



EmComm Certification

by
Rich Freitas, KF6SZA
Sonoma County ARES DEC

Many of you are aware that for quite some time now I have been a proponent of formal emcomm training for all ARES members; I

feel it is only a matter of time before standardized em-comm credentialing will be required to set foot in most, if not all, of our served agencies. At a minimum, I recommend the ARRL Level I emergency communications training along with FEMA courses IS-100, IS-200, and IS-700 (these are ICS and NIMS courses available free online).

For those amateurs who are still on the fence about the importance of advanced training and ICS/NIMS requirements, the draft release of the Five year NIMS Training Plan makes for interesting reading. One point that is made very clearly is that "access to future national incidents will be restricted to those who have met the mandatory requirements." Within the next few years, you simply won't be able to obtain credentials for access without proof of completion of required instruction.

Also, having volunteers who have not completed ICS/NIMS training may already be adversely affecting our served agencies' ability to obtain grant money that is sorely needed. As one person pointed out, "The Incident Command System wasn't developed by a bunch of egg-heads in Washington. It was developed on the ground by wilderness firefighters in California. It actually works!"

ARES leadership also needs to get comfortable with resource typing and to start integrating the idea into their databases. Resource typing in this instance is the standardization of a team of skilled emcomm operators and equipment that can be called into action when the need exists. The advantage to this system is that a Type I ARCT (Amateur Radio Communication Team) becomes a "known quantity"; it equates to a specific number of qualified operators with a standardized amount of equipment having a given communications capability. We need to be prepared to help our served agencies easily fit amateur radio into their planning and funding requests; the easiest way to do that is to resource type our operators and equipment.

Of interest to hams seeking to complete their ICS/NIMS requirements, the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy announced the launch of a new web-based online training system NFAOnline. NFAOnline provides an easy one-stop Web site where fire and emergency services personnel, and the general public will find free training and education programs that they can complete at their own pace.

"Now is the time for us to embrace the future and improve our education through distance learning," said NFA Superintendent, Dr. Denis Onieal. "NFAOnline provides another option to help further the professionalism of the nation's fire and emergency services and strengthen their ability to combat all hazard emergencies."

NFAOnline provides a user-friendly, state-of-the-art training system with technical support and the ability for the student to immediately print a certificate and transcript. The primary effort of NFAOnline is to make available training and materials for the fire service, particularly those unable to attend resident courses.

There are currently several courses available in the new NFAOnline. Additional courses are in development and will be added as they become available. Course subjects include community Safety Educators, Fire Service Supervision, ICS 100 and ICS 200, Emergency Response to Terrorism, and Emergency Medical Services. To enroll in NFAOnline, visit <http://www.nfaonline.dhs.gov/> and browse the course catalog through the 'New Students' option.

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



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KQED Code Umbrella - For All of You CW Enthusiasts

Vicki Cero, KF6ZCT came across a picture of the KQED umbrella and if you look closely you might see what is printed on it. Yep, looks like Morse Code.



Tubs of Tubes

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU
KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog
<http://www.kb6nu.com/>

My name is Dan Romanchik, callsign KB6NU, and the Affiliated Club Coordinator for the Michigan Section. I am also the guy behind KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog.

The other day I got a call from a guy whose website I'm working on. He says he's calling from the Ann Arbor Reuse Center and that they have two tubs full of vacuum tubes there. He asked, "Do you know anyone who might want them"?

"How much are they asking for them"? I reply.
"Ten cents a piece."
"How many are there"?
"I'd guess about two hundred."
"Well, tell them I'll give him 20 bucks for all of them."

He tells them that I'll give them \$20 for the lot. I hear some mumbling. He comes back on the line and says they're negotiating. After a minute or two, he says, "OK. You got them. How do I get to your house"?

I gave him directions, and in about 15 minutes, he pulls up to my house, gets out, opens the hatch, and pulls out two plastic tubs and a cardboard box with vacuum tubes in them. I can tell he was way off in his estimate. There must be at least 400 tubes in all.

There's nothing really exotic--most of them seem to have been taken out of old TV sets--but I did find a couple of 6J6s. These are the tubes used for the single-tube transmitter I have been thinking about building (see http://wv7g.home.mindspring.com/jones_6j6.html for more info). In one of the tubs, there was even a socket for the 6J6.

There are also a bunch of 6KS7s. According to the RCA tube manual, these tubes were often used as RF or IF ampli-

fiers. That sounds like the beginning of a receiver project, doesn't it? In fact, 6SK7s were used in the receiver section of the ParaSet (<http://www.mines.uidaho.edu/~glowbugs/paraset.htm>), a "spy radio" used during WWII.

And, of course, there are a bunch of rectifiers to make a power supply. Now, all I have to find some cheap transformers. Anyone know a good source for them?

When he's not wondering what he's going to do with more than 400 vacuum tubes, KB6NU works CW and PSK on the HF bands and blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com. You can reach him by e-mail at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

NOTE: A photo of one of the tubs can be had off his website at <http://kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/12/tuboftubes.jpg>

500 kHz Distance Record Set

ARRL website 1/23/08

On January 17, Neil Schwanitz, V73NS/WD8CRT, on Roi-Namur in the Marshall Islands, received a signal from experimental station WD2XSH/20. This experimental station, operated by Rudy Severns N6LF, is located in Cottage Grove, Oregon -- 4737 miles away from the island in the Kwajalein atoll.

The 13 words-per-minute CW transmission was copyable by ear and also appeared in the Spectran capture; "SL" in the capture is from a non-directional beacon on 505 kHz located in Khomotovo, Russia.

During this same week, the Belgian BIPT (the equivalent of the FCC) granted Belgian amateurs with full licenses access to 501-504 kHz with up to 5 W ERP.

This is the first general amateur allocation at 500 kHz. The ARRL 500 kHz experimental license, WD2XSH, was issued in September 2006 and has 20 active stations. Fritz Raab, W1FR, of Vermont, serves as experimental project manager for The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio.

Additional information can be found at the experiment's Web site and also in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX.

February Meeting: Amateur Radio Aboard the International Space Station

"Don't miss SCRA's February 6, 2008 meeting. Our speaker, Tim Bosma, W6MU, is trustee of the earth station at Santa Rosa Junior College. Tim will be speaking to us about the earth station and its numerous contacts with hams aboard the International Space Station. If you've ever considered making contacts via satellite, this is the meeting for you. See you there."

73, Dave, W6IBC

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc Membership Meeting, November 7, 2007 Minutes

Call to Order - President Dave W6IBC called the meeting to order at 7:00 at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center with introductions of the new officers and directors.

Program - Our speaker was Tim Barrett K6BIV who is a trustee and sysop for a D-Star digital repeater (K6MDD) on Mt. Diablo. The system has voice and digital text repeaters on 2 meters and voice on 440 and 1200 MHz. The cost of a full-featured system like this one is about \$10K. Presently there are 150 systems operating in the world, 83 of which are in the U.S. There are 4 digital repeaters in the Bay area. At this time, Icom is the only supplier of digital radios and repeaters. One of the features of the D-Star system is that it is always connected to the Internet. When an operator wishes to contact a particular Ham, all he has to do is input his call sign and the call will be forwarded to the repeater where the recipient last called in.

Business Meeting - Approval of Minutes -- The November 2007 minutes were approved with correction WB6FRZ's call sign.

Treasurer's Report - Outgoing treasurer Brian N6IY reported that the club was solvent. He also reminded the club that annual dues fall due on March 1st.

Director Reports - There were no Director Reports this month.

Repeater Report - John, KE5RI reported that the board is recommending to the club that we purchase a Kenwood 750 to replace the repeater on English Hill. A motion was made by Rich KF6SZA to authorize \$1300.00 for this purchase. The motion was approved by the members present.

New Club Logo - Dave W6IBC presented a new logo which the board would like to adopt. After considerable discussion, Becky KE6PZV was asked to review how the present logo is being used and whether the new graphics will meet these applications. Becky will report on her findings at the next meeting.

Public Service - Dave W6IBC read a letter he sent to the Santa Rosa Cycling Club thanking them for their donation to the club of \$1500. Craig K6XLT reported that he needs volunteers for the Amgen Tour of California on February 18-19.

ARES - Rich KF6SZA announced that EMCOMM West would be held in Reno the first weekend in May. He also needs an ARES member to organize a booth at the Santa Rosa Safety Fair which will be held on the same weekend. Rich invited all members and guests to check in to the ARES Net on Monday nights at 7:30. He also invited everyone to attend the ARES training meeting on February 28. The topic is Winlink 2000 and Airmail.

Program Ideas - Dave W6IBC presented a list of possible programs for 2008 and asked for additional suggestions. The board will consider these ideas when they assemble the year's programs at the Board retreat on January 9.

Next Month's Program - The program on February 6 will

be Amateur Radio in Space.

Committee Chairmen - Dave W6IBC presented a tentative list of committee chair people. He is still looking for a someone to take over the refreshment committee.

Field Day - Brian N6IY asked the club what kind of Field Day event they wanted this year. After some discussion the consensus was to select a site which would combine public service, social and an opportunity for people to get on HF radio.

Net Control Operators - The following members volunteered to be net control operators:

Jan 15 - Craig K6XLT
Jan 22 - Daryl KI6MSP
Jan 29 - Brian N6IY
Feb 5 - Fred KQ6OB
Feb 12 Dale KI6KNO
Feb 19 - Beck KE6 PZV

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

A Call for Instructors to Help with the Technician Video Course

SCRA is sponsoring a technician video course on Saturday and Sunday February 23 and 24 at Oakmont. We need your help! This is an open invitation to all SCRA members who would like to help teach a part of the class! It's great fun and the rewards are many! The video is the primary presentation tool. You are needed to be the point person to answer questions from the students about the topic(s) you select and to run the quiz at the end of the video session. All quiz questions and answers are already set up for you; all you need to do is present them. How simple is that? Other instructors will be there to back you up and help answer questions. The study guide information covering material on the chapter(s) you choose will be given to you to study, along with the quiz questions and answers.

The various session topics are listed below along with the approximate times the topic is presented by the video (mostly) and by the instructor.

(continued on page 7)

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Call for Instructors - Technician Video Course (continued from page 4)

The Saturday session topics are:

2. The Magic of Radio (taken) 8 AM - 10 AM
3. Types of Emissions 10 AM - 11 AM
4. Electrical Principles (taken) 11 AM - 11:30 AM
5. Frequency Privileges (taken) 12:30 PM -
6. Operating Considerations 12:45 PM - 1:30 PM
7. Antennas and Feed Lines 1:30 PM - 3 PM
8. Repeaters 3 PM - 4 PM
9. Safety Practices (taken) 4 PM - 5 PM

On Sunday:

5. Frequency Privileges (taken) 9 AM - 9:30 AM
10. RF Radiation Safety 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM
11. FCC Regulations 10:15 AM - 12:30 PM

Contact me soon for more information and to reserve a session topic in your name!

Best Regards,

John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ
wb6frz@arrl.net
(707) 217-1017

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc Board of Directors Meeting, January 9, 2008

The meeting was held at Narsi's Restaurant, Santa Rosa. Board Members Present: David W6IBC, Fred KQ6OB, Pat KG6JSL, Becky KE6PZV, Dave K6CLG and John KG6PEP. Members Present: John WB6FRZ and Brian N6IY. President Dave W6IBC called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM. A quorum was present.

Old Business

Approval of Minutes - The minutes from the November BOD meeting was reviewed. The call sign for John WB6FRZ was stated incorrectly. The minutes were approved with this correction.

Treasurer's Report - Brian N6IY gave a treasurer's report for 2007. We were within \$200 of the budget. The report was approved. Transition to the new treasurer, Pat KG6JSL is almost complete.

Letter to SR Cycling Club - Dave W6IBC sent a thank you letter to the SR Cycling club for the \$1500 donation to the club.

Repeater Committee - The BOD had a discussion on D-Star and decided to recommend the club take no action at this time. John KE5RI has requested a bid for a Kenwood.750 to replace the repeater on English Hill. As soon as he receives

the bid, he will submit it to the board for approval. We continue to receive interference from an uncoordinated repeater in the south bay owned by Mr. Titus KE6JTK. John sent Mr. Titus a letter on November 12 requesting that Mr. Titus eliminate this interference. Mr. Titus's response was less than encouraging. This repeater is currently off the air due to storm damage. John has talked with the David Price who is the site manager for Mr. Titus's repeater. Mr. Price indicated that he would request Mr. Titus to remove his repeater if he does not correct the interference problem. The status of our 440 repeater has not changed until we receive further information about ham interference to PAVE PAWS radar at Beale AFB in Marysville, CA.

Dues for 2008 - Current dues are \$24/year. Publishing Short Skip electronically may reduce club costs in this area. The BOD agreed not to consider changing the dues amount until after 2008 budget is finalized.
New Logo - Becky KE6PZV was asked to investigate the use of the old logo and whether there are any conflicts with the new logo. She will also contact the vendor in Rohnert Park to get cost information on new patches, hats and T-shirts.

New Business

Committee Chairs - At the request of Dave W6IBC the Board made the following committee chair appointments for 2008:

Public Service - Craig K6XLT
EMCOM - Rich KF6SZA
Repeater - John KE5RI
Membership - John KI6CAU
Program - Becky KE6PZV
Field Day - Brian N6IY
Mentoring - John WB6FRZ
V.E. Chairman - Brian N6IY
Web Master - Jeff KK6JAB

*The club is still looking for volunteers to head up the refreshment and lottery committees.

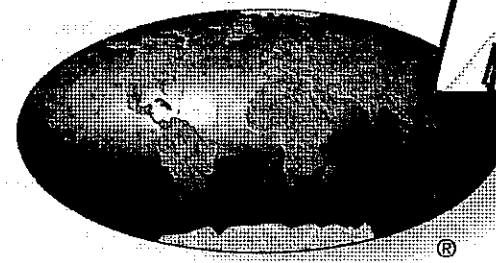
BOD Planning Retreat - Dave W6IBC reaffirmed the planning retreat at his house on January 12 starting a 9AM. A number of potential activities and meeting programs will be discussed. Brian N6IY and John KB6FZA were invited by the BoD to attend the retreat.

New Ham Class - John WB6FRZ reported that he and Rich KF6FZA are revising the Ham class video base on feedback they received from the first Ham class. The plan is to conduct another new ham class in late February. The V.E session will have to be coordinated with Brian N6IY. Brian has already scheduled a regular V.E. session in early February.

Field Day - Based on the feedback at the January meeting, Brian N6IY is investigating a Field Day site which will provide both public access and a social environment. He is presently looking a Youth Park.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

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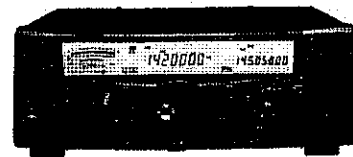
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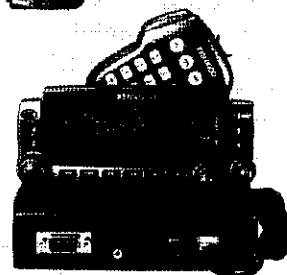
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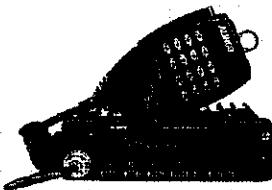
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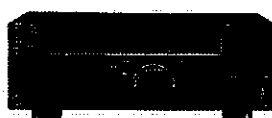
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HAM License Plates

by Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV
ARRL San Francisco Section Manager

I have received several emails and read many postings regarding this issue of license plates being issued with a "space" in the call sign (AF6 AQ instead of AF6AQ). I asked our Division leadership if they were aware of the issue and what is happening at the Division and National levels. The following is the response from Vice Director Andy Opper N6AJ0:

This problem is being worked on a couple of levels, including by our lobbyist in Sacramento and by people who have connections with the DMV.

ARRL Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio requests that you not start a letter writing or petition signing campaign just now. If it comes to that, we'll let you know.

The story that is being passed around isn't quite correct. The reality is that the DMV has been entering a space into the license plate number for ham plates in the registration system for years now. They do that so their computer system can distinguish between ham plates and vanity plates and thereby not apply the vanity plate fee to ham plates. But that fix for the computer billing problem creates another problem -- when law enforcement runs your plate, they have to remember to ADD a space after the number or the plate comes back as "not on file".

Apparently, some law enforcement agency (perhaps even federal) complained and the DMV reacted by issuing plates the same way the call signs appear in their computer system -- with a space after the number.

Please forget (the) notion that the FCC will respond to this. The FCC doesn't care about, nor do they have any jurisdiction over how a state issues ham license plates.

Andy Opper, N6AJ0
ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director

Please cooperate with Bob and Andy's request so that we can present a united front to resolve this issue.

Thanks & 73,

Bill KH6GJV

Swap Meet for Members

There are never enough swap meets, right? As convenience for members, the SCRA Board of Directors has approved a proposal to permit members to bring a limited number of their excess treasures to regular meetings for display and sale. This is for members only and is not a commercial operation, so don't bring your pickup with boxes of stuff. But if you have some items you want to get rid of, bring them to any regular meeting, slap a sticker on it, and make a deal. And if you don't sell it, you must take it back. We can't leave things at the meeting hall. There is no fee, but any donations to the club treasury are always appreciated.

73, Pat, KG6JSL
SCRA Treasurer

Weekend Technician Course with VE Exam Session

SCRA will again host a two-day technician video course for those ready to take the plunge and earn their amateur radio license. Our first course in October of 2007 was highly successful so we are offering it again! The course will be held at the Oakmont retirement community on Highway 12 on Saturday and Sunday February 23 and 24. We begin at 8:00 AM both days and end at approximately 5:30 Saturday and 4:00 Sunday after the exam. Cost of the course is free! The pre-study guide is \$10 (to cover printing costs), and is required. \$14 covers the cost of the volunteer exam fee; any re-examination is also \$14.

Please let your family and friends know that this is the time to earn their ham radio license in one weekend in a friendly, encouraging class atmosphere. No prior knowledge is required! All topics are presented by the video, a written study guide, and by the team of instructors that will be there to guide and answer all questions related to the technician exam.

Contact me soon for more information and to reserve your seat in the class!

Best Regards,

John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ
wb6frz@arrl.net
(707) 217-1017

Check it out: Making a Vacuum Tube

Fabrication d'une lampe triode

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3wrzo_fabrication-dune-lampe-triode_tech (120 MB file)

2008 Club Officers

President	Dave Harrison	W6IBC
Vice President	Becky Phippen	KE6PZV
Secretary	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ8OB
Treasurer	Pat Coyle	KG6JSL
Director	John Chavez	KG6PEP
Director	Dave Santori	KF6CLG
Past President	John Felton	KE5RI

Committee Lineup / Contacts

Membership	John Guaraglia	KI6CAU	
Program	Becky Phippen	KE6PZV	
EmComm	Rich Freitas	KF6SZA	
Field Day	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707-575-5871
Activity	Dave Santori	KF6CLG	707-585-1873
Public Service	Craig Gaevert	K6XLT	707-545-4133
Mentoring:	John Breckenridge	WB6FRZ	707-217-1017
Repeater	John Felton	KE5RI	
Volunteer Exam			
Liaison	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707-575-5871
Antenna Ordinance-Legal	Lee Dibble	KE6EAQ	707 544-1675
Public Relations	Bill McCall	W6WDM	707 538-2844
Public Relations	Jeff Basham	KK6JAB	707-291-7355
Refreshments	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ8OB	
ARRL DXCC/WAS Manager	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528

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 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

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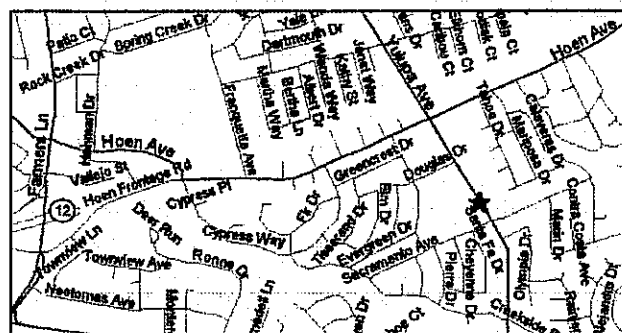


SCRA Club Meetings

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

Next meeting is 7:00 PM Wednesday, February 6th 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 web-sites:

<http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF>
<http://www.pdarrrl.org/sfsec/>

CONTEST CORNER

by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello contesters. Lots of state QSO parties and CW portion of ARRL DX contest this month. Happy DX'ing!

- 2 Feb - Minnesota QSO Party - all modes, all bands. See: www.w0aa.org.
- 2 Feb - FYBO Winter QRP Field Day - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.azscarpions.org.
- 2-3 Feb - Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party - SSB, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.
- 2-3 Feb - XE Int'l RTTY Contest - 80-10 meters. See: www.gmreorg.mx.
- 2-3 Feb - Delaware QSO Party - 160-10 meters. See: www.fsarc.org.
- 2-3 Feb - Vermont QSO Party - all bands, all modes. See: www.qsl.net/w1bd.
- 2-4 Feb - YL-OM Contest - CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.ylrl.org.
- 3 Feb - North American Sprint - CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.ncjwcb.com.
- 3 Feb - QRP Winter Fireside SSB Sprint - SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.qrparci.org.
- 5 Feb - Spartan Sprint - CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.arsqrpbwki.com.
- 9 Feb - Asia-Pacific Sprint - CW, 80-10 meters. See: jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt.
- 9 Feb - FISTS CW Winter Sprint - CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.FISTS.org.
- 9-10 Feb - CQ WW RTTY WPX - 80-10 meters. See: www.cq-amateur-radio.com.
- 9-10 Feb - New Hampshire QSO Party - all modes, 160 meters - 30 cm. See: www.w1fz.org.
- 9-10 Feb - Louisiana QSO Party - CW/SSB, 160-2 meters. See: laqso.w5yl.org.
- 9-10 Feb - Northern New York QSO Party - all modes, 80 meters - 70 cm. See: www.nnyara.org.
- 9-10 Feb - British Columbia QSO Challenge - all modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.deltaamateurradio.com.
- 9-10 Feb - RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest - CW, 160 meters. See: www.rsqbfcc.org.
- 9-10 Feb - Dutch PACC Contest - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.dutchpacc.com.

- 9-10 Feb - EU EME Contest - Digital modes, 2 meters - 30 cm. See: www.dubus.org.
- 9-10 Feb - OMISS QSO Party - SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.omiss.net.
- 9-11 Feb - YL-OM Contest - SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.ylrl.org/ylcontests.html.
- 10 Feb - FM Simplex Contest - FM, 6 meters - 70 cm. See: www.w9rh.org.
- 10 Feb - North American Sprint - SSB, 80-20 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.
- 10-11 Feb - Classic Exchange - Phone, 160-2 meters. See: www.qsl.lasti.com/CX.
- 11-15 Feb - School Club Roundup - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.arrrl.org/SCR.
- 16-17 Feb - ARRL DX Contest - CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.arrrl.org/contest.
- 23-24 Feb - AM QSO Party - SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.antiquewireless.org.
- 23-24 Feb - CQC Winter QSO Party - CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.cqc.org.
- 23-24 Feb - CQ WW 160 Meter SSB - SSB. See: www.cq-amateur-radio.com.
- 23-24 Feb - UBA Contest - CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.uba.be.
- 23-24 Feb - REF Contest - SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.ref-union.org/concours.
- 23-24 Feb - Mississippi QSO Party - CW/SSB, 80 meters - 70 cm. See: w5xx@vicksburg.com.
- 23-24 Feb - North American QSO Party - digital modes, 80-10 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.
- 23-25 Feb - North Carolina QSO Party - CW/SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.w4nc.com.
- 24 Feb - High Speed CW Contest - CW, 80-10 meters. See: hsccontest@gmail.com.

From the Editor:

Questions? Comments? If you have any news, photos or any other interesting information that relates to Amateur Radio, please feel free to send submissions to k6kno@gmail.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/qr)
Family Membership	\$36 (\$9.00/qr)
Under 18 Membership	\$18 (\$3.00/qr)
Badge	\$10

Payment Calculations: Make checks payable to SCRA

Dues - Full Year	\$ _____
Dues - Prorated _____ Qtrs. x \$ _____/qr	\$ _____
Badge	\$ _____
Other - _____	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____

Badge Information

Call Sign _____
 First Name _____
 City _____

Total \$ _____

Mail to: SCRA, P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Tentative Programs for 2008:

January 2: D-Star Tim Barrett K6BIV, (program completed)
February 6: Satellite Communications, ARISS and the SRJC Earth Station, Tim Bosma W6MU
March 5: Basic Ham Radio Construction Practices, Pat KG6JSL and John KE5RI
April 2: Backup power sources for Ham Radio, Dave W6IBC
May 7: Antenna Night, antennas and counterpoises, NVIS, Fred KQ6OB
June 4: Field Day Preparations, Brian N6IYY and Emcomm aspects of Field Day Rich KF6SZA
July 2: DXpeditions and DXing, Brian N6IYY
August 6: Boatanchor/Homebrew night (Group presentation)
September 3: Repeater update, how a repeater works, SCRA's repeater system now and in the future, John KE5RI
October 1: Digital Night update: IRLP-how to make it work. APRS, essentials and requirements, hands on digital (TBD)
November 5: SCRA Jeopardy Brian N6IYY (Club elections night)
December 5: (Friday) Holiday Party (date shift from Wed to Fri confirmed by phone 1-14-08 W6IBC)

Club Activities:

February (Day TBD): Field Trip to SF Maritime Museum USS Pampanito and USS Jeremiah O'Brien, Dave KF6CLG
February 8-19: Amgen Tour of California (Public Service)
April (day TBD): ARES Safety Fair, Rich KF6SZA
May 3: Wine Country Century (Public Service, Craig K6XLT)
May 2-4: ARES Emcomm West, Reno NV Rich KF6SZA
May 4: SRJC Day Under the Oaks (Dave W6IBC)
May 4: MS Walkathon (Public Service, Craig K6XLT)
May 10: Human Race (Public Service, Craig K6XLT)
June 21: Terrible Two Bicycle event (Public Service, Craig K6XLT)
June 27-29: Field Day (Brian N6IYY)
August 16-17: PCAM Wings over Wine Country (Pat KG6JSL)
September 27-28: MS Waves to Wine (Public Service, Craig K6XLT)
October 4: SCRA Picnic and Fox Hunt (Becky KE6PZV)
October 17-19: Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air (John KG6PEP)
October 17-19: ARRL Pacific Division PACIFICON convention
December 5: Holiday Party
Optional activity (TBD July?): Mini DXpedition, KPH visit

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

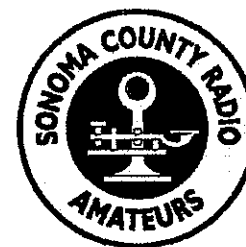
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CLUB STATION
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Short Skip

The Newsletter of
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

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

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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

VOLUME 33 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2008

Happy Valentine's Day

by Fred Polkinghorn, KQ6OB
SCRA Secretary

Dave W6IBC has asked me to write the President's letter for Short Skip this month. I would like to start by telling you a little about myself. I have been a Ham for 15 years. My father was a Ham as a young man but never pursued the hobby after he got married. I didn't get involved in Ham radio until my son Michael K6PUD invited me to participate in a Field Day in 1993. After that I couldn't wait to get my license. It was great to be on the air, but I rapidly discovered that I really needed a more advanced license in order to get on the HF bands. I continued to study and advance through the classes. I currently hold an Amateur Extra Class license.

I would like to encourage all Technician Class members to work on upgrading their license. The world of HF radio is really exciting. I will always remember the first time I called CQ and listened to a Ham in Germany returning my call. Since then, I have worked thousands of Hams in 85 countries. Some of these Hams I have gotten to know by their first names, and although we have never met face to face, I consider them as friends. I also can't tell you the number of times that these people have assisted me in becoming a better Ham.

One aspect of Ham radio that I really enjoy is contesting. Shortly after getting my Novice license, I was asked to participate in a California QSO Party from a mountaintop in northern California. I will always remember the sight of our antenna farm silhouetted against the sunset at 7000 feet. Needless to say, by the end of that weekend, my traffic handling skills had improved tremendously and I was hooked. There is nothing better than working a pile up and getting the exchange information correctly the first time. These skills have carried over to other activities such as public service events and when acting as a net control operator.

I also enjoy attending our monthly meetings. SCRA has had some great programs that have exposed me to different facets of Ham radio and has broadened my participation in the hobby. SCRA also has some very talented members, which is a tremendous resource for new and old Hams alike. We have recently

started a mentoring program where more experienced Hams volunteer to help newer Hams increase their knowledge in the hobby. I encourage all Hams to share their knowledge and take advantage of the knowledge base we have in our club.

One of the best assets our club has is our repeater system. Many of our members think that the club maintains these repeaters strictly for public service events, emergencies and our weekly nets. Although these are important, they only use a small fraction of the time available on the repeaters. Many of our members only receive Ham information from Short Skip and our monthly meetings. This takes less than 3 hours a month. Talking on our repeater system allows us to expand our knowledge of Ham radio and to get to know our fellow members better. Almost all of us commute back and forth to work. Let's turn on our radios during the commute and talk to each other. I am sure that we will learn something new and it sure makes the commute go faster.

Finally, I would like to encourage everyone of you to participate in club events. Our club has many great programs and activities. In order for our club to grow and become even better, we need each member to contribute their time and knowledge. If each of us volunteers for just a few activities a year, we can share the load and make our club even better. So the next time you are asked to help, please step forward and do your share.

73
Fred
KQ6OB

Short Skip Electronic Version (PDF) Updated Email Addresses

We have developed an Electronic Version of the SCRA Short Skip Newsletter in PDF. If you would like to receive a Short Skip in PDF please send your updated email address to Rich Freitas at kf6sza@gmail.com. We currently have email addresses for only 2/3 of the SCRA membership. The average file size for this electronic version is apx. 1MB.

