

CLUB STATION
K6SON

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116 707-579-9608

<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

Repeaters:

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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 39, Number 7

July 2014



June SCRA Update

by Pat Coyle, KG6JSL
SCRA President

The year is half over and the Club is doing well. Public Service and Activities are going smoothly. Financially we are

in good shape. Membership is up and attendance at meetings is good. My thanks to all members for their participation and enthusiasm.

We have a fascinating program for the July meeting on July 2. The subject is Spy Radio and Clandestine Communications and we have two outstanding speakers thoroughly knowledgeable in this aspect of radio communications. Sonoma County author Jeane Sloan has written a novel, "She Was an American Spy During WWII," that contains descriptions of the spy radio activities during the War. Club Secretary Dave Harrison, W6IBC, contributed technical advice and research for the novel and will bring and display his WWII/Vietnam era spy radio used in Special Forces operations.

Also part of the program is our own Charles Christian, W6CLC. Charles when in the military was involved in communications for programs of over-flights of the USSR. His later career in the CIA and State Department had Charles involved in classified communications at stations in Europe and the Middle East that included top secret programs for spy satellites, U-2 and SR-71.

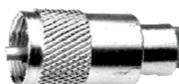
This will be a fascinating program that illuminates a little known aspect of radio communications. Public Service is well underway with successful events behind us and more to come. Check the Public Service Page on the Website and find an event to help out with. Public Service events are great practice for radio operations and are just fun to participate in by getting out of the house and contributing to the community.

At the May meeting the subject came up of perhaps establishing some sort of awards program for club members who get involved in DX or Contests. This is certainly feasible but we need a small group or 2-3 members to take charge of setting up and administering such a program. Anyone who might be interested please contact me or any club officer.

On May 31, ARES and SCRA held a joint class on Basic Radio Programming. Any competent operator should be able to manually program their radio because your computer program or power for computer programming is not going to be available in the field. The class was well received and we will have a follow-up class on July 14, 7:00 PM, at the Salvation Army HQ, 93 Stony Circle, Santa Rosa, CA. All are welcome and attendance at the previous class is not required. Check it out.

I hope all goes well for everyone and that propagation is good.

Pat, KG6JSL





2014 Club Officers

President	Patrick Coyle coylaw@sonic.net	KG6JSL
Vice President	John Felton	KE5RI
Treasurer	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB
Secretary	Dave Harrison	W6IBC
Director	Doug Payne Jeff Tonelli	KF6LMB KI6PBF
Past President	Charlie Sikes	KZ6T

Committee Lineup/Contacts

Activities	Darryl Paule, KI6MSP	ki6msp@arrl.net
ARES Liaison	Charlie Sikes, KZ6T	kz6t@arrl.net
DX/Contest	Kevin Alt, K6BSG	kalt@ieee.org
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 SCRA Web site <http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

Tuesday Night Net

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

Short Skip Advertising Rates

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

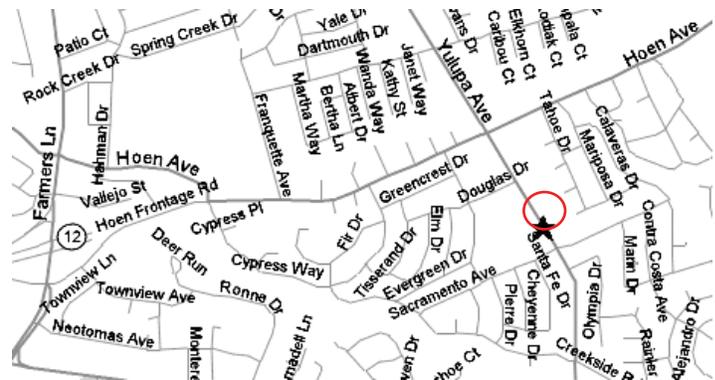
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SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 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 Famers Lane, Santa Rosa.
 People start showing up at 5:15 PM.
 No RSVP is required.

See you there every month except December.

If you are not getting the ARRL San Francisco Section news by e-mail and you are an ARRL member, be sure to subscribe under your Members Only information or go to this Web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/san-francisco>





Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Membership Meeting

June, 2014

Minutes

19:01 A quorum present, meeting called to order by President Pat KG6JSL

Introductions of the Board

New members and Guests:

Darvin Deshazer (new member – no call), Lou (guest)

19:04 Field day Presentation 2014, Presented by Brian N6IYY

“On the air from anywhere”

19:50 Presentation of new Club vest by Iola KK6HRE
Vests are available online from the Club's website store for \$22.75. They will include: Name, Call, and Club patch.

19:55 Break

20:15 Club Business Meeting

Approval of May and April minutes

- Motion by KE5RI, 2nd by WA6IOQ, Motion passed.

Announcements / Calls / Brags

- Dave mentioned that after the programming class, that he is now able to get on the air.
- John KE5RI announced that it is quite easy to renew your license using the FCC online system.
- Fred AE6SF announced that the ISS will be overhead tonight at 21:09.
- Bill WA6IOQ announced that he recently reached Florida on 6 meters with a 59+
- Doug KF6LMB gave thanks for all those who helped at the programming class.
 - Pat KG6JSL asked about interest for another class. 10+ indicated interest for around July 12th.

Directors Reports

Treasurer Mike AB6YB

- A short report was given. “We are in fine shape”.

Activity Committee Report

- Darryl KI6MSP

- o Vineman: Ops plan will go out by Thursday night
- o County Fair tentative dates are August 2 and 9.

- Charlie KZ6T

- o Mini-DX open for signups.

- Bill WA6IOQ

- o Mentioned Kids Day and the ARRL VHF contest that are coming up.

Repeater Committee report – John KE5RI

- Castle rock is still “giving us fits”, Tried many fixes, Adam climbed the tower and repaired some corrosion issues. Next step will involve checking the system with a service monitor.
- No issues at English Hill.

Education Committee Report: Jeff KI6PBF

- August tech course class dates need to be adjusted due to conflicts.

Public Service Committee Report – Craig K6XLT

- Terrible Two is June 21
- Santa Rosa Marathon (new club event) is August 24
- Later out is PCAM, Waves to Wine, and Levy's Gran Fondo
- Craig will check if we are to participate in the Annadel mountain bike event.

Emergency Services Committee Report – Charlie KZ6T

- Recap of the recent programming meeting that had already been mentioned.

Membership Committee report – Mike AB6YB

- Current enrollment is over 130 members.

Merchandise Committee Report – Iola KK6HRE

- Recap of club vests, sizes will be Large, XL, and XXL

Raffle Committee Report – None given

Refreshment Committee Report – Bob WA6NIV

- Bob needs to remove himself from duty and therefore needs a replacement.
- Pat will use his skills to get new volunteers for this position.

Continued on next page.





June Membership Meeting Minutes Continued

Shortskip and Media Committee report – Sutter

- Needs input for all committee chairs to keep the web-site up to date.

Old Business – None Reported

New Business –

- Pat KG6JSL gauged interest in forming a Club DX award. He will work on the idea some more and present it later.

Net Control signups

- June 10 John WB6FRZ
- June 17 Darryl KI6MSP
- June 24 Iola KK6HRE
- July 1 Dennis KK6JFK

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by KZ6T

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Board of Directors Meeting

June 11, 2014

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting called to order by President Pat KG6JSL at 6:10 PM at IHOP Restaurant, Fourth St at Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. Board Members in attendance included President Pat KG6JSL, Vice President John KE5RI, Treasurer Mike AD6YB, Secretary Dave W6IBC, Director Doug KF6LMB, Director Jeff KI6PBF and Past President Charlie KZ6T. Other SCRA members attending included Brian N6IIY, Darryl KI6MSP, Iola KK6HRE, and Jack K6ROW.

Minutes of April 2014 Regular Meeting of Board were approved on motion by John KE5RI, second by Jeff KI6PBF, with Charlie KZ6T abstaining. There were no officer or director reports.

Merchandise: Iola KK6HRE reported that four of the 25 vests she ordered have been purchased. Tee-shirts have been ordered and samples are expected in a week. On motion by Dave W6IBC, second by Mike AD6YB,

the Board approved spending \$250.00 for approximately 200 additional five-color club logo patches, from a source recommended by Mike AD6YB.

Refreshments: Iola KK6HRE has agreed to provide refreshments for next month's meeting, and John KE5RI has agreed to help out.

Activities: Darryl KI6MSP reported that the crystal radio project at Santa Rosa Middle School had been completed and that the participating students were very pleased. Deb KK6HRD leaves Sunday to attend the ARRL Teachers Institute. At the Vineman event, Darryl KI6MSP signed up three license class participants, and three more at his election precinct on election day. The club plans to have a booth at the Sonoma County Fair on August 2 and August 9, and awaits confirmation from the Fair. Club information booths are also planned for the Gran Fondo and the Bay Area Science Festival.

Emergency Services: Pat KG6JSL reported upon the successful radio programming class held on May 31st and plans a follow-up training session for July 12th.

DX Contest Club Awards: This proposal, discussed at the last membership meeting, needs a champion to take on the duties and responsibilities. Anyone interested in spearheading this proposal should contact Pat KG6JSL.

Education: Jeff KI6PBF reported that the August technician class has been rescheduled for August 29-31. The class will be held at the Bennett Valley Grange.

Field Day: Brian N6IIY reported that plans are coming along well for this event. He has a good number of volunteers, and plans to hold an antenna assembly training session this next weekend in conjunction with John WB6FRZ. With John KG6PEP being away, Doug KF6LMB will pick up the Breadbox trailer and bring to Field Day. The club will borrow popups from the Santa Rosa Cycling Club, and 15 chairs thanks to Iola KK6HRE. Iola will also provide information concerning Santa Rosa COPE and Fire Department information at the information booth. Brian is drafting instructions for assembly of the two meter antenna

Continued on next page





June Board Meeting Minutes, continued.

construction activity. The use permit from, and payment to, Santa Rosa for Youth Park have been received and made.

Media: The Board decided to keep the website at CDS for the time being, but requested Pat KG6JSL to have Webmaster Sutter KI6ZON line up an alternative web host, so that a switch could be made in the event of another host system failure. Pat KG6JSL also expressed his desire that Short Skip include more technical articles for members, hopefully at least one each month.

Membership: Mike AD6YB reported that the club remains prepared to receive and process new memberships. Pat will cover treasury functions during Mike's vacation.

Meetings: In July we'll feature "Spy Night" with presentations by local author Jeane Slone and member Charles Christian W6CLC.

Public Service: Calendar remains active with Terrible Two, Mendocino Rally, Tour d'Organics, Santa Rosa Marathon upcoming in next several months.

Repeater: Jack K6ROW reported continuing progress with the voter project. John KE5RI reported that the Castle Rock 2 meter repeater antenna is fine, and that the duplexer will be retuned.

VE Liaison: Brian N6IIY may combine the open session with the class exam session on August 31, depending on availability of volunteer examiners.

Old Business: SCRA needs a policy regarding loaned equipment. John KE5RI completed his inventory of club equipment. The Breadbox inventory has not yet been completed, and Dave W6IBC suggested that contents be inventoried at Field Day

New Business: Brian N6IIY looked over some ham equipment from a local ham's estate. The Board approved accepting such equipment on a donation/tax receipt basis if the family is interested. The Swap Net is not drawing much interest, and the Board suggested that it be combined with the weekly Tuesday eve-

ning Service Net. Charlie KZ6T will consider making changes and report back to the Board with recommendations.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Harrison W6IBC
Secretary

New Swap Net

SCRA is now sponsoring a SwapNet. This is a chance for amateur operators to sell or trade apparatus normally used in an amateur station to other amateur operators so long as it is not done commercially or on a regular basis.

The new SwapNet will occur on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM on the SCRA VHF repeater, 147.315 + PL88.5. Your net control operators are Frank NQ6E, Gabe KK6HQW, and Charlie KZ6T.

To list items for sale or post a Wanted ad, you have two methods to choose from:

1. Email us a short description of the item that includes the price, method of payment, and your preferred contact method. Please email information to kz6t@arrl.net. We will read the information on the Net. If you include a photo, we will have it posted up to the SCRA website along with the description.

2. Check-in to the NET and let us know you have an item for sale. If time permits, you will get your chance to list the item on the air.

To make an inquiry or purchase an item, call in after we read the description. If the listing party is available, we will ask that you move over to a simplex channel or you agree to some other contact to work-out the deal.

So, get that stuff out of the closet, get the info to Charlie's crew, and join the Net.





The Historical Suitcase Spy Radio Set

By Dave Harrison W6IBC

Ever since the discovery of radio, people have been using transmitters and receivers for clandestine, secret communications. Spy radios have taken many forms, but have certain essential characteristics:

- small enough to be carried and concealed by the spy
- powerful enough to transmit and receive coded messages and information to and from the contact station
- rugged in construction to withstand rough handling in the field including air-drops by parachute
- simple to operate and maintain with minimal technical training beyond training in Morse Code
- durable and reliable over an extended useful service life

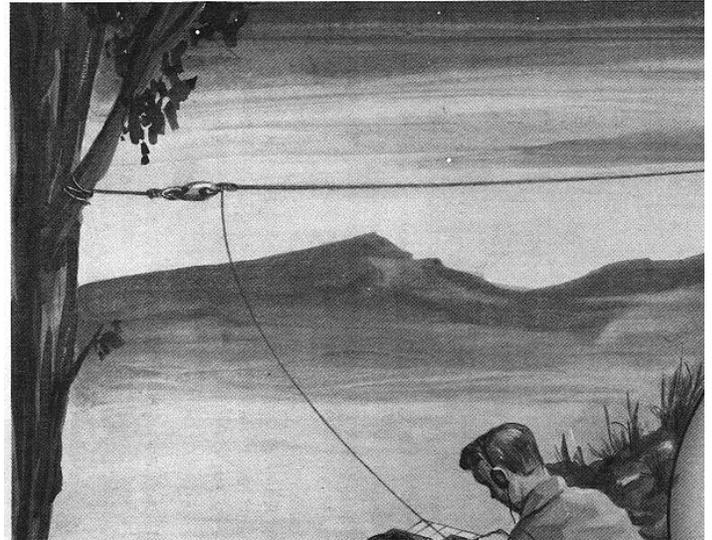
And so forth.

One of the first WW2 suitcase spy radio sets developed by the US OSS was the SSTR-1 which became available in 1942. It featured a separate receiver, transmitter, and power supply, each supplied as one of several available versions. Three bands were provided and the operating frequency range extended from 3 MHz to 15MHz in the most advanced models. Here is a picture of this set in a suitcase, recently offered for sale on line:



This unit was similar to other suitcase spy radio sets developed by various European countries during WW2. Its crystal controlled transmitter provided a CW output of about 8-15 watts.

With the beginning of the Cold War pitting the West against the Soviet Union, the CIA developed a more advanced set, known as the RS-1. The RS-1 included a receiver, a transmitter, and a variety of power supplies including one powered by a hand crank generator. The RS-1 spy radio set was used up to, and during, the Vietnam War. This image is from a US Government manual.



There have been many refinements in miniature spy radio sets since the days depicted by these early tube-based versions.

We'll be considering spies, their spy radio sets and looking at an actual RS-1 apparatus at the July 2014 SCRA membership meeting. Hope to see you there. Be sure to bring any questions you have to the meeting for our experts: local author Jeane Slone who recently wrote a historical novel entitled: "She was an American Spy during WWII"; and retired U.S Government employee and SCRA member Charles Christian, W6CLC.





CONTEST CORNER

by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Overall July is a fairly quiet month with the IARU HF World Championships and the CQ World Wide VHF contest being the highlights. If RTTY is your thing, there are several RTTY specific contests in July. Happy DX'ing!

30 Jun – 6 Jul – **Ten-Ten Spirit of 76 QSO Party** – All modes, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

1 Jul – **Canada Day Contest** – Phone/CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.rac.ca/service/contesting.

3 Jul – **CWops Weekly Mini-CWT Tests** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.cwops.org/cwt.html.

4-5 Jul – **MI QRP July 4th Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.miqrp.org.

5-6 Jul – **070 Club 40 Meter Firecracker PSK31 Sprint** – Digital, 40 meters. See: www.podxs070.com.

5-6 Jul – **DL DX RTTY Contest** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.drcg.de.

6 Jul – **DARC 10-Meter Digital Corona** – Digital, 10 meters. See: www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport.

6 Jul – **OK1WC Memorial Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.memorial-ok1wc.cz.

6 Jul – **QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.qrparci.org/contests.

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

11 Jul – **NS Weekly Sprint** – CW, 160-20 meters. See: www.nccsprint.com.

11 Jul – **FISTS Summer Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.fists.org.

12-13 Jul – **IARU HF World Championship** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contest.

12-13 Jul – **Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

13 Jul – **CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush** – CW, 20 meters. See: www.cqc.org/contests.

17 Jul – **NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: naqcc.info.

19 Jul – **Feld-Hell High Road Sprint** – Digital, 15-6 meters. See: sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub.

19-20 Jul – **144 MHz Digital EME Championship** – 2 meters. See: www.DUBUS.org.

19-20 Jul – **DMC RTTY Contest** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.digital-modes-club.org.

19-20 Jul – **CQ WW VHF Contest** – all modes, 6-2 meters. See: www.cqww-vhf.com.

19-20 Jul – **North American QSO Party RTTY** – 80-10 meters. See: ncjweb.com.

20-21 Jul – **RSGB Low Power Contest** – CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org.

21 Jul – **Run For the Bacon** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.fpqrp.org.

26-27 Jul – **RSGB IOTA Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org.

27 Jul – **Flight of the Bumblebees** – CW, 40-10 meters. See: arsqrp.blogspot.com.

SCRA Merchandise

The SCRA Merchandise Chairman has arranged for personalized Yellow Safety Vests for SCRA members. The vest can be seen on the SCRA website. The sizes come in Large, Extra large, and 2X. We have only 19 units remaining, so get your orders in quickly. If you do not use PayPal, call Iola at 538-2931 and she will work the order out for you.





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- 5/2.5/1.0/0.5/0.1W Output • RX: 0.52-1.71, 88-174, 380-479 MHz** • AM/FM/FM-N/WFM/DV • 1304 Alphanumeric Memory Chls • Integrated GPS • D-STAR Repeater Directory • IPX7 Submersible



IC-7600 All Mode Transceiver

- 100W HF/6m Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15kHz • 5.8 in WQVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope



IC-V8000 2M Mobile Transceiver

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

Analog + Digital Dual Bander D-STAR

ID-880H

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



YAESU
The radio



FTDX-3000 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

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



FT-7900R 2M/440 Mobile

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

FT-60R 2M/440 5W HT

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



FT-450D 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

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



FT-857D Ultra Compact HF/VHF/UHF

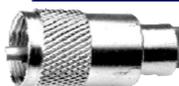
- 100w HF/6M, 50W 2M, 20W UHF • DSP included
- 32 color display • 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 required)

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To join the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, visit [our Web site](#), or complete the following application:



**Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
 Membership Application**

Please Print Clearly

New [] Renewal []

Name _____ Call Sign _____ License Class _____ Date _____

Address _____ H Phone _____ W Phone _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____

ARRL Member? Yes [] No [] Receive Short Skip newsletter via email? Yes _____ No _____

Dues & Fees: January 1 to December 31

Individual / Associate Member	\$24 (\$6.00/qtr)
Family Membership	\$36 (\$9.00/qtr)
Under 18 Membership	\$18 (\$4.50/qtr)
Badge	\$10

Payment Calculations: Make checks payable to SCRA

Dues - Full Year	\$ _____
Dues - <small>new members only</small>	
Prorated _____ Qts. x \$ _____/qtr	\$ _____
Badge	\$ _____
Other - _____	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Badge Information

Call Sign _____
 First Name _____
 City _____

Mail to: SCRA, P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

