

CLUB STATION
K6SON

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116 707-579-9608

<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

Repeaters:

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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 38, Number 10

October 2013



October SCRA Update

by Charlie Sikes, KZ6T
SCRA President

Public Service:

So I worked the Waves to Wine event this year. It was my first time to be stationed out in Marshal at the Miller Boat Launch Park. Of all the public service events I have done, this one was certainly the most challenging. 50 watts with a 4 element beam was barely enough to hit the Mt Barnaby repeater which was 20 miles away or even English Hill which was only 10 miles away. Between the rain, the terrain, propagation was definitely against me. Thanks to net control(s) for being patient. I know this has been stated before, but these events are a really good training ground for being prepared for emergencies. I know I learned a few things. I urge all of our members to participate in public service events if only to hone your skills.

Only one more SCRA major public service event (Levi's Gran Fondo) is left for the year. If you are new to ham radio, go ahead and sign up anyway. Craig and Bruce can pair you up with a teacher. Hopefully next year it won't occur on the same weekend as the California QSO party.

Is anyone participating in the Great California Shake-out? If so, please give us a writeup in next months Short Skip.

SCRA Programs:

Well last month's rig review was pretty interesting. Thanks to all of the presenters for putting that program together at the last minute. And this month's is also a last minute plan. Last I heard it will be on Earth-Moon-Earth, but be prepared for anything.

Club Calendar:

October is going to have Levi's Gran Fondo conflicting with the California QSO Party. Darryl is looking for people to help out in the Booth. If you are working the CA QSO Party, please write an article or give us a presentation on how to prepare and execute this event. Pacificon starts Oct 11. Are you going? Give us a report. JOTA is back on for Oct 19 and John KG6PEP is looking for hams to help out. The North-bay Science Festival is Oct. 26. Give Darryl KI6MSP a shout if you want to participate. The last Tech class of the year begins November 1. Get the word out to interested candidates.

Club Elections:

Elections are only one month away, all positions are up for grabs, and a few positions (Secretary, Treasurer and one Director) are termed out. Please contact Dave W6IBC, John KE5RI, or myself if you are interested in serving next year

Hope to see you all at the October Club Meeting.

73

Charlie, KZ6T



2013 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	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB	
Program	John Felton	KE5RI	
EmComm	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ6OB	
Field Day	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707-575-5871
Activity			
Public Service	Craig Gaever	K6XLT	707-545-4133
Education	Jeff Tonelli	KI6PBF	
Repeater	Jack Christensen	K6ROW	
Volunteer Exam			
Liaison	Brian Torr	N6IYY	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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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

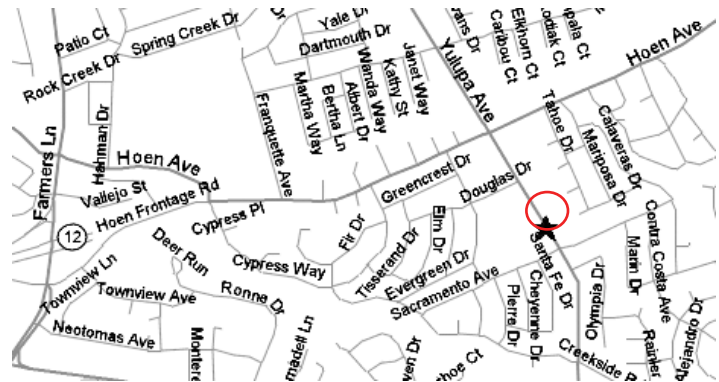
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SCRA Club Meetings

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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- Advanced CW functions
- 101 alphanumeric memories

The Ultimate Radio!



DJ-196T 2M/HT

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- 40 memories
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- "S" meter
- Auto Dialer

Low Pricing!



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- 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

Low Pricing!

**CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG**

Hello testers. There is a tremendous amount of activity in October. Several RTTY contests as well as an American island contest. Of course there is always the popular CQ WW SSB DX contest on the last weekend in October. Take a break from football and check some of these out. Happy DX'ing!

1 Oct – **222 MHz Fall VHF Sprint** – all modes, 222 MHz. See: www.svhfs.org.

3 Oct – **German Telegraphy Contest** – CW, 80-40 meters. See: kontest.de/dtc/DTC-Rules_e.pdf

3 Oct – **NRAU 10m Activity Contest** – all modes, 10 meters. See: www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html.

3 Oct – **SARL 80m QSO Party** – SSB, 80 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.

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

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

5-6 Oct – **15-Meter SSTV Dash Contest** – SSTV – 15 meters. See: contests.wsstvc.org/rules.

5-6 Oct – **Oceania DX Phone Contest** – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.oceaniadxcontest.com.

5-6 Oct – **California QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.cqp.org.

5-6 Oct – **Worked All Britain HF Contest** – SSB, 20-10 meters. See: www.worked-all-britain.co.uk.

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

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

9 Oct – **RSGB 80m Club Sprint** – CW, 80 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org.

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

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

11 Oct – **NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder** – 160-10 meters. See: www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html.

12-13 Oct – **Makrothen RTTY Contest** – digital, 80-10 meters. See: home.arcor.de/waldemar.kebsch

12 Oct – **Microwave Fall Sprint** – all modes, 902 MHz+. See: www.svhfs.org.

12-13 Oct – **Oceania DX CW Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.oceaniadxcontest.com.

12-13 Oct – **Scandinavian Activity Contest** – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.sactest.net.

12-13 Oct – **SKCC Weekend Sprintathon** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

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

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

12-13 Oct – **Pennsylvania QSO Party** – all modes, 160-2 meters. See: www.nittany-arc.net.

12-13 Oct – **Arizona QSO Party** – all modes, 80-2 meters. See: www.azqsoparty.org.

12-13 Oct – **Great Pumpkin Sprint** – digital, 160 meters. See: www.podxs070.com.

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

19 Oct – **Feld-Hell Sprint** – digital, 160-10 meters. See: sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprint-rules.

Continued on next page.





Contest Corner - Continued from previous page.

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

19-20 Oct – **Arucaria VHF Contest** – Phone/CW, 6-2 meters. See: www.avhfc.com.

19-20 Oct – **10-10 Fall CW QSO Party** – CW, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

19-20 Oct – **New York QSO Party** – all modes, all allowed bands. See: www.nyqp.org.

19-20 Oct – **Stew Perry Topband Challenge** – CW, 160 meters. See: www.kkn.net/stew.

19-20 Oct – **Worked All Germany** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/wag.

19-20 Oct – **Telephone Pioneer QSO Party** – all modes, 160-.7 meters. See: www.tpqso.com.

19-20 Oct – **JARTS WW RTTY Contest** – digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.jarts.jp.

19-20 Oct – **W/VE Islands QSO Party** – all modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.usislands.org.

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

20 Oct – **UBA ON Contest** – Phone/CW, 2 meters. See: www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules/on-contest.

20-21 Oct – **Illinois QSO Party** – all modes, 160-2 meters. See: www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html.

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

21 Oct – **NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: naqcc-eu.org/sprints/rules/current.pdf.

21-25 Oct – **School Club Roundup** – all modes, all bands. See: www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup.

23 Oct – **SKCC Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

24 Oct – **RSGB 80m Club Sprint** – SSB, 80 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org.

26-27 Oct – **ARRL EME Contest** – all modes, 50-1296 MHz. See: www.arrl.org/eme-contest.

26-27 Oct – **CQ WW SSB Contest** – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.cqww.com/rules.htm.

Public Service

A Sprint to the Finish

By the time you read this, we'll have completed the second-to-last public service event for the year; Waves to Wine. We have only one more event on the schedule; Levi's Gran Fondo. Unlike some of our other sports events, the Gran Fondo is an opportunity for non-competitive bicyclists to ride with pro and high ranking amateur bicyclists through some of the most scenic and demanding routes in Sonoma County.

The Gran Fondo is certainly the largest event that we support with over 7500 registered riders and hundreds more supporting the event. SCRA will work with EMS and Fire Departments, REDCOM, California Highway Patrol, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, sags and dozens of motorcycle course marshals. Since we'll be using two nets and communicating directly with REDCOM, the Gran Fondo is one of our most challenging events of the year.

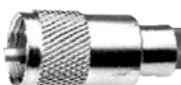
We have a few remaining slots to fill for the Fondo. Please contact Craig, K6XLT@sonic.net to sign up.

Next month we'll recap the events we supported in 2013. Many thanks to everyone for your continuing support.

Bruce Hopfengardner
K6BDH



"Found this on one of the automotive websites I visit. Looks like something every ham should have as well."
Pat Coyle



4wd Radio Sports

By KZ6T

In August John KG6PEP and myself went on a 4wd trip along the 395 corridor. Part of the program was to play a little radio as well. Here is an excerpt from a trip report, the balance of which you can read online at the mini-Dx website.

If you haven't been to this part of the State, I would highly encourage it as it is extremely scenic. The Owens valley is the corridor that U.S. Hwy 395 snakes through. The west side of the valley is bordered by the Sierras. No foothills here, the Sierras go straight up. The eastern edge is bordered by at least 3 different mountain ranges which are very different in composition than the Sierras. The Whites, Inyos, and Panamints.

The Whites are home to the Ancient Bristlecone Pines and the 2nd highest peak in the lower 48. The Inyos are home to many mines. The Panamints guard the North-western edge of Death Valley and are responsible for its dry climate.

A few of the attractions in the Valley include Mono Lake, Mammoth, the Owens River Valley, lots of hot springs, and a giant volcano caldera that if (and when) it goes will be an Earth altering event. Towns along 395 include Bridgeport, Lee Vining, Mammoth Lakes, Bishop, Big Pine, Independence, and Lone Pine. Each has its odd distinctions. Bridgeport has the highest gasoline prices in the State. Manzanar a WWII internment camp is near Independence (how ironic), and Lone Pine with its odd rock formations is where hundreds of Hollywood films were made.

So thats the Introduction, here is an excerpt, and a [link to the entire trip report](#). Enjoy.



August 2013
Central 395 Corridor

I planned for an August run to be the first real test of the Jeep's off-road capabilities. Originally this was going to be a joint trip run with a small group of families, but when those plans fell through and Dina's work commitment changed I went to plan B. I teamed up with John (KG6PEP) for a run down the Hwy 395 corridor along the Eastern Sierras. The plan was to travel between Bridgeport and Lone Pine on as much backroads as possible and do a little amateur radio along the way.

Here is a [link to a map of our route](#).

John's Jeep is a TJ about as well equipped as EV-2, so confidence was high what we would manage to get out of any trouble we would happen upon.

...



Cut out for your VIP Discount Card



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs
Membership Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2013

Called to order at 7:00 PM by president Charlie Sikes.

New members present, Karen KK6GJW
Welcome to the Club!

Program - Rig Review
Presentations by Saraj KU6F, Darryl KI6MSP, Pat
KG6JSL, Dave W6IBC, Charlie KZ6T.

Business Meeting:

BOD & Committee Reports
-Steve KI6TUR - treasurer made budget presentation.
Bottom line, we are on budget for 2013.

-Craig K6XLT presented check from Santa Rosa Cy-
cling Club for \$2,000. (Thank you)

-Director KF6LMB
Asked for input for next years Mini-DX locations.

-Past President & Activities KI6MSP
Reports that the Sonoma County Fair wants us back
for next year.
Darryl presented synopsis of PCAM and Fair event.
described booth for Gran Fondo and circulated sign-
up sheet.

-Repeaters: Nothing to report

-Public Service K6XLT
Described upcoming waves to wine and Gran Fondo
events.
Mentioned that the Santa Rosa Marathon asked us to
provide service. Craig will bring this to the BoD for
action.

-VE N6IYY
Described upcoming session (this saturday at the Ben-
nett Valley Grange.
Described last week's session (conjunction with Tech
Class) 4 out of 6 passed.

-Education KI6PBF
Discussed the last Tech Class of 2013 will be held No-
vember 1, 2 & 3
Looking for instructors for a General Class for 2014.

-Refreshments
Bob WA6NIV and John WB6FRZ were acknowledged
and thanks for their work in putting on the goodie
spread.

-Badges and Apparel K6NCY
Pitched a deal for members to buy more.

Approval of August Meeting Minutes
KI6MSP offered one correction (His call was incorrect
printed.)
Motion by KI6TUR, 2nd by W6IBC to approve as
amended.
Motion passed.

New Business:

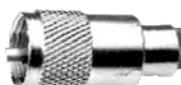
Discussed repair of crank-up tower brake handle.
Big thanks to John WB6FRZ for taking on the task.
The repair looks great.
N6IYY will deliver repaired part back to Greg (owner).

Net Control Operators
9-10-13 John WB6FRZ
9-17-13 Craig K6XLT
9-24-13 Brian N6IYY
10-1-13 Frank N6QE

Raffle
Lots of winners

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM +-

Respectfully submitted,
KZ6T





Sonoma County Radio Amateurs
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2013

Attending: Charlie Sikes KZ6T President, Darryl Paule KI6MSP –Past President, Steve Bramble Treasurer KI6TUR, Brian Torr N6IYY – Director, John Felton KE5RI – Vice President, Doug Payne KF6LMB - Director, Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF – Education Chair, Jack Christensen K6ROW – Repeater Chair, Pat Coyle, Dave Harrison W6IBC, John Breckenridge WB6FRZ, John Chavez KG6PEP

Called to order at 6:02 PM PST by president Charlie Sikes.

Approval of August meeting to be considered at next meeting.

BoD Reports:

-VP, Treasurer, Directors, Past President: nothing to report

-Repeaters

The problem of automatic linking of UHF and VHF was discussed. KE5RI states it will be resolved shortly. Voter system may be operational by the end of this year.

-Public Service

Scheduling of nets and public service needs to be better coordinated in the future.

We should establish deadlines for new public service events (perhaps at next planning session) so that the yearly schedule and workforce is not over-burdened.

Activities:

-SCRA Picnic was canceled for lack of interest. Planning session should determine if we schedule future picnics or not. Perhaps use Mini-DX as the picnic opportunity in the future.

-Science Fair

KI6MSP reported that a notice on the Science Fair will occur in the Nov. edition of QST.
N6IYY discussed options for a HAM radio display.

-PCAM

N6IYY discussed a project for an audio speaker Loop. Motion made by KI6TUR, and by KI6MSP for N6IYY to expend up to \$50 on project. Motion passed.

-JOTA

JOTA is now on again for 2013. KG6PEP asked for volunteers (W6IBC, KF6LMB, KI6MSP volunteered), to use the IRLP repeater, and to use the club call K6SON. Permission was granted.

-County Fair.

KI6MSP submitted a “thank you for participating letter” from the Fair.

-Education Chair: Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business:

-Crank-up antenna repairs completed. Cost was \$64. Gift Certificates for Adam and Bob for the work they did on the antenna has been completed. \$50 each at HRO.

New Business:

-Executive session called for member of the year.

-October Program needs to be determined.

Jack K6ROW suggested a program on EME (Earth Moon Earth). John KE5RI will try and arrange.

-Club Elections:

Nomination Committee was formed. KZ6T, W6IBC, KE5RI

-Discussion took place on modifying the TX-6 boom to better fit inside the breadbox. KE5RI and N6IYY will research and modify if possible.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM

Respectfully submitted,
KE5RI on conjunction with KZ6T



Battleship vs. QRP

Dave W6IBC

The latest issue of CQ Magazine describes the efforts of several retired Naval admirals to create so-called “battleship” ham radio stations for the purpose of “destroying” competitors during contests and dx pileups. With no disrespect intended for our distinguished military leaders, I question whether ham radio’s best interests are advanced by likening legal limit stations feeding their massive firepower signals through stacked multi-element arrays mounted atop 200 foot towers? What kind of satisfaction can possibly ensue from overpowering one’s competitors with such powerful resources generally available only to a very select few hams? Certainly, contest awards and recognition in ham radio publications and lists, along with photographs, are certain consequences. Yet, ham radio provides other opportunities for personal operating achievement.

Take QRP operation, for example. Recently, on a vacation to the west coast town of Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii, I strung out a 20 meter dipole our vacation condo’s balcony, connected it to my Yaesu FT-817;

and with it’s powerful TWO-watt signal, caught Terry, VK4HQ, net control of the ANZA DX Net on 20-meter SSB net. Terry gave me a five-by-four signal report. It was a highly personally rewarding contact. I encourage all hams to turn down the power and try low power (QRP) operation.

73, Dave W6IBC



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 _____**Dues & Fees:** January 1 to December 31

Individual / Associate Member	\$24 (\$6.00/qtr)
Family Membership	\$36 (\$9.00/qtr)
Under 18 Membership	\$18 (\$4.50/qtr)
Badge	\$10

Badge Information

Call Sign _____
First Name _____
City _____

Payment Calculations: Make checks payable to SCRA

Dues - Full Year	\$ _____
Dues - new members only	
Prorated _____ Qtrs. x \$ _____ /qtr	\$ _____
Badge	\$ _____
Other - _____	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____

Total \$ _____

Mail to: SCRA, P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402