



CLUB STATION
K6SON

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>

Repeaters:

English Hill: 147.315+ 88.5 / 224.180+ 88.5 /
441.375+ 88.5

Castle Rock: 147.315+ 156.7



REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 36, Number 8

August 2011



August SCRA Update

by Darryl Paule, KI6MSP
SCRA President

At the August club meeting the program will be Home brew and Boat anchor night. This is a chance to show off your home brew items that you have built, or brewed on your own.

I just brewed a new portable mast stand. I used painter's poles for antenna masts. Come to the meeting to see this simple yet very effective mast stand. It also included recycling the materials from a previous life. So bring your items to show and talk about, as well as your boat anchors. This will be a fun evening.

Working the various public service events is a great way to hone your skills in handling radio traffic. These skills are transferable to working disaster events. There are a couple of events left this year. The Waves to Wine two day ride, and Levi's Gran Fondo bike ride. Please contact Craig K6XLT for further information on these events. By the way it is also a lot of fun!

The Mendo rally is just a couple of weeks away. This is a new event that SCRA has been asked to support. Here is the Web link for this event: <http://mendocinorally.com>. Contact Pat KG6JSI for further information.

Another new event is the MiniDxpedition to activate grid square CM79. Go to the SCRA Web site www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com or contact Charlie

KZ6T for further information

Yet another new event is that SCRA will have a phone team for the KRCB auction on October 7th at the KRCB studios. This will also be a fun event to support our local public Broadcasting Station. Contact Darryl KI6MSP at ki6msp@arrl.net for further information.

Lastly, if you want to help work the club booth at the Pacific Coast Air Museum air show, contact Pat KG6JSI for further information.

To contact any of the mentioned people go to the SCRA Web site www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com and click on the officials tab.

73
Darryl KI6MSP



Cut out for your VIP Discount Card



2011 Club Officers

President	Darryl M. Paule ki6msp@arrl.net	KI6MSP 707-544-8874
Vice President	Charlie Sikes	KZ6T
Treasurer	Jack Christensen	K6ROW
Secretary	Evelyn Chavez	KI6PAY
Director	John Felton	KE5RI
	John Chavez	KG6PEP
Past President	Dave Santori	KF6CLG

Committee Lineup/Contacts

Membership Program	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB	
	Charlie Sikes	KZ6T	
EmComm	Rich Freitas	KF6SZA	
Field Day Activity	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707-575-5871
Public Service	Craig Gaever	K6XLT	707-545-4133
Education	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	Jim Draeger	KI6REK	
ARRL DXCC/WAS Manager	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528
Club Raffle	John Chavez	KG6PEP	
Member Badges	Ken Rawles	N6PWW	

Short Skip & Web Staff

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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 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

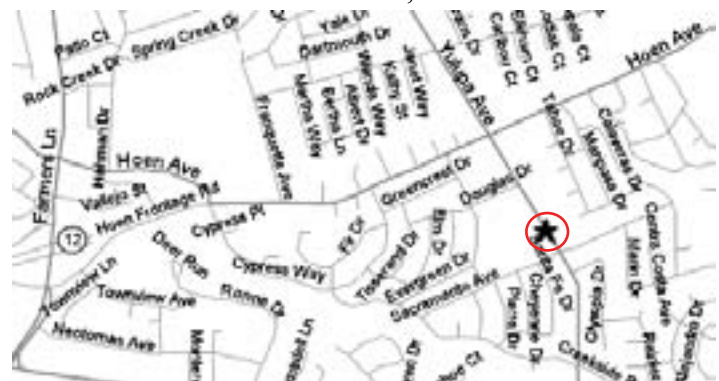
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SCRA Club Meetings

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

Meeting location:
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 Star Restaurant,
1350 Farmers Lane, 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 this Web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/san-francisco>

Public Service Roundup for May-June

It's indeed been a busy month for all of us. Busy enough that I've not been able to get the public service message out in a while. My favorite event of the year is always the Terrible Two. As the director and the guy that gets to run the show, I always find it a great opportunity to test the ether of the west county. The event always tests everyone's patience with seemingly endless transmitting of rider number and times. We had plenty of issues with times as we had to work in delays from the road construction on 128. It resulted in 12 versions of the results before we had it right. We attempted to make use of the Cazadero repeater but the antenna arrangement at Analy High didn't quite work out. Many thanks to all who worked the TT and got a t-shirt to go with it.

August 6, Pat, KG6JSL is organizing folks for the Mendo Rally, an off-road car race in the Mendocino National Forest. Pat still needs a few folks to fill out the event. Contact Pat for more info.

Coming up in September (17-18) we have Waves to Wine. I've got a few slots left to fill on Saturday, notably the afternoon Net Control shifts and a few rest stops. For Sunday quite a few rest stops are still available as well as the afternoon NC. If SAGging is your thing, we

can always use a few mobile units. Of larger concern, I'm going to be out of town that weekend. I'm looking for someone who can oversee the event while I'm away. It would be a good introduction into managing a public service event. Duties involve coordinating with Waves to Wine staff and our troupe. It does involve working both days unless two of you want to split the duty. If you're at all interested please let me know soon so I can keep you posted on the event as it develops. I'll take care of the minutiae of getting folks organized and will make it as easy as possible for someone to step in.

Oct 1 is once again Levi's Gran Fondo and we'll have the usual rest stops, NC and sag slots available. I'll be here to manage this one, so let me know if you have an interest.

Remember too that the club benefits greatly from these events as contributions from these groups help fund our purchase of club equipment and pay the various bills. It's a wonderful thing. If you're new to public service feel free to come out and join the fun. We've got a spot for you.

Craig
K6XLT
Public Service Wrangler



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- Advanced CW functions
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- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

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August Membership Meeting Program

This month's program is Boat Anchor/HomeBrew night.

If you have anything that fits those categories that you would like to present? Working/non-working, scratch-built or kits, all are welcome.

Please bring them to the meeting and talk about them.

Boat Anchor (Urban Dictionary)

1. Any large electronic device that has become outdated, and thus is much larger and heavier than modern versions. A small (usually handheld) such device is called a brick.
2. In ham radio, a piece of radio equipment meeting the criteria in definition

- a. That stereo is a total boat anchor!
- b. I went to a hamfest last weekend and bought a boat anchor from the 1970's.

Boat Anchor (Wikipedia)

In amateur radio and computing, boat anchor is a slang term used to describe something obsolete, useless, and cumbersome - so-called because metaphorically its only productive use is to be thrown into the water as a boat mooring.

Homebrew (Wikipedia)

Homebrew is an Amateur radio slang term for home-built, noncommercial radio equipment.

fo

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 via email? Yes _____ No _____

<p>Dues & Fees: March 1 to February 28</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>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: <small>Make checks payable to SCRA</small></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Dues - Full Year</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dues - Prorated _____ Qtrs. 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 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402</p>	Dues - Full Year	\$ _____	Dues - Prorated _____ Qtrs. x \$ _____/qtr	\$ _____	Badge	\$ _____	Other - _____	\$ _____	Donation	\$ _____	Total	\$ _____
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Total	\$ _____																				





CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Try out the ARRL UHF contest or the European HF Championship this month in between enjoying your summer recreational activities. Or, if CW is your game, check out one of the sprints that are nearly always going on. Happy DX'ing!

5 Aug – **SNS and NS Weekly Sprints** – CW, 160-20 meters. See: www.nccsprint.com/rules.html.

6 Aug – **TARA Grid Dip Sindig** – Digital, 160-6 meters. See: www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_grid_rules.html.

6 Aug – **European HF Championship** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhfc.htm.

6-7 Aug – **Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: illw.org.

6-7 Aug – **10-10 Summer Phone QSO Party** – Phone, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

6-7 Aug – **ARRL UHF Contest** – all modes, 222 MHz and up. See: arrl.org/contests.

6-7 Aug – **North American QSO Party** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: ncjweb.com.

7 Aug – **South Africa DX Contest** – SSB, 80-20 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.

10 Aug – **NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: naqcc.info.

10 Aug – **CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Test** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.cwops.org/onair.html.

13 Aug – **Maryland-DC QSO Party** – all modes, 160 meters – 70 cm. See: mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org.

13-14 Aug – **Worked All Europe** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.waedc.de.

13-14 Aug – **Dominican Republic Contest** – Phone, 80-20 meters. See: www.hi8ud.es.tl.

14 Aug – **Straight Key Weekend Sprint** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes.

20 Aug – **SARTG WW RTTY Contest** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.sartg.com/contest/wwrules.htm.

20 Aug – **CWops CW Open** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.cwops.org/onair.html.

20 Aug – **Feld-Hell Monthly Sprint** – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

20-21 Aug – **ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest** – all modes, 10G+. See: arrl.org/contests.

20-21 Aug – **Russian District Award Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: rdaward.org/rdac1.htm.

20-21 Aug – **Keymen's Club of Japan Contest** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.kcj-cw.com.

20-21 Aug – **North American QSO Party** – Phone, 160-2 meters. See: ncjweb.com.

21 Aug – **SARL Digital Contest** – Digital, 80-20 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.

21 Aug – **ARRL Rookie Roundup** – Phone, 80-6 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

22 Aug – **Run For the Bacon** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.fpqrp.org/pigrun.

27-28 Aug – **ALARA Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-70 centimeters. See: alara.org.au.

27-28 Aug – **Hawaii QSO Party** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.karc.net.

27-28 Aug – **SCC RTTY Championship** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: lea.hamradio.si/~scc/rtty/rtty.html.

27-28 Aug – **YO DX Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.hamradio.ro.

27-28 Aug – **Kansas QSO Party** – all modes, 80-2 meters. See: www.ksqsoparty.org.

27-28 Aug – **Ohio QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.ohqp.org.

28 Aug – **South Africa DX Contest** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.



SCRA CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTES

July 6, 2011

Meeting called to order by KI6MSP at 7:05

Introductions, Upgrades, Changed Calls

- 32 present

Shortskip Report

- None Given.

Webmaster Report

- None Given.

Program – Mobile Installation

- After brief introduction, membership relocated outside to the parking lot where we toured about 10 different installations. These varied from single 2m installations to HF. Lots of questions were answered and some dos and don'ts offered.
- Presentation concluded at 7:50PM

Intermission

- Ended at 8:05PM

Announcements

- Jim KG6KLS donated a 35amp power supply and SWR meter to the club. Initial thought was to keep it for Field Day use rather than raffle it off. (NOTE At this year's Field Day we were missing a power supply at the GOTA station and had to send someone home to get one.)

Business Meeting

VP Report

- KZ6T thanked Darryl, Brian, and all who volunteered for Field Day. It was a great event.
- KZ6T Offered summary status of Mini-DX

Treasurer Report

- K6ROW presented a summary of accounts.
- The ability to use PayPal is now active. The BOD decided to open up a separate account for the Paypal funds in order to isolate our main accounts from online hackers. A new account was opened with \$500.
- The Club incurred a large (un-budgeted) expense to purchase a trailer. This is an asset to the Club.

It is used to store most of our mobile assets in. It will be brought to the next membership meeting.

Education Report

- WB6FRZ reported that 14 students have signed up for the July Tech Class.
- Final Tech class of the year will be in October.

Repeater

- KE5RI not present, no report given.

Public Service

- Thanked members for staffing the Terrible 2. Mentioned the press article.
- K6XLT summarized upcoming events. Waves to Wine and Levi's Gran Fondo. Contact Craig if you are interested in staffing those events.

Refreshments

- KE6REK No report

Membership

- AD6YB stated there are now 89 members signed up.
- KI6MSP stated that some members are not getting Short Skip. If you are one, check with KF6CLG to make sure your email address is correct. Also make sure your dues are paid up.

ARES

- KF6FZA stated there will be a national coordinated SAT in October. Rich is working out the details for future training sessions.

Field Day

- N6IYY reported preliminary results from field day. Final tally to follow.
- Points and Contacts:

	Last Year	This Year
CW	202	284
Phone	306	291
VHF	?	?
GOTA	?	?
Bonus Solar	0	100
Bonus Satellite	0	100
Bonus other	?	?



- VE Session. Noise from the adjacent car club event was an issue.
- Reservation has been made for next year at the Youth Park. The City has blocked out the weekend so that no similar car club event will take place.

Miscellaneous

- KI6MSP gave brief account of Club's food bank contribution and reminded members to please bring food to the next membership meeting.

Mendo Rally

- KG6JSL gave short review of event status. A participant meeting will take place immediately after this meeting is adjourned.

Mini-DX

- KZ6T gave short review of event status.

Trailer

- A 6'x12' enclosed trailer with rear and side doors was purchased. It contains most of the clubs portable assets.
- KG6PEP was not able to attend tonight. He will bring the trailer to next months meeting for review by the general membership.

Meeting Minutes Approval

- No approval was made, as previous minutes were not distributed.

New Business

- K6SRO made short presentation regarding Maritime Radio Night of Nights. July 12th. They are looking for key operators.
- KF6LMB (Doug) brought up the subject of the Rose Parade. Members who worked the event felt it was a waste of time. K6XLT will discuss the situation with the event organizers and if the status quo remains in effect, will opt out.
- P-CAM. KG6JSL made short presentation on the upcoming event. A sign-up sheet was distributed.
- Power and Implementation Event. W6IBC gave short presentation. The event occurs this coming Saturday and he is not able to attend. Looking for others to step up. Bring ear plugs. Talk to KI6MSP if interested.
- Membership User Group. KZ6T mentioned that new members may not have access to the Forum. KZ6T needs new members email addresses in order to register them on the site.

Net Control

July 12	Mike	AD6YB
July 19	Darryl	KI6MSP
July 26	Ed	KJ6DOU
August 8	Frank	KJ6BPO

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 PM
Meeting notes compiled by KZ6T

2011 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Date	Program	Presenter
Aug 3, 2011	Boat Anchor / Homebrew	
Sep 7, 2011	Fox hunting / IRLP / Echolink	KE5RI / KG6PEP
Oct 5, 2011	Test Equipment	N6IY / WB6FRZ
Nov 2, 2011	Elections / Game Night	
Dec 7, 2011	Holiday Party, No Program	



CM79 Mini-DX Update

A Day in the Foothills

On July 16, eight members of the CM79 team assembled in Windsor for a dry-run practice. The goals for this day included operating in a remote area under similar conditions we will be facing in CM79, assembling and packing the gear, and finding out would we forgot to bring.

The top of Foothills Regional Park (just outside of Windsor) was picked as a location. The group assembled at 0900 at the home of Dave W6IBC where all of the gear was laid out in the driveway. Since we only had half of the contingent of operators for this practice session, we cut back on the gear to haul up into the park.

Selected gear included a Yaesu 857 and 817, a single 70 amp (42# battery), 2 m Yagi, 6m Moxon, Buddi-Pole, and a St Louis vertical, antenna analyzer, tuner, LMR400 coax, ladder line, one table, 3 chairs, 2 masts, and associated odds and ends.

The team departed on foot at 0930 and arrived at the transmit location at 1015 where we went to work assembling the stations. Distance hiked up the hill was 1.11 miles. 0.85 miles coming back down the hill (a shortcut was taken).

First up was the 2m SSB. Unfortunately no contacts were made on 2m. 6m was an entirely different story. Brian's homebrew Moxon performed extremely well with its SWR measuring out at 1.2:1. Our first contact was a short hop to KF6CJL in Rohnert Park. Soon after we were making contact with VHF contesters in the Sierras and the East Bay.

The 2m Yagi was replaced with a BuddiPole tuned to 20m. Both SSB and CW contacts were made. Lastly, the St Louis vertical went up which was tuned to 40m. using the 817 in QRP mode. We had a little bit of modulation problems when using both the 20 and 40m stations at the same time.

We broke camp at 1300 and arrived back at Dave's house at 1330.

In all, this exercise was a resounding success. All goals were met, and a list of "must brings" was developed.

We are ready for the real thing.

Participating in the practice run were:

W1EJ	Ed Jacobson
WB6FRZ	John Breckenridge
W6IBC	Dave Harrison
KI6TUR	Steve Bramble
KG6ZDN	Bob Arthur
AD6YB	Mike Von de Porten
N6IY	Brian Torr
KZ6T	Charlie Sikes



The Group



KI6TUR & KG6ZDN





Erecting the Buddie Stick



W6IBC Supervising



WB6FRZ on 40m CW QRP



Heading down off the hill



W1EJ on 20m CW



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Return Service Requested