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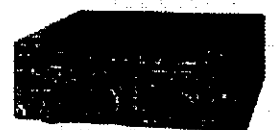
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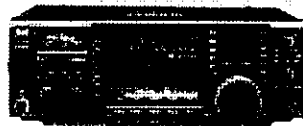
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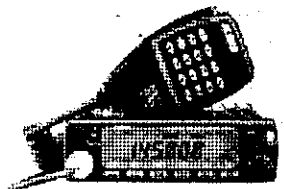
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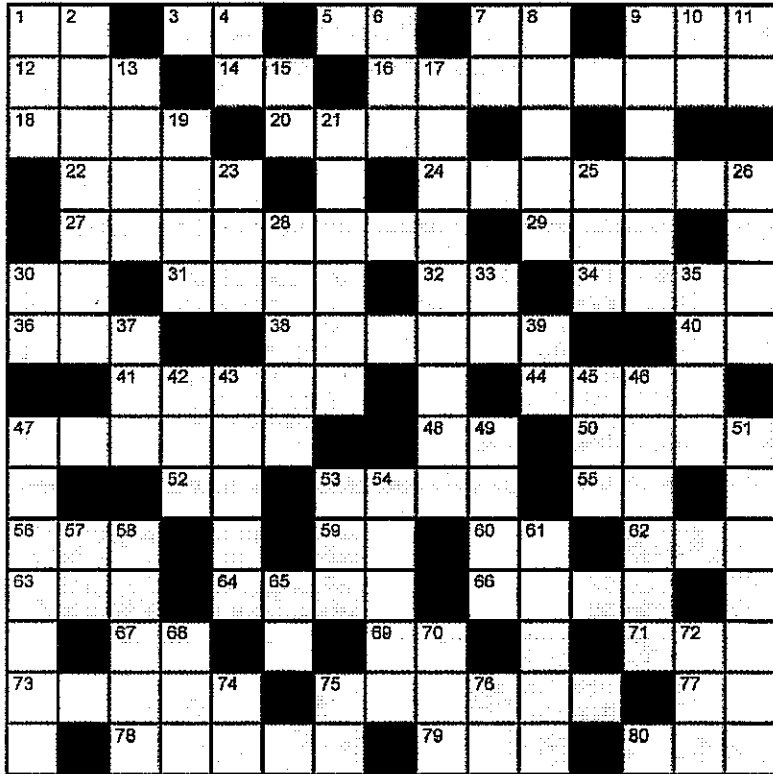
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Riding the Air Waves

The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzle

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX February 16, 2007

Not the usual ham air waves...literally the air this time. Since your puzzle editor is currently on a plane, you get to join me! This week's puzzle tends to steer in the direction of all things airplane--some radio, some aviation, and the usual collection of oddballs. Fold down that tray table and see if you can finish before the captain starts your descent!



Across

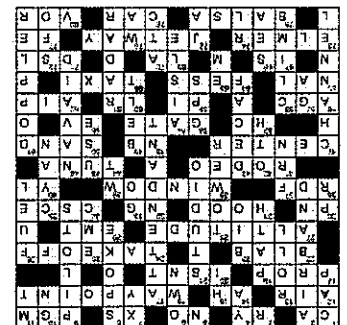
- 1. Sixth district (postal code)
- 3. RTTY tuning signal
- 5. Negative reply
- 7. Too much (slang abbr)
- 9. Software (abbr)
- 12. What planes travel through
- 14. Measure of battery energy
- 16. Air travel checkpoint
- 18. Bladed device that propels
- 20. Proper form of ain't
- 22. Divulge a secret
- 24. Leave the ground
- 27. Height above ground
- 29. Conduit material
- 30. Semiconductor junction
- 31. Worn to simulate darkness in a simulator
- 32. Doesn't work (abbr)
- 34. Documents the passing of an element
- 36. Find bearing to a transmitter (abbr)
- 38. Seat at the side of the plane
- 40. Female ham

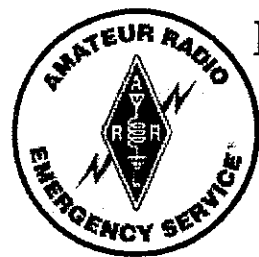
- 41. Western contest
- 44. Round tin that held a famous QRP transmitter
- 47. The worst seat of three in a row
- 48. Canadian postal code for VE9
- 50. Natural form of silicon dioxide
- 52. The equator runs through it (SA prefix)
- 53. Where you embark or disembark
- 55. Battery-powered auto
- 56. Keeps volume constant
- 59. Radians in half a circle
- 60. Opposite of UD on a joystick
- 62. Improves strong-signal capability on Kenwood rigs
- 63. Formal notice of fine from FCC
- 64. Admit (slang)
- 66. Move to a runway
- 67. Opposite of 20 Across
- 69. Mississippi delta state (postal code)
- 71. Broadband technology
- 73. Radio mentor
- 75. Walk through this between the plane & terminal
- 77. Iron's chemical symbol
- 78. Light wood

- 79. Alternate form of transport to planes
- 80. Navigation station

Down

- 1. Limit or maximum
- 2. Frequency range used by pilots
- 4. Afghanistan prefix
- 6. Possess
- 7. Cartesian coordinates
- 8. Connections to a hub
- 9. Airplane drivers
- 10. After-dinner CW farewell
- 11. Has no contents (abbr)
- 13. Tip to the right or left
- 15. CW laugh
- 17. Service person in the air
- 19. Airplane trajectory
- 21. Production facility for audio-video
- 23. Personal history (abbr)
- 25. General term for EMI, RFI, TVI (abbr)
- 26. Put gas in the plane
- 28. Field control
- 30. Two of something (abbr)
- 33. Proceed
- 35. The blue-ish color in a three-color system
- 37. Your FCC ID
- 39. Weight (abbr)
- 42. Radars that look over the curve of the earth
- 43. Non-stimulating coffee
- 45. Put to work
- 46. General name of navigation station
- 47. Selected for communications
- 49. Must be fastened securely before takeoff
- 51. Shift in frequency due to velocity
- 53. Satellite navigation system
- 54. Seat easiest to get in and out of
- 57. Wire size (abbr)
- 58. Increase 27 Across
- 61. Determines range & bearing by using radio pulses
- 65. Electromagnetic (abbr)
- 68. What a plane might ditch into
- 70. The system that controls air travel
- 72. Third Silicon Valley airport along with OAK and SJC
- 74. Circuits that delay changes in current
- 75. Ham prefix in Tokyo
- 76. Original home of Boeing Aircraft Company (postal code)





Rich's Rules to Remember

by Rich Freitas KF6SZA
Sonoma County ARES
District Emergency Coordinator

For those of you who attended the ARES presentation at the last SCRA meeting, this article may be partially redundant. However, I had a request to print the "Rich's Rules to Remember" that were included in the presentation and this seemed like the perfect opportunity to elaborate on my statements.

On the surface, some of these statements may sound humorous, even laughable. As you will see, each of these also has a serious side that bears your attention.

- There is no "perfect" kit. Everyone's needs are different just as every event is different. Think about what might happen in your area and the items that may be important to have in each potential situation.

- Wool is light, fire resistant, and maintains its insulating properties when wet. Many natural fibers can serve more than one purpose. The latest aluminized 'space blanket' won't do any good when it's wet and synthetic materials melt when they get hot.

- In a survival situation you live as long as your feet do. Take good care of your feet ... keep them warm and dry. Think about trying to outrun a raging fire when you can barely walk; it's not a pretty picture.

- If you don't understand what's going on, back off until you do understand. Doing nothing in a critical event will usually not make a bad situation any worse; doing the wrong thing in a critical event can definitely make matters worse. Don't take the chance of compounding the problem because you made the wrong choice.

- You can live to be ninety without a Rambo knife but hypothermia or dehydration will kill you dead'er'n dirt by this time tomorrow. It's easy to neglect your bodily needs when you're in an emergency situation and your adrenaline is flowing. Stay warm and hydrated, get as much rest as you can, and try to get some 'down time' if you can. The latest whiz-bang gadgets will do you no good when you're cold, tired, and thirsty and you can't help anyone if you become a casualty.

- A terrorist attack is just a badly-placarded HAZMAT incident. Think about it. The causes may be different but the end results are the same. Your reaction to the situation should also be the same.

- Half-a-tank of gas is empty. Refuel now. If you were asked to evacuate or respond immediately, how far could you go? Remember ... the gas pumps won't work when

the power is out! Keep AT LEAST a half tank of gas in your car. Besides, your neighbors will get really upset if you have to siphon gas out of their tank!

- In a survival situation you'll be astounded by how far a car can go with no radiator, no oil, and no tires. This is true ... Have you ever watched 'Mythbusters' on TV? Your typical automobile engine can run for hours with virtually no cooling and you can always drive on the rims if the tires are flat. Keep in mind that your car is much more expendable than you.

- Some situations are non-survivable. Think ahead. Stay out of those situations. I can't say enough about this one. Use common sense; think about the situation and the implications of any action you may take. It's great to be a hero but adding yourself to the body count accomplishes nothing and it makes someone else's day a lot worse.

- Never ignore a warning, even if it doesn't make sense to you at the time. A warning means that someone thought of a scenario that may cause you bodily harm. Even if you can't understand their logic, you should realize that there are some things you don't know and those are the things that can hurt you.

- What you have in your head is the most important survival/first aid equipment of all. This is the most important of all. Besides common sense, your training to handle various situations can, and will, make the difference in a critical event. Effective training has a 'double' benefit; not only are you able to help others but you don't have to be on the list of people who need to be helped. I firmly believe, "In time of crisis we will not rise to the occasion ... We will sink to the level of our training".

The ARES net meets on Mondays at 7:30 pm on 147.315MHz, + offset, 88.5PL. All members and guests are invited to check in.



Dave, W6IBC, sent along this photo of Rich, KF6SZA, our club's emergency response chairman, and the ARRL Sonoma County District Emergency Coordinator.

The photo was taken during Rich's presentation on Amateur Radio Emergency Response at the February 2007 SCRA general meeting.

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting, February 13, 2007 Minutes

Board Members Present: David Harrison W6IBC, Fred Polkinghorn KQ6OB, Brian Torr N6IYY, Bob Arthur KG6ZDN, Pat Coyle KG6JSL, John Felton KE5RI. Guest Present: None

1. Call to Order: Verification of Quorum – President Dave Harrison, W6IBC called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM. The meeting was held at Narsi's Restaurant, Santa Rosa. A quorum was present.
2. Approval of Minutes – John KE6RI made a motion that the minutes of January 10, 2007 meeting be approved. The motion passed.
3. Officer and Director Reports
 - a. President – Dave W6IBC- No report
 - b. Secretary – Fred KQ6OB – No report
 - c. Treasurer – Brian N6IYY – Reported bank balances. It was motioned by Brian, that we pay current bills. The motion passed. Fred KQ6OB to send Brian information for signature authorization card.
 - d. Directors
 - i) Bob KG6ZDN – No report.
 - ii) Pat KG6JSL – No report

Old Business

1. Inventory of Club Assets – Dave W6IBC discussed club assets and repeater inventory with Greg AC6VJ and Bill KH6GJV. We now have a much better idea of the location of the club asset. Our goal is to complete the inventory of club assets by Field Day.
2. Club Audit – Brian N6IYY reported that he will be ready for an audit next week. Brian N6IYY and Pat KG6JSL will conduct the audit before the next meeting.
3. Comm. Van – A motion passed at the last club meeting to sell the Comm. Van as is. Brian N6IYY to get information to Bob KG6ZDN so that he can prepare a selling price. A work party is needed to prepare the Comm. Van for sale. The running lights need to be installed and the battery needs to be charged. Bob KG6ZDN to look into the best place to sell the van. Suggestions were E-bay, Craig's List and the Sell it yourself lot at the Fair grounds.
4. News Line – Brian N7MOE has been presenting News Line as a part of the club net on Tuesday nights. Brian would like to be relieved of this duty. Dave W6IBC indicated that there should be some ongoing discussions and that this item should be tabled until the next meeting.
5. Update on Corporation Status – Pat KG6JSL indicated that he is waiting for the corporation records from Sacramento. There was a discussion of possible changes to the bylaws. These included a) dropping the one year membership requirement for the directors at large. Officers would still be required to be club members for a minimum of one year before being elected. b) Reasonable prior notice should be given for Board meetings by e-mail and/or an announcement on the club net.
6. Repeater – John KE5RI recommended that the club purchase a new amplifier made by TE Systems. The amp is a 1410 RA with 160-200 amps output. The cost is \$600. The board authorized John to proceed with the purchase. John will also look into purchasing a dummy load and circulator. He will also determine whether the current power supply(s) will be adequate for the new equipment.

New Business

1. Budget for 2007 – Brian N6IYY reviewed the expenditure for 2006 and the proposed budget for 2007. Major expenses for 2006 were the newsletter, comm. Van and hall rental. John KE5RI motioned that the proposed budget be accepted. Pat KG6JSL seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc. Membership Meeting, February 7, 2007 Minutes

1. Call to Order – President Dave W6IBC called the meeting to order at 7:05 at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center.
2. Introductions – Dave W6IBC introduced the board.
3. Program – Rich KF6SZA, the ARES District Emergency Coordinator, gave an excellent presentation on Emergency Preparedness. Rich started the program with two short videos. The first was Katrina – The Untold Story that documented the role of amateur radio during that disaster. The second was on CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). Rich's PowerPoint presentation covered the various kinds of disasters which could strike Sonoma County and our need to be prepared. The biggest potential disaster is earthquakes. The Rogers Creek Fault runs right through downtown Santa Rosa. The police department, sheriff department and all of the hospitals are located very close to this fault. If there was an earthquake of 7.8, the death toll in Santa Rosa could be as high as 1,500 people. It is very important that everyone is prepared as it maybe as much as a week before water and electricity could be restored. Every family should have a disaster plan and build disaster kits for their homes, cars and workplace. Everyone should get training in first aid, CPR and CERTs. ARES needs additional trained amateurs to handle the needs of our Served Agencies. Currently ARES is working with the Blood Bank of the Redwoods, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. The city of Santa Rosa has also asked ARES to provide communications for their COPE program which would require amateur radio stations at the 10 fire houses. Anyone interested in joining ARES should contact Rich Freitas. ARES has several training meetings and Simulated Emergency Test several times a year. Additional sources of training include the ARRL Emcomm courses and the FEMA ICS and NIMS courses. All of these courses are available on line. Rich closed his talk with a reminder that there will be as Safety Fair in downtown Santa Rosa on April 14.
4. Business Meeting
 - a. Secretary's Report – Rich Freitas' name and call sign were miss-spelled in the minutes of the January meeting. John KE5RI made a motion that the minutes be approved with these corrections. The motion was seconded by Rich KF6SZA and passed by the members present.
 - b. Treasurer's Report – Brian N6IYY gave the financial status of the club. We are solvent.
 - c. VE Sessions – Brian N6IYY announced that the next VE session will be in March. With the change in the rules, anyone who has passed the General Class written exam and has a current CSCE is now eligible to upgrade to a General Class License. All they need to do is to bring their CSCE element 3 documentation showing that they passed the test to the next VE session.
 - d. Repeater Committee – John Felton reported that the old amplifier cannot be repaired. Bill KH6GJV made a motion to authorize the club to spend up to \$1000 to replace the amplifier and accessories. The motion was seconded by Craig K6XLT and passed by the club members present.
 - e. Public Service – Craig K6XLT passed around a sign up sheet for the first major service events which are the Wine Country Century Bike Race on May 5 and the Human Race on May 12. He also announced that the city of Santa Rosa is looking for volunteers for the Tour of California.
 - f. ARES – Rich KF6SZA reported that ARES had a training meeting last Monday night. He also invited all club members

continued on page 8

continued from page 7 - Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

2. Club Generator – The club authorized the Board to sell the club generator. Dave W6IBC volunteered to look into the best way to sell this asset.
3. Field Day Location – Dave W6IBC visited the Group Camp Site and Spring Lake and does not feel it would be adequate for Field Day. Several other sites were discussed. Brian N6IYY will look into possible sites at Youth Park and Warm Springs. John KE5RI will check whether the site at Oakmont would be available again this year. Dave W6IBC will check whether Kevin K6BSG will agree to head up Field Day this year.
4. Field Trip to KPH – Dave W6IBC will work on arrangements for the trip to KPH. It was agreed to move the trip back to April.
5. Club Mail Box – Brian N6IYY now has the key to the club mailbox. He will take the responsibility to pick up the mail each month.
6. Club Mentoring Program – The club has received several requests for mentors from the club. Brian N6IYY agreed to head up a Mentoring Committee. He will send out a questionnaire asking club members for their areas of expertise and whether they would be willing to serve as mentors.
7. Technical Committee – After some discussion, the Board agreed to form a Technical committee. John KE5RI agreed to chair this committee.

Fred KQ6OB moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15. John KE5RI seconded it. The motion passed.

continued from page 7 - Membership Meeting Minutes

to check in on the ARES net each Monday at 7:30 PM.

g. Net Control – The following individuals have volunteered to be Net Control Operators in March: Craig, K6XLT 3/6, Dave W6IBC 2/13, John KE5RI 3/20 and Brian N6IYY 3/27.

h. Short Skip – The board is making progress in providing Short Skip via e-mail. We are still looking for a small file format which will be easy to download.

i. Comm. Van – Dave indicated that we either need a sponsor to take over the Comm Van or get rid of it. There was an original motion to fix up the van and sell it. After a short discussion, it was suggested that we sell it "as is". Craig K6XLT made a second motion authorizing the board to sell the van "as is". Greg AC6VJ seconded the motion. The second motion passed.

j. Club Generator – It was also suggested that the club generator be sold at the same time as the Comm Van. A motion was made by Greg AC6VJ and seconded by Mike KC6UNA. The motion passed.

k. Legal Status of Club – Dave W6IBC reported that the club is a non-profit corporation but does not have 501C3 status. The board would like to get this status so that dues and donations would be tax deductible. Board Member Pat KG6JSL is in the process of preparing amendments to the bylaws so that we can apply for 501C3 status. Dave assured the club that the old bylaw articles will be preserved as much as possible. Bill KH6GJV indicated that the amateur radio club in Humboldt country has obtained 501C3 status and that Pat should contact Marcy Campbell.

l. Tentative Programs for 2007 – Dave W6IBC reported that the board had a planning meeting on Saturday, February 3rd. He presented a tentative list of programs and activities for the rest of the year. Tracy WB6TMY has agreed to give a presentation on the KPH radio station at the March 7, 2006, meeting.

m. New No Code Tech Privileges – Dave W6IBC handed out a summary showing the new privileges for Technician Class members.

n. Adjournment – it was moved by Rollie WB6AQW to adjourn the meeting at 9:10. Bob WD6DPE seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Public Service Schedule for 2007, so far:

by Craig Gaevert
Public Service Wrangler

- March 4 ~ Napa Valley Marathon (thru Marin ARS)
May 5 ~ Wine Country Century (Santa Rosa Cycling Club)
May 5-6 ~ The Relay 2007 (also thru Marin ARS)
May 12 ~ Human Race (Volunteer Center)
June 16 ~ Terrible Two (Santa Rosa Cycling Club)
Sept. 29-30 ~ Waves to Wine (MS Society of N. Cal)

While we are not 'actively' involved with Marin's support of the Napa Valley Marathon, they can always use some help. Those of you new to ham radio don't be afraid to join your seasoned vets on these events. You'll get good support and good practice time at message handling. Plus Santa Rosa Cycling Club makes sure you get plenty to eat. Remember, volunteer early for the best spots.

Craig K6XLT

SCRA Program Ideas for 2007

- March 7: Maritime Radio at Pt Reyes (WB6TMY)
April 4: Net Control, Public Service, APRS (N6IYY)
May 2: Antennas and Analyzers (NX6S)
June 6: Digital Modes and Field Day Final Prep
July 5 (Thurs): Setting Up a Station, Field Day Debr
August 1: Boatanchor and Homebrew Night
Sept 5: Amateur TV
Oct 3: Test Equipment Night: How and Why
Nov 7: D-Star and Club Election
Dec 7 (Fri): Holiday Party
Jan 2 ('08): Earth Station-Satellite Communications

What's In A (Club) Name?

by Brian Torr N6IYY

A few months ago, I purchased 34 years of QST magazine on CD-ROM (I needed to re-claim the shelf space that was occupied by 25 years worth QST magazines). When I got the CD-ROMs, I decided to look through the Field Day Results of each year to see how SCRA did over those 34 years. As I searched for the SCRA entries, I noticed the names of some of the other "clubs" that submitted Field Day entries. Here is a sample, along with my guesses as to how they got their name:

- Four H Minus 1 Club (Hank, Herb, and Horatio; Hubert couldn't make it)
- The Poison Ivy Rainmakers Wireless Assoc. (calamine lotion and umbrellas are kept at the ready)
- Dingaling Ner Group (They're not all playing with a full deck)

My first reaction was that these folks are out to have fun for Field Day and not above joking about their mishaps and shortcomings. In a way, I was little bit jealous. By comparison, "Sonoma County Radio Amateurs" seems like a pretty boring club name!

But does a boring club name mean that the club itself is boring? Absolutely not!

A club name is merely an indication of what most, if not all, the members have in common. In the case of SCRA, most all of our members are in Sonoma County (we do have a few outside of Sonoma County). Our members are not focused on just one or two aspect of ham radio. Collectively, our member's interests span practically every aspect of ham radio. On the other hand, "Redwood Empire DX Association" implies that its members are in the Redwood Empire and have an interest in DX. Many of those SCRA members whose interests include DX are also members of REDXA.

What keeps a club from being boring? Active leadership and active members. In 2006, I felt that SCRA experienced an upsurge in activity, and I think this upsurge can continue to an even greater extent in 2007. But it takes active members to make this happen.

Please try to help out in whatever way you can this year. We are planning a lot of activities this year. Field Day will be the biggest one, but there will be several others. And don't forget all the public service events. Together we can make SCRA even better in 2007.

In closing, here are a few more samples of those funny club names:

- Silly Darn Contesters (the lighter side of REDXA?)
- Pete's Privateers (they steal contacts wherever they can)
- The Boys on the Bands (these guys ROCK!!)
- Cory's Fiasco (their Field Day didn't go according to Cory's plan)
- PhD ARA (No doctorate? No admission!)
- Dit Happy Dash Hounds (microphones not allowed)
- The Terrible Thirteen, Southern Branch (I couldn't find an entry for the Northern Branch)
- Murphy's Lawyers (a bunch of hapless attorney-hams; hard hats and safety goggles required around these guys)
- Mile-High Milliwatts (Denver QRPers)

- Never Again Gang (they learn from their mistakes)
- Six Pack (good thing the FCC doesn't issue pink slips for "operating while intoxicated")

73, Brian Torr, N6IYY

FOR SALE 1970 Winnebago

1970 Winnebago motor home, as is, believed to be in serviceable condition. Not yet converted to Comm Van. If interested, make offer.

Contact W6IBC@arrl.net

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Refreshments	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ60B	
Volunteer Exam Liaison	Brian Torr	N6IIV	707 575-5871
ARRL DXCC/WAS Mgr	Chuck Terres	N60J	707 763-2528

SCRA Hotline
707 579-9608
scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com
<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

SCRA E-Mail
scra@sonomacountyradioamateurs.com

SCRA Web Site

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

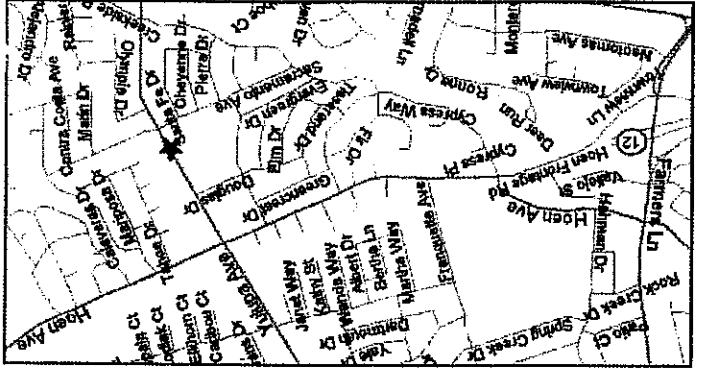
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SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month. Exceptions are holidays or other big events. Next meeting is Wednesday, March 7th 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.pdarl.org/sfsect>

Contest Corner

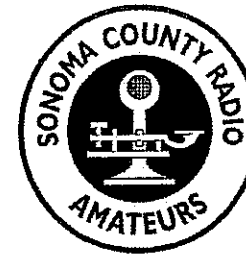
by Kevin A1C K6BSG
Hello contesters. Couple of major contests this month - ARRL DX Contest the first weekend, and the CQ WW Contest on the last weekend. Also another EMB contest later in the month.

Happy DX'ing!

- 3-4 Mar - ARRL International DX Contest - Phone, 160-10 meters. See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/index.html>
- 3-4 Mar - Open Ukraine RTTY Championship - 160 - 10 meters. See: www.uccz.ua
- 4 Mar - DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona" - RTTY/AMTOR/PACTOR/PSK31/Clover. See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/cqdlcont/fgdccc.htm
- 6 Mar - Spartan Sprint - CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.arsqp.com
- 10 Mar - AGCW QRP Contest - CW, 80-10-meters. See: www.ogcw.org
- 10-11 Mar - RSGB Commonwealth Contest - CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.rsgbhfcc.org
- 10-11 Mar - Oklahoma QSO Party - Phone/CW/Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.okdxa.org
- 10-11 Mar - EA PSK31 contest - 80-10 meters. See: www.ure.es/ht/concursos/epsk31/basesepsk31ingles.pdf
- 10-11 Mar - Idaho QSO Party - CW/Phone/Digital, 40 meters - 70 cm. See: www.n4ht.com
- 11 Mar - North American RTTY Sprint - 80-20 meters. See: www.nrcweb.com
- 11-12 Mar - Wisconsin QSO Party - Phone/CW, 80 meters - 70 cm. See: www.warac.org
- 13,17 Mar - CLARA and Family 2007 HF Contest - Phone/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.clara.com.mt/family/events.html
- 17 Mar - 10-10 Mobile Contest - any mode, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org
- 17-18 Mar - Russian DX Contest - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.rdxcc.org
- 17-19 Mar - Virginia QSO Party - Phone/CW/Digital, 160 meters - 70 cm. See: www.qsl.net/sterling/va_qso_party/qsoParty.htm
- 17-19 Mar - BARTS Spring RTTY Contest - 80-10 meters. See: www.bartq.demon.co.uk
- 18 Mar - 9KCC Contest - CW/SSB, 15 meters only. See: www.party.demon.co.uk
- 24-25 Mar - CQ WW WPX Contest - SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.qsl.net/9kcc/9KCCRule.htm
- 24-25 Mar - EU EME Contest - CW/SSB, 432 MHz, 5.7 GHz and up. See: www.cqwpw.com
- 24-25 Mar - EU EME Contest - CW/SSB, 432 MHz, 5.7 GHz and up. See: www.dubus.org

MARCH 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



CLUB STATION
W6LFI

Short Skip

The Newsletter of
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REPEATER STATION
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VOLUME 32 NUMBER 3

MARCH 2007



What's in a Club?

by
Dave Harrison, W6IBC
SCRA President

It's March, and with this issue of Short Skip, you'll find the invitation to renew your membership in SCRA. Each of you will be deciding, is SCRA membership worth \$24.00 per year? I sure hope you decide it is. Since this is dues time, let's spend a few minutes asking the question, "what's in a club?", or "why have a general interest radio club?", or even more to the point, "why should SCRA exist?". I can offer up many reasons, and I'm sure reasons occur to you, as well.

At its essence SCRA provides a local ham radio forum and meeting place where we can gather to exchange ideas relating to our wonderful hobby and to other matters of interest and importance. SCRA provides a social contact for us as well as a technical, learning and practice experience. Our activities, such as field trips, Field Day, and public service training and events, enable us to work together and mentor each other to provide a unified radio communications team, honing our operating skills, as well as checking and improving our radio equipment and systems. If we're called on in a time of emergency, SCRA provides us some additional measure that we will be prepared to serve the public. In this regard, we operate a VHF-UHF repeater system 24/7, with emergency power backup at our hilltop sites. We conduct a weekly Tuesday night service net on our repeater system. We distribute this monthly newsletter, Short Skip, to provide further information of interest to you. Collectively acting as SCRA we present a united front to our governmental regulators who otherwise might attempt to erode our ham radio privileges and rights at the local level through unnecessary or unwarranted regulation or action.

Speaking of collective representation, I also want to put in my plug for ARRL, the national association for amateur radio. While you may have reason to take issue with some of the ARRL's policies and positions (as I have from time

to time), there's no denying the fact that without the ARRL, amateur radio as we know it would have ceased to exist a long time ago. We need the ARRL to represent us before federal regulators and at the International Telecommunications Union. ARRL membership is not inexpensive, currently \$39.00 per year. As a member you receive QST Magazine monthly, and there are a host of member services provided by the League across the spectrum of ham radio interests. The League's publications rate among the best available. If you can afford it, I strongly urge you to join, or continue your membership with, the ARRL. Oh yes, did I mention that you can reach me by email at w6ibc@arrrl.net?

So, what is SCRA? You are SCRA. Without you and your active participation we wouldn't exist; we couldn't exist. I hope you will find SCRA's programs and activities for 2007 to be as exciting as we hope they will be. Stay with SCRA. We'll see you at the meetings, the activities, the public service events, and on the radio! And, please don't miss N6IY's "What's in a (Club) Name" in this issue.

73, Dave, W6IBC

SCRA Board Forms Mentoring Committee

The SCRA Board of Directors formed a Mentoring Committee at its February 14th meeting. Brian, N6IY, has been selected to act as our first Mentoring Committee Chairman. The purpose of the Mentoring Committee is to assist SCRA members in all aspects of ham radio. If, for example, a member would like to be mentored with regard to ARES or other operations, or antennas, or homebrewing, for example, the Committee Chairman will assign a volunteer mentor to assist the member. Experienced SCRA members with a desire to help others are urged to volunteer for the Mentoring Committee. Your Board is very excited about this new program and hopes it will be well received by our membership.

Dues are Due

We would like to make March the last month to collect dues. We will then have a better knowledge of the monies available for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

The dues are \$24 per year for individual members and \$36 per year for a family membership. If you are a current SCRA member, a renewal envelope is included in this issue of Short Skip to make it easy to send in your dues. Please take a couple of minutes and complete the membership information on the envelope flap so that we can update the roster. If the envelope is missing, please use the membership application on the inner last page. Thanks!