

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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Volume 41, Number 9

September 2016

Mini DN 2016

by Doug Payne KF6LMB

This year the Mini Dx was held on August 4,5,6,7, at the A.W.Way County park in Humbolt County west of Garberville. The trip was long and the last of the road from US101 at Weott to Honey Dew was a real test of endurance for men, ladies, and equipment. There were no mechanical failures, and we all made the journey safely. There were 12 SCRA members, and 7 guests. I would like to thank all that helped in making this event happen. Special thanks to Charlie who helped with the set up on the club website forum.

Upon arrival each member selected his or her site, and we all began to put up antennas for HF, and 2 meter operation. That evening an attempt to contact the club members in Santa Rosa was made. This was using 10, 20, 40, and 80 meters HF. No contacts were made due to terrible band conditions. The next morning Charlie (KZ6T) with Ed (W1EJ), and Eric (AA6EM) set out for their first SOTA adventure. This was on 2 meters, and cw. They conquered the mountain. Members at the campsite made contacts with Charlie and the group. The next day Charlie, Ed, and Jack (K6ROW) set out to add another SOTA to their list. For the remainder of the day, the bands were not friendly. I did make 2 HF contacts in Canada, and one back on the Mississippi watery way.

Many contacts for the group were made. A total of 128 contacts were made using many modes including, the 2 meters, HF SSB, HF CW, and PSK mode. Ed had the most contacts, mainly on CW with 49, and 2 on 2 meters. The rest of us wrapped up 77 more contacts combining all modes.

Due to the poor band conditions there was much time to socialize, and work on our equipment. I was able to check out the solar panel that I purchased from Joe. The panel performed well. I had a 100-amp hour battery. I had two radios running 12 hours a day for 3 days, with voice only about 2 hours combined for 3 days. I ended up with a fully charged battery when I shut down on Saturday night. I utilized the knowledge from members on how to make a solar panel work for battery operation. Thanks to Joe (K6AWA), Frank (NQ6E), Fred

(AE6SF), and Keith (AG6CI) for their help. Who says the mentoring system with the club is not working. Just ask, we have over 160 members, and they will help.

The potluck dinner was a success. Lots of food and drink for all, and enough to make a return meal the next night. Thanks to all who helped make this 2-night meal great.

The members attending were; Keith (AG6CI), Dave Harrison (W6IBC), Joy Cunningham (KI6ASJ), John Felton (KE5RI), Ed Jacobson (W1EJ), Charlie Sikes (KZ6T), Fred Seitel (AE6SF), Aaron Marroquin (KK6ZDB), Iola Beckley (KK6HRE), Jack Christensen (K6ROW), and myself Doug Payne (KF6LMB).

That wraps it up. It was an adventure that was enjoyed by young and old.



Additional photos at https://www.flickr.com/
photos/39473485@N08/sets/72157672181388386/
with/28867419446/





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2016



Our next meeting will have a little different timing. The Board of Directors has decided to put excess equipment up for auction to the membership. Doug KF6LMB has cleaned out the Bread Box and listed the equipment that will be

offered for auction. (See Doug's list elsewhere in this SS). Items will be on display from 6:30pm – 7:00pm on the next meeting night, September 7th. We will start the auction at 7:00pm with the meeting following the end of the auction. Our program for this meeting will be presented by John KE5RI, entitled '555 timer IC'.

Our Club Visitation for Friday, August 19th was canceled for lack of interest. Steve and I will 'fall back and regroup' on future visitation plans, so watch for more information soon. Public Service events are winding down, but the biggest one of the season is coming up shortly. Levi's Grand Fondo. Craig K6XLT will be looking for volunteers so let's give this event one big push and make it our best yet. Go to SCRA's website, membership side, and sign up. The Nominating Committee is being formed and will soon be contacting all eligible members ('eligible members' meaning, in good standing (paid dues) and has been a member for more than six months for a Director's position and more than a year for Executive Board positions). Please think favorably and accept a nomination in a position that will fill your needs, use your skills, so you can help support our club. It would be nice to have more than one person running for each office so we can have a real election! The By-Laws are listed on our Website if you want to review an outline of Duties of the Board of Directors positions. During our Tuesday Night Net Service, Brian N7MOE has been providing *Newsline* for our members. Brian has been providing this service for our entertainment for a very long time, but now he would like some relief and would like to train anyone interested in learning how to connect our Net with this International Amateur Radio broadcast service. If you are interested in possibly investigating this opportunity, than let me know. Either through email (K6SON@arrl.net) or telephone (707-538-2931).

Enjoy this great Sonoma County weather.

73, Iola kk6hre

SEPTEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

The NE555 electronic timer chip by John KE5RI



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2016 Club Officers

President Iola Beckley KK6HRE Vice President **Brian Torr** N6IIY W6IBC Secretary **Dave Harrison** Treasurer Wells Wagner KK6EXC Director Joe Fortuna K6AWA ShelleyRae O'Connor KK6JXM Past President KG6JSL Patrick Coyle

Committee Lineup/Contacts

Activities/Programs Steve Bouchard, KK6VMZ sb1112@outlook.com Community Darryl Paule, KI6MSP ki6msp@arrl.net Outreach DX/Contesting Doug Payne, dougpayne1@earthlink.net KF6LMB Education Dave Harrison, W6IBC w6ibc@arrl.net Pat Coyle, KG6JSL Emergency coylaw@sonic.net Services Liason Field Day Brian Torr, N6IIY n6iiy@arrl.net Membership ShelleyRae O'Connor, kk6jxm@cpr4biz.com KK6JXM Merchandise Kathy Wells, KK6KGW bikeladyofconcord@gmail.com Public Service kz6t@arrl.net Charlie Sikes, KZ6T Refreshments ShelleyRae O'Connor, kk6jxm@cpr4biz.com KK6JXM Jack Christensen, K6ROW K6ROW@sonic.net Repeater Volunteer Examiners Brian Torr, N6IIY n6iiy@arrl.net Webmaster Sutter Laird, KI6ZON ki6zon@me.com Asst. Webmaster ShelleyRae O'Connor, kk6jxm@cpr4biz.com KK6JXM Weekly Email Blog Pat Coyle KG6JSL coylaw@sonic.net

Short Skip & Web Staff

Editor David Kraybill, shortskipeditor@gmail.com
Kl6UGB
Webmaster Sutter Laird, Kl6ZON
Database Manager Mike Von der Porten,
AD6YB
ki6zon@me.com
mikevpca@aim.com

SCRA E-Mail K6SON@arrl.com

SCRA Web site http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com

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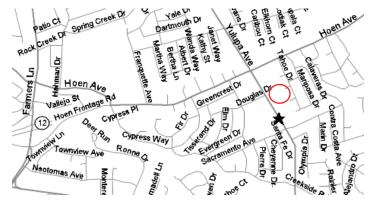
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The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month, socially at 6:30 pm, program starting at 7:15 pm. Exceptions are holidays or other big events.

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

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.



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.

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 Newsline, 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 Weter 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.

2016 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Check the Club website for details

Sat/Sun Sept 24-25 - Waves to Wine

Sat/Sun Sept 24-25 - PCAM Air Show Booth

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

During the past few months SCRA has welcomed several new members who deserve recognition. In no particular order, please join me in welcoming ~

Matt KG6KSL;

Leland W6GEE;

John KJ6VWX;

John kk6uit;

Doug KM6DYE;

Bob KM6BJG;

Richard Laurel.

Richard Ruge,

and Marcus KG6GHW, our 160th member!

All total, to date, we have had 28 new members join our family this year. **WELCOME!!**

Iola kk6hre, President





CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello contesters. Huge number of contests in September. Check out the All Asian DX Contest Labor Day weekend or the Kulikovo Polye Contest the weekend after. The stated purpose of the Kulikovo contest is to "to identify the strongest ham-radio contest-man." Not very PC, but I'm sure it lost or gained something in the translation. Happy DX'ing!

- 1 Sep **NRAU 10m Activity Contest** All modes, 10 meters. See: **www.nrau.net**.
- 2 Sep **QRP Fox Hunt** CW, 20 meters. See: <u>www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm</u>.
- 2 Sep and weekly **NCCC RTTY Sprint**, 160-15 meters. See: **www.ncccsprint.com**.
- 2 Sep and weekly **NCCC Sprint** CW, 160-15 meters. See: **www.ncccsprint.com**.
- 2-4 Sep **G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest** CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.fistsna.org/operating.html.
- 3 Sep **Russian RTTY WW Contest**, 80-10 meters. See: www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/93.
- 3 Sep **CWOps CW Open** CW, 160-10 meters. See: <u>www.cwops.org/cwopen.html</u>.
- 3 Sep Wake-Up! QRP Sprint CW, 40-20 meters. See: qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng.
- 3 Sep **AGCW Straight Key Party** CW, 80 meters. See: www.agcw.org/index.php/en.
- 3-4 Sep **All-Asian DX Contest** SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.jarl.org/English.
- 3-4 Sep **RSGB SSB Field Day** SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/rssbfd.shtml.
- 3-4 Sep **IARU Region 1 Field Day** SSB, 160-10 meters. See IARU Society web pages.
- 3-4 Sep **Colorado QSO Party** All modes, all bands. See: **ppraa.org/coqp**.
- 3-4 Sep PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80m Sprint PSK31, 80 meters. See: www.podxs070.com/ o7o-club-sponsored-contests/jay-hudak-memorial-80m-sprint.

- 4 Sep **DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest** Digital. See: <u>www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport/corona/teilnahmebedingungen/.</u>
- 4-5 Sep **Tennessee QSO Party** All modes, 160 meters 70 cm. See: **tnqp.org/rules/**.
- 5-6 Sep **MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint** CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.qsl.net/miqrpclub/contest.html.
- 6 Sep **ARS Spartan Sprint** CW, 80-10 meters. See: <u>www.arsqrp.blogspot.com</u>.
- 7 Sep and weekly **Phone Fray** SSB, 160-15 meters. See: http://www.perluma.com/Phone Fray Contest Rules. pdf.
- 7 Sep **UKEICC 80m Contest** SSB, 80 meters. See: <u>www.</u> **ukeicc.com**.
- 7-8 Sep and weekly **CWOps Mini-CWT Test** CW, 160-10 meters. See: <u>www.cwops.org/cwt.html</u>.
- 10 Sep **Kulikovo Polye Contest** CW, 20 meters. See: www.kpctest.ru/?pg=content/ruleen.
- 10 Sep **FOC QSO Party** CW, 160-2 meters. See: **g4foc.** org/qsoparty/.
- 10 Sep **Ohio State Parks On the Air** SSB, 80-10 meters. See: **www.ospota.org**.
- 10-11 Sep **WAE DX Contest** SSB, 80-10 meters. See: http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules/.
- 10-11 Sep **SARL Field Day Contest** All modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.
- 10-11 Sep **SKCC Weekend Sprintathon** CW, 160-10 meters. See: <u>www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/</u>.

Continued on page 6...

Contest Corner Continued from page 5...

- 10-11 Sep **Russian Cup Digital Contest** Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/86.html.
- 10-12 Sep **ARRL September VHF Contest** All modes, 50 MHz and up. See: **www.arrl.org/september-vhf**.
- 11 Sep **North American Sprint** CW, 80-20 meters. See: ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf.





11 Sep – **Swiss HTC QRP Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.htc.ch/node/138.

11-14 Sep – **Classic Exchange** - CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.classicexchange.org/sep16/sep2016cxann.html.

14 Sep – **RSGB 80m Club Sprint** - SSB, 80 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/rsprint.shtml.

16 Sep – **AGB NEMIGA Contest** - All modes, 80 meters. See: www.ev5agb.com/contest/agb_nemiga.htm.

17 Sep – **QRP Afield** - All modes, 160-10 meters. See: **newenglandqrp.org**/.

17 Sep – **Feld-Hell Hell Sprint** - Digital, 160-6 meters. See: <u>sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub</u>.

17-18 Sep - **ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest** - All modes, 10 GHz and up. See: http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up.

17-18 Sep - **Scandinavian Activity Contest** - CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.sactest.net/blog/rules.

17-18 Sep – **All Africa International DX Contest** – CW/SSB/RTTY, 160-10 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.

17-18 Sep – New Jersey QSO Party - SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp/njqp_rules.html.

17-18 Sep – **Washington State Salmon Run** - All modes, 160-2 meters. See: www.wwdxc.org/2016-salmon-run-information/.

18 Sep – **North American Sprint** - RTTY, 80-20 meters. See: <u>ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf</u>

18 Sep – **BARTG Sprint 75** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: s3.spanglefish.com/s/7850/documents/contests/sprint75/rules/current/bartg sprint 75 rules.pdf.

19 Sep – Run For the Bacon QRP Contest - CW, 160-10 meters. See: <u>qrpcontest.com/pigrun/</u>.

19 Sep – **144 MHz Fall Sprint** - All modes, 2 meters. See: svhfs.org/2016 Fall Sprint Rules.pdf.

24 Sep – **RSGB International Sprint Contest** - CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/sprint.shtml.

24-25 Sep – **ARRL EME Contest** - All modes, 50-1296 MHz. See: <u>www.arrl.org/eme-contest</u>.

24-25 Sep - **CQ Worldwide DX Contest** - RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.cq-amateur-radio.com.

24-25 Sep – **Maine QSO Party** - SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.qsl.net/ws1sm/Maine QSO Party.html.

24-25 Sep – **Texas QSO Party** - All modes, all bands. See: www.txqp.net.

25 Sep – **Peanut Power QRP Sprint** - SSB/CW, 40-15 meters. See: www.nogaqrp.org/PeanutPower/rules.pdf.

25-28 Sep – **Classic Exchange** - Phone, 160-2 meters. See: www.classicexchange.org/jan16/jan16ann.html.

27 Sep – **220 MHz Fall Sprint** - All modes, 222 MHz. See: svhfs.org/2016 Fall Sprint Rules.pdf.

28 Sep – **SKCC Sprint** - CW, 160-10 meters. See: <u>www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/</u>.

28 Sep – **UKEICC 80m Contest** - CW, 80 meters. See: **www.ukeicc.com**.

29 Sep – **RSGB 80m Club Sprint** – CW, 80 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/rsprint.shtml.

30 Sep – 02 Oct – YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest – All modes, all bands. See: <u>ylrl.org/index.php/contests-and-dx-awards</u>.

For additional contest calendars and resources check:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

ARRL Contests Page





Minutes, SCRA August 3, 2016, Membership Meeting

The August 2016 regular Membership meeting of SCRA was called to order by President Iola KK6HRE at 7:15 PM, following a 45 minute social hour. A quorum of members was present. After introduction of officers and directors, new members and guests were introduced, including Marcus KG6GHW, Rick Laurell, Jim KM6UIS, Tom WB8LCD, Don Briant, and Don KK6UIT.

SCRA Mentors present at the meeting were introduced, including Pat KG6JSL, Darryl KI6MSP, Charlie KZ6T, Brian N6IIY and Dave W6IBC.

Net Control Assignments for July:

August 9: Joe K6AWA
August 16: Andru KJ6YFD
August 23: Iola KK6HRE
August 31: Brian N6IIY
September 6: Pat KG6JSL

The August program, Boat Anchors and Homebrew was led off by Pat KG6JSL who presented a tube tester, a Zenith Transoceanic 1955 tube model, an RF sniffer and a homebrew RF ammeter box. Brian N6IIY presented several tube radio batteries formed from 9 volt smoke alarm batteries by using printed cardstock. He also displayed his first Novice class one tube transmitter. Darryl KI6MSP displayed an Ameco 6 meter transverter. Mike K6HCU presented his first AM phone rig with a military mike modified to include a telephone transmitter element. Fred AE6SF displayed a portable solar power source including two panels hinged together for portability. He also discussed a regulator and cabling. Dave W6IBC displayed a homebrewed multiband HF radio carried in an Army surplus radio bag. Joe K6AWA displayed and discussed a high end 1970s Midland 27 MHz CB rig. Charlie KZ6T displayed and discussed two five port power distribution boxes using Anderson Power Pole connectors and gave one box to Doug KF6LMB.

Equipment donated from a Silent Key's home in Penngrove was auctioned off to those in attendance following a break. Net proceeds from the auction were \$68.00, benefitting the SCRA treasury.

President Iola KK6HRE began the business meeting at 8:39 PM. The minutes of the July 2016 membership meeting were approved on motion by Brian N6IIY, second by Cornell W6HMN. In the absence of the treasurer, Iola presented a summary of the treasury expenses and receipts in July 2016. Education Chair Dave W6IBC announced that he had 38 potential candidates for the November 18-20 Technician License class at the Bennett Valley Grange.

Fred AE6SF, standing in for Public Service Chair Charlie

KZ6T, reported that the Annadel Cross-Country event needs one additional operator. Other events including Tour d'Organics were mentioned. Members were referred to the SCRA website for sign up opportunities. Repeater Chair Jack K6ROW reported ongoing level adjustment activity at the English Hill repeater site. He also noted that the UHF repeater cannot be linked to the VHF repeater at the present time. Also, Winlink is not presently operating. Brian N6IIY announced the SCRA Field Day point score of 2230 points, with contact points down from poor propagation, but bonus points up. President Iola discussed Dr. Ed Fong's presentation, with Fred AE6SF adding that Dr. Fong wants "honest feedback" on the presentation, and has offered to provide further talks and group sales to SCRA members. Doug KF6LMB reported that the Mini-DXpedition to A.W. Way Park, in Humboldt County will be operating on High Frequency Bands at 1930 and 2000 hours local time on August 4th, 5th and 6th on 7204 MHz (LSB); 14250 MHz; and, 28,402MHz (both USB) using the SCRA Club Callsign K6SON. Doug invited local hams to make contact, depending on propagation conditions. Outreach Chair Darryl KI6MSP stated that a great time was had by SCRA and its volunteers at the County Fair, with 20 people expressing interest in the club's November Technician class. Darryl also discussed the forthcoming PCAM airshow, the Bay Area Science Festival, Jamboree on the Air, and Pacificon. Emergency Services Chair Pat is developing a SCRA disaster radio plan along the lines of Storm Net. He plans to hold an emergency message handling class in early 2017. As RFI chair, he reported on recent activities and has scheduled a technical meeting for August 27, 2016 at 1:PM at W6IBC's QTH. VE Liaison Brian N6IIY announced a VE session for August 27, 2016 from 9AM to Noon at the Bennett Valley Grange.

In New Business, President Iola briefly discussed the report card survey results from members at the meeting. Andru KJ6YFD summarized his visit to the Marine Radio Historical Society at KPH.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Harrison, W6IBC Secretary



Next Exam Session:

Our next exam session is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, from 9:00 am until noon. The location will be the Bennett Valley Grange Hall, located at 4145 Grange Rd, in 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 to Bennett Valley Grange Hall:

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, N6IIY in advance.

Good Luck!

Brian Torr, N6IIY n6iiy@arrl.net (707) 575-5871

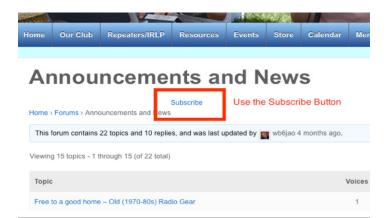
SCRA Website Forum

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.



Turlock Amateur Radio Club Estate Auction

Wayne Light, a local Ham, passed away. He was a restorer of Amateur as well as Domestic radio equipment. We have inventoried, taken pictures and stored the items in this estate. Pictures and associated lists, 2 each are posted on the Club website at www.w6bxn.org/auction/ The proposed date has NOT been confirmed but we are looking at last part of October or first of November. Keep tuned to the website for date confirmation. Please forward this email to other amateur and non-amateur folks who are involved with restoring and collecting old radio equipment. There are some real gems both Amateur and Domestic in this extensive estate.

Thanks and looking forward to making this auction a success for the widow. Any questions feel free to contact me.

Grady Williams Auctioneer, K6IXA

209-358-1166 home 209-761-1121 cell



HF Rig Club Purchase

Dear SCRA members,

Here is the final voting tally for the proposed new HF rig purchase:

2 votes for any new HF radio.

1 vote for any radio with auto-tuner

1 vote for any donated new HF radio. (Pursue donation with ham radio distributors)

1 vote for an Elecraft K3 Kit.

1 vote for a multi-service radio (HF, 6M, VHF, UHF) like the FT 897D (the 897 is no longer in production) A Kenwood TS 2000? Icom 9100?

1 vote for a Yaesu FTDX 1200

1 vote for a radio with pan-adapter capability

2 votes for a radio with internet remote control capability

3 votes for an Icom 7300

6 votes for the Kenwood TS 590SG

1 vote for a Yaesu FT950

1 vote for an HF radio with excellent receive characteristics in high RF noise areas.

Looks like the Kenwood TS 590SG is the winner, with the Icom 7300 in second place.

We will be discussing this further at the next board meeting, with the following criteria deemed as important, and not in any particular order:

- 1) Ease of operation. Good intuitive and simple controls. Well written manual.
- 2) Ease of viewing the display in bright sunlight.
- 3) Receiver sensitivity, since this rig will often be used with marginal antennas and in noisy RFI locations.
- 4) Effectiveness of the DSP in filtering out the hash while still maintaining high receive sensitivity in high RFI noise environments.
- 5) Effectiveness of DSP narrowband and roofing filters in maintaining good selectivity and adjacent channel rejection.
- 6) Higher end dynamic range for a reasonable price.
- 7) Dedicated receive antenna capability, so that one could receive on a low noise antenna not well suited for transmitting, and transmit on an antenna configured for effective propagation but not necessarily good low noise receive capability. Most antennas (especially portable) do not excel in both categories at the same time. (Field day, MiniDX, events.)
- 8) Built in antenna tuner, and rapidity in reaching a tuned state. Good tuning range for a built-in tuner.
- 9) Portability. (Smallish form factor and carry handle)
- 10) Ruggedness in the hands of many users. (here is where a touch screen interface does not hold up well)

- 11) Effectiveness of safety overrides in protection of finals during high SWR situations (read: operator error and ignorance)
- 12) Internet remote operation capability.
- 13) Computer interface capability.
- 14) Features/cost ratio
- 15) Commonality (A popular radio with a lot of production units in use)
- 16) Ability to operate properly at low battery voltages.
- 17) Easily available tech support and service.

Thank you to all for your participation in this poll, maybe the club will soon have a decent HF rig for a change.

Joe K6AWA

Donated Items for Auction

On April 28th John Felton KE5RI, and Doug KF6LMB completed an inventory of stuff donated to the club to be auctioned at the club meeting for September. This equipment was mainly set up for a beacon station, but could be used for other type of stations. Here is a list of the items:

- 1. Johnson low pass filer
- 2. 2 meter amp 1/2 watt in. 30 watt out by Radio Shack
- 3. Entron 6 meter amplifier receiver
- 4. An antenna array approximately 24 " circular in diameter
- 5. Clipperton "V" 6 meter linear amp by Dentron
- 6. Palomar 6 meter amplifier 300-600 watts
- 7. Head / foot control unit with mike, and earphones
- 8. 23 amp power supply # sec 12-23 by Samlex
- 9. Duracom 12 amp unknown product it's a mystery item
- 10. Beacon transmitter by Icom #202S upper/lower sideband
- 11. Antennas with connecting hardware. Must be sorted out by each antenna.
 - A. TWO-2 meter 15 element beams by Hygain with info sheets
 - B. One 10 meter beam by Telex # 105BAS with info sheet
- C. One 6 meter 6 element beam by Hygain #VD66DX with info sheet

I hope that the club members can benefit from the donated items. This is great for those who love putting stuff together and seeing the end result in a useful product. Give it a try.

Submitted by Doug Payne KF6LMB



2016 Mini-DX

SOTA Team Report





2016 Mini-DX

SOTA Team Report

One of the sidebar activities of Mini-DX is working SOTA (Summits On The Air). This is a radio sport run throughout the world where "activators" hike to mountaintops and try and make contact with "chasers" below. Points are awarded to the activator based upon the elevation of the peak for making four or more contacts. Chasers are awarded points for making contact with activators. A tally is kept online by the SOTA organization who writes the rules for the activity. Its a fun way of using radio to get out and see the countryside.

Last year during Mini-DX-2015, Ed W1EJ and I activated Chamisal Peak, and attempted North Slide Peak. These are both in the Lost Coast King Range relatively close to our base camp at A.W. Way Park. Chamisal Peak is also on the route we used in 2011 (Mini-DX #1) when we activated the rare grid square CM79. Last year North Slide beat us physically. We never did find the trail to the top but vowed to return.

This year's SOTA plan was to activate a peak a day. Kings Peak, North Slide Peak, Mt Pierce, and finally 6,000 ft Black Lassic peak in Six Rivers National Forrest. Prior to leaving town I distributed our plan to the Club and also to Mel KK6TMN for distribution to others in Mendocino County in the hopes of having chasers follow us. I also posted our plan to SOTAwatch which gives spotting alerts to all SOTA members.





Day One, (Friday) Kings Peak (W1EJ, AA6EM, KZ6T)

Gear was packed and we embarked at 0730 from base camp. The peak is only 9 miles from camp, but traveling the dirt roads took an hour and half to reach the trailhead. Ed scampered up the trail, followed by Eric and me. It didn't take long to realize I was not physically up to this hike.



Kings Peak Trail



Kings Peak

I returned to the trailhead and set up a portable station while Ed and Eric ascended the peak. Two hours later they were setup and transmitting on 2m FM, 20m CW & SSB. I stayed busy as a relay between the accent team and the camp. The team each made more than their required contacts to officially activate King's Peak by any HAM operator.



Eric and Ed retuning from Kings Peak





Day Two, (Saturday) North Slide Peak, (W1EJ, K6ROw, KZ6T)

Last year, Ed and I tried to activate this peak. You would think that a trail that is named North Slide <u>Peak Trail</u> would take you to the peak, but, you would be wrong. We discovered that bagging this peak requires bushwhacking and were not set up to do that last year.



Jack (K6ROW) on North Slide Peak

Electing to sleep in a little more, we departed for the trailhead (6 miles away) at 0830 arriving at 0930.

The view from Google Earth looks like this is a easy clear trail, however the manzanita is chest high and thick. Where we could not push through the brush, we had to traverse steep heavily wooded hillsides. Twice we considered calling a halt to this 2nd attempt, but Jack was there to push us on.

Finally we found the summit that had a very small and rocky clearing in which to set up our stations. Ed on 20M CW using his KX3, push-up mast with an end-fed wire. Jack & I made our contacts on 2m FM using an HT and Elk antenna. My furthest contact was KK6PDU in Ft Bragg.

We packed up and braved the brush again. It was just as tough going down as it was going up. North Slide Peak was officially activated. It may never be again.







Ed (W1EJ working CW on North Slide Peak



North Slide Peak

Day Three, (Sunday) Bunker Hill (W1EJ + Brother Don, KZ6T)

Sunday is pack-up and head-home day for most of the group. Ed and I had decided to extend the trip by two days and try for some more peaks. While most of the group headed south for home, we headed north towards Ferndale. Doug KF6LMB wanted to visit a lighthouse site so he headed north with us as well. Doug turned for the mouth of the Mattole while Ed and I headed for the next summit.

The plan was to head for Mt Pierce which is a repeater site located above Rio Dell & Scotia. (I grew up in Rio Dell, and my XYL was born and raised in Scotia.) Traveling north on the Mattole Road takes you through some gorgeous backcountry, topped off with a 6 mile stretch along the Pacific. Near Ferndale we headed east on Bear River Ridge Road.





On one of the prominent hills is large radome. This is Bunker Hill. Since we were near, we changed the plan and made it our goal for the day. When we left the lowlands, the



Bunker Hill Survey Marker



Ed (W1EJ) & Brother Don on Bunker Hill

temperature was perfect in the 70's. When we arrived at the summit, the wind felt to be blowing 50 MPH. Wind was definitely the challenge of this peak. The plan was to hurry up, get in the contacts, pack-up and head down.

Ed again worked 20m CW from a very low mounted wire, and I put my Elk up on a guyed tripod. My furthest contact was a Summit to Summit with NO6E on Father Mountain, 150 miles away in Oregon. *Isn't elevation great?*

We met up with Doug and headed to Fortuna for lunch. Eel River Brewing Company is where we ended up for food and brews. Doug headed south for home, we headed east on Hwy 36 for Six Rivers National Forrest. We heard Fred AE6SF calling from Ferndale who was deciding on a route home as there was a traffic SIG alert in Garberville (of all places) due to a Regge concert.







Results of 2015 Fire near Black Lassic

There are lots of peaks to choose from Northern
California, but we both had put
Black Lassic on our list. This is a very prominent 6,000 ft peak that looks "relatively" easy to summit. I used to deer hunt this area when I was growing up in Humboldt County, and would stay at a leased cabin under Black Lassic. The area was hit very hard by a forest fire in 2015

and I was interested to know if the cabin had survived. We scouted the trailhead and found a place to camp for the night. From our camp I did an evening hike back to the cabin site, taking along an HT to keep in contact with the camp. I arrived at the cabin site only to find it was completely destroyed by the fire. I pulled the HT out of the backpack to



Black Lassic Peak

radio in I was heading back, pushed the PTT and all went dead. Guess I found the limits of the battery. We spent that evening stargazing.





Day Four, (Monday) Black Lassic (W1EJ + Brother Don, KZ6T)

The trailhead was only 3 miles from our camp, so it did not take long to start up the mountain. Pictures appear to make this peak much harder than it really is. 500' of vertical elevation over 1/2 mile. Even I made it to the top in 26 minutes. Ed setup the push-up pole and right away started making contacts, I gave 2m a try with zero luck. I then switched to SSb on my KX3 using a BudiPole. It took awhile, but I got my four contacts in using both 20 and 40 meters. We spent some quality time on this peak soaking in the view. Shasta to north, Lassen to the east, Kings peak was to our west. The view towards the bay area was hazy (go figure) so we could not make out any of the peaks.

Ed and Don headed south for Alderpoint, Garberville, and Petaluma while I headed east on Hwy 36 to Chico. In all, it was a very successful trip that was enjoyed by all. My big take-away from this year is to rededicate myself to using CW as an operating mode. Ed managed 50 CW contacts as far away as Alberta and Virginia. The advantage that CW has over SSB is extremely pronounced when operating QRP SOTA.



KZ6T on top of Black Lassic

Hope you enjoyed the story.

73, Charlie, KZ6T





Countdown to W4DXCC

Hi Friends and Club Officials,

Thank you again for helping circulate these W4DX-CC DX and Contest Convention updates to your friends and Club members,

With 39 days to go until the convention, it's still not too late to sign up and attend this years W4DXCC convention in Pigeon Forge, TN, September 23-24th, 2016. To be part of the fun simply give Rosie a call and she will get you signed up. Rosie 865 898-2279

The MainStay's sister hotel still has rooms available or you can stay in any number of hotels in the area. Make plans to bring the family and they can shop or attend some of the Pigeon Forge or Dollywood attractions.

I want to let everyone know that the Banquet is about sold out. On Friday evening we all go over to have dinner at Calhoun's, a BBQ resteraunt, for some fellowship and great food. Calhoun's is catering our Banquet Saturday evening which from all reports was excellent last year. Give Rosie a call now, do not miss the Banquet! Rosie Registration 865 898-2279

This year all of Top equipment manufacturers are attending to show off their gear and are available to speak with you one one. Come and twist the knobs and learn how that new gear feels and see how it will help you make those QSOs. The manufacturers set up Friday and are manning their booths all day Saturday. Do not forget the Ham Radio BootCamp. This year we have over 60 people signed up for this Elmering sesson which runs all day Friday. Attend the BootCamp with your Convention admission ticket.

Do not miss this year as it will be our best yet. Check out the website W4DXCC

I hope to see everyone this year, come on out for Fun and Fellowship.

Dave Anderson, K4SV W4DXCC Leader Dave@W4DXCC.com

©2016 W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention 1271 Red Fox Road Tryon, NC 28782

The ORCA Digital Net

Reprinted courtesy of Humboldt Amateur Radio Club,ke6sls editor Submitted by KZ6T

Something very exciting has been underway, quietly every Tuesday evening for over a year now. ORCA, or the Oregon California DigitalNet is a training ground for all operators that are interested in learning more than just simple psk31 contacts on the HF bands.

Every net begins with operators from Washington to Utah, to Nevada checking in with Net Control Station (NCS). Once checked in, NCS begins the net and sends a digital picture, then net instructions, followed by one official message. Following the message transmission, NCS does a rollcall making sure all operators were able to fully copy the message, but if one or more receiving stations didn't copy the whole message, NCS will direct a relay station to fill the message. But unlike sending messages over voice, we use our software and automate the process making it easy for every operator to have a 100% perfect copy of the original message! The more we practice, the faster we can do it, even in rotten band conditions!

We all can send traffic, and right now, much of the traffic is field reports of the current fires burning in the country near us.

Last, we send our reports of how well we copied each station during the net. It is fascinating how diverse the field reports can be, even with operators in the same town! NCS then compiles a full report and sends each of us an email link to the ORCA web site so we can see how well we were copied by NCS.

ORCA is our training ground to learn all the tools, the radios, the interfaces, and finally how to pass traffic, or RELAY traffic. We are looking for new operators to join the net since the more operators we have, the better the odds are that we can communicate during emergencies like earthquakes, forest fires, major storms, or flooding. The software is free of charge and runs on all operating systems. Even though the net only runs for an hour, it's an hour the flies by. So if you are HF digital ready, make it a point to monitor and check into the ORCA net! ORCA frequency is listed under NETS on each addition of RAIN. http://orcadigitalnet.com/



Stop #%*!^\$@# Robocalls

Are you fed up with robocalls? I sure was, but not anymore. I have been using NoMoRobo for over three weeks and "all" robocalls have stopped coming to my house land line. However, it will not stop live person telemarketers, or scammers. So far the only unwanted call that I have gotten have been "live person" caller running the; 'I am here to fix your computer' scam. I only answered the phone because I thought it was a robocall getting through, and I wanted to see what it was.

Three years ago the FCC asked private companies to come up with a solution to robocall phone calls, and offered a \$50,000 prize. Three companies answered the call. Only one has come to market, and here it is. Nomorobo.com is stopping all the robocalls, at least on our land line. I viewed it in a story on CBS News with Scott Pelley. I have been using it for over three weeks, and so far it has been working great. Better yet it is free. The down side is that it only works on voice over internet protocol, "VOIP" land line phones, not cell phones for free. Not all phone carriers are working with NoMoRobo yet. AT&T, and Comcast, are working with NoMoRobo. Verizon, and some smaller providers; not so much. Below is a link to the NoMoRobo.com web site, and a link to a review web site. It is easy to do the set-up. For me it was about 5 minutes with AT&T U-verse.

Here is how it works. Most VOIP phones can be set to ring at more than just one location. In the set-up you change your phone settings to also ring at NoMoRobo, they provide you with a number. Now when your phone rings it also rings at the NoMoRobo computer. The instant that NoMoRobo gets a call, it analyzes the call. If it is coming as a "high frequency" call like most robocalls are, it hangs up for you. Your phone rings only once. If the number is in their ever growing database as a known 'robo' number, it is blocked and your phone does not ring at all. If the call is a normal caller, "live person" your phone rings as normal. Good robo calls, like from your doctor's office are not blocked.

After using NoMoRobo we have gone from receiving four to eight robocalls a day, to having only five "one ring" calls, and one "live person" scammer in the entire past three weeks that I know of. Please have a look at it and see what you think. Let me know if you try it. For you Android cell phone users, I am looking at Privacy Star app, Trucaller app, and White Pages app for robocall blocking. I hope to have an article next month for you on them.

Link to Nomorobo www.nomorobo.com

Link to review article http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2492079,00.asp

By Jim Draeger, KI6REK







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	Callsi	gn L	icense Class
Mailing Address		_ Phone	Cell
City	Zip	New Application_	Renewal
E-mail (if any)		Add to Roster (Yes) (No)	
Please Send Short Skip & Roster t	o my E-mail address ()YES!	() No thanks	
FAMILY MEMBERS, CALL SIG	NS & EMAIL ADDRESSES:		
1. NameE-mail	Callsign	License Clas Short Skip & Roster to	Add to Roster (Yes)(No) o my E-mail address ()YES! () NO
2. NameE-mail	Callsign	License Clas Short Skip & Roster to	ss Add to Roster (Yes) (No) o my E-mail address ()YES! () NO
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Gary, N7GJ, Mgr. Corner of 43rd Ave. & Peoria phoenix@hamradio.com

ATLANTA, GA

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TS-590S HF + 6M Transceiver

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· 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

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- 160-10M/6M/2M/70CM • 2x DSP • Digital IF filters
- · Digital voice recorder
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VHF/UHF Dual Band **ID-51A** 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



THE PARTY

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



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

 Widehand receiver D-STAR ready

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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 • 32 color display • 200 mems • Detachable front
- nanel (YSK-857 required)

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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, shortskipeditor@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 shortskipeditor@gmail.com



