

CLUB STATION
K6SON

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116 707-538-2931

<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

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441.375+ 88.5



REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 42, Number 11

November 2017

FIRESTORM 2017: THE FIRST NIGHT

By Fred Seitel, AE6SF

The Sunday afternoon thank-you party for the volunteers of Levi's GranFondo was a pleasant experience on October 8th. What a great way to cap off a weekend...

That evening, heavy erratic winds began blowing. The fruitless mulberries reminded me of the Whomping Willow in the Harry Potter series. We drifted off to sleep listening to new sounds, such as the olive tree knocking against the house.



Bam, Bam, Bam, Bam... It was 0200 Monday morning. A neighbor pounding on our door roused us from bed. Electric power had already been lost. We opened the door. "There's fire all around," I thought he said. "You might consider evacuating."

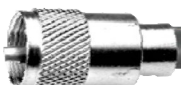
From the back deck, looking northeast, I could see the Tubbs Fire descending into Rincon Valley, Santa Rosa, where I live. Fierce winds drove huge clouds of smoke westward, obliterating the view of Fountaingrove. The smoke clouds were glowing red, ominously illuminated by the fire behind. Explosions were

TUBBS FIRE IN RINCON VALLEY, OCTOBER 9, 2017

heard in the distance.

Before I could think of it, my XYL asked, "Why don't you check your ham radio?" Kudos to her. I clicked on my Wouxun handheld transceiver. Surely enough, the inaugural Sonoma County Radio Amateurs (SCRA) Fire Watch Net was already active on 147.315 MHz, with net controller Joe K6AWA confirming a ham report: "Copy. Fire has surrounded Sutter Hospital on Mark West Springs Road, correct?"

[Continued on page 6...](#)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE NOVEMBER 2017



FIRE STORM WATCH ~ We now all know what happened on Sunday night, October 8th. We all have our stories of where we were and how we reacted. SCRA members turned to their radios and created Fire Storm Nets throughout the day and well into the night. Solid information was shared by members and non-

members across the County. Non-members were so impressed with the Net that they went to our website and joined SCRA.

Joe Fortuna K6AWA and Charlie Sikes KZ6T got the net started, until Charlie had to evacuate his Coffey Park home. But before leaving, he snapped a picture of the fire that was roaring behind his house. His last words were, "someone, please call 911". We all thought that he had lost his home. Fortunately, his home was intact!

Some of the hams who took turns being Net Control and reporting were, Joe and Charlie, non-member Ken Kimari KF6KEN (reported from a hill top behind his Penngrove home on the progress of the Southern edge of the fire going through Bennett Valley toward Rohnert Park.) Fred Seitel AE6SF; John Seigman KK6UIT took on the net even tho' he is new to radio and had never run a Net before; Kevin Ward KK6CPH; Doug Payne KF6LMB; Eduardo Rodriguez KK6UVB; Martin Kilgore KJ6BQM; Darryl Paule KI6MSP; and many random hams throughout Sonoma County. And many hams simply listened to get first hand news before the public radio facts.

A huge THANK YOU to you all. You did us proud.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~ In no particular order and if I have duplicated anyone, I apologize. If I missed any one, please get back to me!

Stu Clark WA6BTK; Dennis DeVibness KD7UWD; Jeffrey Nowell AD6YZ; Nathanael Inversen KI6VWV; Randy Hall KU9COR; Thomas Sehabiague KM7LSJ; Thomas Doyle KM7MLY.

NOMINATIONS ~ As of today, we have someone to run for each office, however, we will accept nominations from the floor at next week's meeting. Remember, in order to nominate anyone, that person

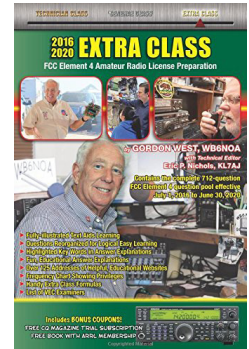
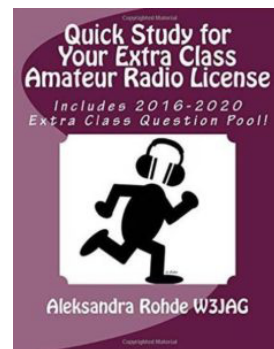
has to be present to accept the nomination. Great job, Nominating Committee.

FIRE VICTIMS ~ We have several members who lost their homes, businesses, or both. The Board of Directors is looking into ways that we, as a group, can help those members, now, short or long term. We will have this same discussion at our November meeting so please come with good, solid suggestions.

November Program ~ While the Nominating Committee is counting ballots (if we get more folks to accept a nomination), Brian N6IYY will conduct a game geared toward the Extra level, hoping to encourage members to start studying for upgrading to Extra. These games have been fun for all.

73

Iola KK6HRE



NOVEMBER PROGRAM

"Who Wants To Be An Extra Class Ham?"
by Brian N6IYY

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The ARRL is the national organization of Amateur Radio. It represents Amateur Radio at International Conferences and before the FCC. Get the monthly QST magazine, insurance for your equipment and too many other benefits to mention here. Click <http://www.arrl.org/membership/>



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>

2017 Club Officers

President	Iola Beckley	KK6HRE
Vice President	Joe Fortuna	K6AWA
Secretary	Kathy Wells	K6KDW
Treasurer	Aaron Marroquin	KK6ZDB
Director	John Felton	KE5RI
	Laura Tighe	AG6PE
Past President	Patrick Coyle	KG6JSL

Committee Lineup/Contacts

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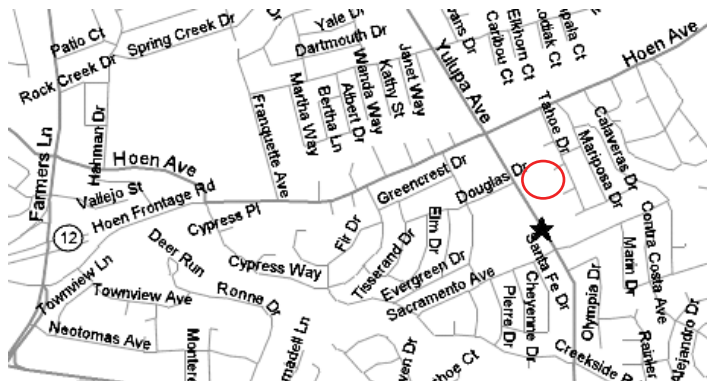


SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month, socially at 6:30 pm, program starting 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 is 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 IHOP restaurant, 4th and Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. People start showing up at 5:15 PM. No RSVP is required.

Board of Directors Meeting

The SCRA Board of Directors will meet monthly on the Second Wednesday at the IHOP Restaurant, Fourth Street, Santa Rosa (in the Safeway/CVS Pharmacy center). All members are welcome to attend, no reservations necessary. Arrive around 5:15- 5:30pm for dinner. Meeting starts at 6:00pm.



LOANER RADIOS AVAILABLE

The Club has a variety of radios available to members to try out and improve their skills. We have a Kenwood T590 SG HF radio; Yeasu FT 2900 2 meter mobile; Yeasu FT1D, an analog/digital 2 meter and 440mhz HT; Yeasu FT 60, a 2 meter and 440 mhz HT; and a TYT TH-F5 VHF 2 meter HT. Trying these out is an excellent way to learn some radio and test before you buy. Contact Joe, K6AWA, at k6awa@yahoo.com with your request. Joe will forward an information form to you by return email.

UPGRADE TO GENERAL OR AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS

Get more privileges and enjoyment from your Ham Radio Hobby. [Mentoring assistance](#) is available. Contact Dave W6IBC, SCRA Education Chair, at 707-838-8155 or w6ibc@arrrl.net.

Tuesday Night Net

The Sonoma County Radio Amateurs' net meets Tuesday at 7:00 PM on the SCRA repeater, 147.315, positive offset, PL 88.5.

All members and guests are invited to check in. The Net includes updates on SCRA activities, and News-line, the amateur radio community news service.

Anyone wishing to work as net control should contact lola kk6hre, at K6SON@ARRL.NET for assignment. Script and logs are available on the Website at <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/resources/net-script/>



10 Meter Net

There will be a net on 10 meters hosted by Joe K6AWA at 8:30pm (new time) following the regular SCRA net Tuesday nights. Set your dial to 28,403.00 SSB, USB. Please note that all license classes (including technician) are welcome.

Technician License Class

The next SCRA-sponsored Technician Licensing Class will be held on November 17-19, 2017 at the Graton Fire Protection District station on State Route 116 north of Sebastopol. Our classes have been very successful in training and licensing new hams. If you know of anyone who is interested in obtaining their Technician Class ham radio license, please have her/him contact Dave Harrison, W6IBC at w6ibc@arrrl.com.

73, Dave W6IBC
SCRA Education/Mentoring Chair



Weekly SBARA Youth Net New Day and Time!

- ☐ For young people 18 and under
- ☐ Licensed youth or youth with a licensed control operator are welcome to check-in
- ☐ Check-in via EchoLink, if you are outside of the area
- ☐ Adults can check-in towards the end of the Net to answer questions and mentor the youth.

Please join our new, 13-year-old net control operator, Truman Lindsey, KM6AQS, and help us grow this important Net for young hams!

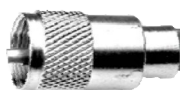
- ☐ SBARA Youth Net
- ☐ Every Tuesday evening, 6:30pm (1830), PACIFIC
- ☐ N6NFI repeater, Palo Alto, CA (145.230 MHz, -600 kHz, PL 100 Hz.)
- ☐ EchoLink Station: KR6DD-R

Steve Wilson KG6HJU
South Bay Amateur Radio Association
Fremont, CA
kg6hju@arrrl.net

Kids Net

Kids Net meets Thursdays at 7:30 pm on the Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society repeater at 146.910 MHz - PL 88.5 Petaluma.

Hosted by Ellen KJ6BHG and Joseph KJ6BHH for kids of all ages. It is focused on kids still in school, but all are welcome. They said to bring jokes to share.





Next Exam Session:
Saturday, December 2, 9:00 am

Our next exam session is scheduled for Saturday, December 2, from 9:00 am until noon. The location will be the Bennett Valley Hall, 4145 Grange Road, Santa Rosa. Walk-ins will be accepted and all test elements will be administered.

(http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/ve_testing.html).

Please arrive by 8:45am to be signed in. Testing will begin shortly thereafter.

Directions: From Hwy 101, take Highway 12 East to Farmers Lane. Turn right onto Farmers Lane and then left onto Bennett Valley Road. Stay on Bennett Valley Road approximately 4.1 miles and turn right onto Grange Road. Bennett Valley Hall is 0.5 miles from Bennett Valley Road on the right

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, N6IY in advance.

Good Luck!

Brian Torr, N6IY
n6iyy@arrl.net
 (707) 575-5871

2017 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Check the [Club website](#) for details

F/S/S Nov 17-19 - Technician Licensing Class
 Sat Dec 2 - VE Testing
 Sat/Sun Jan 27/28, 2018 Winter Field Day?



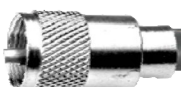
North Bay Science Discovery Day



Darryl, KI6MSP, explains to a young observer how Amateur Radio and Fun are inextricably intertwined.



Bill, KM6BYD, gives us a glimpse into the possibilities of Raspberry Pi applications for HAM radio. Table center is a [tapemeasure directional antenna](#) used for Amateur Radio Direction Finding or ARDF (Foxhunting). Below we have Dave KI6UGB (Mr. Editor Guy) on the terrible 2 (2m and 20m) radios.





...FIRESTORM *continued from page 1*

Little did I know that Charlie KZ6T and Jeff KI6PBF had originated and operated the net from their houses until flames forced them to flee. Exit reports from Jeff mentioned roadway asphalt on fire and from Charlie, flying embers blasting his house.

I checked into the net, reporting my visual observations of the fire and the loss of power. From Joe's perch on Jackson Mountain, with a sweeping view from Healdsburg to south Santa Rosa, he advised the following:

"The fire is in the Mayacamas Mountains, which is up to the north and the east of you, all the way from Healdsburg, all the way down to Sonoma Mountain, over." I acknowledged, and he continued, stating that the fire could be coming over the hills, from the Mt Hood area, and from the Annadel area as the fire was on both sides of Highway 12 (later learned to be near Oakmont and in Kenwood). I passed along the call sign of the local AM radio station (KSRO 1350 KHz), which also was covering the fire.

The potential was grim. I bugged out of the net to prepare for evacuation in case a quick departure was required.



My XYL tuned in KSRO on our battery-powered AM/FM transistor radio while I shut down one beeping UPS and silenced the other that powers my LAN infrastructure. The Internet connection, and hence the Sonic/AT&T Internet-based phone line, went down one hour later, even though my

LAN was still up. Our cell phones would not let us dial out or text out. Ironically, I received one text and one phone call. One neighbor later reported that her conventional land line did not go down during our 13-hour power outage. Another neighbor watched fire coverage on satellite TV in an RV.

Preparing to evacuate with fire in sight is a stressful experience. Speaking in well-formed sentences and focusing on check lists were difficult endeavors.

Our family discussed preparation plans. Quickly we determined the following actions:

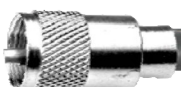
Take: cat and cat food, firebox, photo albums, CPUs, backup drives, Raisin Bran, VHF/UHF go kit, clothes (I chose 4 days), toiletries, truck and car. Abandon: Ford Focus (not enough drivers), travel trailer (roads will be jammed), my grandfather's grandfather clock (too big), 18"x22" wedding photo (too big), all memorabilia (who needs it?), my workshop equipment (all replaceable with new except for the junk box... sigh...).

After initial packing and corralling the cat in a known location (the garage), there was time to add a few things. I added my HF radio, antennas, and my favorite oscilloscope. My son was very helpful loading the truck and lending a hand.

During the process of packing I realized I needed more light. I fired up my Aladdin mantle oil lamp, purchased for the Y2K catastrophe that never materialized. This was its first real call-to-action and it performed admirably. Days later, my XYL opined, "Why do you fuss with that? LED headbands seem so much better." Sheesh, I suppose the same logic could be applied to boat anchors. Clearly the answer is, "You can never have too many radios..."

An excursion to the yard revealed that the winds had lifted the concrete bird bath bowl from its pedestal, overturning the bowl but leaving the pedestal erect. Wow!

Continued on page 7...





...FIRESTORM *continued from page 6*

Once packing was complete and my adrenalin level returned to normal, I turned my attention to the net and listened to informative traffic. Darryl KI6MSP had assumed net control. I kept one ear on the net, the other on KSRO, and both eyes watching the fire. Many hams were contributing fire reports, while net control fielded questions from other hams. As morning approached, I took over net control for a couple of hours and then handed it back to Joe K6AWA. Additional hams stepped in during the ensuing days. Daylight revealed more clearly the huge smoke plume billowing past to the north. The white smoke suddenly turned a dark color, indicating that a structure was burning. If the wind changed direction a few degrees, it could be curtains for my house. Fortunately, it didn't. I later learned that residents on Rincon Avenue stopped the fire's advancement toward them (and me) using their garden hoses. I say thank you.

The following day I heard a ham report that he slept in the back of his pickup truck after seeing the accommodations at an evacuation shelter. Okay, I changed my mind: If evacuated, we will take our travel trailer.

The SCRA Fire Watch Net was an informational net par excellence. During that first morning, many hams gave real-time eye-witness reports of fire advancement, including Chris KW6ART in Windsor, Bill KH6GJV in Santa Rosa, and from a ridge on Sonoma Mountain, Ken WF6KEN reporting on fires in or nearing Annadel, Bennett Valley and east toward Glen Ellen. Andrew KE6HID reported on conditions at the Finley Community Center shelter. Evacuation orders, road closures, traffic conditions, power outage locations, information from other communications services, and status of homes of displaced hams (on request) were aired. The net reached some listeners who had no access to KSRO. In subsequent days, thank-you's have been received from several listeners.

In conclusion, the SCRA Fire Watch Net provided

timely and useful information to me personally as well as to our community at large. Kudos to all hams, named or not, who supported this effort either directly or indirectly. A special kudo goes to Pat KG6JSL who originated the SCRA Storm Watch Net during the El Nino years, preparing many of us for participation in the SCRA Fire Watch Net. And thanks go to all members and supporters of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs (SCRA) club. The club continually furnishes the repeater system that made communications possible, and offers excellent net training via your participation in public service events and the SCRA weekly service net.

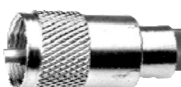
73, Fred AE6SF



SCRA'S IRLP LINK AND THE FIRE

Ken Andersen, from South San Francisco Fire, was managing the distribution of protective supplies to folks who lost homes and wanted to visit their home sites. Along with Wells, KK6EXC, and Sue, I was on ACS activation at the Kaiser Office location north of the main hospital where supplies were being distributed. Ken came to Santa Rosa directly from another fire down south and hasn't been home in a month. He was incredibly appreciative that we could offer him a third-party "hello" to his team back home via IRLP on SCRA's UHF repeater.

Jack, K6ROW



CONTEST CORNER

Kevin Alt, K6BSG, is unable to continue with Contest Corner this month. In lieu of Kevin's insightful preview and contest information, Short Skip is reprinting Contest Corral from the ARRL Contest page to give you an idea of what is going on this month.

Contest Corral — November 2017

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrl.org/contests.

Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start - Finish Date-Time	Start - Finish Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1 2000	1 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	4-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com
2 1800	2 2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	www.nrau.net
4 0000	5 2359	50-1296	ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	Signal report	www.arrl.org/eme-contest
4 0600	4 1800	3.5-28	IPARC Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, "IPA" (if member)	www.iparc.de
4 1200	5 1200	1.8-28	Ukrainian DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 2-letter oblast or serial	urdx.org/rules.php?english
4 2100	6 0300	1.8-28	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	CW	Serial, precedence (Q/A/B/U/M/S), your call, check, section	www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
5 0600	5 1800	3.5-28	IPARC Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, serial, "IPA" (if member)	www.iparc.de
5 0800	5 1200	Any	EANET Sprint	CW Ph Dig	RS(T)	fediea.org
5 0900	5 1700	3.5-28	High Speed Club CW Contest	CW	RST, mbr or "NM"	www.highspeedclub.org
7 0200	7 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	arsqrp.blogspot.com
11 0000	12 2359	3.5-28	WAE DX Contest, RTTY	Dig	RS, serial	www.darc.de/der-club/referat/referat-conteste/worked-all-europe-dx-contest/en
11 0001	12 2359	28	10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital	Dig	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
11 0700	12 1300	3.5-28	JIDX Phone Contest	Ph	RST, Prefecture or CQ zone	jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html
11 1200	12 1200	1.8-28	OK/OM DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, 3-letter district code or serial	okomdx.crk.cz
11 1200	12 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
11 1400	12 0200	1.8-50	Kentucky QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	www.wkdx.com
11 1900	13 0500	1.8-432	CQ-WE Contest	CW Ph Dig	Name, location code, service years	cqwe.cbob.org
13 0100	13 0300	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	www.4sqrp.com
13 2000	13 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, Data	Dig	Other's call, your call, serial, name	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
16 0130	16 0330	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
17 1600	17 2200	3.5	YO International PSK31 Contest	Dig	RST, serial, county or country	www.yo5crq.ro/Rules.htm
18 1200	19 1200	3.5-28	LZ DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 2-letter LZ district or ITU zone	lzdxbfara.org/rulesen.html
18 1600	19 0700	1.8	All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	CW	RST, serial, district code (if OE)	www.oevsv.at
18 1700	19 0100	1.8	REF 160-Meter Contest	CW	RST, serial, department code	concours.r-e-f.org
18 1900	18 2059	1.8-50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
18 1900	18 2300	1.8	RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, district code (if UK)	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
18 2100	20 0300	1.8-28	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	Ph	Serial, precedence (Q/A/B/U/M/S), your call, check, section	www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
19 1300	19 1700	3.5,7	Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party	CW	RST, serial, class	www.qrpcc.de/contestrules
20 0200	20 0400	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
22 0000	22 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
22 2000	22 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, SSB	Ph	Other's call, your call, serial, name	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
25 0000	26 2359	1.8-28	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, CQ zone	www.cqww.com/rules.htm
29 2000	29 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com
30 2000	30 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, CW	CW	Other's call, your call, serial, name	www.rsgbcc.org/hf

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. No contest activity occurs on the 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. SPC = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or NCJ. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal and is extracted for publication in QST 2 months prior to the month of the contest. ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service.



...Contest Corner continued from page 8

For additional contest calendars and resources check:
[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)
[ARRL Contests Page](#)

SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS CLUB Membership Meeting Minutes October 4, 2017

The October 4, 2017 regular Membership meeting of SCRA was called to order by Vice President Joe Fortuna at 7:00 PM.

A quorum of 37 members were present. Officers and directors were introduced.

Net Control Assignments for:

Oct 10 =	Jack Christensen, K6ROW
17 =	Darryl Paule KI6MSP
24 =	Karen Stultz-Miller, K6KSM
31 =	Joe Fortuna, K6AWA

Announcements, New Calls, Upgrades, Lies and Brags

John Breckenridge W6FRZ brought in old radios that are free for the taking. Jim Draeger KI6REK discussed the upcoming Mendocino Car Rally at Cow Mountain on October 28, 2017. Joe Fortuna, K6AWA advertised the 10M net on Tuesday nights. The radio loan out program is doing well. He set up an HF station at Karen Stultz-Miller's home. Bob Olsten W6DPE will turn 95 years old next week.

Bylaw Changes

Bylaw changes were emailed to all members. Dave Harrison, W6IBC led the discussion. The outcome is as follows: 1) we should adopt the technical issues such as spelling corrections; 2) it has to be important to change the bylaws; and 3) we should leave the standing committees in the bylaws.

This month's program was Stump the Experts. Four panelists from our SCRA membership - John Felton KE5RI, Joe Fortuna K6AWA, Dave Harrison W6IBC, and Fred Seitel AE6SF – answered questions such as 1) What is the difference between an RF and a

DC ground, 2) electrical grounding and lightening grounding, and 3) crossband and lockband. *Did you know you need to lower your power when using crossband?* The panel did a great job answering member's questions.

10-minute break started at 8:20PM. Vice President Joe K67AWA began the Business Meeting at 8:30pm. The minutes of the September 2017 minutes were approved on motion by Darryl KI6MSP, seconded by Bill KM6BYD.

OFFICER AND CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS

Community Outreach

Darryl Paule, KI6MSP thanked everyone who volunteered for the Levi Gran Fondo booth on Sep 30th. He will be presenting at Pacificon on Oct 20th. The North Bay Science Festival is scheduled for Oct 27th where he wants to present Slow Scan TV.

Education

Dave W6IBC reported the next Technician class will be held on 11/17-19 at the Graton Fire Department. Five students have enrolled. The Technician License Questions are changing effective Jul 1, 2018 to include digital communications.

Field Day

Brian Torr, N6IIY is looking into having a Winter Field Day on the last full weekend in January 2018 (Jan 26th-28th). Stay tuned for more details.

Merchandise

Dan Drummond, KK6VIQ is researching ball caps that lightup. Check one out at his Merchandise table.

Repeater Committee

Jack Christensen, K6ROW reported members hearing two beeps on the English Hill Repeater. The two beeps are a courtesy tone signal transferring to the other repeater – English Hill then Castle Rock.

Membership

Karen Stultz-Miller, K6KSM reported we currently have 169 members, up from 135 members at the end of 2016.

Continued on page 10...





...Minutes continued from page 9

GOTA

Doug Payne, KF6LMB will be setting up antennas for the Boy Scout with Getting On The Air (GOTA) on Oct 20th.

Roster

A suggestion was made to update the roster every 3 months. This suggestion will be taken to the board.

Unfinished Business

- a. Member of the Year Award Nominations are now closed. The award will be given at the December Holiday Dinner on Dec 6, 2017.

New Business

It is recommended more people listen to the repeater during the day to improve our Ham Radio skills and connect with other Hams.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Wells, K6KDW
Secretary

HOW CAN WE HELP OUR COMMUNITY?

After starting discussions on how we can help our members who have had losses from the Fire Storm that ravaged Santa Rosa, my thoughts are now expanding to our community as a whole. There must be dozens of small ways each and every one of us can help. Right now I am thinking of all the local small businesses where the business is fine but the owners have lost their homes. If we can identify such businesses, I will share a list with all members so we can take our business to them, aiding as best we can with our everyday purchases.

Let me know (k6son@arrl.net) as you find these local business owners and I will send out an email, no more frequently than once a week, to see if we can make a difference.

Thank you all for your generosity.

Iola kk6hre

Minutes SCRA Board of Directors Meeting October 25, 2017

The October 2017 Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order by President Iola KK6HRE at 6:00 PM at IHOP restaurant, 2745 4th Street, Santa Rosa CA. SCRA Board members present included President Iola KK6HRE, Vice President Joe K6AWA, Director John KE5RI, and Secretary Kathy K6KDW. A quorum of Officers and Directors were present. Other SCRA members in attendance included Brian N6IYY, Charlie KZ6T, Jeff KI6PBF, Darryl K6MSP, Dan KK6VIQ, Fred AE6SF, Karen K6KSM, and Doug KF6LMB.

Minutes of the September 2017 Board Meeting were approved on motion by John KE5RI, and seconded by Iola KK6HRE. Motion passed.

Officer and Director Reports, there was one report.

President Iola KK6HRE reported there was no significant changes in our financial status since last meeting.

Committee Reports and Business,

Community Outreach Chair Darryl KI6MSP. He will be setting up a booth at the Northern Bay Area Science Festival. 10/20/40 meter, CW and Digital will be demonstrated. Additionally, Darryl will be teaching the Technician class to Brookhaven School students and is asking club members to help him teach. Membership Committee Karen K6KSM – We have 169 members and 2 associate members. Note: Associate members do not have a license and have no voting rights

Field Day Committee Chair Brian N6IYY indicated the post-Field Day report should be coming out this weekend. He is looking into holding a Winter Field Day. He would welcome any suggestions on locations. Programs Chair John KE5RI indicated the November 2017 SCRA Membership Meeting program will be a “Who Wants To Be An Extra Class Ham?” by Brian N6IYY.

Radio Loanout Program Joe K6AWA – Would like to purchase another HF transceiver at a cost of \$1,000.

Unfinished Business,

Charlie KZ6T received a shipping notice for the 1,000 feet of coax cable used for Field Day Operations.

Continued on page 11...



...BoD Minutes continued from page 10

The Nominating Committee will put forward the following members for leadership positions at the November 2017 Membership Meeting: President – John KE5R1; Vice President – Joe K6AWA; Directors – Doug KF6LMB and Jeff KI6PBF; Treasurer – Aaron KK6ZDB; and Steve KK6VMZ as Secretary.

New Business,

Fire Storm Report – Charlie KZ6T and Jeff KI6PBF started the Fire Net the first night of the fire. Charlie, living in the Coffey Park residential area, relayed to the net an urgent need for fire suppression equipment. Joe K6AWA ran Net Control for the Fire Net for 8 hours relaying sourced information to individuals who accessed the net. Kevin KK6CPH drove through people's back yards, knocking down fences, and saving neighbors. Ken KF6KEN and Matt WE1A also assisted in running net control.

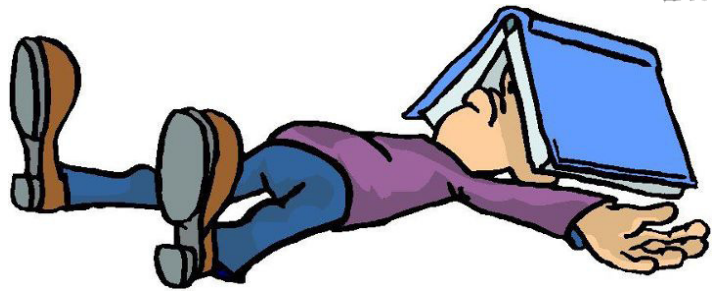
Members Who Have Lost Their Homes – A lively discussion was held about how SCRA can help SCRA fire victims. Several ideas were presented. At minimum, the Club will send a condolence letter to each victim expressing our sympathies and offering support within the guidelines of our non-profit status.

Holiday Dinner Party – The party will be held on Wednesday December 6, 2017 in lieu of our December 2017 membership meeting. Brian N6IYY will prepare the turkey and ham. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to be shared with others. The cost will be \$8.00 per person and signups will be online at the SCRA website. The main door prize would be an HT.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wells K6KDW
Secretary



NEW TECHNICIAN QUESTION POOL JULY 1, 2018

By Dave Harrison W6IBC

Every four years the Question Pool Committee revises the collection or “pool” of questions from which particular questions are extracted for a particular ham license examination. The current question pool for the Technician License expires on June 30, 2018, about nine months from now.

Rumors abound that the new question pool will be more difficult than the present pool of questions. So, Gordon West WB6NOA is suggesting we all urge potential hams to prepare for and obtain their licenses before July 1st, 2018. In his recent instructor newsletter, Fall 2017 edition, Gordon quotes the Chair of the Question Pool Committee, Larry Pollock, NB5X: “We’re deleting questions on older technology and updating the pool with new questions on digital modes, FCC changes and more”.

If you know of someone who wants to enter the exciting hobby of amateur radio, encourage them to consider our November 17-19, 2017 Technician License class. More information is available on the SCRA website. Click “classes” under the Events dropdown tab on the Home page.





Point Reyes National Seashore and KPH Management Plan Update

KPH is the ship-to-shore and trans-Pacific Morse Code radio service which ran until the 1990s.

The stations inside the Point Reyes National Seashore are being operated by the Maritime Historical Society - a group of volunteers including some SCRA members.

The Seashore has "nearly hidden" its history.

To get that history made available to the public, changes are needed. Those changes start with the plan update described below.

I think it's important that we get the word into this process that history needs to be given its fair due at Point Reyes:

KPH
Drake
Cermeno
Lifeboat Station
Lighthouse

KPH volunteers and supporters can submit comments.

Thanks,

Michael Von der Porten



The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning a General Management Plan Amendment (GMP Amend-

ment) for Point Reyes National Seashore and the north district of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The GMP Amendment will update management guidance for more than 28,000 acres of NPS lands, including all lands currently leased for ranching.

Public comment on the process runs through November 15th. Here are some ways to share your views:

Read through the background information and submit comments online, by mail, or hand delivered. [More info here](#)

Thank you for your support of Point Reyes National Seashore,

Point Reyes National Seashore | (415) 663-1200 x 303 | development@ptreyes.org | www.ptreyes.org
Point Reyes National Seashore Association | 1 Bear Valley Rd, Bldg 70, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Historic RCA Coast Station KPH

RCA / Marconi Wireless Stations:

Guglielmo Marconi sited and commissioned the building of wireless telegraphy transmitting station in Bolinas and receiving station in Marshall, on Tomales Bay, in 1913-14. They formed the foundation for the most successful and powerful ship to shore and land station, known as "KPH," on the Pacific Rim. The Marshall station was supplanted in 1929 to support the growing point-to-point business in the Pacific by a new Art Deco-designed facility at Point Reyes Beach on the "G" Ranch. Few of the succeeding generations of antennas, arranged in "farms," remain at the two sites. However, the radio equipment, ship-to-shore Morse communications, and teletype—some of it dating to the World War II-era—remains intact, has been restored and made functional, and is used to broadcast on numerous frequencies, including KPH. The Monterey cypress "tree tunnel" at the Point Reyes station is a signature landscape feature that evokes some of the prestige that RCA placed in this profitable, historic operation. Studies are underway to ultimately list both National Seashore sites and the Marshall facility, now a California State Parks conference center, together as a multiple property National Historic Landmark. Saving a piece of history...[more...](#)



Anybody Up for Winter Field Day???**January 27/28, 2018**

It seems like I'm only now putting away the last of the gear from Field Day 2017. But right around the corner is another opportunity to get outside and play radio... Winter Field Day! It is always the fourth full weekend in January, so for 2018 that will be the weekend of January 27 and January 28. Like ARRL Field Day (FD), operating begins 11am PST on Saturday and runs until 11am PST on Sunday.

Winter Field Day has a lot in common with FD, but with more of a focus on making contacts in emergency-like conditions than the "promotional" aspects of ham radio.

Winter Field Day, or WFD, does not have as many opportunities for bonus points, but whereas the typical number of bonus points for FD is 100, the typical bonus points for WFD is 1500.. There are also fewer classes and categories for WFD compared to FD.

If you would like to know a little more about what WFD entails, I encourage you to visit the Winter Field Day Association's website at <https://www.winterfeldday.com/>

I would like to hear from all those of you out there that would be interested in participating in Winter Field Day this coming January.

If there is sufficient interest, we need to identify where we will do WFD. Because it is in January, the changes for inclement weather are much greater they are for FD, so please take that into consideration, especially if we elect to operate during the entire 24 hours of WFD.

So, please let me know the following:

1. Are you interested in participating in Winter Field Day?
2. Do you know of a location that might be suitable for a Winter Field Day event?

Thanks & 73,
Brian Torr, N6IHY
N6iiy@arrl.net

SCRA Website Forum

So how many of you know that the SCRA website has a forum page? Its there for all members to use. There is a Section for Activities, Announcements and News, Public Service, and Technical Issues. To visit the site,

Navigate to the SCRA website,
Log in as a member
Click on Member Area, then [Forums](#)

While you are on the individual Forum pages, make sure to click on SUBSCRIBE. This will send you an email when a new question gets posted. Don't worry about your inbox getting flooded with junk emails. Only valid members can post to the site.

How to Subscribe to the SCRA Calendar

Subscribe to the SCRA calendar and automatically import event dates into your electronic calendar(s). Go to the calendar page on the SCRA website and click the Subscribe button in the corner. Select the type of calendar you want to subscribe to. You will be taken to your sign-in page to finish adding the subscription.



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SCRA Dues: The renewal date for SCRA dues is January 1st. Dues are \$20/year for individual, \$30/year for families, and \$15/year for youth (under 18).

PRO-RATED DUES for new members only: Reduce standard dues rate by \$5.00 per quarter. (ie. Second Quarter, April – June \$15.00; Third Quarter – July – September \$10.00; Fourth Quarter, October – December \$5.00 to end of December of current year or \$25.00 through December of the following year)

I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

- | | |
|---|---|
| () Public Service Events | () Acting as club Net Control Station |
| () ARES Emergency Services | () Helping with VEC license exams |
| () Taking a Novice or Technician class | () Field day, other operating |
| () Teaching a Novice or Technician class | () Helping with <i>Short Skip</i> Newsletter |
| () Taking an upgrade class | () Other _____ |
| () Teaching an upgrade class | |
-

SCRA DUES: Individual \$20, Family \$30, Youth, under 18, \$15 + _____
Name Badge (complete info below) \$10 each Circle: Magnet or Clip attachment + _____

Name Badge Information Fill in exactly as you want it to appear on your badge.
Callsign _____ First Name _____ City _____
Callsign _____ First Name _____ City _____
Callsign _____ First Name _____ City _____

SCRA Patch \$5/ea + _____
SCRA T-Shirt \$11.50/ea Size: s m l xl xxl + _____

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SHORT SKIP ARCHIVES AVAILABLE

Mike, AD6YB, has set up archives for past and present issues of Short Skip. They are available on the Website, log into Members Area, Short Skip, click on the first sentence. Mike has scanned in the old paper issues and it is really interesting to browse through them to see what those guys were doing. There are historical photos as well. An important record of our history and ham radio in general. Good Stuff.

[\(Click Me\)](#)

DIDN'T FIND WHAT YOU NEEDED?

If you are looking for something more on a topic or your topic of interest hasn't been covered lately, let us know. Something you'd like to see in Short Skip?

Contact the editor, shortskippeditor@gmail.com or for general questions and /or suggestions, k6son@arrl.net

SHORT SKIP NEEDS YOUR INPUT

SHORT SKIP ARTICLES WANTED

Dave, KI6UGB, our Short Skip editor is always looking for articles of interest. They can be technical, a good (or bad) experience that other members may learn from, hints or kinks that worked for you in solving a problem, or just about anything ham radio related. Send your contributions to Dave at shortskippeditor@gmail.com

