

Coming Events

AUGUST:

- 2 - SCRA meeting 7/7:30 PM
- 5-6 - ARRL UHF Contest
- 6 - Day on the River
- 12 - SCRAPS Picnic - Finley Park
- 19 - **Deadline for September Short Skip**

SEPTEMBER:

- 6 - SCRA meeting 7/7:30 PM
- 16 - SCRA Flea Mart, Seb. Holy Ghost Hall
- 16 - SCRA VE FCC exams at Flea Mart
- 16 - **Deadline for October Short Skip**
- 30-10/1- Waves to Wine

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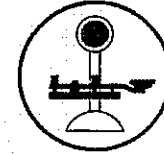


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W6LFJ

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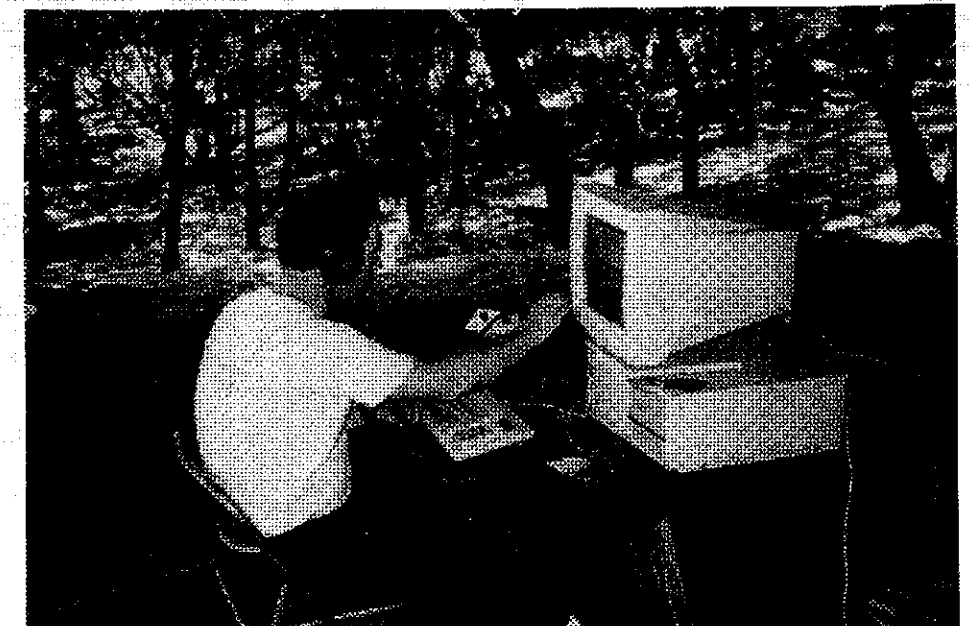
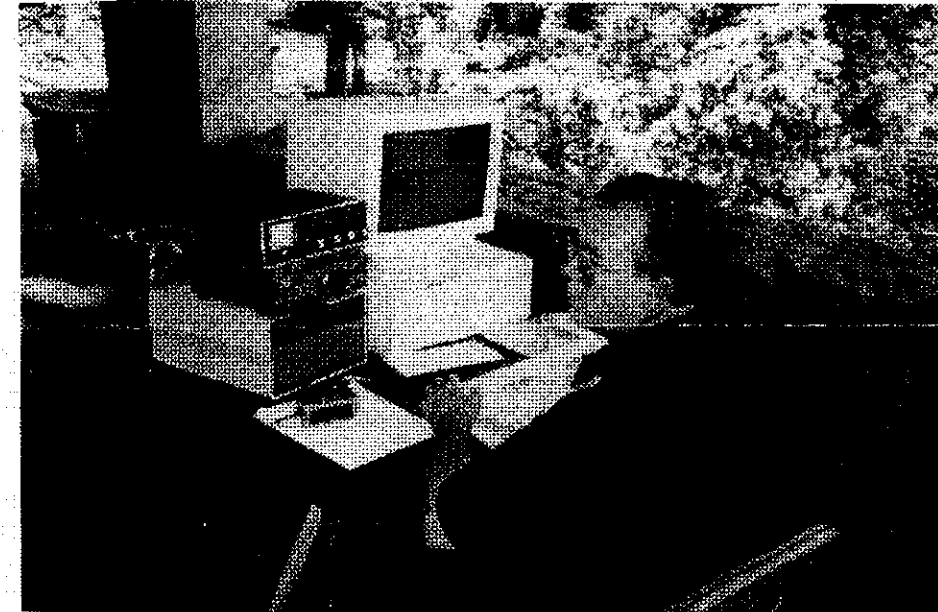
Repeater Station
WB6PVS

Volume 20 #8

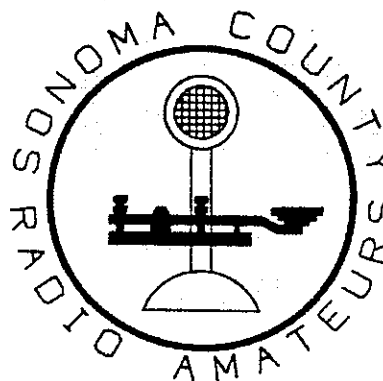
August 1995

Field Day North

Hewlett Packard Picnic Grounds Santa Rosa



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SECRETARY:	Alan Bloom	N1AL	538-7115
TREASURER:	Angela Dickey	KC6OCD	775-3136
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:	Jim Andrews	KC6PJW	795-2163
	Marie Mappus	KI6QY	664-1978
REPEATER CHAIRMAN:	Jim Rutherford	WB6PER	526-2972
ACTIVITIES CHAIR:	Joel Nadler	KJ6LF	545-1782

-----SHORT SKIP STAFF-----

EDITOR:	Claude Jones	AB6OL	527-8593
3612 Banyan Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95403-1557			
ASSOCIATE EDITOR:	Shirley Jones	KD6PKA	
SWAP SHOP EDITOR:	Greg Cowles	KE6FXK	829-1583

QRV: Jim Durkin KE6FSK-----BBS: Donn King KD6ZVG-----CIRCULATION: June Linnehan KD6LSU
 AUDIO TAPING: John Breckenridge WB6FRZ, Laurel Meyer KC6FKX, Bob Phillips N6RMW

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 Field Day: Steve Carniglia KK6VY 579-9608
 Raffle at meetings: Dave Willey KD6KWM
 Membership lottery: James Cureton KC6GSF
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Club Meetings:

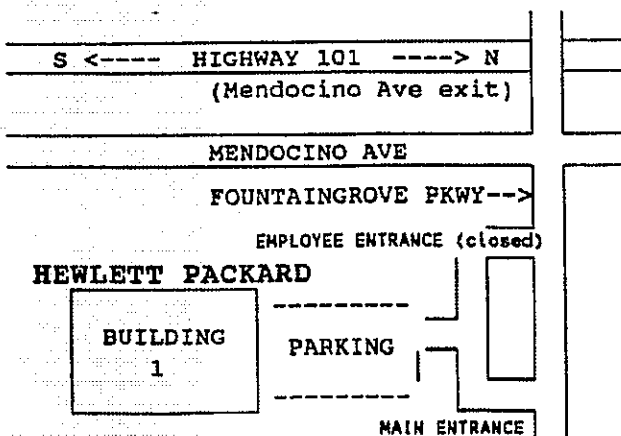
7:30 pm, 1st Wednesday each month at the Hewlett-Packard plant in Santa Rosa. (See map below)
 All are welcome.

Next Meeting: August 2, 1995

ARE YOU NOT AN SCRA MEMBER?

If so, then this is a complimentary copy. Our club is involved with almost every area of Amateur Radio: Repeaters (13/73), Field Day, License classes (Novice through Extra), Volunteer exams, RACES, DX programs, Packet radio, Hidden transmitter hunts -- you name it.

We invite you to attend our next monthly meeting (see below) or check into the Tuesday night SCARS net on the 146.13/73 repeater at 7PM. You will hear the latest Amateur Radio Newline broadcasts, announcements of SCRA activities and a Swap Shop. Membership in SCRA is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. If you would like to join, there is a membership application on page 11. Hope we can have an "eyeball" QSO with you at the next meeting! 73 ...



Board Meeting Minutes

July 12, 1995

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ at 5:47 PM in the meeting room at the Northbay Savings Bank. Other officers present were Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Activities Chairman Joel Nadler KJ6LF, and Member-at-Large Marie Mappus KI6QY. Also present were four other SCRA members. As there was no quorum, no votes were taken.

CORRESPONDENCE received by N1AL included our renewal Special Service Club sticker, SSC letter from Section Manager W6VV, and a Reno Hamfest flyer. Al also discussed Field Day data and passed out updated rosters.

A STORAGE LOCKER is now in place at the CDF HQ yard for securing SCRA property. Anyone with SCRA property please contact Dave New AA6YX or another board member so we can gather all our stuff in one place. Thanks to Jim N6PTM for carrying the ball on this.

The new County Emergency Services administration now requires that only County personnel move the

communications trailer. Jim has sent a letter requesting the trailer for the Vineman Triathlon.

REPEATER: The parent of a young club member asks if it is really true that the club has a policy of not letting amateurs under 18 use the repeater after 10 PM. None of the board members, or any of the three control operators present, had ever heard of such a thing. Kelly will try to track this down.

The upgrading of club's Repco standby repeater is done. Kelly is currently modifying the control codes.

ANTENNA COMMITTEE: N6PTM noted that the present County draft antenna ordinance does not define amateur radio stations as "communications sites" subject to restrictions. This is being closely watched.

Bill KH6GJW says there is no new news on the packet group. AB6OL reported a "wild" VE exam session Saturday.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Al Bloom N1AL.

Application for Membership in SCRA

Name _____ Callsign _____ License Class _____
 Address _____ Phone # _____ () New
 _____ ZIP _____ Date _____ () Renewal

SCRA dues: \$12/year, \$18/year family. New members also pay \$6/person initiation fee. Dues for new members only are pro-rated \$1 (\$1.50 family) per month, starting at renewal time, March 1.
ARRL dues: \$25/year, \$20 over 65 with proof of age. (Under 17 rates require application form). Make checks payable to **SCRA**.

I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN:

- () Public Service Events
- () RACES or ARES Emergency services
- () Field day, other operating events
- () Helping with SCRA Flea Market
- () Acting as club Net Control Station
- () Helping with Short Skip newsletter
- () Taking a Novice or Technician class
- () Teaching a Novice or Technician class
- () Taking an upgrade class
- () Teaching an upgrade class
- () Helping with VEC license exams
- () Other _____

Badge (New Members Only)

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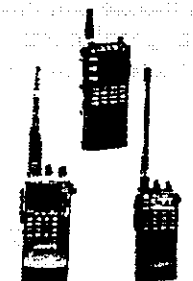


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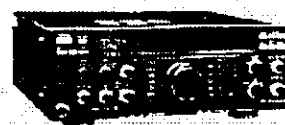


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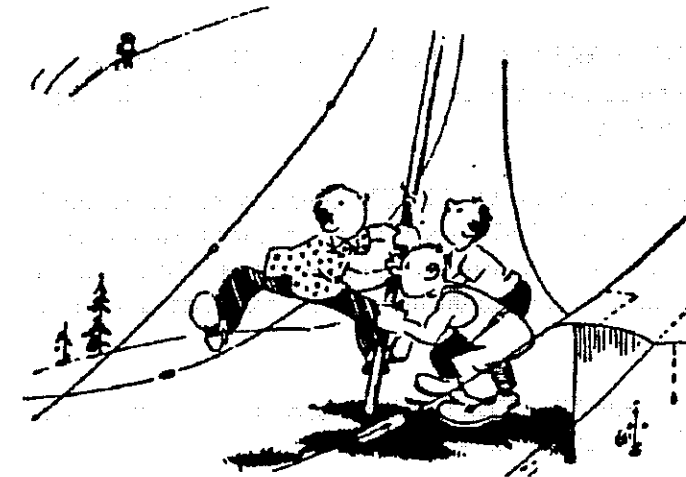


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Field Day North

SCRA fielded not one, but two Field Day operations this year. Group #2, dubbed the "Santa Rosa Hot Shots" by organizer Dave New AA6YX, operated two-transmitter class from the picnic site at Hewlett Packard's Santa Rosa site. The idea was to see how many contacts we could make with a small group of dedicated (mostly CW) operators doing nothing but *operating*, without the distractions of a normal large-scale Field Day gathering. Along the way, we were still able to enjoy some good ham radio fellowship and impress several visiting club members with the fabulous location overlooking the city of Santa Rosa.

Aside from putting a couple new kinks in Dave's tribander and returning John W6CCY's 20 meter quad with some "extra reinforcement" on one of the spreaders, the operation went well. N1AL's funky little generator worked flawlessly, and once we got all the computer gear set up correctly, we had computerized logging/duping, which certainly simplifies the post-contest paperwork!

Meals consisted mainly of Togo's sandwiches, supplemented by some steak and pasta salad Friday night thoughtfully provided by Jim KD6JZJ. Also LOTS of drinkables -- Boy was it hot!

The CW operators were Al N1AL, John WB6FRZ, Tracy WB6TMY, and Dave AA6YX. Jim KD6JZJ handled the VHF/satellite station as well as interfacing with HP Security. Despite the heat, everybody had a great time.

Field Day "West"

Despite the heat, and the bad timing of the mowing of the field, a good time was had by all. There was a good turn out for the delicious (sold out!) turkey barbeque, and radio operating into the wee hours of the morning.

It was found that price isn't the only consideration when looking for a radio, since they became overheated in the tent under the mid-day sun and shut down. However, when moved out to a table in the shade of the old oak tree, the radio (and operators) quickly revived.

At the conclusion of the contest, the airwaves had barely fallen silent when the tear-down began. The use of the "bucket truck", thoughtfully provided by Ross AC6ET, made short work of antenna removal, although not nearly as short as the express method employed in taking down Steve AC6FR's R7!

Discussion has already started on how next year is going to look. Any volunteers for coordinator???

Field Day Scores

Here are the scores of County Field Day operations, as closely as we can estimate at this point:

	SCRA #1 Two Rock	SCRA #2 HP	REDX
CW Contacts	63	1077	879
CW QSO points	126	2154	1758
SSB contacts	579	124	914
Total QSO points	705	2278	2672
Power multiplier	2	2	2
Bonus points	800	450	960
Claimed Score	2210	5006	6304

SCRA MINUTES



June 7, 1995

Submitted by Secretary
Al Bloom N1AL

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ at 7:35 PM. Other officers present were Vice Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Treasurer Angela Dickey KC6OCD, Activities Chairman Joel Nadler KJ6LF, and Member-at-Large Marie Mappus KI6QY.

VISITORS AND UPGRADES: We had 7 visitors and two new call signs.

N1AL read the **MINUTES** since not everyone had received *Short Skip*. Approved, m/s K6ZWB/WD6DPE The **TREASURER'S REPORT**, showing \$4587 total, was approved. m/s KD6WIF/AC6MA

ACTIVITIES Chairman KD6LF went down the list:

EDUCATION: Steve KK6VY says we're "still coasting through the summer slump. WA2EWE's no-code Technician class at Elsie Allen HS has 11 students. Thanks to Adam KD6POC for all his help.

FIELD DAY was *hot!* Next year, Tracy WB6TMY is willing to head up the air conditioning committee. Rick K6ZWB remembered it was so hot in the operating tents that the IC781's were shutting themselves down. The dinner, attended by 72 people, was a great success. N1AL still needs bonus point information to send in our scores. KC6OCD was out of town and was able to attend the Shasta Cascade ARS Field Day at Hat Creek (near Mt. Lassen Park). It was even hotter there, but she was warmly (no pun intended) welcomed by the SCARS folks and had a great time. There will be a short FD wrapup meeting Thursday.

FLEA MARKET time is not far off: Sept 16. K6ZWB will be asking for volunteers soon. We voted on what to buy for a grand prize: an HT - 0, 144/440 mobile rig - 60, HF rig - 23.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Marie KI6QY has more volunteers than needed for the Harvest Century July 22. The club is showing great enthusiasm. The SCRAPs picnic is Aug 12.

VE EXAMS: Claude AB6OL announced the exams this Saturday at HP. The next SCRA session will be at the Flea Market. KK6VY noted that the new Advanced question

pool went into effect July 1.

HOME BREW CONTEST: Brian N6IYY presented an honorable mention award to Adam KD6POC for his entry last April.

ANTENNA COMMITTEE: ARRL Volunteer Counsel Lee Dibble KE6EAQ handed out an antenna survey for members who live in the County to fill out. There was lots of discussion about the new County ordinance to be ready next week.

KD6KWM's PBBS now has modem access. See Dave to obtain instructions and a log-in.

The ARRL Hiram Percy Maxim event will be on again this year in September, according to Don KD6HQ.

Greg KE6FXK will pick up **NET CONTROL STATION** for the rest of July.

RAFFLE prizes were picked up by Rick K6ZWB. Thanks to Adam KD6POC for picking up ticket sales on short notice.

Randy Black KE6VMZ won the **MEMBERSHIP LOTTERY**, collecting a big pile of quarters from James KD6GSF.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM. m/s N1AL/AB6OL

Respectfully submitted by Al Bloom N1AL.

VE SESSION RESULTS

by Claude AB6OL

The SCRA VE Team had a rousing session at the Santa Rosa HP site the morning of July 8, with 31 candidates administered 52 elements! (No wonder it was so busy) That is by far the largest session this year, compounded by the fact that we were shifted to the small rooms again.

From this group there were 12 new techs and 1 tech+, with an additional 7 element credits (CSCE's) earned. Congratulations to all participants.

Thanks to the hard working VE Team: John WB6FRZ, Steve KK6VY, Jeff KC6VS, Steve AC6FR and our escort Shirley KD6PKA. Good job!

The next SCRA VE Session will be at the Swap Meet in Sebastopol September 16th. See you there.

QRV

By James Durkin KE6FSK

Laser technology is still in its infancy. Many new uses are still being developed, all the way from medical technology to new forms of communication devices. The most accurate measurement of the distance from the earth to the moon was made by bouncing a laser beam that had been fired from an observatory. It is fast becoming the most versatile and least understood tool of today.

One of the most interesting demonstrations I had the pleasure to come across involved a hologram that was cut into four pieces. The remaining pieces all had the identical hologram within it. However as those four pieces were cut, even though the hologram within each remained the same, the resolution dropped noticeably. Somewhere along the line, information was being lost, but that did not explain why the images remained the same no matter how many times the plastic was divided. When asked why this occurred, the demonstrator replied merely with a shrug.

One of the fascinating things about laser light is that, no matter how weak or strong the intensity of the beam, it remains coherent, that is, it travels in a straight line, not spreading like ordinary light. When we are able to see a laser beam, it is the result of two things. One, there has to be enough dust or smoke or some pollutant to catch the beam and deflect it. Two, the beam has to be bright enough to see. It amazes me how many space operas light up the screen with laser battles, never once considering that in space you can not only not hear one scream, you can not see a laser beam.

So where does laser technology come in for the HAM? That's something that only time will tell. The possibilities are almost endless. However the inherent dangers and limitations may prove too much for that Amateur Operator.

In order to understand this, one should understand the different classes of lasers, their primary applications, and their potential for harm. First is the class one laser. It is usually a simple pancake diode and has so little output it causes no potential for physical harm. These devices are usually found in old laser games and remote controls. They are also quite useless beyond a few yards.

Next come class two A and two B lasers. The only real difference between the two is class two A is usually IR and poses no real hazard to the user. Class two B is usually within the visible spectrum and if the user were stupid enough to stare at it for long enough he could end up with eye damage. The output of these lasers falls within the .5 mw range.

Then comes class three A and three B lasers. These can either be diode or HeNe (helium neon) lasers. Both produce a very visible beam and have an output of between 5 and 75

mw. The higher you go, the more potential for physical harm, mostly affecting the eye.

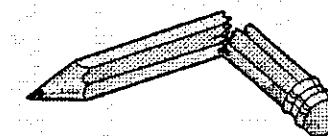
Finally comes the class four laser. These are usually CO2 lasers and produce ultraviolet light. Aside from being invisible and quite high powered (1 to 10 w.), they can cause harm to just about any part of the body that is not protected (and that without being in the path of the beam). And this just covers the basics. I am not about to get into YAG laser PUMP lasers or medical and industrial lasers. Mostly, what I have mentioned is available to the average consumer.

So, where does HAM come in? A couple of hundred years ago, a certain phenomenon was well known among seafarers. At certain times a ghost ship would appear upside down on the horizon. One could communicate with this ghost ship via a flash lantern. Although the reason for this phenomenon was not known at the time, it was nevertheless accepted. Today we know that the reason for this type of occurrence is the same that causes some VHF DXing, the all too well known inversion layer. It is quite possible to bounce a laser beam off the troposphere during these times. This would mean extremely directional atmospheric bounces across the Atlantic or Pacific oceans. It would also require tremendous output. It would also require permits up the yin yang and extremely precise timing. It could be done. Is it worth the effort?

In all laser communications, you are dealing with FM and AM simultaneously. The frequency modulation determines the information being transmitted and received. The amplitude (which is always modulated save for a ruby crystal laser) determines the output. HUH??? Simple! Take a 25w lightbulb and a 100w lightbulb and compare the two. Now take those two outputs, put all that energy into a single file and aim. So you burnt a hole in the neighbor's wall. Other than affirming their prior suspicions about you, did you convey any information? Now we're getting closer to the problem.

With lasers, to obtain the greater distance, you need the greater output. And anything higher than .75mw is definitely going to present a problem. However, with greater output, you obtain a higher degree of coherency. And, remember, a laser earth-moon-earth bounce has already been done.

While I am not about to tell the homebrewer what to do, I would certainly use caution and planning when it comes to lasers. But, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that Icom's new mobile unit has an IR hand held mic. This mic. would not be possible without the pancake laser, also known as the light emitting diode. Need I say more?

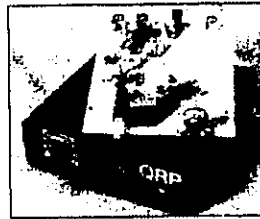


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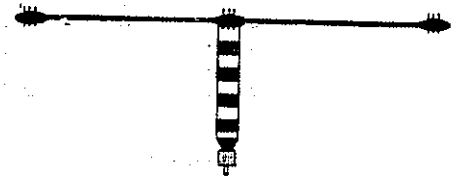
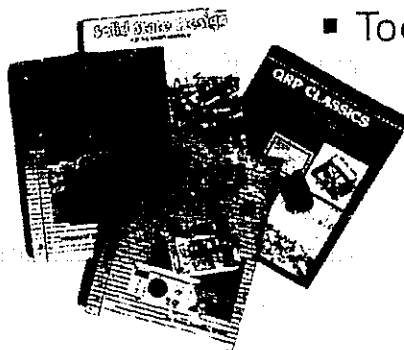
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PHONE: (707) 792-2277
FAX: (707) 792-0146

ANTENNA SURVEY

Please respond only if you live outside an incorporated city or town.

1. Do you have an exterior antenna?
2. What kind of antenna (vertical, yagi, wire, etc.)?
3. How high?
4. How many towers, poles, etc. do you have?

Are they attached to your house? Free standing?

5. Do you intend to add any antenna(s) in the future?

If so, when? How many? What height?

6. Do you feel the need to raise your existing antenna(s)?

Why?

To what height?

7. Your general location in the county of Sonoma.

Comments:

Please return to: Lee Dibble, Jr. KE6EAQ
Volunteer Counsel
414 Chinn St.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404