

# Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Club Station  
W6LFJ

P.O. Box 116  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Repeater Station  
WB6PVS



VOL. 8 #3

73 Magazine DX Column December Chod Harris VP2ML p. 4

And keep your clock accurately set to WWV. A DX station or DXpedition operating "contest style" might fill a 50-entry log page in less than 10 minutes. If the time on your QSL is off by more than 5 minutes, the QSLer might have to search through several pages of logs for your contact.

Frequency. Be careful not to put the band in this box. "Frequency 20," for example. If you change bands often (during a contest, for example) watch your log. It is very easy to change bands to work a station and forget to log the band change. Then the card has the wrong band. I always prefer to receive a card with the exact frequency: 14205. Since I log my exact transmitting frequency, this can help to find a QSO with the wrong date or time.

Mode. If your QSL has this box labeled "2X", just write in the mode. If the box is labeled "mode", write "2X CW" or 2X SSB."

RST. Honest signal reports in DX are as rare as Albanian contacts. I always prefer honest reports, but usually get 59 even if the other station can barely hear me.

QSL. Always ask for the QSL if you want it. I get thousands of cards which I may assume are requests for my card, but nowhere does the station specifically request my card. If things get a little behind, I may assume these cards are answers to cards I sent, and I don't answer them. And if you need a card for a particular reason, say so. "Need 3 more cards for my DXCC, please QSL." or "Please QSL for 5BDXCC."

Other things to remember: If you work a DX station during a contest with consecutive numbers as part of the exchange, write the other station's QSO number on the card: "your number 1024." Don't put your number on the card, as the DX station could care less. His consecutive number will quickly locate your contact in a long log.

Speaking of contests, be sure to mention that the contact was made during a contest, if it was. Many stations keep separate logs for contests and non-contest operations, because of the special logs the contests require. So include "CQ WW SSB contest," as appropriate.

Always send a card for each QSO. Although it is tempting to put all your contest QSOs with a single DX station on one card, it will often slow up your response. The DX station might QSL one band at a time, or, as in the case of major DXpeditions, have separate managers for each band. Splurge, and send separate cards.

Finally, write legibly and accurately. Numerous QSLs have the information so badly written that it is almost impossible to read. Or the information is mis-copied from the log. These QSLs end up in the "Do Tomorrow" file, or the circular one. And I still have cards from five years ago in my "Do Tomorrow" file....

**OFFICERS FOR 1983**

President	Al Bloom	N1AL
	838-4524	
V. Pres.	Spenser Barnes	WA6IXC
	526-1514	
Sect.	Doug Bender	WA6JRB
	526-5131	
Tres.	Bill Thomas	WD6DXW
	823-9429	
Trailer Mgr.	Gene Piety	KH6PP
	523-3081	
Activities	Al Schmidt	KD6NT
	542-4793	
Rptr. Chairman	Terry LaDuke	WA6RNF
	528-6412	
Board Member		
At Large	Don Osborne	WA6ACX
	829-0565	
Club Call	W6LEJ	
Rptr. Call	WB6PVS	
Short Skipp	Hank Davis	W6DTV
	823-7885	
	Sarah Davis	N6FAX
	Ched Harris	VP2ML
	DX Watch	
Explorer Post	Mike TerSarkisoff	
599	823-8977	N6DBZ
Club Badges	Jim Tomer	W6CYM
	838-2234	
Club QSL Mgr.	Jim Tomer	
Public Relations	Van Gross	W6GFY
	544-3485	

Club meetings 1st. Wed. each month EOC  
 County Operations Room. 8pm.  
 Board meetings week following. Announced at  
 Club meeting or Phone as to Location.

Pacific Dir. Bill Stevens-2074 Foxworthy Ave  
 San Jose, CA. 95124 W6ZM  
 V Dir. Jettie B. Hill 22410 Janice Ave.  
 Cupertino, CA. 95014 W6RFF  
 SF. Sect. SCM Bob Smith, Fort Bragg, CA.  
 Phone 964-4831  
 SF Section EC Lyle Meek 526-3233  
 Sonoma Co. EC Hank Davis, 823-7885

RACES-Radio Officer- Herb Sullivan 526-3307  
 K6QXB  
 Co. Comm. OFFICER Press Thomson, 527-2677  
 WB6PUE

MARCH IS THE MONTH TO RENEW YOUR DUES SO  
 TAKE CARE...\$12.00 Full--Spensor \$8.00,  
 Family 2 or more 20.00\$--Jr. 1/2 full Dues  
 LOOK OUT FOR THE RED LABEL--MEANS DUES NOT PD.

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Elsewhere in this issue you should find a copy of the club's budget for fiscal year 1983 (March 1 - Feb 29). To my knowledge, this is the first time SCRA has ever figured out where the money is going to come from and go to before it was actually spent. That's because this is the first time we have ever had a good, detailed record of how the money was spent the previous year.

It's interesting to see where your \$12.00 (if you're a full member) goes. \$3.03 goes to Short Skip (\$2.40 of that just for the postage). \$4.28 is for social and operating activities (including the trailer). Miscellaneous activities (such as insurance, trailer registration, etc.) takes up \$3.86. Repeater expenses are hard to budget because they depend very strongly on exactly what we decide to do in the coming year. The Board decided on \$430.00 which amounts to \$3.26 per member.

If you've been keeping track of these numbers, you may have noticed that the total comes to more than \$12.00 -- \$14.43 to be exact. The difference will have to be made up through fundraising activities during the year. Our Marquee Theater fundraiser last year seemed to go over well! Should we do it again, go for some other activity, or maybe have more than one fundraiser? Talk it over with the other members and let your Board members know your feelings.

We're looking into getting another mini dx-pedition going in the near future. If you have any good ideas, let KD6NT know. The possibilities I remember being discussed include Charlie Shultz' (Peanuts') Ice Arena, the site of the 1906 earthquake (in Marin Co.), operation from a cablecar, and the site of the first discovery of gold. Any place that has national recognition is a possibility. It's also nice if it lends itself to an interesting commemorative QSL card.

As most of you know, FCC has proposed to institute a class of Amateur Radio license with no code requirement. This was discussed at the last meeting and some votes were taken on the club's feelings in the matter. The full text of the FCC proposal will appear in March QST. If March QST comes in time before the next meeting, we will have a draft filing ready that the club can discuss and vote on. If you have strong feelings on the matter, here is a chance to make your voice heard. See you there!

PROPOSED BUDGET 1983

Gen. Fund	
Short Skip	\$400.00
Activities	
Field Day	\$100.00
Trailer	\$250.00
Potlucks	\$ 60.00
Picnic	\$ 70.00
Awards	\$ 40.00
Mini Exped.	\$ 25.00
Training	\$ 20.00
Misc.	
Lib. Insurance	\$130.00
ARRL Equip. Ins.	\$ 30.00
Trailer Reg. , License	\$ 53.00
Badges	\$150.00
P.O.Box	\$ 20.00
Political Activity	\$ 50.00
World Radio	\$ 50.00
Westlink	\$ 25.00
Repeater Fund	
Gas	\$ 30.00
Misc. Cap. Exp.	\$400.00
Income	
Sponsoring members, 12x\$8	\$ 96.00
Full Members 120 x \$12	\$1440.00
Init. Fee, New Members 10x	
\$8.00	\$ 80.00
Fund Raiser	\$500.00
Total	\$2116.00

**Radio Shack**

STORE NO. 3855

**ZANE BATES**  
MANAGER

510 FARMERS LANE  
SANTA ROSA, CA. 95405

TELEPHONE  
546-9423

Radio Shack, Farmers Lane has sponsored our Club for several years now we hope when you need supplies that you remember them.....

1983 Club Dues..March 1, 83 to Feb. 28,84	
\$12/yr.	Full membership
\$8/yr	Sponsoring membership
\$20/yr	Family membership, 2 or more members same address
\$8/ yr	One time fee for new members
\$6/yr	Jr. member under 18

SWAP...SELL...WANT...GIVE AWAY.....ANYTHING.....  
 546-7047..Don Bremmer--ATB-34 Tri Bander \$135.00.  
 523-3081..Gene Piety, ICOM IC 245, with attached sideband adapter--RM2 Computerized remote controller and Drake 1535 EM mike, with TT pad, Caltronix power supply...\$300.00  
 544-3485..Van--SBE-34-\$150.00...Fleisher170-TU..\$150.00--Kenwood Phone Patch \$40.00  
 829-1904..Bill--Kenwood TR 7730..5 to 25 watt.,Less 3mo. used--\$265.00  
 539-2987..Gil--HW 22 with xtal,,HP 23 pwr. sup., \$150.00.

WHY CONTESTING????

Very few people are born testers. Contesting is a learned skill! Many amateurs cannot fathom why someone should sit for 36 hours working a contest. Sounds too much like work. We will concede that to be good at something takes a personal commitment, and seriouser not, contest operation can be good for you and for our hobby.

First, contest operation improves operating efficiency. Leisurely ragchewing is certainly fun, but it does not help the speed and accuracy of operation. If you are ever called upon to operate under emergent conditions, you will need both speed and accuracy. In some situations you might get only one chance to copy a a piece of information that is of vital importance.

Contesting allows you to determine how good an operator you are. By participating you learn crisp operation, no wasted words, no wasted motion. You learn how to listen and how to organize your thinking. These are keys to success in an emergency. Even if you increase your operating efficiently slightly, you've helped yourself.

The second reason contesting will benefit you is that you will learn the capabilities of your station. Most equipment is never used to its full capacity, and operating a contest will pinpoint the weak links in your gear. If you get into contesting, you will begin experimenting with ways to make your station more effective and will learn something technical in the process. A secondary benefit is that you can earn your DXCC awards, etc.

The main benefit is the overall improvement in the skill level of of the population; in an emergency, that is of overwhelming importance. Add to this the fun and keen edge of excitement provided by competition and that is "contesting".  
 CARTG-VE3KTT, World Radio.....

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

We have had one or two days of sunshine and the juice is flowing so our deer action is in order. The Mobileers the hardy bunch of the club have had two or three outings so far this year. Just let it look like sunshine or open sky and Wagon Master Don (WA6ACX) and his side kick Irma (KF6FX, also rides shotgun) are ready and willing to go. Get in touch if you are interested. 829-0565.

POT LUCK-- 12 March 83--Club Spring Pot Luck-- Same location as the Xmas Party--Windsor Mobile Country Club, 8109 Conde Lane, Windsor, CA, (Frontage road west side of 101 Free way) Sit down time 6:30 PM. Al Schmidt, 542-4793, Activities Chairman. Club will furnish Coffee sugar, creamers, etc.. Bring your own place sitting, Plate, Cup, Silverware... Be your own Judge as what to bring---Salad or Vegi.--Hot Dish--Dessert--Bread and Spread... What ever shows up will be your meal for the evening. Program.....

April Meeting---Home Brew Contest--Last years was super--Applications will be in the April issue of Short Skip..So get busy and finish up that special project and have it there on Home Brew Night....Suprise Everyone.....

Be sure and fill out the membership application sheet on page 7 of this issue of Short Skip---Bring and or mail same with dues to Club Meeting or P.O.Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA. 95402 Make checks to SCRA, Inc.....

Have you made Hotel arrangements for the August ARRL Pacific Division Convention in Reno. Editor will bring some applications to the next meeting.....

Program for March is a trip through WIAW the Hdq. Station of theARRL. This will be a Slide Show by NIAL. Al served some work time at the Station and should be able to make it interesting.

Again we wish to thank all those that helped in the Flood Activities. Sarah N6FAX and Connie N6FYV helped with Shelters for the Red Cross. N6FYV served as operator at Guerneville. Our president also spent a late shift at Guerneville. Many others helped at the EOC in Santa Rosa. Pre Flood time was in Sebastopol was taken care by the WSCSZ Crew. Petaluma had their hands full and the RACES group from there performed well. It's a shame to say that Cable TV in Petaluma caused the Shelter Crew to move frequency because of interference. Even an emergency means nothing to Cable TV..... Warren WB6RHP, put more time in on flood service than anyone, thanks Warren.

### AMSAT OSCAR QSL BUREAU..

The AMSAT OSCAR QSL BUREAU serves the users of all amateur satellites with a complete QSL service. Due to a general lack of knowledge of this bureau's existence, over 1500 QSL cards for over 700 stations lay unclaimed. Yours could be among them.

Stations wishing to receive cards through the bureau should send several (maximum of six) self addressed stamped business sized (10 1/2" x 9.5") envelopes. Stations outside the United States may, of course, send IRCs. Place ONLY your call in the upper left corner of each envelope. Mailings are made around the 25th of each month, and any cards you have on file on the 20th will be sent at that time. Money, in lieu of SASEs, is not acceptable, nor are envelopes of other sizes.

To send cards through the bureau, place the call of the station the card is going to on the right rear of each card, and put them in ascending alphabetical order. There is a charge of 5 cents for each card addressed to a station outside of North America. All other services of the bureau are free.

Upon request we will be happy to forward a complete rules sheet in your first SASE, along with the answers to any specific questions you may have. AMSAT OSCAR QSL Bureau 116 Country Farms Road, Marlton, NJ 08053.

# W5YI REPORT-

## FCC GOES AHEAD WITH NO CODE HAM RULEMAKING

There were two suggested alternatives for the proposed codeless class in the recently issued rulemaking. "The proposed class will be an 'entry' class," the Commission said, "for which proficiency in radio theory, operation and practice will be required rather than proficiency in code. In that way," it said, "individuals can prove that they have the ability and discipline to make a serious contribution." The Commission proposed as alternatives either to change the requirements for the existing Technician Class license (eliminating the Novice Class Code exam, requiring proficiency of 5 words per minute) or to create a new Experimenter Class license without a code requirement and perhaps requiring demonstration of greater proficiency by written exam, than the Technician Class does. The latter would be similar to the Canadian Digital Amateur Class Certificate.

(Read latter a word from the Clubs President)

## USE OF VOLUNTEER AMATEURS PROPOSED FOR HAM OPERATOR TESTING

As anticipated, the Commission has proposed to authorize volunteers to prepare and administer exams for Amateur Radio Operator licenses above the Novice Class. The FCC would issue lists of approved questions which would be drawn on for exams.

Written examinations for the Technician, General and Advanced licenses would be given by three person teams consisting of a team Chief holding the Amateur-Extra Class license and two members holding either Advanced or Extra Class licenses. All three team members for an Amateur Extra exam would take that class. Telegraphy exams above Novice level would be given by an Extra Class license. The examination team would certify and forward applications of successful candidates to the FCC so that the appropriate Amateur licenses could be issued. Exam team chiefs would maintain files of test papers and pertinent information. Interim permits would be issued to successful candidates enabling them to immediately operate their stations for up to 90 days with the privileges and limits of the newer higher license class.

The Commission in October, 1982, proposed to amend its rules so that volunteer licensees of General Class and above who now prepare and administer Morse Code tests to Novice Class license candidates also would prepare the written exams for the Novice license based on the appropriate syllabus and Study Guide and conduct and grade them. That proposal would not be changed by the current action.

## AMATEUR RADIO ITEM TAKEN OFF OF COMMISSION AGENDA.....TWICE

For some reason the FCC Commission Meeting amateur radio item has been taken off of their Agenda for the second time. The FCC Commissioners were to have considered whether to adopt a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to amend Part 97 of the Rules to make additional frequencies available to RACES during declared emergencies.

## DAYTON HAM VENTION MAY INAUGURATE HAM SELF TESTING...

The Dayton Ham Vention has formally requested a waiver of Part 97:28/9 to allow them to give the exams themselves. The Commission will issue the licenses after the DARA certifies that the applicant has met the requirements of the license class involved. The Commission is very interested in seeing how the amateur community will handle the job. The DARA said "We are prepared to administer up to 1350 tests. They gave 1200 tests last year."

## AMATEURS AUTHORIZED TO USE AMTOR DIGITAL CODE IN HF BANDS

The Commission has authorized use of the AMTOR digital teleprinter 7-bit code by licensed radio amateur operators in the high frequency ham bands (3-30 MHz). AMTOR is an automatic, highly reliable, request-repeat radioteleprinter code. An Amateur Radio radioteletype station using the AMTOR code transmits data in three character blocks and then waits for the receiving station to acknowledge correct receipt or issue instructions to retransmit. Duplex operation is not necessary. It slows down under bad conditions.

## FUTURE OF 900 MHz SPECTRUM DEFINED BY COMMISSION

The 900 MHz band is headed for widespread use if the FCC gets their way. Seeking to allocate 133 channels for what amounts to mobile cordless public telephone system for the masses. (CB)??? The freq. selected for GE is 898-902/937-941 MHz. Also commercial air to ground radio telephone. No doubt more will come later.

Send your comments to: The Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Be sure to mark your comments as a response to PR Docket No. 83-28. Formal comments require filing of an original and five copies. (If you wish each Commissioner to have a copy, send an original and eleven copies.) Informal copies require only submission of one copy to the above address. Formal and informal comments are given the same consideration. While not absolutely necessary, we suggest that they be typed in the following format...

Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
 Washington, D.C. 20554

In the matter of

Establishment of a Class of  
 Amateur Operator License Not  
 Requiring a Demonstration of  
 Proficiency in the International  
 Morse Code.

PR Docket No. 83-28)

TO: The Commission

COMMENTS OF (LIST YOUR NAME OR CLUB HERE):

Most comments have a short INTRODUCTION (who you or your club are, how many members, etc.) followed by BACKGROUND of the proposal. Your COMMENTS should follow with convincing reasons for them. The ending of your comments should contain a CONCLUSION such as...

"We respectfully ask the Commission to..... (give your suggestions on the no-code issue in a very short paragraph.)"

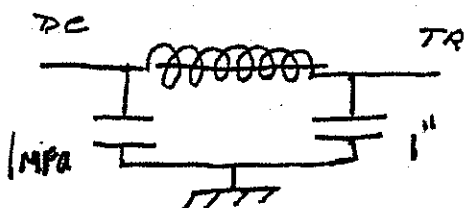
Respectfully submitted,  
 YOUR (OR YOUR CLUB'S) NAME

Signed: Your signature, call sign...  
 (Club Office, if appropriate.)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

LATE SWAP...SELL...WANT.....

546-8860 n, 527-3101 d, Steve---Autek Reasearch QGI-A SSB/CW/AM filter--\$50.00-----  
 Vibrex Keyer \$35.00---Hallicrafters AB AND SW RCV. \$15.00---Motorola PTT Mike  
 \$10.00---Meniterradie Radio Coverage 30-50 & 152-174 MHz. \$5.00.....  
 If you have Alternater whine try the following it may work--



USE WIRE SIZE LARGE ENOUGH TO CARRY  
 CURRENT AND PREVENT TOO MUCH VOLTAGE  
 DROP FROM BAT. TO RIG. USE LARGE  
 NAIL OR BOLT AS CORE. (NEW)

(Bring to the next club meeting when you pay your dues)

SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NR. \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

(Full or Sponsoring -- Full membership available only to licensed amateurs)

- MAJOR INTERESTS:
- DX
  - Constructing
  - Contests
  - Traffic Handling
  - Ragchewing
  - Public Service
  - VHF FM
  - VHF ssb/cw
  - HF phone
  - HF cw
  - RTTY
  - ATV/SlowScan
  - Computers
  - \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD LIKE TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH:

- Repeater Committee
- Technical Committee
- RACES or ARES emergency services
- Public Service events
- Communications Trailer Committee
- Novice Classes
- Finding Programs for meetings
- Upgrade Classes
- Mini DX-peditions
- Teaching a Class
- Social events (picnics, potlucks, Christmas Party etc.)

**B A D G E**  
 (Fill in exactly as it should appear on your badge)

Call \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP LOTTERY**  
 (\$.25 per meeting)

Call \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to participate:

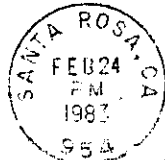
YES  NO

SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

P. O. BOX 116

SANTA ROSA, CA. 95402

FIRST CLASS



THE BRAVIN FAMILY  
AG6C & WD6CKP  
3411 COFFEY LANE  
SANTA ROSA CA 95401

