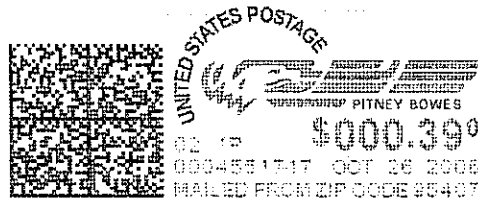


NOVEMBER 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00 PM SCRA Meeting Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center 2050 Yukapa Ave., Santa Rosa	2	3 7:00 PM Mesa ARC Meeting, Alto Clubhouse, 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley	4 10:00 AM ROVARC Meeting Red Oak Victory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

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

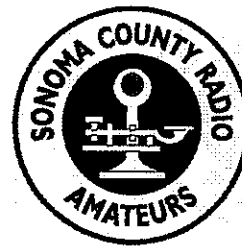
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W6LFJ

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 11

Short Skip

The Newsletter of
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

NOVEMBER 2006



President's Message

by
John Felton KE5RI
SCRA President

The annual SCRA Fox Hunt and Family Picnic has come and gone. We had fifteen people participate, including wives and grandchildren. The Fox Hunt kicked off promptly at 10 AM followed by a terrific hamburger BBQ cooked by Fred, KQ6OB. Delicious salads and deserts followed. The Fox Hunt turned out to be an interesting affair. Actually it was more of a learning experience than a contest of technical skill and speed. It turns out that none of us had any experience actually Fox Hunting. We were well read of course, but as to hands-on experience, we rated a zero. If we were really counting, since we had so much fun on the first try we decided to hide the Fox and do it again. Fred, KQ6OB, found it "first", twice. I could have found it first but that would not have been fair since I hid it both times. I had to pretend I did not know its whereabouts.

I stayed up late Friday night and finally managed to get the timer working. Using a 555 timer chip, two resistors, a capacitor and a relay with a protection diode, I set it for 8 seconds on and 70 seconds off. I connected it to the PPT input of a Yaesu VX-2R and set the power to minimum (100mW) with a transmit frequency of 146.44 Mhz. The timer was powered with an AA battery pack held together with black electrical tape. The power switch was fastened to the pack with hot glue. The first hunt was conducted with a stubby rubber duck antenna. This proved to be too powerful so for the second hunt I used a 50 Ohm dummy load in place of an antenna. This worked out to be the better of the two. The whole thing was packaged in a plastic, yellow jacket trap and hung in some out of the way brushes. Nobody would have "messed" with the trap! The El Cheapo DF antennas we built at the last meeting worked very well. Our next project may have to be an El Cheapo attenuator.

The November meeting will be held on Wednesday the

1st at our usual location. This is a very important meeting as it is time for our annual election. You can come and get practice for the BIG election that will be held the following Tuesday. [You do vote, don't you?] Our election is important, too. We will open the floor for nominations and then follow with a secret ballot. Please remember, this is your club and your vote is essential. Also remember that this is your chance to help determine the club's direction for the coming year. I have "termed out" and will be serving one more year on the Board as your outgoing President. This is an "at large" position". (No jokes please!)

We accomplished much this past year and put to rest some of our biggest challenges. Now it is time for others to step forward and help us continue our progress. I know we all have busy schedules but I encourage you to take your turn a bat. I feel that it is unfair to depend on the same people year in and year out. Serving on the Board of Directors takes requires only one additional meeting per month. Board meetings usually last about an hour and a half. That is not asking too much.

73 for now, I hope to see you all at our next meeting.

John Felton, KE5RI, President

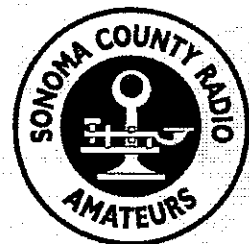
On the Public Service Front

On the Public Service Front, all is quiet. It seems like it was a busy year yet we only worked some 5 events: MSWalk, Human Race, Wine Country Century, Terrible Two, and MS Waves to Wine. At a recent postmortem meeting of the MS Waves to Wine Steering Committee, for which yours truly attended in addition to way too many prep meetings, much praise was bestowed on the hams that worked the event, particularly for the net control ops for keeping cool heads and bailing them (MS Folks) out of some tight spots. In working with the MS folks they kept asking me to send our guys in for some volunteer orientation meetings. I gently but firmly reminded them that my guys did not need to go to another meeting (in Oakland no less) and that they know what they're doing. They now understand that indeed the SCRA hams know how to handle these events - kudos to all.

I expect that next year's slate will look much the same. Before the TT though we will need a couple of folks to go out and work on communications logistics up around the Camp Gualala area. This area has always been in the dark, and as the event organizer, I know that we need to change this. We've been lucky (speaking as SRCC) to have not had any serious incidents. I hope too that everyone who assists in public service events for the WCC

continued on page 6



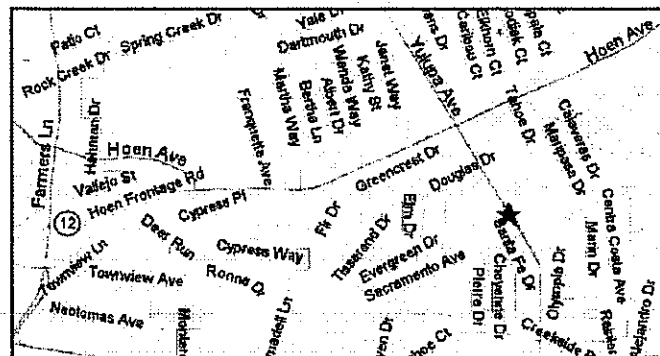


SCRA Club Meetings

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

Next meeting is Wednesday, November 1st 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.pdarrrl.org/sfsec/>

2006 Club Officers

President	John Felton	KE5RI	707 539-5831
Vice President	Kevin Alt	K6BSG	707 753-1783
Secretary	Rich Freitas	KE6SZA	707 578-9335
Treasurer	Brian Torr	N6IHY	707 575-5871
Director	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ6OB	
Director	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707 542-3860
Past President	John Felton	KE5RI	707 539-5831
Public Service Chairman	Craig Gaavert	K6XLT	707 545-4133
Repeater Chairman	John Felton	KE5RI	707 539-5831

Short Skip & Web Staff

Editor	Vicki Cero	KF6ZCT	415 279-3859
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	N6IHY	707 575-5871
ARRL DXCC/WAS Mgr	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	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 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

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Contest Corner

by Kevin Alt K6BSG

Hello testers. Not a huge number of contests, but a couple of major ones: ARRL Sweepstakes next weekend, and CQWW CW contest over Thanksgiving weekend. How about working off some of that turkey with your keyer? Happy DX'ing!

- 4 Nov - IPA Contest - 80-10 meters.
See: www.ipa-rc.de.
- 4-5 Nov - Ukrainian DX Contest - CW/SSB/RTTY, 160-10 meters.
See: www.ucc.zp.ua.
- 4-5 Nov - Radio Club of America QSO Party - SSB/AM, 80-15 meters.
See: www.radioclubofamerica.org.
- 4-6 Nov - ARRL November Sweepstakes - CW, 160-10 meters.
See: www.arrl.org/contests.
- 4-6 Nov - North American Collegiate ARC Championship - CW, 160-10 meters.
See: www.collegiatechampionship.org.
- 5 Nov - High Speed Club CW Contest - 80-10 meters.
See: www.dl3hzz.de.
- 5 Nov - DARC 10 Meter Digital "Corona" RTTY/AMTOR/PACTOR/PSK31/Clover.
See: www.darc.de/teferate/dx/cqdlcont/fgdcc.htm.
- 11-12 Nov - Kentucky QSO Party - CW/Phone, 160-10 meters.
For more information: k4txj@arrl.net.
- 11-12 Nov - ARRL EME Contest - 50-1296 MHz.
See: www.arrl.org/contests.
- 11-12 Nov - Japan International DX Contest - Phone, 80-10 meters.
See: jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html.
- 11-12 Nov - Worked All Europe DX Contest (WAEDC) - RTTY, 80-10 meters.
See: www.waedc.de.
- 11-12 Nov - OK/OM DX Contest - CW, 160-10 meters.
See: okomdx.radioamater.cz.
- 11-13 Nov - CQ WE (Western Electric) - CW/Phone/Digital, 160 meters-70 centimeters.
See: cqwe.choh.org.
- 18-19 Nov - LZ DX Contest - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters.
See: www.qsl.net/lz1fw/contest.
- 18-19 Nov - RSGB 1.8MHz Contest - CW, 160 meters.
See: www.rsghfcc.org.
- 18-20 Nov - ARRL November Sweepstakes - Phone, 160-10 meters.
See: www.arrl.org/contests.
- 18-20 Nov - North American Collegiate ARC Championship - Phone, 160-10 meters.
See: www.collegiatechampionship.org.
- 25-26 Nov - CQ WW DX Contest - CW, 160-10 meters.
See: cqww.com.

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 _____ Qtrs. x \$ _____/qtr	\$ _____
Badge	\$ _____
Other - _____	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

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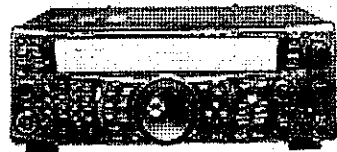
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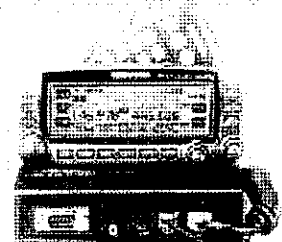
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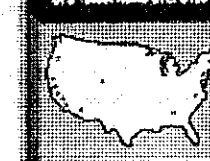
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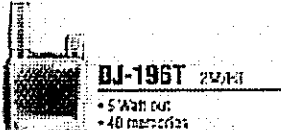


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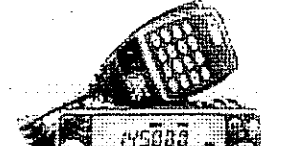
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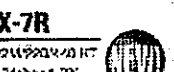


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- 50W V-F 35W UHF
• 900 Memories
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Great Price!



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• 100W HF/VA, 50W 2M, 20W UHF
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- Unmatched Digital Signal Processing
• Dual RX
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• 200W, External power supply

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On the Public Service Front...continued from page 1

and the TT realizes that your participation and skills are always appreciated by Santa Rosa Cycling Club. I'll be the bearer of a tidy check from SRCC at the club meeting in appreciation for SCRA's continued commitment to the events.

Note too that we are getting some help from hams outside of our group. Bill Hillendahl and myself began last year by offering our assistance to Marin Amateur Radio Society with their support of the Marin Cyclists Double Century in August. My motivation was to see how other clubs handle public service events and what they do that we could benefit from.

Thanks to these hams for participating in events this year, in no particular order: AA6YX, K6BSG, K6JEB, K6ZLG, KA6BQF (Marin ARS), KB6AQW, KC6WYX, KD6OTC, KE6EAQ, KE6EAO, KE6VGV, KG6BHI, KG6JSL, KG6RDA (Palo Alto), KG6WPN (Marin ARS), KG6ZDN, KH6GJV, KI6AIB, KI6DUB, KK6JAB, KQ6OB, N6IIV, N6SBS, W6IBC, W6SQQ (Marin ARS), WA6NIV, WD6DPE.

See you next year, 73s, Craig Gaevert K6XLT, Public Service Coordinator

Photos from the 2 Annual Wienie Roast/Fox Hunt

by John Felton KE5RI



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Served Agency Background Checks

by Rich Freitas KF6SZ
Sonoma County ARES DEC

Some time ago, after the 9/11 disaster, it was made clear that volunteer workers for government agencies, and disaster agencies working with the government, were required to pass the NIMS (National Incident Management System) training before being allowed to volunteer for future emergency events. As a result, many of you attended the training class that was offered and now have that certification. For those of you who are serious about emergency communications, I am now asking you to take another step as first responders.

The Red Cross said their national policy requires everyone that works in a Red Cross Shelter to have a background check on file. This includes persons that are signed up at the last minute. The Red Cross has a contract with an on-line company that performs background checks. There is a fee for each background check and the Red Cross is currently picking up the cost. The results are only sent to one local Red Cross office. The Web site is <<http://www.mybackgroundcheck.com/arcvts>> and you must select the state map and then the local chapter. The request only takes a minute to fill out and results are emailed back to you within a couple of days with a certificate for your files.

After requests for clarification on this policy from ARRL HQ, Red Cross supplied this statement:

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYEES

In the aftermath of a huge visible disaster such as Hurricane Katrina there are several post-evaluations that occur looking at systems, procedures, protocols and overall response to determine what systems could be more efficient. Recently, the American Red Cross established a policy mandating that all volunteers undergo a criminal background check, just as their employees have done in the past. The intent of this policy is to safeguard the clients, volunteers and employees. The organization has contracted with a private company to perform these background checks and has provided a means for their volunteers to apply for the background checks without disclosing any confidential information to a Red Cross volunteer or employee. Prospective volunteers can go to a secure online website and only need to submit their full name and social security number to the contracted company. No additional information is needed.

The overall results of the background check are not shared with the Red Cross. The only information provided is that a person has successfully completed the background check with no adverse information or that a person has potentially adverse information and that additional research is required. When additional research is required the contracted company will notify the prospective volunteer and will address the issue with no Red Cross intervention.

Several people have indicated the desire to go to their local law enforcement agency rather than use the private contracted company. Because the American Red Cross is not a governmental agency, as required by their guidance of impartiality, it is unlawful for a law enforcement agency to share this information with the Red Cross. This requires them to use the private, contracted firm. Also, many have expressed concern about the use of their social security number, however this is required to be assured that the background check is being performed on the right person. The Red Cross has gone to great lengths to make sure the prospective volunteer is not giving out their social security number to anyone other than the contracted company and then only through a secure, encrypted website.

Unfortunately, in this day and age it is critical that the American Red Cross and other agencies, employers and organizations perform due diligence in researching the people who will represent them. We hope volunteers, who have provided blood, sweat and tears in helping fulfill the mission of the American Red Cross, will understand the importance of performing this due diligence.

Any questions regarding this program can be directed to <backgroundchecks@usa.redcross.org> or 1(800)507-3960.

This may significantly impact Amateur Radio operators in the future. ARES membership will not allow you access to a Red Cross shelter unless you have a background check. I believe it is only a matter of time before these procedures apply to Salvation Army, Blood Bank of the Redwoods, and other like organizations that are our served agencies. The city and county EOCs and communication centers will not permit anyone inside the centers that does not have the appropriate ID card. With the additional emphasis on security, this is going to be a bigger problem in the future. Homeland Security is pushing for a single national ID for government first responders.

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, October 17, 2006 Minutes

Board Members Present: John Felton, KE5RI; Kevin, K6BSG; Rich Freitas, KF6SZA; Fred, KQ6OB; and Brian Torr, N6IY. Jeff, KK6JAB, was absent.

Guests Present: None.

1. Call to Order; Verification of Quorum – The meeting was called to order by President John Felton, KE5RI, at 6:40 pm. The meeting was held at John Felton's home. A quorum was present in that five voting board members were present.
2. Approval of Minutes – It was moved by Kevin, K6BSG, 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, - No report.
 - b. Vice President – Kevin, K6BSG, - No report.
 - c. Secretary – Rich, KF6SZA, - No report.
 - d. Treasurer – Brian, N6IY, reported bank balances.
 - e. Directors –
 - i) Fred, KQ6OB, - No report.
 - ii) Jeff, KK6JAB, - Absent, no report.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. ARES – Rich, KF6SZA, reported that a work party is being scheduled for 10/28 to tune the antenna at BBR.
 - b. Activities – The club picnic is schedule for this coming Saturday at Howarth Park. John, KE5RI, will send out an email invitation to the membership and Fred, KQ6OB, will gather RSVP's. The Fox Hunt is scheduled to begin at 10:00 am and the picnic BBQ at 12:00 noon. The Fox frequency is 146.55 MHz and Talk-In is on the 147.315 MHz repeater.
 - c. Newsletter – Rich, KF6SZA, provided Fred, KQ6OB, with an electronic file copy of the newsletter to further explore the problems of email format.
 - d. Public Service – No report.
 - e. VE Session – Brian, N6IY, reported that the next session will be on 11/18 at BBR.
 - f. Repeater – Net Control Operators are scheduled through the month of November.
5. Unfinished Business –
 - a. Programs – John, KE5RI, will see if Greg, AC6VJ, will do a presentation on IRLP.
 - b. NARCC – John, KE5RI, is meeting with Bob Lanning next Thursday regarding the final wording of the recommended NARCC policy changes.
 - c. Elections – Kevin, K6BSG, is leading the nominating committee and will post a notice on the email reflector.
6. New Business – Member of the Year Committee – A meeting has been scheduled.
7. Adjournment – It was moved by Kevin, K6BSG, to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm. The motion passed.

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Meeting, October 4, 2006 Minutes

1. Call to Order; Verification of Quorum – The meeting was called to order by President John Felton, KE5RI, at 7:08 pm at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center.
 - a. Introductions
 - i) Officers & Directors – self-introductions were made.
 - ii) Visitors – None
 - iii) Program Introduction – DF Antenna Construction for FOX Hunting
 - iv) New Calls and Upgrades – None.
2. Approval of Minutes – It was moved by Dave, W6IBC, and seconded by Jeff, KI6DUB, 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 – Brian, N6IY, 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: 10/9 – Natural Disasters Part 2; 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.
 - b. Newsletter – No Report. Appreciation was expressed to Vicki, KF6ZCT, for her work.
 - c. Public Service – There are no upcoming public service events for the balance of the year. Bill, KH6GJV, mentioned that the Marin ARC is looking for help with the Swim to Alcatraz event on November 13, 14 & 15.
 - d. VE Liaison – Brian, N6IY, reported that the next VE session will be in mid-November.
 - e. Repeaters
 - i) Operations – All repeaters are working. Bill, KH6GJV, reported that he and Greg, AC6VJ, went to the Geysers site to check on the cause of the "double-beep"; Greg will swap out the controller to see if the problem is corrected.
 - ii) Net Control Operators – 10/10: Brian, N6IY; 10/17: Craig, K6XLT; 10/24: Fred, KQ6OB; 10/31: Kevin, K6BSG; 11/7: Dave, W6IBC; 11/14: Bob, WD6DPE; 11/21: Brian, N6IY; 11/28: Kevin, K6BSG.
5. Unfinished Business – The Family Picnic and FOX Hunt on October 21st at Howarth Park was discussed.
6. New Business – Nominations: Kevin, K6BSG, will send out emails asking for nominations for next year's officers.
7. Biography – Rollie, AQW, relayed his interest and entry in amateur radio.
8. Show & Tell – John, KE5RI, told of the screwdriver antenna autotuner that he built.
9. Adjournment – It was moved and seconded by Fred, KQ6OB, and Rollie, AQW, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:38 pm. The motion passed.