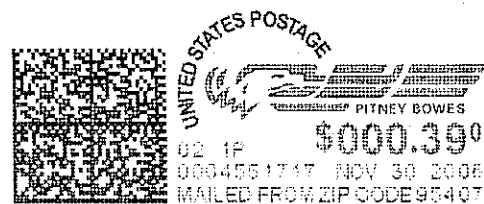


DECEMBER 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 7:30 PM Marin ARC Meeting, Aho Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley	2 10:00 AM ROVARC Meeting Red Oak Victory Ship, Point Richmond Directions: www.sred oakvictory.org
3	4	5	6 7:00 PM SCRA Meeting Luther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

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
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Santa Rosa, California
95402-0116

Return Service Requested

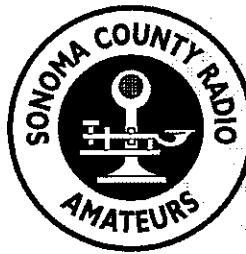


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Short Skip

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VOLUME 31 NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2006



President's Message

by
John Felton KE5RI
SCRA President

The annual SCRA Fox Hunt and it is hard to believe that two years have come and gone. It is time to turn the reins over to our new board members. Under the leadership of Dave Harrison, W6IBC, I know we are in good hands. Thanks you Dave for stepping forward. Also please welcome Brian, N6IYY, back as Treasurer; Fred, KQ6OB as Secretary; and Bob, KG6ZDN and Pat, KG6JSL as Directors. As past President, I will also be serving on your Board. Due to lack of a candidate, we do not have a Vice President this coming year.

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 6th at our usual meeting place. Please refer to your invitation/RSVP for further details. Brian Torr has once again taken the leadership for the planning of food and collection of money. This has always been a mainstay event and I am expecting nothing less than a great turnout.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Vicki for here outstanding contribution to our Short Skip. You may not know that Vicki travels all the way from her home in San Francisco to deliver the "copy" to the printer in Santa Rosa. Vicki prefers to stay out of the limelight, so please don't tell her I told you about her fine work. This is just between you and me.

We will be presenting our Ham of the Year award at the party. This is a special award that is not presented every year. In fact it has not been presented for quite some time. Can you guess who the recipient might be? You will find out on the sixth of next month.

And now a complete change of subject – a question for you contesters out there. (You might guess that I am not a contester!) How can every station have a 5/9 signal report – every time??? If you believe this reporting is correct,

please be prepared to defend your position!

Merry Christmas or Happy Holiday (whichever you prefer). Oh, and if I don't see you at the Christmas Party, Happy New Year, too.

John Felton, KE5RI President

On the Public Service Front: Urgent Request for Volunteers

This Saturday, Dec. 2, Santa Rosa Cycling Club will be having a memorial ride for one of our own, Kathy Hiebel. You may recall that about 3 weeks ago a cyclist was killed in a senseless accident by a recycling truck. This ride precedes a memorial service for her at 11 a.m. at the Center for Spiritual Living. The ride is not a political statement. I have volunteered to organize some course marshals along the route and I am hoping that I can enlist some Ham Radio help to monitor the progress of the ride. The ride will start at 1000 from Howarth Park and proceed along Sonoma Ave.. We will have assistance from SRPD and I will be their contact. If you are available and would like to assist please contact me ASAP. This will be a mobile event. On behalf SRCC, thanks.

Craig Gaevert K6XLT, SRCA Public Service Coordinator

VE Sessions

Next VE Session: December 9, 2006

If you've been studying for a new license or upgrade, your next opportunity to take your test is coming up on December 9. SCRA will be hosting VE exams on December 9, from 9am until noon, at the Blood Bank of the Redwoods, 2324 Bethards Dr. in Santa Rosa. All test elements will be administered. Please arrive by 9:15am to be signed in.

Directions: From Hwy 101, take Hwy 12 east toward Sonoma. Turn right onto Farmers Lane. Turn left onto Bennet Valley Road. Turn left on Bethards Drive. Please park on the street (parking lot is for blood donors).

Candidates should bring the following:

- One (1) photo ID or two (2) non-photo ID
- Social Security Number or FCC Registration Number (FRN)
- Original and photocopy of your current amateur radio license (if licensed)
- Original and photocopy of any valid CSCEs (if applicable)
- Radiotelegraph license, if held
- #2 Pencil and eraser
- \$14.00 exam fee. Checks may be made payable to "ARRL-VEC"

Calculators may be used, but it must be demonstrated that all memories and programs have been erased. If you have any special needs, please contact Brian Torr, N6IYY in advance.

Good Luck! Brian Torr N6IYY n6iyy@arrl.net (707) 575-5871

2006 Club Officers

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Secretary	Rich Freitas	KE6SZA	707 578-9335
Treasurer	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707 575-5871
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Short Skip & Web Staff

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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	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ6OB	
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

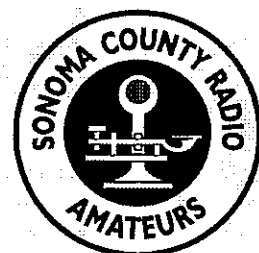
Remember to check in to the SCRA net each **Tuesday** evening on the **147.315+(PL 88.5)** repeater at **7:00 PM**. Announcements are made of upcoming SCRA and other amateur radio activities in the area and what is listed in Hank's Swap Shop. You will also hear the weekly *Amateur Radio Newline* broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

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

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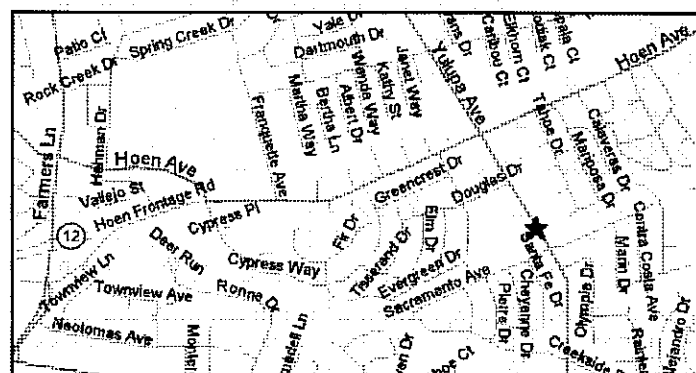


SCRA Club Meetings

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

Next meeting is Wednesday, December 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.

Forget about Coco's restaurant!

Join us for the annual Holiday Pot Luck Dinner on Friday, December 6, 2006 at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center.

RSVP with your payment of \$7.50 to Brian Torr by Friday, December 1st.

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. Another fairly quiet month, but a couple of 160 meter contests along with one of the meteor scatter contests. Happy DX'ing!

- 1-3 Dec - ARRL 160 Meter Contest - CW.
See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/160-Meters.html>.
- 2 Dec - TARA RTTY M  lee - 80-10 meters.
See: www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_meloe_rules.html.
- 2-3 Dec - TOPS Activity Contest - CW, 80 meters.
See: members.chello.at/oe1tkw.
- 3 Dec - New Mexico QSO Party - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters.
- 9-10 Dec - ARRL 10 Meter Contest - CW/SSB.
See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/10-meters.html>.
- 9-10 Dec - 28 MHz SWL Contest - runs with ARRL 10 meter contest.
See: monsie.orange.fr/28mhzswlcontest/index.html.
- 9 Dec - Great Colorado Snowshoe Run - CW, 40 meters.
See: www.cqc.org/contests.
- 10-18 Dec - North American Meteor Scatter Contest - any mode, 50, 144, 222, 432 MHz.
See: www.ykc.com/wa5ufh/Rally/NAHSMS.htm.
- 16 Dec - OK DX RTTY Contest - 80-10 meters.
See: www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM.
- 16 Dec - Russian 160 Meter Contest - CW/SSB.
See: www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results/index11.shtml.
- 16 Dec-1 Jan - Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party - all modes, 160-2 meters.
See: arlhs.com.
- 16-17 Dec - PSK31 Death Match - PSK31 and PSK63, 80-6 meters.
See: www.mdxal.org/deathmatch.html.
- 16-17 Dec - Croatian CW Contest - 160-10 meters.
See: www.hamradio.hr.
- 17 Dec - Holiday Spirits Homebrew CW Sprint - 160- 10 meters.
See: www.qrparci.org.
- 26 Dec - DARC Christmas Contest - CW/SSB, 80-40 meters.
See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcx.htm.
- 30 Dec - RAC Winter Contest - CW/Phone, 160-2 meters.
See: www.rac.ca/downloads/canwin2006.pdf.
- 30-31 Dec - Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge - CW, 160 meters.
See: jzap.com/k7rat/stew.rules.txt.
- 1 Jan - ARRL Straight Key Night - CW, all bands.
See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/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)	Payment Calculations:	Make checks payable to SCRA
Individual / Associate Member	\$24 (\$6.00/qtr)	Dues - Full Year	\$ _____
Family Membership	\$36 (\$9.00/qtr)	Dues - Prorated _____ Qtrs. x \$ _____/qtr	\$ _____
Under 18 Membership	\$18 (\$3.00/qtr)	Badge	\$ _____
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		Donation	\$ _____
		Total	\$ _____

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First Name _____
City _____

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Howard, W6HOC, Co-Mgr.
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Loren, W7AD, Mgr.
Tigard Office
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portland@hamradio.com

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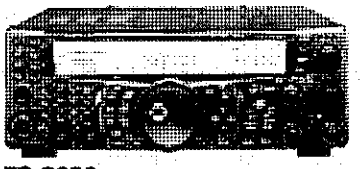
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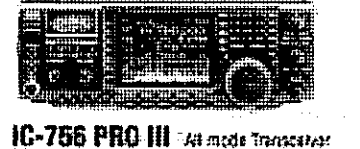
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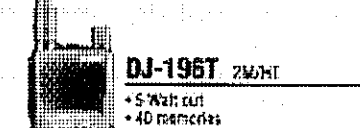


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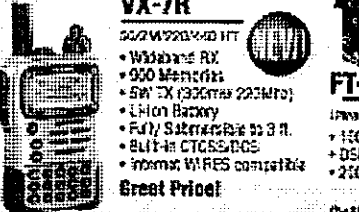


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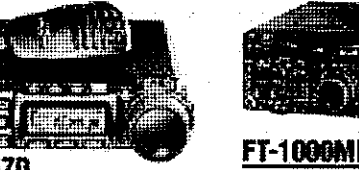
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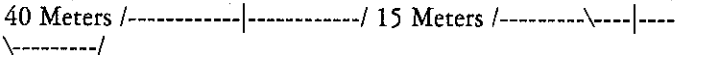
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MO&O DE TR 061103 - First Memorandum "Your Antenna has only Two Ends"

by Tracy Reese WB6TMY

MO&O in my case means "Memorandum, Opinion, and Ought-to-be." "TR" is my sine, that's S-I-N-E and it is a telegraphers name, usually written without quotation marks. A sine can be someone's initials, but more often it is something that makes a pattern in International Morse Code. In my case _ _ . Where I hang my hat lots of hams use sines. One rule though, if someone else in your office already has your sine you must pick another. Feel free to quote me, but be sure you spell my name right... That's TR.

Enough getting acquainted!
Did you know your antenna has only two ends? I forgot about it until this week; it's amazing what you can forget in over 40 years. I put up a 40 meter dipole tuned near 7,000 KHz on low end and fed it in the center with a piece of coax. Up on 15 it is resonant near 21,600 KHz. I was surprised that on the third harmonic the resonant point was higher instead of lower than 7 X 3. If I could forget that, I thought I'd pass it along in this first memorandum, maybe someone else could forget too.



One half wave on 40, three half waves on 15. Notice on 15 the half wave in the center has no ends on it, and no end effects to make it think it is longer.

A good way to measure an antenna is to run a wire from Support A to Support B. Pick the tallest trees you can find, and don't worry if they're on a neighbor's property, that's what front doors are for. Go to the door and ask permission; if it's given great! If not, pick two more end supports. After you've got your wire up start to "figure" on the trees swaying in the wind. If they sway apart, no problem, that's what counterweights are for, but if they swing together, and the counter weight rope lead doesn't have enough length, the end insulator will hit the pulley and your antenna will sag big time. When the trees open up in the wind cycle it will give a jolt that may bring down the antenna. Be careful not to get too greedy.

When you're hopeful it is the longest highest antenna you can get, lower it down, fold it in half and cut it right in the middle. Put up some home made open line on it and be very particular about the length of that feed line. It must be long enough to reach between your shack and the antenna. Too long, and too much sag, too short and it will jerk the antenna around just as if you had gotten greedy with the length between the trees. Bring it down to a nice swinging link tuner that will match ANYTHING and you're ready to start GETTING OUT! I've been doing that most of my life.

Please notice I didn't say anything in the above discussion about resonance or half waves. Someday when you have time on your hands, go down to the city library and go into the reference area. Look up some books on Broadcast Engineering, it will be educational. Engineers measure antennas in electrical degrees, efficiencies and angles of effective radiation. They're also interested in Effective Radiated Power and directional properties. You won't find much about half wave resonances and tuned feed lines. There have been broadcasting stations on the air now

since 1921 and really, the subject has been researched very thoroughly.

In a future memorandum I'll pass on some quick, easy, and cheap ways to make your own open line. It sure is a lot cheaper than coax.

I'm posting these memorandums on the web at http://www.radios.net/mo&o_de_tr.txt My ISP doesn't accept uppercase letters in it's web hosting, although you may be able to get away with that on your browser. Be sure to go into your IE browser and bring down the "View" menu. Under "Text Size" pick a value that displays on your screen without the words running off the end of the screen or being unduly small to read. You can e-mail me at <http://www.radios.net/spamfltr.htm>

I promise to write another one of these memorandums next month an-oh- I guess till I get tired of doing it or you guys get tired of reading them.



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2006 Golden Guardian/ EMSA Drill After Action Report

by Rich Freitas KF6SZ
Sonoma County ARES DEC

On November 15th, ARES personnel took part in the annual state-wide Golden Guardian/EMSA (Emergency Medical Services Authority) exercise. This year's drill scenario incorporated a 7.9 magnitude rupture of the San Andreas Fault and included Sonoma County as one of nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area that comprised the "Directly Affected Area" of the event; all other counties were to simulate mutual aid to this area. Estimates of the effects of an earthquake of this magnitude include 789,000 households without power, over 1 million households without water, 13,000 injuries requiring hospitalization, and 3,332 deaths. In addition, there are expected to be 200,000 to 300,000 displaced households and 60,000 to 120,000 persons requiring short-term shelter. Obviously, the need for emergency communications would be immense.

A net control station was established at 8:00 am at Blood Bank of the Redwoods to handle both local and statewide simulated emergency communications. At this point in the scenario, many hospitals had depleted their blood supply and were requesting additional supplies through their Blood Centers. Blood Centers were in contact with California Blood Bank Society (CBBS) Area Emergency Operations Centers (AEOCs) for blood supplies from mutual aid areas. The CBBS RadioNet was communicating between blood centers through the Sacramento AEOC.

Simulated local emergency communications were mainly conducted on the SCRA repeater on 147.315 MHz; check-in with the Sonoma County EOC through ACS was done on the 146.73 MHz repeater. Since the City of Santa Rosa has expressed the desire to have the local fire stations act as information contact points during a major disaster event, ARES members were dispatched to five of the eight locations. From their locations at Fire Stations 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7, messages utilizing standard formal Radiogram / ICS 213 format were passed. Messages were designed to simulate the types of information that would be collected from the CERTs (Community Emergency Response Team) and the general public.

For long-range contacts, CBBS communications between blood centers via HF was established on 7245 KHz (40 meters). Other HF frequencies in use during the exercise were Pacific Division ARES on 7232 KHz and Sacramento EOC on 7230 KHz. While we established and maintained contact with Blood Bank stations in San Luis Obispo and

San Bernardino, it was much more difficult to hear closer stations. ARES contacts within the San Francisco Section were established with Lake County and Mendocino County stations. Other ARES stations contacted that were participating in the drill were Alameda (East Bay Section) and the Nevada Section near Reno. At the same time we were also monitoring the State OES HF net.

Local communications on VHF for this exercise were reliable between all locations when operating both through the repeater and on simplex. All stations were operating mobile radios capable of 30W - 50W output and that allowed for fairly clear communications between even the "challenging" locations of Fire Station 5 (Fountaingrove) and Fire Station 7 (Oakmont). Monitoring a secondary frequency is possible with a single Net Control but the operation would become difficult should the traffic volume increase measurably. In a real disaster event, the VHF/UHF station will require separation from the HF station; two operators talking simultaneously in close proximity to each other results in confusion and requests for repeated messages.

HF long-range communications were a slightly different matter. First of all, the multi-band antenna is not optimized to the CBBS frequency; this needs to be accomplished as it is the primary purpose of the HF station. While the antenna is fairly narrow-band, it did function on the frequencies used. Potential optimization of the facility could also include an antenna tuner and/or a more efficient antenna. Furthermore, the installation of a NVIS antenna will be required for efficient communications between the Section ARES stations; the takeoff angle of the current HF antenna is too low for these shorter-range requirements. A low-mounted dipole or loop should be considered for this application. In addition, some attention must be given to "standard" emcomm net frequencies; the long-standing Pacific Division phone net on 7232 KHz is just too close to the 7230 KHz that was chosen by the State EOC and the middle of a disaster event is hardly the place to work out a band plan.

All in all, the exercise was a success and, for the most part, we were able to accomplish what we set out to do. The benefit of running field operations is that we were able to find out if things really work: we mobilized, we set up a communications net, we established and maintained contacts, and we effectively passed message traffic. We also learned a few things that we can improve on and that is the most important part of this type of drill.

*The ARES net meets on Mondays at 7:30 pm on the SCRA repeater on 147.315MHz, - offset, 88.5PL.
Members and guests are invited to check in anytime.*

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting, November 8, 2006 Minutes

1. Call to Order; Verification of Quorum - The meeting was called to order by President John Felton, KE5RI, at 6:39 pm. The meeting was held at John Felton's home. A quorum was present in that four voting board members were present.
2. Approval of Minutes - It was moved by Brian, N6IYY, that the minutes of the previous Board Meeting as printed in Short Skip be approved. The motion passed.
3. Officer and Director Reports
 - a. President - John, KE5RI, read a letter from a member regarding his past experiences in the club.
 - b. Vice President - Kevin, K6BSG, - Absent, no report.
 - c. Secretary - Rich, KF6SZA, - No report.
 - d. Treasurer - Brian, N6IYY, reported bank balances. It was motioned by Brian, N6IYY, that we pay current bills; the motion passed.
 - e. Directors -
 - i) Fred, KQ6OB, - No report.
 - ii) Jeff, KK6JAB, - Absent, no report.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Activities - Holiday Party: Brian, N6IYY, will make arrangements with the food supplier. John, KE5RI, will check on early entry into the hall. Brian, N6IYY, will coordinate RSVP's and submit a Short Skip article. Rich, KF6SZA, will provide Brian with a member address list for invitations.
 - b. ARES - Rich, KF6SZA, reported that a work party is being scheduled for 11/11 install the antenna pole at Red Cross.
 - c. Newsletter - There was continued discussion regarding the challenge of producing a quality email version of the newsletter.
 - d. Public Service - There was discussion regarding the possibility of an Operation North Pole at local hospitals in the future. John, KE5RI, read a letter to the Santa Rosa Cycling Club thanking them for their donation.
 - e. VE Session - Brian, N6IYY, reported that the next session will be on 12/9 at 9:00 am at BBR.
 - f. Repeater - Net Control Operators are scheduled through the month of December.
5. Unfinished Business -
 - a. The inventory is still not completed. Fred, KQ6OB, volunteered to help.
 - b. NARCC - John, KE5RI, read the wording of the recommended NARCC policy changes that were worked out with Bob Lanning. It was moved by Fred, KQ6OB, to accept the changes; the motion passed.
6. New Business -
 - a. There was discussion regarding the invitation to other clubs to attend upcoming programs.
 - b. There was discussion regarding the future of the Comm Van re: storage space and the need for the vehicle.
 - c. John, KE5RI, reported that a Member of the Year has been chosen. Fred, KQ6OB, moved that a plaque be purchased; the motion passed.
7. Adjournment - It was moved by Brian, N6IYY, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm. The motion passed.

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Meeting, November 1, 2006 Minutes

1. Call to Order; Verification of Quorum - The meeting was called to order by President John Felton, KE5RI, at 7:07 pm at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center.
 - a. Introductions
 - i) Officers & Directors - Introductions were dispensed with
 - ii) Visitors - None
 - iii) Program Introduction - Elections
 - iv) New Calls and Upgrades - None.
2. Approval of Minutes - It was moved by Dave, W6IBC, and seconded by Kevin, K6BSG, 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, reported that he had met with Bob Lanning of NARCC regarding SCRA's proposed changes to NARCC's policies and procedures.
 - b. Vice President - Kevin, K6BSG, reported on the picnic and fox hunt held last month.
 - c. Secretary - Rich, KF6SZA, - No Report.
 - d. Treasurer - Brian, N6IYY, reported bank balances.
 - e. Directors -
 - i) Fred, KQ6OB, - No Report.
 - ii) Jeff, KK6JAB, - Absent, No Report.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. ARES - Rich, KF6SZA, - Reported on upcoming training sessions: 11/20 - HAZMAT & Terrorism. This year's EMSA drill will be on November 15th; we plan to pass drill traffic statewide and members are encouraged to participate. The antenna pole for Red Cross is scheduled to be installed November 11th.
 - b. Newsletter - No Report. Appreciation was expressed to Vicki, KF6ZCT, for her work.
 - c. Public Service - Craig, K6XLT, presented the club with a check for \$1000 from the Santa Rosa Cycling Club in recognition of SCRA's support of their activities.
 - d. VE Liaison - Brian, N6IYY, reported that the next VE session will be held the 1st or 2nd Saturday of December.
 - e. Repeaters
 - i) Operations - All repeaters are working.
 - ii) Net Control Operators - 11/7: Dave, W6IBC; 11/14: Bob, WD6DPE; 11/21: Brian, N6IYY; 11/28: Kevin, K6BSG; 12/5: Fred, KQ6OB; 12/12: Brian, N6IYY; 12/19: Craig, K6XLT; 12/26: Kevin, K6BSG.
5. Unfinished Business
 - i) The Holiday Party is scheduled for December 6th. John, KE5RI, will check to see if we can get into the meeting room earlier than usual.
 - ii) There was general discussion regarding increasing membership attendance.
6. New Business - Nominations: Kevin, K6BSG, presented the nominating committee report. After discussion, the following slate was proposed: President: Dave, W6IBC; Vice President: Open; Treasurer: Brian, N6IYY; Secretary: Fred, KQ6OB; Director: Bob, KG6ZDN; Director: Pat, KG6JSL. It was moved and seconded by Bill, KH6GJV, and Michael, KC6UNA, that the slate of officers and directors be accepted; the motion passed. It was moved and seconded by KH6GJV, and Pat, KG6JSL, that nominations be closed; the motion passed. It was moved and seconded by Jim, KE6VGV, and Bill, KH6GJV, that the nominated officers and directors be approved by acclamation; the motion passed.
7. Adjournment - It was moved and seconded by Pat, KG6JSL, and Jim, KE6VGV, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:26 pm. The motion passed.