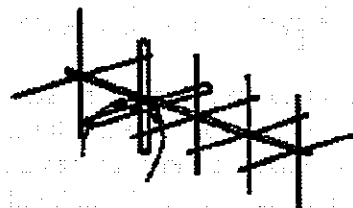


Foxhunt News



The next four SCRA foxhunts will be held on the following dates: March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20. Each day is a Saturday. Hunts will start at 9:00 a.m. from the Piner High School parking lot, off Fulton Road, in Santa Rosa. Early birds are welcome to meet at IHOP at 8:00 a.m. in the Raley's Shopping Center at the corner of Guerneville Rd. and Fulton Rd. Talk in on the 146.73 repeater.

This month the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club will also be having a Beginner's DF foxhunt. It will be on April 25 at 9:00 a.m. beginning from the Sonoma Veteran's Memorial Building at 126 First Street West in Sonoma. (For those of you who know Sonoma, this is the street just west of City Hall and the town square.)

A Hamfest and Swap Meet will also be going on from 8:00 a.m. to noon, so come prepared!. Talk in on 145.350 MHz (-600 & 88.5 PL).

Check out the new SCRA Foxhunt WEB page at
<http://cbs.cds1.net/shortskip/foxhunt.htm>

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

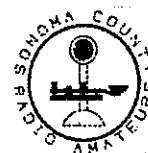
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Next Meeting: April 1
Homebrew Contest



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W6SON

Short Skip



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

PO Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116

Repeater Station
W6LFJ

146.730MHz ● 224.48MHz ● 441.375MHz

Volume 23 Number 4

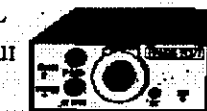
April 1998

Annual Homebrew Contest

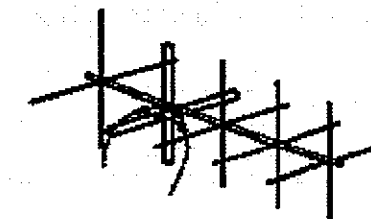
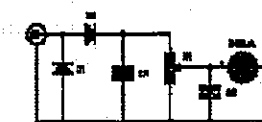
That's right -- it's time again for the annual meeting all you creative radio enthusiasts have been waiting for -- the **HOMEBREW CONTEST!!** The basic rules are simple: **You** build it, **You** bring it! This is the perfect opportunity for you to show others what types of activities you're interested in, and to see what other club members have built up in their shacks.

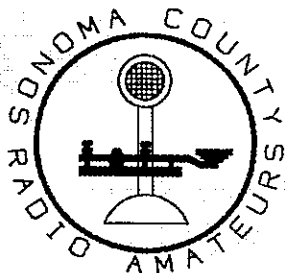
If you've built something in the past year, bring it in for the rest of the club to see. It could be something you built in a weekend, in which case it would fit into the "Small Project" category. Or, it could be a project that took you a couple of weekends or even months to build. That would put it into the "Large Project" category. Any type of project relating to amateur radio is eligible -- from antennas to mechanical items to computer software to kits or modified/improved gear. It doesn't have to be complicated -- it just has to be something **YOU** did. Even if it's from a kit!

Be sure to document your project -- photographs, printer listings, QSL cards, or even a brief write-up about what prompted you to create your handiwork. Think about what you learned from the experience of building your project and be prepared to share that with the rest of us.



Included in this issue of Short Skip is a Homebrew Contest entry form. Fill out the form and bring it to the April SCRA meeting with your project. Look around your shack -- there's probably something you've done which would be of interest to others. Dust it off, tune it up, put on any finishing touches -- and bring it to the April meeting! One of the nice things about this -- winning won't be an April Fools Day joke!





Club Meetings

7:30 pm on the 1st Wednesday each month at the Hewlett-Packard plant in Rohnert Park meetings. All are welcome.

We invite you to attend our next monthly meeting (see below). 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.

Tuesday Night Net

Check into the Tuesday Night SCRA net on the 146.73 repeater at 7:00 pm. Announcements of upcoming SCRA activities, a Swap Shop and the latest Amateur Radio Newline broadcasts can be heard.

**SCRA Meeting Place
Hewlett-Packard, Rohnert Park
1212 Valley House Drive**

Directions: From Hwy. 101 take the Rohnert Park Exit. Go East on RP Expressway until it dead ends into Petalum Hill Road. Turn right (south) on Petaluma Hill Rd. Turn right (west) on Valley House Drive. Check in at the Main gate guard shack. Be prepared to show ID for *EVERYONE* in the vehicle. Tell the guard you are with the SCRA club.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 1
Homebrew Contest**

SCRA HOTLINE: 707-579-9608
Web Address: <http://cds1.net/scra>
Short Skip On-line: <http://cds1.net/shortskip>

Upcoming Events

April

- 1 SCRA Club Meeting at HP-Rohnert Park, 7:30pm
- HOMEBREW CONTEST
- 5 Livermore Swap Meet, Talk in on 147.045
- 18 VE Exam, Santa Rosa, 9am HP-Santa Rosa
- 18 SCRA Foxhunt, 9am, Piner High School
- 19 Placerville Swap Meet, Talk in on 146.865-146.2
- 25 VOMARC Hamfest & Swap Meet, Sonoma Veteran's Hall
- 25 VOMARC Foxhunt, 9am, Sonoma Veteran's Hall
- 25 VOMARC Exam Session, 9am, Sonoma Veteran's Hall
(Talk in for All VOMARC activities on 145.35, -600, PL 88.5)

May

- 3 Livermore Swap Meet, Talk in 147.045
- 6 SCRA Club Meeting at HP-Rohnert Park, 7:30pm
- 16 SCRA Foxhunt, 9am, Piner High School
- 17 Placerville Swap Meet, Talk in on 146.865-146.2

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Many thanks to HSC (Halted Specialties Co.), Bashom Electronics, and Ham Radio Outlet for supporting Sonoma County Radio Amateurs!

Websites to check out:

SHORTSKIP on-line:
<http://cds.cds1.net/shortskip>

The SCRA Foxhunt webpage:
<http://cds.cds1.net/shortskip/foxhunt.htm>

The ARRL Newsletter:
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter>

If you know someone who would like to know more about ham radio, have them check out:
<http://www.arrl.org/hamradio.html>

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April VE Exams

On April 18, a VE exam sponsored by SCRA will be held at Hewlett-Packard in Santa Rosa at 9:00 a.m. To enter, go through the main entrance and be prepared to show a picture I.D. Go to the Main Lobby in Building 1. A VE examiner will meet you and direct you to the testing site.

On April 25, the Valley of the Moon Club will hold a VE exam at the Sonoma Veteran's Memorial Building, 126 First Street West, in Sonoma. (Note: This location has changed since it was reported in the February Short Skip.) This will also begin at 9:00a.m. This concurs with the club's annual Hamfest, Swap Meet AND a Foxhunt (which also begins at 9:00 a.m.) so be prepared to play after taking the exam!

- Candidates should bring the following items:
1. A photo identification or two non-photo identifications.
 2. The original and a photocopy of your current license, if you are already licensed.
 3. Any original valid CSCE's and photocopies.
 4. Radiotelegraph license if held (see VE).
 5. Medical Exemptions (see VE).
- Fee is \$6.35 except Novice license, which is free. (Elements 2 and 2A)

FCC Sequential Call Sign Updates

The following is a list of FCC sequentially assigned call signs issued as of March 3, 1998.

District	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	AB0HH	KI0LX	++	KC0CVG
1	AA1TI	KE1JH	++	KB1CLA
2	AB2EZ	KG2NS	++	KC2DBT
3	AA3QV	KF3AZ	++	KB3CEJ
4	AF4IN	KU4PG	++	KF4VZK
5	AC5PB	KM5PI	++	KD5DLN
6	AD6EP	KQ6UU	++	KF6PQR
7	AB7XM	KK7MK	++	KD7ATP
8	AB8BZ	KI8FE	++	KC8JJU
9	AA9VN	KG9MS	++	KB9SF

N. Mariana Is.	NH0C	AH0AY	KH0GV	WH0ABI
Guam	++	AH2DF	KH2TG	WH2ANV
Hawaii	NH7G	AH6PF	KH7IQ	WH6DEN
Amer. Samoa	AH8P	AH8AH	KH8DL	WH8ABF
Alaska	AL0J	AL7RA	KL0NM	WL7CUR
Virgin Islands	++	KP2CN	NP2JZ	WP2AIJ

++All call signs in this group have been issued in this district.

**Asteroid Named After
New Mexico Ham**

In addition to his interest in ham radio, Warren Offutt, AF9Q, of Cloudcroft, New Mexico, has a deep interest in astronomy and gained considerable renown as an amateur stargazer. Now, his name is up in lights--in a manner of speaking--in the form of an asteroid some 350-million miles from Earth. After retiring from an engineering career, Offutt and his wife, Beverly, N9JVN, moved from Illinois and set up a research observatory in the Sacramento Mountains of south-central New Mexico. They specialize in precision astrometry of faint solar system objects.

Offutt says he learned just a few days before his 70th birthday (on February 13, 1998) that the International Astronomical Union was naming Minor Planet (7639) in honor of his scientific contributions. The asteroid now will be known formally as Minor Planet (7639) Offutt. Estimated to be several miles in diameter, it orbits the sun in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Bestowing the honor of naming the asteroid in Offutt's honor was the IAU's Brian Marsden, who first spotted the asteroid in 1985 at Harvard. Over the past year, Offutt has helped in three major discoveries from his home observatory.

Offutt--an ARRL member and licensed in 1943--says his 55 years of hamming "have been a wonderful experience. I still get a thrill out of each new contact." He and his wife have ten children. Three of them, plus one son-in-law, also are hams.

CALL FOR PAPERS

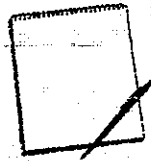
A call for papers for presentation at the 16th Space Symposium and AMSAT Annual Meeting has been issued. The conference will be held October 16-18, 1998, at the Park Inn International, Vicksburg, Mississippi. This is the first call to authors who wish to present papers at the symposium and that will be printed in the Proceedings. Subject matter should cover topics of interest to the Amateur Radio satellite service. One-page abstracts are due by June 1, 1998, and authors will be advised shortly after June 15, 1998, whether their papers have been accepted. Camera-ready copy of accepted papers is due by August 15, 1998. Papers generally will be printed as submitted. Send abstracts to Malcolm Keown, W5XX, 14 Lake Circle Dr, Vicksburg, MS 39180; e-mail w5xx@magnolia.net. If sending an abstract by e-mail, please follow up with a postal mail copy. Authors may submit files in any version of Word or WordPerfect. Proceedings of the Symposium will be printed by the ARRL and made available at and after the meeting. For more conference information, see: <http://pages.prodigy.com/DXHf93A>. --Eddie Pettis, N5JGK

The above articles are reprinted courtesy of the ARRL Letter, March 13, 1998 Vol. 17, No 11, and the American Radio Relay League.

SCRA MINUTES

March 4, 1998

Submitted by
Jen Dewey, KF6DDQ



The SCRA March meeting was brought to order by President Dave New AA6YX. Other officers present were Vice President and Repeater Chairman Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ, Secretary Jen Dewey KF6DDQ, Treasurer Joel Nadler KJ6LF, Dave Willey KD6KWM, Ken Harrison, N6MHG and Short Skip Editor Holly Gleason KE6MNT.

This is an official meeting. We have a quorum.

We had two visitors, Ron Tietz WB6GPX and Brian Tietz KF6NTG both from Rohnert Park.

Minutes were approved by Claude AB6OL, seconded by Holly, KE6MNT.

Treasurer's Report: Joel had nothing to report.

Activities and Education: Dave Willey KD6KWM: Last Fox Hunt was during a big storm. 12 people attended, 7 were new. Next General Meeting is Home Brew night.

Flea Market: Colleen KF6DHA says that the place is reserved. No reservation deposit this year. Next year will be \$400.00.

Repeaters: Kelly KD6CJQ asked for a hand of people who would like to go up to the repeater site. Almost everyone wanted to go. He will ask if it is possible to go up to the repeater. It may have to be done in small groups. He asked the group if he could order the preamp for the 2 meter repeater. The cost would be \$304.00. Dave, KD6KWM, made a motion to buy it, Colleen, KF6DHA, seconded the motion. This will be coming out of the repeater budget. Everything is closed up for ACS. Trailer is still being used for Psychological Unit in Rio Nido. Ham Radio was not used that much during the storms. Don worked with County Radio people. They used OES1 as tactical.

Lee Dibble KE6EAQ had no legal matters to discuss

Web Page: Ken N6MHG: He made the membership page Spam-proof.

Al Bloom N1AL wrote an amendment several months ago. He wanted to change section 6 in SCRA By-laws to reflect 1/5 to 1/10 for a voting quorum. The amendment was read by Dave New. Al was not present. Lee called for a vote and it was seconded.

Hoppy Hopkins, K6MUP just turned 90 years old.

Field Day: Larry KD6VUM, Will be held the 4th weekend in June. Held at the Youth Park in Santa Rosa. The park has been confirmed and paid for. Subcommittees are: Food: John, KD2LQ, RTTY: Jim WAZEWE, ATV Demo: Ed AD6YV. Still need antenna chairman, Publicity, and everyone's

participation. Troop 134 in Northwest Santa Rosa is still interested in coming to help operate. Larry will send in paper work to ARRL to sign up for field day.

March 14 at Rohnert Park Hewlett Packard will be a CPR class. Call Red Cross or they will take walk-ins. No charge. Takes 2 hours. Emergency Preparedness fair will be held on the same day.

Public Service: James has a list of events, but no dates yet. He will have it up on the Web Page soon. Dave Willey suggested he mention it on the Net on Tuesday nights.

Charlie has a Radio that is 6 meters. Wanted to know if anyone wanted it. Dave New started a list.

The program was on "What the Club would like to see done."

The meeting was adjourned at around 9:30 P.M.



Board Meeting Minutes

March 11, 1998

Submitted by
Jen Dewey, KF6DDQ

The meeting called to order by Jennifer KF6DDQ at 5:40pm. *Absent:* Dave New AA6YX, Kelly Cureton KD6CJQ. *Present:* Treasurer Joel Nadler KJ6LF, Members-at-large Dave Willey KD6KWM, and Ken Harrison N6MHG, Public Service Chairman, James Dean, KF6DHB; Short Skip Editor Holly Gleason KE6MNT. Guests: Claude Jones, AB6OL, Brian Torr, N6IY, and Bill Hillendahl, KG6GJV

Old Business: Nothing to report

New Business:

Short Skip: Holly needs to have articles in.

Ken Harrison: Fox web page is up and running thanks to Claude. Follow the link from SCRA page.

Joel Nadler: Won't have treasurer's report for Short Skip; he's moving. He'll bring the info to the next club meeting.

Bill H. reported that the Space Amateur Radio Experiment program has emission now, there are 2 contacts a week.

Brian reported that Santa Rosa Antenna Ordinance passed according to Lee Dibble. It was Veratrum as to what the council wanted. Any antenna over 12 feet above the roof line must have a builder's permit. Cost of the permit is based on the cost of the antenna.

Bill Hillendahl brought up that he wants fair treatment. He felt the Board put him in a star chamber during the last quorum after the board meeting. He doesn't feel that he should give an apology to the Board or to those involved. His presentation on his amendment should only take 15 minutes at the next general meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

From the Prez...

Dave New, AA6YX

I remember my first experiences with Ham Radio. It was in the month of December 1972. I had four or five crystals, a Morrow Falcon receiver and an ARC 5 transmitter. I hung two wires out the window and attached them to the receiver and transmitter. I remember hearing a lot of W6's on the air and wished the mail would hurry up with my license. About a month before this I had passed the Novice tests that were given at the High School I was attending. They were just starting a Ham club and at the risk of being labeled a "Nerd" I joined. I was bigger than most and was first string on the football team so no "pocket protector guy" label was placed upon me. These things are important to you when you are in school!

Finally, in the mail came my Novice license! Within an hour WN6USM was on the air! I remember making many contacts with US stations. This was quite a feat considering my shack! The funding was dropped for the Ham club at school, something about better uniforms for the football team, or something like that, so I joined the local North Hills Radio Club, K6IS. This was GREAT! An auditorium full of hams, like me, who really enjoyed Amateur Radio and electronics. The very first meeting I met a fellow member who had an "extra" Eico 720 transmitter and gave it to me! Now I had 50 watts on the air! From there my experiences just ballooned. I went on the Field Day exercise with the club and learned how to raise antennas and how to contest. Met hams that were involved with the MARS program and learned how to pass traffic. I learned many new things and met many new wonderful people. I will never forget those times!

Clubs A club can be a very wonderful experience. It is a place where individuals with similar interests can meet and share the joy of their hobby or interest. Information can be shared and learned and resources can be pooled together to help those in need. On the other hand, a club can be a draining experience. A place where all the tasks of running the club and the club activities gets left to a few individuals who do it year after year. I have heard many "reasons" why this develops. "Well, if you are not part of the clique then you have no chance", "I would like to do that but don't know how", "Don't have the time" and many more. I feel that our club is suffering from the burned out syndrome. We need to revive SCRA! We generally have the same people doing all the work but I do not believe that this means we have a "clique" group. We have many resources that can help us learn how to do new things but it is our turn to do the work. It is our turn to "make the time" to save OUR club.

Bottom-line. Let's revive the club and make it a fun place to learn new things. Let's foster new programs and membership. Let US make OUR club a wonderful experience that we will never forget. Let's do it now!

Thanks

73! Dave New AA6YX
SCRA President

Silent Key

Jim McCauley, AB6EU

On Monday, March 10, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club (VOMARC) lost one of its most stalwart members with the passing of Jim McCauley.

Jim's interest in Amateur Radio drove him to make fundamental changes within the local club and beyond. Over the decade he made a vibrant, growing club out of a small local group of hams, and he worked with the ARRL to get Special Service recognition for VOMARC's public service, classes and VE sessions. As NTS Traffic Manager for the SF section, he put Sonoma County on the NTS map nationwide, passing many hundreds of messages a month and had served as STM for six years

Jim was a Charter member of Bear Flag Repeater Group and earned the ARRL National Recruiter of the Year award in 1995. McCauley was also an active Volunteer Examiner, instructor, and Elmer to new hams as well as a past recipient of the ARRL Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award.

Packet's back!

Those who are interested in packet will be happy to hear that the KD6KWM PBBS is back up and running on 145.090 MHz. It's a private system not connected to SCRA in any way, but Dave Willey wanted packet users in the Santa Rosa area to know it is available for use. If you're not in the Santa Rosa area, you can access the PBBS though the SONOMA node on 145.73MHz and connect over to SROSA. If your home PBBS is already RPARK, be sure *not* to go over to SROSA unless you "(N)ew KD6KWM" on BOTH systems! This will allow you to get your mail correctly and not confuse the systems. The PBBS station in Rohnert Park is still running -- the KD6KWM station is in addition to that. If you have any questions, contact Dave Willey, KD6KWM at 571-0191.

DX NEWS

SOUTHERN SUDAN, ST0, DELETED

The ARRL DXAC and Awards Committee have voted to delete Southern Sudan, ST0, from the DXCC list. That word this week from the ARRL Membership Services Committee.

While the status in Southern Sudan changed in 1983, QSOs made before January 1, 1995, will count for the deleted entity. There are two reasons for this. First, there have been accredited operations since 1983, thus raising a fairness issue. Second, the DXCC Desk has processed cards from those operations--many of them onto paper records. The DXCC Desk says that, because each ST0 credit would have to be individually checked, it would be very costly and time-consuming to search and remove post-1983 ST0 QSOs from the records, and a complete and accurate job might not be possible.

The DXAC and Awards committees have agreed to make no change in the status of Fernando de Noronha, PY0F, and Kure Island, KH7K.--DXCC Desk

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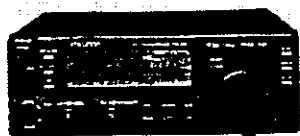
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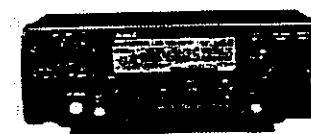
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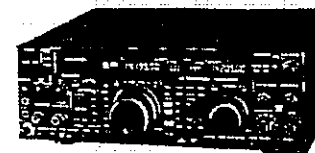


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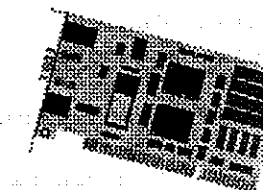
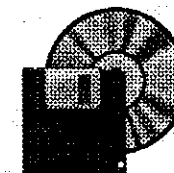
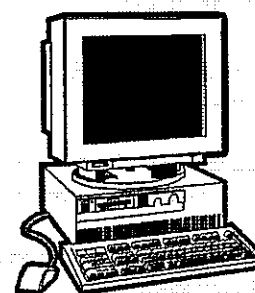
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