

DECEMBER 2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 7:30 PM Morin ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley	3 10:00 AM ROVARC Meeting Red Oak Victory Ship, Point Richmond Directions: www.sredodavictory.org
4	5	6	7	8	9 6:00 PM SCRA Holiday Pot Luck Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center 2050 Yukon Ave., Santa Rosa	10
11	12	13 7:30 PM Hamilton Wireless Association Building 549, Hamilton Field, Novato	14 7:00 PM REDXA Meeting Mister McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma (note date change)	15	16 8:00 PM SFARC Meeting Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Auditorium of Bldg. 7, 42nd & Clement St., San Francisco	17
18	19	20	21 7:30 PM VMARC Meeting McCloughall Hall, Sonoma Dev. Center, Glen Ellen 6:30 PM SCRA Board of Directors Meeting (note date change)	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
P.O. Box 116
Santa Rosa, California
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SONOMA COUNTY RADIO
AMATEURS
CLUB STATION
W6LFJ

Short Skip

The Newsletter of
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

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

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VOLUME 30 NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2005



President's Column

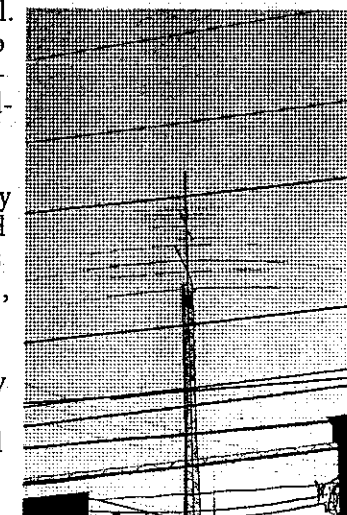
by
John Felton KE5RI
SCRA President

Never having been one to be politically correct let me open by saying "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy Holiday" to all. I remember when and where I first heard the term "PC". It came out of my daughter's mouth while visiting the campus of UC Santa Cruz. When I asked her what PC meant she responded with "Oh Dad, where have you been"? On that subject things have been going down hill ever since. But I digress.

I just returned from a four week vacation in Japan. Nobuko and I visited friends and family in Sapporo, Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka and Kyoto. It was my first visit to Sapporo which is located on the northernmost island of Hokkaido. Hokkaido being the last frontier in Japan is much newer and less populated than its southern neighbors. It is also much colder and is snowbound much of the winter. Usually it has begun snowing by mid October but it does not really stick to the ground until mid November. When we were there we were in shirts sleeves. They seem to be having strange weather also. To give you an idea of the extent of the winter snow, they have poles along the roads that look to be about as tall as street lamps here in the U.S. These poles, however, support signs with red arrows pointing downward to mark the edge of the road. In the mountainous area I saw green boxes along the road side on the steeper grades. These boxes are filled with bags of sand resulting in a kind of a "do it yourself" rescue service. My sister in law "borrowed" a bag she found left over after the snow ended. She used it for planting flowers in a pot. She found out the hard way that the sand was mixed with salt. So much for the flowers.

Everywhere, and I do mean everywhere, I went I saw tri-band beams topped with VHF and UHF arrays. These antennas were mounted on towers that appeared

to be between 50 and 60 feet high. Most of the towers were ground mounted but not all. Some were on rooftops. When I returned I did some research on the number of hams in Japan versus the rest of the world. At the present time there are 2.6 million hams world wide. A full fifty percent of these are in Japan. That means there are 1.3 million licensed amateurs in Japan! No wonder there are so many antennas. Apparently their zoning codes are more sensible (and friendly) than ours. I took a few pictures to show typical examples of what I saw sticking up into the air. Returning to the world's amateur radio population, we in the U.S. have only twenty five percent of the world's total. Less than thirty years ago there were only four hundred thousand hams worldwide and a full half of them were right here at home. There are presently there are only six hundred thirty two thousand hams in the U.S. and of these, only one hundred seventy two thousand belong to the ARRL. As far as my trip is concerned, if there is sufficient interest I will make up a slide show of our adventures.



On a sad note, you have no doubt all heard of the passing of our friend and fellow ham, Ted DeCroff. Many of you will remember Ted for his musical entertainment and as the guy who brought refreshments in the way of soft drinks, coffee and dough nuts to our monthly meetings. He had been complaining of difficulty swallowing and his doctors found that he had esophageal cancer. While his family sat around his bedside a few days after surgery, Theodore L DeCroff II became a Silent key.

Ted, you will be missed by all.

John, KE5RI



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Hank's Swap Shop	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707 542-3860
Web Master	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707 542-3860

Contacts

Antenna Ordinance/Legal	Lee Dibble	KE6EAQ	707 544-1675
Public Relations	Bill McCall	W6WDM	707 538-2844
Refreshments	Ted DeCroff	KB6PTA	707 542-4008
Volunteer Exam Liaison	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707 575-5871
ARRL DXCC/WAS Mgr	Chuck Ternes	N60J	707 763-2528

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

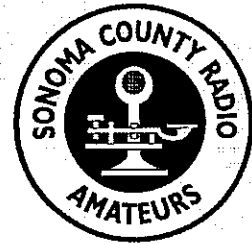
Tuesday Night Net

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 Newsline* broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

Business Cards	\$12 per month
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

For more information, Contact the Editor

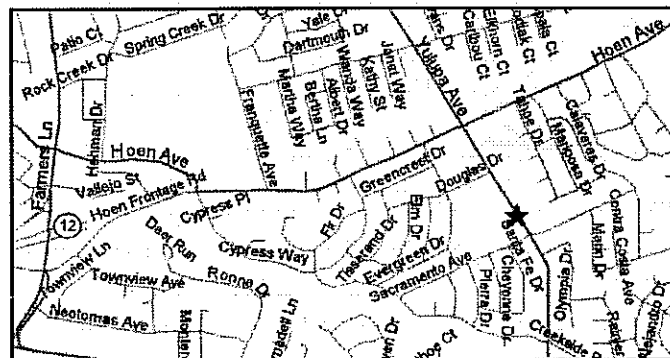


SCRA Club Meetings

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

Next meeting is Friday, December 9th at 6:00 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.

Forget about Coco's restaurant!

Join us for the annual Holiday Pot Luck Dinner on Friday, December 9, 2005 at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center.

RSVP with your payment of \$7.50 to Brian Torr by Friday, December 2nd.

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 contesters. I hope that everyone was able to participate in November's big contests. December is a quieter month with 160 meters being the band of interest. Be sure to catch the annual meteor scatter contest next weekend as well as the annual straight key night on New Year's Day. Happy holidays and happy DX'ing!

- 1 Dec - Top Band Sprint - CW/SSB, 160-meters only.
See: www.qrparci.org.
- 2-4 Dec - ARRL 160 Meter Contest - CW.
See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2005/160-Meters.html>.
- 3 Dec - TARA RTTY Melée, 80-10 meters.
See: www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html.
- 4 Dec - Holiday Spirits Homebrew CW Sprint, 160-10 meters.
See: www.qrparci.org.
- 10 Dec - Great Colorado Snowshoe Run - CW, 40 meters.
See: www.cqc.org/contests/snow2005.htm.
- 10-11 Dec - ARRL 10 Meter Contest - CW/SSB.
See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2005/10-meters.html>.
- 10-18 Dec - North American Meteor Scatter Contest - any mode, 50, 144, 222, 432 MHz, via meteor scatter.
See: www.ykc.com/wa5ufh/Rally/NAHMSM.htm.

- 16 Dec - Russian 160-Meter Contest - CW/SSB.
See: www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results/index11.shtml.
- 17 Dec - OK DX RTTY Contest, 80-10 meters.
See: www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM.
- 17 Dec - RAC Winter Contest - CW/Phone, 160-2 meters.
See: www.roc.ca/downloads/canwin2004.pdf.
- 17-18 Dec - Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge - CW, 160 meters.
See: <http://izap.com/k7rat/stew.rules.txt>.
- 17-18 Dec - PSK31 Death Match - 80-6 meters.
See: www.mdx1.org/deathmatch.html.
- 17-18 Dec - Croatian CW Contest, 160-10 meters.
See: www.qsl.net/cic.
- 17 Dec-1 Jan - Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party - all modes, 160-2 meters.
See: <http://arlhs.com>.
- 25 Dec - DARC Christmas Contest - CW/SSB, 80-40 meters.
See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcx.htm.
- 01 Jan - ARRL Straight Key Night - CW, all bands.
See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/skn.html>.

**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)
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Other - _____	\$ _____
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Total	\$ _____

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Mail to: SCRA, P.O. Box 1116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

ZCZC AG26 · QST de W1AW · ARRL Bulletin 26 · ARLB026 · From ARRL Headquarters, Newington CT · November 8, 2005

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB026 · ARLB026 Indiana Ham Radio Volunteers Assisting in Wake of Killer Tornado
Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator David Pifer, N9YNF, reports Amateur Radio volunteers are assisting relief operations in the wake of a November 6 tornado that left 22 people dead and 200 injured. The twister slashed a more than 40-mile swath through part of Kentucky and extreme southwestern Indiana in the early morning hours, wiping out a section of a trailer park in Vanderburgh County where 18 of the fatalities occurred.

"Amateur radio has been involved with various aspects of the response from the beginning," Pifer said. The Salvation Army and the American Red Cross are on the scene in the affected areas with canteen and mass-care facilities to feed and care for relief workers and tornado victims.

Volunteer and police officer Bob Pointer, N9XAW, at The Salvation Army headquarters in Evansville told ARRL that three Salvation Army mobile kitchens and three field units have been deployed in Vandenberg and Warrick counties, and Amateur Radio is supporting their relief activities. Amateur Radio support, likely will be needed for up to one week, Pointer said.

Pifer was asking prospective Amateur Radio volunteers from the area who are willing and able to assist in the relief operation to contact Pointer at 812-431-5054.

Pointer said Amateur Radio volunteers also provided some early support for the American Red Cross, but that agency now has its own internal telecommunications up and running.

The November 6 tornado, an F3 on the Fujita scale with winds of up to 200 MPH, originated within a line of thunderstorms that struck the region. Indiana Gov Mitch Daniels has declared a state of emergency.

Kentucky SEC Ron Dodson, KA4MAP, says SKYWARN was active as the storms approached. "I had our Amateur Radio net going with National Weather Service Louisville and monitored those in the counties west of me as it approached," Dodson told ARRL. The storm hit the Hart County community of Munfordville, he said. NNNN/EX to. To contact Stan, send e-mail or visit his Web site where you can leave him a note.

Suggested article for the Newsletter by Rich Freitas KF6SZA

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The Plan, The Event

by Rich Freitas KF6SZA
Sonoma County ARES
District Emergency Coordinator

I had planned to center this month's article solely around the standardized ARES communications frequencies that were recently decided upon at this year's Pacificon Convention and how necessary it is to have this type of plan in place before a critical event happens. However, we recently took part in the annual EMSA (Emergency Medical Services Authority) drill and, since I need to produce an after-action event report for the exercise, I decided to combine the two efforts and concentrate on their commonalities.

The Plan

It's been realized for quite some time that a standardized emergency communications plan was needed for the ARRL Pacific Division although, like most emergency planning, it never quite got off the ground. Since most, if not all, Section Managers attended the recent Pacificon, the opportunity to agree on a plan was too good to pass up. Acting on a motion from San Francisco Section Manager Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, the Pacific Division agreed to the following frequencies for emcomm purposes:

80M 3.987 MHz LSB
60M 5.332 MHz USB (5.3305 MHz) Channel A
40M 7.232 MHz LSB
20M 14.265 MHz USB
VHF 146.520 MHz Simplex

Realize that these are for initial contact/mutual aid purposes for the Division; Net Control Station will then direct check-ins to the various incident nets.

Since it is unrealistic to assume that all local net traffic would be handled on one frequency, there will undoubtedly be sub-nets established for administrative, logistic, tactical, shelter, medical and health & welfare purposes. For Sonoma County, we would also expect to monitor the 146.985 MHz (-, 88.5) repeater for information and/or direction. Given the size of our area, VHF is the most likely choice for most of these local nets. If there are not enough local repeaters in operation we would make use of low band HF with NVIS antennas as necessary.

The Event

This is where the rubber met the road. The EMSA drill is a state-wide medical and health disaster exercise; this was California's seventh annual event incorporating hospitals and ancillary health-care providers, including long-term care facilities and clinics, pre-hospital care providers, auxiliary communication networks, blood banks, and local and regional governmental agencies. This year's scenario was based on terrorist detonation of a series of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that caused numerous casualties. The exercise began at 8:00 am and by 9:05 am the surge of calls shut down the phone system so all participating facilities were unable to place or receive calls.

Sonoma county ARES has conducted many drills in the past to ensure that we have local communications. While we passed local traffic between our net control station at Blood Bank of the Redwoods; Jim, W6ESJ, at Salvation Army; Dave, W6IBC, and Joy, KI6ASJ, at Red Cross; and ACS at the county EOC, we also wanted to determine our HF capability. As luck would have it, we had a high-SWR condition on our HF antenna (we suspect some small critters crept into the weep holes on the antenna traps). Since this was a short-term exercise with no time to fix the problem instead of a long-term real event, we improvised in typical ham fashion; we fired up John's, KE5RI, mobile HF rig and with John and Bill, KH6GJV, in the

parking lot and Fred, KQ6OB, and me indoors, we kept in touch via VHF simplex. We successfully maintained HF contact with Sacramento EOC, BloodSource (the statewide blood bank net), and ARES stations in San Francisco, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Nye (Nevada) Counties. We also had HF contact with Poway, San Diego, Los Alamitos, Long Beach (Navy MARS), and Santa Cruz.

All in all we did a credible job of communication and proved our ability on both VHF and HF. My thanks to all who participated.

The Sonoma County ARES net meets 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!

Don't miss the Holiday Pot Luck Dinner

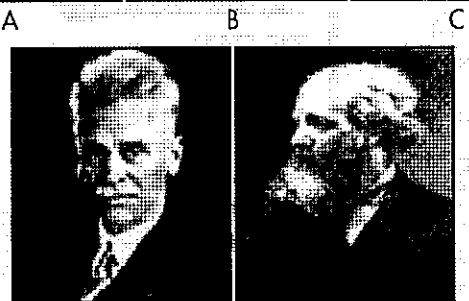
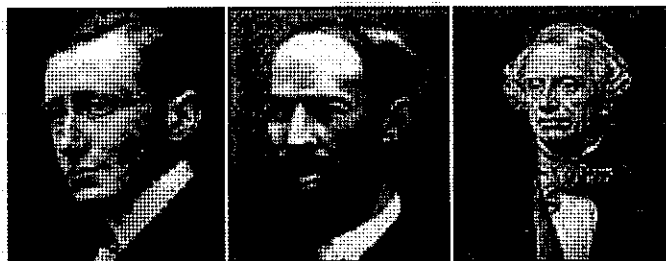
from Brian Torr N6IYY

Instead of our usual meeting in December, we will be having our annual Holiday Pot Luck Dinner on December 9, 2005. For \$7.50, the club will provide turkey with gravy, ham, and coffee and tea. You bring a salad, side dish, or dessert for pot luck. Flyers will be sent to all club members. Please RSVP with your payment by Friday, December, 2. If you have any questions, contact Brian Torr at (707) 575-5871 or n6iyy@arrl.net.

Ham Heros

Can you match the faces with the names?

(answers below and upside down...no peeking)



Hertz Marconi Maxim Maxwell Morse

A: Marconi B: Hertz C: Morse D: Maxim E: Maxwell

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

- Call to Order; Verification of Quorum – The meeting was called to order by President John Felton, KE5RI, at 7:15 pm at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center. Treasurer Jim Lee, KE6VGV, was absent; all other board members were in attendance.
 - Introductions
 - Officers & Directors – President, John, KE5RI, introduced those officers and directors in attendance.
 - Program Introduction – Brian, N6IYY, - Ham Radio Squares.
 - New Calls and Upgrades – None.
 - Visitors: Jim Walden, W6ESJ, Santa Rosa ARES EC.
- Approval of Minutes – It was moved by Brian, N6IYY, and seconded by Michael, KC6UNA, to approve the minutes of the last membership meeting as published in Short Skip. The motion passed.
- Officer and Director Reports
 - President – John, KE5RI, - No report.
 - Vice President – Kevin, K6BSG, - No report.
 - Secretary – Rich, KF6SZA, - No report.
 - Treasurer – Jim, KE6VGV, - Absent, No report.
 - Directors –
 - Bruce, N6CT, - No report.
 - Bill, KH6GJV, - No report.
 - Past President – Brian, N6IYY, - No report.
- Committee Reports
 - ARES – Rich, KF6SZA, - ICS/NIMS training will be scheduled for January 21st. A Santa Rosa Safety Fair is scheduled for April 22nd. There was general discussion of possible future ARES training. All members were invited to check into the Monday night ARES net.
 - Mobile Comm Van – Rich, KF6SZA, - A work party will be set up in the near future to install items taken off in preparation for painting.
 - Activities – BoD – This year's Christmas Party will be held on December 9th (the second Friday of December). Brian, N6IYY, will send out fliers next week.
 - Newsletter – Vicki, KF6ZCT, - No report.
 - Public Service – Craig, KG6THE, expressed his thanks for a job well done on Waves to Wine.
 - VE Liaison – Brian, N6IYY, - The last VE session had 4 candidates – 3 became new licensees. The next VE session will be in January.
- Repeaters
 - Operations – No report.
 - Net Control Operators – 11/8: Craig, KG6THE; 11/15: Dave, W6IBC; 11/22: John, KE5RI; 11/29: Fred, KQ6OB.
- Unfinished Business – Items still in progress:
 - Finish the Comm Van – The work party is tentatively set for November 19th.
 - Update Club Roster – Rich, KF6SZA, will send a .csv roster file to Brian, N6IYY.
- New Business
 - Jeff, KK6JAB, announced the ARRL Toy Drive. Basham Electronics had volunteered as a collection point for this year's donations.
 - John, KE5RI, reported that Ted, KB6PTA, went in for surgery on Monday – it was successful. Ted is at Kaiser and he has asked for visitors as soon as he is released from ICU.
 - Bruce, K6CT, reported on progress of the proposed antenna resolution.
 - John, KE5RI, presented the Nomination Committee Report for this year's election.

President – John, KE5RI
Vice President – Kevin, K6BSG
Secretary – Rich, KF6SZA
Treasurer – Brian, N6IYY
Directors – Bruce, K6CT; Dave, W6IBC

There were two nominations from the floor for Director; Fred, KQ6OB, and Jeff, KK6JAB. It was moved by Bill, KH6GJV and

seconded by Cortland, KA5S, that all positions except Director be accepted by acclamation. The motion passed. It was moved by Bill, KH6GJV and seconded by Michael, KC6UNA, that nominations be closed. The motion passed.

v) John, KE5RI, presented the results of the election for Director: Fred, KQ6OB, and Jeff, KK6JAB.

- Show & Tell – Craig, KG6THE, displayed an absorption meter built by his father.
- Program – Brian, N6IYY, hosted a challenging game of Ham Radio Squares; everyone went home a "winner".
- Announcements – The next Membership Meeting is the Holiday Potluck on Friday, December 9th at 7:00 pm. The next BoD meeting is at 6:30 pm on November 16th at the home of Brian, N6IYY. All members are welcome.
- Adjournment – It was moved and seconded by Jeff, KK6JAB, and Michael, KC6UNA, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:59 pm. The motion passed.

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting, October 19, 2005 Minutes

The minutes of the last Board of Directors Meeting were approved as published. Filling in for Jim Lee, Bill Hillendahl gave the treasurers report. After paying our insurance, our financial condition is about normal for this time of year. Vice President Kevin Alt reported that he has received the Short Skip" files on CD from Vicki Cero. Kevin and Vicki are working together to complete the process of shifting much of our Short Skip mailing to electronic form.

Bill Hillendahl reported that the club generator may need a new home as construction will be underway near its present location. The generator may also need to be repainted as oxidation and peeling may be starting.

Brian Torr reported on the status of annual the Holiday Dinner to be held on Friday, December 9th at our usual meeting place. Kevin and Bill plan to pick up the food. We are looking at some prizes to be given away at the party. Rich will take care of certificates for our going officers, directors and committee chairmen.

Kevin Alt moved that the Board appoint a chairman and solicit nominees for the Member of the Year award at the holiday party. The motion passed unanimously. The Board appointed Kevin as the chairman. Mike Silva was suggested to serve on this committee.

Progress on the Comm Van is on hold due to busy holiday schedules. A discussion was held on the status of our frequency coordination.

A \$500.00 donation was received from the Santa Rosa Cycling Club in appreciation of our ongoing support. We were asked to use it for technical improvements. Secretary Rich Freitas was asked to respond with a "thank you" note.

Brian moved that the meeting be closed. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by John Felton, acting Secretary.
(Rich Freitas arrived late due to a personal time conflict)

ARRL 2005 Holiday Toy Drive Update

Amateur Radio Shows its Most Generous Side for ARRL 2005 Holiday Toy Drive (Nov 23, 2005) -- ARRL/The Salvation Army 2005 Holiday Toy Drive warehouse volunteer Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, says donated toys now are arriving fast and furious in Memphis. On November 18, a shipment arrived containing 573 toys. The pace continued this week.