

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 39, Number 2

February 2014



February
SCRA Update
by Pat Coyle, KG6JSL
SCRA President

The new year got off to a great start at the January meeting with a discussion of the results of the Member Survey. Sentiment seemed to desire more High Frequency and technical oriented activities as well as increased usage of the repeater by expanding coverage, including digital, and more nets. And Oh Yes, better raffle prizes.

The Board and Committee chairs held the annual planning meeting at First American Title, compliments of Steve, KI6TUR, and took member comments into account in planning for the coming year. We have a full schedule of events which are posted on the Club Calendar on our Website. It should be an active and exciting year with something for everyone.

February's meeting Program will feature a star-studded cast of operators put together by Dave, W6IBC, discussing High Frequency operations. Each will discuss different aspects of High Frequency communications, including Dave, W6IBC, giving an overview, John, KE6RI, will discuss various voice modes, John WB6FRZ, will discuss morse code, Charlie, KZ6T, will discuss digital modes, Brian, N6IIY, will discuss High Frequency at Field Day, and I will talk about setting up a basic HF station with a demonstration of the Icom 706MK11G, conditions permitting. This should be a marvelous introduction to HF for those not yet involved, and a great refresher for those that are

Don't forget, dues are due, they must be paid by February 28 if you are to be included in the 2014 roster.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the February 5, 2014, meeting, and wish good propagation for the New Year.

Pat, KG6JSL



Repeater

Volunteer Exam



2014 Club Officers

President Patrick Coyle KG6JSL

coylaw@sonic.net

Vice President John Felton KE5RI Mike Von der Porten Treasurer AD6YB Secretary Dave Harrison W6IBC Doug Payne Director KF6LMB Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF Past President Charlie Sikes KZ6T

Committee Lineup/Contacts

Activities Darryl Paule, KI6MSP ki6msp@arrl.net ARES Liaison Charlie Sikes, KZ6T kz6t@arrl.net DX/Contest Kevin Alt, K6BSG kalt@ieee.org Education Jeff Tonelli, KI6PBF jeff.tonelli@gmx.com kz6t@arrl.net Emergency Charlie Sikes, KZ6T Services Field Day Brian Torr, N6IIY n6iiy@arrl.net John Felton, KE5RI jrfke5ri@aol.com License Trustee Media Sutter Laird, KI6ZON ki6zon@me.com Mike Von der Porten, AD6YB mikevdpca@aim.com Membership Merchandise Iola Beckley, KK6HRE cope@srcity.org Programs John Felton, KE5RI jrfke5ri@aol.com Public Service Craig Gaevert, K6XLT k6xlt@sonic.net Raffle John Chavez, KG6PEP kg6pep@arrl.net Refreshments Robert Jones, WA6NIV wa6niv@arrl.net

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



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Board of Directors Meeting

Star Restaurant, Santa Rosa, CA Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Called to order at 6:08 PM PST.

Attending Terry KK6DQC, Doug Payne (director) KF6LMB, John Felton (vice president) KE5RI, Pat Coyle KG6JSL, Jack Christensen K6ROW, Charlie Sikes KZ6T (president), Brian Torr (director) N6IIY, Steve Bramble (treasurer) KI6TUR, Darryl Paule (past president) KI6MSP, Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF, Dave Harrison W6IBC, Mike Von der Porten (secretary) AD6YB.

The November Board of Directors meeting minutes were reviewed. Correction is that Gabe was the visitor. Moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes with the correction.

Vice President John Felton KE5RI – nothing to report.

Secretary Mike Von der Porten AD6YB – nothing to report.

Treasurer Steve Bramble KI6TUR – nothing to report.

Director John Felton KE5RI – nothing to report.

Director Brian Torr N6IIY – nothing to report.

Past President Darryl Paule KI6MSP – nothing to report

Old business: Doug Payne KF6LMB found a projector screen at a garage sale – 4' X 6' for \$40 plus tax. The Club will purchase it at cost.

Brian Torr N6IIY presented some bills to be paid

New Business:

President Charlie Sikes KZ6T presented the honorary gavel to Pat Coyle KG6JSL, incoming president, along with brief case and keys.

President Sikes suggested that board members look at the survey and the pie charts regarding the responses. Jack Christensen K6ROW, repeater co-chair reported that he and John Felton KE5RI, repeater co-chair, went up to Castle Rock on December 10 to perform several functions on the repeater. The work seemed to go well, but the repeater isn't working right. They will go up on Thursday, December 12.

Darryl Paule KI6MSP suggested that a meeting topic might be followed up by a Saturday mini-workshop (activity or build session) related to the topic.

Darryl Paule KI6MSP reported on the Santa Rosa Middle School (SRMS) radio station idea. A meeting will be held with the instructor in January. A STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) club may be formed.

Family Life Magazine is having an "I Learn" event in January. SCRA has been invited to attend on a no-cost basis. SCRA may be featured in an article on amateur radio. Moved by Darryl Paule KI6MSP that SCRA Board authorize Darryl to arrange a science fair type booth at the event and to pursue an article subject to review by President Sikes at no cost to the club. Seconded by Steve Bramble KI6TUR. Motion carried with one abstention.

A SCRA promotional brochure was reviewed. Printing options will be reviewed.

The first technician class in 2014 will be the February Red Cross class. The schedule needs to be developed.

The January meeting (January 8) will have a discussion regarding the Club's year and goals.

There will not be a net on December 24. Charlie Sikes KZ6T will conduct the net on December 31.

Doug Payne KF6LMB will run the net on January 7.

President Sikes KZ6T attended a joint ACS and ARES meeting. He is favorably impressed. There will be a joint meeting in January.

Continued on next page.



December Board Meeting Minutes, continued

The lapsed status of SCRA as a "special service club" was discussed.

The planning meeting is January 11, 2014 at 9:30 AM at 627 College Ave. (at Humboldt St.).

Adjourned by consensus at 7:05 PM PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Von der Porten AD6YB Secretary

ANNUAL DUES REMINDER

Annual Dues were due January 1, 2014. Dues must be paid by February 28, 2014, to be included in the Roster. Dues remain at \$24.00. Here's how to pay:

- Go to Club Website, socoham.org and click on Store, pay by Pay Pal. Or, if you do not like Pay Pal, there is form there you can print out and send in.
- Print out the attached Application, and send it to SCRA, Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
- Bring money to the February meeting.

NEW SWAP NET

SCRA is now sponsoring a new SwapNet. This is a chance for amateur operators to sell or trade apparatus normally used in an amateur station to other amateur operators so long as it is not done commercially or on a regular basis.

The new SwapNet will occur on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM on the SCRA VHF repeater, 147.315 + PL88.5.

To list items for sale or post a Wanted ad, you have two methods to choose from:

- 1. Email us a short description of the item that includes the price, method of payment, and your preferred contact method. Please email information to kz6t@arrl.net. We will read the information on the Net. If you include a photo, we will have it posted up to the SCRA Web site along with the description.
- 2. Check-in to the NET and let us know you have an item for sale. If time permits, you will get your chance to list the item on the air.

To make an inquiry or purchase an item, call in after we read the description. If the listing party is available, we will ask that you move over to a simplex channel we will suggest or you agree to some other contact to work-out the deal.

The SwapNet is scheduled to begin Wednesday January 30 from 7:00 PM to 7:30 PM on the SCRA English Hill repeater. 147.315 + PL88.5. Your net control operators are Frank NQ6E, Gabe KK6HQW, and Charlie KZ6T.

So, get that stuff out of the closet, get the info the Charlie's crew, and join the Net.

Pat KG6JSL



SCRA Membership Meeting January 8, 2014 MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm by President Pat KG6JSL. A quorum of members was present. New officers, board members and committee chairs introduced and recognized. New hams welcomed and congratulated: Iola KK6HRE; Gabe KK6HQW; Maeve KK6HQY; Ian KK6HQX; Mary KK6HQZ and Deborah KK6HRD.

Program: Review of Membership Survey Results

56 responses covering repeater, club activities, raffle, nets, mentoring, build classes, public service, finances, meeting topics, and general strengths and weaknesses of the club.

Member comments included:

- Committee teleconferencing on the repeater.
- 2 meter contest using local repeaters.
- Adopting protocols for repeater usage.
- More emergency nets, and add a swap net.
- Tie into IRLP chat rooms.
- Do our own game show on the repeater.
- Add geographic locations, such as North Bay and Coast.
- More HF activities and programs, including making the transition from VHF to HF.
- More Mini-DXpeditions.
- Club should provide group buys, such as coax and connectors.
- Increase use of the SCRA reflector on Google.
- Keep meeting raffle but provide fewer prizes and make them higher value.
- Set up special interest groups and group nets, such as QRP and digital.
- Continue build classes and include basic construction techniques.
- SCRA shouldn't be "too remedial."
- Need to provide public service refresher/orientation courses.
- Lots of people don't know how to program their radios.
- Club weaknesses needing attention: Mentoring and Participation.

Survey results are posted on the SCRA website.

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Business meeting: Reports:

President: Pat KG6JSL repeatedly emphasized the need for more participation in club activities and projects by club members.

Secretary: No 2013 minutes available for approval.

Treasurer: 2013 Treasurer Steve KI6TUR reported approx. \$3,000 gain in revenue during 2013. Club remains financially sound with around 110 members.

Activities: Chair Darryl KI6MSP seeks volunteers for Family Life conference on Jan. 25, 2014 at Wells Fargo Center. Code and a Theramin will be demonstrated to attendees.

Repeater: Chair Jack K6ROW reports that Castle Rock repeater problem is now resolved. An emergency backup power supply has been added to English Hill. Voting receiver system remains a work in progress.

Education: Chair Jeff KI6BPF reported that there will be a tech class at the American Red Cross in February. Club will be conducting General and Extra classes in 2014 and volunteer instructors are needed.

Public Service: Chair Craig K6XLT reported that Bike Monkey has donated \$1500.00 to SCRA in recognition of service provided for Gran Fondo Bike Event. Event organizers would like to have a digital system next time to report rider numbers and times to race control officials from the courses.

ARES: Liaison Charlie KZ6T reports that the message handling class and net protocol class scheduled for Monday evening at Salvation Army headquarters at 93 Stony Circle, Santa Rosa, is open to all hams, but a confirmed reservation is required.

Membership: Chair Mike AD6YB reminds that membership dues for 2014 are now due and payable.

VE: Liaison Brian N6IIY reports possible interest for a VE session on Saturday, January 18th.

Continued on next page.



Break at 8:30 PM

January Member Meeting Minutes, continued

Webmaster: Sutter reports the survey results are now available on the website.

ShortSkip: Editor Donald WE4MOO requests more content for the newsletter.

NARCC: Representative John KE5RI reports our dues are paid and several potential interference problems last year have been resolved. There is a need to update our club call listings on the QRZ database and website.

No old business.

New Business:

Iola KK6HRE will be taking over the club store from Nancy K6NCY

Charles W6CLC will help out with membership.

The Board and committee chairs will hold a planning session this Saturday, January 11, at First American Title Co., College and Humboldt, Santa Rosa, from 9 to 1PM or so. Members are welcome.

New member Gabe KK6HQW would like to acquire a base station VHF radio from anyone having an extra one.

Net Control:

1/14: Brian N6IIY

1/21 Steve KI6TUR

1/28 Fred AE6SF

2/4 Dennis KI6REO

No further business, meeting adjourned 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted, Dave Harrison, W6IBC, Secretary

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

James Hayes, KK6HZS Eric McHenry, AA6EM Iola Beckley, KK6HRE Scott Miller, KK6GJW Dennis Colthurst, KI6REO James Knapp, W6HNA

A Visit to W1AW

Pat Coyle

My oldest niece hosted our family at her home in West Hartford, Ct, over the holidays and it turned out that ARRL headquarters was only about 5miles away. So with two nephews, both studying for their Tech license, and brother (Signal Corp, Vietnam), we drove over.

ARRL headquarters is located unobtrusively on a nice tree-lined street in the Hartford, CT, suburb of Newington. It has a modern two story headquarters building that contains the administrative offices and a separate 1938 building that houses ham radio's flagship station, W1AW. A marvelous antenna farm was scattered unobtrusively through the trees.

We were given a tour of the headquarter building that houses the administrative offices, QST offices, and the other activities of the League. We spoke too with Bob, who was enclosed in a steel lined office testing a new Yeasu Software Defined Radio for a review which will appear in QST in a few months. He noted that the office is an effective Faraday cage that keeps out any interference that may skew testing results but the downside is that he cannot hear the fire alarm. They are working on a fix for that.

The highlight of the visit was the W1AW station housed in a separate building. There are operating stations for visiting hams and I could only envy the "shack." A big Yeasu (I forget the model), antennas for any band, rotators, analyzers, etc. Joe, the station manager showed us how it worked, explained the legal technicalities, and recommended 15 meters as working that day. So I fired up the rig, pointed the antenna west and called CQ. I had earlier tried to phone a couple of SCRA members to schedule a QSO but my cell phone was unable to get through for some unknown reason. However, two 5 9 contacts were made, in Arizona and Oregon.

A stop at the ARRL store in the HQ building to get some "stuff" completed the trip. The staff was friendly and helpful. Anyone in the area should visit headquarters and try W1AW. It was marvelous.

See photo on last page.



ANAHEIM, CA

(Near Disneyland) 933 N. Euclid St., 92801 (714) 533-7373 (800) 854-6046 Janet, KL7MF, Mgr. anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA

1525 W. Magnolia Bl., 91506 (818) 842-1786 (877) 892-1748 Eric, K6EJC, Mgr.

Magnolia between S. Victory & Buena Vista burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA 2210 Livingston St., 94606 (510) 534-5757

Nick, AK6DX, Mgr. I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA

5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123 (858) 560-4900 (877) 520-9623 Jerry, N5MCJ, Mgr. Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA

510 Lawrence Exp. #102 94085 (408) 736-9496 (877) 892-1749 Jon, K6WV, Mgr. So. from Hwy. 101 sunnyvale@hamradio.com

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Ken, N2OHD, Mgr. RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295 delaware@hamradio.com

PORTLAND, OR

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Tigard-99W exit from Hwy. 5 & 217 portland@hamradio.com

DENVER, CO

8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231 (303) 745-7373 John WØIG, Mgr. denver@hamradio.com

PHOENIX, AZ

10613 N. 43rd Ave., 85029 (602) 242-3515 800) 559-7388 Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.

Corner of 43rd Ave. & Peoria phoenix@hamradio.com

ATLANTA, GA 6071 Buford Hwy., 30340 (770) 263-0700 **(800) 444-7927** Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.

Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285 atlanta@hamradio.com

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14803 Build America Dr. 22191 22191 (703) 643-1063 (800) 444-4799 Steve, W4SHG, Mgr. Exit 161, I-95, So. to US 1 virginia@hamradio.com

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(Near Boston) 224 N. Broadway, 03079 (603) 898-3750 800) 444-0047 Dave, N1EDU, Mgr.

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(cell blocked) RX • FM, AM, SSB • 5W

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dialer) . Echolink® Sysop mode for node terminal ops

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specs . Hi-quality audio

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- 160-10M/6M/2M/70CM • 2x DSP • Digital IF filters
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• 5/2.5/1.0/0.5/0.1W Output • RX: 0.52-1.71, 88-174, 380-479 MHz** • AM/ FM/FM-N/WFM/DV • 1304 Alphanumeric Memory Chls • Integrated GPS • D-STAR Repeater Directory • IPX7 Submersible





IC-7600 All Mode Transceiver

• 100W HF/6m Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15khz • 5.8 in WQVGA TFT display . Hi-res real time spectrum scope



IC-V8000 2M Mobile Transceiver

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• D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeator) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode)

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panel (YSK-857 required)

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Public Service Events 2014

Seems like a great time to set up the calendar and consider participating in a Public Service Event. Here's the list as it stands today:

Event	Date	Supporter	Comm Boss
Lake Sonoma 50	12 April 2014	SCRA	
Wine Country Century	3 May 2014	SCRA	K6XLT
MS Walk	4 May 2014	SCRA	
Human Race	10 May 2014	SCRA	
SoNoMaS	24 May 2014	SCRA?	K6XLT
Terrible Two	21 June 2014	SCRA	K6XLT
Mendo Rally	26-27 July 2014	Independent	KG6JSL
Tour d'Organics	10 August 2014	SCRA	
Annadel XC	16 August 2014	Independent	K6XLT
PCAM	20-21 Sept 2014	SCRA	
Waves to Wine	20-21 Sept 2014	SCRA	
Levi's Gran Fondo	4 October 2014	SCRA	K6XLT
JOTA	18 October 2014	SCRA	

As I receive info on other public service events, I'll get them posted. Public Service events are open to all and we look forward to your participation.

Craig K6XLT SCRA Public Service Wrangler



Cut out for your VIP Discount Card





Pat at station W1AW

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		Nev	v[] Renewal[]		
Name	Call Sign _	License Class	Date		
Address	H	H Phone W Phone	j 2 <u> </u>		
City/State	Zip	E-Mail	9.5		
ARRL Member? Yes [] No []	Receive Short S	Skip newsletter via email? Yes	No		
Dues & Fees: January 1 to December 31		Payment Calculations: Make checks payable to SCRA			
Individual / Associate Member	\$24 (\$6.00/qtr)	Dues - Full Year Dues - new members only	\$		
Family Membership Under 18 Membership	\$18 (\$4.50/qtr)		\$		
Badge	\$10	ProratedQts.x \$/qtr Badge Other	\$		
Badge Information			\$		
		Donation	\$		
Call Sign First Name		Total	\$		
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