



SHORT SKIP



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Club Station

P.O. Box 116

Repeater Station

SEPTEMBER 1994 W6LFJ

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

WB6PVS

VOL 19 #9

KB6PTA's Field Day Mobile Antenna Installation: (Photo tnx Rick K6ZWB)





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EDITOR:	Alan Bloom	N1AL (e)	538-7115
	1578 Los Alamos Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95409 (d) 577-3981		
CIRCULATION MGR:	June Linnehan	KD6LSU	
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- WB6PER Jim 526-2972 N6PTM Jim 823-7947
- WD6CKPHoppy 542-6750 N6VUC Merl 584-3898
- KD6CJQ Kelly 837-9434

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: September 7, 1994

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 Newline 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 ...

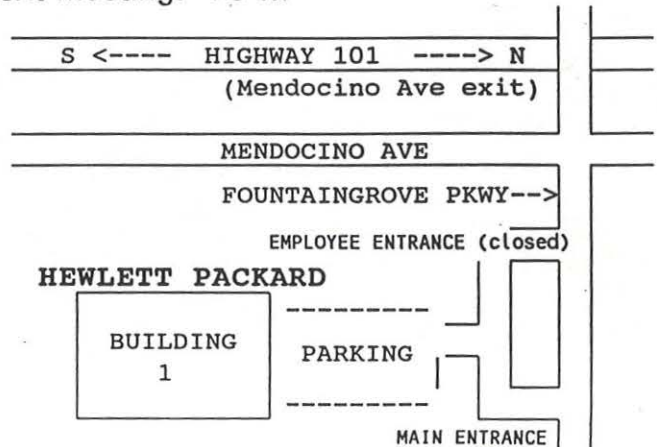
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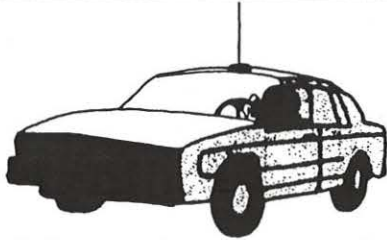
\$11 First 1/4 Column
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 (\$32 Full Page, 1 side)

Pre-printed inserts: \$32/sheet

Guaranteed circulation: 200/month
 AD DEADLINE: 10th of previous month



Fox Hunt!



The next "fox hunt" (bunny hunt, transmitter hunt, whatever) will be Saturday September 24, from 10 AM to 12 noon or so. Everybody will start from Piner High parking lot, and the "foxes" (Rick K6ZWB and Phil KC6BSI) will be somewhere within a 7-mile radius. Look for them on 146.46 MHz simplex. Bring a sack lunch for the after-hunt confab. [A clue as to the hiding location??? - ed] ■

Want to work Moonbounce?



Again in 1994, the Toronto VHF Society, VE3ONT, will participate in the ARRL EME contest using the Institute for Space and Terrestrial Science's 46 meter (150 ft) dish. Operations on 144, 432 and 1296 MHz are planned on various days during the two weekends (Oct 29/30 and Nov 26/27).

An Oscar-class station (100 watts to a long yagi) should be sufficient to make a contact. N1AL has the announcement with more info, if anyone is interested. ■

New Members & Corrections



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SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
526-9655

ROBERT BROWNE W6AHH
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LARRY GUSTAFSON KD6VUM
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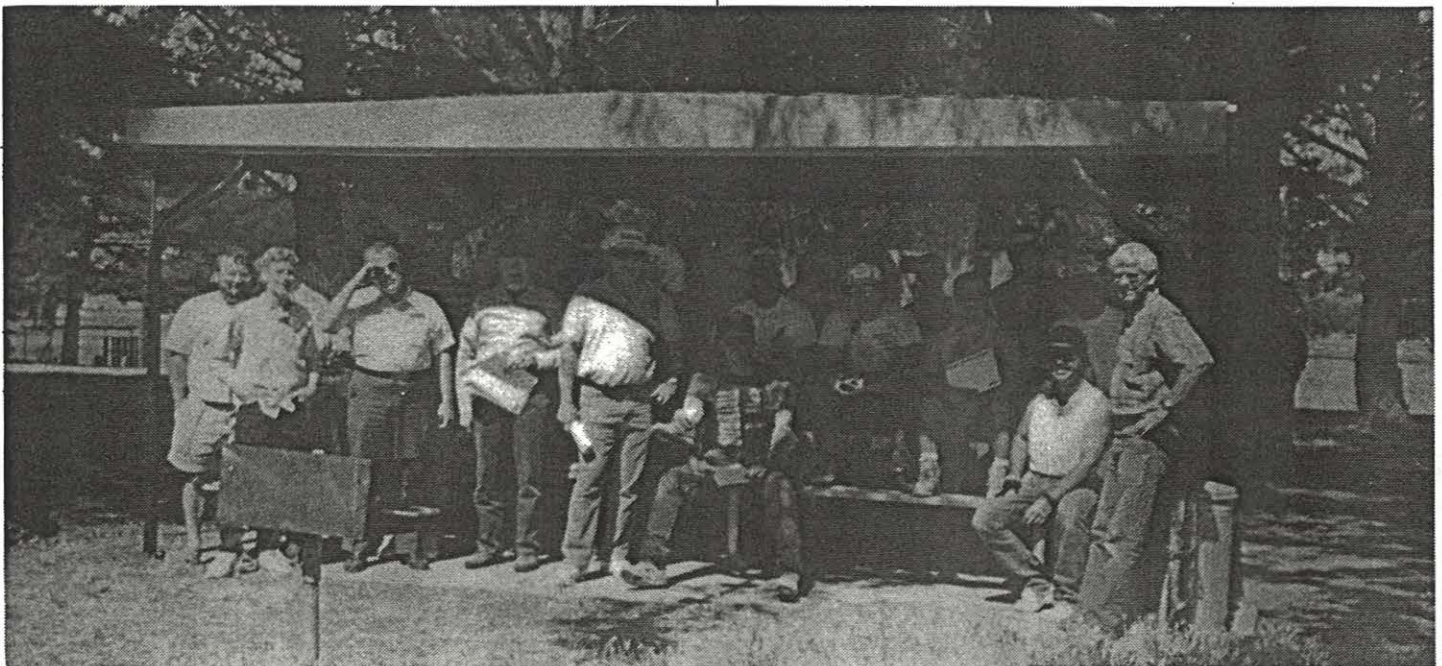
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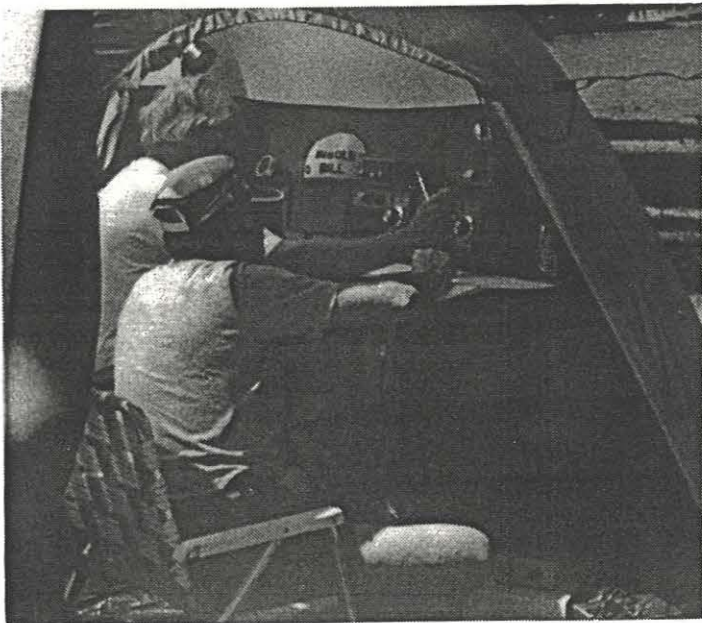
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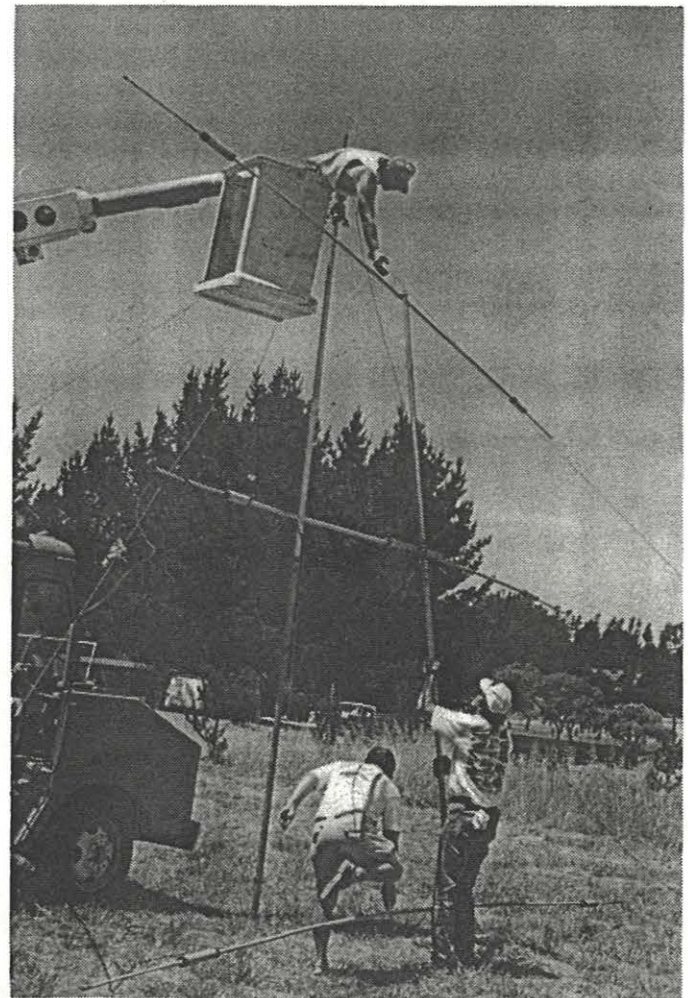
(Photo tnx John W6TLK)



(Photos tnx Mike KD6LYU)



"The fellow on top of the tower says he has to go..."



(Photo tnx Rick K6ZWB)

A Comet Story

by Dave Baysinger, WGØN



In mid-July astronomers worldwide were stunned as more than 20 pieces of shattered comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 crashed into the gas giant planet Jupiter. The fragments ranged in size from ½ to more than 2 kilometers and dove to their demise at more than 130,000 miles per hour. The Jovian atmosphere trembled and contorted. Black-eye look-alikes smudged the cloud tops and could even be seen through small backyard telescopes.

That first Saturday evening, when the first chunks were smashing around creating cosmic havoc, a small group of radio amateurs could be seen clinging to the frigid 14,264 ft. summit of Mt. Evans west of Denver. They had white knuckles, but wide grins on their cold faces, for on the evenings of July 16th and 17th, Denver Radio Club members Jim White WDØE, Tim Samaras WJØG, and Dave Baysinger WGØN, assisted by Jeff KBØHKT, Matt KB2PCN, Steve NH6S, and Steve WBØFPV, conducted two marathon ATV transmission sessions totaling 7 hours. The trembling team transmitted live color fast-scan pictures and sound downhill to the Gates Planetarium and responded to "talk-back" questions from the public in a 250 seat auditorium at the Denver Museum of Natural History. The program featured interviews with astronomers working with the 24-inch telescope on the mountain, weather reports from the summit, descriptions of the various mountain top experiments in both infra-red and visible light and, naturally, demonstrations and explanations of the ham radio link.

Technically, the lashup was awesome!. Jim WDØE received coaxial feeds from the Denver Museum's Ikegami color camera/microphone, which he injected into his 10 watt, 432 MHz ATV transmitter into an 11 element yagi beam horizontally polarized. Mountain top on-site TV monitoring insured that the transmitted picture was well synchronized and of high quality. Each evening at the Gates Planetarium, Tim WJØG positioned himself on the west walkway amid a throng of 2000 people. The received signal arrived at his yagi antenna, fed a 432 MHz receiver and down converter, then traveled via coax cable to a planetarium outdoor monitor, inside tape recorder, and large-screen (6 ft.x8 ft.) video projector in the

auditorium. Transmissions began at 6:30 each evening and ended at 10:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. respectively. Mt. Evans systems, including a 600 watt TV light, were powered by a "field day type" generator.

"Talk-back" service was provided to Planetarium Manager, Don Asquin, who spoke to WJØG from the auditorium, a signal which was uplinked to the mountain summit on 144.34 MHz. On Mt. Evans the signal was received on a trunk-mounted duo-band antenna and crosslinked to 446.100 MHz for local access to HT's on belts, in cars, and inside the metal dome of the observatory.

Throughout the operation, we got high quality ATV color pictures with clean FM sound in the jammed auditorium. Dave WGØN, our "reporter" and photographer/ATV operator on the mountain could hear questions from the public directed to the summit. Since the entire system was full duplex, it was even possible to interrupt Asquin for question clarifications.

The public was extremely pleased with the coverage — comments, applause and letters received by the Gates Planetarium attest to that. Fascinating ham radio technologies were "super-glued" together with gratifying success. Field engineers from Denver TV stations, peering from their \$250,000 microwave remote trucks, were heard to ask more than once, "...but, how are you doing this?"

High on the mountain, above 45% of Earth's atmosphere, there was a dark starry sky above and the countless lights of Colorado front range cities scattered 9000 feet below. The 35 degree cold and wind-driven chill factor combined to insure that microphones stayed firmly affixed in the hands that gripped them. "But, gosh, it's adventure, Mom." "We're Amateur radio operators." "There's a comet hitting Jupiter and we have to be first".

Tnx Denver RC "Round Table." Rich WØHEP ■

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. ■

Proposed Amendment of the Constitution and Bylaws by Jim Pelmulder N6PTM

At present, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Inc. include extensive language to separate funds used for the Repeater from those used for all other purposes. This language dates back to a time when the SCRA was formed from two different Amateur Radio clubs, one which was the "repeater club" and the other which was not. The result has been a complex formula for allocating dues, confusing bookkeeping requirements and the need to maintain unrelated bank accounts.

The Articles of the Constitution and Bylaws that relate to this subject are as follows:

CONSTITUTION:

ARTICLE X ALLOCATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF INCOME

1. SCRA monies shall be divided into two separate accounts, the General Fund and the Repeater Fund.
2. These two funds shall be kept in separate bank (or other financial institution) accounts and maintained by the Treasurer.
3. Expenditures from either fund must be approved by the Board of Directors. Any expenditures over a certain amount as defined in the Bylaws shall be approved by the General membership.
4. Repeater funds shall be used only for repeater expenses.
5. 50 per cent of all SCRA income from dues and initiation fees shall go into the Repeater Fund, the rest accruing to the General Fund until the Repeater Fund reaches an upper limit as specified in the Bylaws. When this happens, no more monies go to the Repeater Fund until it falls to its maintenance limit (as specified in the Bylaws) when the 50 per cent rule will again take hold. If the Repeater Fund drops below its lower limit (as defined in the Bylaws), the Board shall take up the matter at the next Board meeting to determine remedial action. The General Fund will not be used to bring the Repeater Fund up to its minimum.
6. The Board may from time to time authorize special fund-raising events with proceeds earmarked for one fund or the other.
7. Any out-of-the-ordinary repeater expenses shall be decided by the membership.

BYLAWS:

3. The Repeater Fund upper, maintenance, and lower limits shall all be \$750.
12. The money amount mentioned in Article X, Section 3 shall be \$250 or 50% of total club monies whichever is less.

Whereas the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Inc. have long since congealed into a homogeneous organization representing all aspects of Amateur Radio and have established a solid pattern of responsible fiscal management.

And whereas the present language of the Constitution and Bylaws is obsolete, I therefore make the following motion: (next page)

Article X and its subsections and the Bylaws be amended to read:

ARTICLE X ALLOCATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF INCOME

1. SCRA monies shall be divided into bookkeeping categories as recommended by the Treasurer and approved by the Board of Directors in conjunction with preparation and approval of the annual budget.
2. SCRA funds may be kept in separate checking and savings accounts. The location (financial institution) of these accounts shall be at the recommendation of the Treasurer and the approval of the Board of Directors. The amounts of monies to be divided between these accounts shall be at the discretion of the Treasurer.
3. Expenditures of any funds must be approved by the Board of Directors. Any expenditure over an amount specified in the Bylaws shall be approved by the general membership.

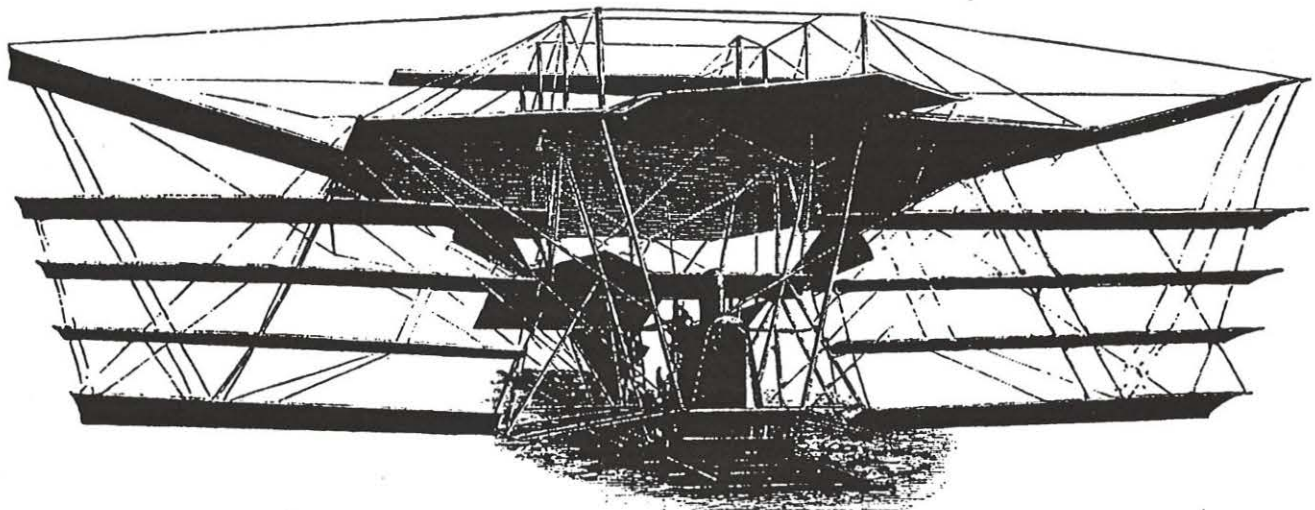
BYLAWS

3. Deleted.
12. The money amount mentioned in Article X, Section 3 shall be \$500.

End of Motion. For submission at the August 1994 SCRA meeting.

From Scientific American magazine, September, 1894:

"On Tuesday, July 31, for the first time in the history of the world, a flying machine actually left the ground, fully equipped with engines, boiler, fuel, water and a crew of three persons. Its inventor, Mr. *Hiram Maxim* [Sr.], had the proud consciousness of feeling that he had accomplished a feat which scores of able mechanics had stated to be impossible. Unfortunately, he had scarcely time to realize his triumph before fate interposed to dash his hopes. In a moment the machine lay stretched on the ground like a wounded bird with torn plumage and broken wings. Its very success was the cause of its failure, for not only did it rise, but it tore itself out of the guides placed to limit its flight, and for one short moment it was free. But the wreck of the timber rails became entangled with the sails, and brought it down."



The Maxim flying machine



of Amateur Radio

by Brad Wyatt K6WR
ARRL Div. Director

Brief Update on the ARRL July Board Meeting:

I and Vice Director Maxwell attended the ARRL Board of Directors meeting in Newington July 15 and 16. The minutes will be published in September *QST*.

It was a very productive meeting. Among other actions, by my motion, the Board voted to ask the Spectrum Committee to develop a census/inventory of *all* current and planned activity from 420 MHz to 300 GHz to prepare us for future spectrum challenges like the NTIA spectrum reallocation plan. Also by my motion, the Board commended the ARRL staff for responding extraordinarily well to the NTIA plan and FCC docket with very short turn around times and for supplying interested members with data to support their own comments.

Vice Director Maxwell developed and the Board adopted new Terms of Reference (guidelines) for the newly created RF Safety Committee.

Update on the Effort to Save the 13 cm. Band:

The big news is that on August 10, the FCC released to the Secretary of Commerce a 32-page report which analyzes the public comments, along with any comments or recommendations the FCC deems appropriate. The report strongly supports continued Amateur Radio presence in the band and disagrees with NTIA's preliminary recommendations that large portions of the band be reallocated for other uses. While the FCC report praised NTIA for its efforts, it stated that the NTIA proposals require modification. It noted that "the largest factor affecting the future use of these bands is their existing availability for use by the Amateur service."

ARRL President George Wilson W4OYI stated, "While we're not out of the woods on this one yet, it is beginning to look like the comments filed by knowledgeable West Coast hams combined with the League's Washington effort may well succeed in carving out territory for continued Amateur development in the microwave bands." Way to go, gang!

FCC Proposes HF Digital Changes:

On June 13, FCC proposed to amend the amateur rules to allow automatic control of digital stations under certain conditions on the HF bands. August *QST*, page 71, carried all the details. Please review this material and send me your thoughts as soon as possible so they can be factored into the ARRL comments by Oct. 1.

Vanity "Preferred" Callsigns - Latest News:

FCC officials have indicated that the vanity call implementation should occur by the end of the year or early 1995. The latest news is that Congress has decided to

change the \$7 per year fee for the licenses to a *one time* application fee of \$150. It was the judgment of Congress that this change was "revenue neutral" and would ease the burden of billing and collection on the FCC. Also, it would get the dollars up front which is an advantage to Congress and the Administration.

Congressional Legislative Report:

The big news is that HJR 199 has been added to HR 4522, the FCC Authorization Act of 1994. This "bundling" is a favorite tactic in Congress to get various bills which mutually support each other tied together. The FCC Act has passed all House Committees although amendments on the floor are technically possible, but not likely. The FCC bill has now been placed on the "consent calendar" (non-controversial bills) to be passed in one big vote by the House. We now need to start the "thank you process" for all 246 House members who signed on as co-sponsors.

The identical resolution in the Senate (SJR 90) now has 46 co-sponsors. CA Senator Diane Feinstein is the latest co-sponsor from the Pacific Division. What will happen to this bill is as yet unclear, but it may become part of the FCC bill when it arrives in the Senate from the House. We still need to continue to try to convince California Senator Boxer and Nevada Senators Reid and Bryan to become co-sponsors. Hawaii is 100%!

It now appears that we have the best chance in years of getting some basic Amateur Radio support legislation to become law. The long term result should be better enforcement activity and more material to help with the antenna ordinance and similar problems!

Massive FCC Reorganization:

On Monday, Aug. 1, 1994, literally all the top Civil Service officials in the FCC changed jobs as part of a massive reorganization. While the end result is difficult to forecast, there is hope for better enforcement activity and support for Amateur Radio in the long term.

Other FCC Matters - License Processing:

I have learned of several cases recently where new licenses have been received from the FCC in about 6 weeks from the time for the examination. This is down from the 12-14 weeks recently experienced. FCC apparently has applied additional resources and the new computer equipment to the process. Unfortunately, there is still a backlog of some 6,000 applications, going back to April, that require correction or questions.

Looking to the future, expect electronic filing of 610s. The procedures are now being worked out in collaboration with some VECs. The FCC plans to try some test downloads with the VECs in the fall of this year. If all goes well, the FCC could be fully on-line with the new 610 process by December 31.

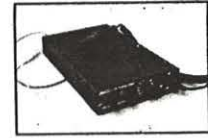
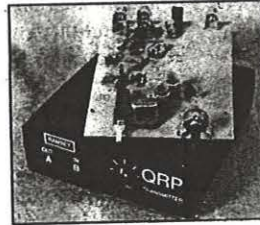
Brad Wyatt K6WR, ARRL Pacific Div Director,
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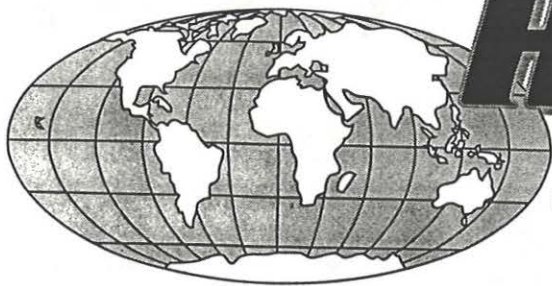
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 Addr. _____ Phone Nr _____ () New Mbr
 _____ ZIP _____ Date _____ () Renewal

Dues: \$12/year, \$18/year family. New members also pay a \$6/person initiation fee. Dues for new members *only* are pro-rated \$1 (\$1.50 family) per month, starting at renewal time, March 1.

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
- () Teaching a Novice class
- () Taking an upgrade class
- () Teaching an upgrade class
- () Other _____

Badge (New Members only)

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

Callsign _____
 First Name _____
 City _____

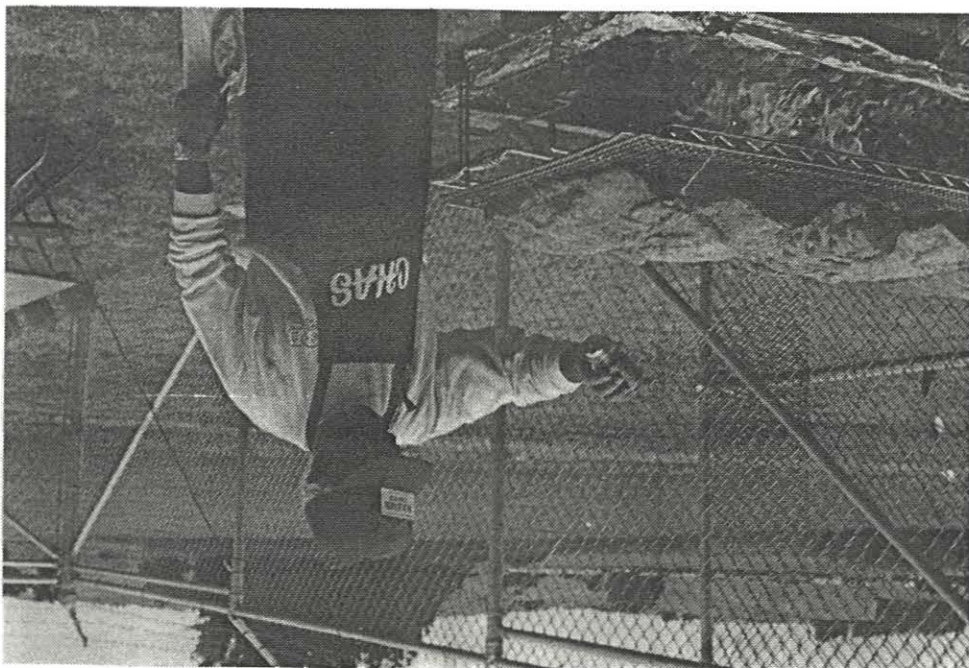
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
PO Box 116
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SANTA ROSA, CA
PERMIT NO. 658

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MICHAEL P VONDER PORTEN
KD6ZZD
1815 MANOR DR
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

DATED MATERIAL:
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



Scene from 1992 Field Day. (photo N6PLQ)