



CLUB STATION
W6LFJ

Short Skip

The Newsletter of
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.



REPEATER STATION
W6SON

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

<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

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VOLUME 33 NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2008



BACK TO SCHOOL

by Dave Harrison, W6IBC
SCRA President

A recent news report on communications failures at a 2007 WTC building collapse caught my attention. According to the story "firefighters sent more than 30 distress signals, includ-

ing 14 maydays, from inside the burning bank tower, but some weren't heard because they came in at the same time. Scoppetta blamed 'a failure of radio discipline' and said firefighters would be trained to allow the urgent signals to come through one at a time, keeping channels clear once one signal is posted" (The Press Democrat, August 22, 2008). Wow, NYFD firefighters who didn't know how to communicate effectively over the radio in an emergency. This report points out the value in continuing our training as amateur radio communicators to cope with emergencies and the unexpected.

September, the back-to-school month, is an appropriate time to discuss the need for continuing our education as radio amateurs. Fortunately, our amateur radio community offers both formal and informal educational opportunities. On the formal side, ARRL offers a wide range of on-line educational courses, including three excellent courses for emergency communications (EMCOMM), and other courses relating to licensing and technical aspects of amateur radio. FEMA offers on-line courses specifically directed to emergency response. Local communities and agencies are sponsoring formalized training in programs such as COPE (Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies) and CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams). Ham radio fits nicely into these programs as a communications backbone. But nothing will work as planned unless we are trained and practice to maintain our proficiency as effective communicators.

On the informal side continuing educational opportunities abound. SCRA sponsors a host of public service events each

year. Each month SCRA presents a program at its membership meeting covering a topic of interest to our members. SCRA sponsors three nets on its repeater system, the ARES net on Monday evening at 7:30 pm; the SCRA Service Net on Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm; and, the West County Newcomers Net on Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm. These nets are interactive opportunities for us to practice our net discipline skills and to be sure our equipment operates as it should. SCRA has an informal mentoring program that provides technical advice and help to those who request assistance. Please let us know if you need help. SCRA offers periodic ham classes for entry level licensing. (Our next class is September 20, 21 at the Sebastopol Fire Station.) ARES provides periodic classroom training specifically directed to its mission.

Each of us should periodically take an inventory of our radio skills and capabilities and decide how we can improve them. Continuing our education not only increases our value to the community, it provides us with the satisfaction of knowing we have skills others can count on. In an emergency, let's be ready!

Thanks to all of our members who turned out and supported our booth at the PCAM Wings over Wine Country show in August, particularly our team leader Pat Coyle, KG6JSL, who pulled the event together. See you at our meeting on September 3rd. This month's meeting will cover repeaters.

73, Dave W6IBC
SCRA President

SEPTEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

REPEATERS. What they are. How they work. How you can use them effectively for radio communication. Tips and Techniques. Also a discussion of the SCRA repeater system, now and into the future, to be hosted by our Repeater Chairman John Felton KE5RI.

2008 Club Officers

President	Dave Harrison	W6IBC	707-838-8155
Vice President	Becky Pippin	KE6PZV	
Secretary	Fred Polkinghorn	KQ6OB	
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 Pippin	KE6PZV	
EmComm	Rich Freitas	KF6SZA	
Field Day	Brian Torr	N6IY	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	N6IY	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	Darryl Paule	KI6MSP	
ARRL DXCC/WAS Manager	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528
Club Raffle	Bob McQuilkin	WB6TGI	

Short Skip & Web Staff

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Webmaster	Bob Arthur	KG6ZDN	

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. You will also hear the weekly *Amateur Radio Newslines* broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

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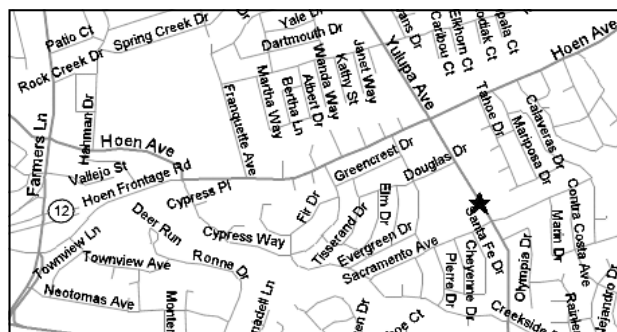


SCRA Club Meetings

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

Next meeting is 7:00 PM Wednesday, September 3rd 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/>



It Could Happen Any Time

by
Rich Freitas, KF6SZA
Sonoma County ARES DEC

The following article was written by Jennifer Moody of the Albany Democrat-Herald. I think it is appropriate to all radio amateurs.

If you're going to be stranded on the side of a Canadian highway, and you happen to find yourself sliding down a 150-foot embankment while you're there, it's helpful to have a ham radio operator along. That's what sixth-grader Sarah Weishaupt of Sodaville found out this summer during a family road trip to Canada with her mother and stepfather, Kaynor and Nick Heineck.

The trip had started off badly anyway. Two days before they left, Nick, 68, had given himself a bad cut with a router and was traveling with one hand wrapped in splints and bandages. Then, the first day on the road, the RV blew a tire. But the worst part came on June 28, when the transmission on the family's Ford pickup went out two-thirds of the way up a steep grade. They had been headed to Jasper, on their way to the Canadian Rockies. The area didn't have any cell phone reception, so Nick, a longtime ham radio operator (WL7K), fired up the mobile station in the pickup.

He made contact with a ham in Montana, who gave him the frequency of the local repeaters in the area. Then he managed to reach a man (Al Lindstrom, VE7AZQ) in the town of 100 Mile House, about 80 miles from where they were stranded. Sarah, who was then a few weeks shy of her 10th birthday, was outside tossing rocks over the edge of the canyon while Nick talked with the man about finding a tow truck. Her mother went into the RV for a nap. Then, said Sarah, she reached for a rock and the ground crumbled away under her feet. Sarah grabbed for the edge but couldn't stop sliding. Feet down, on her stomach, she tumbled about a hundred feet down the steep embankment.

"I had slid into a weed patch, and it stopped my progress somewhat," she recalled. "I did a damage check before Mom came down, and I found I was scratched and bleeding. I was actually sane enough to register there were some pretty monster ants on the wall I was trying to hold onto." Sarah yelled for her stepfather, but it was her mother who heard her first. Dozing in the RV, Kaynor, 52, an avid birder, was struck by the odd sound of what she first took to be a bird squawking faintly, "Ick! Ick!" Kaynor got up and asked Nick where Sarah was. When he replied she had been tossing rocks over the cliff, she realized what had happened. "I was terrified," she said, recalling the sight of her daughter about two-thirds of the way down the cliff. Sarah assured her she was all right,

just stuck. "My knees got scratched, but other than that, I was fine," Sarah said.

Kaynor directed her to crawl to a nearby log lodged in the gravel, where she could hang on and keep from slipping farther. Nick found a coil of eighth-inch, 500-pound Mylar rope, which he uses to string antennas. With its damaged transmission, the truck couldn't be moved, but it was close enough to the edge for Kaynor to tie an end to it and try to lower herself to Sarah. Halfway down she realized her plan wouldn't work. The rope was strong, but thin and slippery, and Kaynor didn't think she could pull Sarah to safety. She considered having Sarah and herself slide the 30 feet or so more to the bottom, then look for a way out of the canyon. But by this time, Nick was frantically trying to raise his contact in 100 Mile House again — "to tell him the problem had gone from serious to life threatening," he said — so Kaynor decided just to wait and keep Sarah company.

The man in 100 Mile House radioed back to say a search and rescue team and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were on their way. Several minutes later, Nick saw an approaching truck marked "FIST," misread the label as "FIRST," and flagged it down, thinking the response team had arrived. It turned out to be a truckful of Canadian youths. "And the funny thing is, they were mountaineers and had all their gear with them," Sarah recalled. "And so one of them named Jamie came down and got me." Jamie climbed behind Sarah as she went, hand over hand, to the top. A few minutes later, the Mounties and the search and rescue team arrived, having at first gone the wrong direction in search of the stranded family.

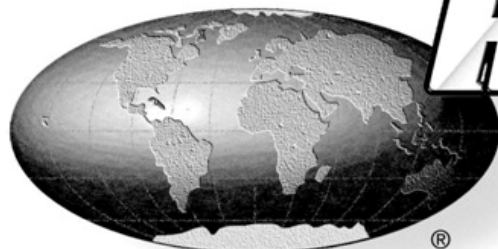
(continued on page 8)

Name Badges Ready for Pick Up

The following Name Badges will be available for pick up at the September Meeting:

Dylan	KI6GHV
Vince	KI6LGV
Jim	KU6F
Lenny	WB6QAZ
Judy	KD6GSY
Mike	KI6RKP
Sue	K8SUE
Jerry	KI6PBA
Bill	KI6MST
Tom	K6TRB

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(800) 854-6046
Dan, K6DN, Mgr.
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(Near Philadelphia)
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97223
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(800) 854-6046
Leon, W7AD, Mgr.
Tigard-99W exit
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portland@hamradio.com

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(800) 444-9476
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DJ-196T 2M/HT

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Low Pricing!



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- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

Low Pricing!

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc Membership Meeting, August 6, 2008 Minutes

Call to Order - President Dave W6IBC called the meeting to order at 7:03 at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center. Prior to the meeting, Dave showed a video on the making of vacuum tubes. Dave started by introducing club officers and members including a number of new Hams.

Business Meeting:

- 1. Approval of Minutes** – The date for the next Ham class is September 20-21. The minutes as written in the August issue of Short Skip were approved with this correction.
- 2. Treasurers Report** – Pat KG6 JSL reported that the club was solvent. The big expenditure for 2008 was the new repeater which came out of savings.
- 3. Membership Roster**– Dave K6CLG requested everyone to look at the current membership list to make sure that all their information is correct. Dave also reported that the Short Skip was mailed late due to a glitch with the printer. .
- 4. Repeater Issues** – John KE5RI reported that he has spent several days up at the repeater site. The new repeater is up and running on the internal controller. The problem observed last Tuesday is now fixed.
- 5. Public Service** – Craig K6XLT reviewed the upcoming public service events. These include the YWCA Bike Event on August 23 and Waves to Wine on September 13-14. Craig also presented the club with a \$500 donation from Team Clover for our support of their Spring Hill bike race.
- 6. ARES** – Rich KF6SZA reported that ARES will have a training session on Monday, August 18 at TLC Architecture. He also reminded everyone that there is an ARES net every Monday night at 7:30 on the club repeater.
- 7. Ham Class and Mentoring** – John WB6FRZ reported that the next Ham class will be on September 20-21 at the Sebastopol fire station.
- 8. VE Program** – Brian N6IY reported that they had a VE session on August 2. They will also have one on September 21 and October 11.
- 9. Refreshments** – Darryl KI6MSP asked for suggestions for different refreshments at the meetings.
- 10. Club Polo Shirts** – Becky KE6PZV requested that members sign up if they are interested in buying a polo shirt.
- 11. Excess Club Property** – Dave W6IBC is still looking for buyers for the club's excess items. These items include; Icom M700, TGI MQ-1 antenna, Drake TR7 HF transceiver, and the club generator. If there are no takers, the board will recommend that the generator be donated to the Pengrove Museum.
- 12. PCAM** – The Wings over Wine Country Air Show will be held on August 16-17. SCRA will have a booth at the show. Pat KG6JSL requested that members bring their old radios to the booth.
- 13. Next Month's Program** – John KE5RI will present the

September Program on the new repeater and a possible communications strategy for the future.

14. Website – Dave W6IBC reported that Jeff KK6JAB has resigned as the club's Webmaster. Pending Board approval, Bob KG6ZDN has volunteered to take over this position.

15. Net Control Operators

8/12 Craig K6XLT
8/19 Brian N6IY
8/26 Darryl KI6MSP
9/2 Dave W6IBC
9/9 Bob WB6TGI
9/16 Becky KEPZV

16. Board of Directors Meeting - will be held on August 13 at 6:30 at Narsi's Restaurant

Program – Homebrew and Boat Anchor Night. Several members brought in vintage radios projects which they presented and described at the meeting.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM



SCRA participates at Wings over Wine Country Airshow August 16-17.

Thanks to Jim KI6REK, Brian N6IY, Darryl KI6MSP, Dave KF6CLG, Dave W6IBC, Kevin K6BSG, and the four Johns WB6FRZ, KE5RI, KI6CAU and KG6BHI. A special thanks to PCAM team leader Pat KG6JSL for pulling the event together for SCRA.



Guest at August Meeting:

Janet Proudman 2E0LCM, secretary of the Oxford and District Amateur Radio Society and Marconi Museum, United Kingdom, visited SCRA at our August meeting. Also pictured are Dave KF6CLG and John KE5RI.

FCC to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30. The fee will increase 30 days after notice of the increase is published in the Federal Register; no date has yet been set for publication. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 to a high of \$50. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" -- or applications -- during Fiscal Year 2009, collecting \$184,734 in fees from the program.

Contest Corner

(continued from page 10)

20-21 Sep – **Washington State Salmon Run** – all modes, 80-10 meters. See: www.wwdxc.org.

20-21 Sep – **SE DX Club 50th Anniversary** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.sedxc.org/50thcontest.

20-21 Sep – **QCWA Fall QSO Party** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.qcwa.org/qso-party.htm.

21-22 Sep – **Classic Exchange** – Phone, 160 meters – 70 cm. See: qsl.asti.com/CX/sept08announcement.html.

22 Sep – **Fall VHF Sprint** – all modes, 2 meters. See: www.svhfs.org.

25 Sep – **BCC QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 160-40 meters. See: www.bavarian-contest-club.de.

27-28 Sep – **CQ WW RTTY Contest** – 80-10 meters. See: www.cq-amateur-radio.com.

27-28 Sep – **CIS DX Contest** – CW/Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.cisdxc.srars.org/cisdxc.pdf.

27-28 Sep – **Scandinavian Activity Contest** – Phone, 80-10 meters. See: www.sk3bg.se/contest/sacnsc.htm.

27-28 Sep – **Texas QSO Party** – all modes, 160-2 meters. See: www.txqp.net.

30 Sep – **Fall VHF Sprint** – all modes, 222 MHz. See: www.svhfs.org.

30 Sep – **Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.njqrp.org.

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HF tower and antenna:

Dick Bishop had a tenant move out and leave behind a tower and antenna. Can be viewed at 1798 Larry Drive (off Marlowe). He wants to get rid of them and you can get a good deal.

Phone 707-529-6377

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc Board of Directors Meeting, August 13, 2008

Board Members Present: David W6IBC, Fred KQ6OB, Becky KE6PZV, Pat KG6JSL, Dave KF6CLG, John KG6PEP, John KE5RI

Guest Present: Bob KE6TGI, Brian N6IYY, Darryl Ki6MSP and John WB6FRZ.

Call to Order: Verification of Quorum – President Dave W6IBC called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. The meeting was held at Narsi's Restaurant, Santa Rosa. A quorum was present.

Old Business

1. Approval of Minutes – The new Ham class will be held on September 20-21. The minutes from the August BOD meeting was approved with this correction.

2. Treasurer's Report – Pat KG6JSL reported the \$500 donation from the Clover Team for our work at the Spring Hill Bike Race in August. The club is in good shape financially.

3. Status of 501C Submission – Pat KG6JSL reported that the IRS still has some questions regarding some past donations to the club. Pat will submit answers to these questions in the near future.

4. PCAM Show – Pat KG6JSL reported that he has 10 volunteers to staff the SCRA booth at the show. We will demonstrate the monster key and rebroadcast communications from the tower on our PA system. Pat needs the SCRA banner for the booth.

5. SCRA Website – Dave W6IBC reported on the status of the website. Jeff KK6JAB has resigned as club Webmaster. Dave asked the board to approve the nomination of Bob KG6ZDN as the new Webmaster. John KE5RI made a motion which was passed by the Board. Since Bob uses Front Page software, input to the website will have to be done by Bob. Dave W6IBC will provide Bob with inputs to the website.

6. Programs – Becky KE6PZV reported that the September program will be a presentation by John KE5RI on "The Proper Use of the Repeater. Fred KQ6OB will coordinate the October program which will be on Digital Modes. November will be election of officers and Ham Radio Jeopardy. December will be the annual Christmas Party. Becky KE6PZV and Fred KQ6OB were asked to plan a field trip to KPH for October 4. They will also find out if the KPH museum would like the microfiche reader and past issues of QST on microfiche. If they would like this equipment, Dave W6IBC will seek approval from the club membership.

7. Repeater Issues – John KE5RI reported that the interference from the WA6FUL is worse. This maybe short lived as they are thinking about going to a digital repeater. In the mean time, John recommended that all members use tone code squelch when using the repeater. Several times in the last week, someone has been transmitting Galzen noise on

our repeater using our PL tone. The Board asked John to approach the FCC to determine what information is needed to document this harmful interference. With the passing of Allen WA6MXI, the Board would like to know the future status of our repeaters on Castle Rock and English Hill. John KE5RI was asked to approach Cal-Site and find out this information. John was also asked to put on a courtesy tone and squelch code on our 220 repeater. There was some discussion regarding the feasibility of obtaining a second repeater. This repeater would be purchased as a backup repeater in case the current repeater fails. The second repeater could also be placed on Castle Rock and could be tied into the English Hill repeater. If the second repeater was operated in a receive-only mode, there would be no interference to the sensitive equipment on Castle Rock. The second receiver would extend the range of our repeater system into Oakmont and the east Sonoma area. John was asked to look for a source for a circulator/isolator. John KE5RI will present this concept to SCRA members at the September meeting. John also reported that the DOT has published a huge list of 440 repeaters which are "interfering" with their PAVE PAWS system. Some of the repeaters on the list have not been on the air for some time.

New Business

1. Membership Data Base – Dave KF6CLG reported that he has been unable to contact the printing company which sends out Short Skip by mail. He therefore had copies made at Kinko's and personally sent them out. The cost was \$1.65/copy. The Board approved to reimburse Dave for the cost of this mailing.

2. Club Generator – Dave W6IBC reported that no one expressed an interest in buying the club generator at the last meeting. He therefore recommends that we seek approval at the September club meeting to donate the generator to the Pengrove Antique Machinery Museum.

3. Member of the Year - Dave W6IBC asked Becky KE6PZV to take over the duties of selecting a candidate for Member of the Year.

4. Field Day – Brian N6IYY reported that this years Field Day went very well. He has already reserved Youth Park for next June.

5. Mentoring - John WB6FRZ reported that 8 people have signed up for the Ham class on September 20-21. This number does not include possible CAP cadets which will be recruited at the PCAM show. John asked the Board for seed money to publish the manuals for the class. John will get this money back when the students submit their enrollment fees. The Board approved \$200 to purchase the course manuals.

(continued on page 8)

Board Meeting Minutes - August 13, 2008

(continued from page 7)

6. New Brief Case and Storage Case. Pat KG6JSL asked the Board for \$85 to replace the Treasurer's worn out briefcase and storage case. The Board approved this expenditure.
7. New Soft Drink Cooler – Darryl KI6MSP asked the board for permission to purchase a new soft drink cooler. He is currently using his own cooler. The Board approved this expenditure.
8. Marine Radio Donation - The club has received a donation of a 48 channel marine radio. The Board agreed to offer this radio in the silent auction at the September meeting. Otherwise it will be sold on E-Bay
9. Club Reflector – The list of names on the club reflector is out of date. Fred KQ6OB will get a current member list and work with Bill KH6GJV to get these names on the reflector.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Polkinghorn KQ6OB Secretary.



Toll Free (Orders Only) 1-800-4-HALTED (1-800-442-5833)

World Wide Web: <http://www.halted.com>

3500 Ryder St. Santa Clara, CA 95051	408-732-1573	  
4837 Amber Ln. Sacramento, CA 95841	916-338-2545	
5681 Redwood Dr. Rohnert Park, CA 94928	707-585-7344	

ARES - It Could Happen Any Time

(continued from page 3)

Finding no one to rescue (and looking slightly disappointed, the family thought), the officials interviewed everyone, looked at the spot where Sarah had fallen and took some notes. Nick said the family was prepared to wait for a tow truck and didn't want to leave the RV and all their supplies behind. So, Sarah said, "Then everyone left and we spent the night on the side of the mountain." The first responding wrecker couldn't take both vehicles. It was the next day before Nick could contact his friend in 100 Mile again, who raised the Good Sam Club, which produced two tow trucks that took the family the more than 100 miles to Kamloops.

The family's troubles weren't over. The Heinecks came into town two days before July 1 — the Canada Day national holiday— so no one even looked at the truck until July 2. Then a landslide blocked a highway delaying the truck coming to deliver the new transmission. On Saturday, the family gave up waiting, got a rental car and drove to Golden, British Columbia, to finally get a look at the Canadian Rockies. Even after the truck was fixed, fate had one more twist in store: another blown tire on the way home. It could have been a better vacation, Kaynor said. Still, she said, "You know, the scariest part is just thinking what could have happened." "We finally made it back home and it could have been worse," Nick agreed. The transmission — his seventh — was \$6,000, he said, but "we are all hale and hearty. Sarah's scratches have healed, my fingers have healed and the truck seems to be working OK."

A ham radio operator since the late 1950s, Nick said the Canada call marked the first time he had to use the equipment to help his own family. "The amateur radio saved our bacon, really," he said. "It provided the communication when all else failed."

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.

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.

The course will be held at the Sebastopol Fire Station on Saturday and Sunday September 20th and 21st. 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 cost of printing the pre-study guide, quizzes and handouts is \$15. \$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

CONTEST CORNER

by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Lots of higher frequency activities this month, so check out the world of VHF and above. Also CQ WW RTTY Contest and IARU Field Day. Lots of the usual QSO parties that you can use to tune up for the upcoming big contests in the fall. Happy DX'ing.

- 1-2 Sep – **Labor Day Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.qsl.net/miqrclub.
- 6 Sep – **Ohio State Parks On the Air** – all modes, 80-10 meters. See: parks.portcars.org.
- 6 Sep – **Russian Radio RTTY WW** – 80-10 meters. See: www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results/index2.shtml.
- 6-7 Sep – **All Asia Contest** – Phone, 80-10 meters. See: www.jarl.or.jp/English.
- 6-7 Sep – **IARU Region 1 Field Day** – Phone, 160-10 meters. See: [www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/IARU Region 1 HF Field Day.pdf](http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/IARU_Region_1_HF_Field_Day.pdf).
- 7 Sep – **North American Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.
- 7 Sep – **DARC Digital 10m Corona** – Digital, 10 meters. See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/cqdlcont/fgdcc.htm.
- 7-8 Sep – **Tennessee QSO party** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.tnqp.org.
- 12-13 Sep – **070 Club 80 Meter Autumn Sprint** – Digital, 80 meters. See: www.podxs070.com.
- 13-14 Sep – **WAE DX Contest** – Phone, 80-10 meters. See: waedc.de.

- 13-14 Sep – **Arkansas QSO Party** – all modes, 80-10 meters. See: www.arkanharris.org.
- 13-15 Sep – **ARRL September VHF QSO Party** – all modes, 6 meters and up. See: www.arrl.org/contests.
- 13 Sep – **Second-Class Operators Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.qsl.net/soc.
- 14 Sep – **North American Sprint** – Phone, 80-20 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.
- 18-20 Sep – **YLRL Howdy Days** – Phone/CW, 40-10 meters. See: www.ylrl.org/ylcontests.html.
- 20 Sep – **Feld-Hell Monthly Sprint** – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.
- 20-21 Sep – **ARRL 10 GHz Cumulative Contest** – all modes, 10 GHz and up. See: www.arrl.org/contests.
- 20-21 Sep – **ARRL EME Contest** – all modes, 2.3 GHz and up. See: www.arrl.org/contests.
- 20-21 Sep – **Colorado QSO Party** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.ppraa.org/coqp.
- 20-21 Sep – **Scandinavian Activity Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.sk3bg.se/contest/sacnsc.htm.
- 20-21 Sep – **South Carolina QSO Party** – all modes, 80-10 meters. See: carc.ham-radio-op.net.

(continued on page *****)

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 ki6kno@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 [] Receive Short Skip Newsletter by E-mail: Yes ___ No ___

<p>Dues & Fees: (SCRA dues year is 3/1/05 to 2/28/06)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Individual / Associate Member</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$24 (\$6.00/qtr)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family Membership</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$36 (\$9.00/qtr)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Under 18 Membership</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$18 (\$3.00/qtr)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badge</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$10</td> </tr> </table> <p>Badge Information</p> <p>Call Sign _____</p> <p>First Name _____</p> <p>City _____</p>	Individual / Associate Member	\$24 (\$6.00/qtr)	Family Membership	\$36 (\$9.00/qtr)	Under 18 Membership	\$18 (\$3.00/qtr)	Badge	\$10	<p>Payment Calculations: Make checks payable to SCRA</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Dues - Full Year</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dues - Prorated _____ Qts. x \$ _____/qtr</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badge</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other - _____</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> </table> <p>Mail to: SCRA, P.O. Box 1116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402</p>	Dues - Full Year	\$ _____	Dues - Prorated _____ Qts. x \$ _____/qtr	\$ _____	Badge	\$ _____	Other - _____	\$ _____	Donation	\$ _____	Total	\$ _____
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Donation	\$ _____																				
Total	\$ _____																				

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 8-19: Amgen Tour of California (Public Service)

March 22: Field Trip to SF Maritime Museum USS Pampanito, Dave KF6CLG

April (day TBD): ARES Safety Fair, Rich KF6SZA

April 12: Lake Sonoma Run

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 13-14: MS Waves to Wine (Public Service, Craig K6XLT) *Note Date Change*****

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**

Return Service Requested