

SHORT SKIP



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

JUNE 1989

Club Station

W6LFJ

P.O. Box 116

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Repeater Station

WB6PVS

VOL 14 # 6

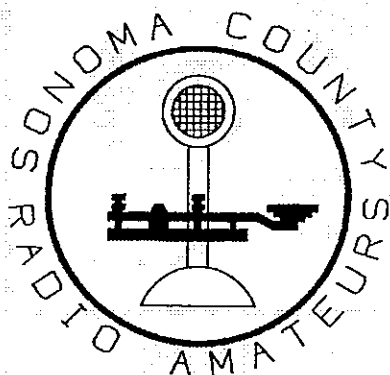
SPECIAL OLYMPICS: SRJC, APRIL 29, 1989



Photos tnx KB60KA

Harvey K6KZ, Ruth WA6AQA, John W6TLK, Connie N6FYV, and Edna KB60KA.

OFFICERS FOR 1989



PRESIDENT:	Glen Crownover	N6DNB	546-8955
VICE PRESIDENT:	John Wallack	W6TLK	833-1873
SECRETARY:	Alan Bloom	N1AL	538-7115
TREASURER:	Jim Pelmulder	N6PTM	823-7947
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:	Chuck Sabin	N6DDK	795-2371
	Bob Olsten	WD6DPE	546-5593
REPEATER CHAIR:	Jim Rutherford	WB6PER	526-2972

----- SHORT SKIP STAFF: -----			
EDITOR:	Alan Bloom	N1AL (e)	538-7115
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CIRCULATION MGR:	Tracy Reese	WB6TMY	
SWAP SHOP:	Hank Davis	W6DTV	823-7885

ARRL LIASON: Alan Bloom N1AL 538-7115
 ASST. DIRECTOR: Chuck Sabin N6DDK 795-2371
 BADGE CHAIRMAN: Jim Pelmulder N6PTM 823-7947
 CLUB HISTORIAN: Connie Freitas N6FYV

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:

PUBLIC SERVICE: Bob Sones WB6EKV 546-3873
 PROGRAM CHAIR.: Bob Olsten WD6DPE 546-5593
 REFRESHMENTS @ MEETINGS: Bob Olsten WD6DPE
 GREETER AT MEETINGS: Jane Vanderslice N6NTB
 MEMBERSHIP LOTTERY: Bob Scolnick K6GEV
 QSL MANAGER: Doug Bender WW6D
 VEC EXAMS: Steve Lund WA8LLY 823-4544
 WA6ACX N1AL K6ANP AG6C WD6CKP WN6D WW6D
 W6DTV WW6F WB6FRZ KF6FX W6RIA WB6UDR WU6W
 EDUCATION: Chr. Tracy WB6TMY 527-8124
 WA6ACX WW6D WA8LLY WB6PDP W6TLK WB6TMY KF6WV
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 XMAS PARTY: Steve Schaffer KD6GC 546-8860
 INTERFERENCE CHR: John Lynch W6CCY 823-1357

REPEATER CONTROL Op's:

WD6CKP Hoppy 542-6750 N6ONZ Garry 584-3425
 WB6PER Jim 526-2972 W6TLK John 833-1873
 WB6UAZ Kathi 544-7943 WN6D Jim 544-7943
 PACKET COMMITTEE: Al Bloom N1AL, Jim Boyett
 WN6D, Rich Freitas KA6SSL

SHORT SKIP ADVERTISING RATES:

Business cards: \$10

\$11 First 1/4 Column
 \$3 Additional 1/4 Columns
 (\$32 Full Page, 1 side)

Pre-printed inserts: \$32/sheet

Guaranteed circulation: 200/month
 AD DEADLINE: 15th of previous month

ARE YOU NOT AN SCRA MEMBER?

IF SO, then this is a complimentary copy. Our club is involved with almost every area of Amateur Radio: Repeaters (13/73), Field Day, license classes (Novice through Extra), volunteer exams, RACES, DX programs, packet (145.03), hidden xmtr hunts -- you name it.

We invite you to attend our next monthly meeting (see below) or check into the Tuesday night SCARS net on the 146.13/73 repeater at 7:00 PM. You will hear the latest Westlink Amateur Radio News broadcast, announcements of SCRA activities, and a Swap Shop. If you would like to join SCRA, please refer to the dues listed below. Hope to have an "eyeball" QSO with you at the next meeting! 73 ...

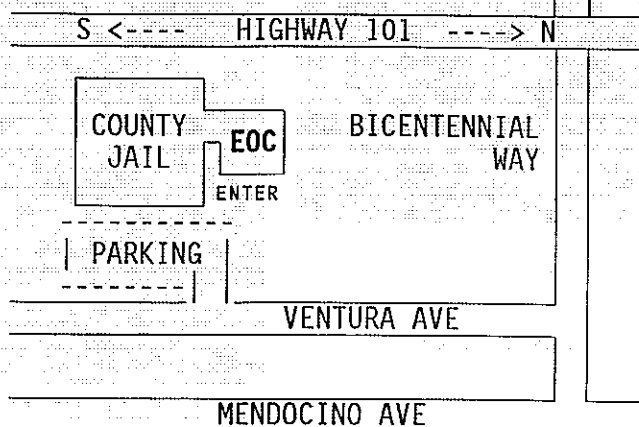
CLUB MEETINGS:

7:30 PM, 1st Wednesday each month at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center, see map below) All are welcome to attend.

NEXT MEETING: June 7, 1989

PROGRAM: **FIELD DAY!**

DUES: \$12 per year, plus a one-time \$4.00 initiation fee. Dues are pro-rated \$1/month for new members. With membership, comes an SCRA call/name badge. Family membership: \$18



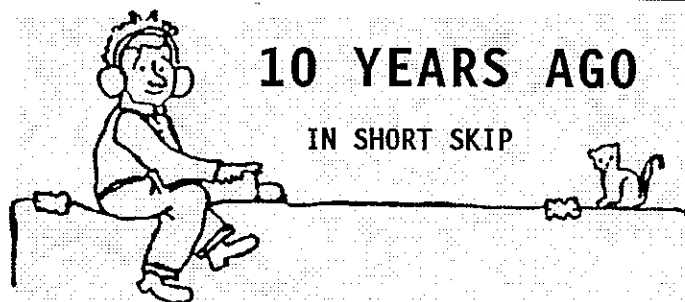
1000 BIKES, 160 MILES AND 15 HAMS

Although outnumbered 60-to-1, our "thin blue line" of Radio Amateurs helped shepherd an army of bicyclists over 160 miles of Sonoma County countryside on Saturday, May 13. The morning route ran from the Luther Burbank Center north to Geyserville and back, a distance of 100 km. After lunch, the more ambitious riders attacked the hilly 100-mile afternoon circuit which ran west through Graton, Occidental, Monte Rio, Guerneville and back to the Burbank Center.

This is one of our longest public service events: we had people on duty from 6 AM to 6 PM. With a course this big, communications is essential. Operators were needed at the Burbank Center, the two field stations in Geyserville and Monte Rio, and on each of the "sag wagons". In all, 15 hams helped out: AT N1AL, Philip KC6BSI, Hoppy WD6CKP, Bob WB6EKV, Connie N6FYV, Ken N6GXI, Georgia N6GZU, Russ N6KMJ, Steve WA8LLY, Ren KI6LS, Ken N6MHG, Phil N6OOA, Bob N6RMW, John W6TLK, and Jack N6UYB.

5 NEW HAMS

Tracy WB6TMY reports that of the 12 or so who took his Novice class, 4 have already passed their test (plus one who wasn't in the class). The next class will be this winter, probably after Jan 1. Tracy is looking for a better QTH for classes than the EOC (getting the key has been a hassle), so if you have any ideas, give him a call. (See page 2 for phone nr.)



10 YEARS AGO

IN SHORT SKIP

The big topic for the upcoming June 6, 1979 meeting was to be Field Day. The club used "the same site as in previous years" (Ragle Park in Sebastopol?). Ron WB6NBR and Terry WA6RNF were the co-chairmen.

Volunteers were needed for the booth at the Sonoma County Fair, especially traffic handlers. Someone suggested SCRA members should have some form of ID when we participate in public functions, perhaps cloth patches.

FLEA MARKET NEWS

Chod WB2CHO will be Chairman of the SCRA Flea Market this year, September 16, 1989. If you would like to help out, give Chod a call at 526-2198.

WANTED: FOR VIP COMM. VAN

We are looking for several small hi-intensity desk lamps made by "Tensor" model 7200. These have a short gooseneck and use a 12 VDC bulb. If you have one you could donate or will sell, please contact:

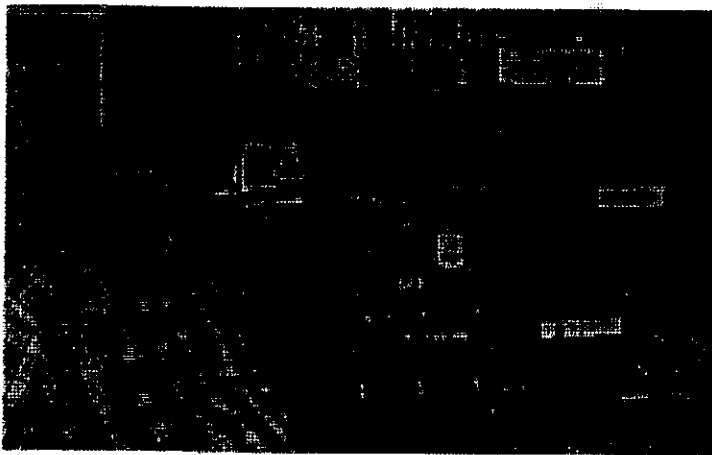
Garry N6ONZ at 584-342573

ELMER

by Rich Regent, K9GDF



TNX ARNS



File: Lyle. Do you know him?

First licensed in 1921 with 6ASL call.

A member of SCRA since 1977.

Holder of Extra Class license since 1959.

ARRL member since 1939.

Resident of Forestville and married 56 years to an angel named Madeline.

An avid CW DX hound and a QCWA member.

Former Pres. of Local #16 - Int'l Alliance of Theatrical Employees. Retired 1973.

You can usually find him pounding brass on 21.010 MHz almost every day until 6 PM in spite of a handicap. He will give you a cheery "hello" on 146.73 MHz should you give him a shout.

WHO? Lyle Anderson K6MZ.

Tnx Bill K6TCD.

To: Editor, *Short Skip*

Alan, Please change the mailing address for the Far West Repeater Assoc. to PO Box 3381, Eureka, CA 95502.

We really appreciate getting *Short Skip* up here in Humboldt County.

Whenever any of your members are travelling in our area, they are welcome to use 146.76 or 146.70 if they need a phone patch.

73's Paul Hoff KA6SFX, Secretary/Treasurer

DON'T BE SHY!

As a regular feature of *Short Skip*, we would like to include brief sketches of selected members of the club. There are as many stories in the club as there are members, and each one makes interesting reading. It also gives the club members a greater depth of insight into the not too-private parts of their fellow members' lives.

YOU have been selected for an article, and we would like you to respond to the following questions so that we may give the club members a brief glimpse of you.

Name _____ Call _____

City _____ How long? _____ yrs

Profession (brief sketch) _____

Retired? _____ How many years? _____

Non-ham awards & degrees: _____

Non-ham interests: _____

Children: _____ # Grandchildren: _____

Former callsign(s): _____

Lic. class: _____ First licensed: 19____

Ham radio awards: _____

Ham radio interests: _____

Memorable events: _____

Misc. interesting stories: _____

Many of your replies will take more space than we have provided. Use another sheet as required. Send to: Hayes Hunter WB6KLU, 6859 Eagle Ridge, Penngrove, CA 94951.

Tnx Hayes WB6KLU

Aaron KA7YXV is going QRT from Sonoma County and heading up North to W7-land. 73...

CDF-VIP NEWS



"ADOBE" MOCK FIRE CAMP

About 100 firefighters from San Francisco to Sea Ranch learned about how large incidents are organized in a mock fire camp sponsored by the Sonoma-Marin Fire Training Officers' Assn May 6. CDF provided training on fighting wildland fires as well as their most important contribution -- the field kitchen!

All communications were provided by the VIP's. Besides manning the Communications Van (generously loaned by the Sonoma Police Dept and Valley of the Moon ARC), we covered each Section and Operations Division and provided a "shadow" for each of the Section Chiefs, just as we would in a real incident.

At the "helispot", the local firefighters would fill the bucket from a firehose, then the 'copter would do a drop so they could get an idea of the area covered. I was most impressed with the skill of the CDF pilot. It turns out he is a ham (N6CYA). They had a 450 MHz ATV rig and camera mounted in the nose of the helicopter so the folks in the Comm. Van could get a bird's-eye view of the base camp. After the last demonstration of the day, N1AL and WB6VGY got a free ride.

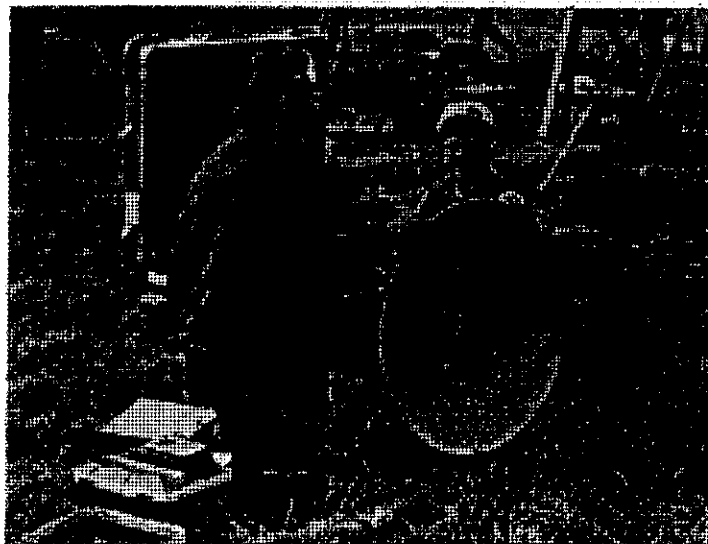
Hams who helped out were: Al N1AL, Hoppy WD6CKP, Chuck N6DDK, Mike N1DJE, Hank W6DTV, Jack KJ6EC, Gerald WD6EVL, Sarah N6FAX, Mike W6FCQ, Bob K6GEV, Spence WA6IXC, Kermit W6JFN, Rudy N6KLU, Floyd K6KQJ, Ed K6OFR, Garry N6ONZ, Jim N6PTM, Jud N6QAV, Marie KI6QY, Rich N6RXA, Don N6SRH, John W6TLK, Jack N6UYB, and Fritz WB6VGY.



Two "strike teams" parked while their owners attend firefighting seminars.



Floyd K6KQJ at the Comm. Van packet station.



Jack N6UYB helps set up the weather fax.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

SINCE LAST MONTH:

Albert Styles K6ALI
2407 Francisco Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
545-9407

John Lynch W6CCY
6710 Nicole Ct.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
823-1357

David Welch KC6CYE
1338 Starview Dr.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
544-4579

Evelyn Styles WA6DQZ
2407 Francisco Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
545-9407

Anne Figuhr KB6FHT
2412 Foothill #161
Calistoga, CA 94515
942-5883

Herb Upham WD6FMG
4747 Vine Hill Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
823-1251

Jn Breckenridge WB6FRZ
574 Wild Oak Dr.
Windsor, CA 95472
838-6398

Rudy Mappus N6KLU
374 Sprauer Rd.
Petaluma, CA 94952
664-1978

Pat Broderick KB6KSA
3357 Glen Echo Dr.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
528-2109

Steve Lund WA8LLY
10180 Mill Station Rd
Sebastopol, CA 95472
823-4544

Richard Joy WB6MCE
1025 Danbeck Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
542-8444

Dick Figuhr W6MHJ
2412 Foothill #161
Calistoga, CA 94515
942-5883

Chod Harris VP2ML
3201 Franz Valley Rd
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
526-2198

Jud Goodrich KA6MUB
6396 Stone Bridge Rd
Santa Rosa, CA 95409
538-4391

Jud Spruce N6QAV
867 First St.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
829-1365

Don Connelly N6SRH
6495 Burnside Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
829-0521

Duane Taylor N6UXC
1779 West 3rd St.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
527-8920

Larry Stewart N6UXI
PO Box 941
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
838-9689

Mike McAndrews KG6YR
1924 San Miguel Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
575-8961

Rick Joy WB6YUB
1205 Eric Court
Rohnert Park CA 94928
585-8340

Marilyn Franc
6695 Sonoma Mtn. Rd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
527-9349

We now have 163 mbrs.

ALINCO MOD'S

I am looking for the modifications that give the Alinco ALR-22T extended receive/transmit capabilities. If you know what the mod is, or where I can get the information, I sure would like to hear from you. You can leave me E-mail on the bulletin board "JAKBB" on 144.910 on Sonoma County, or mail it to:

Garry Palmer N6ONZ, 333 E. Robles Ave.,
Santa Rosa, CA 95407 or call (707) 584-3425.

I will reimburse you for any cost involved.
Thanks and 73.....

**RENEW YOUR ARRL MEMBERSHIP THROUGH THE CLUB
AND THE CLUB GETS TO KEEP \$2** (no expense to you). Make out your check to SCRA, and send it with your ARRL renewal form to SCRA, PO Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 or give it to the Treasurer.

Now that HSC is no longer running a full-page ad every issue, we could use someone to look into drumming up some more ads for *Short Skip*. Call Al, N1AL (see p2).

PHONE: (707) 792-2277

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HINTS FOR CONDUCTING A NEWSPAPER COLUMN

BY JOE PHILLIPS K8QOE

For the last 3 years, Joe has been conductor of the *Cincinnati Enquirer's*, "Ham Call" column, which has been well-received by the newspaper's editors as well as the readership. Joe offers the following tips for present or would-be columnists:



A local ham radio column is (a) a service to members of the hobby, (b) a public relations tool, and (c) a recruitment tool for gaining new interest in the hobby by non-hams.

Keep your information local in nature. Only spotlight national news occasionally -- there are enough national magazine outlets. This hobby has enough local personalities for a local columnist to work with.

Get two-way communication where possible. It makes hams feel personally involved in the column, and the newspaper has tangible evidence that you have an audience. The ham community isn't big enough to affect readership surveys, but mail helps keep your newspaper interested in continuing the column. In *Cincinnati*, we ask those needing a 610 form to write us for a copy, and this has been a first-class winner. We ask clubs to send us information, requests for stories, newsletters, etc. Anything to generate mail.

Keep your columns as humorous as possible. Avoid "preaching" of any type.

Be accurate at all times. Use as many names and calls as you can. People still like to see their names in the paper. Support all local clubs (not just your club). Report meetings, test dates, classes and other activities. Support the idea of joining a club, and be active in yours as an example.

Keep away from long features. Today's newspaper reader does not have the time.

Several short items (variety, of course) makes more sense than one long item.

Technical stories have very limited appeal. Avoid them. Also avoid jargon unless you give a brief explanation of each term used.

Keep away from your personal experience. Concentrate on other's experiences. No one really cares about your ham shack -- everyone has his or her own.

Tnx ARRL *Field Forum*

MOST ASSIDUOUS RADIO HAM

Richard C. Spenceley KV4AA (D July 30, 1982) of St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, built his contacts (QSO's) to a record level of 48,100 in 365 days in 1978. Tnx *Guinness Book of Records* and Aaron KA7YXF.

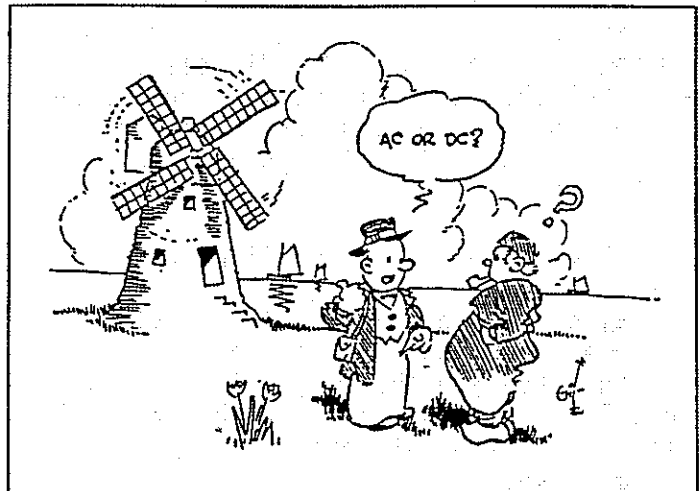
Radio Shack

STORE NO. 3855

ZANE BATES
MANAGER

510 FARMERS LANE
SANTA ROSA, CA. 95405

TELEPHONE
546-8423



PACKET POINTERS

by Stan KH6GBX and Les WA6EQQ



1. THOU SHALT NOT BEACON.

Discussion: Beacons clutter the air and can unnecessarily impede communications for others. In the early days of packet, beaconing was like calling CQ. Packet radio has grown faster than any other mode in ham radio and beaconing where packet is established is not welcomed.

2. LIMIT THE LENGTH OF EVERY LINE TO 65 CHARACTERS (COLUMNS).

Discussion: The most common mistake of new packeteers is to forget that the ENTER key is required at the end of every line. Your computer may appear to do this automatically but it won't on packet radio. You must use the ENTER key just like a carriage return on a typewriter or a Teletype. Nothing is more frustrating than to read a line that looks like this!

3. PLEASE DON'T DO KEYBOARD TO KEYBOARD QSO'S ON BULLETIN BOARD (BBS) CHANNELS. [By the same token, don't put a BBS on a keyboard channel, either - Ed.]

Discussion: The primary advantage and purpose of packet radio is to move messages in the shortest amount of time. This is why we write them first to disc, edit them if necessary, and then transmit them in the shortest possible time so that others may use the channel.

4. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE BBS IN YOUR COMMUNITY, USE ONLY ONE. (Linked BBS, as opposed to PBBS, private mailboxes.)

Discussion: Most BBS's carry the same bulletins or "To ALL" messages. Therefore, browsing different BBS's needlessly clutters the packet channels. It will confuse others who want to send you messages. Let them know at what one BBS call sign you receive your "mail".

5. IF YOU USE A BBS, CHECK IT DAILY FOR YOUR MAIL.

Discussion: Using a BBS is like having a pager. When you have a pager people know they can reach you that way. It's the same with a BBS. You wouldn't let the mail pile up in your mailbox at home -- or in a BBS.
Tnx KB6GOZ BBS

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

PO=PREREG ONLY

PP=PREREG PREFERRED

WO=WALK-INS ONLY

SW=SOME WALK-INS

05 28 SANTA CRUZ---1 PM WO 408 255-9000
06 01 SACRAMENTO-6:30PM PO 916 483-3293
06 01 SACRAMENTO TECHNICIAN CLASS ONLY-
06 01 MODESTO---6:30 PM WO 209 883-2968
06 03 MODESTO-----9 AM WO 209 883-2968
06 03 CONCORD---1:30 PM WO 415 254-5090
06 03 SACRAMENTO---9 AM PO 916 483-3293
06 03 CUPERTINO---9 AM WO 408 243-8349
06 03 SOUTH S.F.--10 AM PP 415 333-1916
06 04 CLEARLAKE---11 AM WO 707 994-0646
06 04 CLEARLAKE--TECHNICIAN CLASS ONLY-
06 04 PETALUMA---- 3 PM WO 707 765-1352
06 04 CHICO-----1 PM PP 916 342-1180
06 10 LOS ALTOS H.11 AM WO 408 255-9000
06 10 NOVATO-----9 AM WO 415 897-8950
06 17 PORTERVILLE9:30AM WO 209 539-2429
06 17 CUPERTINO---9 AM WO 408 243-8349
06 18 SUNNYVALE---11 AM WO 408 255-9000
06 24 STOCKTON----1 PM WO 408 255-9000
07 01 CUPERTINO---9 AM WO 408 243-8349
07 06 RICHMOND--7:30 PM WO 408 255-9000
07 08 LOS ALTOS H.11 AM WO 408 255-9000
07 08 JACKSON-----9 AM PP 209 295-7947
07 09 HANFORD----12 PM WO 408 255-9000
07 15 MONTEREY----9 AM WO 408 624-2564
07 15 CUPERTINO---9 AM WO 408 243-8349
07 16 SUNNYVALE---11 AM WO 408 255-9000
07 30 SANTA CRUZ---1 PM WO 408 255-9000
08 05 CONCORD---1:30 PM WO 408 255-9000
08 06 CLEARLAKE---11 AM WO 408 255-9000
08 06 PETALUMA----3 PM WO 408 255-9000
08 12 LOS ALTOS H.11 AM WO 408 255-9000
08 13 CHICO-----1 PM PP 916 342-1180
08 20 SUNNYVALE---11 AM WO 408 255-9000

TNX TO: SUNNYVALE VEC ARC. SEND UPDATES
AND CORRECTIONS TO: SP W6NLG @ KA6JLT
Tnx N6IIU BBS. ■

ANY LEW McCOY's OUT THERE?

Now that Radio Shack is selling a 25 Watt 10 meter rig, who will design an amplifier for it using parts scrounged from an old TV? ■

SCRA MINUTES

MAY 3, 1989



In the absence of our President (due to a bad back), the meeting was called to order by Vice President John Wallack W6TLK at 7:37 PM. Other Officers present: Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Treasurer Jim Pelmulder N6PTM, and Members-at-Large Bob Olsten WD6DPE and Chuck Sabin N6DDK.

Jane N6NTB introduced one **VISITOR**: Zanes Epps of Windsor.

NEW CALL since last time: KC6CAJ now N6UXI.

The **MINUTES** of the last meeting were approved as printed in *Short Skip*. m/s N600A/WD6CKP

The **TREASURER'S REPORT** by N6PTM shows \$1510.33 in the General Fund and \$1981.65 in the Repeater Fund. Approved m/s N6FAX/WA6ACX

FIELD DAY: We still need a Chairman! N1AL reports we do have the Two Rock Coast Guard Training Center confirmed.

W6DTV wants to know if we are going to put the new **AUTOSLOT NUMBERS** in *Short Skip*. We've done it in the past, although some may not want their phone numbers published, and many slots are not the member's home phone.

CORRESPONDENCE: N1AL has a letter from a prospective ham in Petaluma -- It turns out he is already hooked up with our Novice class. Al also offered flyers for the upcoming Sacramento swap meet.

N6PTM has **BADGES** for new members.

The DMV won't register silent key WB6RHP's **TOWER TRAILER** as a special purpose vehicle so K6GEV suggests we have the current owners "down south" try their local DMV office.

The **PROGRAM** for tonight was the ARRL's Field Day video.

Thanks to HSC Electronics, Farmer's Lane Radio Shack and ARRL for the **RAFFLE PRIZES**.

Don't tell Katie that N1AL walked away with a stripper.

VOLUNTEERS to chair the Flea Market and Field Day are still needed. W6TLK and N1AL will be twisting arms.

The **MEMBER LOTTERY** resembled a Panamanian election this evening, with Lottery Chairman K6GEV winning the prize.

Meeting adjourned 8:49 PM. m/s K6GEV/WD6CKP

TREASURER'S REPORT



FOR MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 1989

ACCOUNT	REVENUE	EXPENSE
Refreshments at meetings ..	8.01	6.99
Raffle at meetings	32.00	
Dues and Initiations	626.00	
Repeater Fund		120.00
Short Skip Newsletter	64.00	94.00
Westlink Report		12.10
Membership Supplies.....	12.00	
	742.01	233.09

ASSETS:

General Fund Account	1503.80	
Cash/checks on hand	6.53	
Total General Fund	1510.33	
Total Repeater Fund	1981.65	de N6PTM



NEWS of Amateur Radio

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS concerning the loss of 220-222 MHz played to a room packed with amateurs and press May 11. Speaking for the Amateurs were an ARRL panel and a rep from the Department of Defense. *Tnx ARRL Letter*

W1AW GOES PORTABLE as W1AW/5 from the National Convention in Arlington, TX on June 2-4. *Tnx ARRL Letter*

NATIONAL REPEATER DATABASE is alive and well according to the *ARRL Letter*. The nationwide listing is for use by Repeater Coordinators only. On-line telephone access prevents viewing other's info. without permission. ■

ALL ABOUT ELECTRICITY

By Joe Strolin K1REC via *The QRA News*

I have been fiddlin' with electricity for 50 years! While I'm still able, I'd like to pass along some of my vast knowledge about this stuff.

1. Electricity is manufactured in power plants where it is fed into wires and wrapped around large drums that hang on poles.

2. Some electricity does not need to go through wires, like that used for lightning, for example, and portable radios. This kind of electricity is not manufactured, but just hangs around in the air, loose.

3. Electricity makes a low humming noise. This noise may be pitched differently for use in telephones, doorbells and electric organs.

4. Electricity must be grounded before it can function -- except in airplanes, which have their own arrangements.

5. Although electricity does not leak out of an empty socket, if you put your finger in the socket, you can tell it's there. So if it is not leaking out, what else is it doing?

6. Electricity is made of two ingredients, negative and positive. One ingredient travels along a wire covered with white plastic, the other ingredient along a wire covered with black plastic. These two wires connect to a device called a plug. There the two ingredients are mixed to form electricity.

7. Electricity may be stored in boxes, called batteries. Big batteries do not necessarily hold more electricity than small ones. In big batteries, the electricity is shoveled in, while in small batteries, it is packed in flat.

8. The electric switch contains a sort of vise grip that squeezes the wire very hard so the electricity can't get through. Opening (turning "on") the switch releases the vise grip, and the electricity can flow.

9. Electricity goes into a light bulb where for the first time we can see it! It is enlarged many times by the curvature of the bulb, which is made of magnifying glass.

10. Why does the light bulb blow out? 'Cause as any schoolboy knows, heat converts oxygen into moisture. When all the oxygen in the bulb becomes moisture, then the water quenches the spark.

11. Colored electricity lights red and green bulbs and stoplights.

12. Negative electricity runs refrigerators.

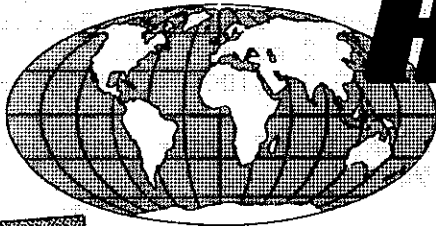
13. Some people who don't understand electricity wire their fuseboxes to hold little glass things with fuse wire in them. K find chicken wire better, and it won't blow out, even if the dryer goes up in flames.

Despite all this vast knowledge, I still don't understand a few things about electricity, like how a computer that speaks English can be programmed to speak French, which is a different voltage? Also neon signs are a mystery. How is the electricity trained to spell out things? How does the electricity know when the toast is ready?

P.S. Most of what I have learned was from *Readers' Digest*. Tnx Worldradio News. ■



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