



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>

Repeaters:

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Castle Rock: 147.315+ 156.7



REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 37, Number 8

August 2012



August SCRA Update

by Darryl Paule, KI6MSP
SCRA President

I want to thank Robb Cary KJ6UGX for an excellent presentation on battery types, care, and maintenance.

More opportunities are available to SCRA to be showcased in the community.

First off:

SCRA will have a booth at the Sonoma County Fair. This will be on July 28th and August 11th. QST recently had an article promoting DIY. The Fair this year has a program on DIY. We will be using the Special Event Call sign of K6F both days of the Fair. SCRA will be demonstrating side band and digital radio.

Secondly SCRA will have a booth at the Grand Fondo bike ride. Here we will have maps of the course, demonstrate APRS, have a radio with a speaker so that visitors to the Grand Fondo will have a chance to listen to the inner workings of this event.

Photos from these two events will be on the SCRA web site and a few will be in the September issue of Short Skip.

73

Darryl
KI6MSP

Mini-DXpedition Photos

from Darryl KI6MSP



Rotating the 2m beam



KE5RI fixing KI6MSP's coax

More photos on page 6



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

Membership	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB	
Program	Charlie Sikes	KZ6T	
EmComm	Rich Freitas	KF6SZA	
Field Day	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707-575-5871
Activity			
Public Service	Craig Gaever	K6XLT	707-545-4133
Education	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
Refreshments	Jim Draeger	KI6REK	
ARRL DXCC/WAS			
Manager	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528
Club Raffle	John Chavez	KG6PEP	
Member Badges	Ken Rawles	N6PWV	

Short Skip & Web Staff

Editor	Donald Laird	WE4MOO
	we4moo@donaldlaird.com	
Webmaster	Sutter Laird	KI6ZON
	ki6zon@qsl.net	

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 broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

Business Cards	\$12 per month
1st Quarter Column	\$13 per month
Each Additional Quarter Column	\$4 per month
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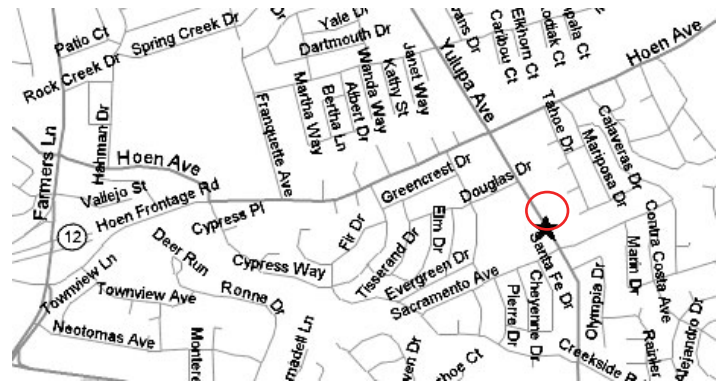


SCRA Club Meetings

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>



'I read you five by five' and other communications lore

by Ray Collins USAF C4 Agency, Scott AFB, Ill, early 1990's

Words and phrases are often used and passed on without realizing the origin or purpose behind their use. The meanings behind some often-used terms are deeply rooted in military communications history. For example, how many times have you heard used the terms "five by five" "five square" or "fiver"?

Most people know it has something to do with a level of understanding, but know nothing about its origins. In the vernacular of radio operators, signal strength and readability were measured very subjectively, using the voice definitions of operating signals, QSA (signal strength) 1 to 5 and QRK (readability 1 to 5).

"I hear you five by five means a station's signal strength are both very good or excellent. "loud and clear" gained unofficial acceptance because it was easier to say. Any combination of these factors could be heard over the airwaves ranging from the number "1 by 1", meaning scarcely perceptible and unreadable to the perfect rating of "5 by 5". Over the years the term migrated to everyday usage and evolved into slang terms such as "fiver", "five by" and "5 square".

On another note, does this sentence look familiar to you? "The quick red fox jumped over the lazy dog's back." Some senior communicators, particularly those associated with teletype operations of old, may readily identify with this sentence and its use. But why was this particular phrase so popular when testing the circuits? In days long past, communications centers used this sentence between teletype terminals to test the keyboards. Look at the sentence closely, it served a very distant purpose. Do you see what it was? This sentence contains every character of the alphabet. The numerals 1 through 0 were usually added at the end of the sentence. Teletype operators could make sure all the keys on the keyboard were functional by using this sentence to test their equipment.

Here is one more piece of trivia. Did you know that almost a full minute is unaccounted for on the military 24 hour clock? How is this possible?

The 24 hour clock starts each day at 0001 hours and ends at 2400 hours. There is no provision to extend the clock to account for the 59 seconds between 2400 and 0001.

There have been attempts to create a 0000 time that is the same as 2400. These attempts at clock tampering were rejected by officialdom.

The bottom line is to make sure if you are on the 24 hour clock nothing happens during the 59 seconds between 2400 and 0001. An occurrence has to happen in order to be accurately recorded. If it occurred in those 59 seconds it did not happen.

BT

Charles Christian
W6CLC@sonic.net
Santa Rosa, CA

Membership meeting programs for 2012

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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Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

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1525 W. Magnolia Blvd, 91506
(818) 842-1786
(800) 854-6046
Eric, KA6IHT, Mgr.
Magnolia between
S. Victory & Buena Vista
burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA
2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA
5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(858) 560-4900
(800) 854-6046
Tom, KM6K, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA
510 Lawrence Exp. #102, 94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Howard, W6HOC, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NEW CASTLE, DE
(Near Philadelphia)
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720
(302) 322-7092
(800) 644-4476
Rick, K3TL, Mgr.
RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295
newcastle@hamradio.com

PORTLAND, OR
11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy.
97223
(503) 598-0555
(800) 854-6046
Leon, W7AD, Mgr.
Tigard-99W exit
from Hwy. 5 & 217
portland@hamradio.com

DENVER, CO
8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231
(303) 745-7373
(800) 444-9476
John, N5EHP, Mgr.
denver@hamradio.com

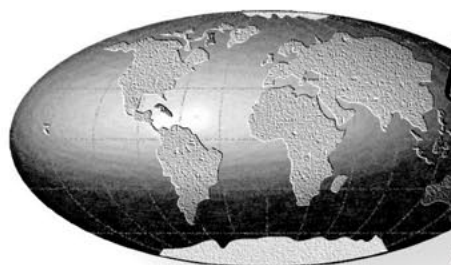
PHOENIX, AZ
1939 W. Dunlap Ave., 85021
(602) 242-3515
(800) 444-9476
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.
1 mi. east of I-17
phoenix@hamradio.com

ATLANTA, GA
6071 Buford Hwy., 30340
(770) 263-0700
(800) 444-7927
Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.
Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285
atlanta@hamradio.com

WOODBRIIDGE, VA
(Near Washington D.C.)
14803 Build America Dr. 22191
(703) 643-1063
(800) 444-4799
Steve, W4SHG, Mgr.
Exit 161, I-95, So. to US 1
woodbridge@hamradio.com

SALEM, NH
(Near Boston)
224 N. Broadway, 03079
(603) 898-3750
(800) 444-0047
Chuck, N1UC, Mgr.
sales@hamradio.com
Exit 1, I-93;
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Low Pricing!



IC-756 PRO III All mode Transceiver

- 160-6M @ 100W • Enhanced Rx performance
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- 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!



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Membership Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order by president Darryl Paule KI6MSP at 7:01 PM.

Members and guests introduced themselves.

Robb Cary KJ6UGX gave a presentation on batteries which included all types – from small one-use batteries to large banks of batteries used for critical system operations. Robb discussed various forms of normal and abnormal battery failures. He explained the importance of using the correct charging systems for each type of battery.

A break was held.

Charlie Sikes KZ6T reports that he can handle sign ups for the Google Groups account.

Mike Von der Porten AD6YB, secretary, had nothing to report.

Steve Bramble KI6TUR, treasurer, reported that income and expenses were a bit behind on the straight-line budget, but overall, the club is \$400 ahead of plan. \$1,400 has been spent on repeaters, but more will go out when the 440 MHz repeater is approved after its 90-day test.

Jeff Tonelli KI6PBV, education, reported that there are 38 potential students for the class. The cut off for the August class will be August 14.

Jim KI6REK, refreshments, is on vacation. Substitute Mike AD6YB reports that there are refreshments, but only store-bought.

Mike Von der Porten AD6YB, membership, reminds people to get in their renewals if they have not already done so.

John Felton KE5RI, repeater co-chair, reports that the UHF repeater is up and running. They are solving some cable problems, so the intertie to the 2-meter repeater should be done by Friday, July 13. Dave Harrison W6IBC reports that IRLP is intended to be con-

nected after the interlink works. Charlie Sikes, KZ6T, is working on APRS at English Hill.

John Felton KE5RI reported on Night of Nights which is Thursday, July 12 afternoon at KPH at Point Reyes. Visitors are welcome.

Craig Gaevert K6XLT, public service, was not in attendance.

Dave Harrison W6IBC reported on the Mendocino Rally. There is a dry run in Santa Rosa on Sunday, July 29 at 10 AM and the event is August 4. Advanced sign-ups are required. See Dave to sign up.

Dave Harrison W6IBC, director, had nothing to report.

Brian Torr N6IY, VE liaison, reported that there will be a VE session on September 8 and one associated with the class in August.

Brian Tor N6IY, director, had nothing to report.

Sutter Laird KI6ZON, Webmaster, demonstrated recent upgrades to the Web site.

Brian Torr N6IY reported on Field Day. Overall points were 34.9% higher than last year. There were good results all around. Brian handed out GOTA pins to those who operated that station.

Charlie Sikes KZ6T reported that this is the last night to sign up for the mini-DXpedition. 14+ people are signed up.

Darryl Paule KI6MSP reported that the club has a booth at the County Fair on July 28 and August 11 from 11 AM to 7 PM. See Darryl to sign up.

Darryl Paule KI6MSP reported on donation from WA6UTD. John Felton reported on the condition and value of some of the equipment. The Board will evaluate the equipment and determine what is best for club use and what is best sold to benefit the club.

The net controls were set as follows:

July 17 – Fred Polkinghorn KQ6OB



July 24 – Sutter Laird KI6ZON

July 31 – John Breckinridge WB6FRZ

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Von der Porten
Secretary

More Mini-DXpedition Photos from Darryl KI6MSP



The camp site

More Mini-DXpedition Photos from Sutter KI6ZON



KI6MSP looking for a contact



Roughing it?



KJ6QIS and KI6ZON working HF



Romeo and friend



Field Day 2012 Recap

Field Day 2012 was simply fantastic! Sure it would have been nicer if the weather had been a bit warmer (but please, no triple digit temperatures as we had a few years ago!) and the bands had been a bit hotter as well. But other than that, there was little to complain about.

As always, not everything went exactly as planned. For example, I did not find out until it was too late that we could not get access to our TH-6 yagi. But in true Field Day fashion, we found a solution. In this case, it was John Felton, KE5RI, who came through with a nearly-identical TH-5 for us to use. Many thanks to John!

The CW station also had its difficulties, largely around using a radio unfamiliar to its users (and until a few weeks prior, unfamiliar to its owner, at least in regards to CW operation). There were also issues with the antenna tuners used (one had a dead battery and the other a bad RF connector).

But they overcame the difficulties and logged 40% more contacts than last year! Way to go!

New this year was the Digital station, captained by Charlie, KZ6T. He logged 100 contacts. Since digital contacts are two points a piece, combined with our power multiplier of 2 and 100 bonus points for each transmitter, this station earned us a total of 500 points!

The VHF/ Satellite station had the toughest time. Only a few contacts were made. We had hoped for a good opening on 6m which simply didn't happen. And despite several attempts, we were unable to make a satellite contact.

The GOTA station worked like a well-oiled machine, making 52% more contacts than last year. Dave, W6IBC, was the GOTA station captain and coaches Doug, KF6LMB and Frank, NQ6E, did an awesome job.

We sent our message to the ARRL SF Section Manager through the GOTA station as well. That didn't go quite as smoothly as it should have; although the message had been pre-prepared, it was not there when we needed it, so we had to ad-lib.

This year we had the use of the picnic area which we used for the Educational Activity and dinner.

The Educational Activity was building a 10m Rectangular Loop antenna. Five antennas were built by eight people. We had to do a bit of pruning to get them on-frequency, but that is typical of antenna construction projects.

Pat Coyle, KG6JSL, coordinated dinner and did an awesome job. Everyone loved the food. The only complaint I heard was that they ran out of veggie burgers.

The Public Information and ARES booth was well-staffed and we received several sign-ups for the upcoming Technician class in August.

One of the goals I wanted to achieve this year was to ensure that anyone who wanted a chance to operate would not be denied. To my knowledge, we achieved that goal.

Some of the best work was actually done before Field Day even started. Darryl, KI6MSP, who headed up the Public Relations effort, did a simply awesome job. In addition to arranging for staffing of the Public Information / ARES booth, he sent out press releases, talked to local radio hosts, and was even interviewed by Curtis Kim on KSRO. The SCRA website has a link to the audio from that interview. As you read in last month's Short Skip, through Darryl's effort we received a Resolution from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors declaring June 18 through June 24 Amateur Radio Week.

So, how did we do points-wise compared to last year? We did much better! Last year our claimed score was 2100 points. This year, we claimed 2910, a 38.5% improvement.

In terms of bonus points, although we tried several times to make a satellite contact, we were not able to do so. And we simply forgot to plug into the solar panels to make our natural power QSOs. So there is room for improvement for next year!

As always, Field Day is a team effort, and we assembled an excellent team! My hearty thanks to all those who participated to help make Field Day 2012 one of the





best, if not the best, that many of us could remember.

Very 73,
Brian, N6IYY
Field Day Chairman



W6IBC and KJ6QIS working a station on Field Day



KJ6QIr and NQ6E working a station on Field Day

Raffle!!!

Hi everyone. I've missed you guys. Summers get busy but I'm planning on seeing everyone at the next meeting in August. Please come and join us and don't forget to bring a few extra dollars to support our raffle. The more members that play, the more the club spends on prizes. The odds of winning are very good compared to say the state lottery.

So don't miss your chance this month to win yourself a new dual band pocket portable radio. There will be lots of other useful prizes and most likely an inexpensive DVOM too.

So just to recap. Come play radio in August with the rest of us hams. Have some fun. Maybe we'll all learn a little bit more about the magic of radio. Spend some pocket change on the raffle. You might be this month's big winner.

And please do share any ideas you have for inexpensive prizes with me. They'll do until the big money starts to roll in.

John KG6PEP, raffle fairy

Member Corner

Dawn Silveira KA6OPN is looking for someone to carpool with down to PacificCon. She would like to leave for Santa Clara on Friday 10/12 and return on Sunday 10/14.

Please call her at (707) 584-3482 or email at ka6opn@yahoo.com.



**CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG**

Hello testers. Lots of QSO parties this month as well as some digital and UHF events. Enjoy the dog days of summer and happy DX'ing!

3 Aug – **SNS and NS Weekly Sprints** – CW/Digital, 160-20 meters. See: <http://www.ncccsprint.com>.

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

4 Aug – **European HF Championship** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhfc.htm.

4-5 Aug – **Int'l Lighthouse-Lightship Contest** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: illw.org.

4-5 Aug – **10-10 Summer Phone QSO Party** – Phone, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

4-5 Aug – **ARRL UHF Contest** – all modes, 222 MHz and up. See: arrl.org/contests.

4-5 Aug – **North American QSO Party** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: ncjweb.com.

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

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

8 Aug – **CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Test** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.cwops.org/onair.html.

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

11 Aug – **Fall VHF Sprints** – all modes, 6 meters. See: www.svhfs.org.

11-12 Aug – **Worked All Europe** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.waedc.de.

12 Aug – **Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

12 Aug – **NJQRP Skeeter Hunt** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: w2lj.blogspot.com/p/njqrp-skeeter-hunt.html.

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

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

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

18-19 Aug – **ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest** – all modes, 10G+. See: arrl.org/contests.

18-19 Aug – **Dominican Republic Contest** – Phone, 80-40 meters. See: www.hi8ud.org.

18-19 Aug – **Russian District Award Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: rdaward.org/rdac1.htm.

18-19 Aug – **Keymen's Club of Japan Contest** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.kcj-cw.com.

18-19 Aug – **North American QSO Party** – Phone, 160-2 meters. See: ncjweb.com.

19 Aug – **SARL Digital Contest** – Digital, 80-20 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.

19 Aug – **ARRL Rookie Roundup** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

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

25 Aug – **ALARA Contest** – SSB/CW, 80 meters - 70 centimeters. See: alara.org.au.

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

25-26 Aug – **YO DX Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.hamradio.ro.

25-26 Aug – **SCC RTTY Championship** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: lea.hamradio.si/~scc/rtty/rtty.html.

25-26 Aug – **Ohio QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.ohqp.org.



25-27 Aug – **Hawaii QSO Party** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.hawaiiqsoparty.org.

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

Terrible Two Photos

from W6FRZ



Public Service Roundup for August 2012

After the Terrible Two, the Wrangler had a little time for RnR, heading off to Salem for the Northwest Tandem Rally and some riding time in Hood River. Sad to say, no ham radio support on the NWTR event and the repeaters seemed rather quiet in the other areas as well. Hmm . . . On Friday 20 July (last night as this is being written), Santa Rosa Cycling Club held a thank-you party for TT volunteers. It was a pleasure to see WB6FRZ, KU6F, and K6BSG make the dinner party. N1AL, N3SU and N6AFL were present as well as member of both clubs. Yours truly along with co-chair Bill Oetinger received a rather nice framed piece proclaiming “You did it!” for our efforts in managing what was easily the hottest Terrible Two ever.

July has been a great month to recover from the busy spring and get ready for the next round in August and September. 12 August will be the Tour d’Organics, a benefit for the Sebastopol Community Center. We will have the usual slate of bike event positions to fill. 22-23 September will be the Waves to Wine event. Again it will have the usual bike event spots to fill. This year, an experience ham coordinator, KC7IID, with experience in Utah MS events will join me in organizing this year’s event and hopefully will be taking over next year. In the mean time, I’m still the organizer for hams this year. Finally we’ll have Levi’s Gran Fondo on 29 September – you know this event.

Don’t forget as well that Pat KG6JSL will have his Mendocino Rally in early August and PCAM will occur after the Tour d’Organics – look for info elsewhere in the newsletter.

As always feel free to contact me about public service events as well as to sign up – k6xlt@sonic.net

73s

Craig
K6XLT
Public Service Wrangler

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

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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