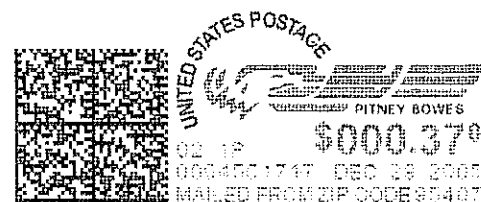


JANUARY 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 7:00 PM SCRA Meeting Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center 2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa	5	6 7:30 PM Main ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 77-Shell Road, Mill Valley	7 10:00 AM ROVARC Meeting Red Oak Victory Ship, Point Richmond Directions: www.sred oakvictory.org
8	9	10 7:30 PM Hamilton Wireless Association Building 549, Hamilton Field, Novato	11 7:00 PM REDXA Meeting Mister McGoo's Restaurant, Petaluma (note date change)	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 7:30 PM VMARC Meeting McDougal Hall, Sonoma Dev. Center, Glen Ellen 6:30 PM SCRA Board of Directors Meeting (note date change)	19	20 8:00 PM SFARC Meeting Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Auditorium of Bldg. 7, 42nd & Clement St., San Francisco	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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Short Skip

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VOLUME 31 NUMBER 1

January 2006



President's Column

by
John Felton KE5RI
SCRA President

As your club president, one of my responsibilities is to write a monthly article to be printed in "Short Skip". At times it is not easy to come up with a topic with universal appeal, or any appeal for that matter. Such is the case as I sit before my keyboard on the eve of Christmas eve. It is therefore out of desperation that I relate the story of my first two meter, FM mobile radio.

The year was 1965 and I was still adjusting to civilian life after a tour of duty in the Navy. There were only a handful of repeaters in the bay area and I wanted to see what I could put together for a mobile station. I heard about a radio for sale for \$75.00, and quite frankly that was all I could afford. It came out of service with the San Francisco Police Department and I was told it put out fifty watts and was capable of two channel operation. This is just what I was looking for. I arranged to meet the "seller" and take possession of my "new" radio. I remember it was a foggy night as I searched for an address on the side of Twin Peaks. All I was told was that I would have to buy a few crystals and that the radio worked. I couldn't wait to take it home and try it out. It consisted of two metal boxes finished in "hammertone gray". It also came with a control head, a handset and a power and control cable. The connectors were of the old Amphenol AN type. The handset had a brass "push to talk" switch on the handle. This was the only difference between it and a telephone handset. It even had a carbon microphone. The conductor of the power cable was the diameter of my little finger. I was also given a copy of the original manual. The transmitter was a Link model 2240 and the receiver was a Link model 1905. The receiver had a vibrator and the transmitter had a motor generator set. I believe that with 12 volts input, it put out about 600 volts at more than a few hundred milliamperes. The tubes were mostly octal types except that the transmitter had a 2E26 and a 829B in the final.

I purchased a couple FT243 crystals from a now defunct outfit in the East Bay and proceeded to install the whole thing in the family Olds Cutlass. The power cable was so big I had to route it under the car and tie it to the frame. The two boxes, (14" x 8" x 8") each, were mounted on trays in the trunk while the control head and handset were mounted under the dash. I found that it took a sixty amp fuse to handle the load. Each box had an octal socket mounted in the side to receive a plug from a Link test set. This item of course I did not have. The transmitter was tuned using the "maximum smoke" method. Actually the RF indicator was a piece of RG8 cut to ? wavelength of about thirty inches. The first 19 inches of shield was removed from one end and at the opposite end a small incandescent bulb was soldered from the center conductor to the shield. It worked by holding the end with the bulb in your hand and placing the exposed center conductor near the antenna. The transmitter was then tuned so as to make the bulb light as brightly as possible. If you got too close, the bulb burned out. After replacing a few disc ceramic capacitors that exploded when the transmitter was keyed, I was on the air.

The equipment usually worked quite well. It was a wideband FM design so one had to be cautious of frequency drift and the receiver liked to "hear" the Coast Guard from Mt. Diablo. The primary of the motor generator was switched with a starter solenoid. These had a tendency to get stuck in the on position due to contact welding. When this happened it was necessary to pull over and beat on the transmitter with your fist. Also, keying the transmitter would cause significant headlight dimming. Overall the old Link equipment provided excellent service and served me well until I upgraded to General Electric Progress Line equipment. Boy have we come a long way in the past forty years.

I hope I haven't bored you. By the time you receive this news letter, Christmas will have passed. I hope you and your loved ones had a happy one and I wish you all the best for the coming year.

John, KE5RI



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SCRA E-Mail	scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com
SCRA Web Site	http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com

Tuesday Night Net

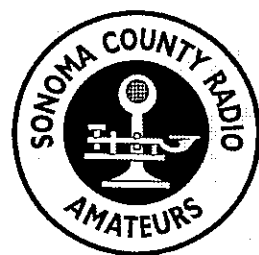
Remember to check in to the SCRA net each **Tuesday** evening on the **146.985-(PL 88.5)** repeater at **7:00 PM**. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the area and what is listed in Hank's Swap Shop. You will also hear the weekly *Amateur Radio Newline* broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

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For more information, Contact the Editor

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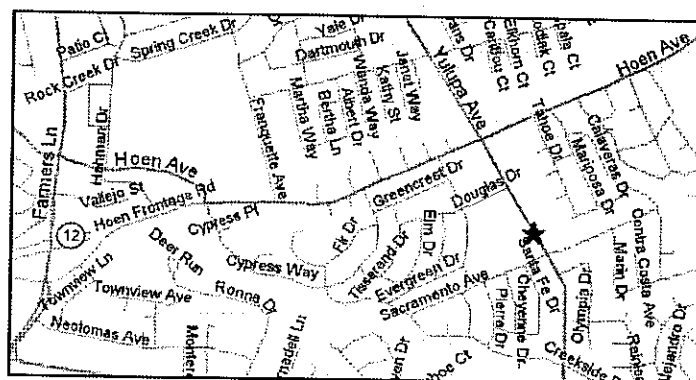


SCRA Club Meetings

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

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 4th at 7:00 PM

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.pdarrrl.org/sfsec/>

Contest Corner

by Kevin Alt K6BSG

Hello testers. Happy New Year! There are a number of short contests celebrating the new year as well as the CQWW 160 meter CW and ARRL VHF Sweepstakes contests. I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday and was able to squeeze some operating time in between bowl games. Happy DX'ing!

- 31 Dec-01 Jan- ARRL Straight Key Night - CW, all bands.
See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/skn.html>.
- 31 Dec-01 Jan- New Year's Snowball Contest - CW/SSB, 80 meters.
See: www.qsl.net/eu1eu/index_e.htm.
- 31 Dec-01 Jan- HA Happy New Year Contest - CW/SSB/FM, 160 meters - 1.2 GHz.
See: <http://radioklub.puskas.hu/ha5khc/web/>.
- 01 Jan - SARTG New Year RTTY Contest - 80-40 meters.
See: www.sartg.com/contest/nyrules.htm.
- 01 Jan - AGCW Happy New Year Contest - CW, 80-20 meters.
See: www.agcw.de.
- 06 Jan - Worldwide QRP Federation QSO Party - CW/SSB/Digital, 160-10 meters.
See: http://ruqrp.norod.ru/index_e.html.
- 07-08 Jan - ARRL RTTY Roundup - 80-10 meters.
See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/rtty.html>.
- 07-08 Jan - EUCW 160 Meter Contest - CW.
See: www.uft.net/articles.php?lng=fr&pg=123.
- 07-08 Jan - Original QRP Contest - CW, 80-20 meters.
See: www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/oqrp.html.
- 08 Jan - Kids Day--Phone, 20-10, 2 meters.
See: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>.
- 08 Jan - DARC 10-meter Contest - CW/SSB.
See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm.
- 14 Jan - 070 PSKFest - 80-10-meters.
See: www.podxs.com/html/pskfest.html.
- 14-15 Jan - North American QSO Party - CW, 160-10-meters.
See: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.
- 14-15 Jan - MI QRP Club January CW Contest - 160-6-meters.
See: www.qsl.net/miqrpclub.
- 14-15 Jan - Midwinter Contest - CW/SSB, 80-10-meters.
See: www.qsl.net/pi4ylc/Engels/midwinter%20contest.htm.
- 14-15 Jan - Hunting Lions in the Air - CW/Phone, 80-10 meters.
See: www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/lionita.asp.
- 14-15 Jan - HA DX Contest - CW, 160-10 meters.
See: www.mrasz.hu/engver/mraszen.html.
- 21 Jan - International United Teenager Contest - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters.
See: www.grz.ru/contest/detail/17.html.
- 21 Jan - 80-Meter Straight Key Sprint.
See: www.arm-tek.net/~yoel.
- 21 Jan - LZ Open Championship - CW, 80-40 meters.
See: www.linkove.com/lz-open-contest/rules/rules.htm.
- 21-22 Jan - North American QSO Party - Phone, 160-10-meters.
See: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.
- 21-22 Jan - BARTG RTTY Sprint - 80-10 meters.
See: www.bartg.demon.co.uk.
- 21-22 Jan - UK DX RTTY Contest - 80-10-meters.
See: www.ukdx.scotnam.net.
- 21-23 Jan - ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes - all modes, 6 meters and up.
See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/jan-vhf-ss.html>.
- 28-29 Jan - CQ WW 160-Meter Contest - CW.
See: www.cq-amateur-radio.com/index.html.
- 28-29 Jan - REF French Contest - CW, 80-10 meters.
See: www.ref-union.org/concours.
- 28-29 Jan - UBA Contest - Phone, 80-10-meters. See: www.uba.be.

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The Toys Have Landed! 2005 Holiday Toy Drive Gifts Get to Gulf Coast

"Mission accomplished!" That was the word on the 2005 Holiday Toy Drive from ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, and assistant warehouse volunteer coordinator Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, on the US Gulf Coast after they'd completed unloading some 5000 toys contributed by generous Amateur Radio clubs and individual radio amateurs from all over. In addition, the second ARRL Holiday Toy Drive benefited from more than \$8000 in cash donations, which permitted the purchase of gifts for older recipients and helped defray the costs of transporting the toys.

"The 2005 ARRL/Salvation Holiday Toy Drive is about completed with the exception of the cleanup," Leggette reported this week. The toys headed to Mississippi following a December 15 sendoff ceremony in Memphis.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, WIAGP--who spearheaded the drive from the League Headquarters side--says Lowenthal, a former FedEx employee, did such a professional packing job that he only needed one truck--instead of the anticipated three--to transport the toys to coastal Mississippi from Memphis, saving even more money to purchase additional toys. "The overwhelming response of hams around the country was clear as thousands of toys, games, bikes and stuffed animals headed south," he added.

The ARRL Toy Drive partnered with The Salvation Army, whose distribution network throughout the Gulf Coast remains intact. "The Salvation Army has the ability to screen recipients and will assure that the toys are used where they are truly needed most," Pitts explained. A big rental moving van took the full load directly to Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi.

Representatives of The Salvation Army and the League were on hand in Memphis December 15 to see the truckload of toys southward. Holiday Toy Drive national chairperson and country music singer Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, joined Amateur Radio volunteers, the news media, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus for the occasion.

"For those who couldn't be here, I'm sure they're here in spirit and giving from their hearts, and I just want to thank them--from all around--for collecting," Loveless told ARRL.


Bill Feist, WB8BZH, The Salvation Army's disaster services director for the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi division, represented his organization for the occasion. "We are certainly very appreciative of what all the Amateur Radio operators around the country and the ARRL have done for the people of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi," he said.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, summed it up simply in thanking Pitts for his role: "It was a great, great project."

December Crossword puzzle from the ARRL Web site

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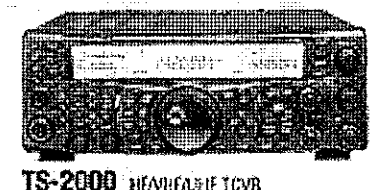
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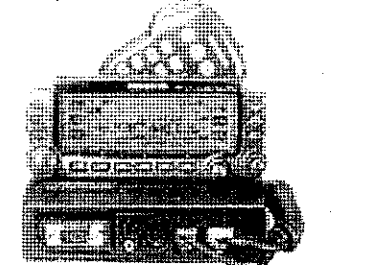
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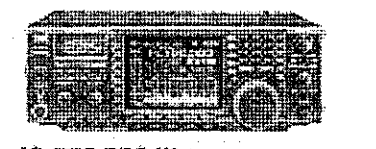
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Back to Basics

by Rich Freitas KF6SZA
Sonoma County ARES
District Emergency Coordinator

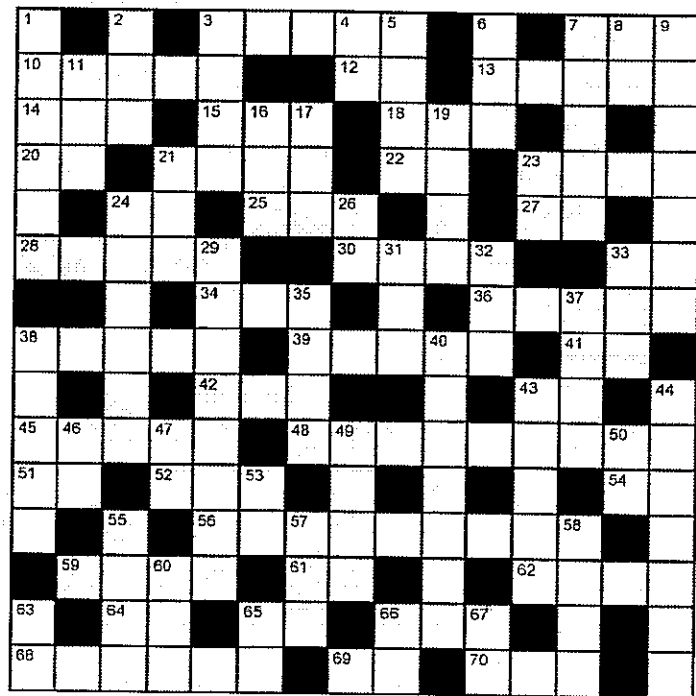
Once again the year has come and gone. For some it was a very good year; for others less fortunate, it was

a very bad one. Have you ever really thought how lucky we are to live in this area? Think of those poor souls living in the gulf coast, the eastern seaboard, or "tornado alley" in the Midwest. Many of the ARES members in those areas have a "good" year if they only have to use ONE hand to count the number of their annual disaster activations. Oh, sure, the standard retort is, "But you people on the Left Coast have earthquakes!" Well, how long has it been since we had an earthquake? How long has it been since we had one that caused more than a moderate amount of damage? No thank you! I'll take "earthquake country" any day over the problems in most other areas.

However, there is one downside to living in a fairly disaster-free area – we have to hone our skills by practicing on drills and public service events rather than on "the real thing." While they definitely are worthwhile, these controlled events don't usually display the random occurrences of having the worst possible thing go wrong when you can least afford it. You know what I mean. Murphy's Law. The microphone plug never breaks, the antenna connection never snaps, your power supply never has a melt-down until you need it the most. This brings up a critical point in emergency communications ... how you repair items in the field. Lately there has been a lot of talk about "When all else fails ... Amateur Radio" but that assumes that your amateur radio will continue to work. Otherwise, it's no more useful than that trunking repeater or cell phone that has ceased to function. Our greatest strength in amateur radio, besides our numbers, has always been the simplicity of our equipment and our ability to maintain it.

I am becoming more and more concerned about the increasing complexity of our equipment and the decreasing awareness of how to accomplish even the simplest of repairs. Do you know how to solder? Can you use a multimeter to check out basic circuits? Do you even own a multimeter? Obviously, I'm not talking about field-stripping and rebuilding a Yaesu Mark V in a Red Cross shelter but it would sure be nice to know that we can make basic repairs to keep our equipment running. And, the same goes for our operating procedures. Yes, the latest computerized digital whiz-bang system may be impressive but what's wrong with scratch paper, post-it notes, and a log sheet. We must always remember that emcomm is not a DX contest. The simpler, more intuitive the system is, the more people will understand it with little or no training; that goes for radios and procedures alike. Keep it simple, learn the basics, know how to maintain your equipment, and practice your skills.

The ARES net meets on Mondays at 7:30 pm on the SCRA repeater on 146.985MHz, - offset, 88.5PL. You're invited to check in anytime.



The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzle

"A Ham's Pie in the Sky"

December 13, 2005 puzzle from H. Ward Silver N0AX

It's the dead of winter - what better time for antenna work? You know what they say about the final result working so much better if the work is done in snow or rain! So get out there and haul up those skyhooks, dig those radials, and change those rotators! And when you're all done and frozen, looking for something to do while your feet thaw out, here's a handy crossword puzzle about antennas.

Across

- 3. Perpendicular to an axis of an antenna
- 7. Makes a signal louder
- 10. Where antennas are tested
- 12. Instead of hi, we now want this kind of fi
- 13. Unbalanced impedance match
- 14. Venerable antique
- 15. The ARRL's on-line technical reference (abbr.)
- 18. Flex under one's own weight
- 20. Safety lab (abbr.)
- 21. Forms an important ratio with front
- 22. Swiss prefix
- 23. Tube that holds up an antenna
- 24. Amateur satellite prefix
- 25. Bolt with a ring for a head
- 27. British abbreviation for high voltage
- 28. Triangular antenna
- 30. To apply energy
- 33. Opposite of 63 Down
- 34. Single layer of several
- 36. Keeps currents even
- 38. Amount of difference in bearing
- 39. Prize given for merit
- 41. Powered up
- 42. Slang for radio
- 43. The Show-Me State (abbr.)
- 45. Start again or go back to the beginning

Down

- 48. Radiates the same everywhere
- 51. Oldest mode for voice
- 52. Terminal that attaches to a screw
- 54. Number (abbr.)
- 56. Energy given off by an antenna
- 59. Antennas have mains and sides
- 61. Towards the sky
- 62. Milli-micro (prefix)
- 64. Smallest of the 48 contiguous states (abbr.)
- 65. Diameter measured outside a tube (abbr.)
- 66. Radiated power taking into account line losses and antenna gain (abbr.)
- 68. A wire antenna of indeterminate length
- 69. The Granite State (abbr.)
- 70. Scores birds off antennas...maybe

Down

- 1. An electrical imaging plane
- 2. Where a Zepp antenna is fed
- 3. Balanced match dubbed "hairpin"
- 4. Sigh of disappointment
- 5. Bowl-shaped antenna
- 6. Round insulator
- 7. Satellite organization
- 8. 25.4 of these in an inch (abbr.)
- 9. Graph showing antenna radiation by direction
- 11. Opposite of none

(solution on page 5)

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Meeting, December 9, 2005 Minutes

1. Call to Order; Verification of Quorum – The meeting was called to order by President John Felton, KE5RI, at 8:10 pm at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center. Brian, N6IY was absent; all other officers and board members were in attendance.

- a. Introductions
 - i) Officers & Directors – President, John, KE5RI, introduced those in attendance.
 - ii) Program Introduction – John, KE5RI, - Annual Christmas Dinner.
 - iii) New Calls and Upgrades – None.
- 2. Approval of Minutes – It was moved by Dave, W6IBC, and seconded by Michael, KC6UNA, to approve the minutes of the last membership meeting as published in Short Skip. The motion passed.
- 3. Officer and Director Reports
 - a. President – John, KE5RI, - No report.
 - b. Vice President – Kevin, K6BSG, - No report.
 - c. Secretary – Rich, KF6SZA, - No report.
 - d. Treasurer – Jim, KE6VGV, - No report.
- e. Directors –
 - i) Bruce, N6CT, - No report.
 - ii) Bill, KH6GJV, - No report.
- f. Past President – Brian, N6IY, - Absent. No report.
- 4. Committee Reports
 - a. ARES – Rich, KF6SZA, - No report.
 - b. Mobile Comm Van – Rich, KF6SZA, - No report.
 - c. Activities – BoD – No report.
 - d. Newsletter – Vicki, KF6ZCT, - No report.
 - e. Public Service – Craig, KG6THE, - Absent. No report.
 - f. VE Liaison – Brian, N6IY, - Absent. No report.
 - g. Repeaters
 - i) John, KE5RI, reported that NARCC has an antenna person who wants us to try some changes; there was general comment that this would probably degrade our coverage of the southern part of the county. We are still working on establishing an agreement of coexistence on the frequency.
- 5. Unfinished Business – Items still in progress:
 - i) Distribution of Short Skip via email.
 - ii) Finish the Comm Van.
 - iii) Update Club Roster.
- 6. New Business – None.
- 7. Announcements – The next Membership Meeting is January 4, 2006, at 7:00 pm. The next BoD meeting is on December 21st, location TBA, at 6:00 pm. All members are welcome.
- 8. Adjournment – It was moved and seconded by Jeff, KK6JAB, and Bill, KH6GJV, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:22 pm. The motion passed.

Down

- 1. An electrical imaging plane
- 2. Where a Zepp antenna is fed
- 3. Balanced match dubbed "hairpin"
- 4. Sigh of disappointment
- 5. Bowl-shaped antenna
- 6. Round insulator
- 7. Satellite organization
- 8. 25.4 of these in an inch (abbr.)
- 9. Graph showing antenna radiation by direction
- 11. Opposite of none
- 16. Builds up on antennas in winter time
- 17. Waves that bounce off the ionosphere
- 19. Can perform a task if willing
- 21. Slang for automaton
- 23. A giga-pico-henry (abbr.)
- 24. Brings together so that they fit
- 26. Type of transistor circuit with no voltage gain, but lots of current gain (abbr.)
- 29. A measure of an antenna's ability to capture signal power
- 31. Guess of an arrival time (abbr.)
- 32. Measure of gain with respect to a dipole (abbr.)
- 33. What makes the ionosphere
- 35. Type of beam antenna
- 37. Circular element
- 38. Antenna with multiple elements
- 40. What turns antennas
- 43. Inventor of a famous rectangle
- 44. Bah, humbug!
- 46. Electromagnetic (abbr.)
- 47. Complement to "az"
- 49. Bounce of a signal
- 50. Not out
- 53. Measure of wire thickness (abbr.)
- 55. Antenna that looks like a megaphone
- 57. Antenna that doesn't work well
- 58. What everything looks like when all you've got is a hammer
- 60. Placed during auctions
- 63. Indicates a smaller version of something
- 65. Affectionate term for husband (abbr.)
- 66. The two types of fields in a radio wave
- 67. Where the boxes are (abbr.)

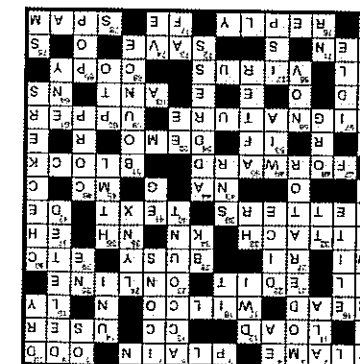
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting, December 21, 2005 Minutes

Board Members Present: John Felton, KE5RI; Kevin Alt, K6BSG; Rich Freitas, KF6SZA; Bruce Donecker, N6CT; Brian Torr, N6IY. Jim Lee, KE6VGV, and Bill, KH6GJV were absent. Fred, KQ6OB, 2006 Director was also present.

Guests Present: None.

- 1. Call to Order; Verification of Quorum – The meeting was called to order by President John Felton, KE5RI, at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held at John Felton's home. A quorum was present in that all but two voting board members were present.
- 2. Approval of Minutes – It was moved by Brian, N6IY, that the minutes of the 11/16/2005 meeting as printed in Short Skip be approved. The motion passed.
- 3. Officer and Director Reports
 - a. President – John, KE5RI, - No report.
 - b. Vice President – Kevin, K6BSG, - No report.
 - c. Secretary – Rich, KF6SZA, - No report.
 - d. Treasurer – Jim, KE6VGV, Absent, no report.
 - e. Directors –
 - i) Bruce, N6CT, - No report.
 - ii) Bill, KH6GJV, - Absent, no report.
 - f. Past President – Brian, N6IY, - No report.
- 4. Committee Reports
 - a. ARES – Rich, KF6SZA, - No report.
 - b. Mobile Comm Van – Rich, KF6SZA, reported that due to the weather there is no planned work.
 - c. Activities – General discussion regarding a potential joint Field Day with VOMARC. It was also discussed to allow sufficient time to plan to support this year's "Wings Over Wine Country" Air Show.
 - d. Newsletter – Deadline for articles this month is December 26th at 6:00 pm.
 - e. Public Service – No report.
 - f. VE Liaison – Brian, N6IY, No report.
 - g. County Antenna Regulations Project – No report.
 - h. Repeater –
 - i) SCRA vs NARCC Update – John, KE5RI, reported that efforts are continuing. There was general discussion regarding the issuance of a control code that would broadcast an emergency standby announcement so as to prevent interference during a localized event.
 - ii) Net Control Operators – General discussion of website publication of and email reminders of net control operators. There is also a possibility of changing the script to end the net before Newline to shorten Net Control obligation time. Bruce, N6CT moved that a certificate of appreciation be issued to Brian Rayl for his support of Newline in our weekly nets. Motion passed.
- 5. Unfinished Business –
 - a. Programs – The importance of planned programs was discussed.
 - b. Inventory still needs to be done.
- 6. New Business –
 - a. There was discussion regarding the handling of refreshments at membership meetings. Bruce, N6CT, moved that John, KE5RI, be authorized to purchase two new coffee pots after consulting with Bill, KH6GJV, about his thoughts on the subject.
- 7. Adjournment – It was moved by Rich, KF6SZA, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm. The motion passed.



The Solution

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