

Calendar of Events

Dec 1	Sat	10:00 AM	Red Oak Victory ARC Meeting, Point Richmond
Dec 5	Wed	6:30 PM	SCRA Christmas Party! Michele's, 7 th & Adams Streets, Santa Rosa
Dec 7	Fri	7:30 PM	Marin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley
Dec 12	Wed	6:30 PM	SCRA Board of Directors Meeting, 3450 Airway Dr., Santa Rosa
Dec 19	Wed	7:00 PM	REDXA Meeting, Carrow's, Petaluma
	Wed	7:30 PM	Valley of the Moon ARC Meeting, McDougall Hall, Sonoma Developmental Center, Glen Ellen.
Dec 21	Fri	8:00 PM	San Francisco ARC; VA Medical Center, 42 nd Ave & Clement, San Francisco

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

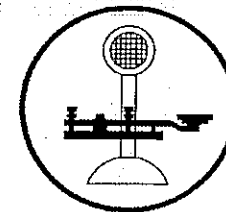
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W6LFLJ

Short Skip

newsletter of the

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

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(707) 579-9608

<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

Repeaters

146.73- • 224.48- • 441.375+



Repeater Station
W6SON

Volume 26 Number 11

December 2001

Spunko's Sparks

By
Gregory Gordon
AC6VJ
SCRA President



I want to wish all the club members and their families Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. It has been an very eventful year for me, and I am thankful that the club membership gave me the chance to be their president. The only regret that I have is that the matter of the club's 2-meter repeater has not been settled by the end of my term. Although, I still have one more year on the Board of Directors as the Past President to help with matter.

Hope to see to see you all at the club Christmas Party.

73,

Gregory
AC6VJ

Mail Disruptions Lead to Vanity Processing Suspension

Recently announced changes in how the FCC's Gettysburg office is receiving and handling mail have effectively halted processing of Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. The ARRL has learned that the FCC has processed vanity applications received through October 14 and that vanity applications received after that date remain on hold for the time being.

"We understand that mail directed to the FCC Gettysburg office beginning October 15 was being held pending the start of special handling precautions to address any biohazard contamination concerns," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. On a positive note, Jahnke said, the FCC is tracking the receipt date for each piece of mail.

Because the FCC gives equal priority to paper and electronic vanity applications, Jahnke explained, all vanity processing was being suspended until the mail situation is resolved. Citing a need for heightened security measures, the FCC announced November 14 that it had moved the Gettysburg office's mailroom offsite, to the rear entrance of 35 York St, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

The FCC did not announce, however, that mail received at Gettysburg starting October 15 had not yet been opened, pending arrangements to handle it without the possibility of endangering personnel. Jahnke said vanity processing should resume once the FCC begins to open its mail backlog. Just when that might happen is not yet known. Vanity processing typically takes 18 days.

The Gettysburg office is where the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau processes Amateur Radio applications and issues licenses. It's also where Special

(continued on page 3)

2001 Club Officials

President	Greg Gordon	AC6VJ	707 523-7077
Vice President	Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	707 544-4944
Secretary	Jeff Basham	W2JAB	707 542-3860
Treasurer	Jim Lee	KE6VGV	415 892-0317
Director	Rich Freitas	KF6SZA	707 578-9335
Director	John Mullan	KD2L	707 575-9176
Past President	Rick Reiner	K6ZWB	707 575-4455
Activities Chairman	Bill McCall	W6WDM	707 538-2844
Public Service Chairman	John Mullan	KD2L	707 575-9176
Repeater Chairman	Greg Gordon	AC6VJ	707 523-7077

Short Skip & Web Staff

Editor	Bill Hillendahl	KH6GJV	707 544-4944
Editor	Bill McCall	W6WDM	707 538-2844
Hank's Swap Shop	Jeff Basham	W2JAB	707 542-3860
Web Master	Jeff Basham	W2JAB	707 542-3860

Contacts

Antenna Ordinance/Legal	Lee Dibble	KE6EAQ	707 544-1675
Public Relations	Bill McCall	W2WDM	707 538-2844
Raffles	Brain Lukrich	KG6AQT	707 527-0795
Refreshments	Ted DeCroff	KB6PTA	707 542-4008
TV/RF Interference	Alan Bloom	N1AL	707 538-7115
Volunteer Exam Liaison	John Mullan	KD2L	707 575-9176

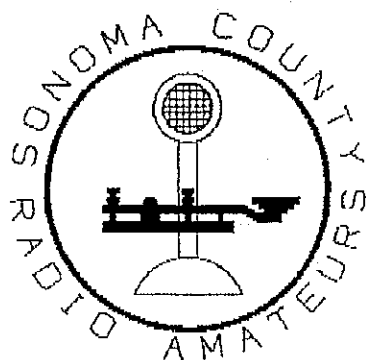
SCRA Hotline	707 579-9608
SCRA E-Mail	scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com
SCRA Web Site	http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com

Tuesday Night Net

Check in to the SCRA net each **Tuesday** evening on the **146.73-(PL 88.5)** repeater at **7:00 PM**. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the area and what is listed in Hank's Swap Shop. You will also hear the weekly *Amateur Radio Newsline* broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

Business Cards	\$ 12
1 st Quarter Column	\$ 13
Each Addn'l Quarter Column	\$ 4
Full page (one side)	\$ 35
Pre-printed inserts (each)	\$ 35
Guaranteed circulation of 200 per month!	
For more information, contact the Editor.	



CLUB MEETINGS

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month at:

Agilent Technologies
1400 Fountaingrove Parkway
Santa Rosa, CA

The meeting starts at 7:30 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please join us at our next meeting. Membership in SCRA is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. A membership application is included in this newsletter.

Interested? For more information, contact any SCRA officer, director or member.

NEXT MEETING

December 5th

6:30 PM

Program:

Holiday Party

Michele's Restaurant

7th & Adams Sts, Santa Rosa

HUNGRY BEFORE THE MEETING?

(NOT IN DECEMBER)

JOIN US FOR DINNER! We meet at Marie Callenders restaurant, 2460 Mendocino Avenue (corner of Mendocino & Chanate), Santa Rosa. People start showing up at 5:30 PM. No RSVP is required! See you there!



ARES Comm Log

by Rich Freitas KF6SZA
Greater Santa Rosa
Emergency Coordinator

Have you noticed lately that ARES activations have increased? Just last week Amateur Radio emergency teams were activated for the American Airlines crash in New York and Hurricane Michelle in Florida. In the case of hurricanes damage is so widespread that ham radio is normally the only type of communications that is reliable. However, when was the last time you heard of an ARES activation for a plane crash?

I believe recent events have changed many officials' point of view with regards to ham radio. Obviously, the terrorist catastrophe in New York on September 11th brought Amateur Radio communication to the forefront; in fact, emergency communications teams are still being used at ground zero. However, I find it interesting how quickly and efficiently ARES was activated for Red Cross and Salvation Army relief efforts at the Queens plane crash site. Telephone cables were destroyed by

the crash, cell phone communication was spotty at best, the Nextels were not working most of the time, and power was cut off to the entire area. In this type of event you would normally expect relief officials to plod along without communications support until conventional methods were brought back online. In this instance emergency communications were activated immediately after the crash facilitating both the shelter activity and the Family Information Center.

This is exactly how ARES should operate..... seamlessly. The objective is to get in quickly, do the job, and get out when conventional communications are restored. It's a shame that the World Trade Center event became a training ground for this type of emergency response but I find it gratifying that ham radio was able to "step up to the plate" and operate so efficiently. As much as we dislike it, disasters are a part of life. They will continue to occur and we can choose whether or not to be ready for them. I encourage all amateurs to get involved in ARES and our served agencies and to take the emergency communications courses currently being offered by the ARRL.

The ARES net meets on **Mondays** at 7:30 PM on 146.73 (- offset, 88.5 PL). We conduct periodic emergency exercises and educational sessions. Please join us.

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.	
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City/State _____	Zip _____ E-Mail _____
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Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
Membership Meeting 11-7-2001
MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum - The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Gregory Gordon, AC6VJ at 7:37 PM at the Santa Rosa Agilent Technologies facility.
 - a. Introductions
 - i. Officers & Directors - The club officers and directors introduced themselves.
 - ii. Guest Speaker - Slide Show on U.S.S. Pampanito
 - iii. Visitors - AB9CF, N8ZM, N8ASB, WA4LYX, KK6WG, KD6FZL
 - iv. New Calls & Upgrades - None
2. Approval of Minutes - Mike AD6YB moved that the minutes of the 10-3-2001 membership meeting be approved as printed. The motion passed.
3. Officer & Director Reports
 - a. Vice President - Bill KH6GJV - Bill had nothing to report.
 - b. Secretary - Jeff Basham W2JAB
 - a. Mail and Communications - Jeff distributed the mail to the appropriate officers.
 - b. Camera Use - Jeff informed the membership that John Breckenridge had obtained a camera use permit for the club meetings at Agilent, through 2010.
 - c. Treasurer - Jim Lee KE6VGV was not present to make a report.
 - d. Directors - Rich Freitas KF6SZA - Rich thanked the SET participants, and announced that there would be a ARES face to face in 2 weeks. He also encouraged participation in the ARRL CCE Courses. John Mullan KD2L - John reported that there is a VE session in the works for the day after Thanksgiving for those who cannot attend the weekend sessions. Rick Reiner K6ZWB - Rick was not present to make a report.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Activities Committee - Bill McCall W6WDM - Bill was not present to make a report.
 - a. Christmas Dinner - Bill H. went over the details for the Christmas dinner and reservation forms were passed out.
 - b. Newsletter Editor - Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV and Bill McCall W6WDM - Bill H. has nothing to report.
 3. Public Service - John Mullan KD2L thanked everyone for participating in the public service events this last year, and reported that there are no more scheduled events.
 4. Repeater Committee - Greg AC6VJ reported that all the equipment is working on English Hill, and that he had gotten communication from Riley Hollingsworth that there would be a decision rendered by November 20th, 2001. Greg also said that the repeater class would be going up to Castle Rock this week.
5. Unfinished Business - None
6. New Business -
 - i. Elections of 2002 BoD - The nominees were introduced and the ballots were handed out. The result of the election was the following:
President: Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, V. President: Brian Torr N6IY, Secretary: Jeff Basham W2JAB, Treasurer: Vicki Cero KF6ZCT, Director: John Breckenridge WB6FRZ, Director: Jim Lee KE6VGV
7. Show & Tell - AC6VJ, KH6GJV and W2JAB presented the items that they brought for show and tell.
8. Recess - There was a break.
9. Program - There was a slide show about the U.S.S. Pampanito
10. Raffles -
 - a. Regular - Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV won the 50/50 raffle. His split was \$19.50, and he donated it back to the club.
 - b. Lottery - Nancy Mitchell KB5LCR was selected for the membership lottery. She was not present, and the lottery rolled over.
11. Announcements
 - a. Next Program - Xmas Dinner @ Michele's
 - b. Board Meeting Next Wednesday - Furniture Traditions 6:30PM
12. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:23pm

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting 11-14-2001
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Greg Gordon AC6VJ, Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Jim

Lee KE6VGV, John Mullan KD2L and Rich Freitas KF6SZA

Board Members Excused: Jeff Basham W2JAB

Board Members Absent: Rick Reiner

Guests Present: Sue Mullan K8SUE and John Breckenridge WB6FRZ

8. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum, Introductions - The meeting was called to order by President Greg Gordon AC6VJ at 6:55 PM. The meeting was held at Furniture Traditions, 3450 Airway Drive. A quorum was present in that five of the seven voting board members were present.
9. Approval of Minutes - John KD2L moved that the minutes of the Board meeting of October 10, 2001, be approved as printed in Shortskip. The motion passed.
10. Officer & Director Reports
 - a. Treasurer
 - i. Current Financial - Jim KE6VGV reported on the financial standing of the club. Bill KH6GJV moved that \$100 be authorized for deposit to the club's bulk mail postage account. The motion passed.
 - b. Officers
 - i. Vice President - Bill KH6GJV discussed the Christmas party, club property inventory and Board retreat set for 12/29.
 2. Secretary
Mail & Communications - Jeff W2JAB had previously distributed mail.
 - c. Directors
 - i. Rich KF6SZA reported that there would be an ARES meeting on Monday, November 19th at 7 PM at the Marlow Roundtable.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Activities Committee - Bill McCall W6WDM was not present
 - i. Christmas Dinner (Michele's) - discussed previously
 - b. Newsletter - Bill KH6GJV and Bill W6WDM - the content and cost to produce the newsletter was discussed
 - c. Public Service Committee - John KD2L did not have anything new to report.
 - d. Repeater Committee - Greg Gordon AC6VJ
 - i. Status of Repeaters - Greg advised that everything seemed to be working normally. Rich KF6SZA moved that Greg be reimbursed \$146.61 for feedline and connectors. The motion passed.
 - ii. Status of FCC Complaint - under review by FCC
 - iii. Net Control Operators - 12-4 VJ, 12-11 L, 12-18 SUE, 12-25 No Net
5. Unfinished Business
 - a. Meeting Programs - Dec- Christmas Party
Future program ideas - NWS Skywarn, Marconi Sites, CDF, N1AL on RFI
 - b. Club Calendar - No changes
 - c. Member of the Year - The Board went into executive session to consider the recommendation of the Member of the Year Committee. The Board approved the committee's selection.
6. New Business
 - a. Awards for 2001 officers, directors and committee chairmen - The Board decided to use last year's vendor for the annual awards. The Secretary was directed to order the awards.
7. Announcements - The next meeting will be on December 12, 2000, at 6:30 PM at Furniture Traditions, 3450 Airway Drive, Santa Rosa. It will be a joint meeting of the 2001 and 2002 board members.
8. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

CHARLES J. TARR
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December Program

SCRA Holiday Dinner

December 5th, 6:30 PM

Michele's, 7th & Adams Street, Santa Rosa

Mark your calendar today so that you don't forget the best holiday party of the season! The SCRA annual Christmas party will be held on Wednesday, December 5th at Michele's Restaurant in Santa Rosa. The dress is dressy-casual and the raffle prizes are great! Reservations are required.

At the November meeting program **Joe Senft KM6TN** made a slide presentation on the **USS Pampanito**, a WWII submarine now a historical museum docked at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. Thanks, Joe, for an interesting demonstration.

2002 Officers & Directors

President	Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV
Vice President	Brian Torr N6IY
Secretary	Jeff Basham W2JAB
Treasurer	Vicki Cero KF6ZCT
Director	John Breckenridge WB6FRZ Jim Lee KE6VGV

ULS at SCRA Meetings

John Mullan KD2L will have a computer at the meeting for members to register with the FCC's Universal Licensing System. Most Hams have not registered which is required to make any changes or upgrades to your license, even an address change. John will be available to help you through the process. The FCC computers run on east coast time, so you have to use the ULS before the meeting or at the break.

Are you a budding author? Write an article for *Short Skip* on a Ham radio-related subject, technical or non-technical. E-mail the article to kh6gvj@arrl.net. We'd love to see YOU in print!

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ARRL test fee to remain at \$10

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Amateur Radio test fee will remain at \$10 for 2002. The 2002 National Exam Day dates are (spring) April 27-28 and (fall) September 28-29, 2002--the last full weekends in April and September each year.

FCC Mail (continued from page 1)

Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has his office.

Jahnke said the mailroom situation also could affect some Amateur Radio renewals. He said amateurs who filed timely renewal applications may continue to operate beyond a license's expiration date, if the mail delays cause the license to lapse before the renewal occurs. "For persons filing for renewal near the end of their two-year grace period, their applications will be accepted for processing if they arrive at FCC before the grace period expires."

The FCC said the US Postal Service will continue to accept and will divert all mail addressed to 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg--the office's physical location--to the off-site mailroom. Until November 30, the FCC itself will divert overnight courier deliveries for 1270 Fairfield Road to the off-site mailroom.

From ARRL

J. Mullan, Photographer

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jmullan@pacbell.net

John C. Mullan
Photographer

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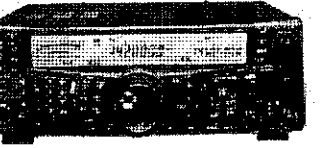
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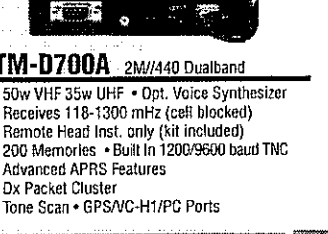
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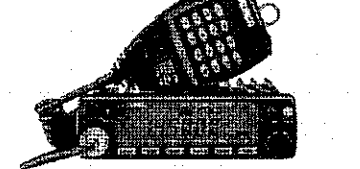
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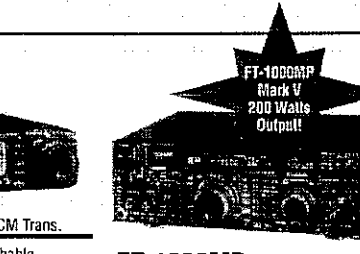
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SCSI Drive Cases

Just in...two new styles of SCSI drive case. Perfect for those RAID systems, server backup, or other mass storage systems! Both feature: Power and drive status LEDs, front panel off/on switch, SCSI ID switch, fan-cooled switching power supply. Attractive beige color, curved front panels. Rear panel is punched for SCSI-1 (ICN-50) daisy-chain connectors, internal SCSI cable not included. Brand new in box, 90-day warranty.

- Two-bay case
- RCA Jacks/ Sound Cable incl.
- Measures 6.3" x 7.0" x 11.25"
- 80-watt power supply

HSC# 18267 \$39.95

- Four-bay case (similar styling to two-bay case above), no sound cable
- Measures 10.3" x 7.125" x 14.3"
- 200-watt power supply

HSC#18268 \$49.95

...and two more cases!

- 3.5" compact SCSI cabinet
- Ideal for 1" High SCSI drives
- Built-in fan-cooled power supply
- Two 50-pin Centronics daisy-chain connectors & SCSI switch on rear panel
- New, with IEC power cord, 90 day warranty

HSC# 80545 \$9.95

- CD-ROM drive tower case, made for Compaq Computer Systems
- Can handle 7.525" SCSI-III CD-ROM drives
- Includes 200W power supply, slides for drives
- Removable front and side panels
- Solid, heavy gauge construction
- Seven-position daisy-chain ribbon cable included
- New, 90-day warranty

HSC# 80544 \$89.00

Multimeter Specials!

- Model #AEEC-1880 3 1/2 Digit LCD DMM
- Adjustable large flip-up display for the easy viewing
- 0.5% basic accuracy, dual-slope integration A/D
- Measures AC/DC volts, ohms, current, capacitance, hFE & temperature (temp. probe included!)
- Ranges: 1000VDC, 700VrmsAC, 200 ohm - 200 Megohm, 20 mA - 20A, 2nF - 20 uF, NPN/PNP hFE
- Separate jacks for capacitors and transistors
- "HOLD" function to capture measured peaks
- Soft rubber cradle protects meter, prevents skids
- Brand new! - With test leads
- Compare at prices of \$70, \$80 and up!

HSC# 80504 \$39.95

- Some people just don't like digital meters...
- Soltec HM1025 20 KOhm per Volt Multitester
- Ranges: 0-1000VDC, 0-1000VAC, 0-50uA, 0.5, 5, 50 & 500 mA, 0-20 Mohm with X1, X10, x1K & X10K ranges
- Standard banana-plug test leads, manual included
- Carrying handle/stand, measures 3.5" x 5.25" x 1.5", mirrored dial for parallax-corrected readings
- New...90-day warranty

HSC# 18260 \$9.95

Rack-mount Chassis!

- Rugged construction for heavy duty server use
- Supports all standard ATX motherboards
- Industry standard 4U height
- 250W standard/250W surge high output supply
- Filtered cooling system, locking front panel
- Can mount up to ten drives
- Folding front handles, mounting ears & accessories
- Brand new, boxed with 90-day warranty
- Available in black or cream textured finish

HSC# 80540 Black \$195.00
HSC# 80541 Cream \$195.00

Disk Drive Deals!

- Seagate ST32127 1N "BarraCuda Ultra-SCSI"
- 3.5" 2.16 GB hard disk drive
- 7200 RPM, 9.4 ms access time
- Packaged for Motorola product
- Brand new, with slide brackets
- OEM (Motorola) box, 90-day warranty

HSC# 18388 \$49.00

- Lite-ON Model LTN-301 32-speed CD-ROM drive
- Perfect for second drive, repaired or home-built systems
- Standard IDE 40-pin interface, manual, audio cable & driver disk
- Refurbished, 90-day HSC warranty

HSC# 80542 \$32.50

Keypad Mouse!

- "Unia" mouse with multi-function keypad!
- Numeric & special function keys, including SHIFT, ALT, RETURN
- Unique all-in-one ergonomic design for easy data entries
- Ideal for CAD, spreadsheet, games...etc
- LED indicators, 400/1200dpi switchable
- PC/AT compatible, w 9-pin D conn.
- New, 90-day warranty

HSC# 80539 \$9.95

Watch HSC's Website!

- Changes are coming to our website...stay tuned!
- Simply point your browser to <http://www.halted.com>
- We plan secure shopping, with shopping basket!
- Or, you can email your orders to hscmail@halted.com

Useful Utilities!

- Supercharge Windows with PowerDesk!
- Drag, drop files with multiple views, built-in ZIP utility
- View over 80 types of files - Super search engine!
- Powerful email attachment decoder
- Instant graphic view of hard drive space
- Many more features...too much to list here!
- Windows 3.1, 95, 98 & NT compatible

HSC#18360 \$9.95

Keep after the glitches with "Fix-It Utilities 90"

- Powerful diagnostic and repair package
- View, open/convert 12 file types, 4 email formats
- Over a dozen hardware diagnostics
- NTFS, FAT, and FAT32 disk repair
- Integrated views for Work, Excel, PowerPoint, AVI files...MORE!
- For Windows 95, 98 & NT

HSC#18362 \$9.95

Mobile Pro

Standard Mobile Pro Advanced

Power Supply Specials!

- Lite-ON model no. PS-8151, 145 watts
- 5V @ 18A, 12V @ 5A, -12V @ 0.8A
- 3.3V @ 7A, +5Vsb @ 0.15A
- Hi-Pot tested w/large cooling fan
- Standard ATX Form-factor
- Brand-new, 90-day warranty

HSC# 18350 \$12.95

- Lite-ON model no. PS-4151-08, 150 watts
- 5V @ 18A, -5V @ .3A, 12V @ 4.5A, -12V @ 0.3A
- Hi-Pot tested w/large cooling fan
- Standard ATX "Mini Tower" Form-factor
- Brand-new, 90-day warranty

HSC# 18351 \$14.95

- Power Computing TCX-20D
- Perfect for upgrading! Put modular motherboards into older cases
- 200W fan-cooled power supply
- Standard Mini-tower form-factor, ATX connector
- Units are brand new w/90-day warranty

HSC#18304 \$17.50

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