

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

Castle Rock: 147.315+ 156.7



REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 41, Number 3

March 2016

Where are We Now?

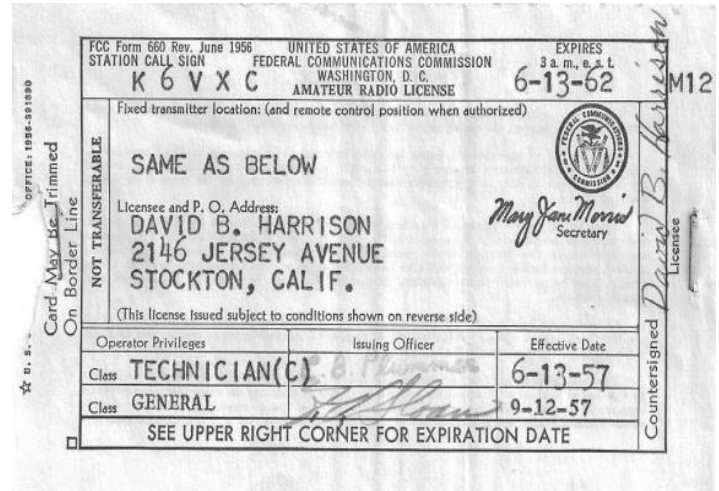
(Ham Radio Evolution In My Lifetime)

By Dave Harrison W6IBC (SCRA Education Chair)

I've heard it said that there is a growing divide between the old timers and the newer hams in our club. While I hope these rumors are totally unfounded, I think it appropriate to set forth some thoughts around this subject.

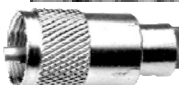
I built my first one tube radio kit when I was nine. At 14, I joined an Explorer Scout Post that devoted itself to ham radio. Around January 1957, I obtained my Novice class license. I had to pass a 5 word-per-minute Morse code test (send and receive) administered by my Scout Leader and correctly answer a 25 question multiple-written test which was witnessed and then sent back to the FCC in San Francisco for grading.

I continued to study theory and took and passed my Technician and General Class amateur radio licenses, having made two pilgrimages to the FCC Field Office located in the beautiful neo-classical and highly foreboding SF Customhouse at 555 Battery Street in San Francisco. Here are pictures of the Customhouse, my 1957 license, and my Sierra HF AM station at an Explorer Post summer camp out:



I think it is important to note that when I began my ham radio hobby, TV sets were full of tubes, and a TV repair shop was on every corner. It was expected that ham radio operators would actually construct and maintain (homebrew) their stations; and, we could then do so by scavenging old tube based TV sets and radios, and adapting World War II surplus radio gear.

Continued on page 2...





Where are we now? continued from page 1...

After receiving my first license, I constructed my first three-tube CW transmitter along the lines of a QST article appearing in the January 1957 issue. With my homebrew cubical quad antenna in my folks' back yard, I made many Morse code contacts throughout the United States and other countries. I've been designing and building ham radios ever since. Given these facts, there can be no doubt but that I am inescapably an "old timer".

Times have changed over the 59 years since 1957. We've witnessed a steady advance in technology from vacuum tubes to transistors; then on to integrated circuits; and all the way to computer-infused radio systems known as "software defined radios" (in which all of the complex electronics are contained in a single large scale IC chip). Along the way, our signal modes have grown from continuous wave (CW) Morse Code and amplitude modulated voice (AM) to a host of analog modes, such as single sideband (SSB), frequency modulation (FM) and repeaters, radio-teletype (RTTY), and analog ham TV; and innumerable digital modes including digital packet, PSK, APRS, digital voice D-Star (Icom) and Fusion (Yaesu) coder/decoder radios, and on and on.

So when we arrive at the doorstep of ham radio today, we are inundated with an almost unlimited number of commercial ham radio systems and accessory offerings that are simply too complex for most of us to construct or maintain. Consumer electronics has become a throw-away/recyclable category of commodities and goods. Unless you have a technical background and/or a keen interest in this new technology, you are relegated to being a radio appliance operator. (We who have cell phones are already within the definition of radio appliance operators. With cell phones we don't have operating flexibility and reliability in emergencies and they simply don't work in absence of cell signal coverage. Very few of us have the skill or interest to attempt a repair of an iPhone 6, for example.) Our SCRA Build programs have typically focused on very simple construction projects, such as dipole antennas and simple direct-conversion receivers that in no way compare with current amateur radio equipment offerings. So we old-timers fully understand and appreciate the frustration on the part of our newer ham members who cannot make their radios work, and who may not be able to get satisfactory help from us. Sometimes they are so complex/confusing that we can't make them work either.

In its original aspect, Ham Radio is a legacy hobby, populated by many old timers like me. Most of the new hams coming into the hobby are either those who are technically inclined and glean satisfaction from advancing the state of the radio-communications-software arts; or are those who see ham radio as a valuable tool for a more important collateral purpose in their lives, such as emergency communications, bike and auto racing, neighborhood watch, RVing, off-road travel clubs, marine mobile operations, radio control of model vehicles and aircraft, low power operations in the wild or on mountaintops, radio DX contesting, communicating through satellites, etc. Although these specialty-interest hams probably give no concern or care to "what's going on under the hood" beyond the most basic operational considerations, the FCC continues to require that ham license candidates demonstrate their qualification in technical, regulatory and operational aspects of the Amateur Radio Service.

Since we are a ham radio specific club with a general interest focus, it behooves SCRA to understand the specific interests of all of our members and attempt to meet their needs. These two categories of members: technology enthusiasts on the one hand, and those of us that take a more casual approach to the hobby, are spread across every license class in our club. To the technologically astute members and the old-timers, my plea is to please help our newcomers understand, appreciate and explore the richness of our hobby by mentoring and by setting high technical and operational standards to the fullest extent possible at club activities, such as public service events and at Field Day. To our newer members and those who have chosen to become licensed hams to support an ascendant hobby interest, I urge you to seek out advice and assistance from our more experienced hams. They've been there themselves and may be able to help you solve your problem or point you on a path toward the solution.

If a member wants a mentor, it is up to that member to take the initiative and let us know. (For example, anyone who has attempted to program manually the BaoFeng UV-5R or GT-3 VHF/UHF handheld radio knows the oft-insurmountable difficulties of making any sense of the radio or its limited instructions.) We have technical experts and mentors willing and eager to help you out with these kinds of issues. Please ask us!

A number of you who are technically trained and dedicated to our hobby will be able to solve your technical problems and upgrade your license class through your own efforts. That's a wonderful approach because it causes you to advance your knowledge and competency in the Amateur Radio Service in the best possible way, and offers you a considerable amount of personal satisfaction in exchange.

From my vantage point, the challenge presently facing SCRA is to strike a fair balance between the interests of our "old timer" radio enthusiasts, and the interests of our "new comer" younger, non-technical licensees who use ham radio appliances to support their ascendant collateral activities and interests. We need the help and cooperation of all of you to enable us better to understand the true interests and motivations of everyone who has chosen to join SCRA, so that you will continue to enjoy this wonderful hobby and stay connected with us as an active member of SCRA.

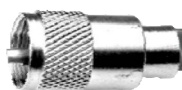
JOIN ARRL, THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

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>



PRESIDENT'S MARCH MESSAGE

Your Board of Directors are planning two special activates that I hope you will save the dates for and attend. It takes time and a lot of effort to make these arrangements, time we give to our members and our hobby. Please do your best to attend and support:

1) A. Saturday, March 26th, we will provide 2 two hour sessions for ham radio operators. The first (10-12noon) for new hams and refresher for hams that have been away from their radio because life happens. You need not be a member of SCRA to attend this AM session. It is provided to all hams as a club courtesy. At noon, we will offer a light deli sandwich lunch (\$5) member or not. Please RSVP for your lunch reservation.

B. From 1 – 3pm, for SCRA members only as a benefit of their membership, we will be offering a 'program your radio' session. We will cover more than just the Yaesu or Beofang radios. As part of the registration we will ask what your radio make is so we can have a knowledgeable 'Elmer' present to help you. Everyone should bring their radio manual. If you have misplaced yours, check the maker's website and download a copy. We also will have computer aided programming so bring your computer cable if you want to take advantage of this service. See poster elsewhere in this Short Skip.

2) On Saturday, July 30th, 10-12noon, we will have Dr. Ed Fong, Engineering Professor, University of San Francisco, Santa Cruz, who will be in Santa Rosa at the SCRA's invitation to present a two hour training session on antenna's. Dr. Fong will discuss the making of antennae among other antenna topics. **SAVE THE DATE!!** All local hams are invited to attend this session. More information as we get closer.

Recommendations – Suggestions - Ideas. These are things we need from the membership. Suggestions are just that – suggestions taken to the Board of Directors or passed on to me or Steve Bouchard, Activity Chair, so it can be discussed, agreed to or not, and put to a committee if deemed advantageous to the club. If you have a suggestion for an activity for SCRA, please pass

it on to me or to Steve Bouchard, Activity Chair, and your suggestion will be considered and, if approved, set into motion with the appropriate committee. (Steve = sb1112@outlook.com)

Members who upgraded their licenses in 2015. I would like to recognize the upgraded licenses of members in an ongoing article in the Short Skip. Would those of you who upgraded in 2015 please send me an email (k6son@arrl.net) and let me know what your new call signs are? Thanks.

Net Controllers. Please download the current Script as it has changed slightly.

Visit from Bill Sirvatka WX6B ~ President of REDXA (Redwood Empire DX Association). Following email exchanges I have invited REDXA members and their President to visit us during the March 2nd club meeting. No confirmation as of Short Skip deadline time, so keep your fingers crossed!

The SCRA's busy season is coming up fast. Hope you all will be volunteering for the many events and activities. Your club needs you!!

Iola – KK6HRE

MARCH MEETING PROGRAM

Repeaters
Jack Christensen





2015 Club Officers

President	Iola Beckley	KK6HRE
Vice President	Brian Torr	N6IYY
Secretary	Dave Harrison	W6IBC
Treasurer	Wells Wagner	KK6EXC
Director	Joe Fortuna	K6AWA
	ShelleyRae O'Connor	KK6JXM
Past President	Patrick Coyle	KG6JSL

Committee Lineup/Contacts

Activities	Open	
Community Outreach	Darryl Paule, KI6MSP	ki6msp@arrl.net
DX/Contesting	Doug Payne, KF6LMB	dougpayne1@earthlink.net
Education	Dave Harrison, W6IBC	w6ibc@arrl.net
Emergency Services Liason	Pat Coyle, KG6JSL	coylaw@sonic.net
Field Day	Brian Torr, N6IYY	n6iyy@arrl.net
License Trustee	John Felton, KE5RI	jrfke5ri@aol.com
Media	Sutter Laird, KI6ZON	ki6zon@me.com
Membership	ShelleyRae O'Connor, KK6JXM	kk6jxm@cpr4biz.com
Merchandise	Kathy Wells, KK6KGW	bikeladyofconcord@gmail.com
Public Service	Charlie Sikes, KZ6T	kz6t@arrl.net
Refreshments	ShelleyRae O'Connor, KK6JXM	kk6jxm@cpr4biz.com
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SCRA E-Mail K6SON@arrl.com
 SCRA Web site <http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

Tuesday Night Net

Remember to check in to the SCRA net each Tuesday evening on the 147.315+(PL 88.5) repeater at 7:00 PM. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

Business Cards	\$12 per month
1st Quarter Column	\$13 per month
Each Additional Quarter Column	\$4 per month
Full page (one side)	\$35 per month
Pre-printed inserts (each)	\$35 per month

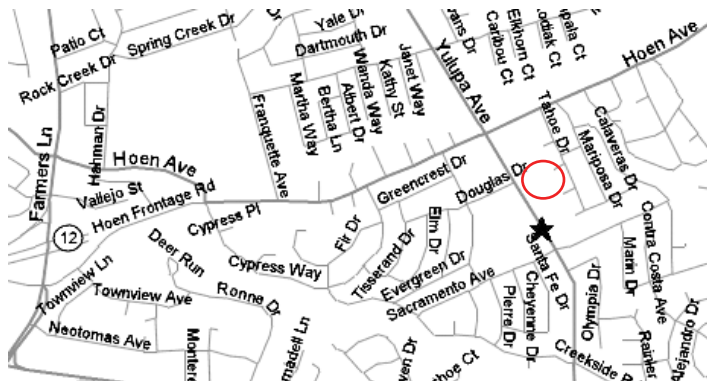
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SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month, socially at 6:30 pm, program starting at 7:15 pm. Exceptions are holidays or other big events.

Meeting location:
 Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center
 2050 Yulupa Avenue
 Santa Rosa, CA

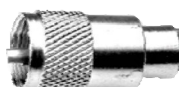


All are welcome!

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

Wednesday, March 9, 2016
 IHOP, Fourth and Farmers
 5:30 Dinner
 6:30 Meeting





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

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.



John, WB6FRZ, has his Morse Code training net immediately following the Service Net, on the Club Repeater

2016 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Check the [Club website](#) for details

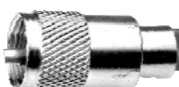
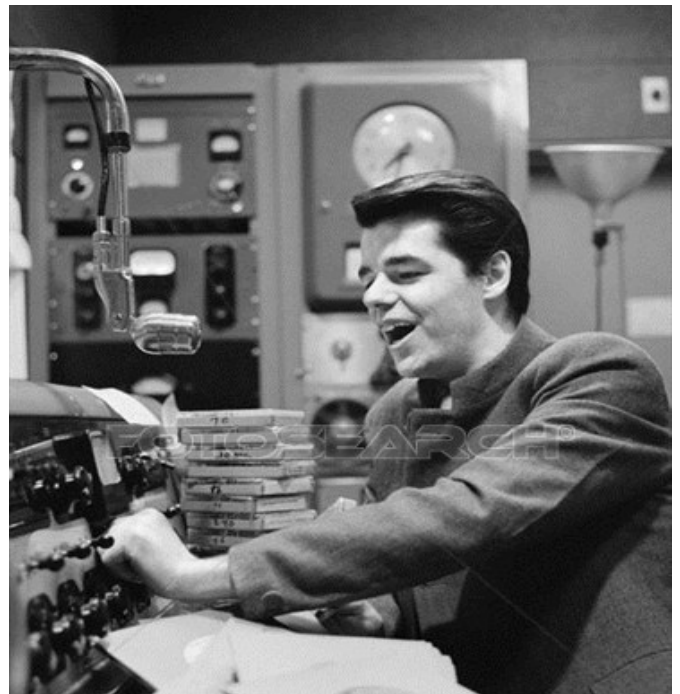
Sat, March 12 - VE Testing
 Fri, April 1 - Family Life Magazine Camping Expo
 Sat, April 2 - SoNoMas
 Sat, April 9 - Lake Sonoma 50
 Sat, May 7 - Wine Country Century
 Sat, May 7 - Human Race
 Sat, May 21 - Tour d'California. Club may not be sponsoring
 Sun, May 22 - Monte Rio Vineman
 Sat, June 4 - VE Testing
 Sat, June 18 - ARRL Kids Day
 Sat, June 18 - Terrible Two
 Fri, Sat, and Sun, June 25-26 - Field Day
 Sat/Sun July 16-17 Mendocino Rally Not a Club Sponsored Event
 July 22 - August 7 - County Fair
 Saturday, August 13 - Annadel XC
 Sun August 14 - Tour d'Organics
 Sunday, August 21 - Santa Rosa Marathon
 Sat, August 27 - VE Testing
 Sat/Sun Sept 24-25 - Waves to Wine
 Sat Oct 1 - Levi's Gran Fondo
 Sat Oct 15 - Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
 Sat Oct 29 - North Bay Science Discovery Day
 Sat, November 12 - VE Testing

PCAM dependent upon independent insurance coverage



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 28,402.00 SSB, USB. Please note that all license classes (including technician) are welcome.





CONTEST CORNER
by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Tons of contest activity in March including 16 separate contests the weekend of 12-13 March alone. Big contests include ARRL DX contest and CQ WW Contest, both phone portions this month. The weather's heating up and so are the airwaves! Happy DX'ing!

1 Mar – AGCW YL-CW Party – CW, 80 meters. See: www.agcw.org.

2 Mar – UKEICC 80 Meter Contest – SSB, 80 meters. See: www.ukeicc.com/which-contest.

5 Mar – Wake-Up! QRP Sprint – CW, 40-20 meters. See: qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng.

5-6 Mar – ARRL International DX Contest – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/arrl-dx.

5-6 Mar – Open Ukraine RTTY Championship – RTTY, 160-10 meters. See: uurl.com.ua/openrtty/2015-rules/rtty2015e.txt.

6 Mar – UBA Spring Contest – CW, 80 meters. See: uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spring-contest.

6 Mar – DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest – Digital, 10 meters. See: www.darc.de.

6 Mar – SARL 40 Meter Simulated Emergency – SSB, 40 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.

7 Mar – RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship – Digital, 80 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf.

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

9-13 Mar – AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Test – CW, 40-20 meters. See: www.antiquewireless.org.

12 Mar – Nauryz DX Contest – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.nauryz-dx-contest.com.

12 Mar – AGCW QRP Contest – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.agcw.org.

12-13 Mar – RSGB Commonwealth Contest – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf.

12-13 Mar – South America 10 Meter Contest – SSB/CW, 10 meters. See: sa10m.com.ar/cqsa10m_rules.html.

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

12-13 Mar – Oklahoma QSO Party – All modes, 160-6 meters. See: k5cm.com/okqp2016rules.pdf.

12-13 Mar – Stew Perry Topband Challenge – CW, 160 meters. See: www.kkn.net/stew.

12-13 Mar – EA PSK63 Contest – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: concursos.ure.es/en/eapsk63/bases.

12-13 Mar – Tesla Memorial HF CW Contest – CW, 80 meters. See: radiosport.org.rs/HFTeslaMemorial.

12-13 Mar – QCWA QSO Party – all modes, 160-6 meters. See: qcwa.org/2016-qso-party-rules.pdf.

12-13 Mar – Idaho QSO Party – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: idahoncj.info/qsoparty/rules.htm.

13 Mar – North American QSO Party, RTTY – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf.

13 Mar – North American SSB Sprint Contest – SSB, 80-20 meters. See: sbbsprint.com/rules.

13 Mar – UBA Spring Contest – FM/CW, 2 meters. See: uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spring-contest.

13 Mar – NSARA Contest – All modes, 80 meters. See: nsara.velcfy.net/?page_id=82.

13 Mar – WAB 3.5 MHz Phone – SSB, 80 meters. See: wab.intermip.net/Contests.php.

Continued on page 7...



Contest Corner continues from page 6...

13-14 Mar – Wisconsin QSO Party – All modes, all bands. See: www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm.

14 Mar – Bucharest Contest – All modes, 80-40 meters. See: yo3test201x.blogspot.ro/p/blog-page.html.

15-20 Mar – CLARA Chatter Party – SSB/CW, 80-2 meters. See: www.clarayl.ca.

16 Mar – RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship – CW, 80 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf.

17 Mar – NAQCC CW Sprint – CW, 80-20 meters. See: naqcc.info/sprint201602.html.

19 Mar – AGCW VHF/UHF Contest – CW, 2-0.7 meters. See: www.agcw.org.

19 Mar – Feld Hell Sprint – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub.

19-20 Mar – SARL VHF/UHF Analog/Digital Contest – All modes, 2-0.7 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.

19-20 Mar – F9AA Cup, SSB – SSB/FM, 80-2 meters. See: www.site.urc.asso.fr.

19-20 Mar – Russian DX Contest – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: rdxc.org/asp/pages/rulesg.asp.

19-20 Mar – Louisiana QSO Party – All modes, 160-2 meters. See: laqp.louisianacontestclub.org

19-20 Mar – Virginia QSO Party – All modes, all bands. See: www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party.

19-21 Mar – BARTG HF RTTY Contest – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.bartg.org.uk.

20 Mar – UBA Spring Contest – SSB, 80 meters. See: uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spring-contest.

21 Mar – Run For the Bacon QRP Contest – CW, 160-10 meters. See: fpqrp.org/pigrun.

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

24 Mar – RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship – SSB, 80 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf.

26 Mar – FOC QSO Party – CW, 160-2 meters. See: g4foc.org/qsoparty.

26-27 Mar - CQ WW WPX Contest – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.cqwp.com/rules.htm.

30 Mar – UKEICC 80 Meter Contest – CW, 80 meters. See: www.ukeicc.com/which-contest

For additional contest calendars and resources check:

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)

[ARRL Contests Page](#)

This photo is a follow up to the SK notice we printed last issue.

Quent WA6HSR SK 1995 - SCRA member
Rose WA6CWL SK 2015 - SCRA member and SCRA President 1975



Time to Get Organized Field Day Style!

ALERT!! Field Day is just under four months away and there is a lot of planning to be done!

What?? You've never heard of Field Day? For shame! It's perhaps the most unique of club activities. It's an odd mixture of contesting, public demonstration, a social event, a technical training session, class on how to set up stations and antennas (and take them down, safely), an acid test for our radios and antennas, and a time to hone our operating skills.

Whew!

And all that in one action-packed weekend! Specifically, the weekend beginning at around 5pm on Friday, June 24 and ending around 3pm on Sunday, June 26. The location will be the same as last year, Youth Community Park (aka Skateboard Park) at 1725 Fulton Rd, in Santa Rosa, across the road from Piner High School.

But in order to pull this off, we need help... lots of help! I am organizing a Field Day Committee. I would like to gather all those club members would be interested in participating.

Our first Field Day Planning Meeting will be Saturday, March 12, at 1pm at the Field Day Site (see above).

The key items on the agenda for this meeting will be:

- Filling volunteer positions
- Layout of Field Day Site
- Decision on how many stations to set up
- Alternative power opportunities

There are also positions for Public Information

Officer, Educational Activity, Site Management, Volunteer Coordinator, Safety (we have a limited number of Band-Aids to use that weekend), and Social Media.

Yes, you heard right, Social Media. New for Field Day 2016 is a 100 point bonus for promoting Field Day by making use of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter.

So, I want to hear from YOU if one or more of the following apply:

- You are interested in one of the Field Day Committee positions
- You have suggestions, any suggestions, regarding Field Day.
- You are curious to know more about Field Day
- You have equipment or ideas that could be put to use on Field Day
- You have a suggestion for the Educational Activity

If you can make it to our first planning meeting on Saturday, March 12 at 1pm, wonderful. If you can't make it, please send me an e-mail with how you think you can help.

Let's make Field Day 2016 the best one yet!

Brian Torr, N6IYY
Tel: (707) 575-5871
n6iyy@arrl.net

Next Exam Session:

Our next exam session is scheduled for Saturday, March 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) .

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 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, N6IYY in advance.

Good Luck!

Brian Torr, N6IYY
n6iiy@arrl.net
(707) 575-5871

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEES

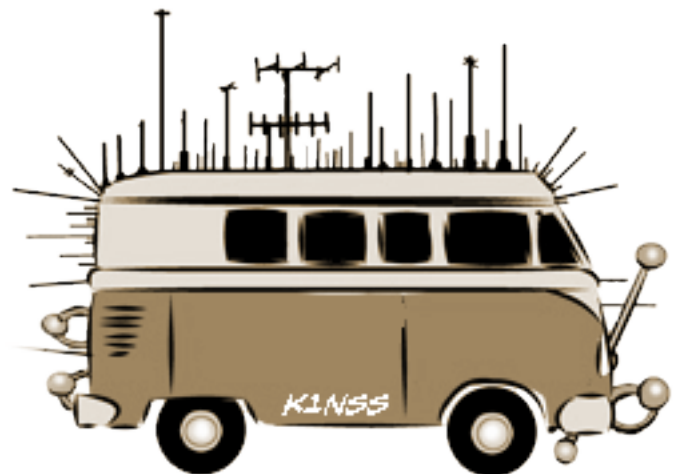
Welcome everyone to 2016. First and foremost - thank you all for your support the first meeting when I was out sick. Special thanks to Cindy Bishop and John Breckenridge and every one else who gave Iola a hand.

I'm excited to lead the membership team this year. Membership has a couple committees under it, Refreshments and Roster. I'm seeking volunteers for Membership, Refreshments and Roster through out the year. From an hour a month to an hour a week, your help will improve everything we do. What ever your comfort zone, I'll help you find a place that fits, even if that's on another committee.

Our Monthly Meeting times are changing to include greater social time. Join us at 6:30 at the Luther Burbank Garden on Yulupa for getting to know each other, answering of questions and general support. Refreshments will be served beginning about 6:45. The no host IHOP dinner will also continue beginning at about 5:15.

Streamlining the Membership process is my first focus of the year. Any feedback or ideas are welcome and appreciated - please send me a note (kk6jxm@cpr4biz.com) or call me at 415.891.9107 ext 12 for messages or 0 for me.

ShelleyRae O'Connor KK6JXM





REFRESHMENTS

Thank you everyone who jumped in January to make things such a success.

Refreshments is looking for committee members. I'm hoping to find 6-8 leads and support members. A lead would be in charge of the refreshments (purchasing snacks, being present early, setting up coffee, drinks, etc) for a meeting, keeping receipts for reimbursement the following week. Support members would help set up or break down, or both.

Refreshments doesn't have a huge budget - \$250 for the entire year. To keep things going at the level we began this year with we need the donation jar and the snack tables to fill. If you'd like to help with either we would love to have your help.

If you're interested please email me at kk6jxm@cpr4biz.com or call - 415.891.9107 press 12 to leave a message and 0 to reach me personally. Thanks ShelleyRae KK6JXM

WEBSITE UPDATES - HELP WANTED

Welcome to 2016! Thanks for joining us. As many of you may have noticed the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs website needs some updates, clarity and general maintenance. I'm hoping a few members will be willing to step forward and help get this accomplished. I'd like 6 members with at least 2-3 having editing, grammar and content writing strength. I'd be giddy if 8 members would be willing to help. Email me at kk6jxm@cpr4biz.com or call - 415.891.9107 press 12 to leave a message and 0 to reach me personally.

We'll be breaking the site up by page(s) with review and rewrite one month followed by updates the following month. If all goes to plan the entire project will be done by August.

Thanks ShelleyRae kk6jxm@cpr4biz.com or call - 415.891.9107





Minutes, SCRA February 3, 2016, Membership Meeting

The February 2016 regular Membership meeting of SCRA was called to order by President Iola KK6HRE at 7:15 PM, following a social interval featuring an abundant selection of food and soft drinks. A quorum of members was present. After introduction of officers and directors, new members and guests were introduced, including Mike KC6SSE, Jim KK6DIJ, Magdalena KK6ZDA, Garrett KKVMU, Steve KB6DTL and Chris Williams.

Minutes of the January 2016 SCRA Membership meeting were amended to correct Aaron's call sign KK6ZDB and approved on motion by Doug KF6LMB, second by Fred AE6SF. Committee reports included a Field Day report by Brian N6IY, a Public Service report by Charlie KZ6T, an Education report by Dave W6IBC, a report by ShelleyRae KK6JXM covering the Website and Membership including Merchandise and Refreshments. Shelley wants volunteers to help out with the Website. Darryl KI6MSP introduced Steve KK6VMZ as our new Activities Chair.

This month's program was presented by Joe K6AWA and concerned Emergency Power for Radio. The two main sources for powering electrical equipment during an emergency are generators and batteries. Generators are well known and provide more power than batteries. Generators have drawbacks including noise, weight, poisonous gas emissions and required maintenance. Batteries generate electricity from chemical reactions. While many new technology breakthroughs are occurring, such as lithium ion, Joe focused on the lead-acid battery, which has been around for 150 years.

Joe described connecting batteries in series (to increase voltage) and parallel (to increase amperage). Car batteries are rated in cold cranking amperes (CCA) which is a measure of the ultimate capacity of the battery to deliver very high current to start a vehicle. Deep Cycle lead-acid batteries such as gel cells do not have a high CCA but withstand much larger discharge than car batteries can handle without significant damage. The sealed absorbent glass mat (AGM) battery is like a gel cell in contrast with an acid-flooded battery, but requires a very specific charging profile.

Joe pointed out that most ham radio equipment is designed to operate at 12 Volts DC, which is the nominal output power of most car batteries and many deep

cycle batteries. In Joe's opinion deep cycle batteries are best for amateur radio emergency communications. Joe displayed and discussed a number of lead acid batteries. He prefers to use a car battery with high CCA to operate his single sideband linear amplifier. Joe discussed battery chargers and recommends a three-stage charger for modern lead acid batteries. While deep cycle batteries are often sealed, all batteries are capable of releasing gas and can explode if short-circuited. Joe demonstrated an adjustable carbon pile as a good way to test battery condition and performance. Being out of time, Joe continued the discussion of batteries following the end of the meeting.

Net Control operators for January include:

Matt KJ6LJI Feb. 9th

Joe K6AWA Feb. 16th

Darryl KI6MSP Feb. 23rd

Fred AE6SF March 1st

In old business Dave W6IBC mentioned that the Board was finalizing the 2016 budget and hoped to present it at the next membership meeting for approval. In new business, Iola KK6HRE described the new roster as a PDF document that would be downloadable upon a member's request. Printouts would be available for those without computer/internet access. The roster will be updated periodically throughout the year. Iola mentioned a PayPal class action lawsuit that could possibly involve the club.

Under Announcements, vintage Heathkit tube-based equipment is available; contact Iola for more information. Keith AG6CI announced the new 40 inch telescope is being introduced at the Robert Ferguson Observatory at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Darryl announced a SKYWARN training session would be held on /February 17 at the Santa Rosa City Utility Field Office, 35 Stony Point Road from 7 to 9PM (the National Weather Service wants weather spotters from the ham radio community).

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Harrison W6IBC
SCRA Secretary





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Minutes

SCRA Board of Directors Meeting
February 10, 2015

The February 2016 Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Iola KK6HRE at 6:30 PM at the Ca'Bianca Restaurant, 835 Second Street, Santa Rosa, prior notice of time and location having been duly given to the membership. All 2016 SCRA Board members were present, including President Iola KK6HRE, Vice President Brian N6IYY, Treasurer Wells KK6EXC, Secretary Dave W6IBC, Director Shelley KK6JXM, Director Joe K6AWA and Past President Pat KG6JSL. Other members in attendance included Dan WA6CRB, Charlie KZ6T, Darryl KI6MSP, Jack K6ROW, Steve KK6VMZ, and John WB6FRZ.

Minutes of the January 2016 Board Meeting were approved on motion by Joe K6AWA, second by Wells KK6EXC.

John WB6FRZ presented a proposal for purchase of eight high quality code practice oscillators for the code class he conducts on behalf of SCRA. His proposal was approved, providing students provide adequate security, such as a returnable check for \$100 per unit when borrowing or checking out a club code practice oscillator.

After discussion, a 2016 Budget was approved on motion by Dave W6IBC, second by Shelley KK6JXM as follows: Income: Advertising \$420; Donations \$2000; Dues 2016 \$1920; Dues 2017 \$1200; Education \$750; Equipment \$100; Events \$1000; Refreshments \$300; and Wearables Sales \$350. Expenses: Administrative \$650; Paypal fee \$90; Donation to News Line \$400; Education \$1000; Education code practice oscillator equipment \$850; Events \$2500; Public Service equipment \$700; Club Insurance \$310; Licenses \$20; Postage \$120; Refreshments \$600; Rent \$600; Repeater equipment \$3200; Trailer \$100; Wearables \$300; Community Outreach \$100. Total Income \$8020. Total Expenses \$11540. The budget will be presented to the membership for adoption at the March meeting.

The Audit Report from Lee KE6EAQ was read. While no irregularities were noted, further review is needed to complete the audit. Treasurer Wells KK6EXC will meet with Lee and Past Treasurer Mike AD6YB to clear up any remaining audit issues.

Brian N6IYY has additional SCRA Inventory items and will forward a list to Secretary Dave W6IBC for record keeping.

Shelley KK6JXM sought Board clarification regarding SCRA sanctioned events. She also suggested that SCRA abandon its secondary web name www.socoham.org. The Board decided to ask the membership for direction. She also asked the Board to approve taking videos of the program presentations for placement on the website which the Board approved.

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Darryl KI6MSP discussed various Community Outreach programs for 2016. On motion by Pat KG6JSL, second by Shelley KK6JXM, the Board approved a resolution defining the Community Outreach Committee, as follows: "COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE. The Community Outreach Committee shall improve and extend community awareness of SCRA and amateur radio in general. The Outreach Committee may attend appropriate community events and gatherings in order to provide talking points and materials about SCRA and amateur radio. The talking points and materials shall be limited to: promoting Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, providing radio communications during emergencies, supporting public events such as bicycle and foot race events, explaining the wide variety of activities and communications modes available to licensed radio amateurs, advancing competency in, and advancement of, amateur radio technology and communications practices, and supporting SCRA's educational mission to train and support FCC licensing of new radio amateurs, and to advance the knowledge and skills of its members. All materials and talking points offered by the Community Outreach Committee shall have prior approval as required by Article 6, Section 6 of the SCRA Bylaws. The Outreach Committee shall not function as a Public Information Office (PIO) of SCRA, and shall not purport to speak on behalf of SCRA, its Board of Directors, its Officers and/or its Members."

On motion by Dave W6IBC, second by Wells KK6EXC, the Board approved a request by Pat KG6JSL to change his committee name from "Emergency Communications or EMCOMM" to "Emergency Services". President Iola KK6HRE will continue the social period before meetings from 6:30PM to 7:15 PM and will allot at least one hour for the membership meeting programs. Brian N6IYY reported on the status of Field Day. He is waiting for paperwork from the City of Santa Rosa. He also mentioned new Field Day rules, giving points for Safety Officer Activities, and for community outreach via social media.

On motion by Pat KG6JSL, second by Joe K6AWA, the Board adopted the following resolution: "No action, activity, undertaking, or event shall be done on behalf of or in the name of Sonoma County Radio amateurs without consent of the Board of Directors."

The Board conducted a lively discussion regarding insurance coverage for additional insured parties, including City of Santa Rosa.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

SCRA Board of Directors Minutes January 13, 2016 3
David Harrison W6IBC, Secretary





SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS CLUB

Ham Radio Training Sessions

YOU HAVE YOUR LICENSE, NOW WHAT?

DATE: Saturday, March 26, 2016
TIME: 10am to 12 noon
PLACE: The Red Cross Building
5297 Aero Drive, Class Room C
Santa Rosa. CA



This session is for all new licensed ham radio operators and those hams who have been away from radio and want a refresher. Membership in SCRA is not required. Bring your radio and manual.

A deli sandwich lunch will be offered for \$5. Please register for this lunch at time of class registration.

PROGRAMMING YOUR RADIO

DATE: Saturday, March 26, 2016
TIME: 1:00pm to 3:00pm
PLACE: The Red Cross Building
5297 Aero Drive, Class Room C
Santa Rosa. CA

This session is for Licensed SCRA members only as a benefit of their membership. We will be offering a 'program your radio'. We will cover more than just the Yaesu or Beofang radios. As part of the registration we will ask what your radio make is so we can have a knowledgeable 'Elmer' present to help you. Everyone should bring their radio and manual. If you have misplaced your manual, check the maker's website and download a copy. We also will have computer aided programming so bring your computer cable if you want to take advantage of this service.

Sonoma County Radio
Amateurs (SCRA)
P.O. Box 116
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Register by emailing [lola_kk6hre at k6son@arrl.net](mailto:lola_kk6hre@k6son.arrl.net). We need to know which session (AM/PM or both) and if you will join us for a simple lunch for \$5 payable at the registration table upon arrival. Also need to know what radio you will bring for the PM session.



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
PO Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
(Please print this, fill it out, and send it in with your check.)

Name _____ Callsign _____ License Class _____
Mailing Address _____ Phone _____ Cell _____
City _____ Zip _____ New Application _____ Renewal _____
E-mail (if any) _____ Add to Roster (Yes)___ (No) ___

Please Send Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ()YES! () No thanks

FAMILY MEMBERS, CALL SIGNS & EMAIL ADDRESSES:

1. Name _____ Callsign _____ License Class _____ Add to Roster (Yes)___ (No) ___
E-mail _____ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ()YES! () NO
2. Name _____ Callsign _____ License Class _____ Add to Roster (Yes)___ (No) ___
E-mail _____ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ()YES! () NO
3. Name _____ Callsign _____ License Class _____ Add to Roster (Yes)___ (No) ___
E-mail _____ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ()YES! () NO
4. Name _____ Callsign _____ License Class _____ Add to Roster (Yes)___ (No) ___
E-mail _____ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ()YES! () NO

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 *Short Skip* Newsletter
() Taking an upgrade class () Other _____
() Teaching an upgrade class

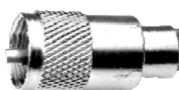
SCRA DUES: Individual \$20, Family \$30, Youth, under 18, \$15 + _____
Name Badge (complete info below) \$10 each Circle: Magnet or Clip attachment + _____

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 + _____

Total: \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to SCRA. Send to SCRA, Box 116, Santa Rosa, 95402)



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- IF Stage DSP • Backlit front key panel



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- 65 Watt • 200 Memories • CTCSS/DCS • Mil-Std specs • Hi-quality audio



TS-590S HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100W HF + 6M • 500 Hz & 2.7 KHz roofing filter
- Built-in auto tuner • Best dynamic range in class
- 32 bit DSP

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- Dual channel receive • .1 - 1300 MHz (cell blocked) RX • FM, AM, SSB • 5W 2M/220/440 TX, FM • 435 Memories
- Li-Ion Battery



TM-V71A 2M/440 Dual Band

- High RF output (50W) • Multiple Scan • Dual receive on same band (VxV, UxU) • Echolink® memory (auto dialer) • Echolink® Sysop mode for node terminal ops

ICOM

IC-7000 All Mode Transceiver

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- Digital voice recorder
- 2.5" color TFT display



ID-51A VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver

- 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

- 75 watts • Dynamic Memory Scan (DMS)
- CTCSS/DCS encode/decode w/ tone scan • Weather alert • Weather channel scan • 200 alphanumeric memories

Analog + Digital Dual Bander D-STAR

ID-880H

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



YAesu
The radio



FTDX-3000 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100 Watt HF/6 Meters • Large and wide color LCD display • High Speed Spectrum Scope built-in • 32 bit high speed DSP /Down Conversion 1st IF



FT-7900R 2M/440 Mobile

- 50W 2M, 45W on 440MHz • Weather Alert • 1000+ Memories • WIRES capability • Wideband receiver (cell blocked)

FT-60R 2M/440 5W HT

- Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/alpha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan



FT-450D 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M • Auto tuner built-in • DSP built-in
- 500 memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift



FT-857D Ultra Compact HF/VHF/UHF

- 100w HF/6M, 50W 2M, 20W UHF • DSP included
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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's articles, announcements, anecdotes, cartoons, photos and ramblings come from our members. If you have something you think might be of interest to other members, new or established that is HAM related, please pass it on to the editor, shortskippeditor@gmail.com.

It can be a paragraph or pages. Subjects run from radio hobbying, experiences on you set, people you ran into while on the radio or at an event, cartoons you've drawn or are inspired to draw, applications for radio communication, educational opportunities and more.

