

APRIL 2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 7:30 PM Marin ARC Meeting Red Oak Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley	2 10:00 AM ROVARC Meeting Red Oak Victory Ship, Point Richmond VE Exams 9 AM to 12 PM, EXIT Realty Assoc., 7646 Bell Road, Windsor, CA
3 Daylight Saving Time Begins	4	5	6 5:30 PM No-Host Dinner at Coco's 1501 Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa 7:00 PM SCRA Meeting Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center 2050 Yukon Ave., Santa Rosa	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 6:30 PM SCRA Board of Directors Meeting	14	15 8:00 PM SFARC Meeting Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Auditorium of Bldg. 7, 42nd & Clement St., San Francisco Inter. DX Convention, Visalia*	16 Inter. DX Convention, Visalia*
17 Inter. DX Convention, Visalia*	18	19 7:30 PM Hamilton Wireless Association Building 549, Hamilton Field, Novato	20 7:00 PM REDXA Meeting Corow's, Petaluma 7:30 PM VHARC Meeting McDougal Hall, Sonoma Dev. Center, Glen Ellen	21	22	23 8:00 AM Valley of the Moon Swap Meet (VOMAR), Sonoma Veteran's Memorial Building, 126 First St., W. Admission is free. For info call: 707-935-7441/707-996-4494
24	25	26	27	28	*April 15-17 Fri-Sun, International DX Convention, Visalia, CA. Check the web site for all the info: <a href="http://www.ncdxc.org/Ncdxc/Convention">www.ncdxc.org/Ncdxc/Convention</a> May 14-15 Sat-Sun, EmCom West 2005, Reno, NV. Check the web site for all the info: <a href="http://www.emcomwest.org">www.emcomwest.org</a> June 3-5 Fri-Sun, ARRL San Francisco Section Convention, Ferndale, CA. Check the web site for all the info: <a href="http://www.humboldt-arc.org">www.humboldt-arc.org</a>	

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.  
P.O. Box 116  
Santa Rosa, California  
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WD6DPE




# Short Skip

The Newsletter of  
**Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.**

P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116 707-579-9608

<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

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VOLUME 30 NUMBER 4

REPEATER STATION  
**W6SON**

APRIL 2005



## President's Column

by  
John Felton KE5RI  
SCRA President

Ramblings of an O.M.  
Where has the Magic Gone?

Here I am at age sixty one and a ham for forty six years. (For you mathematicians out there, that's seventy five percent of my life.) Anyway, here I am sitting at a computer and using a word processor. Forty six years ago I would have said, "What the heck is a word processor?" Computers existed then but they wouldn't fit in my room! This all got me to thinking. Where has the magic gone?

When I started in this radio game I remember sitting in my friend's downstairs room with the lights turned down. We were watching tubes glow in a Johnson Thunderbolt kilowatt amplifier. Voltage regulators were the most colorful. Some with mercury glowed blueish purple while others with neon put off a beautiful orange. Today's voltage regulators don't display any color. In fact, they don't glow at all. Magic gone.

I remember an earlier time when my dad took me to visit a friend of his. The guy's name was Ernie and during the day he was a pharmacist. But at night, he transformed into a RADIO HAM. He was the first one I really got to meet. There was an old guy down the street from my house, but he was a recluse. He never talked to me. His call was W6WD. But Ernie, now he showed me his ham shack which took up half of his garage. He had teletype machines and all kinds of stuff. He told me it came from MARS but I knew he was just joking. How little I knew. The only teleprinter I had ever seen was displayed in the window of a store in Chinatown. It printed out the news. Much later I learned it was a Model 15. Now there are no more clanking machines that smell like oil and spit out thin yellow paper. Magic gone.

(continued on page 3)

## April Program

Strategies Using Propagation Predictions  
for DXing and Contesting

Join us on Wednesday, April 6th at 7:00 PM for "Strategies Using Propagation Predictions for DXing and Contesting." to be presented by Dean Straw, N6BV.

As some may recall, Dean contributed many CW QSOs to the 2004 SCRA Field Day effort. Dean is a member of the ARRL staff and is the Antenna Editor. He has extensive operating experience as a contester and DXer and is one of the primary operators at the N6RO contest station. His talk and presentation will demonstrate how to use the propagation predictions on the CD-ROM bundled with the 20th Edition of The ARRL Antenna Book. He will also include a comparison of propagation predictions versus results for the recent VU4 operation to Andaman Island as well as provide a forecast for the upcoming 2005 Field Day time window. Be sure to mark this interesting and informative presentation on your calendar.

## VE Exams

April 2, 2005, 9am to noon, EXIT Realty Associates, 7646 Bell Road, Windsor, CA  
July 16, 2005, 9am to noon, place TBD  
October 15, 2005, 9am to noon, place TBD

Bring a photo ID or two other forms of identification, the original and a copy of your amateur license (if any) and the original and a photocopy of any CSCEs. Exam fee is \$14.  
For more information, contact Brian Torr, N6IIV, at [n6iiv@arrl.net](mailto:n6iiv@arrl.net) <<mailto:n6iiv@arrl.net>>

## Red "Last Issue" Sticker?

Is there a Red Sticker next to your name on the mailing label? If so, then that means that we have not received your dues for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. This is your last issue of Shortskip! We will miss you! The dues are \$24 per year for individual members and \$36 per year for a Family membership. Students under 18 years of age are half price...\$12. Please take a couple of minutes and complete the membership information on the inner last page and mail it and your dues. Better still, bring them with you to the April meeting. If you have been stickered in error, please contact Bill KH6GJV. Thanks!

**2005 Club Officers**

<b>President</b>	John Felton	KE5RI	707 539-5831
<b>Vice President</b>	Kevin Alt	K6BSG	707 566-9061
<b>Secretary</b>	Rich Freitas	KE6SZA	707 578-9335
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Greg Gordon AC6VJ 707 523-7077

**Short Skip & Web Staff**

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<b>ARRL DXCC/WAS Mgr</b>	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528

**SCRA Hotline** 707 579-9608  
**SCRA E-Mail** [scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com](mailto:scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com)  
**SCRA Web Site** <http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

**Tuesday Night Net**

Remember to check in to the SCRA net each **Tuesday** evening on the **146.985-(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 Newslines* broadcast.

**Short Skip Advertising Rates**

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1st Quarter Column	\$13 per month
Each Additional Quarter Column	\$4 per month
Full page (one side)	\$35 per month
Pre-printed inserts (each)	\$35 per month

**Guaranteed circulation of 150 per month!**  
 For more information, Contact the Editor

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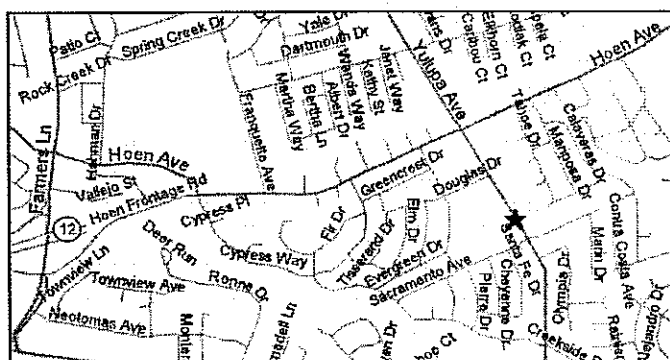


**SCRA Club Meetings**

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month. Exceptions are holidays or other big events.

Next meeting is April 6th at 7:00 PM at:

Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center  
 2050 Yulupa Avenue  
 Santa Rosa, CA



All are welcome!

Please join us at our next meeting. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio may be eligible for membership. A membership application is included in this newsletter.

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

**Hungry before the meeting?**

Join us for dinner! We meet at Coco's restaurant, 1501 Farmers Lane (corner of Farmers & Hwy 12), Santa Rosa. People start showing up at 5:30 PM.

No RSVP is required.

See you there every month except December.

If you are not getting the ARRL San Francisco Section news by e-mail and you are an ARRL member, be sure to subscribe under your Members Only information or go to these websites:

<http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF>

<http://www.pdarrl.org/sfsec/>

**Contest Corner**

by  
 Kevin Alt K6BSG

Hello testers. Time to break out the modulated laser for the new 2 GHz and up contest at the end of the month as well as another EME contest. Otherwise several QSO parties which may be of interest. Happy DX'ing.

- 26 Mar-3 Apr - Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party - all modes, 160-10 meters. See: <http://arlhs.com/SL-2005-guidelines.html>.
- 2 - 3 Apr - Missouri QSO Party - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: [www.qsl.net/w0ma](http://www.qsl.net/w0ma).
- 2 - 3 Apr - Montana QSO Party - Phone/CW/Digital, 160 meters-70 cm. For more information e-mail [k7ncr@arrl.net](mailto:k7ncr@arrl.net).
- 2 - 3 Apr - QCWA Spring QSO Party - CW/Digital/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: [www.qcwa.org/2005-qso-party-rules.htm](http://www.qcwa.org/2005-qso-party-rules.htm).
- 2 - 3 Apr - EA RTTY Contest - 80-10 meters. See: [www.rttycontesting.com/rules/earrrules2005.pdf](http://www.rttycontesting.com/rules/earrrules2005.pdf).
- 2 - 3 Apr - SP DX Contest - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: [www.contest.spdx.org/pl/en/index.php](http://www.contest.spdx.org/pl/en/index.php).
- 2 - 3 Apr - Kids Roundup - Phone, 80 meters-70 cm. See: [www.ki3ds.org](http://www.ki3ds.org).
- 6 - 8 Apr - DX YL to North American YL Contest - CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.ylrl.org](http://www.ylrl.org).
- 9 Apr - EU Spring Sprints - SSB, 80-20 meters. See: [www.qsl.net/eusprint](http://www.qsl.net/eusprint).
- 9-10 Apr - QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party - CW, 160-10 meters. See: <http://2hams.net/ARCI/index.htm>.
- 9-10 Apr - Japan International DX Contest (JIDX) - CW, 80-10 meters. See: <http://www.jidx.org/>.

- 9-10 Apr - Georgia QSO Party - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters. See: <http://gqp.contesting.com>.
- 16 Apr - EU Spring Sprints - CW, 80-20 meters. See: [www.qsl.net/eusprint](http://www.qsl.net/eusprint).
- 16 Apr - TARA Skirmish--Digital Prefix Contest - 160-6 meters. See: [www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara\\_dp\\_x\\_rules.html](http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dp_x_rules.html).
- 16 Apr - Holyland DX Contest - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: [www.iarc.org](http://www.iarc.org).
- 16 Apr - ES Open HF Championship - CW/SSB, 80 and 40 meters. See: [www.erou.ee/index.php?newlang=eng](http://www.erou.ee/index.php?newlang=eng).
- 16-17 Apr - DX YL to North American YL Contest - 160-10 meters. See: [www.ylrl.org](http://www.ylrl.org).
- 16-17 Apr - YU DX Contest - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: <http://solair.eunet.yu/~yu1ab/awards/rules.htm>.
- 16-17 Apr - Michigan QSO Party - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters. See: [www.miqp.org](http://www.miqp.org).
- 16-17 Apr - Ontario QSO Party - CW/Phone, 160-10 meters. See: [www.odxo.on.ca/oqphome.html](http://www.odxo.on.ca/oqphome.html).
- 16-17 Apr - EU EME Contest - any mode, 50 MHz, 1.3, 10, 24 GHz and up. See: [www.dubus.org](http://www.dubus.org).
- 16-17 Apr - EA QRP Contest - CW, 80-10 meters. See: [www.eaqrp.com](http://www.eaqrp.com).
- 23-24 Apr - Florida QSO Party - CW/SSB, 40-10 meters. See: [www.floridaqsoparty.org](http://www.floridaqsoparty.org).
- 23-24 Apr - Nebraska QSO Party - CW/SSB/Digital, 160-2 meters. See: [www.qsl.net/hdxa](http://www.qsl.net/hdxa).
- 23-24 Apr - Helvetica Contest - CW/SSB/Digital, 160-10 meters. See: [www.uska.ch/html/en/index\\_e.htm](http://www.uska.ch/html/en/index_e.htm).
- 23-25 Apr - DX Colombia International Contest - Phone/CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.dxcolumbia.com/contest.htm](http://www.dxcolumbia.com/contest.htm).
- 24-30 Apr - FISTS/EUCW CW QRS Contest - 160-10 meters. See: [www.agcw.de/eucw/euqrs.html](http://www.agcw.de/eucw/euqrs.html).
- 30 Apr-1 May - 2 GHz and Up World Wide Club Contest - 2 GHz to Light. See: [www.ham-radio.com/sbms/](http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/).

**Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Application**

Please Print Clearly New [ ] Renewal [ ]

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ H Phone \_\_\_\_\_ W Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member? Yes [ ] No [ ]

**Dues & Fees:** (SCRA dues year is 3/1/05 to 2/28/06)

Individual / Associate Member	\$24 (\$6.00/qtr)
Family Membership	\$36 (\$9.00/qtr)
Under 18 Membership	\$18 (\$3.00/qtr)
Badge	\$10

**Payment Calculations:** Make checks payable to SCRA

Dues - Full Year	\$ _____
Dues - Prorated _____ Qts. x \$ _____/qtr	\$ _____
Badge	\$ _____
Other - _____	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**Badge Information**

Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** SCRA, P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

## SCRA Road Trip to IMAX

by  
Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV

On Saturday, March 19th, SCRA members took off in the rain and made a road trip to the IMAX theater in Sacramento to see the latest films, Fighter Pilot and Aliens of the Deep (3D). Along for the ride were John KM6XO and Marilyn KE6PZP Shappell, Kevin Alt K6BSG, John WB6FRZ and Carrie Breckenridge, Randy Black KE6VMZ and Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV.

It was planned that the group stop on the way for a Starbucks run, but Bill, leading the pack, couldn't remember the exit. Turns out that the caravan stopped one exit shy of the correct exit and had to suffer with inferior coffee and pastries.

The crew arrived at the IMAX with time to spare and got tickets before the crowd swelled. Fighter Pilot put you in the seat of the jet attack plane during a multi-national simulated war exercise. At times you felt a little dizzy during the maneuvers. The 3D Aliens of the Deep made it feel like you were right there in the submersible craft with the scientists. Both were great movies!

After the show, the group headed off for lunch to the California Pizza Kitchen where they were joined by the Shappell's daughter, Christina KE6YMF. A hearty lunch was munched and off the parties went in different directions. Kevin, Randy and Bill located the nearest Fry's and spent a few hours wandering around looking at all the toys.

Everyone had a great time. Stay tuned for future trips!

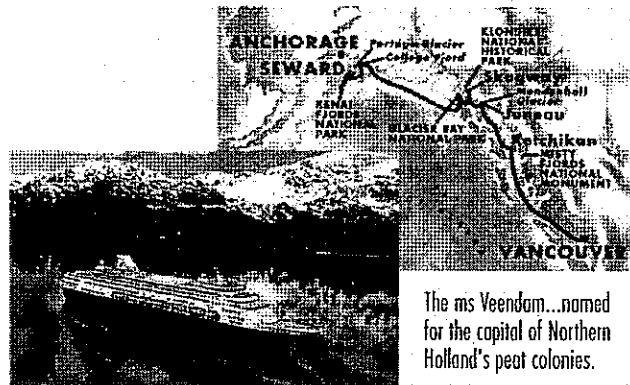


Photo - L to R: Marilyn Shappell KE6PZP, Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Kevin Alt K6BSG, John Breckenridge WB6FRZ, Carrie Breckenridge, Randy Black KE6VMZ, Christina Shappell KE6YMF and John Shappell KM6XO.

### Are you a budding author?

Write an article (long/short) for *Short Skip* on a Ham related subject or anything you think we would all enjoy.

E-mail the article to: [cero.design@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cero.design@sbcglobal.net).



The ms Veendam...named for the capital of Northern Holland's peat colonies.

## Trip to Alaska!

by  
Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV


Have you thought about making a cruise to Alaska? I'm putting together a cruise for July 2005 on the luxurious Holland America Line departing Vancouver, British Columbia on July 17th for Anchorage, Alaska. The seven day cruise will head north through Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay and on to Seward/Anchorage. Pre and post cruise tours of Vancouver, Victoria and Denali are also available.

Interested? Contact me for more details: 707 544-4944 or e-mail me at [kh6gjb@arrl.net](mailto:kh6gjb@arrl.net).

*This is not an SCRA or ARRL sponsored event.*

CHARLES J. TARR  
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## President's Column (from page 1)

But I digress. Back in my friend's downstairs room we stayed up until the wee hours listening to his Dad's Hallicrafters SX101. We would try and imagine where the signals were coming from. Our imaginations went wild. It was the same as listening to the AM radio before we fell victim to television. I was nine years old before I even saw my first television. Our family didn't get one for another two years. Color television wasn't invented yet, or a least it did not exist beyond the closed doors of a laboratory. This was a GOOD thing because when listening to the "Lone Ranger" or "The Whistler" and other great radio dramas, one was forced to imagine the scene and what the characters looked like. Magic gone.

I remember seeing my first phonograph. It didn't even require power. You just wound it up with a crank and around it went. The needle was attached to a fiber disk in the tone arm. That's where the sound came out. Later they got real fancy. They invented an unbreakable record and it ran much slower than 78 RPM. In fact it played more than twice as long because they also invented "microgrooves". Now we have CD's and ipods. It's all beyond me. The latest stuff does not even move. Magic lost.

I remember seeing my first tape recorder. It had two 7 inch reels of tape. It was a wonder. Imagine, recording sound on a plastic ribbon. They are pretty much gone now too. Magic lost.

I managed the change from single channel sound systems to stereo. No problem. But Dolby 5.1 and phantom speakers and simulated 3D sound? That too, is beyond me. Simplicity gone. Magic Gone.

My present rigs don't have to be tuned. You don't even need meters to operate them without generating smoke. Operating used to be a challenge which made it more fun. What has happened? Magic gone.

Now, when I really think about it, the magic is not gone. It still exists, and to a greater extent than ever before. We take too much for granted. Ask yourself, how does electricity really work? What is the relationship between magnetism and current flow. As far as science has come, we understand the "what" but we still don't know the "why". How do they send pictures through the air? How do they put sound (and data) on a piece of plastic tape. When you turn on a light switch and the room is illuminated, what chain of events caused that to happen? How come we don't have to "tune" our transmitters any more and how are computers now smaller than a matchbox? How do we send messages to thousands of people around the world in a split second? What goes on in a satellite?

What about the Internet? I don't have the foggiest idea how that works.

The magic is not gone, we just take things for granted. Look around for yourself. You'll find it.

Well I think I'll sign off of my terminal, listen to some CD's and pay the electric bill to keep it all running. Then I'll turn in for the night. See y'all next month.

Remember the new meeting time is 7:00 PM.

John KE5RI

### Business Cards

Know anyone who would like to see their business card in our newsletter? Great (and cheap) exposure. Only \$12 a month!

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## Radiograms 101

by  
Rich Freitas KF6SZ  
Sonoma County ARES DEC

I recently held a workshop on Formal Radiogram Traffic (thank you if you were one of the attendees) and it soon became apparent that most radio amateurs have only a superficial knowledge of what this format truly is. Once, ALL radio amateurs knew CW. At that time, probably 90% also know how to handle written message traffic. In one sense, it is a service that we (now almost exclusively) can offer the general public and our served agencies.

A RADIOGRAM is not a form; it is, rather, a format ... a universal format. An experienced operator does not need a special form because the format is indelibly inscribed in his or her brain! While you may end up typing the message on a RADIOGRAM form, it is just as easily written on a plain writing tablet when you are receiving the traffic.

This format is not unique to amateur radio. Contrary to what many think, it is not an ARRL/NTS method of handling message traffic. The RADIOGRAM format is the direct descendant from the Western Union telegram, worldwide cablegrams, commercial maritime and aeronautical radiograms, and is used by military and naval services around the world. It has outlasted many federal administrations. It served well through two world wars and, in the U.S., it has survived "Civil Defense", the "Office of Emergency Preparedness", the "Federal Disaster Assistance Administration", and will probably outlast the "Federal Emergency Management Agency", the "Department of Homeland Security", and whatever else is next. Who knows ... it may even be known someday as the INTERGALACTIC SPACEGRAM!

The reason it has lasted so long is because no one has been able to develop a simpler, more reliable, and accurate method of handling message traffic when it must be relayed through multiple stations. Often under adverse conditions and sometimes changing mode along the way, RADIOGRAMS are like lead pencils – as long as there is some intelligence on one end, they always work! They may not always be the fastest method but, when all else fails, the message will get delivered. The RADIOGRAM format serves a specific purpose. The format has the ability to expedite message traffic through multiple stations without error while providing a method of tracking a message forward or backward.

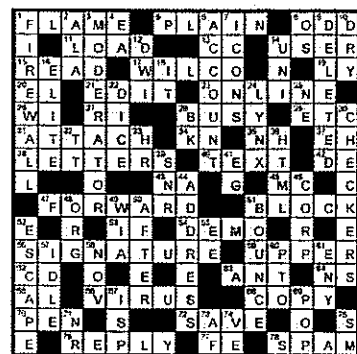
Think of it like this. When you or I mail a letter, we

format an envelope with our return address in the upper left hand corner and a complete name and address of the recipient in the lower right quadrant. This is not our format, but it is an international standardized format. Try reversing these two pieces of the format sometime and see what happens! We then take it to the post office and designate a precedence (Express, Priority, First Class, Book Rate, etc.). We can then send the letter via different modes such as certified or registered mail. We can also request handling instructions such as "delivery confirmation" or "return receipt requested." These services are all done on U.S.P.S. forms...not ours!

The time to learn, practice and promote the purpose and use of the RADIOGRAM format is ongoing and long before an incident occurs. This all boils down to education and good public relations. We must present our case to public officials since they are not going to come to us. Hams like to show off all their fancy hardware but they never seem to do much to promote or demonstrate their training and/or ability to handle message traffic. It is not a question of "us telling them how to do their job." I would never attempt to tell a law enforcement officer or a fire fighter how to do their job. Nor, would I want them to tell me how to practice my profession. As EmComm operators we are specialized service providers and, as with most service providers, the "customer" is required to fill out some form and/or comply with some basic guidelines. When a private citizen or an agency official has a message they want sent and delivered, we can do it best using our hardware, methods and networks. The point is, in radio traffic, as in many other things, standardization is essential. LEARN IT. PROMOTE IT. USE IT.

This month's article was mainly taken from an article written by Dave Thorne, K6SOJ, Editor of EmComm Monthly.

*The weekly ARES net for Sonoma County is conducted on Mondays at 7:30 pm on 146.985 MHz, - offset, 88.5 PL. All ARES members and guests are invited to check-in. Please join us.*



## The Solution

Just remember...you don't look at this until you have finished the puzzle!

## Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Meeting, March 2, 2005 Minutes

1. Call to Order; Verification of Quorum – The meeting was called to order by President John Felon, KE5RI, at 7:34 pm at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center.
  - a. Introductions
    - i) Officers & Directors – President, John, KE5RI, welcomed the new Board of Directors, all members, and guests.
    - ii) Program Introduction – General Membership – Mikes and Keys
    - iii) New Calls and Upgrades – None
2. Approval of Minutes – It was moved and seconded by Bob, WD6DPE, and Pat, KG6JSL, that the minutes as printed in Short Skip be approved. The motion passed.
3. Officer and Director Reports
  - a. President – John, KE5RI, - Reported that Bill Waters, AC6MA, passed away last Thursday in Washington State; a card had been sent. Also, Lee O. Torr III, Brian's, N6IY, father passed away recently.
  - b. Vice President – Kevin, K6BSG, - Upcoming contests were noted.
  - c. Secretary – Rich, KF6SZA, - No report.
  - d. Treasurer – Jim, KE6VGV, was ill; Bill, KH6GJV, was accepting dues payments.
  - e. Directors –
    - i) Bruce, N6CT, - No report.
    - ii) Bill, KH6GJV, - A field trip to IMAX in Sacramento is in the planning stages; a sign-up sheet was passed around.
  - f. Past President – Brian, N6IY, - No report.
4. Committee Reports
  - a. ARES – Rich, KF6SZA, reported that written Radiogram traffic practice will begin on the Monday evening ARES net.
  - b. Mobile Comm Van – Rich, KF6SZA, reported that arrangements have been made to prep the Comm Van for paint on Saturday, March 12th, at 9:00 am. Adam, KD6POC, has volunteered to help with the preparation work. Specific information will be sent via email.
  - c. Activities – BoD – Tracy, WB6TMY, suggested a meeting on Transatlantic Cable. A potential trip to the Marconi Museum was also suggested.
  - d. Newsletter – Bill, KH6GJV, reported that his tenure for Short Skip is over. Vicki, KF6ZCT, will take over the duties of editor of Short Skip. Bill was thanked for his past efforts in publishing the newsletter.
  - e. Public Service – Craig, KG6THE, No report.
  - f. VE Liaison – Brian, N6IY, reported that a location for an April exam is being investigated.
  - g. Repeater
    - i) John, KE5RI, reported that Castle Rock is now on 146.985 MHz as a backup unit; the duplexer needs tuning. Also, the Geysers repeater is still out of commission.
    - ii) Net Control Volunteers: 3/22-Craig, KG6THE; 3/29-John, KG6BHI; 4/5-TBA; 4/12-TBA; 4/19-Brian, N6IY; 4/26-TBA
    - iii) SCRA vs NARC – John, KE5RI, reported that the resolution is moving forward.
5. Unfinished Business – John, KE5RI, reviewed the action items from the brainstorming session:
  - Distribution of Short Skip via email - Finish the "Toaster"
  - Technical/RFI Committee - BPL Project in coordination with ARRL
  - Update Public Service roster and "equipment capabilities list"
  - Change Membership Meeting time to 7:00 PM
  - Spread out the workload for committee chairs - Generic business cards
6. New Business – John, KE5RI, noted that we are still looking for committee chairs. John also noted that the upcoming Field Day is expected to be "less contest, more family-oriented". We have a possible site at Oakmont on Hwy. 12 that we can use at no charge.
7. Member Biography – Pat, KG6JSL, gave a brief presentation on his interest in radio and becoming a ham.
8. Passing of the Idol – Bill KH6GJV, passed the idol to Bob, WD6DPE.
9. John, KE5RI, gave a quick review of answers to the quiz in Short Skip.
10. Program – Various microphones and keys were shown by members accompanied by a number of interesting stories.
11. Announcements – The next Membership Meeting is April 6th. The next BoD meeting is on March 9th at Round Table Pizza on Occidental Road at 6:00 PM.
12. Adjournment – It was moved and seconded by Brian, N6IY, and Fred, KQ6OB, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:35 pm. Motion passed.

## Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting, March 2, 2005 Minutes

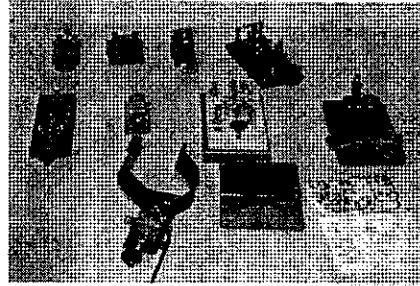
- Board of Directors Present: John Felon, KE5RI; Kevin Alt, K6BSG; Jim Lee, KE6VGV; Rich Freitas, KF6SZA; Bruce Donecker, N6CT; Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV; Brian Torr, N6IY
- Guests Present: None
1. Call to Order; Verification of Quorum – The meeting was called to order by President John Felon, KE5RI, at 6:05 pm. The meeting was held at Brian Torr's home at 1625 Gamay St., Santa Rosa. A quorum was present in that all seven voting board members were present.
  2. Approval of Minutes – It was moved by Brian, N6IY, that the minutes of the 02/09/2005 meeting as printed in Short Skip be approved. The motion passed.
  3. Officer and Director Reports
    - a. President – John, KE5RI, - Nothing to report.
    - b. Vice President – Kevin, K6BSG, - Nothing to report.
    - c. Secretary – Rich, KF6SZA, - Nothing to report.
    - d. Treasurer – Jim, KE6VGV, reported checking and savings bank balances. Jim also stated that he will take over the duty of Short Skip billing for advertisements.
    - e. Directors –
      - i) Bruce, N6CT, - Nothing to report.
      - ii) Bill, KH6GJV, - Nothing to report.
    - f. Past President – Brian, N6IY, - Nothing to report.
  4. Committee Reports
    - a. ARES – Rich, KF6SZA, - Nothing to report.
    - b. Mobile Comm Van – Rich, KF6SZA, reported that there is a work party on Saturday, February 26th, at Knights' Electric, 11410 Old Redwood Hwy., Windsor, to prep the vehicle for paint.
    - c. Activities – No report.
    - d. Newsletter – Rich, KF6SZA, will contact Vicki, KF6ZCT, to see if she is ready to do the next newsletter. Bill, KH6GJV, is meeting with Vicki on Friday, 3/11, to discuss the logistics. John, KE5RI, will contact Jeff, our webmaster, to post Bill Waters', AC6MA, obituary on the website.
    - e. Public Service – The current schedule of events as listed in an email from Craig, KG6THE, was reviewed. The Terrible Two event is the same weekend as Field Day (again).
    - f. VE Liaison – Brian, N6IY, reported that he agreed to help Lakeport ARC conduct a VE session on Sunday, March 13th.
    - g. Repeater –
      - i) John, KE5RI, reported there are no new equipment issues.
      - ii) SCRA vs NARCC Update – Discussion re: no new information.
      - iii) Net Control Operators – 4/5, 4/12/ and 4/26 are still open.
  5. Unfinished Business –
    - a. Discussion of potential programs for the year. April's topic is "Propagation". John, KE5RI, has some contacts for some potential Expedition programs.
    - b. Field Day – We still need a site manager for this year. John, KE5RI, reported that he has received permission to hold this year's event in the vacant field at Oakmont Drive & Highway 12. An insurance certificate naming the owner as an insured will be required.
    - c. Business Cards – Currently on hold.
    - d. Meeting Time Change – Bill, KH6GJV, motioned that we temporarily move the next meeting to 7:00 pm; the motion passed.
  6. New Business –
    - a. Bill, KH6GJV, suggested the club inventory be done when Greg, AC6VJ, returns to the area. Some inventory will be done when we use the equipment on Field Day.
    - b. John, KE5RI, suggested we define our needs to support the Santa Rosa Cycling Club in accordance with their donation. Discussion resulted in a package consisting of 1) Kenwood TM D700A radio, 2) Two 25' lengths of Mini8 coax, and 3) Astron 30A switching power supply. John will contact Mark at HRO to see if they can help us with a package deal.
  7. Adjournment – It was moved by Jim, KE6VGV, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:24 pm. The motion passed.

# Show & Tell

from  
Photographer Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV



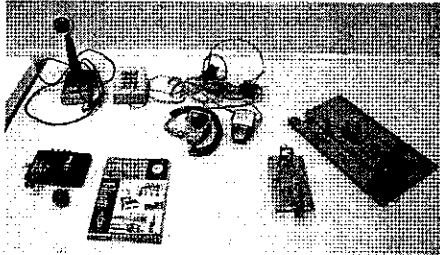
John Felton KE5RI introducing Show & Tell



Some of the many unique keys



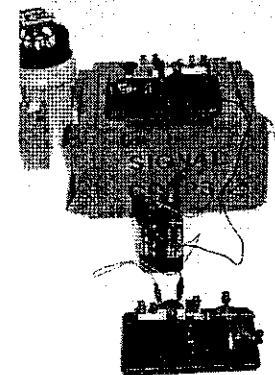
Brian Torr N6IY is going to order pizza via CW. By the looks of the key, it's going to be an extra large!



More antiques including a 1973 ARRL Repeater Handbook



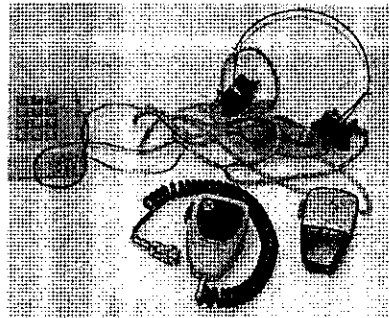
John Breckenridge WB6FRZ showing a classic key from his collection



Close up of Jerry Foster WA6BXV's key and sounder unit



Bob Olsten WD6DPE shares his fond memories with an old key



Some of John Felton KE5RI's collection which includes an old touch tone key pad, a classic Motorola mobile mike, a WWII headset, and the first wireless microphone



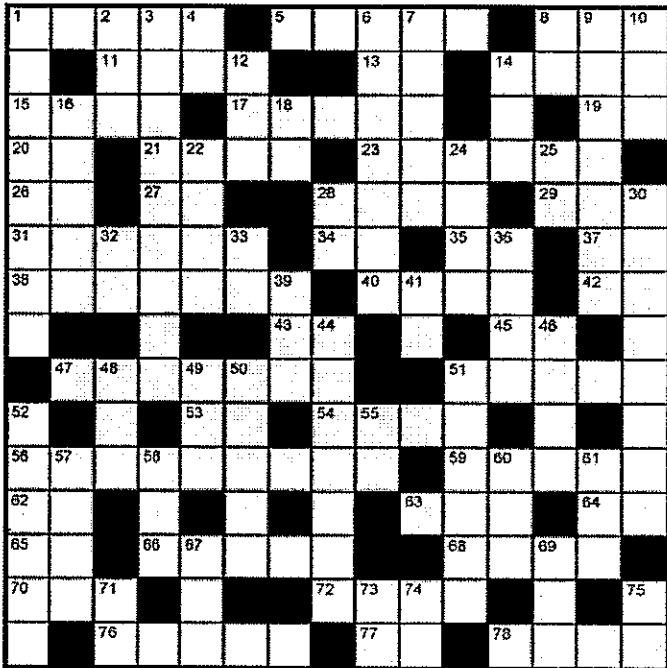
Jerry Foster WA6BXV sharing the history of wired telegraph keys and sounders

### Do you have a camera?

Everyone enjoys seeing pictures. So if you take a picture at a meeting or out on the road or at a Ham event, get a copy to me and I'll try to fit it in. Don't forget to include a little description.

Give me your picture at the meeting or you can E-mail the photo to: [cera.design@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cera.design@sbcglobal.net).





The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzle

"You've Got Mail"

by  
H. Ward Silver NOAX

Can you imagine the days before email when we had to use a machine to strike a cloth soaked in waxy ink, forcing it against a sheet of paper? Or worse, laboriously drag a writing instrument across the paper, character by lonely character? Oh, the inhumanity? Life is different these days, by far, with email connecting us electronically. How much do you know about email? Puzzle on, Garth!

(solution on page 4)

March 15th Crossword puzzle from the ARRL Web site

Across

- 1. Hostile angry email content
- 5. Simplest text format
- 8. Unusual
- 11. Transfer a program to memory to run
- 13. Send a copy also
- 14. Person applying a program
- 15. Open and look at
- 17. Roger's companion
- 19. Next door to Latvia (prefix)
- 20. Angular distance from the horizon (abbr.)
- 21. Mark or change
- 23. Connected
- 26. Fi or Max
- 27. Smallest of the 48 (abbr.)
- 28. Occupied
- 29. And so on (abbr.)
- 31. Put together to send
- 34. Go ahead only (CW prosign)
- 35. Between VT and ME (abbr.)
- 37. Two components of RF
- 38. Email replaced these
- 40. Characters that make up the message
- 42. From (CW prosign)
- 43. Our continent (abbr.)
- 45. Net master (abbr.)
- 47. Send on
- 51. Prevent or stop
- 53. Where a receiver's gain stages lie (abbr.)
- 54. Prototype program for show
- 56. Closing identification
- 59. You're shouting in this case
- 62. Non-volatile data storage (abbr.)
- 63. Skyhook (abbr.)
- 64. One of the Maritime provinces (abbr.)
- 65. Soft, conductive metal (chemical symbol)
- 66. Type of malware
- 68. Reproduce
- 70. Used in the old days with ink
- 72. Store
- 76. Respond to
- 77. Metal that rusts (chemical symbol)
- 78. Unwanted email

Down

- 1. Device or program that protects a computer
- 2. Chicken or mode
- 3. Person that approves content
- 4. Spanish prefix
- 6. Your identity at a bank or data service
- 7. Symbols that represent data or programs
- 8. Program that runs the computer (abbr.)
- 9. Removed
- 10. Not wet
- 12. Don't drink or else you'll be cited for this (abbr.)
- 14. Prefix meaning single
- 16. Top-notch or highly trained
- 18. The network and computer department (abbr.)
- 22. Cubical random number generator
- 24. This cat was an early Web surfer
- 25. The most easterly US ARRL Division (abbr.)
- 28. Break (CW prosign)
- 30. Spelling and call sign testers
- 32. That (CW abbr.)
- 33. Between a minute and a day (abbr.)
- 36. Language that defines Web pages
- 39. Measure of signal versus noise (abbr.)
- 41. Example (abbr.)
- 44. Destination
- 46. Type of company (abbr.)
- 48. Non-profit company email suffix
- 49. Australian peer to ARRL (abbr.)
- 50. When Jill came tumbling
- 51. Rejection of email
- 52. The key to get out
- 55. Computer designers (abbr.)
- 57. Not doing anything
- 58. Month of Sweepstakes (abbr.)
- 60. Oscillator tuned with inductor core (abbr.)
- 61. One of the Hudson Division sections (abbr.)
- 67. Where you get on the Internet
- 69. Type of email server (abbr.)
- 71. Number (abbr.)
- 73. One of the armed services (abbr.)
- 74. Canadian prefix
- 75. In charge of a section (abbr.)

In Search of Guglielmo

article and photos by  
Bob Tripi N1KFV

It was a cold, stormy afternoon at Signal Hill in Newfoundland. A man sat in the old military hospital on a cliff 600 feet above the harbor, listening intently to static with an earphone. Outside, his assistants used a kite to lift a wire 600 feet into the sky. Finally he thought he heard 3 dots, the letter S in Morse code, but he wasn't sure if he only imagined it. He called to an assistant to listen. Yes, the assistant heard it too. It was December 12, 1901 at 12:30 PM, and Guglielmo Marconi had received a signal sent from Cornwall in England to St John's, Newfoundland.



The Marconi Station in Wellfleet, Cape Cod, MA overlooks the Atlantic Ocean.

I have been interested in Marconi even before I started in ham radio. When I chanced on a new book about him (Signor Marconi's Magic Box, by Gavin Weightman), my interest was aroused. Soon after I finished the book, a friend offered us the use of his cottage in Orleans, Massachusetts, not far from where Marconi's first station in the US was built in Wellfleet on Cape Cod. I decided to visit the station and see what was still there. This is the story of what I learned about the station.

March 17th article and photos from the ARRL Web site

(to be continued next issue)