

# 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: English Hill: 147.315+ 88.5 / 224.180+ 88.5 / 441.375+88.5

> > Castle Rock: 147.315+ 156.7



Volume 38, Number 2

February 2013



**February SCRA** Update by Charlie Sikes, KZ6T SCRA President

Well I made it past the first month!

Last month I submitted the ramblings of a crazy guy. Kind of like the eyes of a deer caught in the headlights. I will try and keep it a bit more succinct from now on.

I promised I would give you my goals. Well here is the first. INVOLVEMENT - Getting more members involved. Whether it be in Public Service, Education, Social events, Club administration, or just plain using the repeater more, thats my number one goal.

We had our 2013 planning meeting in January where we mapped out club events and budget issues. The 2013 budget will be on the agenda for the general membership to vote on this month.

The Club calendar of events is quite lengthy. There are more P/S events than last year, more educations events, and more social events. We even have the Club Picnic back for 2013. You can view the entire year's events on the Club Web page. There is also a link to download it into your computers own calendar program.

During the January BoD meeting the Board approved a new slate of committee chairs and positions. I would like to thank all the volunteers for their commitment and dedication:

KI6MSP - Activities & Recruitment K6XLT & K6BDH - Public Service

K6ROW - Repeaters

KQ6OB - Emcon

N6IIY - VE

KI6ZON - Newsletter/Webmaster

WE4MOO - Short Skip

KI6PBF - Mentor

W6SB - Refreshments

K6NCY - Badges

AD6YB - Membership.

So back to involvement. Ask yourself what you want out of this Club, where you think it should go and do something about it. Speak up at the Membership meetings and come to the Board meetings. Sign up for Public Service events and build classes. Volunteer for Net Control. (It's really quite easy.) Consider ways to get more traffic on the repeater. Do you have a great idea to improve involvement? Just shoot me an email.

73 Charlie, KZ6T



#### 2013 Club Officers

President Charlie Siles KZ6T

kz6t@arrl.net

Vice PresidentJohn FeltonKE5RITreasurerSteve BrambleKI6TURSecretaryMike Von Der PortenAD6YBDirectorDoug PayneKF6LMB

Brian Torr N6IIY

Past President Darryl Paule KI6MSP

## **Committee Lineup/Contacts**

Membership Program	Mike Von der Porten John Felton	AD6YB KE5RI	
EmComm	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ6OB	
Field Day Activity	Brian Torr	N6IIY	707-575-5871
Public Service	Craig Gaevert	K6XLT	707-545-4133
Education	Jeff Tonelli	KI6PBF	
Repeater	Jack Christensen	K6ROW	
Volunteer Exam			
Liaison	Brian Torr	N6IIY	707-575-5871
Antenna			
Ordinance-Legal	Lee Dibble	KE6EAQ	707 544-1675
Refreshments	John Tracy	W6SB	
ARRL DXCC/WAS			
Manager	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528
Club Raffle	John Chavez	KG6PEP	
Member Badges	Nancy Yarbrough	K6NCY	
Activities	Darryl Paule	KI6MSP	

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**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**

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1st Quarter Column \$13 per month
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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



#### ANAHEIM, CA

(Near Disneyland) 933 N. Euclid St., 92801 714) 533-7373

(800) 854-6046 Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.

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#### **NEW CASTLE. DE**

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#### 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

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(800) 444-0047

Chuck, N1UC, Mgr. sales@hamradio.com Exit 1, I-93; 28 mi. No. of Boston salem@hamradio.com



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- 2M/440 Dual Band
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- APRS Compatible · DX Packet Cluster Monitor
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oakland@hamradio.com



#### IC-706MkIIG HF/VHF Transceiver

- All mode HF/6M/2M/70CM
- 100W HF/6M, 50W/2M, 20W/440 MHz
   AF-DSP Plug and Play Filters No Soldering
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#### Low Pricing!



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#### The Ultimate Radio!



- 5 Watt out
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- Low Pricing!



#### DR-135TP 2M mobile

- 50 Watt out Alpha numeric display
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#### FT-2000 HF + 6M tcvr

- 100 W w/ auto tuner
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- 3 Band Parametric Mic EQ · 3 IF roofing filters
- **Call Now For Low Pricing!**





## Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Board Meeting Minutes December 12, 2012

Attending:

Darryl Paule KI6MSP –president
Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF – education chair
Mike Von der Porten AD6YB – secretary
Jack Christensen K6ROW – repeater co-chair
Pat Coyle
Brian Torr N6IIY – director
John Felton KE5RI – repeater co-chair
Doug Payne KF6LMB
Dave Harrison W6IBC
Charlie Sikes KZ6T – vice president and president elect
John Breckenridge WB6FRZ

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

Charlie Sikes – vice president – nothing to report

Mike Von der Porten AD6YB – secretary reported that three sets of draft minutes are being passed around for review.

Steve Bramble KI6TUR – treasurer reported that the PayPal system works, but a better way to distribute the information that comes when payments come in might be found. Steve reported that online banking would be useful. Exchange Bank charges \$20 per month for this service. Bank of the West provides this service for free. Steve suggests moving the account to Bank of the West. It will be important that the online banking be used for statements only, not for moving funds. The continuing practice of auditing the books at the time of the change of treasurer is a good one. Steve will pursue this further.

Directors reports:

Dave Harrison W6IBC – nothing to report. Brian Torr N6IIY – nothing to report

Repeater co-chairs Dave Harrison W6IBC and Jack Christensen K6ROW and John Felton KE5RI tried to load IRLP at the repeater. The Linkcom controller has a bad channel #4. John has the repeaters operating without the Linkcom. A couple more trips will be needed to English Hill. Several ways of making this work are

being evaluated. IRLP will likely be up early in the new year.

There was discussion regarding linking in to the WinSystem or CARLA. More information and experience with IRLP will be needed before addressing this matter.

VE - Brian Torr N6IIY will be scheduling 2013 sessions.

Education – Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF reports that there could be 23 students for a Bodega Bay tech class. This helps add to the amateur community and may help with club membership.

Mike Von der Porten AD6YB – membership reports that it is time to solicit membership renewals. Mike suggested the Club evaluate offering a life membership at perhaps 20X the annual membership fee: the Club would draw on 5% annually on the amounts paid for life memberships. Pat Coyle reports that a club in San Francisco had a problem with top-heavy non-dues-paying life members. Dave Harrison expressed a concern regarding two levels of membership. This will not be pursued.

Charlie Sikes reports that the remote HF project is not moving forward. Any volunteers?

Darryl Paule KI6MSP reports that Craig Gaevert K6XLT knows about the membership book and the inventory project. The inventory project needs to be taken on by the next board. Darryl will follow up with Craig. Charlie Sikes moved that the 2013 membership book based on members in good standing on March 1 and the book be published by April 1. Dave Harrison W6IBC seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Darryl reported on the Whited Elementary School. This has been expanded so it may include the Gifted and Talented Education program at Rincon Valley Elementary District.

Minutes for the November Board of Directors meeting were presented. Moved by Charlie Sikes KZ6T and seconded by Dave Harrison W6IBC to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

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### **December Board Meeting Minutes**, continued.

Darryl is still searching for a projection screen.

Dave Harrison W6IBC saluted Darryl for his two years of excellent service.

Charlie Sikes KZ6T asked about our agreement with the Luther Burbank Art and Gardens Center. Charlie Sikes will make contact.

Charlie Sikes KZ6T asked regarding the 2009 protocol regarding payments. Mike will find a copy.

Charlie KZ6T reports that he has heard of a new bike event.

Darryl thanked the Board for its service.

Adjourned by consensus at 7:31 PM PST.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Von der Porten Secretary



Cut out for your VIP Discount Card

### **Public Service Calendar**

Bruce, K6BDH

Although most of us are busy researching appetizer recipes for the imminent Super Bowl parties, its not too soon to think about Public Service events for 2013.

Most of the events are not new for the club but the dates do change a little bit. The AmGen Tour of California is back this year. The only difference being that Santa Rosa will host the final day of the Tour of California instead of the first stage as we have in the past. Additionally, the Mendo Rally may be a two-day event for 2013. Please have a look and update your calendar when you have a chance.

Tentative Schedule of 2013 Public Service Events as of 18 Jan 2013

Date	Event	Comments
13 April (Sat)	Lake Sonoma 50	0600-2000
21 April (Sun)	MS Walk	0800-1100
4 May (Sat)	Wine Country Century	0600-1800
11 May (Sat)	Human Race	0800-1200
19 May (Sun)	Amgen Tour of California	All day - details TBD
15 June (Sat)	Terrible Two	0530-2200
20 July	Mendo Rally	tbd
17-18 August	Pac Coast Air Museum Air Show	tbd
17 August	Bike Monkey Annadel XC	tbd
21-22 September	Waves to Wine	tbd
5 October (Sat)	Levi's Gran Fondo	0600-1800
19 October (Sat)	Boy Scouts JOTA	tbd



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## **CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG**

Hello contesters. February may be a short month, but it has more contests than most other months. Highlights include the ARRL International CW DX Contest, the CQ WW 160 meter DX contest, and lots of state QSO parties. Happy DX'ing!

- 1 Feb **SNS and NS Weekly Sprint** CW, 160-20 meters. See: www.ncccsprint.com.
- 2 Feb **FYBO Winter QRP Field Day** SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.azscqrpions.org.
- 2 Feb **Minnesota QSO Party** all modes, all bands. See: www.w0aa.org.
- 2 Feb **Straight Key Party** CW, 80 meters. See: www.agcw.de.
- 2-3 Feb **EPC WW PSK Contest** PSK, 80-10 meters. See: www.epcwwdx.srars.org/index.php/contest-rules.
- 2-3 Feb **Vermont QSO Party** all modes, 80-2 meters. See: www.ranv.org.
- 2-3 Feb **Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party** Phone, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.
- 2-3 Feb **Black Sea Cup International** SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.bscc.ucoz.ru.
- 2-3 Feb **British Columbia QSO Party** all modes, 160-10 meters. See: orcadxcc.org.
- 2-3 Feb **Delaware QSO Party** all modes, all bands. See: www.fsarc.org.
- 2-3 Feb **XE Int'l RTTY Contest** RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.fmre.org.mx.
- 3 Feb **North American Sprint** CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.
- 4 Feb **OK1WC Memorial Contest** Phone/CW, 80-2 meters. See: www.hamradio.cz/ok1wc.
- 5 Feb **ARS Spartan Sprint** CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.arsqrp.blogspot.com.

- 8-10 Feb **YL-OM Contest** all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.ylrl.org.
- 9 Feb **Asia-Pacific Sprint** CW, 40-20 meters. See: jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt.
- 9 Feb **FISTS CW Winter Sprint** CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.fists.org.
- 9-10 Feb **YLISSB QSO Party** CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.ylsystem.org.
- 9-10 Feb **CQ WW RTTY WPX** RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.cqwpxrtty.com.
- 9-10 Feb **Dutch PACC Contest** SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.dutchpacc.com.
- 9-10 Feb **Louisiana QSO Party** all modes, 80-10 meters. See: laqso.w5yl.org.
- 9-10 Feb **OMISS QSO Party** SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.omiss.info.
- 9-10 Feb **New Hampshire QSO Party** all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.wlwqm.org.
- 9-10 Feb **RSGB First 1.8 MHz Contest** SSB/CW, 160 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org.
- 9-10 Feb **AM QSO Party** Phone, 160-20 meters. See: www.antiquewireless.org.
- 10 Feb **Milwaukee FM Simplex Contest** FM, 6 meters 70 cm. See: www.w9rh.org.
- 10 Feb **Maine 2m FM Simplex Challenge** FM, 2 meters. See: www.qsl.net/ws1sm/contest.html.
- 10-11 Feb **Classic Exchange** Phone, 160-2 meters. See: www.classicexchange.org.
- 11-15 Feb **School Club Roundup** all modes, all bands. See: www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup.
- 13 Feb **NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint** CW, 80-20 meters. See: naqcc.info.

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#### Contest Corner, continued

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

14-15 Feb – **PODXS Valentine Sprint** – Digital, 160-40 meters. See: www.podxs070.com.

15-16 Feb – **Russian WW PSK Contest** – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/384.html.

16 Feb – **Feld-Hell Annual WAS Sprint** – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

16-17 Feb – **ARRL Int'l CW DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

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

20 Feb – **Semi-Automatic Key Evening** – CW, 80 meters. See: www.agcw.de.

22-24 Feb – **CQ WW 160 Meter SSB** – Phone, 160 meters. See: www.cq160.com.

23-24 Feb – **REF Contest** – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: concours.ref-union.org/contest.

23-24 Feb – **UBA Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules.

23-24 Feb – **Mississippi QSO Party** – all modes, 80 meters – 70 cm. See: www.arrlmiss.org.

23-24 Feb – **North American QSO Party** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.

24-25 Feb – **North Carolina QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 80-2 meters. See: www.ncqsoparty.org.

25 Feb – **CQC Winter QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.cqc.org.

### Next VE Session: Saturday, February 9, 9 am

Our next VE exam is scheduled for Saturday, February 9, from 9 am until noon, at First American Title Company, 625 College Ave, Santa Rosa. All test elements will be administered.

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

Directions: From Hwy 101, take College Ave east past Mendocino Ave. Turn left onto Humboldt St., Turn left into the parking lot behind First American Title, Co. Enter through the door near the parking lot.

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.

Good Luck!

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



### **SOTA Expedition #1 Trip Report**

By Charlie KZ6T

## **Submit Activation Log**

You now have 1 Points (1 Summit Points + 0 Bonus Points)

Thank you for participating in SOTA.

ОК

On January 26, Doug KJ6ZMW, Bob KG6ZDN, and I entered a new chapter in our hobby. Together we participated in Summits On The Air, by activating Healdsburg's Fitch Mountain. SOTA is similar to IOTA (Islands On The Air) but involves scaling mountain peaks and making contacts from the summit. There is a well defined set of rules you need to abide by to keep the playing field level. (?) Summits are categorized by location and elevation and for the most part limited to North America and Europe.

We picked Fitch as our first target mainly because it was easy. Better to work out the kinks on a nearby summit rather than spending hours on the road and hiking only to find we left something critical behind. And yes, we did expose a few kinks in our planning.

Bob and I first talked about SOTA a couple of years ago, but got distracted with other things and shelved the idea. Last year I mapped out my HAM radio goals for 2013 and decided to resurrect the idea. SOTA seemed to be a perfect fit for combining HAM radio and expedition travel, so there is where I set my sights for 2013. I contacted Bob and a few others who I thought might be interested in working summits. We all agreed that this sounded like fun so the planning began for our first activation in January. Our group goal is to activate at least one peak every quarter.

On the equipment side, I needed to "retool" the rig. Everything I had to know was strictly base and mobile operation. I needed to make the change to portable. At last year's Mini-DX, Steve KI6TUR debuted his brand new Elecraft KX3. I knew instantly that this was the rig I needed for SOTA, so I started saving my pennies (lots of them). Just like Steve, I coupled the KX3 with a Budipole. It seems like a great fit for portable operation. Over Xmas I assembled the KX3 kit and started playing and planning a little harder for SOTA. Next was a refresher course in CW as I ultimately want

to operate CW rather than SSB. Bob can give a great DbN dissertation on pros of CW over SSB for portable or QRP work.

Our SOTA day arrived. Doug and I donned our daypacks, Bob his backpack, we left the parking lot of Villa Chanticleer at 10:00 AM. Up until recently Fitch Mountain was privately owned but the locals have been using it as a hiking destination for quite a while. The County just recently purchased the property and plans to develop it into a park in conjunction with the City of Healdsburg. The hiking trail started off as just a muddy footpath but quickly changed into an abandoned access road with switchbacks leading to the summit. It took us an hour to reach the top at a slow steady pace commiserate with our respective ages and physiques. We passed a few hikers coming down off the mountain and got a few odd looks. "Just why are you carrying packs?" or "You must be doing some sort of training exercise?"

We arrived at the top right on time at 11:00 and began setting up. The "evolving" plan was to have Doug on 144 FM using his HT, Bob operate 2m-6m using my Budipole, leaving 20m for me on Bob's vertical. First major kink, Bob's coax had PL-259 ends. Oops, who brought the adapters cause my KX3 uses BNC's. Time to regroup. Bob would switch to 20 on his vertical, and I would tryout 6m on the Budipole.

So we started setting up the antennas. Next kink, did anyone bring a tape measure? Oops. "Say Doug, just how tall are you? Stand there and let me gauge the length I need." Well it worked, as the antennas tuned just fine.

Time to test the rigs. Bob had brought his 857 and a large wet cell. (Didn't he learn anything from Mini-Dx-2011-CM79 when he packed 70lbs for 6 miles?). The plan was for my KX3 to run off a couple of NiMH cells. I had soldered up a new power cord last night for for the cells. Kink #3. Crap, left the power cord on my bench at home. Guess I will be operating 5 watts maximum using the onboard AA's. All the way up the hill the discussion centered on just how little difference 10 watts vs 5 watts means on the Db scale. It was time to put that discussion to the test.

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### SOTA Expedition, continued

Its noon, time to start this exercise. Bob was hearing lots of action on 20m, Doug was calling CQ on 2m, and I was still scratching my head wondering how in the heck I could have left that cord at home. Doug landed the first call of the day when K6ROW started us off. We could hear KI6MSP chatting away on the repeater asking if anyone had heard from us yet. While Doug waited patiently for a break to tell him where we were, I started calling CQ on 6m. I landed NQ6E as my first 6m contact on this rig. At that time the AA's were fresh and Frank gave me a good signal report.

Bob was under a different tree busy making CW contacts. Oh, he also carried in that big backpack, a nice foam pad that kept his butt nice and dry (and warm) compared to what I was experiencing under my tree. (Another lesson learned.) And speaking of temperature, the forecast called for low 60's today. I figured I would be fine in a tee-shirt and light vest. Oh how wrong that idea was. Although not blowing hard, there was a constant wind up there on top and with the chill factor it was easily in the 40's. "Hey guys, lets get our 4 (contacts) and wrap this thing up as fast as possible." Another lesson learned for Expedition 2.

I had a couple of contacts on 6m, the last being John KM6XO who gave me a 2-2 signal report. Yuck! Clearly my AA's were expiring quickly. Oh well, I had more than the required 4 QSO's so time to shut down the KX3. Although I didn't get a chance to operate CW or jump over to 40m I am quite satisfied with my results.

About this time, Bob had switched over to SSB (cold fingers don't make good CW) and had just made contact with another SOTA operator in central Wyoming. SOTA summit W7-FT168 to be exact. That was cool, one SOTA station contacting another. Time to shut this thing down but Doug only has 3 QSO's. Enter KE5RI. Bob hears him on 20, makes contact, and tells him to go over to 2m where Doug can work him for his 4th. Eventually they pair up, Doug has his 4th and we can head for warmer climates. We hear W7XK in Wyoming one more time, so Doug makes a final 5th contact on 20m.

We shut down, pack up and head off the hill. Between the sitting and the cold, old bones and muscles stiffened up for the down-hill stretch. We took an hour getting back to the cars, but this included about a 15 minute conversation with a pair of hikers. They wanted to know what we were up to with the packs so we happily obliged.

In all, it was a great day. We were successful in activating Fitch for the very first time. We learned quite a bit on what to do next time. Time to start planning Expedition #2.

### Ham Radio in the News

Donald WE4MOO

Ham radio, specifically APRS, saved the day for a recent high-altitude balloon experiment. Read about it on hurricanetrack.com



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