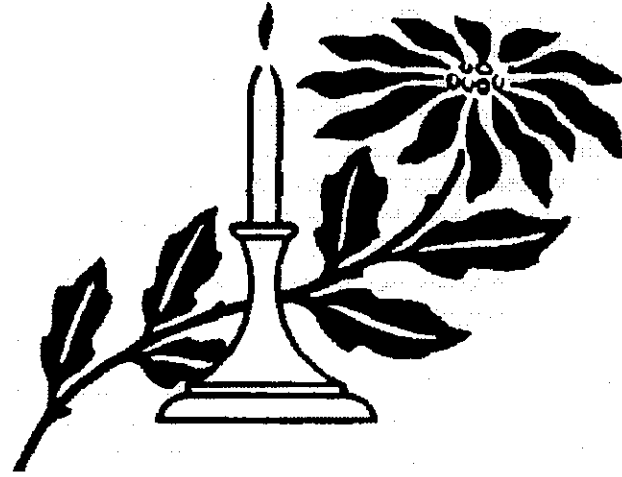
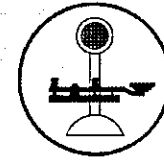


You are invited



...to the annual Christmas Dinner & Awards Ceremony December 6 at Cattlemen's restaurant, located at 2400 Midway Drive, (Montgomery Village) Santa Rosa. No-host cocktails start at 6 PM, with dinner served between 7 and 7:30. The program will start around 8:30, and we should be out by 9:30.

There's a choice of a 9 1/2 ounce sirloin, teriyaki chicken or salmon (fresh) for \$16 adults, \$8 kids, gratuity included. Listen to the Tuesday night net for any late breaking details.



SHORT SKIP



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W6LFJ

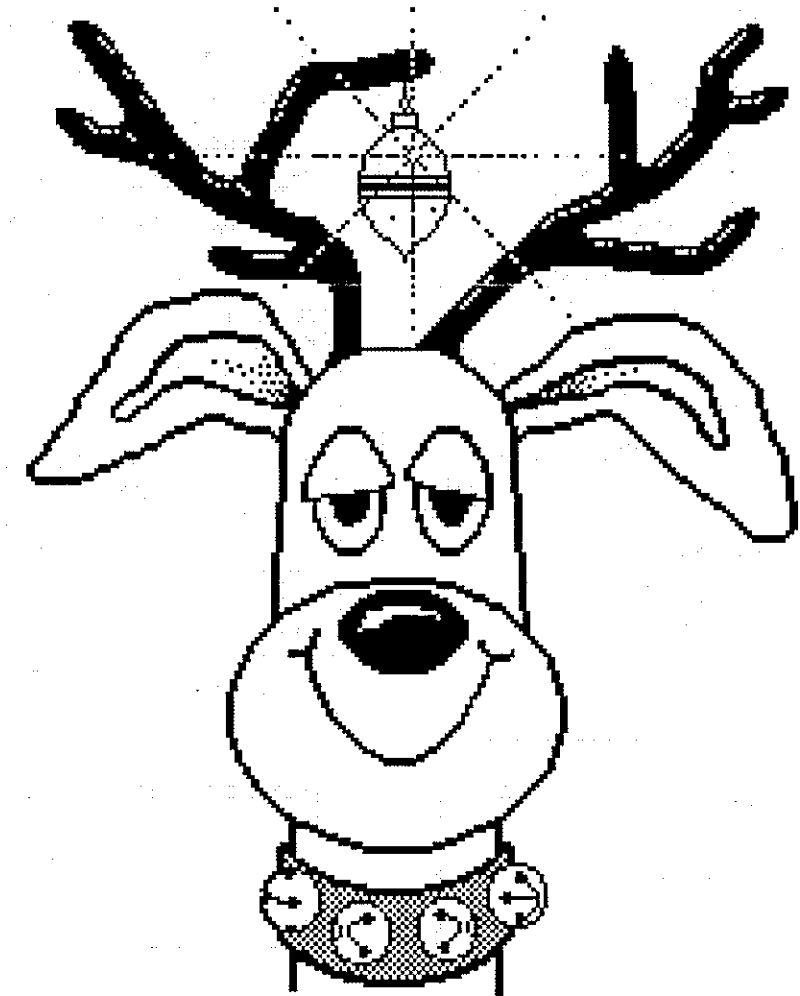
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
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Repeater Station
WB6PVS

Volume 20 #12

December 1995

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS

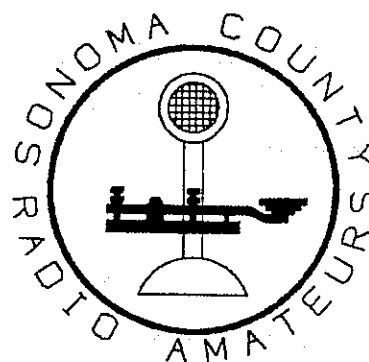
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 KK6VY Steve 579-9608

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: December 6, 1995

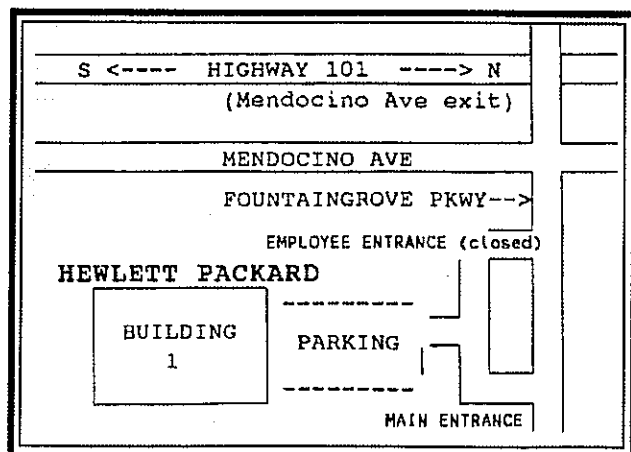
Program: Christmas Dinner

Location: Cattlemen's Restaurant in SR

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 ...



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EXAM TIME!

As we find ourselves rapidly approaching the new year I would like to pause to reflect on the contribution our VE team gave to the club, the community and the hobby. Let me start with a reminder that VE stands for **VOLUNTEER** examiner. That means, as with all public service work performed by your fellow hams, the VE team gives their time and energy without so much as a tee shirt to show for it. Only the satisfaction of helping others interested in their hobby earn licenses and upgrades, celebrating the achievements, sharing the defeats and encouraging the downhearted.

The VE team worked hard last year, administering 214 elements to 127 candidates resulting in 60 new hams and 10 upgrades! Thanks to all who participated: John WB6FRZ, Jeff KC7VS, Dave AA6YX, John KK6XT, Ross AC6ET,

Robin N6PHP, Steve AC6FR, Steve KK6VY, John KD6LQ, John WX3K, Ed AB6YV, Mark AC6HM, Gerald AB6VN and Donald AB6MK.

And now we look forward to the new year with our first session **January 14** at Hewlett Packard in Santa Rosa. We are again assigned to the small rooms, so we'll just have to make do. The starting time is 9:00 a.m. Testing begins when all are registered. The new test fee this year is **\$6.05**, cash (exact change is appreciated) or check (made out to **ARRL/VEC**). The novice exam (element 1A & 2) is free.

What to bring:

1. A photo ID or two non-photo Ids
2. Original **AND** photocopy of you current license (if licensed)
3. Original **AND** photocopy of valid CSCE's
4. Pencils & calculator (non-programmed)

New Members & Corrections

BART HOLMES KA6HGW	2818 AUDUBON CT	SANTA ROSA, CA 95403	573-8676
HAYES HUNTER WB6KLU	6859 EAGLE RIDGE	PENNGROVE, CA 94951	795-5938
JAMES B HAMILTON KE6LPQ	1220 MC MINN #240	SANTA ROSA, CA 95407	527-5423
JONATHAN NEONG KE6WGY	2625 NEOTOMAS AVE	SANTA ROSA, CA 95405-8411	575-9922
NORMAN "ED" DAVIS WB6WZD	855 ACACIA LN	SANTA ROSA, CA 95409	539-2583
ALLEN M BURKE KE6YQT	415 N CLOVERDALE BLVD	CLOVERDALE, CA 95425	894-3909
MIKE HALL KE6YQV	521 N JEFFERSON ST	CLOVERDALE, CA 95425	894-2581

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)

Fill in this section exactly as you want it to appear on your badge.

Callsign _____

First Name _____

City _____

The following is the proposed draft antenna ordinance for the city of Santa Rosa, which has been sent to Wayne Goldberg, Director of Community Development by Bruce Leavitt, Assistant City Attorney. Thanks to Joe KM6TN for submitting a copy for publication.

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA AMENDING SECTION 2005.725 OF THE SANTA ROSA CITY CODE AND ADDING PERMIT EXEMPTIONS TO THE UNIFORM BUILDING CODE RELATING TO CERTAIN ANTENNAS

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA DO ENACT THE FOLLOWING:

Section 1. Subsection E is added to section 20-05.725 of the Santa Rosa City Code to read as follows:

"E. The provisions of subsection A shall not apply to antennas installed for use with federally-licensed amateur radio facilities by an amateur radio operator licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as follows:

(a) An antenna installed on, or attached to, an existing building or structure when the antenna, together with its supporting tower, pole or mast, does not exceed a height of 25 feet above the highest part of the building or structure to which it is, or will be, attached.

(b) A freestanding antenna together with its supporting tower, pole, or mast, which does not exceed a height of 75 feet above the level of the ground or grade at the installation site.

(1) A conditional use permit is required for any freestanding antenna where the completed height of the antenna and its supporting tower, pole or mast exceeds a height of 75 feet above ground level at the installation site.

(c) No part of the antenna installation may overhang a property line unless the affected adjacent property owner has given written consent to the encroachment and the consent has been recorded in the Office of the Sonoma County Recorder. Any consent given under this subsection shall set forth a procedure by which the consent may be terminated.

Section 2. Section 18-16.018 is added to the Santa Rosa City Code to read as follows:

"Section 18-16.018. Section 301(b), Work Exempt from Permit, of the Uniform Building Code is amended to add subsections 12 and 13 to read:

12. Antennas and their supporting tower, pole or mast, if any, which are described in subsection (a) of section 20-05.725-E of the Santa Rosa City Code, provided the antenna does not include a supporting tower, pole, or mast, the height of which exceeds the highest part of the building or structure by more than 25 feet and provided, further, the installation of the antenna, tower, pole or mast does not require a structural modification of the existing building or structure to which the antenna, tower, pole or mast is, or will, be attached.

13. Freestanding antennas and their supporting tower, pole or mast which are described in subsection (b) of section 20-05.725-E of the Santa Rosa City Code, provided the height of the antenna, tower, pole or mast does not exceed a height of 25 feet above the level of the ground or grade at the installation site."

Section 3. This ordinance shall become effective on the 31st day following its adoption.

ALONE WITH MY RADIO...



by Eran Glago KD6KVO

Driving over 3,000 miles alone in a rental truck over five days sounds to my wife like the ultimate form of punishment, but I couldn't wait!

I always did have a hard time using my radio in the car while on a family outing, or for that matter with any non-hams in the car - almost like I was ignoring my passengers for the invisible co-traveller in the ether.

But now I would be alone for five whole days, alone with my radio and all the hams with funny accents I could contact, 24 hours a day if I liked. Oh yeah, driving 16 hours a day too, but that was beside the point. A small price to pay for the mix of solitude and companionship which blend together so nicely when one hooks up one of those little black metal boxes to the vehicle's battery.

And of course the antenna - a mag mount - shouldn't be too hard. Well, with a metal vehicle it shouldn't be too hard! Try fiberglass and plastic! I figured that the cargo portion of the rental truck was fiberglass, so no big surprise there. But I did not figure on the hood being plastic. It's funny how a heavy mag mount just slides down the front of the plastic body: and it looks so compatible!

The solution: a top-fed inverted triband omnidirectional whip (I stuck the antenna in the cargo area upside down from the metal bar on the roof). Worked great. Didn't get a single 1.2 gigahertz contact at all between Florida and California. I did raise two or three repeaters, but not a sole came back to me on them. 440: First contact in New Mexico - day 3 of the trip. And even then a rare one.

Quite simply, everyone uses 2 meters in the rest of country, because they haven't yet been crowded out of it. In New Mexico and Arizona there's an extremely wide-coverage 2-meter system, with something like 12 different high elevation machines all linked together simultaneously. Can you imagine 12 Bay area 2-meter machines linked together? But on the ZIA link there are plenty of open spaces, and when two stations get into a chat, no-one seems to get annoyed that they are hogging the repeaters. They leave long-enough pauses for breaking stations, and just keep on chatting. It's pretty neat being in El Paso, Texas and getting someone on the repeater to make a local call for you in Santa Fe, New Mexico!

Even before I became acquainted with the ZIA link, I had the opportunity to benefit from having my radio with me. I thought I had studied the map of San Antonio well enough at the rest stop before approaching the city, but I did manage to miss my exit, and when you're driving a 15 foot truck towing a similar length trailer, you don't try to read the map while in motion! Fortunately I heard some hams on a local machine, and after breaking in and explaining my predicament, they turned me around and got me going in the right direction again.

Once, while talking with someone I had just met and telling them how I was driving this yellow truck towing a red car, he passed me on the opposite side of the highway. Not too unusual I suppose, but when I passed a Suzuki Samurai and he immediately passed me in return, and turned on his inside light as he passed my cab, I figured either I was about to be shot for being so rude as to pass him, or or he was a ham who couldn't hit the repeater he heard me on and was dangling his mike in the window so I would call him on 6.52 simplex! We chatted for the next 45 minutes.

I found Alabama and Mississippi to be friendly enough, getting responses to my "mobile and listening" calls about as often as I wanted to. But the big mystery to me is: how come no-one in Louisiana wanted to talk to a 6-call the day I drove through?

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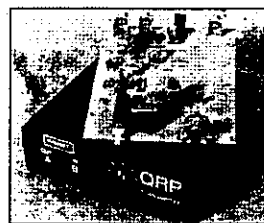
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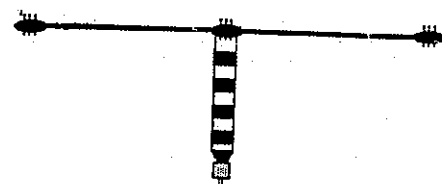
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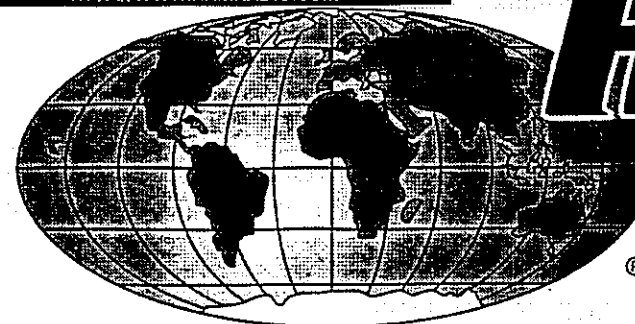
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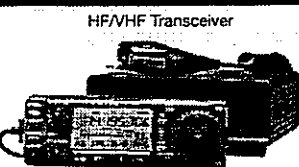


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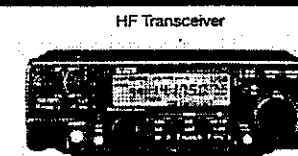
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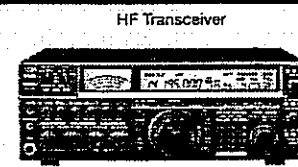
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SCRA Minutes

(continued from page 5)

The club voted that ballots be destroyed. m/s N6MHG/KH6GJV

The following amendment to the club Constitution was proposed, for vote at the next club meeting. m/s KH6GJV/KJ6LF

I move that article IV, section 2 of the Constitution of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. be amended to add the Chairman of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Public Service Committee to the appointed members of the Board of Directors.

(signed) Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV


The **RAFFLE** included two new ARRL Handbooks, courtesy of HSC Electronics. Dave KD6KWM donated his prize to the newest ham in the room.

James KD6GSF had to draw the **MEMBERSHIP LOTTERY** 19 times to get a winner present in the room. Darlene KD6GCK walked away with \$27.73 and one Scandia token.

KH6GJV announced a special **OPERATING EVENT** by the Sacramento Radio Club at Alcatraz Island is this Saturday morning. We are invited to participate.


The meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Al Bloom N1AL



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Autopatch Update

by Jim WB6PER

In an effort to make the 146.73 autopatch more user friendly and provide better service to more members, some changes in policy have been made. These changes will allow users to make autopatch calls without the number being read back by the repeater, thus providing more security for sensitive phone numbers.

Also the area of coverage has been expanded to provide all members phone access to all numbers in the 707 area code. Some of our members live outside of Sonoma County and up until now they have not had autopatch privileges. Until now only phone calls within Sonoma County were allowed.

As of now the following procedures will apply: Any phone call in the 707 area code will be allowed. This includes Solano, Napa, Lake and Mendocino as well as Sonoma County. In fact if you look at page A-27 of your phone book you will see that the area code 707, goes all the way to the Oregon/California border, between the coast and highway 5. The repeater will not respond to any call that starts with a one or zero, thus eliminating calls outside of the authorized calling area. Remember, the autopatch is for non commercial use, when a land line phone is not available. Abuse it you loose it.

The second user function that has been authorized is the autopatch hide function. When you dial a number on the patch the number reads back so you can make sure you dialed the proper number. This is a good idea, it keeps wrong numbers from being dialed. However, if you are sensitive about the numbers you dial, you may keep the number from being read back by keying your mic for one second immediately after the repeater says "autopatch" and before it reads back the number. Example: Key your radio, give your call sign, enter the autopatch code, enter the phone number, the repeater says "autopatch", key your mic for one second, there is silence as the repeater dials the number. In most cases it isn't worth worrying about, but if you do not want the number to be said on the air, use the above procedure.

If you do not want your autoslot number read back, let me know and I can program your slot so that the slot number does not read back on the air. You can contact me at: Jim_WB6PER@MSN.COM or on packet at KWDBB on 144.91.

Give these new functions a try if you think you will want to use them so you can feel comfortable with them. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at one of the above addresses or by phone at 526-2972.

Tracy WB6TMY is compiling a packet / e-mail directory for the club. Does he have YOUR address? Contact him at WB6TMY@NOARY.#NOCAL.CA.USA.NOAM / RADIONS@aol.com.

SCRA MINUTES

November 1, 1995

Submitted by Secretary
Al Bloom N1AL

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ at 7:38 PM at Cattlemen's restaurant. Other officers present were Secretary Al Bloom N1AL, Treasurer Angela Dickey KC6OCD, Activities Chairman Joel Nadler KJ6LF, Repeater Chairman Jim Rutherford WB6PER, and Members-at-Large Marie Mappus KI6QY and Jim Andrews KC6PJW.

VISITORS: We had 6 visitors this evening.

UPGRADES: N6RBZ is now an Extra.

The **MINUTES** were approved as printed in *Short Skip*. m/s WB6TMY/KE6UAR

The **TREASURER'S REPORT** shows a balance of \$3200, after paying the final \$1500 for the new repeaters. Report approved m/s KB6PTA/KJ6LF

ACTIVITIES Chairman KD6LF announced that Marie KI6QY has agreed to continue next year to help Robert WA6WXX gradually take over. Marie thanked everyone for their great help during the past year.

EDUCATION: Steve KK6VY introduced our instructors. Rick K6ZWB's construction class starts tomorrow night. By show of hands, there are well over a dozen members interested in an antenna class. Jim WA2EWE's Tech/General class is ready to start on the General portion tomorrow. John WB6FRZ's 5-13 wpm code class starts Friday.

The first **QUARTERLY RAFFLE** drawing is next month. Tickets are \$1 each, \$5/7 or \$10/15.

DUES: Steve KK6VY presented the following possible expenditures that are in addition to normal SCRA expenses: Annual expenses:

- \$300 Maintenance (new repeaters)
- \$300 Telephone bills
- \$600 Misc (Portable tower, RACES support, packet BBS, etc.)

County-required upgrades to Sonoma Mt. antennas:

- \$500 New antenna system
- \$500 Triplexers
- \$900 Cabling and connectors
- \$200 Standoffs
- \$800 New 440 MHz controller
- \$250 Safety belt

Equipment required to secure site on English hill: \$1000

Assuming we buy these items over the course of two years, that works out to an extra \$3275 per year. With 300 members, a dues increase of \$11/year would cover it. It was moved and seconded to raise dues from the current \$12 to \$24 per year. m/s KH6GJV/WB6PER

Considerable discussion followed. Jim N6PTM feels we do need a dues increase, but \$16 would be a adequate. N1AL recommends \$18, so the pro-rated dues for new members would be easier to calculate (\$1.50 per month). Tracy WB6TMY wonders how many members we lose per dollar increase. Ted KB6PTA feels that \$16 is a bargain. KK6VY noted that dinner tonight cost nearly the \$24 suggested for dues. Susan N6IRJ noted that other high-level repeater clubs in the area charge \$24-\$25, which is about 8 cents a day. Darlene KD6GCK says \$24 would be OK with special provision for low-income members. WB6PER feels that \$24 dues is right for a club that is going someplace. Jim KC6PJW notes there are lots of projects such as the packet BBS's that the club could contribute to.

KJ6LF then moved to amend the motion to set the new dues level at \$18 per year. m/s KJ6LF/N1AL

After further discussion, the club voted in favor of the amendment 25 to 20. Then the club voted in favor of the original motion, as amended, by a vote of 22 to 21. So dues next year will be \$18. WB6PER said he voted against the motion because \$18 is not enough to accomplish our goals.

PACKET BBS: Dave KD6KWM says the new callsign database CD's (Sept '95) are now on-line on both BBS's.

VOMARC: Ed AB6QL noted that next Valley of the Moon club's meeting will feature Bob K6QXY explaining his 6 meter moonbounce station.

The **INTERNET/PACKET** address database is being compiled by Tracy WB6TMY. He is at RADIONS@aol.com

ELECTIONS: Nominating Committee Chairman Ken N6MHG presented the slate. All but the Member at Large positions were unopposed. In addition to the winners listed below, Ross Collins AC6ET, Robert Criss WA6WXX, and Marie Mappus KI6QY also demonstrated their commitment to the club by running for Member at Large.

President:	Steve Carniglia KK6VY
Vice President:	Rick Reiner K6ZWB
Secretary:	Steven Fiel KD6CJR
Treasurer:	Joel Nadler KJ6LF
Members at Large:	Joe Berkman KE6LNQ Claude Jones AB6OL

(Continued on page 8)



Northern California Chapter

TEL (510) 268-0572
FAX (510) 451-8796
1 800 FIGHT MS

October 24, 1995

Mrs. Marie Mappus
Sonoma County Amateur Radio Assn.
374 Sprauer Road
Petaluma, CA 94952

Dear Marie:

Greetings from Waves to Wine Headquarters! And thank you so very much for your help in making this year's Sonoma Waves to Wine Bike Tour a HUGE SUCCESS! We're thrilled to let you and your organization know that we've raised over \$350,000 to help in the fight against MS (that's a 25% increase over last year!)

Marie, I am absolutely amazed at your group's level of expertise! We feel so lucky to have such friendly and talented HAM radio operators to work with. The red bus worked out perfectly - thank you for requesting to have it at our event! And thank you SO MUCH for packing up and sending my Rolodex cards to me, you're a lifesaver! Enclosed please find our second event newsletter which includes the Sonoma County Amateur Radio Assn. with our other sponsors.

We simply cannot thank you enough for your support of our event and our chapter! The funds you have helped to raise will be used to improve the lives of thousands of Northern Californians affected by MS, while advancing the cure, prevention, and treatment of this often debilitating disease.

Please feel free to call me at (510) 268-0572 if you would like additional information on Sonoma Waves to Wine or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Thank you, again.

Best Regards,

Jenni

Jenni Doherty
Event Coordinator

Enclosures

SCRAPS
SCRA PUBLIC SERVICE



By Marie Mappus KI6QY

The final event of 1995 was the Waves to Wine. It was a busy time and we supplied radio operators for both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday, the bike tour went to the coast and had lunch at Bodega Yacht club. Sunday they toured the wine country and dined at Warm Springs Dam.

My thanks to all the Radio Amateurs who helped with the Public Events this past year. So, to Betty AG6C, Gary KD6BOF, Kelly KC6CJQ, Steve, KE6CJR, Hoppy WD6CKP, Chuck N6DDK, Bob WD6DPE, Richard KE6DRV, Hank W6DTV, Lee KE6EAQ, Greg KC6EGD, Ross AC6ET, Jim WA2EWE, Sarah N6FAX, Paul KD6FBN, Greg KE6FXK, Connie N6FYV, Michael KD6GAO, Darlene KD6GCK, Bob K6GEV, Bill N6GHG, Bill KH6GJV, James KD6GSE, George KE611B, Brian N611Y, Clarence W61ZR, Peter N6JBV, Bill KA6JLP, Rudy N6KLU, Steve KD6KXT, Joel KJ6LF, Joe KE6LNQ, John KD6LQ, Bill WD6LTA, June KD6LSU, Bill AC6MA, Wilbur N6MGY, Ken N6MHG, Michael KC6NDS, Steve KC6NEO, Rachael KE6NXA, Angela KC6OCD, Phil N6OOA, Ron KD6OTC, Adam KD6POC, Ted KB6PTA, Doug KC6RHA, John KE6RMC, Matt KE6RYO, Richard KE6SKT, Dan KE6SQP, Adam KE6TJA, Tim KD6TXH, Jim KE6UAR, Renee KE6ULU, Kathy KC6UXI, Rick KC6UXJ, Merl N6VUC, Frank KD6WUG, George KD6WIR, Steve N6WMW, Nadine WC6WUI, Harold KD6WYF, Tony KD6WYH, Mark KM6XV, Dave AA6XY, and Fred N6YEU.

The amateurs donated 1,164 hours to Public Service this past year. Quite an impressive record. I am enclosing a letter from Jenni who was the coordinator for the Multiple Sclerosis Society thanking us for our help with the event. I am again coordinating the Public Service events in 1996. Robert WA6WXX will be helping to coordinate the events with me and is intending to take the helm in 1997. I wish him success in his endeavor.

Again MANY, MANY THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP!!! I hope you will consider participating in the Public Service events that will be coming up in 1996. The first one should be sometime in March and will be the Super Cities Walk.



Board Meeting Minutes



October 11, 1995

Minutes of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs board meeting held November 6, 1995 at the Northbay Savings Bank community room. Members of the board present were: President Kelly KD6CJQ, Treasurer Angela KC6OCD, Repeater Chairman Jim WB6PER, Activities Chairman Joel KJ6LF, Member-at-large Marie KI6QY and Merl N6VUC. There were also 9 other SCRA members present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM by President Kelly KD6CJQ.

Angela KC6OCD indicated a need to go over the \$250.00 budgeted for the end of the year awards due to 2 extra awards that were not anticipated at the time the funds were allocated. Jim WB6PER moved that the extra funds be expended, seconded by Angela KC6OCD. Motion carried. Angela will also be arriving early at Cattlemen's for the Christmas Dinner to greet and collect funds for the dinner.

Jim WB6PER proposed that the repeater controller be configured to allow all 707 area codes to be accessed by autopatch and to allow phone number announcements to be masked if desired. There were no objections to his proposal. He will implement the changes and write an article for *Short Skip* explaining the details of the changes.

Marie KI6QY informed the board that 1160 hours of service were given by members of SCRA during the 1995 Public Service season.

Jim N6PTM asked about the 1996 proposed budget for the new board to finalize in January. He informed us that the Sonoma County antenna hearings were completed and that County Staff are putting together a proposal for the Planning Commission. After that, public hearings will be held before going back to the Planning Commission. Hearings will begin as soon as December and the remaining process may take 5 to 6 months to complete.

Joe KM6TN informed the board that the proposed Santa Rosa Antenna Ordinance has been sent to Wayne Goldberg. Portions were read to the board and the highlights will be published in *Short Skip*.

Hank W6DTV informed us that Frank Jones W6AJF of Sonoma passed away.

Bill KH6GJV went to Alcatraz to observe the Sacramento club's special event station. A video showing highlights is being put together to be shown at a club meeting. An SCRA special event is being considered for Alcatraz. Angel Island was also mentioned as well as at a local winery during the crush. Jim WB6PER knows of a winery location that might be available.

Respectfully submitted by
Secretary-elect Steven Feil, KD6CJR.