



CLUB STATION
W6LFJ

Short Skip

The Newsletter of
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

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

<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>



REPEATER STATION
W6SON

VOLUME 34 NUMBER 4

APRIL 2009



April Fools, Not So Foolish

by Dave Santori, KF6CLG
SCRA President

Hello! April is almost upon us and guess what? Our meeting is on April 1, what a day.

Although it is a day of jokes, what we do in an emergency is not. All of our public service events give us the chance to practice our commutations with operating through a net control which is in charge.

As I write this, the news just said we have had 2 earthquakes in the south half of the state. I know that we are lucky but if we had to we could handle the commutation under the stress of a major emergency due to all the public service (practice) that we do.

As the Amgen Tour of California has just ended and we go to the Lake Sonoma 50 mile run. In the Tour of California we used repeaters and the Lake Sonoma 50 we will be using simplex, a big difference in radio operations.

Enough rambling...because we are going to learn another way to use the 2 meter system, to talk around the world. It is called IRLP. Come and see what is being presented at our club meeting April 1, 2009.



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April 2009 Meeting Program

Come join us for our April Meeting Program on IRLP, which stands for Internet Radio Linking Project. Topics will include: What it is, How it works, and how you can use it. Presented by Jeff KK6JAB IRLP Node Manager for KF6SZA Repeater.



2009 Club Officers

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Field Day	Rich Freitas	KF6SZA	
Activity	Brian Torr	N6IY	707-575-5871
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Mentoring	Craig Gaevert	K6XLT	707-545-4133
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Volunteer Exam Liaison	John Felton	KE5RI	
Antenna Ordinance-Legal	Brian Torr	N6IY	707-575-5871
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Public Relations Refreshments	Bill McCall	W6WDM	707 538-2844
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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. You will also hear the weekly *Amateur Radio Newslines* broadcast.

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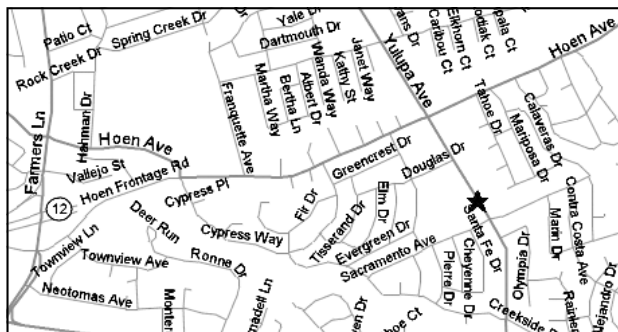


SCRA Club Meetings

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

Next meeting is 7:00 PM Wednesday, April 1st 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/>





ULTIMATE GREEN A LOW COST HT POWER SUPPLY

Described here is a low cost power supply for your FM HT. It is capable of powering a radio of five watts or less. I say green and low cost because this supply does not use batteries. It runs on air. Yes, you read correctly – air.

I came up with this idea a few weeks ago and have just finished building a working model. I first conceived of an air powered system when I saw John Brekenridge's line launcher at Field Day last year. It was powered by compressed from a bicycle pump. He had a small pressure vessel made of PVC pipe. A valve controlled release of the air. I was quit impressed and decided to put the same concept to another, and novel, use.

I obtained a tiny pneumatic pump from a local industrial surplus house. It is about the size of a 35mm film container. From a mechanical point of view, a pneumatic pump will also work as a pneumatic motor if air is injected into what would normally be its output port. The speed at which the shaft turns is dependent upon the pressure and flow rate. The shaft speed is not a concern as I will explain later.

Knowing that a motor when driven from an external source will act as a generator, I obtained a small but powerful DC motor typical of those used in battery powered model planes. It was also about the same size as the pump. I mounted the motor shaft in line with the pump shaft and connected them with a tiny flexible coupling.

Now I needed to construct a small pressure vessel. I used a four inch length of ½ inch schedule 40 PVC pipe along with one tee and three end caps. I obtained a Schrader valve (available at any auto parts store), a miniature pressure gauge and a tiny air valve. I found the gauge and valve at local hobby shop. I installed the Schrader valve on one cap, the pressure gauge on another cap and the valve on the remaining cap. I then glued the parts together. At this point I recommend that the pipe assembly be leak tested. This can be done by pressurizing it to about 10 PSI with a bicycle pump, placing it in a container of water and checking for

bubbles. Any leaks should be sealed before proceeding.

They next step was to connect the valve on the pipe assembly to the air inlet port on the pneumatic motor. Appropriate hose and fittings are also readily available at a hobby shop. The next step is to pump air into the pressure vessel until the gauge reads about 50 PSI. Don't forget to close the manual valve first! Although it might be safe to use a higher pressure, I would not go higher than 50 PSI.

Now comes the part that's fun. Using a 30 watt, 10 Ohm resistor as a load, place the resistor across the motor (generator) leads and connect a voltmeter across the load. You are now ready to test the system. While counting the number of turns, slowly open the manual valve while watching the voltmeter. When the meter reaches 15 volts, record the number of turns and then close the valve. Record the number of turns for future reference.

Congratulations, you are almost finished. I highly recommend that you stop here and build a small voltage regulator. Although most radios can withstand a voltage higher than 14 volts, don't take a chance. Twelve volt regulator IC's and required associated parts are readily available. I will cover design and construction of the regulator in next month's issue of Short Skip.

In summary, performance was better than expected. I found that I could run the power supply for about five minutes on one 50 PSI charge. Of course you can pump it up at any time, but I suggest "recharging" the system when it gets down to about 5 PSI. You should be able to build this project for less than \$40.00. It all depends on what is in your junk box and what you can find at your favorite hobby shop. Oh, and don't forget our friends at HSC as a great source for parts.

Last minute notes:

Adding a small pressure regulator between the manual valve and the motor improved performance significantly. Now that the basic concept is proven, I am going to experiment with a larger pressure vessel. I will report on that next month.

John, KE5RI





Disaster Recovery Basics

by
Rich Freitas, KF6SZA
Sonoma County ARES DEC

When natural disasters strike, before recovery begins, it is imperative to take care of **YOURSELF** and your **FAMILY** first. Illness or injury may result from contaminated water, debris-filled roadways, electrical and fire hazards, and displaced wildlife. To avoid health problems, follow these tips.

Listen to and follow public announcements. Local authorities will provide valuable information about road closings and the safety of tap water for cooking and bathing. If the water is not safe, you will be instructed to use bottled water or to boil and disinfect water tap water.

Avoid riding, driving or walking through flooded areas. Follow all warnings about water on roadways. **NEVER** go around a police barricade without authorization. In flooded areas, washouts may have weakened roads and bridges, and they could collapse under the weight of your vehicle. If you have to work in or near floodwater, wear a life jacket.

Wear protective clothing, sturdy shoes and gloves. Wear protective clothing and gear, such as hard hats, goggles, heavy work gloves and watertight boots with steel toes and insoles (not just steel shanks) when working. Protective clothing is especially important when handling chainsaws and other large pieces of equipment used in clearing debris.

Avoid unstable buildings and structures. Be careful around damaged buildings and trees. Leave immediately if you hear shifting or unusual noises that signal the structure may fall.

Beware of electrical and fire hazards. **NEVER** touch any building, car or other structure which has a fallen power line touching it. Avoid contact with overhead power lines during cleanup and other activities. Do not burn candles near flammable items or leave candles unattended. If possible, use flashlights or other battery-operated lights instead of candles. Call a professional electrician or power company to report a down power line or power outage.

Beware of gas leaks. Avoid using flames or sparking devices until you are sure there is no natural gas leaking in the area. Natural gas leaks are the number one cause of fires after a disaster. **NEVER** turn gas service back on by yourself. Contact your local utility company for restoration of gas by a trained professional.

Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas produced by many types of equipment. It is poisonous to breathe. **DO NOT** use a portable generator, charcoal grill, camp stove and/or other gasoline and

charcoal burning device inside your home, garage, carport, basement, crawlspace or other enclosed or partially enclosed area, even with ventilation. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent carbon monoxide buildup in the home. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator or other gasoline/charcoal burning device, get to fresh air **RIGHT AWAY--DO NOT DELAY--**and seek prompt medical attention.

Store and transport gasoline safely. **ALWAYS** transport gasoline in an approved safety container. Approved containers are **RED** in color and post a warning label regarding the dangers of gasoline. Do not use a glass container or used metal container that has held other petroleum products. Gasoline is highly flammable and extremely dangerous, so take all necessary precautions when handling. Fill approved containers to only 95% capacity to allow for heat expansion. Before loading a filled, portable gasoline container into a vehicle, check that the cap is tight and the air vent cap is tight. Secure the container to avoid tipping during transporting.

Beware of wild or stray animals. Structures damaged in a storm are particularly attractive and provide easy access for wildlife. Be aware of your surroundings and avoid wild or stray animals. Call local authorities to handle both live animals and or dispose of dead animals according to local guidelines.

Pace yourself and get support. Be alert to physical and emotional exhaustion or strain. Learn to recognize and deal with stress. Set priorities for clean-up tasks and pace the work. Try not to work alone. Ask family members, friends or professionals for support.

Prevent musculoskeletal injuries. Use teams of two or more people to move bulky objects. Avoid lifting any material that weighs more than 50 pounds (per person). When lifting heavy debris, bend your knees and lift with your legs, not your back.

Treat wounds. If you get a scratch, cut or brush burn from flood debris, clean it with soap and clean water. Apply an antibiotic ointment. If a wound swells or drains, seek immediate medical attention. If you have not had a tetanus booster in the last few years, see your doctor immediately.

The weekly ARES net for the Greater Santa Rosa Area meets on Mondays at 7:30 PM on 147.315 MHz, + offset, 88.5 PL. All ARES members and guests are invited to check-in. Please join us.



Donated Gear to be Auctioned

The SCRA Board of Directors has determined that the amateur radio equipment recently donated to SCRA by Mrs. Arlene Parnay will be auctioned off, with first priority going to SCRA members. The equipment, on display at the March membership meeting will be offered as single items by silent auction to the highest bidder. The Board of Directors has asked me to research and set a minimum reasonable price for each item. For example, I have determined that \$250.00 is a reasonable starting bid for the working Kenwood TS-830S high frequency transceiver. The Yaesu Linear will have a minimum starting bid of \$150.00. The Realistic DX-150 HF communications receiver (now working) will have a starting minimum bid of \$45.00, and there will be other items, including several Morse code keys and a Vibroplex bug available as well. If you are interested in any of this equipment, please bring cash or your checkbook to the meeting and maybe you will take home a new ham radio goodie and also benefit SCRA. Items that do not receive a minimum bid from a member will be taken to the VOMARC swap meet later this spring and offered for sale on behalf of SCRA. Hope to see you at the April meeting!

73, Dave W6IBC
SCRA Board Member

ARISS - Rare Lunchtime Contact

The ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) ground station at the Santa Rosa Junior College, W6SRJ, will be conducting a rare lunchtime telebridge contact with the ISS on **April 2nd**. The SRJC hosts one of 7 NASA authorized stations (W6SRJ) which is part of the worldwide telebridge network to connect school kids to an astronaut aboard the ISS. The kids are given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to talk to an astronaut live in space via Ham Radio. For more information about ARISS, please visit <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm>

The members/operators of the SRJC Telebridge Team are Tim Bosma W6MU, Don Dalby

KE6UAY, Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Herb Sullivan K6QXB and Jeff Basham KK6JAB.

We have an upcoming "school" contact in which the telebridge audio will be carried live via the IRLP (Internet Relay Linking Protocol) Network, and it will be repeated live on two Downtown Santa Rosa Repeaters - 146.835, and 444.900 via the KK6JAB IRLP Node. Both repeaters can be heard throughout Santa Rosa and surrounding areas.

The Telebridge audio will connect automatically at about 12:15pm, April 2nd. The contact is expected to start at 12:35pm, and last between 9 and 12 minutes, and you'll hear updates of that time given by the Telebridge moderator. The official contact script starts somewhere about 6-8 minutes before the expected "rise" of the ISS on Santa Rosa's horizon.

This is a rare contact during the lunch hour - and as with all contacts, interested hams are invited to visit the W6SRJ station in Lark Hall during the contact. Contact me if you are interested in attending (kk6jab@arri.net). Please note that parking permits are required on the SRJC campus 24 hours a day, and parking is only allowed in white lined, student spaces. You'll need to purchase a daily parking permit for \$3 to park on campus.

If you are not near a radio, or not near Santa Rosa, you'll be able to listen to the live audio on the internet, by clicking on the "Live Streaming Audio" link at <http://www.discoveryreflector.ca/>.

If you have a chance to tune in, please do so .. you'll witness a piece of Ham Radio history. Also, please feel free to forward this email to all your ham radio contacts.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at kk6jab@arri.net.

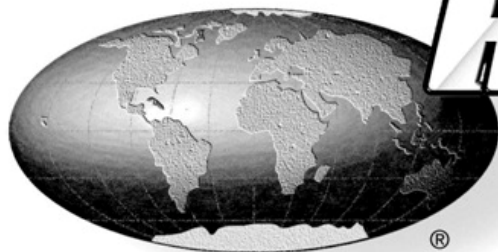
Thanks and 73!

Jeff Basham, KK6JAB

on behalf of the SRJC ARISS Telebridge Team

Public Information Officer, San Francisco Section
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SCRA BoD Meeting Minutes for March 2009

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm.

Board members present: Dave, KF6CLG – Dave, W6IBC – John, KG6PEP – Becky, KE6PZV – Pat, KG6JSL – Darryl, KI6MSP and Mike, AD6YB

Guests present: John, WB6FRZ – Bob, WB6TGI – John, KE5RI and Brian, N6IY

Reports:

- Treasurer's Report: Pat, KG6JSL reported that the club has approximately \$10,000 in the bank. \$2,600 so far has been collected for membership dues for 2009. Pat believes that the rush on dues is pretty much over. There is a need to figure out who has paid for a full year during this past year and when their dues are due. There are currently 92 members. Pat believes that number is inflated and he and Dave, KF6CLG need to get together to purge membership records. Pat also reported that the Toaster had gone to McLea's for service. Lube, oil, filter and brake work came was \$225.00. The tires were not rotated due to their age.

- Repeater Report: John, KE5RI reported that the repeater is doing "great". John asked if he should program the repeater to have a voice announcement for the Tuesday night net. The agreed with the need for voice announcement and approved. John will program a voice announcement.

- Membership Report: Dave, KF6CLG reported that he will take the membership lists, old and new and this year's membership applications and compare them for an accurate list of current members.

- Mentoring Report: John, WB6FRZ announced the next technician class and testing.

- VE Report: Brian, N6IY reported that the next VE session will be May 16. The next one after that will be in later July or August.

-- Darryl asked the question: Can a VE session be scheduled to coordinate with the completion of the General class. John, WB6FRZ says that there is no way to fit it into the schedule like that.

- Raffle Report: Bob, WB6TGI requested that the raffle be announced sooner at the membership meetings. Dave, KF6CLG will announce the raffles at the beginning of each meeting and at each break.

- New Business:

- Donation of radio equipment from Mrs. Parnay. Dave, W6IBC drafted a letter of thanks to her on behalf of the club. Dave, W6IBC asked the question: "What do we do with the equipment?" Dave, W6IBC suggested raffling off the equipment at an SCRA membership meeting. John, WB6TGI suggested selling it at the VOMARC swap meet. Dave, W6IBC also suggested selling it on eBay. The board agreed that prices need to be put on each piece of equipment and Dave, W6IBC volunteered to look up appropriate prices for each

item. Pat, KG6JSL moved that Dave, W6IBC look up prices for each item and mark them reasonably for sale to club members. Becky, KE6PZV seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

- Dave, W6IBC moved to accept the February Board of Directors meeting minutes as published in the Short Skip. Darryl, KI6MSP second. All in favor, motion carried.

- Programs: April = IRLP presented by Jeff, KK6JAB May = CERT/COPE: CERT presented by Lorenzo, LAV COPE presented by John, KE5RI June = Field Day Prep presented by Brian, N6IY July = HRO? (Pat, KG6JSL will research) August = Boat Anchor/Homebrew Night

- Activities: 4/18 - ARES Drill w/ the American Red Cross. 3/28 – Lorenzo, LAV emailed Dave, KF6CLG about a CERT challenge and asked if SCRA would like to set up a booth. 10/16 thru 10/18 – JOTA 10/2 thru 10/4 – Red Oak Victory Festival. First week of June – Red Oak Victory Event (John, KG6PEP needs a response to participate). Dave, W6IBC will put it on the SCRA website's calendar, John, KG6PEP will write an announcement for the Short Skip and make an announcement at the April membership meeting. 5/16 & 5/17 - Pengrove Power Museum. August 15 & 16 – PCAM. Club Picnic? Pat, KG6JSL suggested an open picnic event to help promote the club. May 1 thru 3 – Pacificon/EMCOMM West.

- Human Race: Darryl, KI6MSP reported that the event needs communications. Mike, AD6YB and John, WB6FRZ are already signed up to walk the event to raise funds for SCRA. Darryl will post in the Short Skip and announce at the April membership meeting and ask for pledges.

- SCRA club brochures: Mike, AD6YB will get with Dale, AF6OE.

- Field Day: Brian, N6IY suggested maybe raising the admission fee to \$15.00 due to running in the red by about \$150.00 last year. Dave, W6IBC suggested, since the purchase of food is one of the largest costs involved with Field Day, keeping the fee at \$10.00, but managing the distribution of food by giving each paying participant a food ticket. Kids ages 12 and under, no charge. The fee charged to participants should cover the cost of the event location and food. The club can expense out the cost of generator fuel. Darryl, KI6MSP asked about press releases. Darryl will help with the public relations for Field Day 2009.

- SCRA Website: Darryl, KI6MSP asked if the March membership meeting presentation of cross-banding could be available on the SCRA website and if it could be linked with the Yahoo group. Dave, W6IBC said that he would ask Bob, KG6ZDN to add the link to the web page. John, KG6PEP asked if the website could display a hit counter. Dave, W6IBC will ask Steve how much storage is available.

- Darryl, KI6MSP moved that the meeting adjourn. Mike, AD6YB second, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.



SCRA March 2009 Meeting Minutes

The Meeting was called to order by President, Dave Santori, KF6CLG at 7:05pm. A quorum was present. There was an introduction of Board members, Chairpersons and those present. Guest present: Jack Larason, KE7HTY. Upgrades: Dale Green, AF6OE.

Program: Cross Banding hosted by Darryl Paule, KI6MSP.

Break 7:55pm

Business Meeting called to order by President, Dave Santori, KF6CLG at 8:15pm.

- February meeting minutes approval: Dave, W6IBC moved that the minutes be accepted as published in Short Skip. Seconded by Dale, AF6OE. All in favor, motion carried.
- Treasurer's Report: Pat, KG6JSL presented the 2009 Budget. Dave, W6IBC moved that the budget be accepted as presented. Craig, K6XLT seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- Expense Protocol: Pat, KG6JSL presented the board approved procedure for expenses repaid to individuals who made approved purchases on behalf of the club in amounts under \$500.00. Kevin, K6BSG asked the question: Is this an amendment to the bylaws and where will it be documented? Pat explained that the protocol is not an amendment to the bylaws but merely a procedure and will be kept on file by the club secretary. Dave, W6IBC moved that the protocol be accepted. Michael, KC6UNA seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- Repeater Report: John, KE5RI reported that CalSites has offered to have a high speed internet connection to our repeaters at English Hill and Castle Rock. John has accepted the connection as it will greatly increase his ability to control the repeater.
- Dave, KF6CLG asked the question: Should we use the 440 repeater? John explained that in the several years that we have remained quite 440, and in three waves of investigating by the military on behalf of PAVE PAWS, SCRA has yet to be on any list under scrutiny of the military. PAVE PAWS not only looks for missiles but also for "space junk". The government is the primary user of the UHF frequency. John pointed out his concern about the coordination of the 440 repeater with its lack of use.
- Bill, KH6GJV commented that NARCC states that it will not allow frequency coordination on top of an existing frequency and that no station has "ownership of a frequency". He stated that now is not a good time to become high level. Bill believes that the repeater should remain on and unlinked to the 2M repeater and used sparingly. John, KE5RI agreed.
- John, WB6FRZ asked the question: What power is the 440 repeater on now and can we reduce it? John explained that

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the military is looking for usage on the frequency of 50W within a 50 mile radius.

- Dave, W6IBC moved that the club continue to use the 440 repeater, unlinked to the 2M repeater, sparingly or only as needed. Seconded by Fred, KQ6OB. All in favor, motion carried.
- John asked the membership how 2M repeater should identify itself. Bill, KH6GJV suggested that voice identification to announce the Tuesday night net and that the board should experiment with it and then take feedback on it during the next membership meeting.
- Mentoring Report: John, WB6FRZ reported that there are 15 people attending the General Class License Course and 3 people attending the Extra Class License Course. John also reported that 4 people checked into the Wednesday night code practice net. There will be an AM/FM broadcast assembly class. 10 sessions TBA. The next weekend Technician class will be in July and is posted on the SCRA website.
- VE Report: Brian, N6IYY reported that at the last VE session, 6 people took exams and everyone went home with something. The next VE session will be May 16 at the Blood Bank of the Redwoods. More information is to follow in the Short Skip.
- Public Service Report: Craig, K6XLT reported that the Tour of California was a successful event and noted its publication in the Short Skip. The Lake Sonoma 50 foot race will be headed by Dave, W6IBC and those interested are to contact him. After that is the Spring Hill Road Race on May 30 and Craig will keep everyone posted on future events.
- ARES Report: Fred, KQ6OB reported that on April 18th there will be a communications test for prospective shelter locations (non-HT). May 1st through May 3rd will be EM-COMM West and PACIFICON in Reno, NV. Fred also invited everyone to check into the Monday night ARES net on the SCRA 2M repeater.
- Activities: Dave, KF6CLG asked the membership to give some thought to coming up with ideas for the club's annual picnic and fox hunt.



Public Service Roundup

Since the Tour of California, things have been pretty quiet. But that doesn't mean that there's nothing on the horizon. This month, after you receive this newsletter, we will have been out at Lake Sonoma for the Lake Sonoma 50, a 50 mile foot race around the west arm of the lake. Look for a full report next month on this superb simplex event.

Coming up in the next several months we have these events:

26 April (Sun) - MS Walk, I'll need about 4 volunteers - this is a great training event, so if you're new to public service events, this is a good place to start.

2 May (Sat) - Wine Country Century, Santa Rosa Cycling Club's biggest event. We'll need about 20 volunteers.

9 May (Sat), Human Race, we'll need about 6-7 volunteers

31 May (Sun), Spring hill Road Race, more info to follow.

20 June (Sat), Terrible Two, Easily one of the most challenging public service events we participate in. Lots of traffic, challenging locations, etc..

27 June, (yep Field day) JDRF ride.

August, PCAM

12-13 September (Sat-Sun), MS Waves to Wine.

October, JOTA

As always, all hams are welcome to participate.

Craig
K6XLT
Public Service Wrangler



Patti, KI6VKI, Steve, KI6VKJ and Becky, KE6PZV (and Becky's two young assistants) at the information table sponsored by the Club at Santa Rosa Junior College on March 14, 2009, for the Expanding Your Horizons science fair for middle school girls. Over 100 young women attended the event and a few of them went on the air, having QSO's with Steve operating mobile from his vehicle in the parking lot. (Photo courtesy of Pat KG6JSL)

HUMAN RACE

The Human Race is an opportunity to assist your radio club in an annual fund raising event.

I'm asking for volunteers to walk with myself, John WB6FRZ, and Mike A6YOD.

We will be a team to get pledges from friends, family, and co-workers to raise money for SCRA. Last Year I raised about \$300.00 for the club by walking the 3K course.

Please join me in putting together a team and to set a goal of raising money for the club
You can contact me via email, or phone.

73
Darryl
KI6MSP
Dmp4102001@yahoo.com
707 544-8874

Contest Corner continued from pg 11

- 18-19 Apr – **EA QRP Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.eaqrp.com.
- 18-19 Apr – **Ontario QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 160-2 meters. See: cco.ve3xd.com/oqp.
- 18-19 Apr – **YU DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.yu1srs.org.yu/dl/yudx/yudxruleseng.html.
- 22 Apr – **VHF Spring Sprints** – Phone/CW, 70 cm. See: www.sysadnet.com/vhfsprintrules.htm.
- 25-26 Apr – **SP DX RTTY Contest** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.pkrvg.org/zbior.html.
- 25-26 Apr – **Helvetia Contest** – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.uska.ch/e_index.htm.
- 25-26 Apr – **QRP To The Field** – CW, 40-10 meters. See: www.zianet.com/QRP.
- 25-26 Apr – **Florida QSO Party** – 40-10 meters. See: www.floridaqsoparty.org.
- 25-26 Apr – **Nebraska QSO Party** – All modes, 160-2 meters. See: www.hdxa.net.

SCRA Badges

OLD orders to be picked up.

1. Jerry, KI6PBA
2. Mike, KI6RKP
3. Judy, KD6GSY
4. Jim, KU6F
5. Arlen, W6UGH
6. Todd, KI6TIH
7. Tom, KE6VGW
8. Bill, KI6MST
9. Lenny, WB6QAZ
10. Dylan, KI6GHV
11. Vince, KI6LGV
12. Sue, K8SUE
13. Bob, W6KCA
14. John, KD2L

NEW badges to be picked up.

1. Steve, KI6VKJ
2. Patti, KI6VKI
3. Barbara, KI6UKP
4. Mike, K6JMN
5. Ken, KI6VHI
6. Bill, KI6GOO
7. Tom, AF6TB
8. Jim, K6HKY
9. Jeff, KK6JAB

If you would like to order the New approved club badge with the SCRA & ARRL logos on the badge. These badges come with the regular clip on clasp and will cost You \$8.50 each and, if You would like the " Magnetic clasp that will make Your total cost \$10.00.

Please see Me at the next Ham Meeting to pick up Your club badges.

Ken N6PWV Badge Chairman.



Darryl KI6MSP presenting on Crossbanding at the March SCRA Meeting. If you were not able to join us for the Crossbanding Program, the PowerPoint presentation is available by emailing Darryl at dmp4102001@yahoo.com.

ARRL Continuing Education Online Course Registration

Registration remains open through Sunday, April 5, 2009 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, April 17, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2; Antenna Modeling, and Radio Frequency Propagation.

Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/ Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient.

For more information or to register for any of these courses, visit the Continuing Education Program page or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator. (<http://www.arrl.org/cep/>)



CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Several state QSO parties as well as the EU sprints in April. Also Japan DX CW contest is a good opportunity to work on your CW contesting skills. Happy DX'ing!

- 4 Apr – **LZ Open 40 Meter Contest** – CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.lzopen.com.
- 4-5 Apr – **EU EME Contest** – Phone/CW, 432 MHz, 5.7 GHz. See: www.dubus.org.
- 4-5 Apr – **QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.qrparci.org.
- 4-5 Apr – **SP DX Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.spdxcontest.info.
- 4-5 Apr – **EA RTTY Contest** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.ure.es/contest.
- 4-5 Apr – **MO QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.w0ma.org.
- 4-5 Apr – **QCWA Spring QSO Party** – All modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.qcwa.org/qso-party.htm.
- 4-6 Apr – **Montana QSO Party** – All modes, 160 meters – 70 cm. See: www.fvarc.org.
- 6 Apr – **VHF Spring Sprints** – Phone/CW, 2 meters. See: www.sysadnet.com/vhfsprintrules.htm.
- 9-19 Apr – **Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party** – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: arlhs.com.
- 11 Apr – **EU Spring Sprints** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.eusprint.com.
- 11 Apr – **PSK31 Flavors Contest** – Digital, 20 meters.

- See: www.podxs070.com.
- 11-12 Apr – **URE 60th Anniversary Contest** – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.ure.es/contest.
- 11-12 Apr – **Japan International DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: jidx.org.
- 11-12 Apr – **GA QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 160-6 meters. See: gqp.contesting.com.
- 11-12 Apr – **Yuri Gagarin DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: gc.qst.ru/en.
- 13 Apr – **Low Power Spring Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. E-mail alexanderkorda@hotmail.com for more information.
- 14 Apr – **VHF Spring Sprints** – Phone/CW, 222 MHz. See: www.sysadnet.com/vhfsprintrules.htm.
- 18 Apr – **EU Spring Sprints** – SSB, 80-20 meters. See: www.eusprint.com.
- 18 Apr – **TARA Skirmish Dig Pfx Contest** – Digital, 160-6 meters. See: www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_rules.html.
- 18 Apr – **ES Open HF Championship** – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.erau.ee/index.php?newlang=eng.
- 18-19 Apr – **Holyland DX Contest** – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.iarc.org.
- 18-19 Apr – **Michigan QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.miqp.org.

(continued on pg 10)

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 af6oe@arrrl.net.

**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 ___

Dues & Fees: (SCRA dues year is 3/1/05 to 2/28/06)

Individual / Associate Member	\$24 (\$6.00/qtr)
Family Membership	\$36 (\$9.00/qtr)
Under 18 Membership	\$18 (\$3.00/qtr)
Badge	\$10

Payment Calculations: Make checks payable to SCRA

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

Badge Information

Call Sign _____

First Name _____

City _____

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



Tentative Programs for 2009:

January 7: Basic APRS by Pat Coyle KG6JSL

February 4: Amateur Radio Operating Procedures--- Required, Preferred, Customary---With emphasis on public service communications. Presented by John WB6FRZ Mentoring Chairman and Craig K6XLT Public Service Chairman

March 4: Cross Band Repeating and Repeaters---Methods and Issues Presented by Darryl KI6MSP SCRA Board Member at Large

April 1: Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) What it is, How it works, and how you can use it. Presented by Jeff KK6JAB IRLP Node Manager for KF6SZA Repeater

May 6: Local Emergency Response Teams and Training--- CERT, COPE

June 3: ARRL Field Day Preparations. Presented by Brian N6IYY SCRA 2009 Field Day Chairman

July 1: Amateur Radio Equipment Night---The latest offerings from the Ham Radio Commercial Suppliers

August 12: (Note Second Wed in August) Annual Homebrew and Boatanchor Night

December –Annual Club Holiday Party

Club Activities:

February 15: (Sunday) TOUR OF CALIFORNIA

March 28: LAKE SONOMA 50

April 26: MS Walk.

May 2: Wine Country Century bicycle tour.

May 9: The Human Race, Sonoma County Volunteer Center.

June 20: Terrible Two 200 mile bicycle tour.

June 27-28: Field Day

August 15-16: Pacific Coast Air Museum's Wings over the Wine Country

September 12-13: (Saturday-Sunday) MS Society Waves to Wine.

October 16-18: Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

To Be Announced:

Club Picnic and Fox Hunt (Date TBA)

Visit to the Red Oak Victory Ship in Richmond, CA (Date TBA)

Visit to and operate Amateur Radios from the Penngrove Power and Implement Museum in Penngrove, CA (Date TBA)

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

P.O. Box 116

Santa Rosa, California

95402-0116

Return Service Requested