

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:

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

Castle Rock: 147.315+ 156.7



REPEATER STATION  
W6SON

Volume 40, Number 8

August 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, AUGUST, 2015

## This Month's Meeting Program:

August Meeting Topic: DIY Night



It is the dog days of summer but SCRA has plenty going on. Darryl, KI6MSP, is putting on a radio demonstration at the County Fair on August 1, followed by Tour d'Organics on August 9. Doug, KF6LMB, is putting together the Mini-DX from August 13-16. Dave, W6IBC, has the Hot August Build Class on August 22. The Santa Rosa Marathon is on August 23 with Pat, KG6JSL, as comm organizer. Get more information and sign up on the Club Website.

For pure entertainment you cannot beat the August Program, DIY night. This features your homebuilt projects, boat anchors, neat tricks you have discovered, antenna installations or whatever you want to show off. There is no limit to what can be brought to this meeting to demonstrate the wide range of amateur radio. If your project is too big for the building, the late summer evening will allow parking lot viewing. So get your stuff, and bring it to the August meeting.

Our Technical grade license classes continue to be quite successful with Dave, W6IBC, getting students ready for and passing the tests. Dave's Education Committee also offers targeted mentoring for those who wish to move up their license classification. Contact Dave for more information. You really do have more fun with a higher license grade.

We also need technical articles from the members in Short Skip. This is a technically oriented Club and passing along technical information is part of members helping members. Articles of any length, from a few sentences to full length articles are welcome and appreciated. They can be on any subject from easy and simple projects, to how you solved a problem, a product review, to a theoretical discussion of electromagnetism. There is an incredible amount of knowledge, experience and talent out there, and sharing it with other members, increasing our knowledge of the radio arts, is one of the main purposes of amateur radio. Share what you know.

That's about it for now. Enjoy the summer and ham radio.

Pat, KG6JSL

At our August meeting we will all get a chance to show our creative side. If you've been working on a homebrew project, bring it in and tell us about it. If it's too large to bring to the meeting, bring in pictures of the project.

Or maybe you discovered a neat way to mount a radio and/or antenna in your new (or not so new) car. Show us!

Or maybe you're just proud of your latest boat anchor acquisition. Tell us the history behind it.

See you all at the August meeting!

73,  
Brian Torr, N6IYY

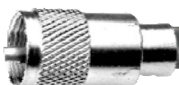
## JOIN ARRL, THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

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>



## 2015 Club Officers

President	Patrick Coyle coylaw@sonic.net	KG6JSL
Vice President	Brian Torr	N6IYY
Treasurer	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB
Secretary	Iola Beckley	KK6HRE
Director	Joe Fortuna	K6AWA
	Jeff Tonelli	KI6PBF
Past President	Charlie Sikes	KZ6T

## Committee Lineup/Contacts

Activities	Darryl Paule, KI6MSP	ki6msp@arrl.net
ARES Liaison	Brian Torr, N6IYY	n6iyy@arrl.net
DX/Contest	Kevin Alt, K6BSG	kalt@ieee.org
Education	Dave Harrison, W6IBC	w6ibc@arrl.net
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Public Service	Brian Torr, N6IYY	n6iyy@arrl.net
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Repeater	Robert Jones, WA6NIV	wa6niv@arrl.net
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	Brian Torr, N6IYY	n6iyy@arrl.net

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SCRA Web site	<a href="http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com">http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com</a>

## 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

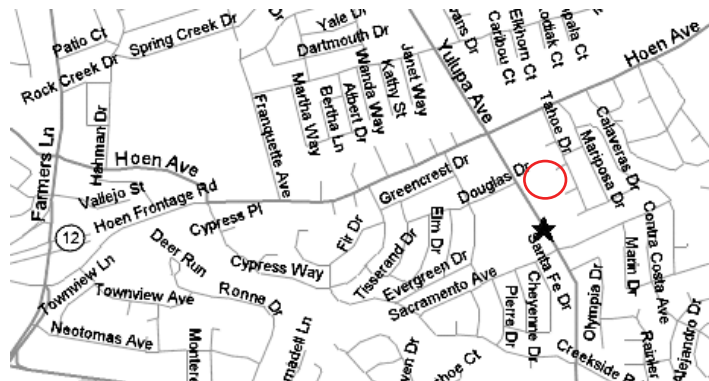
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## SCRA Club Meetings

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 IHOP restaurant, 4th and Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. People start showing up at 5:15 PM. No RSVP is required.

## Board of Directors Meeting

Second Wednesday of the month, 6:00 PM at  
IHOP Restaurant

2745 4th Street

Flamingo One Stop Shopping Center  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

No Host Dinner begins at 5:30 PM.  
Members get a 15% discount on meals.

## Committee Meetings

Meetings are TBA this month.  
Check SCRA blogs for announcements.



## SCRA LOANER RADIOS

SCRA has a Yeasu 2900 VHF radio available for use by members as a loaner. Contact Charlie, KZ6T, at charliesikes@me.com

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## EMERGENCY VESTS

Anyone wanting an emergency vest with name and call sign contact Wells, KK6EXC, at sylvan1hills@gmail.com

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## 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@arrl.net.

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## I Called EMERGENCY on the Radio and Nobody Answered

by KZ6T

That's right, the first time ever I have had reason to use the "E" word and the response was total silence.

The situation: It is day one of a short get-a-way back-country trip to the Northern Sierras. Our loose itinerary was to head for the Feather River area near Quincy, then decide from there where to go. Our route would take us over St. Helena, to Williams, Colusa, Yuba City/Marysville, La Porte, then find a place to camp. Near the base of St. Helena on the Lake side there is a road construction operation going on. Traffic is funneled down to one lane where a new bridge is being built. While passing the construction site, I noticed a large piece of machinery that just didn't look right. A second look and I said, "HUH? That's a crane upside down."

It appears that the operator had over extended the boom, and tipped it completely upside down into the stream bed. None of the crew seemed excited, so we determined this had happened earlier in the morning. Just another "first" to add to the list. We kept going.

About 8 miles west of Yuba City we noticed brake lights on several cars about 1/4 mile ahead of us. Those drivers had pulled over and were the first to start assisting the occupants in two vehicles. One was seriously damaged in a left turn lane (center of the road) and the other was equally damaged in the gutter. Although we did not witness it, this

head-on collision had just happened. We pulled over and I handed my cell phone to Dina and told her to call 911. No bars, no service. I have the answer to that problem. (This month's QST cover has an image of a bumper sticker on the cover that states "Ham Radio Saves Lives".) I have had my dual bander on with one side on 144.390 sending out APRS beacons, the active side on 146.520 (national calling frequency). I key up and announce EMERGENCY EMERGENCY EMERGENCY. Wait 10 seconds, no answer, repeat, wait, repeat. Still no answer. Next, I activate the APRS band, thinking that if anyone using APRS in the area would hear the voice alert. Nope! Tried that 3 times as well.

So now what? I had been slowly inching my way forward off the side of the roadway. I guess I moved enough because now there were 2-bars on the iPhone. I was able to connect to the 911

operator, explained the situation, and stayed on the line until the first responder pulled up a few minutes later. Since we didn't witness the accident, and the cavalry was arriving, we left the scene.

I have read a number of stories where Ham Radio made the difference, but in this incident, it did not. I guess things could have been different if I had a local repeater programmed. I had the repeaters programmed in for the towns we would be near (Quincy & Sierra City) but not the repeaters along the way. In hindsight, having to relay the information would have ultimately taken more time than it did by finding a better cell signal.

So this got me thinking what if this had happened further out in the boonies where there is no cell service. I could have used APRS, change the Mic-E status to EMERGENCY, my comment

to some short message like SERIOUS ACCIDENT SEND HELP, then change the beacon rate to once a minute. I believe that if the Mic-E status is set to EMERGENCY, it triggers an alarm to those monitoring with programs such as APRSISCE.

The rest of the trip was uneventful. We found a great primitive campsite outside of Graeagle. Took in the scenery along some beautiful backroads, and came across a mama and baby black bear hunting grubs.

73,  
Charlie, KZ6T





## CONTEST CORNER

by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. For something different, checkout the contest with rotating post codes the first weekend in August. Contest exchanges depend upon the previous QSO. For more traditional contests try the Worked All Europe or North American QSO Parties. Finally, there is a 2 meter meteor scatter mid-month. Happy DX'ing!

1 Aug - TARA Grid Dip Shindig - Digital, 160-6 meters. See: <http://www.n2ty.org>.

1 Aug - European HF Championship - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: [lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf](http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf).

1-2 Aug – 10-10 Intl Summer Contest – SSB, 10 meters. See: [www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org).

1-2 Aug, ARRL August UHF Contest, all modes, 220 MHz and above. See: [www.arrl.org/august-uhf](http://www.arrl.org/august-uhf).

1-2 Aug, North American QSO Party - CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf](http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf).

2 Aug – RSGB RoPoCo – CW, 80 meters. See: [www.rsgbcc.org/hf](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf).

2 Aug – SARL HF Phone Contest - SSB, 80-20 meters. See: [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za).

4 Aug – ARS Spartan Sprint – CW, 80-10 meters. See: [www.arsqrp.blogspot.com](http://www.arsqrp.blogspot.com).

5-6 Aug (weekly) – CWOps Mini-CWT Test – CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.cwops.org/cwt.html](http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html).

6 Aug – NRAU 10 Meter Activity Contest – All Modes, 10 meters. See: [www.nrau.net/activity-contests](http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests).

7 Aug – NCCC RTTY Sprint – RTTY, 160-15 meters. See: [www.ncccsprint.com/rtty.html](http://www.ncccsprint.com/rtty.html).

7 Aug – NCCC Sprint Ladder – CW, 160-6 meters. See: [www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html](http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html).

8-9 Aug – WAE DX Contest - CW, 80-10 meters. See: [darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en](http://darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en).

8-9 Aug – SKCC Weekend Sprintathon – CW, 160-6 meters. See: [mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org](http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org).

8-9 Aug - Maryland-DC QSO Party – All modes, 160 meters – 70 cm. See: [mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org](http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org).

8-9 Aug – 50 MHz Fall Sprint – All Modes, 6 meters. See: [svhfs.org](http://svhfs.org).

12 Aug – NAQCC CW Sprint – CW, 80-20 meters. See: [naqcc.info/sprint201507.html](http://naqcc.info/sprint201507.html).

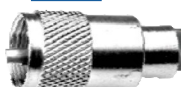
12 Aug – RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint – CW, 80 meters. See: [www.rsgbcc.org/hf](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf).

12-14 Aug – MMonVHF Meteorscatter Sprint – All Modes, 2 meters. See: [www.mmonvhf.de/ctestinfo.php](http://www.mmonvhf.de/ctestinfo.php).

15 Aug – Feld-Hell Sprint – Digital, 160-6 meters. See: <http://sites.google.com/site/feld-hellclub>.

15-16 Aug – SARTG WW RTTY Contest – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: [www.sartg.com](http://www.sartg.com).

*Continued on page 5...*





...Contest Corner continued from page 4

15-16 Aug - ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest – all modes. See: [www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up](http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up).

15-16 Aug - Russian District Award Contest - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: [rdaward.org/rdac1.htm](http://rdaward.org/rdac1.htm).

15-16 Aug - Keymen's Club of Japan Contest - CW, 160-6 meters. See: [www.kcj-cw.com](http://www.kcj-cw.com).

15-16 Aug - North American QSO Party - SSB, 160-10 meters. See: <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>.

15-16 Aug – CVA DX Contest – CW, 80-10 meters. See: [www.craec.org](http://www.craec.org).

16 Aug – SARL HF Digital Contest - Digital, 80-20 meters. See: [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za).

16 Aug – ARRL Rookie Roundup – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>.

17 Aug – Run For the Bacon QRP Contest – CW, 160-10 meters. See: <http://fpqrp.org/pig-run>.

23-23 Aug - Ohio QSO Party - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters. See: <http://www.ohqp.org/adminRules.htm>.

22-23 Aug – CVA DX Contest – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: [www.craec.org](http://www.craec.org).

22-24 Aug - Hawaii QSO Party – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: <http://www.hiqsoparty.org>.

26 Aug – SKCC Sprint – CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.skccgroup.com](http://www.skccgroup.com).

27 Aug – RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint – SSB, 80 meters. See: [www.rsgbcc.org/hf](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf).

29-30 Aug - ALARA Contest- CW, 80-2 meters. See: [www.alara.org.au/contests](http://www.alara.org.au/contests).

29-30 Aug – W/VE Islands QSO Party – All modes. See: [www.usislands.org](http://www.usislands.org).

29-30 Aug - SCC RTTY Championship, 80-10 meters. See: [lea.hamradio.si/scc](http://lea.hamradio.si/scc).

29-30 Aug - YO-DX Contest - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters. See: <http://www.yodx.ro/en/english>.

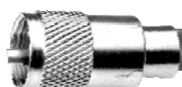
29-30 Aug – Kansas QSO Party – All modes, 80-6 meters. See: [www.ksqsoparty.org](http://www.ksqsoparty.org).

30 Aug – SARL HF CW Contest - CW, 80-20 meters. See: [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za).

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### BAOFENG USERS

The Inland Empire Radio Amateurs of Spokane, WA, has excellent instructions on how to manually program your Baofeng UV5RA dual band radio. Their site is <http://www.vhfclub.org/> Click banner to download the instructions in .pdf format.





## 2015 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Check the [Club website](#) for details

August 1: County Fair Radio Demonstration  
 August 8: Annadel Cross Country  
 August 9: Tour d' Organics  
 August 13-16: Mini-DX  
 August 14-16: Technician License Class  
 August 22: Hot August Build Class  
 August 23: Santa Rosa Marathon  
 September 12: Club Picnic  
 September 12: VE Open Session  
 September 19: SCRA Pi  
 September 26-27: Wave to Wine  
     Wings over Wine Country Air Show  
 October 3: Levi's Gran Fondo  
 October 17: Jamboree on the Air  
 October 24: North Bay Science Fair  
 November 20-22: Technician License Class  
 December 2: Club Holiday Party  
 December 5: VE Open Session

## DIGITAL ED 101

Now that digital Fusion digital repeaters are popping up around us, we will be forming a focus user group to support this new technology. The Yaesu Fusion line of radios seem quite capable but also complex and perhaps a bit intimidating. Let us know if you would like to participate on a regular basis to swap means, methods, procedures, data, etc. Are you having issues programming or operating digital?

Maybe you need help with APRS? We may not be experts, but if enough of us put our heads together we might be able to figure things out more to take full advantage of the capabilities of the Fusion system.

If you have, or are thinking about purchasing one of the following radios, Fusion Digital is in your future: FTM400R, FTM100DR, FT1DR, FT2DR, FT-991.

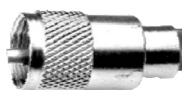
Initially we will concentrate on the Fusion repeater and radio but will be expanding to cover all things digital, such as APRS, Winlink, PSK, DMR and other digital platforms. So if you are interested, please send me an email and I will add you to the mailing list.

73,  
 Charlie, KZ6T [kz6t@arrl.net](mailto:kz6t@arrl.net)

Currently on the list are:  
 Dave, W6IBC  
 Matt, KJ6LJI  
 Jeff, KD6RC  
 Adam, KD6POC  
 Eric, M6EM  
 Kathy KK6KGW



Yaesu System Fusion Introduction On YouTube:  
<https://youtu.be/tNjgHUhhMmA>





## REPEATER PROCEDURES

Many operators are not waiting for the Repeater to “drop” before beginning their transmission.

When an operator’s transmission ends, the repeater will be quiet for a second and then “beep.” It is transmitting a carrier signal during this time. The “beep” (courtesy tone) is the signal that the Repeater has finished transmitting and the next transmission should not begin until the “beep” is heard. You can also watch the S meter and/or the Rx light on your radio to see if the Repeater has stopped transmitting. If a transmission begins before the “beep” the Repeater’s automatic Time Out Timer (TOT) is activated and may shut down the repeater if too many transmissions are made without a break. Doing so also increases the Repeater’s duty cycle and heating.

Please remember to pause a second after keying your transmitter before you begin speaking to allow the Repeater to begin transmitting. If you begin speaking immediately on your key up, the repeater will miss the first few syllables spoken and they will not be heard by the receiving station.

Also do not “kerchunk” the repeater, that is, keying and unkeying your rig without speaking. If you just want to check that you are reaching the repeater by listening for the courtesy tone, just say your call sign and “Radio Check.” If you want to check the quality of your signal, say your call sign and “Signal Check Please.” Repeat the request a couple of times if at first no one replies. Failure to identify may indicate interference, willful or otherwise, from some source, and is poor amateur practice.



## Next Open VE Session: Saturday, September 12, 9:00 am

Our next open VE exam session is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12, from 9:00 am until noon. The location will be the Bennett Valley Grange 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](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 Grange 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 CSEs (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



## SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETING JUNE 3, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER 7:03PM**

### **OFFICERS AND BOARD INTRODUCTIONS:**

Pat, KG6JSL; Mike, AD6YB; Iola, KK6HRE; Doug, KF6LMB; Jeff, KI6PBF; Charlie, KZ6T.

### **NEW MEMBER AND VISITOR INTRO-**

**DUCTIONS:** Carol, KK6OLL and Peter, KG6J-SI Lucic, Keith KK6TAV. Cymi KI6HTT, Dan Drummond and Bill Simon (non-hams) from Brookwood Mobile Home Park.

**PROGRAM:** Brian, N6IIY, Field Day, June 26 – June 28, 2015. The plan is to spread the stations out more. This is a QSO Operating Event, part social, educational, experimental, but most of all – fun! Darryl, KI6MSP is the Public Information Officer for the event. Darryl KI6MSP reports that Ephren Corerro, County Supervisor, may attend which would give the event an additional 100 points. Some items needed are tables, chairs, power strips, and coax cable (being sure to identify the cables with length and ownership).

**BREAK :** 8:20-8:35pm

### **BUSINESS MEETING:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** – Dave W6IBC moved and Joe K6AWA seconded. Minutes approved as published in the Short Skip monthly newsletter.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEW CALLS AND UPGRADES, LIES AND BRAGS:**

Gary N2BBB – Serba Antenna information is on the back table for anyone interested. Also, the generator information that was passed on at the last meeting from Jim K6HKY, resulted in a \$200 donation to SCRA for the generator. Jim Draeger KI6REK, Picnic, weekend after Labor Day. Need volunteers to put on a picnic. If no volunteers, no picnic.

Joe K6AWA, shared a Field battery purchased from, Harbor Freight \$60.00, weight approximately 10 pounds.

Wells KK6EXC, badge for Keith, Safety vests are available for field day.

Brian, N6IIY, Field Day signup sheets were passed around for signing up.

Doug KF6LMB - Annual Mini DX August 14,15,16. Park fee \$20 per day. Two breakfasts. John Breckenridge. Contact from an old QSO contact via email

Kathy KK6KGW, got her antenna up. Found a spot where she can transmit and connect to the clubs net.

### **OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**REPEATERS:** Repeater meeting at Charlie's office.

**ACTIVITIES:** ARRL Children's Kits Day at Children's Museum. Tours of ships, nothing has happened. Field Day, need 4-5 people working the PI booth. Tour d'Organics, August 9th. PCAM air show. Terrible Two coming up, 20th of June.

**EDUCATION:** Dave W6IBC: We will have a full class at the next Technician licensing class. Class will be held at the Red Cross facility, River Road and Old Redwood Highway on Friday night. Saturday at the First American Title Company, then back to Red Cross for Sunday. Gordon West 'General' Book 2015-2019 is now available.

**FIELD DAY:** Joe KA6AWA: Field Day signups. List was passed around.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** Pat KG6JSL: Would like early signups for the Mendo Rally. Link on our website: Practice 10 am July 5th. Santa Rosa Marathon is also coming up.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

*Continued on page 9...*



...Meeting Minutes continued from page 8

### NEW BUSINESS:

Charlie KZ6T – should we be thinking of a replacement for the NewsLine? Bryan does not have any information at this time about when or if the NewsLine will continue.

TECHNICAL Q & A - None

### NET CONTROL:

June 9

Joe K6AWA

16

John WB6FRX

23

Cornell WA6HMN

30

Frank NQ6E

The next meeting is July 1st. Program, The Joe and Pat Show. Antenna's and/or power supplies. Tools, gadgets, and junk around the shack.

**ADJOURN** - 9:06

Respectfully Submitted by Iola Beckley,  
KK6HRE, Secretary

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### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JULY 1, 2015

#### CALL TO ORDER:

7:02 pm

All OFFICERS AND BOARD members were present.

**GUESTS:** Bill Snyder, John KG6BHI, Fred KQ6OB;

**NEW MEMBER:** Nick KD7YDD

**PROGRAM:** Joe, K6AWA provided a well thought out program on antennas and power supplies, lightning and grounding antennas, 400 Ohm window line & grounding, Broad Band antenna, window line instead of coax.

**BREAK:** 8:10 - 8:30pm

#### BUSINESS MEETING

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** ~ Due to the Short Skip distribution being delayed so articles could be included for Field Day, the minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEW CALLS AND UP- GRADES, LIES AND BRAGS ~ None

**OFFICERS REPORTS:** Treasurer's Report: Mike AD6YB reports that we now have 133 members and are on target with the SCRA finances.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Activities -Darryl, KI6MSP reports the upcoming events and activities. The Sonoma County Fair display on July 25 and August 1st; Novato Space Center, August 1; Tour d'Organics ~ need SAG's and a Motor or two; PCAM and Science Festival. There is also an ARRL '13 Colonies Contest coming up.

Education – W6IBC reports that the July Technician class & test weekend is full. There will be a split venue between the Red Cross building on Friday and Sunday with Saturday class being held at the Title Company. Mentoring and self-help is available upon request. A good website for studying is ARZ.com.

Repeater – Jack KE6ROW reports there needs to be a clean-up at the repeater site. W6QXY temporarily lost IPS.

Field Day - Brian N6IIY thanked everyone for all their help on Field Day. The scores were calculated and were 35% more than last year. Missed a few bonus points with no elected official showing up. Volunteer Coordinators worked well. Brian will schedule a debrief meeting. Brian N6IIY request any photos taken be emailed to him for inclusion in his report. John, WB6FRZ resolved that after every Field Day to have a chilled watermelon at the end of clean-up.

SCRA Picnic – Jim KI6REK reports that the picnic will be on September 12th (Second weekend in September on a Saturday). However, this picnic will not happen if volunteers do not step up to help. He cannot do it by himself.

Digital Repeater: Charlie KZ6T reports that the UHF repeater and the Yeasu system works well on UHF equipment. There will be a focus group for the Digital Repeater and Yaesu system. Contact Charlie at KZ6T@arrl.net if you are interested in participating in this focus group.

OLD BUSINESS ~ None

NEW BUSINESS ~ None

TECHNICAL Q & A ~ None

*Continued on page 10...*



...*Meeting Minutes continued from page 9*

#### NET CONTROL

July 7 – KE6SF

July 14 – Brian N6IYY

July 21 – Iola KK6HRE

July 28 ~ Joe K6AWA

August 4 - Mike AB6YB

**ADJORN:** 9:14pm

Respectfully Submitted: Iola KK6HRE, Secretary

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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS July 8, 2015 MEETING

Call to order. There was a Quorum present: Pat KG6JSL, Iola KK6HRE, Brian N6IYY, Jeff KI6PBF. And Charlie KZ6T.

Visitors Present: ShelleRae KK6JXM, Doug KF6LMB, Darryl KI6MSP, John WB6FRZ, Jack K6ROW.

Previous meeting minutes approval as published in Short Skip by motion of Jeff KI6PBF and seconded by Charlie KZ6T.

Officer and Director Reports: None

Committee Reports:

Activities: Darryl KI6MSP, a) Ship Tours on the Hornet have been postponed.

b) Coming up is the kids museum, radio telescope and satellite tracking, PCAM, Tour d'Organics (SAG's needed), and the County Fair.

c) Waves to Wine is scheduled for September 26 and 27th.

d) Tour d'Organics – Saturday, August 9th.

e) The caption accompanying a picture at the Children's Museum was incorrect. Efren Carrillo is not the Museum Supervisor. He is a Sonoma County Supervisor, an elected official. A retraction and correction will be made in the August Short Skip.

f) Doug KF6LMB reports the DX weekend is scheduled on August 13-14-15, but come and go on your own schedule.

Repeaters: Jack, K6ROW gave an update on the repeaters.

Education: Dave W6IBC reports that all nine of the class participants completed the course and passed their test.

Old Business – None

New Business - Board Member, Charlie KZ6T stated

that he was insulted by the picture of Efren Carrillo in the Short Skip to the extent that SCRA may be perceived as endorsing Mr. Carillo. A lengthy discussion pursued. No action was taken. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Iola Beckley, Secretary

KK6HRE

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#### MENDOCINO RALLY SUCCESS

Pat Coyle, KG6JSL

The 6h annual Mendocino Rally was held at two separate rally courses on Lake County on the weekend of July 18-19. Hams from SCRA and others provided radio support by acting as Block Operators, which is blocking entry of vehicles onto the course and to keep track of competitor vehicles and report when they go missing.

The action was 19 fast cars on dirt roads, and radio communications were integral to the safety of the event. A total of 5 vehicles were involved in incidents over the weekend, ranging from going into a ditch and being disabled, to going over a bank completely. Recovery vehicles worked until past midnight. Fortunately there were no serious injuries.

We detected all missing vehicles as recovery vehicles were dispatched. The radio action was quick as well with a premium on fast response and accuracy. The Event Director, Pete Soper, KG6YKO, stated after the event that he had never seen a better rally Comms team, and Pete has seen a lot of rallies.

Thanks to on course operators Jim Draeger, KI6REK; Karen Miller, KK6GJW and husband Scott; Marcella Chandler, KI6MJC; Carla Bisagno, KF6KYB; Eric Smith, KK6ATC; Shelley Rae O'Conner KK6JXM; David Loye, KK6XJN; Jim Robison, KI6MEV; Nick Wharff, KI6RIT; Pat Coyle, KG6JSL; Terry Tinagero, KK6DQC; John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ; Bill Coyle, KG7SRJ; Ben Weiss, WB5QAL; Bill Brink, WA&LZY; Doug Payne, KF6LMB; Eric McHenry, AA6EM; and Jim Hayes, KK6HZS.

*Continued on page 11...*





...MENDOCINO RALLY SUCCESS continued from page 10



## ARRL amateur radio Kids Day at the Children's Museum



Darryl Paule KI6MSP with (correction) Sonoma County Supervisor, Efren Carrillo and children.

### 2015 MINI-DX

By Doug Payne, KF6LMB

Darryl Paule, KI6MSP, Activities Chairman, has asked me to assist him in setting up the Mini DX for this year. Preliminary groundwork has been put in place. The event will be August 13, 14, 15, and leave on the 16th, at the A.W. Way county park west of Garberville. That will be Thursday arrival, Friday, Saturday and leave on Sunday, but come anytime that works for you.

In past years this seems to meet our requirements for group camping, and setting up remote radio stations. This will be in conjunction with the North American QSO party, and will enhance the contact probability. A positive response to this event has been received from many club members and their significant others. It just doesn't get better than friends, food, and HF Radio in the wild. All are invited, and your involvement is encouraged.

Contact Doug, KF6LMB, at [dougpayne1@earthlink.net](mailto:dougpayne1@earthlink.net) for information and signup.

## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS AND SIGN UPS

1 August – Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century. Not an official SCRA event, but the event comes into southern Sonoma County and we like to help our fellow hams from Marin County. Contact [http://w6sg.net/site/?page\\_id=227](http://w6sg.net/site/?page_id=227)

9 August – Tour d'Organics, contact Darryl, KI6MSP, or sign up directly at [http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/public-service-signup/?sheet\\_id=16](http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/public-service-signup/?sheet_id=16)

23 August – Santa Rosa Marathon. 3500 runners from Julliard Park to River Road, qualifying for the Boston marathon, or just having fun. Contact Pat, KG6JSL, at [coylaw@sonic.net](mailto:coylaw@sonic.net) or sign up directly at [http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/public-service-signup/?sheet\\_id=20](http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/public-service-signup/?sheet_id=20) HT friendly with easy site access. A good event for beginners.

26-27 September – MS Society's Waves to Wine: A two day event from San Francisco into Sonoma County Wine Country. Contact Craig, [k6xlt@sonic.net](mailto:k6xlt@sonic.net)

3 October – Levi's Gran Fondo, contact Craig, K6XLT or sign up directly at [http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/public-service-signup/?sheet\\_id=13&task\\_id=121&date=2015-10-03](http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/public-service-signup/?sheet_id=13&task_id=121&date=2015-10-03) The ultimate bicycle event. 7500 international riders try Sonoma County's best (or worst) roads.

Check the Public Service page of the SCRA Website for more detail. <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/>

### USS HORNET TOUR

A special club event is scheduled for September 19th. A tour of the USS Hornet.

Here is the link for the [registration form](#).

I'm also putting together a carpool for this tour. We will leave from the park and ride lot under Highway 12, across from the vets building at 1000.

For further information contact Darryl at [kispmsp@gmail.com](mailto:kispmsp@gmail.com)

Thanks  
Darryl M Paule  
KI6MSP  
[KI6MSP@gmail.com](mailto:KI6MSP@gmail.com)



This is not a club sponsored event, yet it could be of interest to some club members.

Thanks  
Darryl M Paule  
KI6MSP  
KI6MSP@gmail.com

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Mike, AD6YB, has set up archives for past and present issues of Short Skip. They are available on the Web site, 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.

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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, [dave@kraybill.org](mailto:dave@kraybill.org), or for general questions and /or suggestions, [k6son@arrl.net](mailto:k6son@arrl.net)

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