



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>

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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 37, Number 1

January 2012



January SCRA Update

by Darryl Paule, KI6MSP
SCRA President

First of all I'd like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year!

As mentioned in my message of last month SCRA had a great year. I look forward to another year of new programs that are being developed, new programs for our monthly meetings, working the different public service events, as well as various other events such as the Mendo Rally and PCAM.

I'd also like to congratulate the 2011 Ham of the Year recipient John KE5RI. John has been a club member for over 10 years and has served as repeater trustee for all of that time. John also has assisted in teaching the various licensing classes and is available to help in answering your questions about the many aspects of ham radio. For a complete listing of all of the recognition of the club members please go to the [SCRA Web site](#).

Some of the programs that will be scheduled for the club meetings will be:

- Batteries, how to care for them, and basic maintenance.
- Radio Astronomy
- KPH, the Maritime Radio Historical Society

Dates for these and other programs are to be announced later in the SCRA web site, Short Skip and on the weekly nets. If you have any suggestions for programs for the club meetings please contact Charlie KZ6T, KZ6T@arrl.net and they can be considered.

the year were about 626 pounds. We had 176 pounds that was brought to the club Christmas/Holiday recognition dinner. I want to thank all of you who participated in supporting the food bank. The new goal for 2012 is to donate 1k pounds of food.

Looking forward to another terrific and fun year!!

73
Darryl
KI6MSP

Emergency Vest Orders

Ken, N6PWV

Attention all SCRA Hams that would like to order an emergency vest . Please let me know by the January meeting if you would like to have a vest ordered. Pat will be putting in the orders after the meeting. I remember that some of you came up to me at the November meeting, and Pat asked if we could wait to put in one order.

Here are the ones that have sent me emails:

KD6GSY Med (no smalls)

KI6TUR XL

AG6CI XL

KQ6OB L

KI6PBF L

K6HKY L

W6CLC 2X

Please email me or let me know at the January meeting . You will need to pay by the February meeting or the club will sell the vests.

The donations to the Redwood Empire Food Bank for



2012 Club Officers

President	Darryl M. Paule ki6msp@arrl.net	KI6MSP 707-544-8874
Vice President	Charlie Sikes	KZ6T
Treasurer	Steve Bramble	KI6TUR
Secretary	Mike Von Der Porten	AD6YB
Director	Dave Harrison	W6IBC
	Brian Torr	N6IYY
Past President	Dave Santori	KF6CLG

Committee Lineup/Contacts

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Activity			
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Antenna			
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ARRL DXCC/WAS			
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Club Raffle	John Chavez	KG6PEP	
Member Badges	Ken Rawles	N6PWV	

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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 broadcast.

Short Skip Advertising Rates

Business Cards	\$12 per month
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Each Additional Quarter Column	\$4 per month
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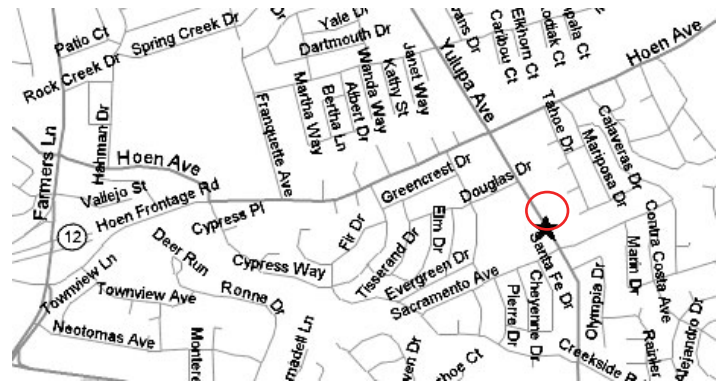


SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. 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>



CONTEST CORNER

Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Lots of activity in January. Highlights include the major 160 meter contests of the year as well as an ARRL VHF contest. Happy DX'ing!

1 Jan – **ARRL Straight Key Night** – CW, 80-6 meters.

See: www.arrl.org/straight-key-night.

1 Jan – **SARTG New Year RTTY Contest** – 80-40 meters.

See: www.sartg.com/contest/nyrules.htm.

1 Jan – **AGCW Happy New Year Contest** – CW, 80-20 meters.

See: www.agcw.org/en/?Contests:Happy_New_Year_Contest.

3 Jan – **ARS Spartan Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters.

See: adventure-radio.org/wiki/index.php?title=Spartan_Sprint_Rules.

6 Jan and every Friday – **NCCC Sprint Ladder** – CW, 160-15 meters.

See: www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html.

7 Jan – **PODXS 070 Club PSKFest** – PSK31, 80-10 meters.

See: www.podxs070.com/pskfest.

7 Jan – **CWopsMini-CWT Test** – CW, 80-20 meters.

See: www.cwops.org/onair.html.

7-8 Jan – **Original QRP Contest** – CW, 80-20 meters.

See: www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/oqrpr.html.

7-8 Jan – **ARRL RTTY Roundup** – RTTY, 80-10 meters.

See: www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup.

7-8 Jan – **EUCW 160- Meter Contest** – CW, 160 meters.

See: www.agcw.de/eucw/eu160.html.

8 Jan – **DARC 10 Meter Contest** – SSB/CW.

See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/10m/en/rules.

8 Jan – **Midwinter Party** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters.

See: trafficbureau.veron.nl/contest/contest_mw_eng.htm.

8 Jan – **Kid's Day** – SSB, 80-10 meters.

See: www.arrl.org/kids-day.

14-15 Jan – **Hunting Lions in the Air** – all modes, 160-10 meters.

See: lionshuntingintheair.lionwap.org.

14-15 Jan – **WW PMC Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters.

See: www.s59dcd.si.

14-15 Jan – **North American QSO Party** – CW, 160-10 meters.

See: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.

15 Jan – **NRAU Baltic Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters.

See: www.sk3bg.se/contest/nrau.htm.

18-19 and 21-22 Jan – **Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest** – CW, 160-40 meters.

See: www.antiquewireless.org/pdf/2012cundallrules.pdf.

19 Jan – **NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters.

See: naqcc.info/sprint201201.html.

20 Jan – **Locust QSO Party** – CW, 80-40 meters.

See: www.k6vva.com/lqp.

21 Jan – **LZ Open Contest** – CW, 80-40 meters.

See: www.lzopen.com/lz-open-contest/rules/rulesF.htm.

21-22 Jan – **Hungarian DX Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters.

See: www.ha-dx.com/HADX/html/rules_en.html.

21-22 Jan – **North American QSO Party** – SSB, 160-10 meters.

See: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.

Continued on page 5



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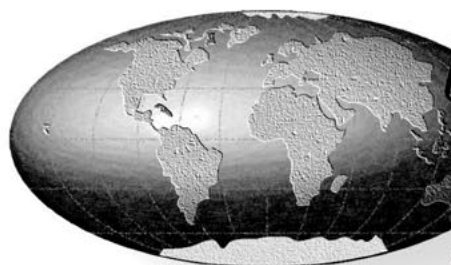
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FT-857D

- Ultra compact HF, VHF, UHF
- 100w HF/6M, 50w 2M, 20w UHF
- DSP included • 32 color display
- 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 required)

Call for Low Price!



FT-2000 HF + 6M tcvr

- 100 W w/ auto tuner
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- Selectable IF filter shapes for SSB & CW
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- Advanced CW functions
- 101 alphanumeric memories

The Ultimate Radio!



DJ-196T 2M/HT

- 5 Watt out
- 40 memories
- Alphanumeric display
- CTCSS & DCS built in
- "S" meter
- Auto Dialer

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DR-135TP 2M mobile

- 50 Watt out • Alpha numeric display
- 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

Low Pricing!

Contest Corner, continued

21-23 Jan – **ARRL January VHF Sweepstake** – Phone/CW, 6 meters and up.

See: www.arrl.org/january-vhf-sweepstakes.

22 Jan – **Feld-Hell Bingo Sprint** – digital, 160-10 meters.

See: www.feldhellclub.org.

27-29 Jan – **CQ WW 160 Meter Contest** – CW, 160 meters.

See: cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/.

28 Jan – **WAB Top Band Phone Contest** – SSB, 160 meters.

See: www.worked-all-britain.co.uk/contest.

28-29 Jan – **REF Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters.

See: concours.ref-union.org/contest/?page_id=2.

28-29 Jan – **BARTG RTTY Sprint** – 80-10 meters.

See: www.bartg.org.uk.

28-29 Jan – **UBA Contest** – SSB, 80-10 meters.

See: www.uba.be/sites/default/files/uploads/hf_contests/.

28-29 Jan – **Winter Field Day** – all modes, all bands.

See: www.spar-hams.org.

29-30 Jan – **Classic Exchange** – CW, 160-2 meters.

See: www.classicexchange.org.

SCRA Holiday Party Photos

Submitted by Darryl, KI6MSP



All recipients of recognition



Craig K6XLT



Ham of the Year John KE5RI



Astrid KJ6JTP



Cut out for your VIP Discount Card

SCRA Holiday Party Photos
Darryl, KI6MSP



Henry KI6VKL



Dave W6IBC and Joy KI6ASJ



Sutter KI6ZON

PAVE PAWS and rumored 440 Quiet Zone
Darryl, KI6MSP

Someone has started a rumor that the USAF and FCC are going to impose a 175 mile quiet zone around the Beale PAVE PAWS (UEWR) site. Please review ARRL's Dan Henderson's comments below:

Not sure of how this rumor got started but we need to be very clear and firm. There is no current proposal to our knowledge (or to the FCC's - yes I checked) to institute a quiet zone around Beale AFB, there is no proposal to stop 70-cm operations in Northern California. I suspect someone has elaborated on statements made at Bob Vallio's section cabinet meeting from early December.

This kind of rumor hurts our position. It works people up about something that is frankly not on the table. Yes, the mitigation work to harmful interference to the Beale PAVE PAWS radar needs to continue and is going to continue. It is not a "ok we looked at everyone once and you can go back to old operations." Yes, there is a lot of work still to be done by the Amateur community. Yes, the FCC is going to consider license modifications or other actions against specific individuals that continue to cause interference and refuse to seriously attempt to resolve the problem despite several requests. Those that insist on playing games refusing to meet their obligation to eliminate their harmful interference will eventually have to answer to the FCC's inquiry.

But at this time to the ARRL's knowledge, there is no proposal on the table to establish a quiet zone around Beale on the 70-cm band. Could this change? Absolutely, especially if the amateur community fails to meet its obligation as a secondary user on the band.

I respectfully ask that you as ARRL leadership in the affected area circulate these comments. And I ask that the person who posted this rumor to the NARCC reflector please immediately retract his post to that reflector. We need your help in stopping this rumor before it runs rampant, Thanks for your serious and immediate attention to this.

73, Dan Henderson, N1ND

Regulatory Information Manager

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio™



Fall 2011 (off)road trip, or why I missed the last BOD meeting

Charlie, KZ6T

Continued from previous issue...

Part II, Day 3

Our backup plan (in case the Mojave Road was closed) was to spend some time in the Inyo Mountains. This is a mountain range that parallels the Sierras along the N/W edge of Death Valley National Park. To get there from Caruthers Canyon we elected to travel a circuitous route, which today, would move us 180 miles to the north. First up was Vegas, which was nothing more than a quick fuel stop. Then up the I-95 corridor to Beatty for lunch. Beatty is a small town on I-95 about 2.5 hours north of Las Vegas. It serves as a main entrance point into Death Valley. We stopped for lunch at a saloon and were entertained by the local characters. Living in California we forget what its like to have smoking allowed in restaurants. There was a no-smoking section but it was just a hallway next to the restroom. Oh well... A few years ago we camped just outside of Beatty on top of a mountain that was an abandoned ATT communications tower site.



Just outside of Beatty is the Ghost Town of Rhyolite. When gold was first discovered in Nevada in the early 1900's, Rhyolite and its sister town of Bullfrog were boom towns that faded away just as fast as they appeared. It's an historic park now. There are a number of ruins, and a few complete buildings left. Notable are the Bottle House (yep, made out of bottles) and the Tonopah Rail Station.

Most people coming into Death Valley take the main highway from Beatty to Furnace Creek; where we on

the other hand, seek alternate paths of travel. The town of Leadville and Titus Canyon were next on our list. This is a 26-mile (2.5-hour) one-way high clearance 4-wheel drive road that eventually ends on the Valley floor. The Park service classifies it as such, but in my mind, they lean way over on the conservative side when classifying roads. For good reason mind you, (people perish out here every year) but any 4wd SUV could do it and I have even seen 2wd sedans on it as well (Darwin at work). The road gets as high as 5,000 ft. and ends on the Valley floor at 165' above sea level. The views at the top are magnificent. About 2/3rds down the road is the mining ghost town of Leadville. One of the biggest con game land swindles ever devised. The town boomed on a rumor that never panned out. The U.S. even opened up a post office out here, but since there was no minerals to be had, the town soon died. A few old metal buildings are left. The Park has sealed off the mines, but its still interesting to wonder around and imagine how life was like in this truly isolated part of the country.



Next up is the gem of the road, Titus Canyon. When you exit Leadville the canyon walls start to close in on you. The first time I took the road, I said, okay this is nice, but I wasn't impressed, at least not for the first few miles. Then the canyon turns into a slot canyon that is hundreds of feet then over a thousand feet straight up. Along the route, at the base of the road, the slot is sometimes as narrow as 20 feet, at the top maybe a hundred. Its just mind numbing when you stop, get out and look around. How can mountains do this? This is the second time through the canyon for us and I am still awed.

We exit the Canyon at 4:00pm and realize that it is getting a little late to start hunting for a campsite. There is a nearby Park campground that we checked





out once before but were not impressed. After a detour and another drive-by, we know we can do better so we press further north. Our destination now is the Oriental Wash. It's kind of a no-man's land between Death Valley and metropolis (pop. 200) of Goldpoint Nevada. To get there we take an unmarked 2-track (not a road) out of the Park, back into Nevada. Make our own path for while until we find a wide spot with a view to settle in; have dinner, watch the sun set over the Sierras, and oh yes make a few PSK contacts.



Oriental Wash looking down at Death Valley. The Sierras are in the far background. There is no one around for 20 miles.

Day 4

This part of Nevada is peppered with gold mines, both abandoned and current production. Hence the name of the nearby peak of "Gold Mountain." This morning we are headed up into the high mountains (7,500 ft) to poke around inside a few mines. Our first stop is an old horizontal straight shaft about 300 ft long. When we reach the end, a vertical shaft takes off but we turn around as the shaft looks pretty well picked clean. The 2nd mine we enter is much longer with lots of twists and turns. The only thing we find here are rats, so out we go.

Next up, a long haul back into California to the Alabama Hills. These are a very unique set of hills located just outside of Lone Pine California, immediately under Mt. Whitney. Many movies have been filmed here, especially old westerns. (There is a current set of Dodge Ram commercials airing on TV that were filmed here.) This is a great place to camp; it's BLM land with primitive campsites (no amenities). There is snow in the Sierras directly above us but the temperature was warm all night. I make a few contacts tonight.

Mostly to the east as there is a 14,505 ft. high piece of granite to the west.

Day 5.

A geologist friend of mine has encouraged me to explore the Reward Mine, just outside of Lone Pine in the Inyo Mountains. He came out of the mine last year with some great crystal samples, so off we go. We arrive and see the shaft about 200' up on the side of the cliff. After scrambling and climbing the distance (felt like 500') I get to the top only to find a nice gentle trail coming up from a different direction. By the time Dina gets up to the shaft we are both too tired to head off into the mine. When we get back down the van I look a little closer at my map; this shaft goes through the mountain and is accessible by vehicle from the other side. We are able to drive right up to the opening which is so large that small pickups and jeeps can (and do) drive right in. We spend about an hour poking around inside the mine and find a few crystals and rocks worth bringing home.

About noon we head up to Mazourka Peak just outside of Manzanar. (Manzanar is known for being an internment camp in WWII.) This 9,340 ft. peak has commanding views of the Owens River Valley (395 Corridor) and the Sierras. (If you have never driven 395 I highly recommend it to I-5. Yes it will take you much longer to get to LA but scenery is fantastic.) There are multiple communication towers located here, including Ham repeaters. ATT was replacing some microwave dishes when we arrived.



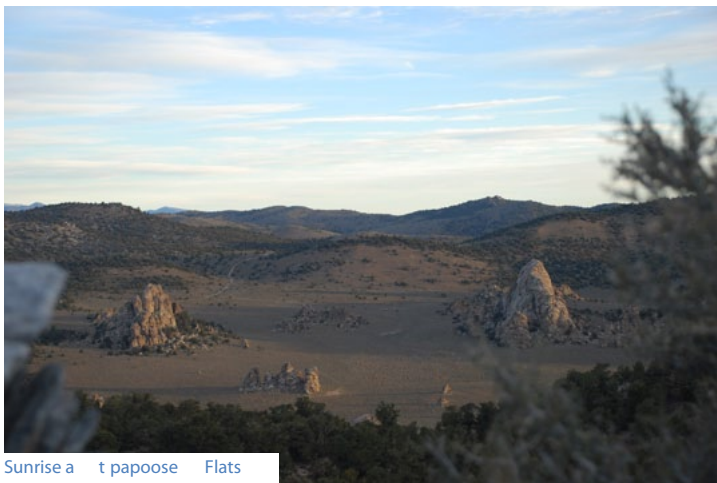
Mazourka Peak

From here to our intended campsite, the road quickly deteriorates. The trail books I use utilize a scale of





1-10 for rating 4x4 trails. The toughest rating of 10 is given to the Rubicon just outside of Tahoe. A point rating of 5 is the toughest I have been on with the van. This trail rated a 4 due to loose shale narrow turns, and some shelf road (cliff) sections. Although the narrowness of the trail didn't quite make Dina get out and walk, (something she usually does on shelf roads) it was challenging in some locations. We made camp just above Papoose Flat (El 8,500), which is a broad high mountain meadow. I only wish that my photographic abilities will one day do justice to these fantastic vistas we encounter. This area has definitely made it to my must come back to visit list.



Sunrise at Papoose Flats

Day 6. Back to civilization.

We broke camp around 09:00 and took 2 hours to get off the mountain to Big Pine. We had lunch in Bishop (one of our favorite towns to visit), spent some time on the Internet, and find that Tioga and Sonora Pass had been reopened. Tioga will save hours off the return to Santa Rosa. The Yosemite High Country looks deserted as we pass through. Hardly anyone is on the road and Tuolumne Meadows is empty. What a great time to visit.



Ellerby Lake at Tioga Pass

We arrive home at 18:00 and start the recuperating process.

- Miles Traveled: 1,500
- Fuel Consumed: 119 gallons (not bad considering the 4x4 travel)
- Psk31 Contacts Made: 17
- Longest Hop: 5,300 miles, JH1HRJ
- Disappointments: APRS didn't work very well on this trip.
- Highlights: As always, getting away.

[Our route on an online map](#)

ARRL Vests for Members

The Club will make a bulk purchase of ARRL event vests for members who place an order with the Club. The vests are lightweight mesh. These readily identify you as the radio operator and can be used not only for emergency communications, but for public service and other events as well.



Cost is \$17.00, which is the ARRL price plus \$1.00 for shipping. You save a few bucks on the shipping and we do the hassle of ordering.

Place your orders with our Storekeeper, Ken Rawles at redmtnman@yahoo.com. Give Ken your name and size (M-3X). Orders will be placed with ARRL after the January 4, 2012, meeting. You can pay at the February meeting and pick up your vest at that time unless you make other arrangements for payment and pickup. Vests not claimed at the February meeting will be sold to anyone who wants it.





Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
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SCRA Members in QST

Jack, K6ROW

Two of our members have articles in this month's QST. Al Bloom, N1AL has an article on a transistor tester and Dave Harrison, W6IBC has an article on a 75 Meter SSB Superhet Receiver. TWO in a National Publication. That's got to be a first.



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 _____

Dues & Fees: March 1 to February 28

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

Badge Information

Call Sign _____
First Name _____
City _____

Payment Calculations: Make checks payable to SCRA

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

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

