complete the following application:

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 via email? Yes _____ No _____

Dues & Fees: March 1 to 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 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402