

Those who feel that Amateur satellite communications is too difficult or requires expensive equipment will find relief in this report. During a recent visit to London, Ray Soifer, W2RS, made several contacts through the RS-10 satellite using his "World's Smallest Satellite Station". From St. James Park, Ray used a scanner and a 1.5-watt 2-meter handheld to access the satellite's Mode A transponder, pressing the press-to-talk switch to generate a CW uplink signal. Pat Gowen, G3IOR, used similar set-up, except he used an ICOM IC-720A powered by a 12 volt battery to copy the transponder downlink. Both stations made a perfect contact with Ray receiving an RST 534 and Pat receiving a 549 (keying an FM rig doesn't produce the cleanest of CW notes).

When Ray returned to his home in the US, two more scheduled contacts were made across the pond to England. This time Pat went portable on the highest nearby hill using his handheld and

IC-720A with a 29 MHz mobile whip antenna on his car. Pat copied Ray giving him an RST of 524, but Ray could hear neither Pat nor his own downlink on the first mutual RS-10 window.

The second attempt on Saturday 07-Dec-96 was successful. Contact was made between 1047 and 1050 UTC. Pat gave Ray an RST of 524, while Ray gave Pat a 449 report. Both stations were running with effective radiated powers of only about one watt.

This success shows the excellent sensitivity of RS-10 when it is not overloaded by many stations running higher power. It also shows that it doesn't take high power or expensive equipment to make successful satellite contacts. Sometimes it just takes a clear frequency and a little creativity.

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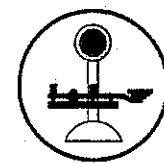
**STEVE BASHAM**  
 Manager

BRECKENRIDGE, JOHN WB6FRZ  
 574 WILD OAK DR  
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**NEXT MEETING:**  
**JANUARY 8**  
**(2ND WEDNESDAY)**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.  
 PO Box 116  
 Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116



# Short Skip



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

Club Station  
**W6LFJ**

146.730MHz • 224.48MHz • 441.375MHz

Repeater Station  
**WB6PVS**

Volume 22 #1

January 1997

## MEETING DAY CHANGED!

Due to the holiday schedule the January SCRA general meeting will be held January 8 (the 2nd Wednesday). All other details will be the same (HP, 7:30 pm). A dispatcher from the county of Sonoma will be there to discuss with us how to handle a 911 autopatch call.

Hope to see you there.

## PL is coming

Yes, it is finally happening. Starting in January the repeaters will be going in to PL (88.5) on a full time basis. Prepare now and beat the rush.

## Mini DXpedition QSL Card

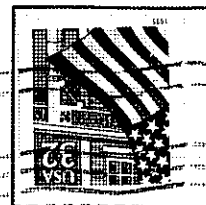
**SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS - MINI DXPEDITION**  
**ALCATRAZ ISLAND**  
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 1800 UTC 25 AUGUST TO 0100 UTC 26 AUGUST 1996  
**W6LFJ**

N6MHG - KEN  
 AC6FR - STEVE  
 KD6VUM - LARRY  
 KM6XO - JOHN  
 N6YEU - FRED  
 WB6TMY - TRACY  
 KD6POC - ADAM  
 KF6BAP - RICHARD

KH6GJV - BILL  
 KF6AKT - GLEN  
 KE6RMC - JOHN  
 NG6IY - BRIAN  
 KJ6LF - JOEL  
 KE6LNQ - JOE  
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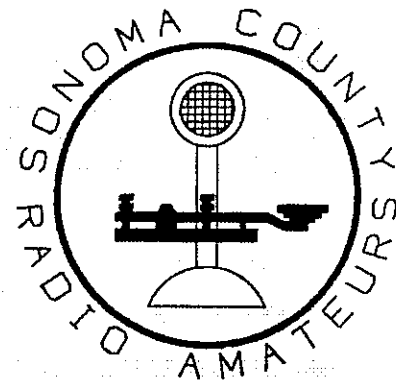


**OFFICERS FOR 1997**

PRESIDENT:	Steve Carniglia	KV6A	546-7370
VICE PRESIDENT:	Rick Reiner	K6ZWB	575-4455
SECRETARY:	Steven Feil	KD6CJR	579-8346
TREASURER:	Joel Nadler	KJ6LF	545-1782
MEMBERS-	Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	538-0331
AT-LARGE:	Claude Jones	AB6OL	527-8593
REPEATER CHAIR:	Kelly Curton	KD6CJQ	837-9434
ACTIVITIES CHAIR:	--OPEN--		

**SHORT SKIP STAFF**

EDITOR:	Claude Jones	AB6OL	527-8593
(submissions) →	3612 Banyan Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95403-1557		
	E-mail	ab6ol@cds1.net	
	Fax	528-2017	
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CIRCULATION:	Ken Harrison	N6MHG	
AUDIO TAPING:	John Breckenridge	WB6FRZ	
	Laurel Meyer	KC6FKX	
	Bob Phillips	N6RMW	
SWAP SHOP EDITOR:	Greg Cowles	KE6FXK	829-1583



**Club Meetings**

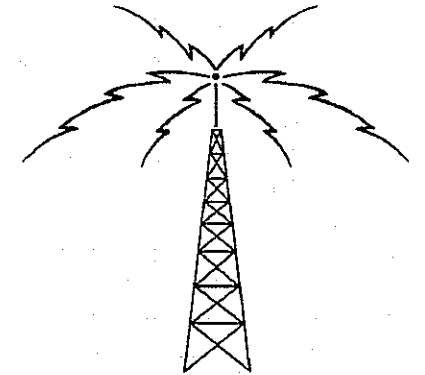
7:30 pm, 1st Wednesday each month at the Hewlett-Packard plant in Santa Rosa. (See map below) All are welcome.

**ARE YOU AN SCRA MEMBER?**

If not, then this is a complimentary copy of *Short Skip*. Our club is involved with almost every area of Amateur Radio: Repeaters (146.73), Field Day, License classes (Novice through Extra), Volunteer exams, RACES, DX programs, Packet radio, Hidden transmitter hunts -- you name it.

**Activities Committee:**

Public Service:	--open--		
Public Relations:	Steve Carniglia	KV6A	579-9608
QSL Mgr:	Fred Leoni	N6YEU	431-8202
TVI/RFI:	Al Bloom	N1AL	538-7115
Antennas:	Joe Senft	KM6TN	578-5824
Awards:	Steve Lund	K6UM	823-4544
RACES RO:	Merl Pfeiff	N6VUC	584-3898
Field Day:	Steve Carniglia	AT6A	579-9608
Swap Meet:	Rick Reiner	K6ZBW	575-4455
Education:	Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	538-0331
VEC Exams:	Bill Kinder	KO6ZG	894-9591
Badge Chair:	Fred Leoni	N6YEU	431-8202
Refreshments:	Steve Corey	N6WMW	
Raffle at meetings:	Greg Cowles	KE6FXK	
Membership lottery:	James Cureton	KD6GSF	
Packet BBS:	Jim Andrews	KC6PIW	795-2163
	Dave Willey	KD6KWM	577-0191



**Repeater Control Op's**

Kelly KD6CJQ	...	837-9434
Hoppy WD6CKP	..	542-6750
Steve KV6A	.....	579-9608
Jim N6PTM	.....	823-7947
Merl N6VUC	.....	584-3898
Ken N6MHG	.....	539-2701

**Application for membership in SCRA**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) New ( ) Renewal

**SCRA Dues:** The renewal date for SCRA dues is March 1st. Dues are \$18/year for individual and \$27/year for families. The new member initiation (badge) fee is \$6/person. Dues for new members only are prorated at \$1.50/month for individuals and \$2.25/month for families, starting at renewal time.

**ARRL dues:** \$31/year, \$25 over 65 with proof of age. (Under 21 rates require application form).

Make checks payable to **SCRA**

I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

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

**SCRA Dues:**

Individual \$18, Family \$27 + \_\_\_\_\_  
 Initiation fee \$6.00 + \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prorate discount X \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 (# months) (rate)

**ARRL Dues:**

\$31 or \$25 if over 65 + \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional donation to SCRA: + \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total dues: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name Badge Information (new members)**

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

Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTOSLOT REQUEST:** Licensed SCRA members are entitled to a repeater autoslot. Fill in the information below to apply. For further information contact Kelly KD6CJQ at 837-9434.

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Is this your home phone? ( ) Yes ( ) No

We invite you to attend our next monthly meeting (see below) or check into the Tuesday night SCRA net on the 146.73 repeater at 7PM. You will hear the latest Amateur Radio Newsline 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 in this issue. Hope we can have an "eyeball" QSO with you at the next meeting! 73 ...

SCRA HOTLINE 707-579-9608  
 WWW <http://cgs1.net/scra>

Next Meeting: *January 8*  
 Program: Sonoma County Dispatch

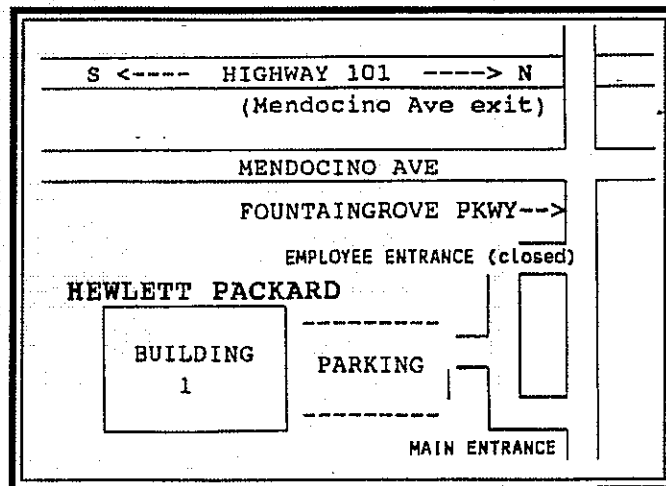
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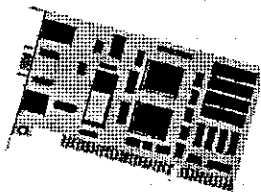
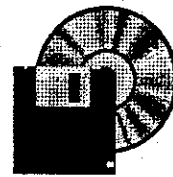
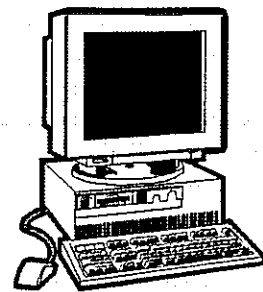
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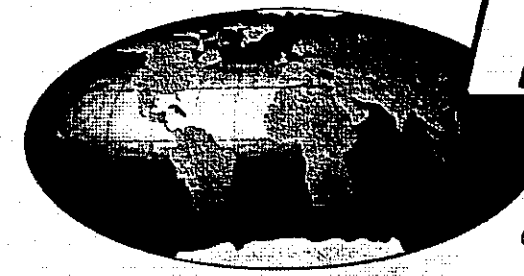
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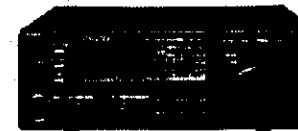
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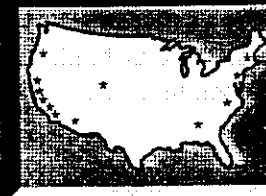


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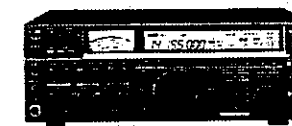
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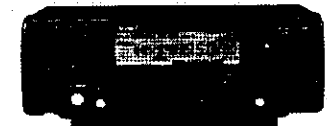
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**SCRA MINUTES**

December 4, 1996

The December meeting was the annual Christmas Dinner. There were no minutes taken. Ed.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

December 11, 1996

The December Minutes of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs board meeting held at the Bank of the West on Marlow Rd. Members of the board present were: President, Steve KV6A; Vice President, Rick K6ZWB; Secretary, Steven KD6CJR; Treasurer, Joel KJ6LF; Repeater Chairman and Past President, Kelly KD6CJQ; Activities Chairman, Bill KH6GJV; Public Service Chairman, Marie KI6QY and Member-at-large, Claude AB6OL. There were also 2 other SCRA members present. Members of the board for 1997 were present also. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by President Steve KV6A.

Steve KV6A: It is important to not talk to Steve about his business on the air. He asks that no one discuss the Internet with him.

Considering the first Wednesday will fall on Jan. 1 we will hold our regular club meeting on Jan. 8. The board meeting will be moved as well if not possible before the meeting. Positions that need to be filled on the board: SCRAPS Chairman, Activities Chairman; other position: Education Chairman.

Rick K6ZWB: Quarterly raffle will continue into 1997. For March we will return to a GPS unit as the prize.

Steve KD6CJR: A letter requesting funds for the Frequency Defense Fund was tabled until the April Board Meeting. The club made \$50 on KZST card sales. We'll get an earlier start next year. Will present a motion to update the SCRA Constitution at the next club meeting.

Joel KJ6LF: Discussed Budget issues for 1997. Income and expenses for 1996 were both down. Bill KH6GJV donated \$17 from the sale of Handie Finder antennas for foxhunting.

Kelly KD6CJQ: The policy regarding saying your call sign prior to an autopatch has been published several times and is in the autopatch guide included with the membership packet. (Sec. I am sorry if someone has not received this important document. Please contact me if you need the information.) The county has indicated that it will take very few instances of false 911's (1 or 2) for us to lose or microwave link upon which we rely for phone service. Other clubs DO NOT allow unidentified 911 or

autopatch. ANY and ALL unidentified autopatch calls WILL be terminated. We are sorry for the hardline approach, but we need to protect or privilege. There will be a discussion of this issue at the next club meeting →Jan. 8← not a misprint!

There are two new antennas up on the hill. One because of a failure, the other is an upgrade. The failed antenna also took out the power amp and so we are operating at minimum power.

Bill KH6GJV: We would prefer to not do the one day video classes. It is understood that there is a big commitment to teach a long class but the end result is far superior. It is also important that when someone will teach that the club support the effort. It is really trying to teach only a couple of people. QSL cards from the Alcatraz expedition are ready for signing. If you do not have your packet please contact Larry KD6VUM. We still need lots of information on Death Valley if we are going to make that trip work.

Marie KI6QY: Georgia Morton (N6GZU) wife of Ken (N6GXI) recently passed away. We will discuss this further at the Jan. 8 club meeting.

It was brought up that many club members are not feeling properly utilized during events, possibly resulting in apathy toward volunteering. A list of concerns will be compiled to be presented to the groups that we assist.

We REALLY need a new SCRAPS Chairman. Marie will not be available next year.

Claude AB6OL: Claude can be reached for newsletter E-mail at AB6OL@CDS1.NET.

Merl N6VUC: There will be a steering committee meeting on Jan 20. There is a full blown training program in the works for 1997 with Packet being a major project.

Bill KO6ZG: We really would like some ideas for a new VE test site. Some ideas were Kaiser, SR Vets or a church. Next test session will be 2nd Sat. in January.

Respectfully submitted by Steven Feil, KD6CJR, Secretary.

**Rudy Mappus N6KLU  
SILENT KEY**

Our deepest condolences to Marie Mappus KI6QY on the passing of her husband Rudy. He will be missed.

**HANK'S SWAP SHOP**

Greg Cowles KE6FXK 252 Hutchins Ave.  
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E-mail: ke6fxk@aol.com

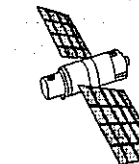
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- 10) Kenwood TS-450S, HF transceiver w/mic. \$750.00 Mike N6DBZ 823-0697
- 11) Icom R1 handheld communications receiver 100Khz - 1.3Ghz AM/FM/FM wide mode with Periphex BP84S battery and case. \$300.00. Steve N6RYA 823-5882
- 12) Yeasu FT-2400, 2m mobile radio, \$225.00. HOME MADE 2m base antenna and 1 year old; Cushcraft R5 hf vertical base antenna. \$200.00. 2 New heavy duty, 36' telescopic TV masts \$50.00 obo. Marie KI6QY 664-1978
- 13) Heath Kit GR-78 General coverage receiver, \$45.00 obo. William KE6KSK 433-2245

**WANTED**

Kenwood mic for a Kenwood TS440sat HF rig. Desk or Hand mic. Jim KB6ZOP 585-9946 or E-mail Jmacd@wco.com

**SpaceNews****AMSAT-OSCAR-13 DECAY**

On December 5th, 1996, the international telecommunications satellite AMSAT-OSCAR-13 burned up upon re-entering the Earth's atmosphere. AMSAT-OSCAR-13 was successfully launched on June 15th, 1988, into a highly elliptical orbit on board the first test flight of the new European ARIANE 4 rocket. Over the years, AMSAT-OSCAR-13 has enabled direct radio contacts among the world-wide community of nearly 2 million radio amateurs.

AMSAT-OSCAR-13 had been constructed within four years by an international project group under the leadership of Dr. Karl Meinzer of AMSAT-Germany. AMSAT (Amateur Radio Satellite Corporation) is a world-wide alliance of approximately 6000 scientists, engineers, technicians and radio amateurs who voluntarily build and operate scientific and communications satellites. During its operational period, AMSAT-OSCAR-13 was monitored and controlled by a group of ground stations in Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America.

Upon its re-entry, AMSAT-OSCAR-13 has had a lifespan of over eight years. Originally the mission had been conceived to last only seven years. Overheating of the satellite due to air friction in the upper atmosphere resulted in the destruction of the solar panels on November 24th and the consequent interruption of all radio links. Prior to this event, the on-board monitoring system had transmitted much data relating to the satellite's behavior in the upper atmosphere to ground stations for evaluation.

The decay of the orbit was caused by the gravitational attraction of the Sun and the Moon. The elliptical orbit was stretched so that the satellite gradually approached the Earth which lies at one of the two focal points of the ellipse. This phenomenon motivated AMSAT to develop new analytical and computational methods to allow long term predictions for future satellites on similar, highly elliptical orbits.

The orbit of the next satellite, AMSAT Phase 3-D, has been calculated using these new methods and will therefore be more stable over the long term. AMSAT Phase 3-D is scheduled to be launched into space during the first half of 1997 as apparently the only satellite payload for the second test flight of the new ARIANE 5 launcher.

SpaceNews originates at KD2BD in Wall Township, New Jersey, USA. It is published every week and is made available for non-commercial use.