

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 / 224.480- 88.5 /
441.375+ 88.5



REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 42, Number 3

March 2017

EVOLUTION OF SOLAR PANELS

The development of solar cells to harvest the sun's energy and convert it to more usable forms started in the 1800s with the discovery of the photoelectric effect. The element Selenium was found to give off electrons in the presence of sunlight, but at only 1 - 2% efficiency

In the 1950s Bell Laboratories created cells from silicon that were 5 - 6% efficient. Still not enough to create devices economical enough for the open market.

In the 1990s, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) created cells made from gallium indium phosphide and gallium arsenide that exceeded 30% conversion efficiency.

As advances in plastics are made, flexible and portable solar arrays are possible for the Do-It-Yourselfer at reasonable prices.

See the detailed timeline [here](#).

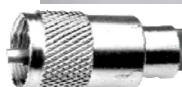
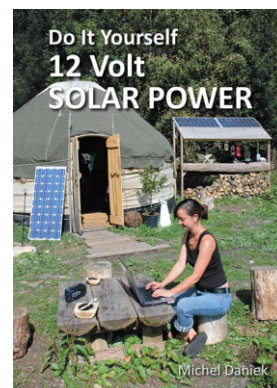
Click the picture below for instructions on how to build the Altoids solar battery charger...



Here's a more advanced solar powered generator.



And the How-To Books





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MARCH 2017



Bits and Pieces

Welcome New Members ~ Brad Beedle KM6QML; Dustin Huse KK6YIX; Jeff Young KM6Y. Thank you for choosing SCRA. If we can help you with your radio needs, contact me at K6SON@ARRL.NET.

Public Service Events ~ Spring is fast approaching (if you could ask the Spring bulbs that are already blooming, they would tell you that Spring is already here), and so are the bicycle and triathlon events. The signup lists are already up on the Website so get in there and sign yourself up for your favorite Aid Station, Water or Lunch Stop. If you are new and want to get involved in these fun events, contact the CommBoss for the event and they will help you get started. Signing up to 'shadow' an experienced ham is a good way to start. I am having our Website Manager put the February Program notes from Charlie's talk up on the Website for quick reference. It is very helpful to those getting started. If you still have question, just ask. K6SON@ARRL.NET.

Education ~ Our March 17-19th Tech Licensing class needs students. The enrollment has not been too good and the class will be cancelled if we don't have at least 10 interested individuals. If you know anyone who might be interested, have them contact Dave W6IBC at w6ibc@arrl.net.

Membership ~ Due are now delinquent and we will be removing Website membership permissions and dropping email addresses for Short Skip and the Monday Blog as these are privileges of membership. Also, you must be a member in good standing (pay your dues) to serve on a committee or hold an office or be listed in the Roster. AND it helps to support your club. Membership Chair is Karen KK6GJW kk6gjw@gmail.com.

Roster ~ The 2017 Roster will be ready for sending out to paid members within the next two weeks. An update will be sent out in 3-4 months with new member listings added. All efforts are being made to have accurate information for all paid members. If you have changed any of your information and we don't have the correct information, please let us know. Roster Chair is Bill KM6BYD bill@dornbush.net.

Best Regards.
Iola kk6hre



MARCH PROGRAM

Solar Power Portability

by Joe K6AWA

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	Iola Beckley	KK6HRE
Vice President	Joe Fortuna	K6AWA
Secretary	Kathy Wells	KK6KGW
Treasurer	Aaron Marroquin	KK6ZDB
Director	John Felton	KE5RI
	Laura Tighe	AG6PE
Past President	Patrick Coyle	KG6JSL

Committee Lineup/Contacts

Activities	Laura Tighe, AG6PE	laurati@hotmail.com
Programs	John Felton, KE5RI	jrfke5ri@aol.com
Community Outreach	Darryl Paule, KI6MSP	ki6msp@arrl.net
DX/Contesting	Doug Payne, KF6LMB	dougpayne1@earthlink.net
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Emergency Services Liason	Pat Coyle, KG6JSL	coylaw@sonic.net
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SCRA E-Mail	K6SON@arrl.com
SCRA Web site	http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com

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

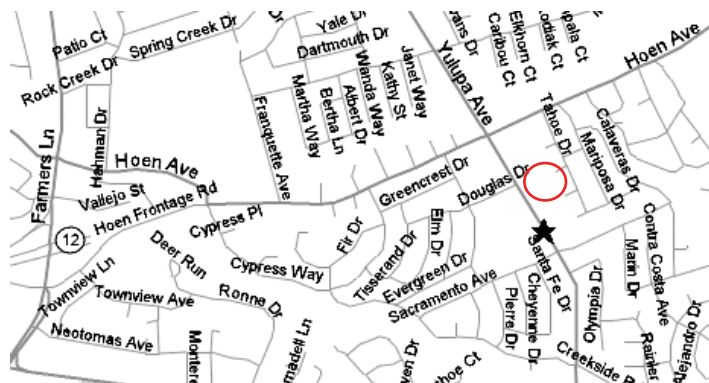
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SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month, 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 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.

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 for assignment. Script and logs are available on the Website at <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/resources/net-script/>



Technician License Class

The next SCRA-sponsored Technician licensing class will be held on Friday, March 17th through Sunday, March 19th at the Graton Fire Protection District firehouse, just north of Sebastopol on Highway 116. Anyone interested in obtaining their Technician class amateur radio license is invited to participate. More details are under the Classes tab on the SCRA website, or interested persons should contact me directly at w6ibc@arrl.net.

73, Dave W6IBC

SCRA Education/Mentoring Chair



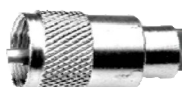
10 Meter Net

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.

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.



QST, QST, QST?



Help Get Kids on the Air!!!

Weekly SBARA Youth Net New Day and Time!

- For young people 18 and under
- Licensed youth or youth with a licensed control operator are welcome to check-in
- Check-in via EchoLink, if you are outside of the area
- Adults can check-in towards the end of the Net to answer questions and mentor the youth.

Please join our new, 13-year-old net control operator, Truman Lindsey, KM6AQS, and help us grow this important Net for young hams!

- **SBARA Youth Net**
- **Every Tuesday evening, 6:30pm (1830), PACIFIC**
- **N6NFI repeater, Palo Alto, CA (145.230 MHz, -600 kHz, PL 100 Hz.)**
- **EchoLink Station: KR6DD-R**

Steve Wilson KG6HJU
South Bay Amateur Radio Association
Fremont, CA
kg6hju@arrl.net



CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Lots of contest activity in March. Might as well work some DX if the rain continues in March as it did in February. Hopefully your coaxial connections are staying dry. We recently had some lightning in Sonoma County, so make sure your antennas are properly protected. Big contests are the ARRL DX and the CQ WW DX contests. First is phone and second is CW, so try both for variety. For something new, try the 10-meter South America contest on 11-12 March. Happy DX'ing!

1 Mar – **UKEICC 80 Meter Contest** – SSB, 80 meters. See: www.ukeicc.com.

2 Mar – **NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest** – All modes. See: www.nrau.net/activity-contests.

4 Mar – **Wake-Up! QRP Sprint** – CW, 40-20 meters. See: qrp.ru/contest/wakeup.

4-5 Mar – **ARRL International DX Contest** – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/arrl-dx.

4-5 Mar – **Open Ukraine RTTY Championship** – RTTY, 160-10 meters. See: uarl.com.ua/.

5 Mar – **UBA Spring Contest** – CW, 80 meters. See: uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules.

5 Mar – **DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest** – Digital, 10 meters. See: www.darc.de.

5 Mar – **SARL Hamnet 40-Meter Simulated Emergency** – SSB, 40 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.

5 Mar – **NSARA Contest** – All modes, 80 meters. See: nsara.velcfy.net/?page_id=82.

6 Mar – **RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship** – Digital, 80 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf.

7 Mar – **ARS Spartan Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: arsqrp.blogspot.com.

7 Mar – **AGCW YL-CW Party** – CW, 80 meters. See: www.agcw.org.

8-12 Mar – **AWA John Rollins DX Memorial** – CW, 40-20 meters. See: www.antiquewireless.org.

11 Mar – **Nauryz DX Contest** – CW/SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.nauryz-dx-contest.com.

11 Mar – **AGCW QRP Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.agcw.org.

11 Mar – **QRP ARCI Spring Thaw SSB Sprint** – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.qrparci.org/contests.

11-12 Mar – **SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest** – All modes, 6-0.2 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.

11-12 Mar – **RSGB Commonwealth Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf.

11-12 Mar – **F9AA Cup** – SSB, 80-2 meters. See: www.site.urch.asso.fr.

11-12 Mar – **South America 10 Meter Contest** – CW/SSB, 10 meters. See: sa10m.com.ar.

11-12 Mar – **SKCC Weekend Sprintathon** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

11-12 Mar – **Oklahoma QSO Party** – All modes, 160-6 meters. See: k5cm.com/okqp.htm.

11-12 Mar – **Stew Perry Topband Challenge** – CW, 160 meters. See: www.kkn.net/stew.

11-12 Mar – **EA PSK63 Contest** – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: concursos.ure.es/en.

11-12 Mar – **QCWA QSO Party** – all modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.qcwa.org.

11-12 Mar – **Idaho QSO Party** – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: idahoarrrl.info/qsoparty.

11-13 Mar – **Tesla Memorial HF CW Contest** – CW, 80 meters. See: www.radiosport.org.rs.

12 Mar – **North American Sprint, RTTY** – RTTY, 80-20 meters. See: ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf.

12 Mar – **UBA Spring Contest** – CW/Phone, 2 meters. See: uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules.

12 Mar – **WAB 3.5 MHz Phone** – SSB, 80 meters. See: wab.intermip.net.

12-13 Mar – **Wisconsin QSO Party** – All modes, all bands. See: www.warac.org/wqp.

15 Mar – **RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship** – CW, 80 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf.

16 Mar – **NAQCC CW Sprint** – CW, 160 meters. See: naqcc.info.

18 Mar – **AGCW VHF/UHF Contest** – CW, 2-0.7 meters. See: www.agcw.org.

18-19 Mar – **Russian DX Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.rdx.org.

Continued on page 7...





...Contest Corner continued from page 6.

18-19 Mar – **Louisiana QSO Party** – All modes, 160-2 meters.
See: laqp.louisianacontestclub.org

18-19 Mar – **Virginia QSO Party** – All modes, all bands. See:
www.qsl.net/sterling.

18-20 Mar – **BARTG HF RTTY Contest** – RTTY, 80-10 meters.
See: www.bartg.org.uk.

18 Mar – **Feld Hell Sprint** – Digital, 160-6 meters. See: sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub.

19 Mar – **UBA Spring Contest** – SSB, 80 meters. See: uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules.

20 Mar – **Run For the Bacon QRP Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters.
See: qrptest.com/pigrun.

20 Mar – **Bucharest Contest** – All modes, 80-40 meters. See:
yo3test201x.blogspot.ro/p/blog-page.html.

21-26 Mar – **CLARA Chatter Party** – CW/SSB, 80-2 meters. See:
www.clarayl.ca.

22 Mar – **SKCC Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

23 Mar – **RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship** – SSB, 80 meters.
See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf.

25 Mar – **FOC QSO Party** – CW, 160-2 meters. See: g4foc.org/qsoparty/.

25-26 Mar - **CQ WW WPX Contest** – SSB, 160-10 meters. See:
www.cqwp.com/rules.htm.

26 Mar – **UBA Spring Contest** – CW/Phone, 6 meters. See: uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules.

29 Mar – **UKEICC 80 Meter Contest** – CW, 80 meters. See: www.ukeicc.com.

For additional contest calendars and resources check:
WA7BNM Contest Calendar
ARRL Contests Page

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/>

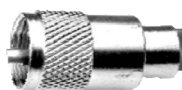
You can download the IDXC 2017 PR Kit here: <http://www.dxconvention.com/files/idxc2017-prkit.zip>

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

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 of SCRA February 1, 2017, Membership Meeting

The February meeting of SCRA Membership was called to order at 7:15 pm by club president Iola Beckley KK6HRE. A quorum of members was present.

Iola KK6HRE introduced board members who were present: Vice President Joe Fortuna K6AWA, Director John Felton KE5RI, and Past President Pat Coyle KG6JSL. Board members absent: Kathy Wells KK6KGW, Aaron Marroquin KK6ZDB, and Laura Tighe AG6PE.

Four new members introduced themselves: Dustin KK6YIK, John W6JEB, Robert KW6OWL, and Jeff KM6Y.

One guest, Carrie Breckenridge, was introduced and it was noted that she prepared desserts for us.

Joe K6AWA moved and John KE5RI seconded that the minutes of the prior meeting be accepted as published.

Iola KK6HRE asked for volunteers for **net control** for Tuesday member nets. Volunteers were:

February 7: Brian Torr N6IYY
February 14: Joe Fortuna K6AWA
February 21: John Felton KE5RI
February 28: Andrew Raike KE6RID

Iola KK6HRE introduced Charlie Sykes KX6T who presented the **program Public Service Primer**.

Who: hams, non-hams, anyone

What and When: For bike, foot, and other events. We support 6 bike events including Grand Fondo with 7,000 participants; 2 foot events Lake Sonoma 50 and Human Race; and other events two triathlons and JOTA. Dates are listed on the club web site under Events > Public Service.

Why: It is in our club mission statement. It improves our skills and is as close to disaster service as we can be. We give back to the community.

Where and How: in Sonoma County and adjacent areas.

We support rest stops and aid stations. We work for the rest stop captains, and our roles vary with them. Traffic includes emergency where life is in danger; priority where there are minor injuries or road hazards; and routine such as calling in event numbers. The format is usually the time and 5-10 numbers. It is important to use a consistent format to communicate effectively.

We support SAGs: Support and Gear. The event coordinator directs them and the net control implements the direction. Some SAGs are hams and others are not. Charlie noted they don't know the impact of the recent change to CA hands-free law.

Net Control is "controlled chaos." If you call them, wait for them to respond as they may be working other higher priority issues.

The event Communications Boss produces an Operations Plan with roles and responsibilities and special procedures, the course route and map, and more. Operators must be familiar with it prior to the event. They should know adjacent rest stops, distance to finish, and where support is staged. They should know their equipment and its limitations. They should preprogram the channels, have their equipment manuals, and test BEFORE the event. For some events, more than one net may be happening simultaneously to support SAGs as they travel.

Operating Methods include repeaters, simplex at Lake Sonoma, for example, Cross band repeating, APRS, and in the future, digital such as event timing and numbers. Charlie noted that cross band repeaters must take care to abide by the identification regulations.

What makes a good operator? Know what is expected, know the course, good communications skills, strategic and tactical thinking.

Equipment varies by event and course. A Handy talkie (HT) will probably work at rest stops but not for SAGs. An HT must have a full size antenna and not a "rubber duck" antenna. Some events are not HT friendly. Mobile transceivers may not work as well for rest stops where you need to be more mobile, can't provide the needed power supply or antenna. SoNoMas and Lake Sonoma 50 are HT friendly as they use simplex, except for Warm Springs.

Tips and Tricks: Know the operating plan, pre-run the course, match equipment to the task. Be prepared with food, drink, shade, chair, and perhaps safety vest and lighting. Use APRS where available for SAGs. The club has some loaner APRS trackers.

Above all, these events are FUN, so enjoy them. Sign up online on the club web site.

John KE5RI is this year's **program chair**. He noted that when he is net control on Feb 21, he will start check-ins with those who checked in the prior week. He asked for suggestions for programs for this year. Suggestions included videos such as the propagation video from November, Introduction to digital modes, 2 meter antennas and how to build, mount; antenna designer such as Ed Fong; introduction to QRP and stealth antennas; batteries types and care of, and solar; Satellite radio; D-Star and DMR; digital in detail; IRLP and Echolink; makers such as Elecraft and Buddipole.

Officer Reports:

Joe K6AWA noted that the club has a number of loaner rigs.

Contact him at K6AWA@yahoo.com

Dave Harrison W6IBC said the first technician class was March 17-19 in Graton. It is suitable for new hams and those looking for a refresher. On March 25, from 8:30 – noon at the Red Cross classroom A, there will be a program for going into the field, including batteries, programming, and net protocols.

Iola KK6HRE reported for treasurer Aaron Marroquin KK6ZDB who was absent. Monthly intake was \$1094.12, expense was \$436.56, net of \$662.56.

Continued on page 10...



...Minutes continued from page 9.

Jack Christensen K6ROW reported that the repeaters are all operating OK except for IRLP.

Dan Drummond KK6VIQ said that merchandise is looking for suggestions on polo or t-shirts. He asked if it was OK to have shirts without a big logo on the back due to imprinting prices going up and there was general agreement. It was noted that we should have ladies and kids sizes.

Pat Coyle KG6JSL reported for emergency services that there will be a class on Feb 11 at 9 am on disaster messaging at the City Utilities office on Stony Point. He asked that attendees sign up on the club web site. The class will include written messaging with radios.

Karen Stutz-Miller KK6GJW reported that she is looking for 50 additional member renewals and will notify those whose memberships are expiring. Iola KK6HRE noted that you must keep your membership to retain web site access and Short Skip. Doug Payne KF6LMB noted that there is an expedition August 18-20 which coincides with North America QSO Party. Cost is \$26 per night to camp, or \$7 per day at Ocean Cove campground, near Stillwater Cove.

Brian Torr N6IIY said the first exam session is this Saturday at 9 am at the Bennett Valley Hall. Cost is \$15. Field Day is starting to plan with the first meeting expected by the end of February. It should be similar to last year with the addition of a digital station.

New Business

It was noted that the budget needs to be approved by the membership and Iola KK6HRE said that would happen at next month's membership meeting.

Brags and Other News

Charlie KZ6T showed a 3D printed Andersen PowerPole connector block.

Martin KG6KSL noted that he participated in his first contest, winter field day with 30 20M contacts on PSK31.

Ned KI6REQ noted that there was noise on the 2M national calling frequency 146.520

Joe K6AWA noted there was a crank up tower available in Santa Rosa, 60 feet tall. He will provide a truck and needs helpers and a location to put it.

The meeting was adjourned by Iola KK6HRE at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Dornbush KM6BYD

Minutes SCRA Board of Directors Meeting February 8, 2017

The February 2017 Board of Directors regular meeting was called to order by President Iola KK6HRE at 6:02 PM at IHOP restaurant, 2745 4th Street, Santa Rosa CA. SCRA Board members present included President Iola, Vice President Joe K6AWA, Treasurer Aaron KK6ZDB, Secretary Kathy KK6KGW, Directors John KE5RI and Director Laura AG6PE, and Past President Pat KG6JSL. A quorum of Officers and Directors were present. Other SCRA members in attendance included, Brian N6IIY, Jeff KI6PBF, Doug KF6LMB, Steve KK6VMZ, Cornell W6HMN, Darryl KI6MSP and Mike AD6YB.

Minutes of the January 2017 Board Meeting were approved on motion by Joe K6AWA, seconded by Aaron KK6DZB.

Under Committee Reports and Business, the Merchandise Committee (presented by President Iola KK6HRE) indicated they are looking into new wearables for club members.

Education Committee Chair Dave W6IBC submitted information to President Iola KK6HRE that he is still looking for students for the March 17-19, 2017 Technician License class. He is also working on suggestions for the procedures manual for the Education Committee.

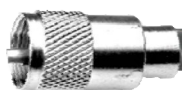
Emergency Services Chair Pat KG6SL indicated 14 people have signed up for the Interactive Messaging Class from 9AM to 12 PM on February 11, 2017 at the Santa Rosa EOC.

Programs Committee John KE5RI reported that Joe K6AWA will present Solar Power Portability for the March 2017 Club meeting.

Pat KG6JSL suggested when a person signs up for an event the person's address and telephone number should be sent to the person leading the event. This information streamlines sending information about the event. Additionally, a suggestion was made by Joe k6AWA to add links to other websites like solar index. The Website Manager Dave KI6UGB will be asked to look into it.

Radio Loanout Program Manager Joe K6AWA requested to purchase more equipment. He requested \$1270 to purchase ICOM IC-7200 HF radio to be used to loan out for new Hams.

Continued on page 11...



...BoD Minutes continued from page 10.

Additionally he has a critical need for a MFJ Antenna Analyzer to analyze member's antenna in the loan out program. The cost would be \$415. John KE5RI made a motion, Kathy seconded to purchase MFJ Antenna Analyzer. Motion Passed to immediately purchase the analyzer. Joe K6AWA made motion to ICOM IC-7200. No second. Motion failed.

John W6FRZ sent a question to the board. He has promised to take \$100 deposits for each SCRA code practice oscillator he loans out for code classes. How should he handle these deposits? The consensus of the Board recommended he not take a deposit and return any deposits he has retains.

Community Outreach Darryl KI6MSP discussed The Family Life Magazine Science Fair scheduled for March 31, 2017 from 3-7 pm at Coddington. Field Day Committee Chair Brian N6IYY received the Special Use Form for the upcoming Field Day in June 2017. He needs an Additional Insured Certificate from the club's insurance company. President Iola KK6HRE will request the certificate.

Treasurer Aaron KK6ZDB has assumed responsibility and all files have been transferred to him. Aaron KK6ZDB would like the Board to approve online banking. It will enable him to access past statements for reconciliation purposes. John KE5RI made the motion, Pat KG6KSL seconded. Motion passed. Aaron KK6ZDB also recommended an alias email address for the Treasurer be created. The recipients of emails would be the Treasurer and President. Pat KG6KSL made the motion, Kathy K6KDW seconded. Motion passed.

Under Unfinished Business, Mike is preparing a spreadsheet to track all Club equipment. Anyone who still has Club property should contact Doug KF6LNB or Joe K6AWA.

Under New Business, a resolution from the Board is needed to change bank signatures on file. Dave Harrison W6IBC, Wells Wagner KK6EXC, and Brian Torr N6IYY will be removed and Kathy Wells K6KDW, Joe Fortuna K6AWA, and Aaron Marroquin KK6ZDB will be added. Aaron KK6ZDB made the motion and Joe K6AWA seconded. Motion passed.

Dan Drummond KK6VIQ volunteered to be the Merchandise Chair. John KE5RI made a motion to select Dan, Pat KG6KSL seconded. Motion passed.

President Iola KK6HRE has set up a Book Lending Library. Anyone can donate HAM related books to the library.

President Iola KK6HRE indicated the Luther Burbank contract will be discussed at the March 2017 Board of Directors meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wells K6KDW

2017 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Check the [Club website](#) for details

Sat Mar 11 - 2m Radio Contest
 F/S/S Mar 17-19 - Technician Licensing Class
 Sun Mar 26 - Putting it All Together Class
 Sat Apr 1 - SoNoMas
 Sat Apr 8 - VE Testing
 Sat Apr 15 - Lake Sonoma 50
 Apr 17-23? - ARISS Contact
 Sat Apr 29 VOMARC Hamfest - Non-SCRA event
 Sat May 6 - Wine Country Century
 Sat May 6 - Human Race
 Sat May 13 - IRONMAN 70.3 Half Triathlon
 Sun Jun 4 - Monte Rio Vineman
 Sat Jun 10 - VE Testing
 Sat Jun 17 - Terrible Two
 Sat/Sun Jun 17/18? - Hot Air Balloon Classic
 Sun Jun 18 - ARRL Kids Day
 F/S/S Jun 23-25 FIELD DAY
 F/S/S Jul 14-16 - Technician Licensing Class
 Sat Jul 29 - IRONMAN Full Triathlon
 Sat Aug 5 - Sonoma County Fair Demonstrations
 Sat Aug 12 - Sonoma County Fair Demonstrations
 Sun Aug 13 - Tour D'Organics
 F/S/S Aug 18-20 DXing Campout/North Am QSO Party
 Sat Aug 26 - VE Testing
 F/S/S Sep 1-3 - SOCO Homage Day (?)
 Sat/Sun Sept 23-24 - Waves to Wine
 Sat Sep 30 - Levi's Gran Fondo
 Sat Oct 14 - VE Testing
 Oct 16-20? School Roundup
 Sat Oct 21 - Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
 Sat Oct 28 - North Bay Science Discovery Day
 F/S/S Nov 17-19 - Technician Licensing Class
 Sat Dec 2 - VE Testing

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.

Home | Our Club | Repeaters/IRLP | Resources | Events | Store | Calendar | Men

Announcements and News

Home > Forums > Announcements and News

Subscribe Use the Subscribe Button

This forum contains 22 topics and 10 replies, and was last updated by wb6jao 4 months ago.

Viewing 15 topics - 1 through 15 (of 22 total)

Topic	Voices
Free to a good home - Old (1970-80s) Radio Gear	1

How to Subscribe to the SCRA Calendar

Subscribe to the SCRA calendar and automatically import event dates into your electronic calendar(s). Go to the calendar page on the SCRA website and click the Subscribe button in the corner. Select the type of calendar you want to subscribe to. You will be taken to your sign-in page to finish adding the subscription.

26 27 28

- Add to Timely Calendar
- Add to Google
- Add to Outlook
- Add to Apple Calendar
- Add to other calendar
- Export to XML

Subscribe

ARISS Contact

The week of April 17th-23rd. The students of Brook Haven School (BHS) in Sebastapol. Will have an opportunity to talk with the Astronauts on the [ISS](#)

A short video providing some background on the ARISS program and how Boulder Hill Elementary School prepared for their contact with the guidance of members of the Fox River Radio League.

This is a link to a video that shows students talking to the [Astronauts](#)

I'm an amateur radio operator Darryl KI6MSP, as well as some of the astronauts on the ISS.

This is made possible with the national organization for amateur radio.

The American Radio Relay League, [ARRL](#). The ARRL has a program with NASA and [AMSAT](#) that provides these students the opportunity to ask questions about the ISS, being an astronaut or space. The ARISS program has been around for 20 years. I should have the date for the contact my March. I'll post the date as soon as I get it.

I am a member of [Sonoma County Radio Amateurs](#), a sponsor of the ARISS contact. Santa Rosa JC is the ground station for the [contact](#).

I'm including other informational links:
[Space Station Astronauts to Speak with California Elementary School Students](#)

[NASA Education](#)

[ARISS Opens Window for Proposals to Host Contacts with Space Station Crew](#)

Julie Townsend, [Rover Driver](#)

I'm happy to answer your questions about amateur radio and the ARISS program. Please put ARISS in the subject line.

Darryl M Paule
KI6MSP
Discovering the Art and Science of Amateur Radio
ki6msp@gmail.com



SHOW US YOUR SHACK!

Editor, Dave ki6ugb, has been asking members to 'show us your shack' for a couple of years now, and not many have taken him up on the offer to publish pictures and comments. After several months of preparation ~ purchasing a used radio/power source, buying a new 2 meter base station, and of course, my trusty HT ~ I finally have everything put together, thanks to John ke5frz who helped me open up the power source and ICOM 10m radio for some cleaning and tightening up; Doug kf6lmb who helped with a lot of the hard labor and John ke5ri who designed and installed the antennae system. What a project. Without the help of our Mentors this would not have been completed and I would not be enjoying the equipment. Now I can get onto the 10m Net on Tuesday night as well as the other 2m Nets that I sign onto and listen to.

The antennae that John RI put up is 'planted' in an old half wine barrel that used to have strawberries growing in it, but now is full of concrete and river rocks thanks to Doug kf6lmb. The weirdest thing I have ever had growing in my back yard!

John's description of the Antenna System:

The antenna is a Solarcon A-99 17' Omni-Directional Fiberglass Base Station Antenna - 2000 Watts- Handles 2000 Watts- Full 1/4 Wave Antenna- 17' Antenna in Three Easy to Assemble Sections- 8-2 DBI Gain- Heavy Duty Mounting Plate withstands Greater Wind Loads- SWR Tuning- Broad Bandwidth that Covers Far Above and Below the Traditional CB Channels- DC Grounded- Insulated up to 14 500 Volts- Can be Used for Export Commercial and 10 Meter Ham. Twelve inches of the top section were removed as specified in the instructions, then the "rings" were tuned, also as specified. The antenna is mounted with U-bolts to twelve foot aluminum, heavy walled pipe. The pipe is mounted at its base to a U-channel steel bracket and is configured for easy tilt-up. The VSWR is pretty flat across the band and measures about 1.2:1 at 28.400 MHz. The U-bracket is embedded in six bags of concrete and rock. The feed line is RG8X. The total height is about twenty eight feet and is not at all unsightly.

Many thanks, again to John FRZ, John RE, and Doug LMB for their hours and hours of volunteer time.

Iola kk6hre



Meet JohnFRZ!



John Breckenridge
WB6FRZ

How did I get interested in amateur radio? I went to a garage sale in Santa Rosa to check out the radio equipment as listed in the paper. I was into music and AM/FM stereo equipment. What I found was a garage full of amateur radios, license manuals, antennas and “stuff.” I was intrigued. It took me five minutes reading the ARRL Novice License Manual to decide that Amateur Radio was what I wanted to do.

On June 24, 1974 at 19 years old, the FCC issued me novice amateur radio license WN6FRZ. The code requirement and incentive licensing was in effect so my license would be terminated unless I upgraded to technician or general class within 12 months. Since my privileges were limited to code only and 75 watts output I wasn't tempted to use other modes. I wanted general class privileges so I focused on increasing my code speed from 5 wpm to 13 wpm as a priority. The HF novice bands were filled with other novices like me working towards the same goal so there were many stations out there to contact. With this focus, code became my favorite (and only) mode of communication over the air.

I can't say for sure but I think I joined SCRA in 1975. I lived in Guerneville with my parents at the time and I didn't know the club existed. While in the SRJC electronics technician program I met Terry LaDuke, WA6RNF. He was also in the SRJC technician program and very active with the club.

Through the years I have tried many different aspects of radio. These have changed over time but my favorite interests now are:

- Teaching code, theory, and license classes
- Building and repairing equipment and antennas
- Rag chewing on HF CW

I have an HF transceiver, a VHF FM transceiver, a dual-band HT, a couple of HF antenna tuners, two coaxial cable switches, a remote coax switch, power supplies, a couple of CW keyers and of course, code keys. I have antennas that allow me to operate all HF bands and the 2m band. You simply cannot have too many radios.....

The things I appreciate the most about SCRA include being a general-interest club with many genuinely-friendly members ready to lend a helping hand and advice to others. I have visited other radio clubs that were so “clicky” or unfriendly that nobody would even say “hi” to me. I am pleased to say that doesn't happen in our club and I hope that it never will.

I have been married to Carrie, a Santa Rosa native, for 32 years now. She is not interested in amateur radio at all; her interests include collecting dolls, cookbooks, cooking and baking. Many in the SCRA club have tasted her baking goodies over the years.



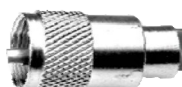
Editor's Notes:

John has been given the Member of the Year Award by SCRA on two occasions. This past year John was given a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL), by ARRL Section Manager, Bill Hillendahl. Along with having served most committees, John now volunteers on the Educational Committee; teaches the SCRA Morse Code classes each year; Public Service Events; is the lead CW operator at Field Day; Refreshments Committee, and will do radio volunteer days of service to help members install or repair antennae's, among various other activities. 'JohnFRZ' holds the Extra Classification license, issued in 2014.

Iola kk6hre

Ham Radio in the News

[Two Amateur Radio CubeSats Carrying Transponders Set for Future NASA Launches](#)





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 _____
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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:

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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

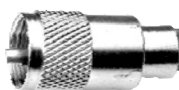
SCRA DUES: Individual \$20, Family \$30, Youth, under 18, \$15 + _____
Name Badge (complete info below) \$10 each Circle: Magnet or Clip attachment + _____

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: \$ _____

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



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

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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 or for general questions and /or suggestions, 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

