



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

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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 37, Number 10

October 2012



October SCRA Update

by Darryl Paule, KI6MSP
SCRA President

Thanks to Keith AG6CI for the outstanding presentation on Radio Astronomy at the September meeting.

Sutter KI6ZON will be presenting digital modes (PSK 31, APRS, SCTV) at the October meeting.

At the August club meeting, Jim AL2M introduced himself as the new ACS Officer. Jim asked that SCRA members consider volunteering to work with ACS. The SCRA BOD was very supportive of Jim's request. In the near future there will be a combined ARES/ACS disaster drill. I'm a member of both ARES & ACS. I recommend that you become members of both organizations. This will support the community that you live, work, and play in during the time of a disaster.

October is also the California Shake Out Drill. The ACS drill is on October 18th. The ARES drill is scheduled for October 20th. I plan on participating in both of these drills.

There were two technician classes held recently; the last weekend of August, and the first full weekend of September. The next class is the first weekend of November. The November class will be the sixth held this year. Usually we have three or four classes. In part this is the result of the booths that SCRA has had at the various events that SCRA participated in. There will be a booth at the Gran Fondo this year. This is supporting my personal goal of getting amateur radio, and SCRA out in the community.

Please read Dave's W6IBC follow up article on designing a circuit. It is very informative and great educational opportunity to learn circuit design.

Tubes:

Several months ago SCRA received several hundred tubes. Some were sold at VOMARC. The sale of these tubes supports the club. There are probably 200-300 or so. There is a list of the tubes on the SCRA Google reflector. Or you can email me at ki6msp@arrl.net if you are looking for tubes, and I'll send you the list.

Almost forgot to mention that elections are next month. This is an opportunity to serve your club, and make a difference! The club doesn't function without you!

If you're interested in or thinking about being an officer or director please contact me at: ki6msp@arrl.net

73
Darryl
KI6MSP

Membership meeting programs for 2012

October
• Digital Modes

November
• Club Elections, Game Night

December
• No Program, Holiday Party



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 Program | Mike Von der Porten | AD6YB | |
| EmComm | Charlie Sikes | KZ6T | |
| Field Day Activity | Rich Freitas | KF6SZA | |
| Public Service | Brian Torr | N6IYY | 707-575-5871 |
| Education | Craig Gaever | K6XLT | 707-545-4133 |
| Repeater | Jeff Tonelli | KI6PBF | |
| Volunteer Exam | John Felton | KE5RI | |
| 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

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| | |
|---------------|---|
| 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 |
| Full page (one side) | \$35 per month |
| Pre-printed inserts (each) | \$35 per month |

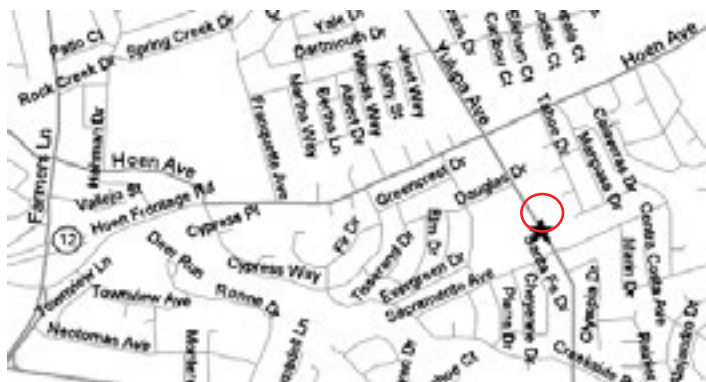
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SCRA Club Meetings

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>

To Every Season

There was a popular song many years ago that quoted a line, to every season turn, turn, turn.

That season has begun. The Amateur Radio Community is shrinking daily, we who are active in it must show ourselves to be approachable, friendly, competent, worthy and well qualified to offer assistance at a moment's notice in whatever capacity we are called on to do so.

I deeply appreciate the opportunity to take some of this valuable space to make a few statements, and ask for your time and knowledge. The President of your Club and the Board of Directors has been gracious enough to give me a bit of room here so I'll use it.

First let me introduce myself. My name is Jim Goodman and I'm the newly appointed Chief Radio Officer for the Auxiliary Communications Service. It is the Amateur Communications branch of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services for the County of Sonoma.

I'm also a Communications Technician with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Tele-Communications Bureau. I have the privilege of working with some of the finest people anyone could ever dream of. We maintain the radio systems that support Public Safety and many of the day to day operations around the County.

I've had many folks approach me about joint trainings, workshops and other activities that would benefit Amateur Radio and the County of Sonoma. I'd like to pursue them all, but there are so many things to do I'll need your help.

If you'd like to know more about ACS, emergency communications or how you may become involved in the building of an interoperable and dependable communications network contact one of your Board members or me at al2mcom7@gmail.com.

Thanks again and '73, AL2M

Member Corner

Dawn Silveira KA6OPN is looking for someone to car-pool 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.

CQ Jamboree On The Air. CQ JOTA

Wow! October already. Please volunteer to help us at World Scouting's largest event, the Jamboree On The Air. This year's 55th JOTA will be held on Saturday, October 20th at the Vineyard Of Faith, 167 Arata Lane at Hwy 101 in Windsor. Our local Scout JOTA station will be on the air from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Come give our local Scouts the opportunity to see what Scouting is like around the country and around the world. We'll be operating many different radio modes and helping the Scouts earn their Radio Merit Badge.

Please Please Please volunteer and help show these young Scouts how useful and fun Ham radio can be. Sign up at the membership meeting or call me at 707-326-3000 to help.

Remember, this event can't happen without Hams.
John KG6PEP



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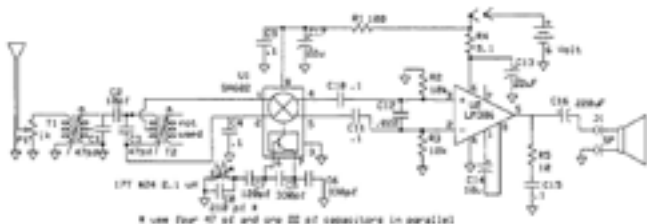
A Brief Look at RF Design for the Radio

Amateur

Part II

By Dave Harrison W6IBC (w6ibc@arrl.net)

Last time we identified a potential architecture for our simple 40 meter SSB-CW receiver design project. It's assumed that we already have some understanding of basic electronics and know what resistors, capacitors, inductors and transistors are and do. We've now researched existent designs and consulted circuit data sheets, and have come up with a schematic diagram of our proposed receiver:



The next task in the design-from-scratch process is to construct a feasibility prototype: build and test the circuit to compare actual results against our proposed design.

There are many ways to prototype circuitry. For RF circuitry, it is important to have a very low impedance ground plane at the frequency of interest. For this reason, we'll start out by using "ugly" construction on a small (2" by 4") piece of unpatterned copper-coated printed circuit board (PCB) material. However, before we begin tack-soldering components together, we'll lay the circuit out by placing unconnected components on the board, to be sure that we leave enough space for the components, and to keep inputs separated from outputs, to minimize unwanted feedback paths. I've found from experience over the years that a linear layout process works best. That is to say, start with the output circuit and lay the circuits out in a line leading from output to input. By starting at the output, we can test the audio amplifier stage before constructing any of the RF stages.

So, let's start with the audio chip, LM386. This 8 pin dip chip's data sheet shows the pin arrangement and the output to be pin 5 with differential inputs at pins 2 and 3. This suggests we should align this part so that

one side having pins 5-8 is facing the output end of the board, and the other side having pins 1-4 is facing the RF chip, SA602, in the center of the PCB. Then, we can provide enough room for the two large electrolytic capacitors needed at the output and power supply pins. So, let's solder the LM386 in place, holding it to the PCB by solder connections and components. We'll mount it upside down (in the so-called "dead bug" arrangement), so we have to be careful to identify the location of pin 1 of the chip, so we can connect correctly per the LM386 datasheet. When we've finished wiring the LM386, the circuit should look like this:



When we apply 6 volts between the positive supply and ground, and we connect headphones or a small speaker to the audio output, and touch an input pin, we should hear a buzzing sound, indicating that the circuit is working. Good. Now we can move on.

The SA602 is located and mounted dead-bug-style to a central region of the PCB, with the SA602 differential output pins 4 and 5 facing the LM386. We'll leave enough room between the chips for the three capacitors and two resistors. We'll ground pin 4 with a jumper wire, and connect the positive supply line to pin 8. We'll connect an RF bypass capacitor between pin 2 and ground.

Next, we'll mount the two small 10.7 MHz IF transformers T1 and T2 to the circuit board at the other end by soldering them on their sides to the copper foil of the PCB. We've consulted the data sheet for these transformers and know that the side having 3 pins is the high impedance winding, and the side having 2 pins is the low impedance winding. We'll use both windings of input transformer T1, but only the high impedance winding of T2. We'll solder the pins of the windings in accordance with the schematic diagram and ground the outer metal can of T1 and T2. Then, we'll connect the tuning and coupling capacitors, and we'll mount and connect a potentiometer on a

front panel between the antenna, ground, and the low impedance winding of input transformer T1. (This arrangement of T1 and T2 is known as a “critically coupled band pass filter” and it eliminates the need for a manual tuning capacitor at the RF input stage).

Next, we’ll construct the VFO circuitry that will provide the local oscillator. Because of the nature of the SA602 as shown in its data sheet, we have no access to the oscillator collector, so the oscillator will have to be connected between the base and emitter electrodes. We’ll use a Colpitts oscillator, and wire the oscillator components accordingly.

Now for the resonant circuit we could use a fixed inductor and a variable capacitor, or we could a fixed capacitor and a variable inductor. I prefer the latter approach because of my experiments in the past². I’ve learned that using a brass slug to reduce the inductance of the coil results in a variable frequency oscillator having excellent frequency stability.

I’ve found a standard 1/8 inch brass tube coupling at the local OSH hardware store. I’ve drilled it and threaded it to receive an 8/32 brass screw. Then, I’ve cut a small piece of 3/8ths inch acrylic tubing and heated one end to expand the inside diameter slightly and thread it over the threads of one end of the brass coupling. Finally, I’ve wound 17 turns of #24 copper wire on the plastic tube and secured them in place with “Scotch” tape. I’ve mounted this assembly to a plastic front panel, and attached a pill bottle cap as a tuning knob, and “voila” we have a tuning mechanism. I’ve mounted the panel to the base and installed the signal regulating potentiometer, antenna jack, and headphones/loudspeaker jack. Once wiring is completed, the prototype circuit looks like this:



Once we’re satisfied we’ve constructed the circuit correctly, we’ll connect a small loudspeaker, and a 40 meter dipole antenna, and apply power through a 100 ohm resistor acting as a very slow acting fuse. If we’ve made any mistakes, the resistor will get warm and we need to disconnect the power pronto, and check our wiring to find the problem. If all is well, the speaker should emit a low hissing sound, indicating that the oscillator is working. We should find a strong 40 meter signal with our main ham receiver, and attempt to tune the prototype to that signal. Or, we could use a signal generator. Once we’ve adjusted our VFO coil spacing to cover the 40 meter band, we can peak the two RF transformers for maximum signal strength. We have now verified that our design works. (You’ll be pleased to find that it works very well!). We could do a better job of layout, or lay the circuit out on a custom PCB. In any event, we can begin listening to SSB and CW signals on the 40 meter ham band. Remember, this is a direct conversion receiver, so it receives signals on both sides of the carrier oscillator, and in that sense lacks the selectivity of a SSB filter-based superhet design. With careful purchasing, one could easily duplicate this design for about \$20.00, or less.

Please contact me if you would like further information or a parts list with sources. Good luck with your RF designs, projects and prototypes. The only way to master home brew design is to start designing and building radio equipment! As they say in connection with HF radio, “the sky’s the limit”! (My thanks to John, WB6FRZ, for his splendid editorial comments and improvements).

Fn1: see, e.g., Dillon WA3RNC, “The Neophyte Receiver”, QST, February 1988, pp 14-18 (available at ARRL website for download by ARRL members).

Fn2: Harrison W6IBC, “Revisiting the Four Stage 75 Meter SSB Superhet”, QST, January 2012, pp 32-36 (see QST-In Depth website for complete article).

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Membership Meeting

5 September 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:05

INTRODUCTIONS, UPGRADES, CHANGED CALLS

- Minutes requested to show that 7 women preset, with two being Extra Amateurs.
- KJ6YFD is now an Extra
- Darryl does not know who the new ARES Liaison will be since KF6SZA is retiring and moving out of the area.

PROGRAM – Radio Astronomy Presented by Keith

- Terrific presentation began at 7:15 and concluded at 8:10 PM

QUESTIONS

- Tom AF6TB Asked for anyone that could give him information on station remote control.
- Garret (Non-ham) asked for assistance in putting together a \$50 kit that students could build that would receive digital signals from a small satellite that is scheduled to go into space soon.

INTERMISSION

- No refreshments tonight.
- Ended at 8:20PM

BUSINESS MEETING

VP REPORT

- KZ6T Nothing to report

SECRETARY REPORT

- AB6YB Not present

TREASURER REPORT

- Steve KI6TUR presented a summary of accounts.
- Total of +\$16.6k in the bank accounts
- Income is above budget projection.

EDUCATION REPORT

- Jeff KI6PBF reported that there was a tech class last weekend. 6 out of 7 passed and received licenses. 6 are signed up for this weekends class. One more (last) class this year will be offered in November.
- Dave W6IBC is working with Jeff to prototype a 40m receiver kit to build.

REPEATER

- KE5RI reported that the UHF and VHF repeaters are now tied together.

SHORTSKIP REPORT

- None.

WEBMASTER REPORT

- None.

PUBLIC SERVICE

- Craig K6XLT was not present. He was attending planning meeting for the Gran Fondo. Darryl reported that the Waves to Wine slots were filled for Saturday. He might need two positions for Sunday. LGF positions are filled.

REFRESHMENTS

- Jim KE6REK is recovering from injuries, so no refreshments were had at intermission. Darryl asked if anyone would step up and fill that position. No volunteers came forward.

MEMBERSHIP

- AD6YB not present.

ARES

- KF6FZA not present. He is retiring this month and moving out of the area.

Continued on next page



Membership meeting minutes, continued

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

- Approval of Aug meeting minutes with the addition that Brian N6IYY presentation of his 40m CW rig be included. Motioned by W6IBC, 2nd by John KG6PEP. Unanimous approval.

MISCELLANEOUS

- KI6MSP gave brief recap of PCAM, SOCO Fair, Fondo Booth (looking for more volunteers), and science fair.
- KG6PEP gave update on JOTA
- WB6FRZ gave update on Girl Scout CW event scheduled for October.

NEW BUSINESS

- KZ6T presented idea for club to develop a plan that would make a remote HF station available to all members.
- Motion made by KI6TUR, 2nd by KG6PEP directing BoD to study the proposition and report back to the membership.
- Motion passed with all members voting yes except one nay, and one abstention.

NET CONTROL

- 9-11 KZ6T
- 9-18 N6IYY
- 9-25 K6TUR
- 10-2 AE6SF

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:15 PM

Meeting notes compiled by KZ6T

California QSO Party

The first full weekend of October marks the annual running of the California QSO Party (CQP) - a great opportunity for stations in California because everyone else HAS TO WORK US! We are the DX! This year marks the 46th running of CQP sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club.

Entering a contest either casually to give some points or as a serious effort, is a great exercise in operating “under fire”.

You can easily Work All States in a single weekend especially with everyone looking for you. And there’s DX to be worked: it’s possible to work all continents during CQP.

For California stations the object of the contest is to work as many stations as possible on SSB and CW. Every US state and Canadian province you work counts as a multiplier – 58 total for us just like the number of counties in California.

Want to be on the end of a really big pile up? Plan a County Expedition to one of the rarer California counties----the rest of the world will beat a path to You. Check out the counties activation planning map on the CQP web site at www.cqp.org -- you may be surprised that some of the rarest counties often lie on your doorstep.

Every station that submits a log is eligible for an achievement certificate and there are several operating categories where the leader receives a special CQP plaque for proud display on the shack wall. Three categories are designed to encourage operation in contests: YL award, Youth (< 18) award, California New Contester

If you work all 58 counties, you qualify for the “Worked All California Counties Award” sponsored by NCCC.

You can find the full rules and award details on the CQP web site at <http://www.cqp.org>.

Part time or full, home operator or an expedition to a new county, CQP is a blast!



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Board of Directors Meeting

12 September 2012

Called to order at 6:20 PM by president Darryl Paule KI6MSP.

Attending are Dave Santori KF6CLG past president, Pat Coyle KG6JSL, Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF, Darryl Paule KI6MSP president, John Breckenridge WB6FRZ, Brian Torr N6IIY director, Mike Von der Porten AD6YB secretary, Charlie Sikes KZ6T vice president, John Chavez KG6PEP.

Renee Natcher came to discuss one of the Family Magazine events coming up on Sept. 22. Approx. 2,000 attendees are expected. The cost is \$295 for a table and two chairs at the event at the Finley Center. An outdoor space could be available instead of or in addition to the inside space.

The consensus was that this event is not a direct link to our target audience and is more expensive than other public outreach activities. The Family Magazine is a for-profit group, so this is less interesting to SCRA. We will not pursue this opportunity.

Vice President report – Charlie Sikes KZ6T had nothing to report as vice president.

Secretary report - Mike Von der Porten AD6YB had nothing to report.

Treasurer report – Steve Bramble was not present, provided information that he's processing new memberships.

Directors report – Brian Torr N6IIY had nothing to report

Repeater report – Charlie Sikes KZ6T reports that the 2 meter and 440 MHz repeater are linked. There was a lock-up event. We may wish to unlink the repeaters for the public service events.

VE – Brian Torr N6IIY reported that at last Sunday's VE session, everyone earned at least one license level. Attendance at the open session was smaller than expected. The larger space was good and we have shown that we can organize an event that way.

Education report – Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF reported that the fifth class of the year ended up with three students completing the class. All three earned Tech certificates. There is another class the first week in November. A 20 meter SSB receiver may be used for a construction project.

Darryl indicated that we want to track where our class members come from. Which events are most effective at bringing people into the course? How many become Club members?

Membership report – Mike AD6YB has nothing to report. Concern was expressed about members who have not renewed. Getting the new member packet going was discussed.

Old Business:

“Ham Shack” idea - Charlie Sikes K6ZT reported that a proposal was discussed regarding remotely operated HF. The membership is interested in pursuing this idea. This could be pursued by the Repeater Committee. The site may be the hardest problem to overcome. Is there a member who has an antenna and site who might want to host such an operation? Darryl Paule KI6MSP moved and Dave Santori KF6CLG seconded that Charlie be appointed chair of the Remote HF Investigation Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

North Bay Science Festival—Darryl submitted our application.

Fondo booth update – We have a booth at Levi's Gran Fondo. We have sufficient volunteers: anyone else interested please contact Darryl Paule KI6MSP.

Minutes – For the Board of Directors minutes from August 8, 2012 correct “John Felton reported on a prior experience” to “John Breckenridge WB6FRZ reported on a prior experience.” Moved by Charlie Sikes KZ6T, seconded by Brian Torr N6IIY, approved as corrected.

New Business:

John Chavez KG6PEP reported on the status of the raffles.

Continued on next page

Pat Coyle reports that the “toaster” communications van is in OK condition and will be good for the winter. Pat reported that the “toaster” has only been used twice this year, so we need to determine what to do with it. We do need to replace one wheel that appears out of round.

Darryl Paule KI6MSP suggested that we have signs at events to identify who we are and that we have hand-outs available at events. Materials could be handed out at meetings where people are signing up for events. We could investigate QR code use. Does a QR code allow future, rather than immediate access when cell phone connections are not available?

Fair update – we had few signups for classes, but had good exposure. We are on the list if this program is continued.

John Chavez KI6PEP reports that there is a Safety Fair coming up where we might participate. This is October 6, 2012.

Darryl discussed at possible digital net. This will be held over to the annual planning meeting.

Darryl reported on KI6HID’s suggestion for a tech net. This will be held over to the annual planning meeting. A tech net is available on the WinSystem for three hours each Friday evening

Charlie Sikes KZ6T requested information on the digital program for the next membership meeting. Darryl will pursue this.

We will be seeking members of the Nominations Committee. Volunteers should contact Darryl.

We have had a request for women’s t-shirts made using the club logo. We can consider this when reordering t-shirts.

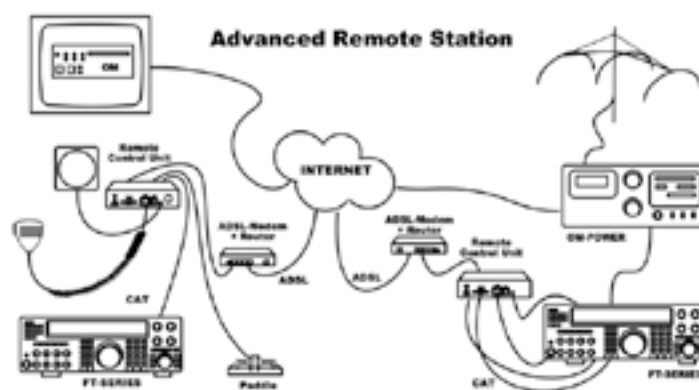
Adjourned by consensus at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Von der Porten, AD6YB
Secretary

Seeking Ham Shack Committee Members

As many of you know, during the September 4th meeting, the Membership voted to direct the BoD to study the feasibility of setting up a remote operated HF station. A kind of mobile HF Shack-in-the Box if you will. The BoD bestowed the task of putting that feasibility study in my hands with the authority of formulating a new committee. So now I am looking for interested members willing to do research with me.

For those who missed the meeting, here is what we are considering. The Club may elect to put together a HF radio station for the use of the members. There are a number of systems we could employ. Below is a block diagram of one type of system. There are full Internet solutions (no radio hardware at the Local station), and at least one system that operates via RF.



This study offers many challenges that need exploration; site acquisition, hardware, software, operations, security, and scheduling to name a few. A preliminary study would ideally be put together for early 2013. I envision the committee meeting on a monthly cycle with additional fill-in online (Skype) meetings as needed. If you would like to get in on the ground floor of what could be an exciting new direction for the Club, please let me know right away. All levels of experience (from none to DX’ers) and licensee class are welcome. Please respond via email to KZ6T@arrl.net

73

Charlie Sikes KZ6T

VE Session Report & Next VE Session

On Sunday, September 9, we tried something new. We held two VE sessions simultaneously. One session was specifically for the students of the weekend-long Technician class. The other was an open session, which accepted walk-ins. We did this because we were expecting about a dozen candidates for each session. As it turned out, we only had 9 candidates total, but it was a good learning experience to show that we could coordinate two sessions simultaneously and handle more if we had to.

Out of those 9 candidates, I am pleased to report that everyone went away with either a new call or upgrade. In one case, the person only expected to earn a Technician class license but came away earning General! Congratulations to all!

Putting on two sessions simultaneously also meant we needed more VEs than usual. I want to extend my hearty thanks to all those VEs that participated: John, WB6FRZ; Darryl, KI6MSP, Pia, N6PIA, Matt, KE6L-PO, Jim K6HKY, Bilil, WB6JAO, Mary, KG6GEX, Rick, N6GY, and Saraj, KU6F. I especially want to thank Bill and Mary for leading the second team.

I hope to squeeze in one more VE exam session before the year is out, most likely in November. Ideally, it would be on a Saturday from 9 am to noon, but perhaps we will again run two sessions on Sunday, November 4, at the same time as the next weekend-long Technician class. Walk-ins will be accepted and all test elements will be administered. Please check the SCRA website for further updates on the date and location.

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, N6IIY in advance.

73,

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

Raffle Update

“RAFFLE TICKETS! GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS!”
I just wanted to remind everyone to bring a few extra dollars to the membership meeting and buy some raffle tickets. This month, we should be giving away another dual band HT as well as some other useful items. So join the fun and help give a little HT a good home.

John KG6PEP
Raffle fairy



CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Lots of contest activity in October. Check out the Worked All Provinces of China contest or the always popular CQ WW SSB DX contest. Happy DX'ing!

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

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

3 Oct – **432 MHz Fall VHF Sprint** – all modes, 70 cm. See: www.svhfs.org.

5 Oct – **SNS and NS Weekly Sprints** – CW/Digital, 160-20 meters. See: www.nccsprint.com.

5-7 Oct – **DX/NA YLRL Anniversary Party** – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.ylrl.org.

6 Oct – **PSK Rumble** – The Fall Classic – Digital, 160-6 meters. See: www.n2ty.com.

6 Oct – **Worked All Provinces of China** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.muladxc.org.

6 Oct – **EU Autumn Sprint** – SSB, 80-20 meters. See: www.eusprint.com.

6-7 Oct – **ARRL EME Contest** – all modes, 2.3 GHz and up. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

6-7 Oct – **EPC Russia DX Contest** – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.epc-ru.ru.

6-7 Oct – **Oceania DX Phone Contest** – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.oceaniadxcontest.com.

6-7 Oct – **Worked All Britain HF Contest** – SSB, 20-10 meters. See: www.worked-all-britain.co.uk.

6-7 Oct – **California QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.cqp.org.

7 Oct – **RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest** – SSB/CW, 15-10 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org.

10 Oct – **10-10 Sprint** – all modes, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

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

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

13 Oct – **Great Pumpkin Sprint** – digital, 160 meters. See: www.podxs070.com.

13 Oct – **Arizona Centennial QSO Party** – all modes, 80-2 meters. See: www.azqsoparty.org.

13 Oct – **EU Autumn Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.eu-sprint.com.

13 Oct – **Pennsylvania QSO Party** – all modes, 160-2 meters. See: www.nittany-arc.net.

13 Oct – **FISTS Fall Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.fists.org.

13-14 Oct – **Makrothen RTTY Contest** – digital, 80-10 meters. See: home.arcor.de/waldemar.kebsch

13-14 Oct – **Oceania DX CW Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.oceaniadxcontest.com.

13-14 Oct – **Scandinavian Activity Contest** – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.sactest.net.

13-14 Oct – **QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.qrparci.org/contests.

14 Oct – **North American RTTY Sprint** – digital, 80-20 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.

14 Oct – **SKCC Weekend Sprintathon** – CW, 80-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

15-19 Oct – **School Club Roundup** – all modes, all bands. See: www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup-scr.

20 Oct – **Iowa QSO Party** – all modes, all allowed bands. See: www.wa0dx.org.

20 Oct – **Telephone Pioneer QSO Party** – all modes, 160-.7 meters. See: www.tpqsos.com.





20 Oct – **Spooky Feld-Hell Sprint** – digital, 80-40 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

20-21 Oct – **Arucaria VHF Contest** – Phone/CW, 6-2 meters. See: www.avhfc.com.

20-21 Oct – **JARTS WW RTTY Contest** – digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.jarts.jp.

20-21 Oct – **10-10 Fall CW QSO Party** – CW, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

20-21 Oct – **Scandinavian YLRA Contest** – all modes, 80-10 meters. See: www.sylra.is.

20-21 Oct – **New York QSO Party** – all modes, all allowed bands. See: www.nyqp.org.

20-21 Oct – **Worked All Germany** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/wag.

20-21 Oct – **Stew Perry Warmup Contest** – CW, 160 meters. See: www.kkn.net/stew.

20-21 Oct – **W/VE Islands QSO Party** – all modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.usislands.org.

21 Oct – **Asia-Pacific Sprint** – CW, 20-15 meters. See: jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt.

21-22 Oct – **Illinois QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html.

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

24 Oct – **SKCC Weekday Sprint** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

27-28 Oct – **CQ WW SSB Contest** – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: cq-amateur-radio.com.

Naval Radio Operators

By Charles Christian
W6CLC@sonic.net

Something happened today that reminded me of a story that those who do, or did, CW might find interesting.

In 1984 I had the occasion to fly out 175 miles to the USS Midway on some communication business concerning a secure circuit between the Omani Armed Forces and the USN Battle Group that is always in the Arabian Sea area. The Sultanate of Oman has a very close relationship with the U.S. and Britain. As the absolute ruler, Sultan Qaboos, is very pro west on the Q.T.. After I had my conference with some senior officers and R/Adm Tom Brown, the nice admiral had the ship's Communications Officer, Lt/Commander Claude Cole, give me a tour of all of the ship's communications facilities. My various clearances had already been sent out to the ship by the U.S. State Dept in WashDC and I would get to see all that neat stuff. After I saw what I knew I would see, which was state of the art communications gear and some very sharp and proficient communications personnel at work, Cole took me down a companion way to a compartment and opened the water tight door, I did not go in as I saw enough at one glance. Sitting at a console full of old radio gear were two old, grizzly CPO radio operators, playing with their (bugs) keys and drinking coffee. They had on their dress uniforms full of hash marks marking their decades of service. The uniforms were shabby looking and had a sort of a greenish shade of mold? on their blouses. If they did not move around some, I guess they would also have spider webs on them.

Surreal!.

If all else fails, CW gets through. The navy knows that and therefore has two old salts standing by 24/7 on their capital ships, such as a flagship like CV 41 was, which is now tied up in San Diego and is a most interesting museum to visit.

I wear with pride at times, the VIP ball cap from the ship that Adm Brown gave me. Of course I get stopped by folks at times and then I have to tell them, "No!, I was only a visitor on her at sea once, not a former crewman".



Marconi's Remains

By Pat KG6JSL

On a plateau on the West Coast of Ireland, across a farmer's field and accessible by dirt road, are the remnants of Marconi's first commercial transatlantic transmitting station. It lies about 5 miles south of Clifdon, Ireland, was constructed in 1907 and operated until 1922. This is not the site of Marconi's (disputed) first transatlantic transmission, but a later commercial station.



Today, there remains a concrete pad outlining the station and two plaques commemorating the development of wireless telegraphy that were presented by his daughter, Princess Elettra Marconi.



While on a driving tour of Ireland this summer we passed near this spot and the allure to a ham was irresistible. While there we met George, OX4PAT, a Dubliner who now lives (and is licensed) in Denmark. George and I laughed and joked that only those with

an abiding interest in radio would visit such a remote location, far off the tourist trails, while our XOL's huddled in the cars, protected from the wind and rain showers.



About a quarter mile from Marconi's station is a large rock and memorial that marks the landing spot of the first non-stop transatlantic flight by British aviators John Alcock and Arthur Brown. They flew from Newfoundland to Ireland in 1919. Although I have not seen it stated anywhere, I wonder if the landing in a bog near the Marconi station indicates that they may have used a radio direction finder tuned to the station as a navigation aid.

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

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

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| Please Print Clearly | New [] Renewal [] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name _____ | Call Sign _____ License Class _____ Date _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| City/State _____ | Zip _____ E-Mail _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARRL Member? Yes [] No [] Receive Short Skip newsletter via email? Yes _____ No _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Dues & Fees: March 1 to February 28</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Individual / Associate Member</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$24 (\$6.00/qtr)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family Membership</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$36 (\$9.00/qtr)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Under 18 Membership</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$18 (\$3.00/qtr)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badge</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$10</td> </tr> </table> <p>Badge Information</p> <p>Call Sign _____</p> <p>First Name _____</p> <p>City _____</p> | Individual / Associate Member | \$24 (\$6.00/qtr) | Family Membership | \$36 (\$9.00/qtr) | Under 18 Membership | \$18 (\$3.00/qtr) | Badge | \$10 | <p>Payment Calculations: <small>Make checks payable to SCRA</small></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Dues - Full Year</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dues - Prorated _____ Qtrs. x \$_____/qtr</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badge</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other - _____</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> </table> <p>Mail to: SCRA, P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402</p> | Dues - Full Year | \$ _____ | Dues - Prorated _____ Qtrs. x \$_____/qtr | \$ _____ | Badge | \$ _____ | Other - _____ | \$ _____ | Donation | \$ _____ | Total | \$ _____ |
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