

# SHORT SKIP

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.



JAN 1984/5 Club Station W6LFJ

P.O. Box 116 Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Repeater Station WB6PVS

VOL 10 # 1

November '84 / Speedway

## PORTRAIT OF A DIE-HARD

by Tomaseen

crack-crumple, realizing too late it was the BMW.

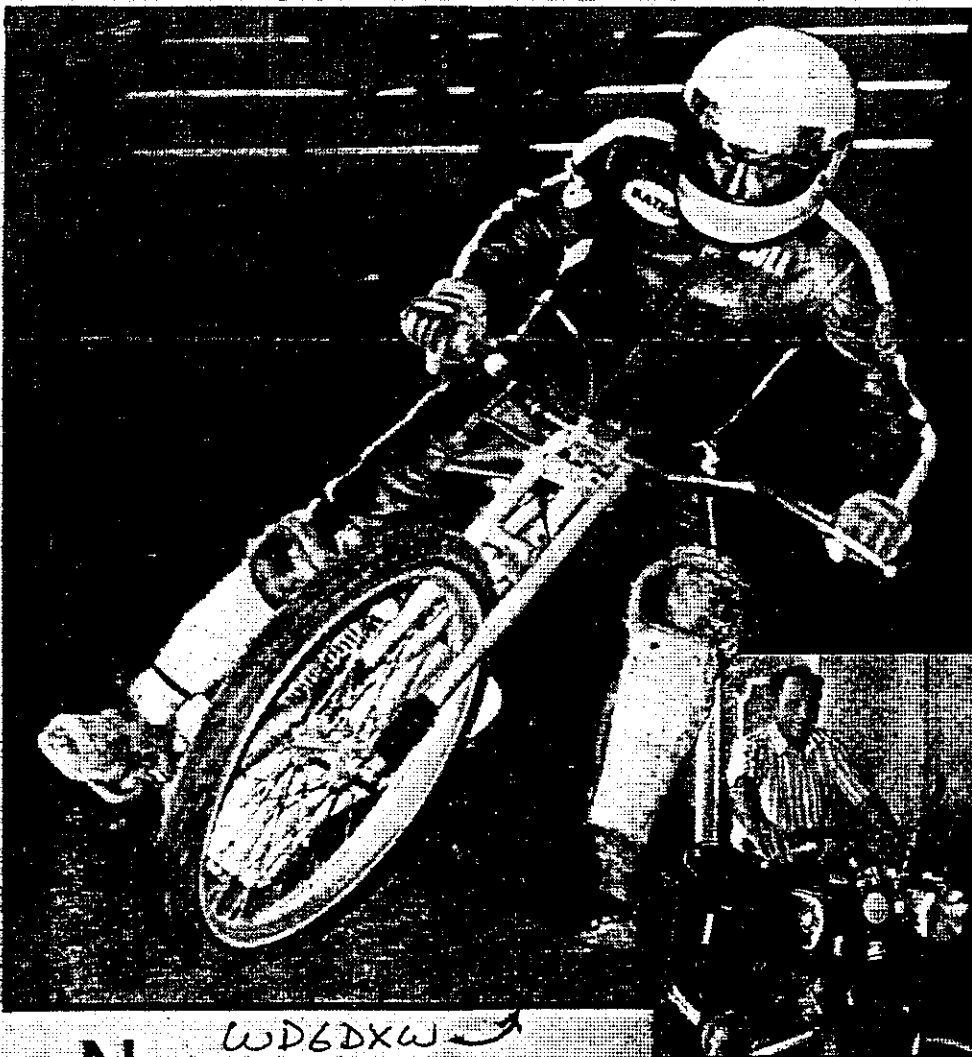
"Well," he says, maybe a little abashed. "The fairing just kind of hung there like a surrealistic mobile. Someday I might replace it, but I really don't miss it that much."

At the age of 60 and with 40 years riding experience behind him, Bill compares motorcycling to drinking from the fountain of youth. The doctor who gives him his annual physical examination proclaims him in excellent health, and the nurse comments on his year-round suntan.

"You must play a lot of golf," she offers, and "No, I ride motorcycles" is the reply. Then there is dead silence, and Bill doesn't bother to explain that the physical is a requirement for obtaining a professional racing license from the American Motorcyclist Association.

According to AMA's Professional Competition manager, Bill is the oldest speedway (Class A) racer currently licensed by the AMA. A t-shirt proclaiming him the "World's oldest speedway rider (slowest too)" is right up there amongst his prized possessions which include a framed five dollar bill depicting his first money ride (Division II Main, San Jose, July 1975), a 1975 Special Recognition plaque from the now defunct Speedway Racing Association (north) and first place trophies from both Auburn and Napa, California.

Advanced to Division II in his first season, Bill, after 10 years of speedway, remains a good natured victim of announcers who introduce him as a member of the Geritol set, a candidate for Medicare coverage and a revamped Class C rider.



WD6DXW

**N**OT EVERYONE rides a BMW without a fairing. Ask Bill Thomas about it, and he replies with a slow grin and in sotto voice. "If the Man Upstairs had wanted me to use a fairing, he wouldn't have made my garage door so low."

That's Thomas for you. He has a reasonable explanation for everything, but you have to press him to get the details. He had the motorcycle in the

back of the pick-up truck, see, and he forgot it was the road bike instead of his Yamaha IT or the Jawa. He backed into the garage and heard this crash-

SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

1985 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Chuck Sabia W6DDK 705-2371
VICE PRES: Bob Olsten W6DPE 546-5502
SECRETARY: Brian Torr W6TLY 855-2234
TREASURER: Rudy Mappus W6KLU 544-1979
ACTIVITIES: Bob Phillips KB6EOC 542-5200
REPEATERS: Jim Poyett WB6UBA 544-7043
MEM-AT-LRG: Lyle Meek W6BLN 526-2232

SHORT SKIP: Alan Bloom N1AL 832-4524
260 Anita Ln, Windsor CA 95402 4577-2100
MAP SHOP: Hank Davis W6DTV 822-7885
RACES LIASN: Jim Poyett WB6UBA 544-7043
RR LIASON: Alan Bloom N1AL 832-4524
POST. DIR: Chuck Sabia W6DDK 705-2371
SUB. RELATNS:

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Bob Phillips KB6EOC 542-5200
REFRESHMENTS AT MTGS: Bob Olsten W6DPE
RAFFLE AT MTGS: Lyman Wiltshire W6SMY
May Kobold W6GZV, Terry Leduka WA6RNF
REETER AT MTGS: May Kobold W6GZV
FIELD DAY: Doug WAOJRB ?

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:
DSL MANAGER: Doug Pender WAOJRB
ALKATHONS, etc.: May W6GZV ?
LEA MARKET: Al N1AL ?

REPEATER COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Jim Poyett WB6UBA 544-7043
lan Bloom N1AL Terry Leduka WA6RNF
ob Olsten W6DPE Brian Kotzian KE6WL

CLUB MEETINGS

7:30 PM First Wednesday of every month
at the Sonoma Co. Emergency Operations
Center (EOC). See map below.

NEXT CLUB MEETING: Jan 2, 1980.

PROGRAM: Packet Radio, Jim KB6BTC

Meetings are open to all, whether or
not a member. You need not be licensed
to join. Dues are \$12.00/year for full
working membership (licensed Amateurs
only) or \$8.00/year for sponsoring
members (licensed or unlicensed.)
first-time members also pay an \$2.00
initiation fee.

Map showing location of EOC at 260 Anita Ln, Windsor CA, near Highway 101 and Venture Ave.

THE PREZ SEZ

I would like to take this opportunity
to thank Doug WAOJRB and all his help-
ers for a very nice Christmas Party.
Also thanks to the previous officers
who left the club in such fine shape
for the new set of officers.

Hope to see a good turn-out at the
January meeting, we have lots of
chairs and committees to fill. Those
of you who have suggestions for the
new year, please talk to Lyle Meek
W6BLN, your Board Member at Large or
any of the officers. We're going to
need all the help we can muster.

This year I'm going to try to work
at setting up more training for ARES
RACES/VIP members. The training for
any of these programs is almost the
same, so why duplicate training and
set up possible friction. If we can
offer complete basic training we
should be qualified to fill position
in any group, and that's what counts
isn't it?

Well enough of the soap box for
now, see you all at the Jan. meeting

Chuck W6DDK

EARTHQUAKE

Between April 15/20 is earthquake
preparedness week in state of Calif.
Radio room at the EOC may be open and
in operation during the daytime.
Public would be invited to visit same
during the week. This would be a
good time for public relations, and
pictures would be in line. Who
wants to help? Call Hank W6DTV.
Plan now -- don't wait until the
night before... -- W6DTV

RADIO SHACK

Store Nr. 3855

Zane Bates, Manager

510 Farmers Lane
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Telephone
546-942

TURBULENT TIMES - A GUEST EDITORIAL

by Bob Mc Kay, N8ADA

Never in the history of amateur radio have there been so many changes to amateur frequencies and proposals that would impact on amateurs as are being considered at present. News editors are having a time keeping up and sorting it out. It would be well for everyone to read the magazines and newsletters carefully, as what is happening today will affect our future as amateurs.

Historically, amateur radio operators have been one of the most complacent special interest groups around. We have believed somewhere, somehow, there was a great good Father in Washington to look out for our interests. We assumed our frequencies were established there for us by the grace of God and were untouchable.

Well, if you still believe that, you sure haven't been reading the news. The present proposals to turn over the 220 MHz band and half of the 160 meter band to commercial interests is indicative of the continuing press for our frequencies. The present climate in Washington that "big business must be served" is not going to make things easier for us.

You can be sure that the ARRL will be in there fighting for our interests. However, it is hampered by the fact that less than half of us support it financially.

We have shown we can get riled as we did on the code-no code issue and take action on an individual basis. There is going to have to be a lot more of this in the future if we want to maintain what we have. If the commercial interests find they can get one band from us they will increase pressure for more.

Many of you feel you cannot write letters but that is rarely the case. If you get concerned enough you can. From now on, our continued use of the bands will depend on how we as a group are able to defend our interests. Better get out that pen and paper.

(Thanks Westlink Report and the RF Carrier (Dayton ARA).)

de DJ6TC:Hans Berg DJ6TC  
Nov. 12th, 1984

Dear Friends,

Before the year ends I would like to write a few lines because I have not had the chance to meet some of you this year. One reason was that this time -- after a lot of years -- I have not visited the US and the second reason was that none of you came over to meet me in Luebeck. (1985 I will be back.)

Anyhow I had no chance to congratulate the new elected officers accompanied by wishes that you all do the best for the club and no less for Amateur Radio.

I was proud to hear SCRA became a Special Service Club. Go on that way. If I can be helpful in any way, please let me know. As you probably saw, I was elected as the chairman of the IARU Region 1 HF Working Group. That will also give me a chance to visit the US (IARU HQ). But at least it increases the close work with a lot of ARRL friends who are engaged in IARU work.

The next HF WG meeting where representatives of most of the Region 1 societies will take part will be held in Luebeck from March 9th to 11th! IARU president W1RU and a good friend of mine Larry Price will possibly come too. If some of you will be in Europe during that time, it would be a great pleasure to have you here as a guest and observer during that meeting.

Please find enclosed a small [Ed. note: not so small!] check for donation to Short Skip. I appreciate receiving it.

Please pass my sincere season's greetings to all my friends and club members. With very best wishes from the entire sister club of Luebeck,

Yours Sincerely,  
Hans

TREASURER'S REPORT  
NOVEMBER 1984

GENERAL FUND - Checking Acct. Beginning Balance \$1467.29

RECEIPTS:

Dues	\$19.00	
Initiations	24.00	43.00
Reimb. Flea Mkt Chk	35.00	
Reimb. " " Bk Chg	1.50	
Reimb. " " Deposit	100.00	136.50
ARRL Renewals		50.00
Raffle at Club meeting		33.00
Coffee & Donuts		11.19
Christmas Party (2 Tickets)		10.00

Total Receipts: 263.69

PAYMENTS

Ret'd Chk-Flea Mkt	35.00	
Bank Chg -Flea Mkt	1.50	36.50
Badges		12.72
Raffle		12.26
Short Skip		33.00
Westlink		17.65
Coffee & Donuts		8.67
D.A.R.T. (Antenna Fund)		25.00
Christmas Party Advance		450.00

Total Expenses 595.80

GENERAL FUND - Ending Balance 1155.18

REPEATER FUND - Savings account Beginning Balance \$1579.21

RECEIPTS: 1/2 of \$35.00 dues income for 3rd Quarter Jul/Aug/Sept: \$17.50

REPEATER FUND - Ending Balance 1597.21

NOVICE ROUNDUP 1985

by Steve Lund, WA8LLY

Interested in contesting? Would you like to enter a CW contest, but the 40 wpm speed merchants scared you off in the Sweepstakes? Would you like to help a Novice?

You can do all of these and more in the annual ARRL Novice Roundup. This has been a favorite contest of mine for many years. The competition is very friendly and everyone has the same power limit.

This years NR starts at 4 PM on Friday, 25 January and ends at 4 PM on Sunday, 3 February. The exchange consists of a signal report and ARRL Section. Novices sign their calls with /N and Technicians with /T. Complete rules are listed in January QST. If you would like to officially enter, I can supply the log forms.

Last year Brian, N6IIY, from our club placed first in San Francisco Section. I'm sure he'd like to repeat again this year. How about a friendly club competition? Sepcial certificates will be awarded to the SCRA Novice/ Technician and General and higher licensees who report the highest scores during this year's NR. I hope to work many of you.

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

The annual Christmas Party went off without a hitch thanks to organizers Steve KD6GC and Doug WAOJRB and their YL's Pat KF6AG and Pam. Many thanks to Terry WA6LIA for obtaining use of the Armory for us on short notice. Thanks also to our expert cook Lyle N6BLN who has lots of experience with turkeys.

It was pretty obvious that Steve was taken by surprise when Phil, KB6DIO presented him with the Member of the Year award. Steve has given a lot of himself to the club in the past year, and we all congratulate him for the well-deserved acknowledgement.

The evening was capped with an in-person visit from Santa Claus. We have Chuck N6DDK to thank for making the arrangements.

FROM THE PACKET STATUS REGISTER:

Who would have believed, 20 years ago, what hams are doing now? Hand-held color TV linked thru a repeater, data at 120 characters a second from LA to New Zealand thru an amateur satellite 22,000 miles high, hand held 70 cm chats between LA and Texas.

"OK Fred, the mouse beamed over in one piece but he's not breathing, crank up the power and try your mother-in-law."

T - E - C - H      N - E - W - S

PACKET RADIO: W3OTC, Rockville MD and WORPK, Indianola, IA have been making regular 100% error-free QSO's over a 1300 km (800 mi) path on 6 meters using packet radio. No communications are normally possible on cw or voice. Packet radio is well-suited for such meteor-burst propagation because each packet is only about 1/3 second long and is automatically resent over and over until acknowledged. (QEX)

AUTOMATIC CONTROL OF PACKET RADIO above 30 MHz has been requested by ARRL in a petition for rulemaking to FCC filed Nov. 14. This would permit computer-based message systems ("Bulletin Boards") without the necessity of having a control op present. (ARRL)

The November issue of QEX magazine has an interesting Two meter receiving converter using MRF966's the new low-cost GASFET's from Motorola.

THANKS TO the ARRL technical publication QEX and the ARRL Letter for the use of their information.

EVENTS CALENDAR:

JANUARY:  
 Dec 31/Jan 1 - Straight Key Night  
 Jan 2 - Club meeting EOC 7:30 PM  
 Jan 5/6 - ARRL QSO Party, CW  
 Jan 9 - Board meeting  
 Jan 12/13- ARRL VHF Sweepstakes  
 Jan 17 - CDF meeting 7:30 PM  
 Jan 19 - FCC VE exams Eureka 9 AM  
 (see W6HHP 445-1358)  
 Jan 19/20- ARRL QSO Party, Phone  
 Jan 26 - FCC VE exams EOC 1:00 PM  
 Jan 26/Feb 3 - Novice Roundup

FEBRUARY:  
 Feb 2 - Club meeting EOC 7:30 PM  
 Feb 16/17- ARRL DX Contest, CW

MARCH:  
 Mar 2/3 - ARRL DX Contest, Phone  
 Mar 6 - Club meeting EOC 7:30 PM  
 Mar 30 - W. Coast Computer Faire, SF  
 (+/Packet Radio Conference)

APRIL:  
 Apr 3 - Club meeting EOC 7:30 PM  
 (Homebrew contest)

SEPTEMBER:  
 Sept 21 - SCRA Flea Market

## N - E - W - S Of Amateur Radio

NASA OK's Another Ham-In-Space Flight.

Dr. Tony England WOORE will be aboard the seven-day 51-F Spacelab-II Shuttle mission April 17, 1985. The schedule could slip somewhat -- perhaps as late as mid-Summer or even Fall 1985.

Another ham, John-David F. Bartoe W4NYZ, will be on the same flight.

England will use the same 2M FM rig operated by Owen Garriott W5LFL aboard STS-9. SSTV gear will go along also. A two meter-to-ten meter repeater will allow you to hear yourself from space with "instant QSL"! -- (W5YI)

Also, it's been discovered that another ham, Dr. Ron Parise WA4SIR has been selected to fly as Payload Specialist on at least 2 future Shuttle missions. He appears eager to operate if it can be arranged. (PSR)

NASA may scrub the Spacelab-3 mission that was to carry Owen Garriott again in late 1985. This is to try to catch up on its much-delayed schedule of commercial flights. (Westlink)

JAS-1, the Japanese Amateur satellite, is expected to go up Feb 4, 1986. It will have a "store and repeat" packet radio similar to PACSAT satellite, but with 1.5 Megabytes of memory. (PSR)

ANTENNAS: After 2 years, the lawsuit between Burbank and its ham population is settled. Burbank agreed that within 30 days it will enact an ordinance specifically allowing ham antennas up to 65 feet high. Major thanks go to ARRL Volunteer Counsel James C. O'Connell W9WU. (ARRL)

K2RIW is having a big fight to retain his world-famous UHF antenna farm after an ordinance was passed prohibiting commercial broadcast towers. The town of Huntington, NY chose to attempt to apply the law to Dick even though he's never had a TVI complaint, and his neighbors unanimously support his antenna! A volunteer group called D.A.R.T. (Defend Am. Radio Towers, POB 2851, Huntington Station, NY 11746) is accepting donations (Dick has already spent \$2000 of his own money in legal fees.) Make checks payable to "Huntington Tower Fund." (W5YI)

160 METER GIVEAWAY: The upcoming expansion of the AM broadcast band pushing radiolocation (LORAN, etc. into 160 meters. FCC PR docket 84 proposes kicking amateurs out of 1 2000 kHz. Comment filing deadline Jan 24, 1985.

THE FCC MET NOV 21 and allocated 4 MHz in the 900 MHz region to Land Mobile, Business Radio and Special Mobile Radio services. Not one kHz Hertz for any of the proposed personal radio services. Also turned down additional spectrum for cordless telephones and the proposed "Airphone" flight telephone service.

No action was taken on RM-4829, petition from the Land Mobile Communications Council to reassign the Amateur 220-225 MHz band to land mobile. The date for a decision on this matter still unknown. (Westlink)

THE 20 KILOHERTZ BANDPLAN for two meters is being considered by TASM (Southern Calif's Two Meter Area Spectrum Management Assoc.) Any action will probably be several years away. Since the entire 2M band is saturated in LA, this plan would force many repeaters off the air. (Westlink)

FCC SAYS "OKAY": Ham radio support activities in the recent New York Marathon were made possible because of quick FCC action on a regulatory interpretation request from the Tri-State Repeater Council.

This year, the Marathon became "commercial venture" when the sponsor decided to award prize money to the winners... On Oct. 23, Private Radio Bureau Chief Robert Foosner replied that although 97.3 (b) specifically prohibits business type communications using ham radio, there were no regulations to stop them from working on an event of this sort as long as any pecuniary benefits to the race sponsor or its participants were "incidental."

In closing, Foosner said: "Please inform your group that their licenses are not endangered... They have my support and personal thanks for serving the public." (Westlink)

INDIA: The new Prime Minister of India is Rajiv Gandhi VU2RG; his wife Sonia is VU2SON. The IARU has sent a letter of condolence to the Gandhi family. Other ham heads-of-state are King Hussein JY1 (Jordan) and King Juan Carlos EA0JC, Spain. (Westlink)

MARS SCANDAL: A story excerpted from the Wichita Eagle Beacon reports "An internal Army investigation has confirmed that millions of dollars in surplus Defense property, from microwave ovens to video recorders, has been given to amateur radio operators and their friends."

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said that the probe uncovered serious problems with MARS disbursement procedures, and that he has ordered corrective action. The Army probe found that the problem is nationwide and gear often finds its way into the hands of non-MARS members. (Westlink)

NEW EXAM QUESTIONS: The FCC has completely revamped the approved test questions for the Element 3 (Tech/Gen) amateur radio operator examination. The changes, while massive, consist primarily of rewording, clarifications and altering formats so they could be used as multiple choice instead of true-false. Several questions were entirely new to reflect rules or policy changes. Practically no question was left untouched. The syllabus on which the questions are based is unchanged.

Deadlines for VECs to submit corrections to Advanced and Extra exam questions are January 1 and April 1 respectively. Speculation is that the new questions will come out about a month later. (W5YT)

List of area VE exams is available on a 24-hour recording in Sunnyvale at 99-255-0000. (LARK)

CANADA is considering eliminating exclusive subbands in response to the recent US phone band expansion, in line with the recent CARR (Canadian Radio Regulation) resolution. (W5YT)

THE ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Nov 10: Decided not to oppose docket 84-050, FCC's proposal to allow E1, E2, F1, F5, A4 and A5 on 160 meters on the assumption that a band plan will be developed compatible with existing users.

Reaffirmed support for the 200 W output limitation on the 10 MHz band and 1500 W on 24 MHz with the subband allocations listed in Doc. 08T.

Asked the VUAC (VHF-UHF Advisory Committee) to develop band plans for the 2300-2310/2300-2450 MHz band. (ARRL)

JOB OPENINGS AT ARRL HQ: Technical Dept., Club Program, WIAW operator (ex-job of your newsletter editor). Send requests for job descriptions & details to the attention of the appropriate area. (PCW)

PAY SCALES AT ARRL HQ range from \$5000-\$6500 per year for the lowest job grade to \$27,000-\$20,000 for the highest. (I started in 1972 for \$6000/year) -- (W5YT)

PASS/FAIL RATES FOR ARRL VE EXAMS:

	5upm	12upm	20upm	Nov Gen	Adv	Exp
#Pass	25	107	79	25	175	105
#Taken	32	420	121	33	256	250
Pass %	66%	46%	60%	62%	40%	42%

Totals: 620/1325 = 47.0% (as of Dec.)

CALLSIGNS ISSUED AS OF NOVEMBER 1:

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Extra	Advanced	Tech/Gen	Novice
W6CZ	W6FLY	W6LEH	W6GMP

(ARRL)

W5YT reports that amateur license activity has dropped by 1/3 since FCC exams were scaled back to 4 times a year. It now takes only about 12 working days (3 weeks) to process and mail new ham licenses.

THANKS TO the following newsletters for the above information: W5YT Report, Westlink Report, ARRL Letter, Radio Club News (ARRL), LARK (Livancore ARC) newsletter, and the Packet Status Register (Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Group).

SHORT SKIP

SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

JAN 1991

HANK'S SWAP SHOP  
Hank Davis, W6DTV 7822 Washington Av.  
San Francisco, CA 94122 823-7885  
(Non-commercial ham ads printed free.)

WENWOOD TRIPS Rcvr/Yatr \$200. Call  
Lobby Br. at 823-7182

CENTURY 21, 90/10, CW only, 60/70  
atts, \$175. Call Hank 823-7885.

WENWOOD TR180 with DFC, VFO, 3050 mic,  
pwr. supply \$500. Call Mike at  
823-8077 mornings.

WANTED: 40 METER TRAPS for 40/90M  
antenna. Call Bob at 542-5200.

SALE OR SWAP: SWAN 400 w/ 420XC pwr.  
supply. Call Bob at 542-5200.

SWAN 500 with pwr. supply, spkr and  
mic \$185. Call 546-9353 and ask for  
Van Gross.

GIVE AWAY or small donation, Model 10  
RTTY printer, tape puncher. Come and  
get it. 580-8924.

MICROLOG ABR-1, ABR 2, 9" monitor,  
\$250. call 526-2731.

WANT: KLEGG 220 FM 25 or Midland  
13-500 220 MHz. 415-276-2826.

WANTED: AF67 POWER SUPPLY or power  
transformer for same. Tracy 527-9124.

TELETYPE Model 35 ASCII (computer)  
printer/keyboard ruggedized version of  
model 32 with tape perforator/loader.  
Works, \$125. N1AL 823-7885 (eves),  
577-2100 (d).

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

FIRST CLASS