

CLUB STATION  
K6SON

# Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

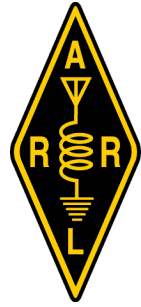
P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116 707-538-2931

<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

Repeaters:

English Hill: 147.315+ 88.5 / 224.180+ 88.5 /  
441.375+ 88.5

Castle Rock: 147.315+ 88.5



REPEATER STATION  
W6SON

Volume 42, Number 1

January 2017

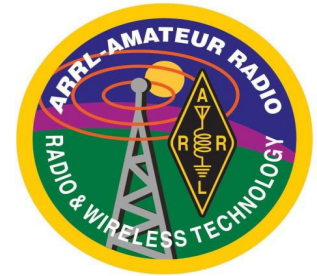
## *Foxhunting Finds Its Way Into Scouting Radio Merit Badges and Patch Programs*

Foxhunting or Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) has been around for decades. It caught on in Europe and Asia as a sport. In the 1970s these countries began staging international on-foot competitions known by several names, including **foxtailing, foxteering, radio-orienting and ARDF, for Amateur Radio Direction Finding.** The first World ARDF Championships took place in the 1980s, requiring a set of international rules.

Meanwhile in the U.S., transmitter hunting was done in heavily equipped vehicles and called T-Hunting.

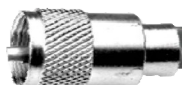
The first formal multi-national foxhunt on US soil took place in May 1991. It was put on by the Friendship Amateur Radio Society (FARS) of Portland, Oregon. FARS came into being as the result of a Sister Cities arrangement between Portland and Khabarovsk, a similar-sized city in Asiatic Russia. Ham operators of Khabarovsk invited a delegation of Portland hams to their home city in 1989 for a series of radiosporting events, including a European/Asian style foxhunt. Everyone had so much fun that it was decided to hold future Friendship Games every two years. (<http://www.homingin.com/intlfox.html>).

There are normally 5 foxes that transmit for 60 seconds each and alternate so that each broadcasts every 5 minutes. Foxes can be tuned to transmit in the 2 meter or 80 meter bands. Contestants use radios, compass and maps to plot their courses.



In 2016, ARRL and the Girl Scouts released their [Radio and Wireless Technology Patch Program](#) which along with traditional HAM activities includes foxhunt participation.

For 2017 Boy Scouts of America have revised their [Radio Merit Badge](#) to include a fourth activity option, Foxhunting, in the newest revision.



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JANUARY 2017**

**Happy New Year!** May 2017 bring us all great fun and fortune.

2016 was a wonderful year, full of projects, educational opportunities, and fun. Many of our members have upgraded their licenses, we have added over 37 new members, and several young hams have stepped up to take responsibility in positions of leadership. To them I say THANK YOU!

What is to come in 2017? New leadership, lots of public service opportunities with chances to grow SCRA in community service; more administrative organizing so procedures will be documented for future years to come; continuing education for all levels of licenses, with the hope that we give all of our members a chance to participate whenever they can and to become even better hams in the process.

**THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY DINNER**

Again this activity was well attended. About 60 members and guests enjoyed Brian's turkey and ham and side dishes brought by attendees, and lots of desserts. More food than we could consume! The decorating committee did a great job of turning the hall into a pleasant seasonal environment. Volunteer Appreciation Certificates were given to those members who gave of their personal time to SCRA 2016 activities and events (those not in attendance will get their certificates at the January meeting). Bill Hillendahl, ARRL's Section Manager, presented two ARRL Life Time Service Awards to our own John Breckenridge and Brian Torr for their many years of service and mentoring. See picture elsewhere in this publication. The major prize of an HT radio went to Martin KI6BQM, with lots of fun prizes handed out by Pat KG6JSL.

**2017 PLANNING MEETING**

We will meet on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Red Cross Building on Aero Drive at Airport Boulevard, 9am

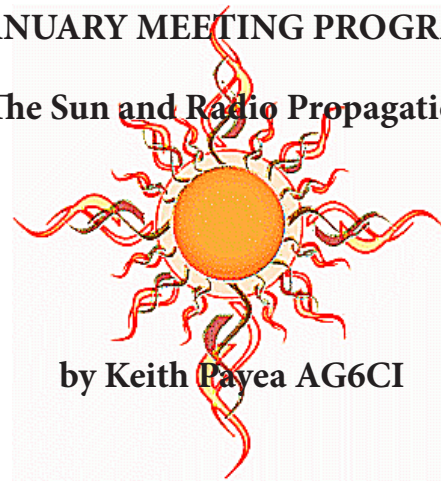
(revised to 9:30am) until we complete our calendar, come up with a budget, and have the meeting Programs outlined for the year. All members are welcome to attend and bring their suggestions. Lunch will consist of deli sandwiches that you will assemble yourselves, water and coffee. Any special diet food or drinks should be brought by the individuals. We will ask for a small donation to deplete the cost.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

The following new member are recognized and welcomed: Mike KE6IID; Phil KM6GYZ; Eduardo KK6UVD; Henry KK6ZOD; Thomas KM6GUP.

Here's to an even better year in 2017!!

Iola KK6HRE  
SCRA President

**JANUARY MEETING PROGRAM****The Sun and Radio Propagation**

by Keith Payea AG6CI

**JOIN ARRL, THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE**

The ARRL is the national organization of Amateur Radio. It represents Amateur Radio at International Conferences and before the FCC. Get the monthly QST magazine, insurance for your equipment and too many other benefits to mention here. Click <http://www.arrl.org/membership/>



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>

## 2017 Club Officers

President	<a href="#">Iola Beckley</a>	KK6HRE
Vice President	<a href="#">Joe Fortuna</a>	K6AWA
Secretary	<a href="#">Kathy Wells</a>	KK6KGW
Treasurer	<a href="#">Aaron Marroquin</a>	KK6ZDB
Director	<a href="#">John Felton</a>	KE5RI
	<a href="#">Laura Tighe</a>	AG6PE
Past President	<a href="#">Patrick Coyle</a>	KG6JSL

## Committee Lineup/Contacts

Activities	Laura Tighe, AG6PE	laurati@hotmail.com
Programs	John Felton, KE5RI	jrfke5ri@aol.com
Community Outreach	Darryl Paule, K16MSP	ki6msp@arrl.net
DX/Contesting	Doug Payne, KF6LMB	dougpayne1@earthlink.net
Education	Dave Harrison, W6IBC	w6ibc@arrl.net
Emergency Services Liason	Pat Coyle, KG6JSL	coylaw@sonic.net
Field Day	Brian Torr, N6IY	n6iyy@arrl.net
License Trustee	John Felton, KE5RI	jrfke5ri@aol.com
Website Manager	David Kraybill, K16UGB	shortskipeditor@gmail.com
Membership	Karen Stutz-Miller, KK6GJW	kk6gjw@gmail.com
Merchandise		
Public Service		
Refreshments	John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ	wb6frz@arrl.net
Repeater	Jack Christensen, K6ROW	K6ROW@sonic.net
Roster Editor	Bill Dornbush, KM6BYD	bill@dornbush.net
Volunteer Examiners	Brian Torr, N6IY	n6iyy@arrl.net
Weekly Email Blog	Pat Coyle KG6JSL	coylaw@sonic.net

## Short Skip & Web Staff

Short Skip Editor	David Kraybill, K16UGB	shortskipeditor@gmail.com
Website Manager	David Kraybill, K16UGB	shortskipeditor@gmail.com
Web Staff	David Pearson, KM6DVH	grecojava@gmail.com

SCRA E-Mail	K6SON@arrl.com
SCRA Web site	<a href="http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com">http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com</a>

## 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

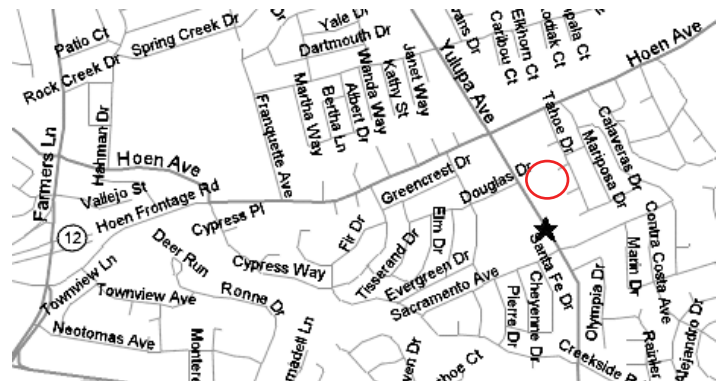
**Short Skip** is published monthly and copyright 2015 by the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Permission to reprint articles is granted provided the source is properly credited. Items printed do not necessarily represent the views of the SCRA or its editors. Letters, photos and articles sent to Short Skip are subject to editing and may or may not be printed.



## SCRA Club Meetings

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

Meeting location:  
Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center  
2050 Yulupa Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA



All are welcome!

Please join us at our next meeting. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio may be eligible for membership. A membership application is included in this newsletter.

For more information, contact any SCRA officer, director or member. Hungry before the meeting?

Join us for dinner! We Meet at IHOP restaurant, 4th and Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. People start showing up at 5:15 PM. No RSVP is required.

## Board of Directors Meeting

The SCRA Board of Directors will meet monthly on the Second Wednesday at the IHOP Restaurant, Fourth Street, Santa Rosa (in the Safeway/CVS Pharmacy center). All members are welcome to attend, no reservations necessary. Arrive around 5:15- 5:30pm for dinner. Meeting starts at 6:00pm.



## LOANER RADIOS AVAILABLE

The Club has a variety of radios available to members to try out and improve their skills. We have a Kenwood T590 SG HF radio; Yeasu FT 2900 2 meter mobile; Yeasu FT1D, an analog/digital 2 meter and 440mhz HT; Yeasu FT 60, a 2 meter and 440 mhz HT; and a TYT TH-F5 VHF 2 meter HT. Trying these out is an excellent way to learn some radio and test before you buy. Contact Joe, K6AWA, at [k6awa@yahoo.com](mailto:k6awa@yahoo.com) with your request. Joe will forward an information form to you by return email.

## UPGRADE TO GENERAL OR AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS

Get more privileges and enjoyment from your Ham Radio Hobby. [Mentoring assistance](#) is available. Contact Dave W6IBC, SCRA Education Chair, at 707-838-8155 or [w6ibc@arrl.net](mailto:w6ibc@arrl.net).

### Tuesday Night Net

The Sonoma County Radio Amateurs' net meets Tuesday at 7:00 PM on the SCRA repeater, 147.315, positive offset, PL 88.5.

All members and guests are invited to check in. The Net includes updates on SCRA activities, and News-line, the amateur radio community news service.

Anyone wishing to work as net control should contact lola kk6hre, at [K6SON@ARRL.NET](mailto:K6SON@ARRL.NET) for assignment. Script and logs are available on the Website at <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/resources/net-script/>



### 10 Meter Net

There will be a net on 10 meters hosted by Joe K6AWA at 8:30pm (new time) following the regular SCRA net Tuesday nights. Set your dial to 28,402.00 SSB, USB. Please note that all license classes (including technician) are welcome.

## ANNUAL DUES REMINDER

Annual Dues are due January 1, 2017. There are a couple of ways to pay your dues:

1) Go to Club Website, <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>, click on Store, pay by Pay Pal.

2) If you do not like Pay Pal, there is form there you can print out and send in. (3rd to last page of this issue.)

Send it to SCRA, Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95404 or bring money and completed renewal form to the January meeting.



Not hands free? Just pull over and tap out the CW.

## Kids Net

Kids Net meets Thursdays at 7:30 pm on the Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society repeater at 146.910 MHz - PL 88.5 Petaluma.

Hosted by Ellen KJ6BHG and Joseph KJ6BHH for kids of all ages. It is focused on kids still in school, but all are welcome. They said to bring jokes to share.

**CONTEST CORNER** by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Happy New Year. Lots of different contests in January including the winter field day and the "Peace Messenger Cities (PMC)" contest. Of note, operation from an "uninsulated" car or van is considered outdoors for the winter field day. Setup is limited to 12 hours prior to the start of the contest. Happy DX'ing!

1 Jan – **AGB New Year Snowball Contest** – All modes, 80 meters. See: [www.qsl.net/eu1eu/aggb\\_nysb.htm](http://www.qsl.net/eu1eu/aggb_nysb.htm).

1 Jan – **SARTG New Year RTTY Contest** – 80-40 meters. See: [sartg.com/contest/nyrules.htm](http://sartg.com/contest/nyrules.htm).

1 Jan – **AGCW Happy New Year Contest** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: [www.agcw.org/index.php/en](http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en).

3 Jan – **ARS Spartan Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: [arsqrp.blogspot.com](http://arsqrp.blogspot.com).

4 Jan – **UKEICC 80 Meter Contest** – SSB, 80 Meters. See: [www.ukeicc.com](http://www.ukeicc.com).

7 Jan – **POSXS 070 Club PSK Fest** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: [www.podxs070.com](http://www.podxs070.com).

7 Jan – **Kid's Day Contest** – Phone, all bands. See: [www.arrl.org/kids-day](http://www.arrl.org/kids-day).

7-8 Jan – **SKCC Weekend Sprintathon** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: [www.skccgroup.com](http://www.skccgroup.com).

7-8 Jan – **WW PMC Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: [www.s59dcd.si/en10](http://www.s59dcd.si/en10).

7-8 Jan – **Original QRP Contest** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: [www.qrpcc.de](http://www.qrpcc.de).

7-8 Jan – **ARRL RTTY Roundup** – 80-10 meters. See: [www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup).

7-8 Jan – **EUCW 160 Meter Contest** – CW. See: [www.eucw.org/eu160.html](http://www.eucw.org/eu160.html).

8 Jan – **DARC 10 Meter Contest** – SSB/CW, 10 meters. See: [darc.de/referate/dx/contest](http://darc.de/referate/dx/contest).

11-15 Jan – **AWA Linc Cundall Memorial Contest** – CW, 160-40 meters. See: [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org).

14 Jan – **Old New Year Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: [www.radio.ru/cq](http://www.radio.ru/cq).

14-15 Jan – **UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: [uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules](http://uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules).

14-15 Jan – **North American QSO Party** – CW, 160-10 meters.

See: [www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf](http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf).

15 Jan – **NRAU-Baltic Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters. See: [www.nrau.net](http://www.nrau.net).

16 Jan – **Run For the Bacon QRP Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: [qrptest.com/pigrun](http://qrptest.com/pigrun).

19 Jan – **NAQCC CW Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: [naqcc.info](http://naqcc.info).

20 Jan – **LZ Open Contest** – CW, 80-40 meters. See: [www.lzopen.com](http://www.lzopen.com).

21-22 Jan – **Hungarian DX Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.ha-dx.com/HADX](http://www.ha-dx.com/HADX).

21-22 Jan – **North American QSO Party** – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: [www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf](http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf).

21-22 Jan – **WAB 1.8 MHz Phone Contest** – Phone, 160 meters. See: [wab.intermip.net](http://wab.intermip.net).

21-22 Jan – **Feld-Hell Sprint** – Digital, 160-40 meters. See: [sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub](http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub).

21-23 Jan – **ARRL January VHF Contest** – All modes, 6 meters and up. See: [www.arrl.org/january-vhf](http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf).

25 Jan – **SKCC Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.skccgroup.com](http://www.skccgroup.com).

25 Jan – **NAQCC CW Sprint** – CW, 160 meters. See: [naqcc.info](http://naqcc.info).

25 Jan – **UKEICC 80 Meter Contest** – CW, 80 meters. See: [www.ukeicc.com](http://www.ukeicc.com).

27-29 Jan – **CQ 160 Meter Contest** – CW, 160 meters. See: [www.cq160.com/rules.htm](http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm).

28 Jan – **Montana QSO Party** – All modes, 160-0.7 meters. See: [fvarc.org/](http://fvarc.org/).

28-29 Jan – **REF Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: [concours.ref-union.org](http://concours.ref-union.org).

28-29 Jan – **BARTG RTTY Sprint** – 80-10 meters. See: [www.bartg.org.uk](http://www.bartg.org.uk).

28-29 Jan – **UBA DX Contest** – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: [uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules](http://uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules).

28-29 Jan – **Winter Field Day** – All modes, all bands. See: [winterfeldday.com/rules](http://winterfeldday.com/rules).

For additional contest calendars and resources check:

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)

[ARRL Contests Page](#)



## PLANNING DAY 2017

Planning Day will take place on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the Red Cross Building, 5297 Aero Dr., Santa Rosa, 95403. 9:30 gathering time for coffee and rolls, meeting will start no later than 10am with lunch at Noon, continuing until all business has been concluded. If you can't stay for the entire meeting, please come and go as your schedule demands.

---

### DISASTER MESSAGING CLASS

There will be class for Basic Disaster Messaging held on Saturday, February 11, 2017, from 9 AM until noon, at the City of Santa Rosa Utilities Field Office, 35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, Ca. The class will cover disaster messaging protocols, forms and radio technique, primarily written messages. This will be interactive so bring your HT, set for 146.535 Simplex. RSVP is requested. Check with Pat, KG6JSL, [coylaw@sonic.net](mailto:coylaw@sonic.net). More information as the date approaches. Look forward to seeing you there.

---

### NOISE? RFI? GROW LIGHTS

If you are getting excessive noise at your radio location, the SCRA RFI Committee has modern directional tools to track it down. As recreational marijuana becomes legal and residential grow operations expand, it is likely the S-9 noise from grow light ballasts will increase. Call on the RFI Committee to track it down. Contact Pat, KG6JSL, at [coylaw@sonic.net](mailto:coylaw@sonic.net)



## International DX Convention 2017

Dear DXers,

I would like to extend a personal invitation to you and Members of your Club to attend the International DX Convention 2017 in Visalia, California on April 21-22-23, 2017.

IDXC 2017 will be our 68th annual International DX Convention. DXers from around the world will gather once again to meet their fellow DXers, attend interesting and informative programs, see the latest in new products from the top vendors – and have a chance to win some great raffle prizes! This year Friday, April 21, 2017 will be a full day of training, presentations and vendor exhibits.

Full details of IDXC 2017 are at this website: <http://www.dxconvention.com/>

You can download the IDXC 2017 PR Kit here: <http://www.dxconvention.com/files/idxc2017-prkit.zip>

The IDXC 2017 PR Kit contains:

- An IDXC 2017 Flyer that you can include in your Club newsletter and post at your DX gathering place.
- A short IDXC 2017 PPT slide show you can use for your Club meeting
- An IDXC 2017 color advertisement that you can include in your Club newsletter
- A Visalia Vacation Options brochure - Visalia is just a few hours from world-class California vacation destinations, and we encourage all our DXing friends to combine their visit to IDXC with a vacation.

Thank you, and I hope to see you and many of your Club members at our International DX Convention next April!

- 73 and good DX de Mike, K6MKF, IDXC 2017 Committee





December 15, 2016

Dear Amateur Radio & DX Enthusiast,

Are you waiting to see how Dayton does in its new home, but still want to meet and mingle with all your DX friends? Are you saving money for yet another tower, rig or amp? Then Join us next year for a fun event: The 68th International DX Convention in Visalia, CA., April 21 – 23, 2017!

IDXC 2017 is sponsored by the Northern California DX Club at the beautiful Visalia Convention Center in downtown Visalia, CA. IDXC is the premier DX Convention in the United States, and is attended by hundreds of serious DXers and Contesters looking to improve their skills, upgrade their stations and spend some quality hands-on time with the vendors' latest equipment offerings. If you're interested in getting involved in DXing, this a great place to start!

Convention Highlights:

- We've added a day!
- Onsite Registration begins on Thursday afternoon, April 20, 2017 at 3:00 PM local time
- Convention is now a full 2.5 Days: Friday (April 21); Saturday (April 22); 1/2 day Sunday (April 23)
- 15-20 DX & Technical Seminars now on both Friday & Saturday
- Excellent Keynote Speakers
- 35-40 Exhibitors in large Exhibit Hall offering all the latest gear Friday and Saturday
- ARRL QSL Card Checking
- Great Raffle Prizes
- Open DX Forum; Contest Forum; ARRL Forum; YL Forum
- Optional training on Friday : Contest Academy - Basic & Advanced Contesting Techniques
- Eyeball QSOs with your DXing friends, or make some new ones!
- Optional Friday Dinners: Top Band Banquet or IOTA Banquet or Contest Banquet
- Optional Saturday Visalia Tour
- IDXC Registration is now open!
- For more information and to register, visit our website at: [dxconvention.org](http://dxconvention.org)

IDXC 2017 will be the biggest and the best International DX Convention yet, and we hope you'll be able to join us to enjoy it all!

73,

John Miller, K6MM  
 Rich Seifert, KE1B  
 Kevin Rowett, K6TD  
 IDXC 2017 Co-Chairmen





## Minutes SCRA Board of Directors Meeting December 14, 2016

The December 2016 Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order by President Iola KK6HRE at 6:00 PM at IHOP restaurant, 2745 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Rosa. SCRA Board members present included President Iola, Vice President Brian N6IYY, Treasurer Wells KK6EXC, Secretary Dave W6IBC, Director Joe K6AWA and Past President Pat KG6JSL. Director Shelley KK6JXM was absent. A quorum of Directors was present. Other SCRA members in attendance included Doug KF6LMB, Charlie KZ6T, Jeff KI6PBF, Cornell W6HMN, Karen KK6GJW, and incoming 2017 Board Members John KE5RI and Laura AG6PE.

President Iola announced that in 2017 Laura AG6PE will serve as Activities Chair, John KE5RI will handle meeting programs, and Karen KK6GJW will serve as Membership Chair.

Minutes of the November 2016 Board Meeting were approved on motion by Wells KK6EXC, second by Pat KG6JSL.

Treasurer Wells KK6EXC presented a statement of cash flows for November, 2016, showing disbursements exceeding receipts by \$1151.00. The Board noted that most of the negative cash flow represented equipment (asset) purchases, rather than ordinary expenses.

Secretary Dave reported on asset records accumulated from reports from committee chairs. The Board will appoint a member in January 2017 to conduct an inventory of all of the club's assets and bring the inventory records up to date. Dave delivered the 2016 records to Iola for transmittal to the 2017 Secretary.

President Iola presented a request for contribution presented by the Salvation Army. The Board expressed the view that SCRA members donate their time to the club and to the community, not Club financial assets. Individual members are encouraged to support charities of their own choice.

Director Joe presented a review of the equipment lending program and noted that he had received several requests for VHF "DMR" hand helds. (DMR means "Digital Mobile Radio System" and is a CODEC format derived from Motorola for Ground Mobile Radio Service radios). Joe said that Chinese-made DMR-capable radios are available for about \$100.00 and suggested that the club look into acquiring several to add to the growing list of loan-out assets being managed by Joe. After discussion, the Board asked Joe to investigate local DMR repeater capabilities and

formulate a plan for 2017.

Holiday Party Chair Brian N6IYY reported that while the party was well received, he was not satisfied with the on-line sign up process. Brian would like to have a system which indicates by a "pie chart" the distribution of dishes as between salads, sides, and desserts that members will be bringing to the party.

In New Business, President Iola noted the request by Medalist Sports for SCRA to staff a three day event in May 2017. This event occurs during the week. After discussion the Board decided that SCRA would not be in a position to help out with this event. The City of Santa Rosa has asked the club to support two Vineman triathalon events in 2017. While the Board expressed its desire to help the City in every way possible, it is not clear at this point that the club will be able to support these events without solid support from the membership. Director Joe suggested that the request for volunteers for public service events be presented at the beginning of membership meetings rather than at the end.

Through Google, the Club has a new telephone number 707-583-1590. Calls to this number are presently forwarded to Iola's cell phone. It is easy to change call forwarding when a new president takes office.

President Iola presented draft procedures manuals she has assembled for each office and chair position. She expects that 2017 officers and committee chairs will help her improve and refine these manuals. She hopes that these procedure manuals will encourage members to become more active in accepting leadership roles with the club, since duties and responsibilities will be clearly spelled out. The Board commended Iola for her efforts in this regard.

President Iola announced that the 2017 Planning Meeting would be held at the Red Cross on Aero Drive at Airport Blvd on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9AM (revised to 9:30AM).

Past President Pat KG6JSL thanked Dave W6IBC for his service as 2016 Secretary.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Harrison W6IBC  
Secretary







The SCRA Holiday Party on December 7<sup>th</sup> included a special recognition by the American Radio Relay League, the National Association for Amateur Radio. Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, the ARRL's San Francisco Section Manager, presented John WB6FRZ (right) and Brian N6IIY (left) with certificates honoring their many years of service to SCRA and to the ARRL. Congratulations to Brian and John! (Photo and note by Dave W6IBC).

## An Introduction to ThumbNet

My name is Wade VanLandingham and I manage a non-profit organization called ThumbNet. (<http://www.thumbsat.com/thumbnet>) To quote part of our own page: ThumbNet was born to encourage students around the world to look up at the stars and to give them a chance to feel that they are part of something larger. The hardware to track and monitor radio signals from satellites in orbit is donated to the schools by ThumbNet, and with over 240 volunteer groups in more than 72 countries, we're having an immediate and positive effect on the lives of hundreds of students around the globe!

I have a small press release about a new receiver for Software Defined Radio (SDR) (<http://www.arrl.org/software-defined-radio>) that we developed for ThumbNet, that may interest your members.

ThumbNet's N3 SDR receiver is unique in its design and it is competitive in cost with the majority of the SDR dongles on Amazon or eBay. We design and produce updates of the receiver to meet the needs of the ThumbNet network, (This is the 3rd generation.) but due to minimum order quantities from the manufacturer, we end up with several hundred more than we need each time we do so. In order to not have thousands of SDR radios laying around, I try to offer them to others that share our education efforts (like Girl Scouts) or simply may have an interest in working with them (like HAM clubs). The small proceeds that remain go right back into the project to support its continued outreach and growth, and not into someone's retirement fund.

Visit the page here: <http://www.thumbsat.com/thumbnet> and <http://www.nongles.com> to learn more and consider supporting ThumbNet. Reviews are also beginning to appear on various SDR blogs such as <http://www.rtl-sdr.com>.



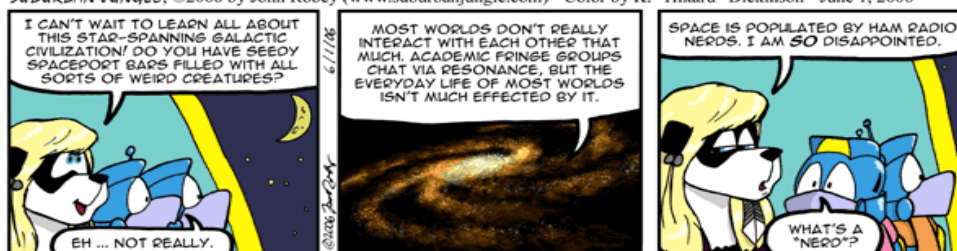
The N3 receiver in the custom made aluminum case.

### Supporting a Great Cause

100% of the profits from the sale of the N3 are used to support ThumbNet, the non-profit organization that is helping students around the world learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) as well as Space, Radio and Meteorology. All at the same time!

You can read more about ThumbNet here (<http://www.thumbsat.com/thumbnet>), but to summarize: ThumbNet was born to encourage students around the world to look up at the stars and to give them a chance to feel that they are part of something larger. The hardware to track and monitor radio signals from satellites in orbit is donated to the schools by ThumbNet, and with over 200 volunteer groups in more than 72 countries, we're having an immediate and positive effect on the lives of hundreds of students around the globe! ThumbNet averages three new volunteer groups a week, so when you buy an N3 receiver for your workshop, you'll know that you're making a difference by supporting a global effort to educate and inspire students.

SUBURBAN JUNGLE. ©2006 by John Robey (www.suburbanjungle.com) • Color by K. "Hikaru" Dickinson • June 1, 2006



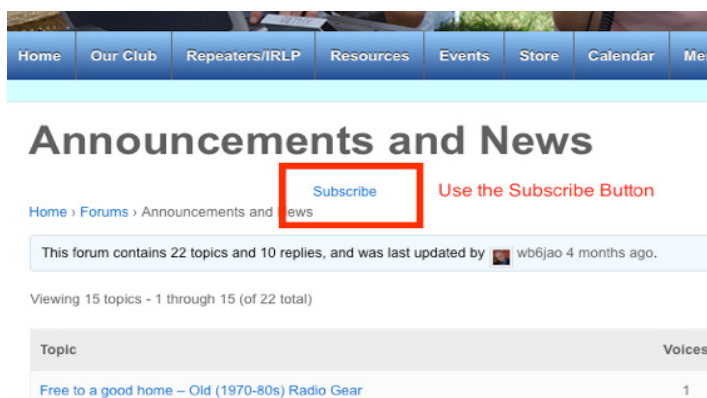


## SCRA Website Forum

So how many of you know that the SCRA website has a forum page? Its there for all members to use. There is a Section for Activities, Announcements and News, Public Service, and Technical Issues. To visit the site,

Navigate to the SCRA website,  
Log in as a member  
Click on Member Area, then [Forums](#)

While you are on the individual Forum pages, make sure to click on SUBSCRIBE. This will send you an email when a new question gets posted. Don't worry about your inbox getting flooded with junk emails. Only valid members can post to the site.



### Ham Radio Raspberry Pi Projects

Click the banner above for access to plans for:  
FM broadcast transmitter Raspberry Pi  
APRS iGate with Raspberry Pi  
Raspberry Pi SDR Receiver  
Raspberry Pi as RTL2832 Remote Server  
Raspberry Pi WebSDR  
Raspberry Pi WSPR beacon  
Slow Scan TeleVision with Raspberry Pi  
SDR Server with Raspberry Pi  
Icom IC 7100 - Raspberry Pi Remote



### Free Instructables Classes on Mini Circuits

**Arduino Class** - This class will introduce you to the Arduino world. You'll learn the basics, build your first project, and so much more. Each lesson builds on your skills, infusing new knowledge and techniques along the way.

**Raspberry Pi Class** - In this class, you will learn how to work with the Raspberry Pi board. Throughout the class, you will learn basics such as how to program the RPi, how to make music with it, how to take GIFs and more. You will do programming exercises and build simple circuits. This class culminates with a final project of a photo booth.

**Electronics Class** - While it may seem intimidating at first, learning electronics is fun and easy.

In the first three lessons I introduce new tools, skills and concepts. In the remainder of the class, a new electronic component is introduced in each lesson.

In addition to providing an overview of an important aspect of electronics, each lesson concludes with a project. This allows you to learn about basic electronics in a hands-on manner.

I hope you will take the time and come build a circuit with me.

With the skills you learn in this class, you can enter the Green Electronics Contest!





**Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.**  
**PO Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402**  
(Please print this, fill it out, and send it in with your check.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ New Application \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ Add to Roster (Yes)\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_

Please Send Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ( )YES! ( ) No thanks

**FAMILY MEMBERS, CALL SIGNS & EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ Add to Roster (Yes)\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ( )YES! ( ) NO  
2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ Add to Roster (Yes)\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ( )YES! ( ) NO  
3. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ Add to Roster (Yes)\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ( )YES! ( ) NO  
4. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ Add to Roster (Yes)\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ( )YES! ( ) NO

**SCRA Dues:** The renewal date for SCRA dues is January 1st. Dues are \$20/year for individual, \$30/year for families, and \$15/year for youth (under 18).

**PRO-RATED DUES** for new members only: Reduce standard dues rate by \$5.00 per quarter. (ie. Second Quarter, April – June \$15.00; Third Quarter – July – September \$10.00; Fourth Quarter, October – December \$5.00 to end of December of current year or \$25.00 through December of the following year)

**I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:**

( ) Public Service Events ( ) Acting as club Net Control Station  
( ) ARES Emergency Services ( ) Helping with VEC license exams  
( ) Taking a Novice or Technician class ( ) Field day, other operating  
( ) Teaching a Novice or Technician class ( ) Helping with *Short Skip* Newsletter  
( ) Taking an upgrade class ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Teaching an upgrade class

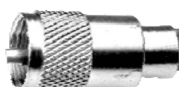
**SCRA DUES:** Individual \$20, Family \$30, Youth, under 18, \$15 + \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name Badge** (complete info below) \$10 each Circle: Magnet or Clip attachment + \_\_\_\_\_

**Name Badge Information** Fill in exactly as you want it to appear on your badge.  
Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

**SCRA Patch** \$5/ea + \_\_\_\_\_  
**SCRA T-Shirt** \$11.50/ea Size: s m l xl xxl + \_\_\_\_\_

**Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

(Please make checks payable to **SCRA**. Send to SCRA, Box 116, Santa Rosa, 95402)



12 STORE BUYING POWER



HAM RADIO OUTLET  
WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

World's LARGEST HAM RADIO INVENTORY in stock for quick delivery

**ANAHEIM, CA**  
(Near Disneyland)  
933 N. Euclid St., 92801  
(714) 533-7373  
**(800) 854-6046**  
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.  
anaheim@hamradio.com

**BURBANK, CA**  
1525 W. Magnolia Bl., 91506  
(818) 842-1786  
**(877) 892-1748**  
Eric, K6EJC, Mgr.  
Magnolia between  
S. Victory & Buena Vista  
burbank@hamradio.com

**OAKLAND, CA**  
2210 Livingston St., 94606  
(510) 534-5757  
**(877) 892-1745**  
Nick, AK6DX, Mgr.  
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp  
oakland@hamradio.com

**SAN DIEGO, CA**  
5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123  
(858) 560-4900  
**(877) 520-9623**  
Jerry, N5MCJ, Mgr.  
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa  
sandiego@hamradio.com

**SUNNYVALE, CA**  
510 Lawrence Exp. #102  
94085  
(408) 736-9496  
**(877) 892-1749**  
Jon, K6WV, Mgr.  
So. from Hwy. 101  
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

**NEW CASTLE, DE**  
(Near Philadelphia)  
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720  
(302) 322-7092  
**(800) 644-4476**  
Ken, N2OHD, Mgr.  
RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295  
delaware@hamradio.com

**PORTLAND, OR**  
11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy.  
97223  
(503) 598-0555  
**(800) 765-4267**  
Leon, W7AD, Mgr.  
Tigard-99W exit  
from Hwy. 5 & 217  
portland@hamradio.com

**DENVER, CO**  
8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231  
(303) 745-7373  
**(800) 444-9476**  
John WØIG, Mgr.  
denver@hamradio.com

**PHOENIX, AZ**  
10613 N. 43rd Ave., 85029  
(602) 242-3515  
**(800) 559-7388**  
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.  
Corner of 43rd Ave. & Peoria  
phoenix@hamradio.com

**ATLANTA, GA**  
6071 Buford Hwy., 30340  
(770) 263-0700  
**(800) 444-7927**  
Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.  
Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285  
atlanta@hamradio.com

**WOODBRIE, VA**  
(Near Washington D.C.)  
14803 Build America Dr.  
22191  
(703) 643-1063  
**(800) 444-4799**  
Steve, W4SHG, Mgr.  
Exit 1, I-95, So. to US 1  
virginia@hamradio.com

**SALEM, NH**  
(Near Boston)  
224 N. Broadway, 03079  
(603) 898-3750  
**(800) 444-0047**  
Dave, N1EDU, Mgr.  
Exit 1, I-93,  
28 mi. No. of Boston  
salem@hamradio.com

KENWOOD



**TS-2000** HF/VHF/UHF TCVR

- 100W HF, 6M, 2M • 50W 70CM • 10W 1.2GHz w/ opt UT-20 module • Built-in TNC, DX packet cluster
- IF Stage DSP • Backlit front key panel



**TM-281A** 2 Mtr Mobile

- 65 Watt • 200 Memories • CTCSS/DCS • Mil-Std specs • Hi-quality audio



**TS-590S** HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100W HF + 6M • 500 Hz & 2.7 KHz roofing filter
- Built-in auto tuner • Best dynamic range in class
- 32 bit DSP

**TH-F6A** 2M/220/440

- Dual channel receive • .1 - 1300 MHz (cell blocked) RX • FM, AM, SSB • 5W 2M/220/440 TX, FM • 435 Memories
- Li-Ion Battery



**TM-V71A** 2M/440 Dual Band

- High RF output (50W) • Multiple Scan • Dual receive on same band (VxV, UxU) • Echolink® memory (auto dialer) • Echolink® Sysop mode for node terminal ops

ICOM

**IC-7000** All Mode Transceiver

- 160-10M/6M/2M/70CM
- 2x DSP • Digital IF filters
- Digital voice recorder
- 2.5" color TFT display



**ID-51A** VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver

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



**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)

AZ, CA, CO, GA, VA residents add sales tax. Prices, specifications, descriptions, subject to change without notice.

Come visit us online via the Internet at <http://www.hamradio.com>

#1 in Customer Service

COAST TO COAST FREE SHIPPING  
UPS - Most Items Over \$100  
Rapid Deliveries From The Store Nearest to You!





## SHORT SKIP ARCHIVES AVAILABLE

Mike, AD6YB, has set up archives for past and present issues of Short Skip. They are available on the Website, log into Members Area, Short Skip, click on the first sentence. Mike has scanned in the old paper issues and it is really interesting to browse through them to see what those guys were doing. There are historical photos as well. An important record of our history and ham radio in general. Good Stuff.

[\(Click Me\)](#)

## DIDN'T FIND WHAT YOU NEEDED?

If you are looking for something more on a topic or your topic of interest hasn't been covered lately, let us know. Something you'd like to see in Short Skip?

Contact the editor, [shortskipeditor@gmail.com](mailto:shortskipeditor@gmail.com) or for general questions and /or suggestions, [k6son@arrl.net](mailto:k6son@arrl.net)

---

## SHORT SKIP NEEDS YOUR INPUT

### SHORT SKIP ARTICLES WANTED

Dave, KI6UGB, our Short Skip editor is always looking for articles of interest. They can be technical, a good (or bad) experience that other members may learn from, hints or kinks that worked for you in solving a problem, or just about anything ham radio related. Send your contributions to Dave at [shortskipeditor@gmail.com](mailto:shortskipeditor@gmail.com)

