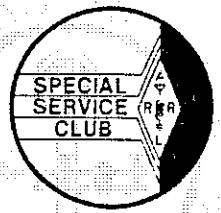


SHORT SKIP

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.



Club Station

P.O. Box 116

Repeater Station

JAN 1986

W6LFJ

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

WB6PVS

VOL. 11 NR. 1



PRESENTED TO CHUCK SABIN N6DDK IN APPRECIATION FOR SERVICE AS PRESIDENT



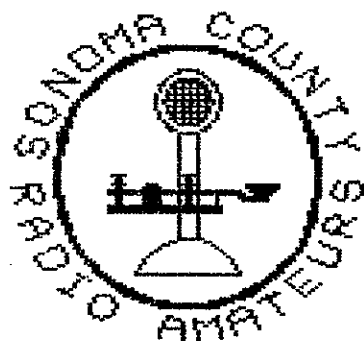
MEMBER OF THE YEAR BETTY BRAVIN AG6C

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!





838-6102

OFFICERS FOR 1986:

PRESIDENT:	George Shedore	KS6W	528-0201
VICE PRES.:	Bob Olsten	WD6DPE	546-5593
SECRETARY:	Marie Mappus	N6KUS	664-1978
TREASURER:	Ed Goei	KA6LGC	579-1681
REPEATER CHAIR:	Phil Copenhaver	N6KZS	542-2218
MEMBER-AT-LARGE:	Warren Klinger	WB6RHP	632-5459

SHORT SKIP ED.: Alan Bloom N1AL 538-7115
 Send articles to: 1578 Los Alamos Rd.
 Santa Rosa CA 95405

SWAP SHOP: Hank Davis W6DTV 823-7885

RACES LIAS: W6DTV (above) / WN6D 544-7943
 ARRL LIAS: Alan Bloom N1AL 838-4524
 ASST. DIR: Chuck Sabin N6DDK 795-2371
 PUB. RLATN: Kathi Boyett WB6UAZ 544-7943

ARE YOU NOT AN SCRA MEMBER?
 IF SO, then this is a complimentary copy. Our club is into almost every aspect of amateur radio: repeaters (13/73), Field Day, license classes (novice/upgrade), volunteer exams, RACES, DX programs, packet radio, hidden xmtr hunts -- you name it. We invite you to visit our next club meeting (see below) or check into the club net on the 146.13/73 repeater every Tues. night at 7 PM. Check in and listen to a recorded Westlink Amateur news broadcast, club announcements, and swap shop. If you would like to join SCRA, refer to the dues listed below. 73!

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

REFRESHMENTS AT MEETINGS: Bob WD6DPE
 GREETER AT MTGS: May Kobold N6GZV
 RAFFLE: Lyman WB6SMY, N6GZV, Terry WA6RNF
 QSL MANAGER: Doug Bender WA0JRB
 VOL EXAMS: W6DTV WA6ACX K6ANP N6BLN
 WB6FRZ KF6FX WA0JRB WABLLY WB6UBA
 EDUCATN: KS6W WB6UBA W6DTV WA6ACX AG6C
 PROGRAM CHAIRMAN: --OPEN--
 HIDDEN XMTR HUNTS: Don Osborne WA6ACX
 WALKATHONS: N6KLU, N6KUS, N6GZV, N6GZV
 XMAS PARTY: KS6W, N6KUS, N6FAX, KD6GC

REPEATER COMMITTEE

Alan Bloom N1AL Terry Laduke WA6RNF
 Bob Olsten WD6DPE Brian Kotzian KE6WL
 Hoppy Bravin WD6CKP (Westlink b'cast)

CLUB MEETINGS

7:30 PM 1st Wed of each month at the
 Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
 NEXT CLUB MEETING: January 8, 1985
 PROGRAM: Pete Peterka w/ slide show
 Meetings open to all, member or
 not. Need not be licensed to join.
 Full voting membership for licensed
 Amateurs only. Dues: \$12.00 per year
 plus a one-time \$8.00 initiation fee.
 (Includes call-letter/name badge.)

SHORT SKIP ADVERTISING RATES:

Printed Ads: \$10 First 1/4 Column
 \$5 Add'l 1/4 Column
 Photocopy Ads: \$15 First 1/4 Column
 \$6 Add'l 1/4 Column
 Pre-printed inserts: \$45 per sheet

Guaranteed circulation: 200/month
 (approx 90 member households, 110+
 Sonoma Co. hams on rotating basis)

Ad deadline: 15th of previous month

RADIO SHACK

Store Nr. 3855

Zane Bates, Manager

510 Farmers Lane Telephone
 Santa Rosa, CA 95405 546-8423

S <-- Highway 101 | | --> N
 | |
 | Co. | |
 | Court | EOC | | Bicentennial
 | House | | | Way
Ventura Ave	
Mendocino Ave.	

THE FORUM

The holiday season is just past with many toys and gifts for young and old to play with and learn how to operate.

The New Year is with us, and we should take a few minutes to think back on what has been accomplished during "85" and how we can help Amateur Radio in "86".

RACES is in a new planning stage, and if you have any ideas that you believe would help the new Board of Directors, give them to your club representatives.

There are many other things that need help; see what you can offer. Become active, not passive, in club activities during "86". What can you do for programs, activities, Field Day, and socials, as they are all part of club progress. Ideas are what the new Board of Directors need from the new membership. It is hard for the Board to read your mind to find out what you want the club to do or what directions you want to go. Come forward and be heard.

This old proverb may be a good guide for "86": "Tell me, I forget. Show me, I remember. Involve me, I understand."

-- W6DTV

VEC EXAMS

The next SCRA-sponsored FCC exams will be held Saturday, February 15, 1986 starting at 9 AM. Location is the Office of Emergency Services, Planning Room #108, Sonoma County Complex, 600 Administration Drive, Santa Rosa 95401. (See map page 2)

Send your completed 610 form, a check for \$4.25 made out to "ARRL/VEC", and a copy of your current license to:

(next column)

Henry E. Davis W6DTV
7822 Washington Ave.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
(707) 823-7885

Applications received ahead of test day will reserve a seat. Time sked is as follows:

9:00 to 10:00 AM Extra code
10:15 to 11:15 AM 13 wpm code
11:30 to 1:00 PM Written tests

MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Betty Bravin AAG6C, a member of SCRA, was awarded the Member of the Year Award for 1985 for her devoted service to the club and to Amateur Radio.

Among her many operating awards are DXCC for CW. She has helped around 39 YL's through the Novice license, many of whom have advanced to Technician and higher.

Helping the blind and handicapped is one of her main outstanding accomplishments. Betty is certified to give any FCC test to these interested people.

Her time spent during the Mexigal earthquake helped many families learn about relatives in Mexico. She handled over 30 messages, some taking just a few minutes, while others took days for results.

She has many friends in countries around the world such as Italy, Japan, Africa, and Down Under. Many have sent her presents, phone calls and many other interesting items.

She has kept skeds with many locals going to far away places like a former club member Anita N6GGU, who is in the South Pacific on an extended cruise with her family and their private sail boat.

Congratulations, Betty, from all of us!

-- W6DTV

ELECTRON HOLE THEORY (Tnx W6DTV)

Have you been amused and confused by the electron-hole theory? Do charges, valence bands, and the 3/2 power law make you nervous?

A startling discovery was recently made which invalidates all this clap-trap. Here is how electronic equipment really works.

For many years, young electronic technicians have been taught the "hole" theory of electronics. This theory explains how electrons move along conductors and semiconductors. The explanation has been good enough to satisfy or keep at bay anyone who might otherwise question the theory.

However, after many years of working in the field, I have come to realize that the "hole" theory may not be correct.

My theory, which has been proven time and again by personal observation is that electronics works on smoke! Yes, that's right, smoke. I recently learned that every manufacturer encapsulates a certain amount of smoke in every peice of electronic gear that he builds. The smoke is what does the work.

You have probably noticed that a component will quit working when the smoke leaks out. I've documented this many times, and it conclusively proves my theory. My theory sure beats the "hole theory. I've never seen holes in a wire, and why don't electrons pour out of the end of the wire, if the wire is broken?

I say the smoke theory is right. I've seen smoke many times, but I've never seen an electron.

(Tnx MSN Newsletter/ARNS)

THE LOWER-POWERED HAMS

Some members of the SCRA may not be familiar with the "Lower Powered Hams", so I'll try to list their activities during the year.

To begin with, they are a group of friends that have a liking for camping through the year. Weather is not always a deterrent as they have been out in good and bad. Secondly, they all have an interest in field-type Amateur Radio activities.

Most have portable antenna systems that vary from dipoles to verticals to beams. Most rigs will work on 12 VDC or 110 VAC. Many have gas-driven generators and some have solar-powered units available.

Over the years, different methods have been developed so one or all of the antenna systems can be adapted to any site.

Many individuals of the group have set up emergency supplies related to antenna systems, radio gear and accessories, operating and personal needs for most occasions.

As a group and as individuals, the LPH's have covered a great deal of Northern California in campouts and with one main objective in mind: to be able to communicate back home from any location.

Back to the camping activities. Many other individuals have been invited to attend the group's outings. Some trips have expanded to the 20's. All types of cooking have been tried, starting out with hot soup on Friday nite for the early birds. All types of BBQ's have been tried even to turkey.

What does all this lead to? Well more activity within the club is needed, and other groups could be formed. This could lead to inter-club contests etc... The groups should not be too large as they become hard to plan for, so what say start your group and let's have fun in "86" out under the stars.

-- W6DTV

BULK MAIL

One of the first things the new incoming Board of Directors must decide is whether to continue with bulk mailing of Short Skip. Regular first-class mail costs \$.22 per copy. Bulk mail is only \$.125, but there is a 200 piece minimum. Also the paper for the extra copies is not free. If we are successful in obtaining non-profit status, the postage drops to \$.06 each. Let's assume an average of 5 sheets per issue, and 100 copies per month to members & other subscribers:

	1st Class	Bulk Mail	Non-Prof
# copies	(100)	(200)	(200)
Postage	22.00	25.00	12.00
Paper	4.00	8.00	8.00
Labels	.30	.60	.60
Stencils*	2.00	2.00	2.00
Ink*	.50	1.00	1.00
Photocopy	5.00	10.00	10.00
\$/month	33.80	46.60	33.60
x12=\$/yr	405.60	559.20	403.20
P.O. Fee	--	50.00	50.00
\$/year	405.60	609.20	453.20

* (We have enough donated stencils to last a year and ink for 2 yrs)

Currently the extra 100 copies are sent on a rotating basis to all hams in Sonoma County. If we gain one new member at \$12.00 dues as a result of each 100 piece mailing, then the numbers become:

	1st Class	Bulk Mail	Non-Prof
Costs	405.60	609.20	453.20
Dues	--	-144.00	-144.00
	405.60	465.20	309.20

The \$50.00 annual bulk-mail fee is also used for the advertising flier for the flea market, as well as Short Skip. This saves us .22 - .125 = .095 times 717 pieces = 67.85 which is more than the cost of the fee. Deleting the bulk-mail fee:

	1st Class	Bulk Mail	Non-Prof
	405.60	465.20	309.20
P.O. Fee	--	-50.00	-50.00
TOTAL	405.60	415.20	259.20

Finally, having a guaranteed circulation of 200 may make it easier to sell advertising in Short Skip. If we sell one \$10.00 ad per month, the numbers become:

	1st Class	Bulk Mail	Non-Prof
	405.60	415.20	259.20
Advert.	--	-120.00	-120.00
TOTAL	405.60	295.20	139.20

There are other things we could do to change the equation, like eliminating the photocopying of the front cover, and reducing Short Skip to 4 sheets instead of 5. If we did both of these, the numbers become:

	1st Class	Bulk Mail	Non-Prof
	405.60	295.20	139.20
Photocopy	-60.00	-120.00	-120.00
Paper	-9.60	-19.20	-19.20
TOTAL	336.00	156.00	0.00

In reality, though, we probably won't save much money from bulk mailing unless we get non-profit status. To be considered "non-profit" an organization not only has to make no profit, but also has to be organized and operated for one of several specific purposes. Our most likely categories are "Educational" or "Scientific". Hobby and social clubs are specifically excluded.

We were denied non-profit status once before because our Constitution refers to "fellowship among amateurs", "entertainment at meetings" and the "annual Christmas party." We need to modify the Constitution to better reflect what we really do.

Even if we don't get non-profit status, we may still want to bulk mail. The extra members we pick up may contribute more to the club than just the money from their dues.

What it comes down to is this: Do we really want to make the effort to attract new members from throughout the County, or do we want to remain a small group composed of current friends and acquaintances? There are arguments both ways. The Board will have to decide this at the January Board meeting since the \$50.00 fee is due in Jan. Let them know your opinion before then.

N - E - W - S of Amateur Radio

AUTOPATCHES ARE NOT OUTLAWED in the proposed Electronic Communications Privacy Act S1667 and HR3378. It would also not make possession of any kind of receiving gear illegal. ARRL is working closely with committee members to smooth out rough spots in the bill. (ARRL)

WAYNE GREEN IS BACK. He resumes publication of 73 Magazine effective Jan 2. (Westlink)

HIGH-SPEED PACKET RADIO SERVICE proposed between 52-54 MHz. Don Stoner W6TNS's petition has been accepted by FCC for public comment. He wants a single-channel megabit per sec. packet radio service that would link computer users nationwide without telephone charges. Low pwr (1W), coupled with strict bandwidth specs would eliminate QRM to TV ch2 or Amateur activities below 52 MHz. Each packet would include the radio serial Nr. for easy FCC ID. No remuneration for use, but business activities OK. (Note that there are more subscribers to Byte magazine than Amateurs in the US.) (W5YI)

CANADA PROPOSES TO RESTRUCTURE the Amateur Service. They aim to reduce the current emphasis on technical questions and eliminate the code requirement for frequencies above 30 MHz. To operate below 30 MHz, you take a 12 wpm code test, and to operate with a "home-built" transmitter, you would have to obtain a third certificate. Comments are solicited, especially from those who are not radio amateurs, but "would like to become one." (ARRL)

THIRD-PARTY TRAFFIC IS NOW ILLEGAL for anyone whose Amateur licence has been revoked. This includes phone patches, operating another station's equipment with a control op present, and radiograms. PR 85-51. (W5YI)

AMATEURS ASSIST COLUMBIAN DISASTER. The volcano eruption/mudslide that buried the town of Armero under 60 FEET of mud was first described

through WA4ZZG Raphael Estevez of Miami. 4 or 5 HF stations in Columbia relayed info gathered on the 146.22/.82 repeater ironically located on Nevado del Ruiz, the mountain that erupted. The media "swarmed like bees" on Raphael's home. About a dozen AM, FM and TV stations were present, with Miami ch 7 operating live from his ham shack. Estevez said that unlike some others, he refused to let any broadcaster gather news over the air. They could listen, but not speak directly to Columbia. (W5YI)

AND THEN HURRICANE "KATE" HIT Cuba. "Radio Marti", the US AM news stn. beamed to Cuba was broadcasting developments as they happened by listening to 40/80M Cuban hams. 260,000 people were evacuated. 50% of Havana was without electricity. Estevez had his hands full working 2 major disasters at the same time -- all in Spanish! Most work was done thru the SIRA net on 14.155. (W5YI)

NEW MEXICO GOES TO 20 KHZ repeater spacing. The vote was by 13-to-1 majority with 78% of eligible stn. trustees casting ballots. (W5YI)

HAWAII TOO JUMPS ON 20 KHZ BANDWAGON with their previous frequency coordinator asking to be relieved of his duties as of Dec 1. (W5YI)

SONOMA CLUB RECEIVES CERTIFICATE. The Valley of the Moon ARC received a Certificate of Service from the City of Sonoma Dec 9 representing the City's appreciation for approx. 600 hours of volunteer service by members of the club. (VOMARC)

CALL SIGNS LIST as of Dec 1 (ARRL):

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
(EXTRA)	(ADVANCED)	(TEC/GEN)	(NOVICE)
WN60	KG6ZR	N6MUM	KB6KKW

Thanks to the following for permission to reprint: The ARRL Letter, W5YI Report, Westlink Report, Worldradio News and the Valley of the Moon ARC Newsletter.

T - E - C - H N - E - W - S

PARTY TIME!!!

PACKET IN SPACE? AMSAT and ARRL have proposed to NASA a second Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX). Dr. Ron Parise WA4SIR, payload specialist on the STS 61-E, is very interested in using Packet from space. If approved, SAREX II will use a modified TAPR TNC-2, the Motorola HT used on a previous mission, & a lap-top microcomputer. 5 operating modes are proposed: BEACON, KEYBOARD-TO-KEYBOARD, STORE & FORWARD (message forwarding similar to the PACSAT satellite), REAL-TIME RELAY (packet repeater), and ROBOT (automated QSO's to allow a large number of ground stations to participate.) (Gateway)

SPREAD SPECTRUM BECOMES LEGAL June 1, 1986. Identification must be by narrowband mode, and only frequency-hopping with direct sequence will be permitted. An ARRL committee is looking into standards concerning: frequencies, chip rate, code rate, spreading function, transmission/synchronization protocols, modulation type, type of info transmitted, and methods of ID. (ARRL)

145.05 MHZ IN SOUTHERN CALIF has a new high-level packet machine on Frasier Peak (8000'). KB6C-1 covers from San Diego to Visalia in the North and to Modesto via WB6AIE-1. Plans call for another site further north to provide an alternate 3-hop network up to the Oregon border. WB6AIE also runs a mailbox in Fresno similar to the 145.01 system run by W6IXU on the coast. (Gateway)

Thanks to ARRL's QEX, ARRL Letter, and Gateway magazines for permission to reprint.

*** (FOR LADIES ONLY) ***

Betty AG6C has room for about 2 more ladies for her Novice class starting Monday, January 6. If interested, call her at 542-6750.

We tried something different this year for the Christmas party: no dinner, just refreshments, music and comraderie. We had a good turnout, and everyone seemed to have fun.

Thanks to the "Cake" Committee for a fine spread: Sarah N6FAX, Marie N6KUS, Irma KF6FX, and Hank (taster). Steve KD6GC and friends provided the music, and Terry WA6RNF was Master of Ceremonies.

Outgoing President Chuck N6DDK was presented with a plaque in appreciation for his fine service.

Finally, the annual surprise presentation of the Member of the Year award went to Betty AG6C for her many accomplishments including her numerous YL classes, as well as her work creating exam opportunities for the handicapped. Thanks to the MOY Committee for a job well done.

FOLD, SPINDLE & MUTILATE

Printing Short Skip each month is about a two-evening job. (This assumes everything has already been typed into the computer.) "Cutting" the stencils in the printer takes an hour or so. Running the 200 copies thru the machine takes about 4 hrs.

Collating, folding, stapeling and attaching labels runs about another 2 hours. I would like to find someone to take over this job as well as run the finished copies down to the main Santa Rosa Post Office (in the Federal Building downtown). You take them to the bulk mail room in the rear (open 'till 6 PM). I've never had to wait more than 5 min.

The mailing must be bundled by Zip Code, but since the labels are basically in Zip Code order, this can be done in 10-15 minutes.

Any volunteers? Please call NIAL Al Bloom at (Day) 577-3981 or (Eve) 538-7115.

Also, if anyone would like to learn how to run the mimeo machine, I'd be glad to teach them! It would be nice if I could just hand you the completed stencils & mailing labels and have them take it from there.

----- HANK'S SWAP SHOP -----
 Hank Davis W6DTV 7822 Washington Ave
 Sebastopol, CA 95472 823-7885
 (Noncommercial ham ads printed free)

 YEASU 301: Solid state, 160-10, all
 filters, rem. VFO, pwr supply, spkr,
 Ant tuner, monitor scope. Also:
 FT221: 144-148 MHz, 15w, all mode,
 SSB/FM/CW. All for \$1000. Also:
 TS180: DFC, all filters \$450.
 K6CNJ 544-5333.

WANT: Phone patch Bob KB6EOC 542-5209

SELL OR TRADE: 4 BP3 battery packs
 good for IC2AT/3AT/4AT. Hank W6DTV
 823-7885.

WANT: Looking into 35 foot tower,
 rotator, 3 el beam. WA6YUB Rick Joy
 585-8340, or call Terry Laduke
 WA6RNF 528-6412.

MCDONALD SCANNER: Hi/Lo, Xtal type.
 Jefferson Marine VHF radio 1w/25w.
 George KS6W 838-6102.

EVENTS CALENDAR:

JANUARY:

Jan 1 - Straight Key Night
 Jan 5 - ARRL Midnight Special
 Jan 6 - RACES Nets, 7PM/7:30PM
 Jan 11,12- ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
 Jan 20 - RACES Nets, 7PM/7:30PM
 Jan 24/26- CQ WW 160 Meter Test, CW
 Jan 25- - Novice Roundup

Feb 2

FEBRUARY:

Feb 15 - SCRA VEC Exams, W6DTV
 Feb 15,16- ARRL DX Contest (CW)
 Feb 21/23- CQ 160 Meter Test, Phone

MARCH/APRIL:

Mar 1,2 - ARRL DX Contest (Phone)
 Apr 25/27- Dayton Hamvention

JUNE:

Jun 28/29- Field Day

SEPT:

Sept 20 - SCRA Flea Market

VE EXAMS HOTLINE NR: 408-984-8353
 8

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

 ! BULK RATE !
 ! U.S. POSTAGE PAID !
 ! SANTA ROSA, CA !
 ! PERMIT NO. 658 !
