



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 38, Number 4

April 2013



April SCRA Update

by Charlie Sikes, KZ6T
SCRA President

SCRA Springtime

The subject of this month's club meeting program is the ARRL presented by Bill Hillendahl, ARRL Section Section Manager. Bill will be giving us an update on what is happening with ARRL, where its headed, and how you can benefit from the programs that the organization offers.

Our membership signup program worked well this year. The Club has just under a hundred paid members right now. The roster is being printed and expected to be distributed to members at the April meeting.

TOASTER

At the March meeting the Club voted to dispose of the Toaster (Communications RV). I am pleased to report that the Toaster has found a new home and is no longer occupying the valuable real estate at Pat's (KG6JSL) house. He is now free to begin this home remodeling campaign.

The radio equipment that came out of it will be added to the Club's lending library inventory. John (KE5RI) will be spearheading a program to loan out working equipment to new Hams. Talk to John if you have surplus gear taking up storage space in your shack that is no longer needed. Perhaps it can be re purposed.

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Public Service Update

April is famous for taxes, rain, baseball, and of course, the beginning of the SCRA's Public Service season. This year we start off with the Lake Sonoma 50 on April 13th. This is a 50-mile endurance foot race around Lake Sonoma. Now here's the good part...if you volunteer for the LS50, you don't have to run! Instead, all you have to do is show up with your HT, an extra battery and sunscreen. This is a simplex event so be prepared to support the race without a repeater. We have to be on-site for over 12 hours so we need to fill several slots with multiple shifts.

On the following Sunday, April 21st, we have the MS Walk and May has three great events:

- Wine Country Century on May 4th
- Human Race on May 11th
- Amgen Tour of California on May 19th

We need your volunteer support for all of these. Please contact us to sign up for these fun and exciting events.

Contact Craig K6XLT at k6xlt@sonic.net or Bruce K6BDH at k6bdh@me.com





2013 Club Officers

President	Charlie Siles kz6t@arrl.net	KZ6T
Vice President	John Felton	KE5RI
Treasurer	Steve Bramble	KI6TUR
Secretary	Mike Von Der Porten	AD6YB
Director	Doug Payne	KF6LMB
	Brian Torr	N6IYY
Past President	Darryl Paule	KI6MSP

Committee Lineup/Contacts

Membership	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB	
Program	John Felton	KE5RI	
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Field Day	Brian Torr	N6IYY	707-575-5871
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Education	Jeff Tonelli	KI6PBF	
Repeater	Jack Christensen	K6ROW	
Volunteer Exam			
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Antenna			
Ordinance-Legal	Lee Dibble	KE6EAQ	707 544-1675
Refreshments	John Tracy	W6SB	
ARRL DXCC/WAS			
Manager	Chuck Ternes	N6OJ	707 763-2528
Club Raffle	John Chavez	KG6PEP	
Member Badges	Nancy Yarbrough	K6NCY	
Activities	Darryl Paule	KI6MSP	

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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
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

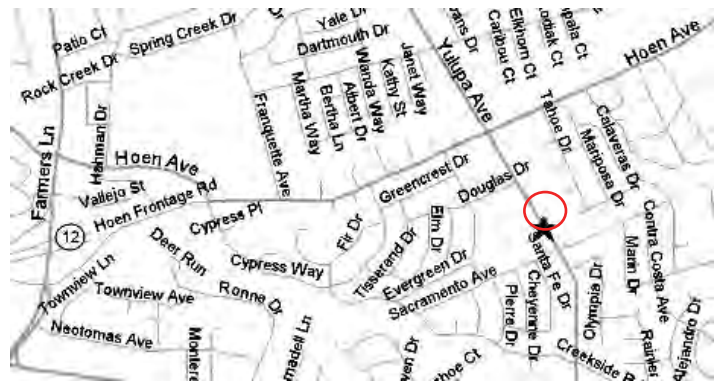
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SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month 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>



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- 200 Memos., CTCSS
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Low Pricing!



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- Fully Submersible to 3 ft.
- Built-in CTCSS/DCS
- Internet WIRESS compatible

Great Price!



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!

ALINCO



DJ-196T 2M/HT

- 5 Watt out
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- Alphanumeric display
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- "S" meter
- Auto Dialer

Low Pricing!



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!



Next VE Session: Sunday, April 7, 3pm

Our next VE exam is scheduled for Sunday, April 7 from 3pm until 5pm. The location is TENTATIVELY set to be First American Title Company, 625 College Ave, Santa Rosa. Please check the SCRA VE Testing website for updates a few days before the session (<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/ve-testing.html>). All test elements will be administered.

Please arrive by 2:45pm to be signed in. Testing will begin shortly thereafter.

Directions: From Hwy 101, take College Ave east past Mendocino Ave. Turn left onto Humboldt St., Turn left into the parking lot behind First American Title, Co. Enter through the door near the parking lot.

Candidates should bring the following:

- One (1) photo ID or two (2) non-photo ID
- FCC Registration Number (FRN, if you have one) or Social Security Number (if you do not have an FRN) If you have had any FCC license assigned to you, amateur or otherwise, or had any prior business with the FCC, you probably have an FRN.
- Original and photocopy of your current amateur radio license (if licensed)
- Original and photocopy of any valid CSCEs (if applicable)
- #2 Pencil and eraser
- \$15.00 exam fee. Checks may be made payable to "ARRL-VEC"

Calculators may be used, but it must be demonstrated that all memories and programs have been erased. The calculator function in a cell phone or PDA may not be used! If you have any special needs, please contact Brian Torr, N6IYY in advance.

Good Luck!

Brian Torr, N6IYY
n6iyy@arrrl.net
(707) 575-5871

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Events

In March, Jeff KI6PBF and Darryl KI6MSP with the help of Lee KE6EAQ put together a Tech training session for the residents of Silvercrest. Darryl also quickly organized a show and tell at Hobbytown in Petaluma. Thanks go out to these guys as well as the volunteers who participated in them and VE testing sessions.

Club Calendar

Public service gets rolling this month with the Lake Sonoma 50 on April 13, followed up with the Wine Country Century on May 4. Contact Craig K6XLT, and or Bruce K6BDH to sign up.

Check your mobile gear

With public service events gearing up, it would be a good time to check-out and service your mobile gear to make sure it is operating correctly. In switching my rig into a new vehicle I found I had a very high SWR. It was traced back to a broken center pin on the antenna NMO mount. I usually do not check SWR on any regular basis in my vehicles, so this problem may have existed for quite some time.

Repeaters

A new 2m replacement antenna has been ordered for English Hill. Expect it to go into service sometime in April. Dave W6IBC has been diligently working away on IRLP. I would not be surprised if he has it up and running on the UHF side this month.

Participation

I am still looking for someone to step up and organize the Club picnic in September. Shoot me an email if you can help.

73

Charlie, KZ6T



Cut out for your VIP Discount Card





CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. April is the busiest contest month of the year with lots of different activities every weekend. For CW enthusiasts, check out the Japan DX contest or bounce a signal off of the moon 13-14 April. Happy DX'ing!

1 Apr – **VHF Spring Sprints** – all modes, 2 meters. See: sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints.

1 Apr – **Low Power Spring Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.hamradio.sk.

2 Apr – **ARS Spartan Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.arsqrp.blogspot.com.

2 Apr – **OK1WC Memorial Contest** – Phone/CW, 80-2 meters. See: www.hamradio.cz/ok1wc.

5 Apr – **NS Weekly Sprints** – CW, 160-20 meters. See: www.ncccsprint.com.

6 Apr – **LZ Open 40 Meter Contest** – CW, 40 meters. See: www.lzopen.com.

6 Apr – **PODXS 31 Flavors Contest** – Digital, 20 meters. See: www.podxs070.com.

6 Apr – **Missouri QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.w0ma.org.

6-7 Apr – **QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: <http://www.qrparci.org/contests>.

6-7 Apr – **SP DX Contest** – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl.

6-7 Apr – **EA RTTY Contest** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.ure.es/contest.

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

10 Apr – **CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Test** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.cwops.org/onair.html.

13 Apr – **EU Spring Sprints** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.eu-sprint.com.

13 Apr – **Georgia QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.georgiaqsoparty.org.

13-14 Apr – **Worldwide EME Contest** – Phone/CW, 10 GHz and up. See: www.dubus.org.

13-14 Apr – **Japan International DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: jidx.org.

13-14 Apr – **New Mexico QSO Party** – all modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.swcp.com/~n5zgt.

13-14 Apr – **Yuri Gagarin DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: gc.qst.ru/en.

13-15 Apr – **Montana QSO Party** – all modes, 160 meters – 70 cm. See: www.fvarc.org.

14 Apr – **International Vintage Contest** – SSB/CW, 40-20 meters. See: www.contestvintage.beepworld.it.

15 Apr – **Run For the Bacon** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.fpqrp.org.

17 Apr – **VHF Spring Sprints** – all modes, 222 MHz. See: sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints.

19-20 Apr – **Holyland DX Contest** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.iarc.org.

20 Apr – **TARA Skirmish Dig Pfx Contest** – Digital, 160-6 meters. See: www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_rules.html.

20 Apr – **ES Open HF Championship** – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.erau.ee.

20 Apr – **Ontario QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.va3cco.com.

20 Apr – **Feld-Hell New Member Sprint** – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

20 Apr – **YU DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.yu1srs.org.rs/dl/yudx/yudxmain.html.

20 Apr – **EU Spring Sprints** – SSB, 80-20 meters. See: www.eu-sprint.com.

Continued on next page.





Contest Corner, continued

20-21 Apr – **CQMM Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters.

See: www.cqmmdx.com.

20-21 Apr – **Michigan QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.miqp.org.

20-21 Apr – **EA QRP Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters.

See: www.eaqrp.com.

20-21 Apr – **Nebraska QSO Party** – all modes, 160-2 meters. See: www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm.

20-21 Apr – **South Dakota QSO Party** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.w0blk.org.

20-21 Apr – **North Dakota QSO Party** – Phone/CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.w0nd.com.

21 Apr – **ARRL Rookie Roundup** – Phone, 80-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

24 Apr – **VHF Spring Sprints** – all modes, 432 MHz.

See: sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints.

27 Apr – **Florida QSO Party** – SSB/CW, 40-10 meters.

See: www.floridaqsoparty.org.

27-28 Apr – **Ten-Ten Spring Digital Contest** – Digital, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

27-28 Apr – **SP DX RTTY Contest** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.pkrvg.org.

27-28 Apr – **Helvetia Contest** – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: uska.ch/amateurfunkpraxis/contest/info-kw.

27-28 Apr – **QRP To The Field** – CW, 40-10 meters.

See: www.zianet.com/qrp.

28 Apr – **BARTG 75 Sprint** – Digital, 80-10 meters.

See: www.bartg.org.uk.





To join the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, visit [our Web site](#), or complete the following application:



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: January 1 to December 31</p> <p>Individual / Associate Member \$24 (\$6.00/qtr)</p> <p>Family Membership \$36 (\$9.00/qtr)</p> <p>Under 18 Membership \$18 (\$4.50/qtr)</p> <p>Badge \$10</p> <p>Badge Information</p> <p>Call Sign _____</p> <p>First Name _____</p> <p>City _____</p>	<p>Payment Calculations: Make checks payable to SCRA</p> <p>Dues - Full Year \$ _____</p> <p>Dues -new members only</p> <p> Prorated ____ Qts. x \$ ____/qtr \$ _____</p> <p>Badge \$ _____</p> <p>Other - _____ \$ _____</p> <p>Donation \$ _____</p> <p>Total \$ _____</p> <p>Mail to: SCRA, P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402</p>
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Sonoma County Radio Amateurs
Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 5, 2013

Called to order at 7PM by president Charlie Sikes KZ6T. Nearly 40 people were in attendance.

The board members introduced themselves.

New member Tom W1TAS Guests, Rich de Lambert, Nancy Coddling (CERT coordinator), Susan. David, and Scott.

The presentation on the repeater was given by Charlie Sikes. The equipment at English Hill and Castle Rock were presented. The APRS system is currently down, but will be fixed. Projects in the works include the voting repeater, IRLP, Castle Rock UHF and on-going maintenance. Single tone = English Hill, dual tone = Castle Rock. Dave Harrison W6IBC, Jack Christensen K6ROW and Pat Coyle added to the presentation.

IRLP will likely be installed on March 14. This will be followed by testing by IRLP and ultimately authorization for operation. Messages and programming will need to be installed. The overall process may take a month. Information on operation will then be provided.

In maintenance a couple of weeks ago, Adam McLaughlin climbed the 120 ft. tower to approx. 100 ft. to inspect our antennas and connections.

Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF was recognized as the contact for mentoring help.

It was suggested that the member book be organized by first name.

The break was held.

Directors Reports:

VP John Felton KE5RI – not present

Secretary Mike Von der Porten AD6YB - nothing to report.

Steve Bramble KI6TUR Treasurer – reported that the finances are doing well. The threat of not being in the roster has expedited membership renewals. So far, we are ahead based on membership income and only a small amount of expenses.

Director Brian Torr N6IY – nothing to report.

Director Doug Payne KF6LMB – nothing to report.

Repeater Co-Chair Jack Christensen K6ROW - reports that the antenna for the 2 meter on English Hill should be replaced at a cost of \$1,200. Moved by Jack, seconded by Jim Draeger KI6REK to approve the \$1,200 expenditure. Dave Harrison W6IBC reports that we need to limit the number of people at the Calsites location on English Hill. Dave recommends that we seek confirmation of our continuing access to the antenna site Jack and Jim agreed to making the motion conditional on such confirmation. John Felton KE5RI will talk to the Calsites people. Joe asked whether the antenna might be usable at other sites. John Breckenridge WB6FRZ suggests that a good antenna might be less than \$1,200. Jack has

checked for alternate antennas and they are in the same price range. Dave reports that we have an advantage in replacing the antenna with one of the same appearance and that the site is environmentally challenging, so we want a long-life antenna. Andrew Reike KI6HID recommends “doing the job right” with a commercial-grade antenna. Pat Coyle KG6JSL also reports that our repeater pair coordination is based on our existing antenna configuration. Andrew reports that English Hill does have salt water effects. Dan Ethen WA6CRB reports that there are commercial antennas enclosed in a radome that might be explored. Fred Seitel AE6SF suggested that we might wait and test the antenna again. Dave reports that the high SWR could cause interference to the commercial antennas, so changing the antenna sooner rather than later is a good idea. Motion carried with two noes.

Past President report – Darryl Paule KI6MSP March 30 is “99 hobbies in one,” so Hobby Towne will have us do a demo in several modes. See Darryl to sign up. Darryl is working on other possible classes on March 22, 2013 at Silvercrest / Salvation Army working with Lee Dibble KE6EAQ . After the demo, a class will be held the weekend of April 6.

Fred Seitel AE6SF reports that he was able to reach English Hill using an HT from 80 miles away in Mendocino County.

Bruce Hopfengardner K6BDH Public Service Chair and Craig Gaevert K6XLT reported on the April 13 Lake Sonoma 50, April 21 MS Walk, May 4 WCC, May 11 Human Race and the May 19 Amgen Tour of California. Contact k6bdh@me.com to volunteer.

John Chavez KG6PEP reports that the BSA Camporee is April 13 and may be coordinated with the Lake Sonoma 50.

Brian Torr N6IYY, VE Liaison reports that two sessions have been held. All have earned what they tested for. Brian appreciates the VE volunteers. The April 6 VE may get moved to the April 7 class completion and the session may be open to the public.

Newsletter Donal Laird WE4MOO – not present. Members are welcome to submit articles.

Membership Mike Von der Porten AD6YB – get your membership renewal in!

Trustee / NARRC John Felton KE5RI - not present

Nancy Yarbrough K6NCY is moving out of the area. We need a new badge chair to handle ordering badges, stocking and selling shirts, patches, etc.

The January 2013 and February 2013 Membership meeting minutes were included in Short Skip. Keith Payea AG6CI moved Dave Santori KF6CLG seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Old Business

The comm van (the “toaster”) has the recommendation from the Board that radios and radio batteries be pulled from the toaster and the toaster be sold. Moved by Darryl Paule KI6MSP to remove the items and to sell the toaster. Steve Bramble KI6TUR seconded the motion. Pat Coyle KG6JSL reports that the brakes seem to have failed. The process of selling the toaster needs to be worked out. Andrew Raika KE6HID reports that we might find a place to donate it to. Nancy Yarbrough K6NCY suggests listing it

“as is” and see what we can get. Who wants to handle this? Andrew says Cal Poly may want to do a repair project and sell it. Keith Payea AG6CI wonders if the State will take it as a gross polluter. Jack has had experience in which the State has no money. Jim says the vehicle for such programs must be operational. Motion carried unanimously.

The chair asked for help in moving out the toaster. Adam Mc Laughlin volunteered.

Next month’s meeting will be on the ARRL by Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV. Any questions or topics for Bill should be sent in advance by email.

Brian Torr N6IYY reports that Field Day will be at Youth Community Park. The four stations will likely be CW, SSB, GOTA (Get On The Air), UHF/VHF Satellite stations. Some digital modes will also be used. Improvements for filtering, antenna spacing, etc. are being developed. Volunteers for station captains, tour guides, GOTA coaches, etc. are needed. Brian has flyers for the event. Ideas for the educational activity are welcome.

Charlie Sikes KZ6T asked for a volunteer to lead the club picnic. The Board will seek volunteers.

KWTF is a new not for profit radio station in Bodega which needs 100 ft. RG-8.

Andrew Raike KE6HID notes that MARS has a list of public service events which is easier to use than our calendar. The same may apply for the class schedule.

Jim requests that the club roster be sorted by first name. Jim moved that the Steve Bramble KI6TUR seconded the motion. Opinions were expressed for both sorts, for a dual list or even a triple list (adding in a call sign sort). Scott Wellington KJ6QIQ moved and Steve Bramble KI6TUR seconded that the Board figure this out. Motion carried.

Net control
3/12 Jack ROW
3/19 Andrew
3/26 Ed Slingland
4/2rKeith Payea

The raffle was held.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:28 PM PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Von der Porten
Secretary