



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 12

December 2012



December

SCRA Update

by Darryl Paule, KI6MSP
SCRA President

First off I want to granulate SCRA's new Board of Directors:

Charlie KZ6T	President
John KE5RI	Vice President
Steve KI6TUR	Treasurer
Mike AD6YB	Secretary
Brian N6IYY	Director
Doug KF6LMB	Director
Darryl KI6MSP	Past President

This is the new leadership for 2013. I know that Charlie and the rest of the BOD will continue in moving SCRA forward to new areas of community support and events.

My new role as past president will also include ongoing support of some of the new events, IE booths at Amgen, Gran Fondo. As well as working in other new areas to continue in showcasing SCRA and amateur radio in the community.

We have had a great exciting, fun, and challenging year in participating in all areas that SCRA is involved in. From the public service events, to sponsoring six technician classes this year, including the booths at various public service events to the Mendo Rally to PCAM.

SCRA has continued to grow with new members. I believe that we are up to 100 members. SCRA will continue to grow as we present new opportunities for

current as well as new members.

I want to thank the following current Board members for their support:

Charlie KZ6T, Steve KI6TUR, Mike AD6YB, Brian N6IYY, Dave W6IBC, Dave KF6CLG. John WB6FRZ, John KE5RI, Jack K6ROW, Craig K6XLT, Rich KF6SZA, John KG6PEP, Jim KI6REK, Ken N6PWV, Sutter KI6ZON, Donald WE4MOO, and Henry KI6VKL.

I want to also thank all of those who did presentations for the club. These presentations are always informative and enrich the club and its members:

ED N2WD SDR
Jeff KI6PBF antenna building
Greg K6SRO KPH
Brian N6IYY F D
Keith AG6CI Radio astronomy
Sutter KI6ZON digital modes
Brian N6IYY games for election night
Dave W6IBC project assembly class

Please also remember that SCRA is collecting donations for the Redwood Empire Food Bank. This is a program that I started three years ago. My goal for this Christmas/Holiday season is to collect 100lbs of donated food for the food bank.

Lastly I want to thank Ästrid KJ6JTP for her continuous support.

I look forward to a new year of new opportunity and fun for SCRA and its members.

Happy Holidays!
73, Darryl
KI6MSP



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	
Antenna	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707-575-5871
Ordinance-Legal	Lee Dibble	KE6EAQ	707 544-1675
Refreshments	Jim Draeger	KI6REK	
ARRL DXCC/WAS Manager	Chuck Terns	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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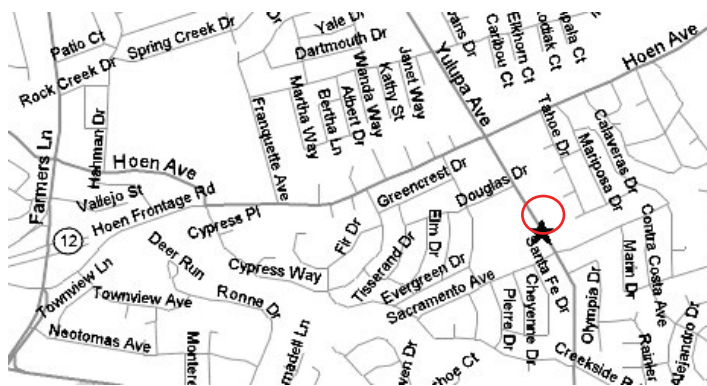


SCRA Club Meetings

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>

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Low Pricing!



IC-756 PRO III All mode Transceiver

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- Multiple DSP controlled AGC loops
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- 101 alphanumeric memories

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DJ-196T 2M/HT

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

Low Pricing!



DR-135TP 2M mobile

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- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

Low Pricing!

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Membership Meeting

November 7, 2012

Minutes

7:13 PM called to order

INTRODUCTIONS

Doug KJ6BMW new member, upgraded from Tech to General.

ELECTIONS

A slate of candidates was offered minus the VP slot. The membership was asked for a volunteer for the position. John KE5RI placed his name in nomination.

The slate presented:

President Charlie KZ6T

Vice President: John KE5RI

Secretary: Mike AB6YB

Treasurer: Steve KI6TUR

Director: Brian N6IIY

Director: Doug KF6LMB

Motion made and 2nd to accept slate by acclamation.

Motion passed, new BOD elected and will be seated in January.

PROGRAM

Brian N6IIY was the host for "Who Wants to be an Extra". A group of 3 contestants in two separate games answered a series of questions taken from the Tech, General, and Extra test question pool. Passing the 5 Tech questions earned the players a Tech level certificate, and likewise for the General and Extra levels. Players were allowed to call an Elmer, poll the members, and remove 50% of the wrong multiple-choice answers. Pat K6JSL, Bob WD6DPE, and Pat KB6KSA earned their extra class "certificate" with lifelines to spare. Darryl KI6MSP, Matt KJ6YET, and Janie KI6REF earned a Tech Certificate.

BREAK

John W6SB hosted a terrific spread of snacks from cookies, to muffins, to pumpkin pie with whip cream.

BUSINESS MEETING

Reports

- VP: none

- Secretary: Mike not present, none offered

- Treasurer: Steve not present, Darryl presented budget and account summary.

- Directors: Brian none. Dave not present none offered

- Education: Jeff presented summary of recent tech class. Still working on putting together a build class.

- Repeater: John - none. Jack - received bill for the new UHF repeater and passed it along for payment. Dave KF6CLG commented that our repeater is under utilized, and asked of there was any danger of losing the pair. KE5RI responded no.

- Pubic Service: K6XLT summarized the year of service. Mentioned that we received a good report from the County Radio Officer for our work during the Fondo. K6XLT present a check to the Club on behalf of SR Bike Club for \$1,000 for our work on the Fondo, K6XLT informed the club that he would be stepping down (a little) as Public Service Wrangler and recommended Bruce K6BDH for consideration. Darryl recognized K6XLT for all his hard work and dedication to the cause.

- Membership: Mike not present, no report.

- ARES: Darryl gave current summary that Rich has left the area and no replacement has been made.

- Short Skip: Donald not present, no report

- Web site: Sutter not present, no report

OLD BUSINESS

- Darryl offered summary of recent science festival

- No meeting minutes from October were published in Short Skip. Approval will be postponed until the January meeting.

- Holiday Dinner: Brian gave summary of event. December 5 at the Luther Burbank Home and Garden Club. Cost will be \$7.50 pp. Includes the cost of the entree. Pot luck for salad, side or dessert. Arrangements will soon be on the webpage for signups. Setup at 5:30, dinner begins at 6:00 PM.

Continued on next page



Meeting Minutes continued.

- John WB6FRZ gave summary of recent Girl Scout Morse Code event.

- John KG6PEP gave summary of recent Boy Scout JOTA event.

NEW BUSINESS

- Per our bylaws, the membership fee structure was voted on. A motion was made (KE5RI) and 2nd (KG6CLC) to adopt the same rate schedule as 2012. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

- KG6LMB asked when dues are due. Due to the change in the bylaws the answer was deferred.

- Because there was nothing set for the January membership-meeting program, the members were asked to vote on three subjects. Propagation, presented by W6IBC, ARRL/ARES/Pacificon presented by KH6GJV, Ham Shack miscellaneous equipment presented by KE5RI. Propagation received 10 votes, ARRL received 8 votes, Ham shack received 11 votes. KE5RI will make the January presentation. The remaining two will be on the "choose from" list for the January planning meeting.

- Net Control operators:

11/13/12	WB6FRZ John
11/20/12	K6XLT Craig
11/27/12	N6IYY Brian
12/04/12	KJ6YFD (Andru using an HT)
12/11/12	AE6SF Fred
12/18/12	AG6CI Keith
12/25/12	Christmas Day, no net
01/01/13	N6IYY Brian

Meeting adjourned

Meeting notes compiled by KZ6T

Notice:

The Annual meeting of the Board of Directors (January 2013) is postponed one week to January 16th.

HMS Bounty Rescue

You've heard it before, "Amateur Radio gets through when other comms fail". It was Paket this time. Check this out from Winlink.org:

On Monday morning, October 29, the tall ship HMS Bounty was in the embrace of Hurricane Sandy 90 miles off Hatteras, NC and taking on water. Doug Faunt, N6TQS, survivor and ship's electrician, told the ARRL that the Bounty crew tried various methods to call for help, including a satellite phone, "... we got nothing when tried calling out on HF. We tried calling the Maritime Mobile Net, but nothing was out there. We had Winlink on the ship that we used for e-mail and accessing the Internet to post to blogs and to Facebook, and we finally found an e-mail address for the Coast Guard. As a last-ditch effort, we used Winlink to e-mail the Coast Guard for help. Within an hour, we heard a C-130 plane, and later, a helicopter overhead." According to Faunt, it was Captain Robin Walbridge, KD4OHZ, as master of the ship, who sent out the distress messages.

The US Coast Guard has suspended its search for Robin Walbridge, 63, the missing captain of the replica tall ship HMS Bounty.

For a picture of the floundering ship and a video of the Coast Guard rescue go to WWW.Winlink.org and scroll down on the home page.

Mike Knope, KD6LYU, Group Paket Coordinator

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CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Lots of interesting contests to while away those dark winter nights in December including a meteor scatter contest. It is also the traditional 160 meter contest month, so break out your long dipoles.

Happy DX'ing!

30 Nov - 2 Dec – **ARRL 160 Meter Contest** – CW, 160 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

1 Dec – **AWA Bruce Kelly QSO Party** – CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.antiquewireless.org.

1-2 Dec – **Top Operators Activity Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.procwclub.yo6ex.ro.

1-3 Dec – **TARA RTTY Melee** – digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html.

2 Dec – **10 Meter RTTY Contest** – RTTY, 10 meters. See: www.rttycontesting.com.

2 Dec – **SARL Digital Contest** – Digital, 80-40 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.

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

7 Dec – **SNS and NS Weekly Sprint** – Digital/CW, 160-20 meters. See: www.ncccsprint.com.

8 Dec – **UBA Winter Contest** – all modes, 160-40 meters. See: www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules.

8 Dec – **AWA Bruce Kelly QSO Party** – CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.antiquewireless.org.

8-9 Dec – **28 MHz SWL Contest** – Phone/CW, 10 meters. See: swl.vernon.nl/swlcontest.htm.

8-9 Dec – **ARRL 10 Meter Contest** – Phone/CW, 10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

9 Dec – **SKCC Weekend Sprintathon** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

9 Dec – **Great Colorado Snowshoe Run** – CW, 20 meters. See: www.cqc.org/contests.

11-17 Dec – **NA High-Speed Meteor Scatter Contest** – Digital, 50-222 MHz. See: www.meteorscatter.org.

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

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

13 Dec – **Russian 160 Meter Contest** – Phone/CW, 160 meters. See: www.radio.ru/cq.

15 Dec – **Feld-Hell Happy Birthday Sprint** – digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

15-16 Dec – **OK DX RTTY Contest** – digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM.

15-16 Dec – **Croatian CW Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.9acw.org.

16 Dec – **ARRL Rookie Roundup** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

16 Dec – **Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: qrparci.org/contests.

17 Dec – **Run For The Bacon** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.fpqrp.org.

21 Dec – 8 Jan – **Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party** – all modes, 160-2 meters. See: arlhs.com.

23 Dec – **RAEM Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: raem.srr.ru.

26 Dec – **SKCC Straight Key Sprint** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

26 Dec – **DARC Xmas Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters. See: <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en>.

27 Dec – **NAQCC Milliwatt Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: naqcc.info.

Continued on next page





Contest Corner, continued

29 Dec – **RAC Winter Contest** – Phone/CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests.

29-30 Dec – **Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge** – CW, 160 meters. See: www.kkn.net/stew.

1 Jan – **ARRL Straight-Key Night** – CW, all bands. See: www.arrl.org/straight-key-night.

Public Service Roundup for December 2012

The wrangler sometimes just can't stay up on the deadlines but looks like he'll make it this month. Going all the way back to September we had that crazy double header - or was it a tripleheader? – Waves to Wine and Levi's Gran Fondo. On Saturday a total of 20 hams turned out to assist the MS Society while on Sunday we had about 17. Many hams (at least 10) worked both days. In attempt to cast a broader net I was able to include hams from the East Bay as well as one from the ridge tops south of San Jose. I'm pleased we were able to get broader range of folks to support this event given the range the event covers. We were fortunate to have good weather and other than a few lost riders on Saturday, both days went well. Saturday threw us a minor curveball though when some fields west of the Coast Guard Two Rock base caught fire. The afternoon onshore of course fanned the flames and eventually Petaluma-Tomales Rd. was closed. At NC we quickly worked out an alternate route adjustment but no sooner did we put that in place then the fire was put out. Nice work by our SAGs to quickly reroute riders and then get them back on course.

Levi's Gran Fondo came right on the heels of Waves to Wine, which meant the Wrangler did not get much of a break. As with most of these events, rosters often aren't finalized until nearly the last day and this year was again no exception. And for this event the Wrangler is handling SAG assignments in addition to coordinating with west county emergency responders. The entire month prior to the event was awash in working out details so that both events would go as smoothly as possible. This year to improve our coordination with the county, we were given two laptops running the county emergency dispatch software along with a handheld for the county radio frequencies, essentially

tying our operations together. Sweet! Once again we had good communications throughout the course and other than one or two issues all went quite well. Certainly there was no repeat of last year's mini disaster at Hauser Bridge, a welcome relief to all. Beautiful weather contributed to a fine day on the course. Again a fine turnout from SCRA hams along with a few folks from Ukiah, and a sprinkle from the Bay Area. We also welcomed some new moto hams as well. The great thing about the Fondo is that a lot of hams are figuring out that this is a great event to work and I have the luxury of being able to spot extra folks throughout the course. Our coordination with the county though is paying off handsomely. The feedback form the county is always positive: "Thanks for making 'hamdom' look so good." Thanks to all of you for making US look good. Thanks to the Fondo folks too for the \$1000 donation.

Normally I would have had a complete list of folks that worked events for the year but you'll have to wait until next month.

Finally, I'm planning to step back in my Public Service Chairman role. My friend Bruce Hopfengardner K6BDH is going to step forward to take over many of the Wrangler's duties. I'll be around to facilitate the transition and will most likely be around to manage the big events. It will be a smooth transition while I bring Bruce up to speed. Bruce has the background to make this work and I think you'll enjoy working with Bruce.

73s

Craig
K6XLT

Member Corner

I have been away on union and CARA business for the past 2 months and will be in southern Cal for December meeting. I have been able to still order your badges though. Please let me know and I will fill your orders. 73s de Ken N6PWV



Code Presentation to the Girl Scouts

By John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ - wb6frz@arrl.net

On Sunday October 28th ten amateur radio operators drove to the Girl Scout Camp at the Fairfax Bothin Youth Center in Marin to present Morse Code to 100 Girl Scouts, ages 12 to 17.

The Amateur operators were:

Brian Torr, N6IYY
 Jeff Tonelli, KI6PBF
 Dawn Silveira, KA6OPN
 John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ
 Charlie Sikes, KZ6T
 Stan Jaffe, WA6DHM
 Al Bloom, N1AL
 Sue Bennett, N3SU
 Frank Wiebusch, KG6N
 John Chavez, KG6PEP

Honorable mention goes to the following operators, who through no fault of their own were unable to attend due to illnesses at the last minute to themselves or family:

Linda Postenrieder, AG6OW
 Donna Hinshaw, AG6V
 John Hart, KG6BHI
 Ästrid Thienes, KJ6JTP

We were invited to this event in commemoration of this being the 100th year anniversary celebration of the Girl Scouts. The first Girl Scout handbook encouraged girls to learn the code, which at that time was landline Morse!

YouTube features a delightful 20-minute silent film made in 1918 called "The Golden Eaglet," where one scene features a Girl Scout using landline Morse to send for help. Here's the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5UBGJAeDFM>

We were asked to make a presentation to the girls where they could learn how messages were exchanged and maybe learn to send their names using code. This article shows how we decided to make this all happen.

It was a very beautiful day and ten of us were able to attend – including Frank's young daughter. Nearly all the girl scouts were there with plenty of scout leaders-

several dressed in 1912 uniforms. They were beautiful to see!

Here's a photo of the mid-morning assembly before the flag ceremony:



With but only a couple of glitches we set up two radio stations at different locations with code practice tables at each location with time to spare! I am very glad we arrived about a half-hour earlier than we had planned.

We left the stations to eat lunch in the dining hall (thanks Girl Scouts) with the girls. After lunch our group was introduced by Scout Leader and Event Coordinator Sandy Pete where we all introduced ourselves individually.

I think the half-hour presentation to the girls went especially well. We had computer/projector support and that really added nicely to the talk – thank you Sandy.

We started with showing photos of three women who were code operators in the early 1900's and then compared cell phone text messaging of today to using code for communications. All had fun watching the short video we showed of Jay Leno hosting a competition of code versus text messaging using cell phones.

Dawn talked about the code course she donated to each troop and Brian showed off his monster hand key and paddle – they are about 10X scale! I tied in amateur radio to code and gave handouts to Sandy to give the troop leaders about the SCRA club and how to contact us.

We gave time for questions from the girls about code or ham radio - answered by members of our team.

Continued on next page.

Here's a photo taken at the beginning of this presentation:



After the presentation to the entire group of girls our team split up and went to either of the two radio and code practice locations we had set up earlier.

During the next two hours the 100 girls would be split into four groups. Three groups of 25 girls each would busy themselves with different activities while half of the girls in the fourth group of 25 would walk to one of our radio locations and the other half (13) would walk to the other radio location. There they would hand their messages to the radio operator, observe for a short time and then go to the code practice tables to learn to send some code. As messages were received for them a runner would deliver the message to the girl at the code practice table. After 30 minutes one of the other three groups of 25 girls would then rotate through and we would do it all over again.

We used ARRL Radiogram message forms for all the messages; the girls filled out the forms ahead of time so that time at each of the radio stations we set up were focused on the communications activity.

We used 2m FM radios on a simplex frequency with audio injected into the microphone inputs for code and switched to microphones to handle logistics. One station was set up at the "Bush" camp and the other at the "Bay Tree" camp, about 300 yards apart and not in view of each other.

At each station we had tables set up with about twelve code practice oscillators, with keys, operational throughout the day. As planned the radio stations and the code practice tables were separated from each other so the "runners" were kept busy! The scouts' ages, and levels of maturity (and attention span) varied



so you can imagine that some oscillator tone knobs did get a workout. But the girls all had a chance to use the oscillators to key out their names in code and have some fun. The instructors at the tables did a GREAT job. I heard that one girl was very interested in the code and had the alphabet nearly memorized by the time she left the table!



Murphy did pay us a visit. Some of the equipment issues included a backup radio that developed an intermittent (DC?) issue that I will be resolving in the near future, a keyer at the station at the "Bush" camp whose 9V battery decided to die in the middle of sending a stack of messages, and a radio whose VOX settings caused some issues with both sending and copying throughout the day. But we worked through all those things like we always do and all messages were sent and received by both stations as planned – about 100 sent and 100 received. In order to do that we needed

to operate at 20WPM+ code speeds to get through that many messages in the time allotted. We had the girls limit the body of each message to no more than ten words each.

There were some pictures taken of our setups and operation. I brought my camera but didn't even take it out of the bag! I was a bit busy.....


But Dawn took quite a few pictures, some of which appear in this article. The Girl Scout leadership took photographs as well but we won't be able to view those photos for several more weeks because they must be approved by the scouting staff before they can be shared.

The scout leadership was very impressed by our group and many girls really enjoyed the activity as well. Code

was quite new to nearly all of the Girl Scouts and leaders.

I wish to thank the entire team for doing a magnificent job in making this activity a lasting experience for all the scouts. Thirty of the girls who attended the event flew over from England to share in the centennial celebration of the Girl Scouts. I'm sure it was a special treat for them to learn about code and amateur radio in a place so far away from their home.

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