



SHORT SKIP



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Club Station

P.O. Box 116

Repeater Station

FEBRUARY 1994 W6LFJ

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

WB6PVS

VOL 19 #2

SCRA Public Service, 1993

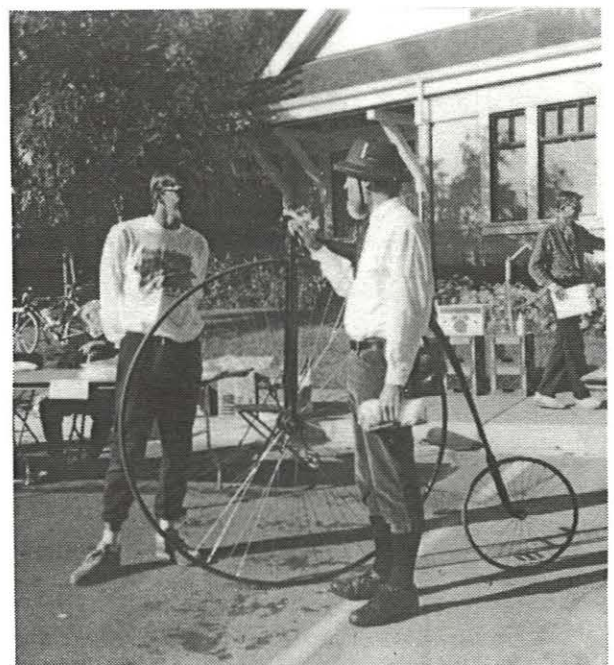


Scraps picnic KC6UXJ, N600A, KD6KWM, KD6KVO N6NSG

Super Cities KD6KRW, KC6UXJ, AB6QL



KB6PTA, AB6QL, WA2EWE, KD6CJQ, KD6POC



Clo's Classic



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	Marie Mappus	KI6QY	664-1978
REPEATER CHAIRMAN:	Jim Rutherford	WB6PER	526-2972
ACTIVITIES CHAIR:	Mike Knope	KD6LYU	762-3236
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Antennas: Joe Senft KM6TN 578-5824
 John KM6LI, Shep NH6ZY, N1AL
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VEC Exams: Dave New AA6YX 527-0981
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Education: Steve Carniglia KK6VY 538-7658
 N1AL WB6FRZ KC6RHA KK6VY
 WB6TMY K6XZ K6ZWB KC7VS
Refreshmnts at meetings: Bob Olsten WD6DPE
Raffle at meetings: Pat Reynolds KD6TYJ
Membership lottery: Jim Andrews KC6PJW
RACES RO: Jim Pelmulder N6PTM 823-7947
ARRL Liaison: Alan Bloom N1AL 538-7115
Badge Chair: Fred Leoni N6YEU 431-8202

Repeater Control Op's:

WB6PER Jim 526-2972 N6PTM Jim 823-7947
 WD6CKP Hoppy 542-6750 N6VUC Merl 584-3898
 KD6CJQ Kelly 837-9434

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: 10th of previous month

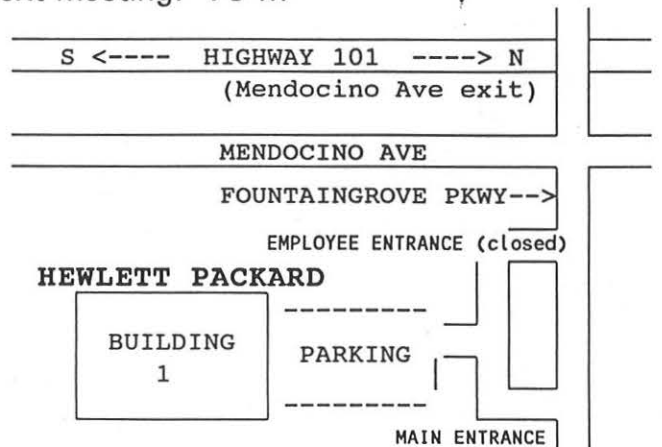
Club Meetings:

7:30 PM, 1st Wednesday each month at the Hewlett Packard plant in Santa Rosa. (See map below.) All are welcome.

Next Meeting: February 2, 1994
Program: Everything you always wanted to know about the 146.73 Repeater

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 radio, 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 7PM. You will hear the latest Amateur Radio Newsline broadcasts, announcements of SCRA activities and a Swap Shop. Membership in SCRA is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. If you would like to join, there is a membership application on page 11. Hope we can have an "eyeball" QSO with you at the next meeting! 73 ...

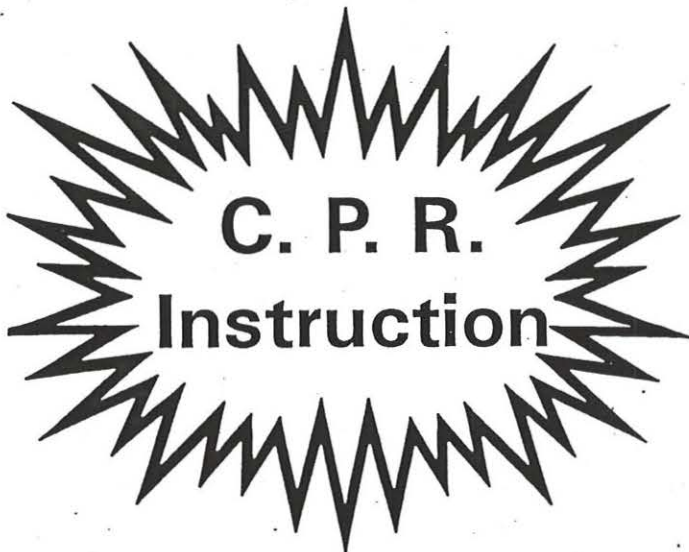


Next SCRA Meeting Wednesday, February 2

7:30 PM at Hewlett-Packard, Santa Rosa
**Everything You Always Wanted to
Know About the 146.73 Repeater
... and More!**

with Repeater Chairman Jim Rutherford WB6PER

- What about the autopatch?
- What to do about jammers.
- How does it work?
- What about the pizza rule?
- What do control operators know that I don't?
- Why can't I put a repeater on the air?
- Who owns this thing?
- Who can use it? For what? How far does it get out?
- and many more! Don't miss it. ■



January 27th 1900 hours at the Sonoma County Office of Emergency Services, Emergency Operation Center, 600 Administration Drive, Santa Rosa, CA.

We have room for 30 people in the class. For further information, contact: Paul Weichel KD6FBN, 571-1782. Cost is \$15 per person. ■

New Sonoma Valley Repeater

[Thanks VOMARC News]

Over the past few months, a small number of inspired individuals have banded together to form and finance a local repeater in the Valley. Up to this point the machine has just been a gleam in AA6GV Randy's eye. Eran KD6KVO then took up the gauntlet and beat the bushes for the initial financing.

The machine came on the air Thanksgiving day on 146.205 (+) with an 88.5 P/L. The frequency is still experimental to see if we bother anyone else. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to become a member of the "repeater group" which will include autopatch and other privileges. Membership will cost \$15 per year, which pays for maintenance, electricity, phone line, etc.

Even those who chose not to become members may still use the repeater, which is "open" for all users. The P/L is only to avoid interference with co-users of the frequency. Coverage will be limited to the Valley. The ARES/RACES group in the Valley will probably start to use the new repeater for the local Monday night nets, at approximately 7:15 PM.

Use of the machine is encouraged in order to judge coverage and any interference that may occur, and where. ■



Last month's board meeting minutes listed the date as Nov 10. It should have been Dec 8. ■



BOY, THAT READOUT REALLY JUMPS RIGHT OUT AT YOU, DOESN'T IT?



SCRAPS: SCRA Public Service

By Marie Mappus KI6QY

1994 Public Service Events

Here it is another new year. It seems as though we just finished the Public Service Events for 1993 and now it is time to start planning for 1994. The first event this year will be the Super Cities Walk on April 10th. We will need at least 14 volunteers.

Many more volunteers will be needed in the months ahead. While there are always a few dedicated people who give as much of their time as is requested, they are too few to do the job, particularly on the larger events that call for over 40 volunteers. *We need you to get involved !!!*

It was announced at the last SCRA club meeting that we now have over 300 members. Surely we should be able to get at least 1/3 of the membership, or 100 members, to volunteer for this activity. The runs and bike rides are a lot of fun and offer challenges that you do not get from just talking to your friends on the radio. Furthermore, public service events give you an opportunity to fine-tune your communication skills for RACES activities.

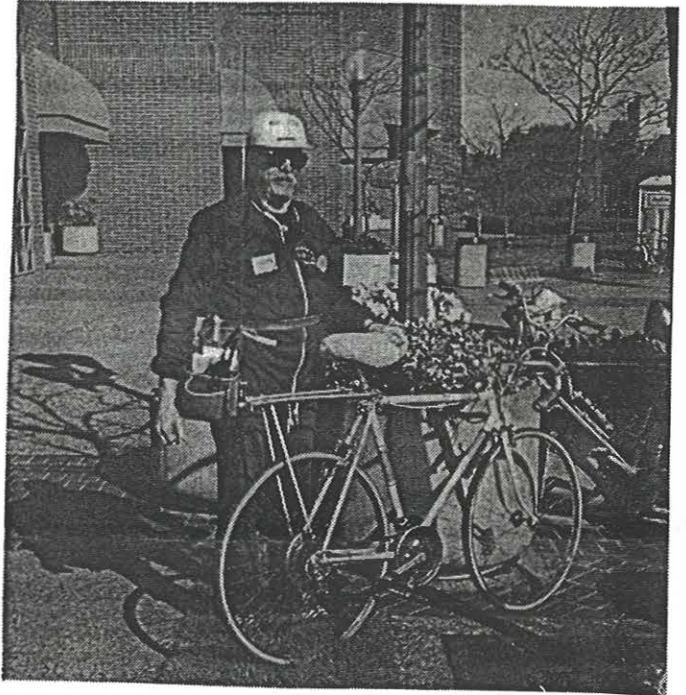
In addition, there is a lot of satisfaction in knowing that you have helped someone in need. Try it and you will see what I mean. If, for instance, someone is hurt you are there to report the injury and expedite help to the injured party. Such a quick response could save a life, depending upon the nature of the injury. Perhaps a child has gotten separated from their parents or friends. Here again, you are there to help.

The assistance that the hams give is recognized by all event officials. Many have told us after the events that they wonder how they ever managed them before the Amateur Radio operators got involved. The bikers and walkers particularly praise the hams for the sense of security and safety we give them by our presence.

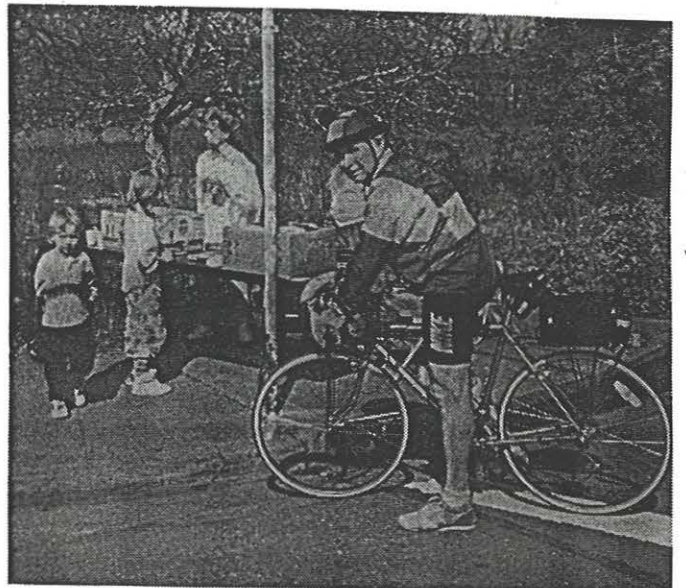
Call me at 707-664-1978 and be among the first to say "*count me in*". If you volunteer, and we hope you will, do so with the commitment that you *will* participate.

My thanks to the members who signed up as volunteers at the January meeting. We're counting on you !!!

Super Cities Walk, 3/28/93:



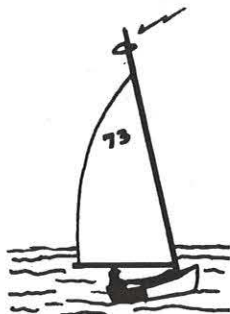
At the start: Ted KB6PTA



Rest stop #3: Ed AB6QL

Do You Have a Phone Patch?

Can anyone handle phone patches to an 887 number in Forestville? 887 is a free call from a very large area in Sonoma County.



The situation is: I am currently living on my ham-equipped boat in Mexico. My callsign is XE2/KD6UHV (soon to be XE2/KN6OA when the Mexican government processes my upgrade.) I plan to head for French Polynesia next March or so. I wonder if any local hams listen to the Maritime Mobile nets and have phone patch capability and like to use it! I have never heard anyone from the Santa Rosa area check in, but I don't listen very often.

Manana Net 14340 1830/1900 UTC
Pacific Maritime 14313 +/- 0400/0430

Pacific Maritime has a roll call beginning at 0430 of vessels underway in international waters. I will probably get on that roll call, and that would be when I would like to patch through to my son in Forestville.

Once I make landfall in French Polynesia, I am off the roll call. The French, who *do* offer reciprocal licenses, do *not* allow any third-party traffic, which includes phone patches.

Is there anyone out there interested in being a radio/phone patch link between me and my son while I attempt to sail to the South Pacific? The Forestville phone number is 887-0865. My name is Mary, my son is Berkeley. I will be in Forestville for a short time in February; otherwise I am in Mexico — at the moment in the Sea of Cortez near Lorito, Baja Sur. The boat's name is "Sapo."

I frequently come up on the Chubasco Net 7294 kHz at 1530 UTC (1600 for traffic), but Manana probably has better propagation. Anyone interested could try to contact me by radio (what a concept!), or call/write to me in Forestville and I will respond when I get the message in February.

Thank you,

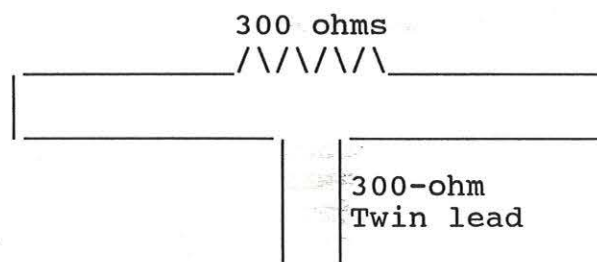
Mary White KN6OA, 887-0865, 6294
Anderson Rd, Forestville, CA 95436. ■

Ask Mr. Science

by Alan Bloom N1AL



Last month, we printed a question posted to the Internet asking whether the following antenna was any good:



Since then the following interesting reply appeared:

Hi Chase and Alan,

I saw your e-mail addresses concerning the T2FD antenna. I'm curious as to what your experiences with the antenna had been. I had put one up with nearly the identical dimensions that Roger had specified, except that I was told to use 390 ohms as the terminating resistor instead of 300 ohms for use with 300-ohm transmission line. I also used a Palomar 6:1 balun to feed the whole thing with 50-ohm coax.

I put it up at the same height as a 40-meter half-wave dipole and a TA-33 triband beam (40 feet). I found the T2FD to typically be 2 S-units below the dipole on 40 and about 6 S-units below the TA-33 on 20, 15, and 10. Turned out to be a real loser at my location.

73, Bob K2PH, Kresgeville, PA

Told ya so! On the low bands (160, 80 and 40 meters), a plain old dipole, up as high in the air as you can get it, is hard to beat.

Please send in your questions to *Ask Mr. Science* c/o SCRA, POB 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. We can pose your question anonymously, if you desire. ■



by R. L. Caron KK6GP

PICK YOUR CALL SIGN! The FCC has released its Notice of Proposed Rule Making, in PR Docket 93-305, to permit amateurs to choose a "vanity" call sign. Individuals as well as club stations would be eligible to request an available call sign from the block assigned to their license class or a lower license class.

The Communications Act specifies a fee of 7 dollars per year for amateur service vanity call signs, and allows the Commission to require payment of small fees in advance for a number of years not to exceed the relevant license term. Fee issues would be resolved under a separate FCC rule making proceeding, and a vanity call sign system would not be started until then, the FCC said.

The applicant would provide a list of up to 10 total call signs desired. The FCC would assign the first available requested call sign from the applicant's list. If none of the desired call signs was available, the applicant's current call sign would be reassigned.

Call signs of lapsed or deceased licensees would not be available for reassignment for two years. A call sign relinquished under the vanity call sign program would be available for reassignment immediately.

The FCC said that even with its new automated licensing process it did not expect to be able to offer amateurs on-line access in order to check for call sign availability, and asked for comments on how such a service could be provided. The FCC said its eventual goal is to accept license applications electronically. The comment deadline for this NPRM is March 7, 1994. Reply comment deadline is April 7, 1994.

At the same meeting, the first under new FCC Chairman Reed Hundt, Private Radio Bureau staff began by telling the FCC commissioners that recent Nobel Prize winners Joseph Taylor and Russell Hulse had begun their scientific education as radio amateurs.

FCC has scrapped proposed plans to establish private call sign administrators, and proposals

to provide instant operating privileges for new licensees at VE sessions. It is felt that when the new PRB computer is fully operational, the electronic filing of applications will provide those services automatically. The FCC also has dropped the requirement for a street address on the printed license. The mailing address is now the only means available for contacting hams. *TNX ARRL.*

HAM CONVERTERS TO BE EXEMPT FROM 93-1, the FCC prohibition on scanners and converters capable of receiving cellular transmissions. Wording in the new regulations will not specifically exclude ham equipment, but will mention the rule on converters only applies to those designed and marketed for use with scanning receivers. *TNX HAMNET.*

MORE CLUTTER ON THE 902-928 BAND can be expected with approval of another NPRM proposing expanded use of this spectrum by AVM (automotive vehicle monitoring) systems. This has always been a shared band for hams, but the trend recently has been to throw almost any service requesting more frequencies into this space. Most ham use is for ATV. *TNX ARRL.*

NO FCC LICENSE HAS EXPIRED IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS due to conversion to 10-year terms. But some of these longer terms are now nearing renewal time. Check your license and file a new 610 soon if yours is expiring within the next 60 to 90 days. That way, you may continue to operate beyond the expiration date if a paperwork bottleneck at the FCC causes a delay in sending you a new license. *TNX ARRL.*

SPACE HAPPENINGS include a new crew on the MIR space station. Alexander, ROMIR, the chattiest Soviet cosmonaut in memory, has returned to terra firma. Replacing him are Victor, U9MIR, Yuri, R3MIR, and Valery, U3MIR. Interesting to note that Valery is a medical doctor who will attempt to break the record for remaining in space by staying aloft until April of 1995. Hopefully, these hams will become as friendly as the past crew. Listen for them on 145.55 for both AX-25 packet and regular NBFM simplex voice. If you get lucky, QSL via Serge Samburov, RV3DR, P.O. Box 73, Kaliningrad-10 City, Moscow Area, 141070, Russia.

[Next page]

Board Meeting Minutes

January 12, 1994

The meeting was called to order by President Merle Pfeiff N6VUC, at 5:50pm in the meeting room at the Northbay Savings Bank. Others present were Vice President R.L. Caron KK6GP, Members-at-Large Marie Mappus KI6QY and Kelley Cureton KD6CJQ. Jim Pelmulder N6PTM, represented Treasurer Mike Michlig, KN6JQ, who was unable to attend. In the absence of Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, R.L. took the minutes of the meeting. Also present were SCRA members James Cureton KD6GSF, Joe Senft KM6TN, Dave Willey KD6KWM, and Hopyy Bravin WD6CKP.

BUDGET: The first order of business was the line-by-line examination of the 1994 budget, as revised by the combined board at the December meeting. This year's budget projects income of \$5950 and expenses of \$6335, for a net operating loss of \$385. The primary reason for the increase in expenses over 1993 is the \$1500 upgrade to the repeater which will give us battery backup during power failures. The budget was unanimously accepted. m/s KK6GP/KI6QY.

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR: Mike Knope KD6LYU, who had previously expressed an interest in the position, was nominated by N6PTM and seconded by KD6CJQ. The appointment is subject to Mike's acceptance of the full voting position of Activities Director, the primary responsibility being the organization of Field Day.

REFRESHMENTS: Bob Olsten WD6DPE, is asking for some relief in organizing refreshments at the membership gathering. He would like someone to pick up the donuts on the way to the meetings. A volunteer will be sought at the February meeting.

GREETERS: President Merle will select one or two greeters at each meeting and will provide them with a short form to give to guests and visitors so that each may be introduced in a consistent manner. He also declared his intention to revive the 25 cent fine for members not wearing a badge to the meetings.

RAFFLE CHAIRMAN: The club still needs someone to take on this responsibility. It would involve picking up the donated prizes from the contributing stores, selling tickets before meetings and during the break, and conducting the raffle at the conclusion. A pitch for this high-visibility position will be heard at the next meeting.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Steve Carniglia, KK6VY, is still looking for an instructor to teach a Novice/Technician class. This is a great way to contribute to the hobby in a very meaningful and rewarding way. Call Steve at 579-9698.

OTHER BUSINESS: Public Service Chairman Marie KI6QY announced final arrangements have been completed on the first event of 1994, the Super Cities Walk on April 10th. She also has reserved a portion of Finley Park for the SCRAPPS Picnic on August 20th.

PUBLIC SERVICE: R.L. KK6GP expressed his concern and that of many others who have worked some public service events in the past where poor planning by the organizers has placed

radio operators in a position of having to make important decisions on the allocation of resources. He emphasized that this observation pertained to only a few of the many events covered by SCRAPPS, as most have proven to be an extremely pleasant learning experience, providing invaluable training for possible emergency service by our members. The board suggested Marie inform all special event coordinators that a person of authority be assigned to net control for the duration of the time SCRA maintains communications.

ANTENNAS: Joe Senft KM6TN reports he has an appointment with Santa Rosa City Attorney Leavitt to discuss the re-working of the city ordinance on antennas. Joe's committee has made landmark progress in the past year, successfully convincing the city council that it's rules were overly restrictive, leading to the upcoming meeting where hams will have a voice in coming to a reasonable compromise. Joe also suggested that regular repeater users who are not SCRA members be invited to join. Jim N6PTM mentioned that this practice has been in effect for quite some time, albeit without any formal procedure or appointed individual.

Jim also presented a telephone bill for the repeater site that was due for payment, mentioning that the county no longer will absorb that expense. In Al's absence, he reviewed for the board a few other items from the mailbox that were determined to not be of great urgency.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52pm. m/s KK6GP/N6PTM ■

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Ham News (from page 6)

Meanwhile, the next US Shuttle flight scheduled for a late February launch will be another SAREX mission with several hams aboard. This one will be in a 57 degree orbit resulting in many high overhead passes over Northern California ideal for relatively easy voice and packet contacts. When SAREX is flying, the MIR cosmonauts go silent on 145.55 to allow the US craft to use it as a downlink-only frequency. Voice and packet uplinks to the shuttle are on 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97 and 144.99 only. Happy hunting. *TNX AMSAT.*

SCRA MINUTES

January 5, 1994



The meeting was called to order by President Merl Pfeiff N6VUC at 7:35 PM. Other officers present were Vice President R.L. Caron KK6GP, Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Repeater Chairman Jim Rutherford WB6PER, and Members-at-Large Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ and Marie Mappus KI6QY.

VISITORS: We had 11 visitors at the meeting. The club now numbers almost 300 paid-up members.

REPEATER: WB6PER was asked if the club has a 450 MHz repeater. No, but the RACES repeater on 441.375 has good coverage from Sonoma Mt. The new FCC rules re business use of amateur radio will be covered at the next meeting.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Marie KI6QY is looking for volunteers (both event coordinators and communicators) for the coming season. The first event in March is not too far away.

EDUCATION: Steve KK6VY needs instructors and assistants. Rick K6ZWB will give a 4-class (1/week) Antenna Basics course sometime in early February. The Education Hotline is a voicemail system for getting information and leaving questions about classes. The number is 579-9608.

THE NEXT VE EXAM is this Saturday at the Rohnert Park Hewlett-Packard plant. Exam schedules and 610 forms are available from Dave AA6YX. Someone mentioned that they thought the CW exams should be multiple-choice.

ACTIVITIES: We need an Activities Chairman for 1994. Meanwhile, Paul KD6FBN is planning a CPR class.

OLD BUSINESS: 1993 President Rick K6ZWB presented an award to Joe Senft KM6TN for his outstanding performance heading up the Antenna Committee. Joe reported that talks are upcoming with the Santa Rosa City Attorney's office in a couple weeks to work out antenna regulations.

The **PACKET BBS** has moved from 145.73 to 145.09 MHz as of Dec 1, according to John WX3K. The 145.73 node on Sonoma Mt. should be back on the air soon after recent wind damage to the antenna is repaired. A neat graphical Automatic Packet Reporting System by WB4APR is available for downloading. It maps the current position of other packet stations, including moving ones (mobiles).

The **SWAP SHOP** is going great guns. Dave KD6KWM reports 42-48 items, with some coming in via packet.

NEW BUSINESS: With a little prompting by Merl, we have a NCS station for January — Claude AB6OL volunteered. The 10 meter net is still going strong with Bill K9ASL as NCS.

REFRESHMENTS: Bob WD6DPE has been doing coffee and donuts for 11 years. He would like someone to help by picking up the donuts before each club meeting.

We need a **LOTTERY CHAIRMAN** for 1994. Patrick KD6TYJ volunteered to sell **RAFFLE** tickets at meetings.

WB6PER says some new members have not been getting **MEMBERSHIP PACKETS**. N1AL will have some more printed.

KD6ZZB brought some free surplus RG58 and RG59.

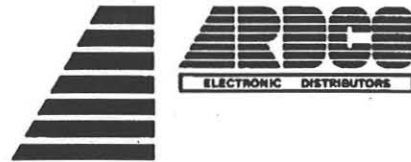
PROGRAM: Bill Mann, television critic on radio and TV, gave a lively and humorous talk about the current state of the "vast wasteland." He is starting a new show on KSRO Sundays.

LOTTERY: Ken Christensen W6LCA would have won had he been present.

The **FIELD DAY** plaque has returned to SCRA after a 3-year journey to REDX-land. We won in 1993 by a hair.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM. m/s K6ZWB/KB6PTA

Respectfully submitted by Al Bloom N1AL, Secretary. ■



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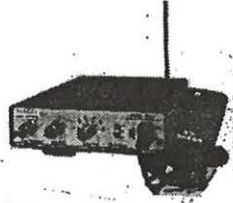
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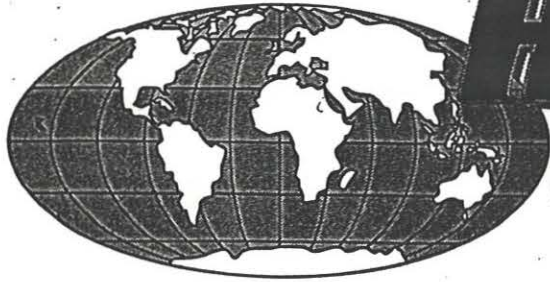
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Hank's Swap Shop (from page 12)

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I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN:

- () Public Service Events
- () RACES or ARES Emergency services
- () Field day, other operating events
- () Helping with SCRA Flea Market
- () Acting as club Net Control Station
- () Helping with *Short Skip* newsletter
- () Taking a Novice class
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Badge (New Members only)

Fill in this section exactly as you want it to appear on your badge.

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First Name _____

City _____



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(continued page 11)

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