



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 38, Number 1

January 2013



January

SCRA Update

by Charlie Sikes Paule, KZ6T
SCRA President

Well its a new year and a new administration for SCRA. I am really excited about this new position and about working with all of the dedicated Club officials and members. I thought I would start off by giving you some background on who I am, where I am going and try and work in a little bit about ham radio.

I am a 2nd generation native Californian. Been married to Dina for over 35 years now, and have two boys, one new daughter-in-law, and two energetic canines. I grew up in Rio Dell which is a small town in Humboldt County. During those times (70's) you had two basic choices. Work in the lumber industry (which was ending its life cycle) or get out. I opted for the latter and went to Heald Engineering College in San Francisco. Became an Architect and settled in Sonoma County.

My philosophies are that I am a fiscal conservative, but a progressive when it comes to social issues. A traditionalist (hate the designated hitter rule) but love technology. Usually see at least two sides to every issue. Inspired by the detail of Frank Lloyd Wright but love the "less is more" of Mies van Der Rohe. I guess I have alienated everyone out there now so go ahead and start the recall. I forgot to mention that my sense of humor is sometimes dry and (I think) witty. It's that Anglo-Saxon British heritage in me.

My formative years were spent between working in a "Service" Station. Yeah, you oldies know what that

means. For you those who came of age after the OPEC oil embargo, imagine for a minute that you pull into a gas station and not only does someone greet you, pump your gas for free, but also washes your windows, check your oil, and checks the air in your tires. Wow! My remaining free time was spent working on a 2,000 acre cattle ranch. Yup, I cut, corralled, marked and branded. I also developed a love of the outdoors, backpacking with family and friends every year into the Trinity Alps wilderness area. Backpacking gave way to expedition travel (many of you have seen our "camper") that led the way to exploring the desert southwest. We are fascinated with places like Goldpoint, Striped Butte, The Grand Staircase, and others, and look for any opportunity to set off.

A few years ago I had the dubious honor of suffering a heart attack which is what got me involved in Ham Radio. (See how I worked it in?) We usually travel to very remote regions where cell service isn't and probably never will be available. I did not want to give up my outdoor lifestyle but felt I needed a two-way communications device. I tried FRS and CB, and quickly found out that they had nothing to offer. Then after reading about Ham Radio on an expedition forum, sent a email to Vomarc, SMRS, and SCRA. WB6FRZ was the first to get back to me and the rest is history.

Talk about getting hooked and yanked in! I thought Ham Radio would be a minor support system to our expedition travel. Little did I know it would soon turn my world upside down where expedition travel is now a reason to support Ham Radio. I enjoy all aspects of the hobby but currently spend most of my "operating" time using PSK31. I have 34 countries logged and am

Continued on page 7



2012 Club Officers

President	Charlie Siles kz6t@arrl.net	KZ6T
Vice President	John Felton	KE5RI
Treasurer	Steve Bramble	KI6TUR
Secretary	Mike Von Der Porten	AD6YB
Director	Doug Payne	KF6LMB
	Brian Torr	N6IYY
Past President	Darryl Paule	KI6MSP

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
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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			
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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

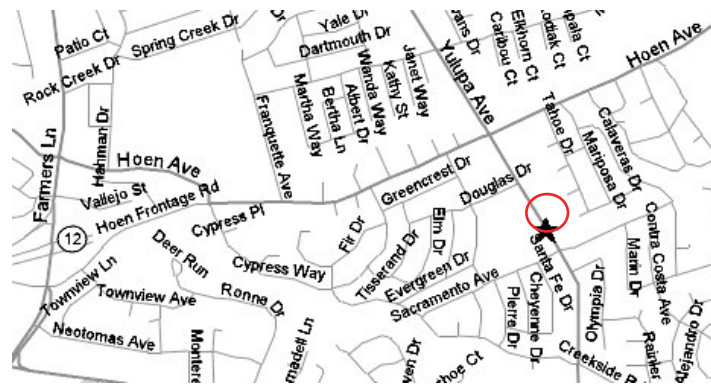
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SCRA Club Meetings

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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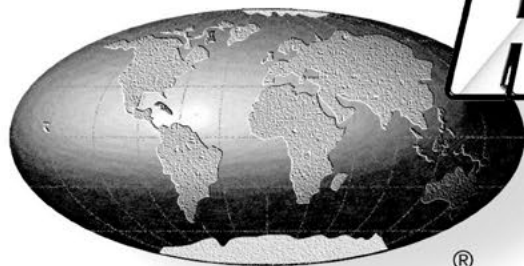
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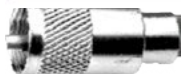
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Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Membership Meeting

October 3, 2012
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center by president Darryl Paule KI6MSP.

Approximately 35 members and guests attended. Self introductions were provided. Nancy Yarbrough KD6NCY announced an upgrade to General.

Sutter Laird KI6ZON and Darryl Paule KI6MSP presented the operations of various digital modes.

Webmaster Sutter Laird KI6ZON had nothing to report.

Vice president Charlie Sikes KZ6T had nothing to report.

Treasurer Steve Bramble KI6TUR reported that donations have not yet come in, but are anticipated by year end. Raffle revenues and costs are up. A repeater bill is still expected. So far, we are \$180 in the red for the year, but do not anticipate any problems.

Education chair Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF reported that there is a tech class from November 2 to 4. A 30-meter build-it receiver project is being evaluated.

Repeater co-chair Jack Christensen K6ROW reports that the 440 MHz repeater bill still has not been received. The IRLP project is being worked on by Dave Harrison W6IBC. The voting receiver is being worked on by Jack.

Public service chair Craig Gaevert K6XLT was not present. Darryl Paule KI6MSP reported that the Gran Fondo worked great from both a public service side and from a public outreach side.

Thanks go to the refreshment committee for handling this!

Short Skip editor Donald Laird WE4MOO reports that Short Skip is going well.

Fred Polkinghorn KQ6OB reports that Rich Freitas KF6SZA has retired from work and our local ARES and has moved to Monterey. ARES inquiries should go to Rich or to Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV. On October 20, there will be an ARES / Oakmont drill. Fire stations, the blood bank and the Red Cross are expected to be staffed.

It was moved by Jack Christensen K6ROW and seconded by Steve Bramble KI6TUR to approve the September Membership Meeting Minutes as published in Short Skip. Motion carried unanimously.

Old business:

The North Bay Science Festival is scheduled for October 27 and SCRA plans to participate.

Jamboree on the Air is scheduled for October 20 from 9 AM to 5 PM. Contact John Chavez KG6PEP.

Charlie Sikes KZ6T is working on the possible remote HF operation. He has four volunteers for this committee and seeks other volunteers.

New business:

Darryl Paule KI6MSP seeks volunteers for the nominating committee. Pat Coyle KG6JSL, Doug Payne KF6LMB and Keith Payne AG6CI volunteered.

Net control volunteers are

10/9 – John Breckinridge WB6FRZ
10/16 – Darryl Paule KI6MSP
10/23 – Frank Oddy N6QE
10/30 – Brian Torr N6IYY
11/6 – Fred KE6SF

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Von der Porten AD6YB
Secretary

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Board Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2012

Attending: Dave Santori KF6CLG - past president, Pat Coyle KG6JSL, Charlie Sikes KZ6T - vice president, Doug Payne KF6LMB, John Breckinridge WB6FRZ, Darryl Paule KI6MSP - president, Brian Torr N6IIY director, Mike Von der Porten - secretary, Dave Harrison W6IBC.

Called to order at 6:10 PM PST by president Darryl Paule KI6MSP.

Charlie Sikes KZ6T - vice president had nothing to report

Treasurer Steve Bramble KI6TUR not present

Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF - education not present.

Brian Torr reported that it would be good to find a larger place for VE sessions

Mike Von der Porten AD6YB - secretary will communicate with Craig Gaevert K6XLT regarding a new membership book.

Old Business

Science Festival was very busy. 14 signed up for the technician class. There was a discussion of how to increase the conversion rate from sign ups to class takers. There was further discussion regarding the numbers of students in each class and how to increase average class size. There seems to be a new social standard in which people sign up, but do not show up.

Charlie Sikes KZ6T had no update to the Remote HF Project

New Business

Brian Torr N6IIY has worked out the Christmas Party. The information is on our website. Brian will get updates on signups. Andrew Raike KE6HID suggests that the door prize be a gift certificate to HRO so the winner can choose his own radio. There were opinions both ways.

It was moved by Dave Harrison W6IBC seconded by Brian Torr N6IIY to approve the October Board of

Directors minutes as published. Motion carried unanimously.

The club's direction finding antenna system has been turned over by Bill Hillendahl and is in the hands of John Felton KE5RI. This was purchased as a way to search out any possible repeater jammers. The use of the equipment should be under the guidelines of the Club.

Darryl Paule KI6MSP reported that several events have needed a projection screen. Darryl suggests we purchase a projection screen on a tripod. Darryl and the club officers will look for a good screen.

Darryl reported on the possible need for expanding the group of class instructors.

Opportunities to expand merchandizing will be taken to the annual planning meeting.

Steve Bramble KI6TUR - treasurer arrived at 6:53
Darryl Paule KI6MSP reported talking with the principal at Whited Elementary School. The School has a science lab and weather website. Windsor Middle School has amateur radio. Darryl suggests working with Whited Elementary. Darryl will pursue this.

John Chavez KG6PEP arrived at 7:03.

We will work with our webmaster to have appropriate links added to our website.

Steve Bramble KI6TUR reports that the invoice for the new repeater has been paid.

John Chavez KG6PEP - raffle chair has nothing to report.

Charlie Sikes suggests the annual planning meeting be set for January 12, 2013. The Board meeting will be held the Wednesday after the planning meeting, on January 16, 2013. Charlie suggests that a survey of members be conducted before the planning meeting. The Board agrees that this is a good idea. Send ideas for the survey to Charlie

Adjourned by consensus at 7:10 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Michael Von der Porten, Secretary



CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Contest schedule for January pieced together from previous years as January schedule not yet posted at press time. Several RTTY contests as well as the always popular Winter Field Day. How about some QSO's while ice fishing? Happy DX'ing!

1 Jan – **ARRL Straight Key Night** – CW, 80-6 meters. See: www.arrl.org/straight-key-night.

1 Jan – **SARTG New Year RTTY Contest** – 80-40 meters. See: www.sartg.com/contest/nyrules.htm.

3 Jan and every Thursday– **NCCC Sprint Ladder** – CW, 160-20 meters. See: www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html.

5 Jan – **PODXS 070 Club PSKFest** – PSK31, 80-10 meters. See: www.podxs070.com/pskfest.

7 Jan – **CWopsMini-CWT Test** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.cwops.org/onair.html.

5-6 Jan – **ARRL RTTY Roundup** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup.

5-6 Jan – **EUCW 160- Meter Contest** – CW, 160 meters. See: www.agcw.de/eucw/eu160.html.

6 Jan – **Kid's Day** – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/kids-day.

12-13 Jan – **Hunting Lions in the Air** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: lionshuntingintheair.lionwap.org.

12-13 Jan – **WW PMC Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.s59dcd.si/en10/.

12-13 Jan – **North American QSO Party** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.

13 Jan – **DARC 10 Meter Contest** – SSB/CW. See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/10m/en/rules.

13 Jan – **NRAU Baltic Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.sk3bg.se/contest/nrau.htm.

19-20 Jan – **North American QSO Party** – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.

16 Jan – **Locust QSO Party** – CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.k6vva.com/lqp.

16-17 and 19-20 Jan – **Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest** – CW, 160, 80 and 40 meters. See: www.anti-quewireless.org/.

17 Jan – **NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: naqcc.info/contests.html.

19 Jan – **LZ Open Contest** – CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.lzopen.com/lz-open-contest/rules/rulesF.htm.

19 Jan – **Feld-Hell Bingo Sprint** – digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

19-20 Jan – **Hungarian DX Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.ha-dx.com/HADX/html/rules_en.html.

19-21 Jan – **ARRL January VHF Sweepstake** – Phone/CW, 6 meters and up. See: www.arrl.org/january-vhf.

21 Jan – **CWopsMini-CWT Test** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.cwops.org/onair.html.

26 Jan – **WAB Top Band Phone Contest** – SSB, 160 meters. See: www.worked-all-britain.co.uk/contest.

26-27 Jan – **CQ WW 160 Meter Contest** – CW, 160 meters. See: cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/.

26-27 Jan – **REF Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: concours.ref-union.org/contest/?page_id=2.

26-27 Jan – **BARTG RTTY Sprint** – 80-10 meters. See: www.bartg.org.uk.

26-27 Jan – **Winter Field Day** – all modes, all bands. See: www.spar-hams.org.

27-28 Jan – **Classic Exchange** – CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.classicexchange.org.



President's message, continued

ONE state away from WAS. (Does anyone really live in Delaware?)

So thats it. That's where I came from. Where I am going and goals I would like to set for SCRA are for the next installment.

73

Charlie, KZ6T

SCRA Code Class

By John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ

Do you hold a Technican class license and want to use skywave on 80, 40, and 15 meters? You DO have privileges on those bands! Do you hold a General class license and want to take advantage of the lower frequency portions of your HF bands? Want to try making some HF code contacts hiking in the mountains?



Radio's rugged ranks in the Thirties
Enlisted chaps like old G5BD
Who never sat around wringing his hands
About contributions and countries lists
Or griped about slow factory service
On a chrome-trimmed Superduper-IV,
OM G5BD, with only one good arm
Couldn't wring his hands anyway
And had bigger problems to lick
Like no a.c. mains and a 10-watt limit.
Other things he had a-plenty
Were guts and that old ham spirit
So G5BD worked DX—and had a ball.
(Photo via W2GP)

For those of you who want to make use of the privileges the FCC has already granted you, come learn code on Friday evenings beginning January 11th! This class is focused on beginners but if you know some code already then come join in on the fun anyway!

The class meets from 6:30 until 8PM at the Santa Rosa Red Cross building, 5297 Aero Drive, Santa Rosa on Fridays from January 11th through April 19th.

You will learn to send and receive code and how to make radio contacts using code. There will be homework but you knew that was the case anyway, didn't you? It doesn't matter, we have a lot of fun in class and even have a code practice net over the repeater during the week!

Contact John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ, for more information: wb6frz@arrl.net, 707 217 1017

SCRA Net Check-ins

by Charlie KZ6T

SO HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TUESDAY NIGHTS? Some of us are rather predicable as can be ascertained by the following statistics. Here are the year to date totals for the Tuesday night nets.

- There were 1,197 individual checkins for the year.
- The highest weekly total was 31 on January 31st.
- The lowest weekly total was 16 on November 6th.
- There were 17 individual net controls.
- Brian N6Ily and Darryl KI6MSP controlled the most nets with 6 each.

Thanks to all the net control operators: KI6MSP, N6Ily, AE6SF, KI6ZON, WB6FRZ, K6ROW, NQ6E, AD6YB, K6XLT, KZ6T, AG6CI, K6HKY, KI6TUR, KJ6YFD, KQ6E, KU6F, W6IBC

Now for the top 25 checkins for 2012:

PLACE	CALL	CHECKINS
1	K6HKY	49
2	KI6MSP	45
2	KZ6T	45
2	N7MOE	45
5	KB6AQW	44
5	NQ6E	44
5	WD6DPE	44
8	KG6BHI	43
8	KI6ZON	43
10	AG6CI	42
10	KF6LMB	42
12	N6Ily	40
12	WB6FRZ	40
14	W6IBC	39
15	WA6NIV	38
16	KI6TUR	37
17	W6CLC	35
18	KI6TIJ	34
19	K6XLT	33
20	K6ROW	31
21	AD6YB	29
22	KE6HID	26
22	WA6IOQ	26
24	K6NCY	21
25	AE6SF	20



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Quick Notes:

Elaine Von der Porten KI6TIJ noted that the December 15 Press Democrat had an article headlined "California hospitals learning from superstorm Sandy." In the heart of the article is, "But Sandy's toll has prompted officials to take a closer look at ... the importance of recruiting volunteer help such as ham radio operators to bolster communication when mobile phones fail."

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

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 _____

<p>Dues & Fees: March 1 to February 28</p> <p>Individual / Associate Member \$24 (\$6.00/qtr) Family Membership \$36 (\$9.00/qtr) Under 18 Membership \$18 (\$3.00/qtr) Badge \$10</p> <p>Badge Information</p> <p>Call Sign _____ First Name _____ City _____</p>	<p>Payment Calculations: Make checks payable to SCRA</p> <p>Dues - Full Year \$ _____ Dues - Prorated ____Qts. x \$____/qtr \$ _____ Badge \$ _____ Other - _____ \$ _____ Donation \$ _____</p> <p>Total \$ _____</p> <p>Mail to: SCRA, P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402</p>
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