



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 40, Number 3

March 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—MARCH 2015



The Board of Directors at the February meeting authorized \$500 for the purchase of the new Yeasu digital/analog repeater and will ask the members for a supplemental authorization to cover taxes and shipping in excess of that amount. The Repeater Committee will describe the workings of this repeater at the March meeting Program as

well as digital radio in general. Although the repeater will not be shipped and installed for another couple of months this presentation will inform the members of the advantages and limitations of the repeater and anyone interested in digital radio and operation of the new repeater should take in this presentation.

Treasurer Mike, AD6YB, has extended the deadline for paying dues until the March meeting. Dues must be paid by this time in order to be included in the 2015 Roster. You can pay online on the Club website, or bring your dues to the meeting.

Speaking of membership, Iola, KK6HRE, is chairing a Blue Ribbon committee to review membership tracking and administrative procedures and make recommendations to the Board at the March meeting. She is requesting volunteers to assist. This is a short term assignment and will help us to better organize membership procedures. Anyone with suggestions should contact her at iolabeckley@att.net.

Dave, W6IBC, and his crew of instructors will hold this year's first Technician License Class the weekend of March 21-22. Space is limited so if you know anyone interested have them contact Dave at w6ibc@arrl.net.

Summer radio season is about to begin with our first Public Service events starting in April. Now is the time to check your equipment for clean antenna and battery connections, repeater frequencies, tones and offsets are correctly programmed and batteries are fully charged. It is not so good to discover these types of deficiencies on the day

of the event.

Check the calendar on the website for the events each month, and contact the event chairman, not only to participate by to help out in presenting whatever event you are interested in. These events only happen because people are interested enough to contribute. Membership participation is essential to every activity and is the only way the Club functions. We can't do it without you.

Pat, KG6JSL

This Month's Meeting Program:

The March membership meeting program subject will be the What, Who, Why, Where, When, and How of integrating digital repeating and radios into SCRA.

Presented by Charlie Sikes, KZ6T.

JOIN ARRL, THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

The ARRL is the national organization of Amateur Radio. It represents Amateur Radio at International Conferences and before the FCC. Get the monthly QST magazine, insurance for your equipment and too many other benefits to mention here. Click <http://www.arrl.org/membership/>



2015 Club Officers

President Patrick Coyle		KG6JSL
	coylaw@sonic.net	
Vice President	Brian Torr	N6IYY
Treasurer	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB
Secretary	Iola Beckley	KK6HRE
Director	Joe Fortuna	K6AWA
	Jeff Tonelli	KI6PBF
Past President	Charlie Sikes	KZ6T

Committee Lineup/Contacts

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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 IHOP restaurant, 4th and Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa.

People start showing up at 5:15 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>



SILENT KEY—JERRY CURRY, WB6LXU

(adapted from the Press Democrat)

To Jerry Curry, relationships were a central part his life; friends and family were very important to him. He was generous with his time and talents to cultivate those connections and had a soft heart. Whether at home or large gatherings he was always smiling and interacting with everyone. A desire to have fun and help others led him to have many friends; becoming an adored and respected member of his community. On January 20, 2015 this ever-curious, fun-loving, friend to all, died at the age of 77. He passed peacefully in the beloved home where he and his wife Susan raised their family and hosted many people over 45 years.

Jerry Walter Curry was born in Carlsbad, New Mexico on April 15, 1937 to Albert T. and Willie Curry.

Somewhat nomadic for much of his young life, Jerry finally spent consecutive years in Winchester, Kansas, where he made life-long friendships at Winchester High School.



Excelling at sports and with a special passion for football, Jerry set out on his own to pursue higher education—ultimately settling at San Jose State College to study science.

It was there that he met Susan Gaylord on a blind date. Susan and Jerry were married after graduation in 1962 - a union that would last more than 52 years.

Jerry spent several years working as a toxicologist, a profession that brought him and Susan to Santa Rosa in 1969, along with their two daughters, Nancy and Karen. He built a medical laboratory business (Central Pathology Laboratory) over the course of 20 years, into a thriving corporation of labs in the North Bay. That venture enabled him to retire early and pursue his many other interests.

He continued to work part-time as a medical consultant and was involved with other businesses in Santa Rosa. He also had uncanny abilities as a fixer; and enjoyed putting in his garage tinkering on anything from electronics to one of his treasured sports cars.

His technical nature led him and Susan to both

acquire HAM radio licenses. Jerry was licensed as WB6LXU, holding a General Class License. Susan is licensed as WB6LXT. Jerry frequently attended SCRA membership meetings and was noted for his warm smile and friendly handshake.

Jerry and Susan also enjoyed participating in sports car rallies and autocross events. Jerry loved to play tennis and golf where he found his calling as a volunteer through the Woodstock Annual Golf Tournament in Oakmont. More recently, he volunteered at several annual events and became a docent at the Charles M. Schulz Museum since its 2002 opening, priding himself on an encyclopedic knowledge of Peanuts. He also gave back to the community by volunteering countless hours for Home Hospice, Blood Bank of the Redwoods, and the Arthritis Foundation. Jerry is survived by his wife, Susan; daughters, Nancy Wein (Mark) and Karen Ashton (DJ); and grandsons, Alexander, Andrew and Garrett. He also leaves extended family in Washington State, several cousins throughout the U.S., and a circle of friends that will feel a hole from his passing.

When asked what he would like people to know about his passing, Jerry said, “Just tell everyone I’m not available for golf anymore.”

A celebration to honor Jerry is planned for this April. Please email sgcurry38@gmail.com for details. In lieu of flowers, Jerry would want you to donate to your favorite charity ...monetarily, with your time, or both!

See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pressdemocrat/obituary.aspx?n=jerry-curry&pid=174027274#sthash.LRxNivie.dpuf>
Jerry, you will be missed.

ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME TAGS AND VESTS FOR PICKUP

Will be at the March 5 meeting:

Name Tags:

Darv KK6OVH

Bob WA6NIV

Gary KI6TEW

Rich KJ6CFT

Safety vest personalized:

Jim K6HKY

Darv KK6OVH





CONTEST CORNER

by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. ARRL International DX Contest and several state QSO parties are the highlights for March. If EME is your interest, then both 2.3 and 3.4 GHz contests are this month. Happy DX'ing!

27 Feb – 1 Mar - CQ WW 160 Meter SSB – SSB, 160 meters. See: www.cq160.com.

28 Feb -1 Mar – Worldwide EME Contest – Phone/CW, 2.3 GHz. See: www.dubus.org.

28 Feb – 1 Mar – UBA Contest – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules.

28 Feb – 1 Mar – North American QSO Party RTTY – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.

1-2 Mar – North Carolina QSO Party – all modes, 80-2 meters. See: www.rars.org/ncqsoparty.

2 Mar – OK1WC Memorial Contest – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.memorial-ok1wc.cz.

3 Mar – ARS Spartan Sprint – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.arsqrp.blogspot.com.

3 Mar – YL CW Party – CW, 80 meters. See: www.agcw.de.

4 Mar – CWOps Weekly Mini-CWT Tests – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.cwops.org/cwt.html.

4 Mar – John Rollins Memorial DX Contest – CW, 40-20 meters. See: www.antiquewireless.org.

6 Mar – NS Weekly RTTY Sprint – RTTY, 80-20 meters. See: www.ncccsprint.com.

7 Mar – Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

7-8 Mar – ARRL International DX – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/contests.

7-8 Mar – Open Ukraine RTTY Championship – RTTY, 160-10 meters. See: www.uarl.com.ua/openrtty.

14 Mar – AGCW QRP Contest – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.agcw.de.

14 Mar – QRP ARCI Spring Digital Sprint – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.qrparci.org/contests.

14-15 Mar – RSGB Commonwealth Contest – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org.

14-15 Mar – Louisiana QSO Party – all modes, 160-2 meters. See: www.laqp.org

14-15 Mar – EA PSK63 Contest – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.ure.es.

14-15 Mar – Tesla Memorial HF Contest – CW, 80 meters. See: www.radiosport.org.rs/HFTeslaMemorial.

14-15 Mar – QCWA Spring QSO Party – all modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.qcwa.org/qso-party.htm.

14-15 Mar – Idaho QSO Party – All modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.idahoarrl.info/qsoparty.

15 Mar – North American RTTY Sprint – Digital, 80-20 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.

15-16 Mar – Wisconsin QSO Party – All modes, all bands. See: www.warac.org.

16 Mar – PODXS St Patrick's Day Contest – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: www.podxs070.com.

16 Mar – Run For the Bacon – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.fpqrp.org.

17 Mar – CLARA Chatter Party – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.clarayl.ca.

19 Mar – NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.naqcc.info.

21 Mar – Feld-Hell Leprechaun Sprint – Digital, 160-6 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

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Contest Corner continued from page 4...

21-22 Mar – BARTG H

F RTTY Contest – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.bartg.org.uk.

21-22 Mar – Russian DX Contest –SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.rdx.org.

21-22 Mar – Oklahoma QSO Party – All modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.k5cm.com/okqp.htm.

21-23 Mar – Virginia QSO Party – All modes, 160 meters – 70 cm. See: www.qsl.net/sterling.

28-29 Mar – FOC QSO Party – CW, All bands. See: www.g4foc.org.

28-29 Mar – Worldwide EME Contest – Phone/CW, 3.4 GHz. See: www.dubus.org.

DX Code Of Conduct

I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.

I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.

I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.

I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.

I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.

I will always send my full call sign.

I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.

I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.

I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.

I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.

When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.

I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.

I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

How To Work Net Control

The SCRA Net is heard every Tuesday night at 7:00 PM. In addition to member and guest check-ins, it provides the members with Club related announcements about what is going on with the Club and it features Newslines with current ham related news.

Beyond that, working as Net Control provides valuable radio practice and development of your operational skills and traffic handling. After working Net Control your self-confidence will increase, and providers of Emergency and Public Service nets will have more confidence in your skills as well.

There are no particular tricks to working Net Control, but here are a few hints.

1. First and Foremost, do not be intimidated by the operators who seem to know everyone's name and call sign. Those guys have been doing it for years and can recognize voices. Don't worry about it. The crowd is on your side and will help you succeed.

2. Read and print out the net script from the Club Website <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/resources/net-script/>

3. Have pencil and paper ready.

4. Take check-ins at a pace you can manage. Five at a time is common, but by no means mandatory. You are the Net Control Operator so you can direct the traffic. Some operators take check-ins by call sign suffix, or prefix, or fewer than 5 at a time. It is your choice.

5. Ask for repeats or clarifications or corrections if there are doubles or you miss something. Accuracy is more important than speed.

So, get active on the Net. We all look forward to hearing you.





2015 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Check the [Club website](#) for details

March 20-22: Technician License Class
 March 28: VE Open session
 April 4: SoNoMas
 April 11: Lake Sonoma 50
 April 18: Ham Lab
 May 2: Wine Country Century
 May 9: Human Race
 May 16: VE Open Session
 May 31: Vineman Triathlon
 June 20: Terrible Two
 June 27: Field Day
 July 18-19: Mendocino Rally
 July 25: County Fair Radio Demonstration
 August 1: County Fair Radio Demonstration
 August 8: Annadel Cross Country
 August 9: Tour d' Organics
 August 14-16: Technician License Class
 August 22: Hot August Build Class
 August 23: Santa Rosa Marathon
 September 12: VE Open Session
 September 19: SCRA Pi
 September 26-27: Wave to Wine
 Wings over Wine Country Air Show
 October 3: Levi's Gran Fondo
 October 17: Jamboree on the Air
 October 24: North Bay Science Fair
 November 20-22: Technician License Class
 December 2: Club Holiday Party
 December 5: VE Open Session

Public Service Roundup

It's been awhile but the slumber is over. April will see the first of several public service events for 2015. On Saturday 4 April we'll kick the season off with So-NoMaS, essentially a mountain bike race around the Warm Springs Arm of Lake Sonoma. The course is roughly the same as the Lake Sonoma 50 foot race, which occurs the following weekend (Saturday the 11th). Both events share identical operating parameters - remote areas, simplex mode and great country.

May will start with a similar double header - Wine Country Century on 2 May and the Human Race on 9 May.

I should have the web page signups configured shortly. Don't forget we're always looking for good event Comm Bosses - let me know if you're interested. More on Public Service at the April club meeting.

73s

Craig
 K6XLT
 Public Service Wrangler

REPEATER PROCEDURES

Many operators are not waiting for the Repeater to "drop" before beginning their transmission.

When an operator's transmission ends, the repeater will be quiet for a second and then "beep." It is transmitting a carrier signal during this time. The "beep" (courtesy tone) is the signal that the Repeater has finished transmitting and the next transmission should not begin until the "beep" is heard. You can also watch the S meter and/or the Rx light on your radio to see if the Repeater has stopped transmitting. If a transmission begins before the "beep" the Repeater's automatic Time Out Timer (TOT) is activated and may shut down the repeater if too many transmissions are made without a break. Doing so also increases the Repeater's duty cycle and heating.

Please remember to pause a second after keying your transmitter before you begin speaking to allow the Repeater to begin transmitting. If you begin speaking immediately on your key up, the repeater will miss the first few syllables spoken and they will not be heard by the receiving station.

Also do not "kerchunk" the repeater, that is, keying and unkeying your rig without speaking. If you just want to check that you are reaching the repeater by listening for the courtesy tone, just say your call sign and "Radio Check." If you want to check the quality of your signal, say your call sign and "Signal Check Please." Repeat the request a couple of times if at first no one replies. Failure to identify may indicate interference, willful or otherwise, from some source, and is poor amateur practice.





AMATEUR RADIO ASTROMONY CONFERENCE

The 2015 Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers Western Regional Conference will be held at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 20 - 22 March 2015. We are an international organization of several hundred Radio Astronomy enthusiasts. The conference kicks off with a tour of the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (KIPAC) on Friday afternoon. The sessions on Saturday and Sunday will include about a dozen presentations by SARA members and scientists from Stanford and the SETI Institute. The topics will cover the spectrum from VLF to Microwaves, hardware and software, and local space weather to deep space objects.

To find out more, visit the conference web page at <http://www.radio-astronomy.org/node/177>. Contact Keith Payea, AG6CI, at kbpayea@bryantlabs.net (707) 566-8935

Education and Mentoring

SCRA's first Technician Class of 2015 will be at First American Title in Santa Rosa on the weekend of March 21 and 22. Enrollment is limited because of space limitations. We now have the Gordon West study guides available for \$20.00. Pre-study of the course materials is essential for your success. The volunteer examination fee is \$15.00. Time to enroll!

The current General Class question pool expires on June 30, 2015, so if you want to upgrade, NOW IS THE TIME. [We'll help you and provide mentoring.](#)

Interested, contact me, Dave W6IBC, Education Chair, (707) 838-8155 or w6ibc@arrl.net.

Next VE Session:
Saturday, March 28, 9:00 am

Our next VE exam session is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 am until noon. The location will be First American Title Co., 627 College Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. Walk-ins will be accepted and all test elements will be administered.

Details:

http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/ve_testing.html .

Map:

http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/event/ve-open-session-4-2/?instance_id=28877

Please arrive by 8:45am to be signed in. Testing will begin shortly thereafter.

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, N6IIY in advance.

Good Luck!

Brian Torr, N6IIY
n6iiy@arrl.net
(707) 575-5871



S.C.R.A GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING February 4, 2015

The February 4, 2015 regular meeting of the Sonoma County Radio Amateur Club was called to order at 7:03pm by President, Pat Coyle KG6JSL. All Board Members were present.

Officers and board members were introduced. New members and visitor were Kathy KK6KGW – A new member from Concord; Cornel WA6HMN; Rich - KJ6CFT.

PROGRAM: Dave, W6IBC, gave a High Frequency Ham Radio talk “A Tale of Two Different Worlds”. Dave has been a ham radio operator from the time he was a teen ager when a ham radio operator could contact other ham stations around the world directly on high frequency, using a basic 100 watt transceiver and a modest antenna system. Dave covered high frequency bands, a world beyond our control – propagation, geography, restrictions, and interference. Dave’s program was well received and generated lots of questions for him.

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of minutes: Motion made by Doug KF6LMB, second bill WQ6IOQ, motion passed. Announcements, new calls and upgrades, lies and brags: Keith AG6CI reports that there is a conference at Stanford March, 20-21-22, tour radio astronomy; Doug KF6LMB, talked to Cuba; John, reports that there is a RCA Marine wireless receiving set. \$3,000 on Ebay; Mike K6ACU, neighbor, a General licensee by the name of Peter, who has MS, would like to put up a loop antenna this summer. Possible 80 meters, needs volunteers to help.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Treasurer: Year 2014 net profit \$777. Paid advanced and back rent. Charlie KZ6T moved and ShelleyRae KK6JXM seconded to accept budget as presented. Motion carried. Vice President: Proposal to edit net control member list to; first name, alphabetical. Proposal to have semi-regular 10 meter tech net.

COMMITTEE: Education – The First American Title Company, April 18, build class.

VE: first open exam session this Saturday, Bennett Valley Grange Hall. Next open session on the 28th of March at First American Title Company, 627 College Avenue.

EMERGENCY SERVICES CHAIRMAN: A Storm Net is being planned for the upcoming storm. When we did the Storm Net in December it was done three times a day-10am, 4pm, 8pm. Anyone interested in participating report in with the status of the storm in your area. Possibly starting Thursday night, more likely Friday morning. Darryl KI6MSP, 10am, Pat KG6JSL; Dave W6IBC; Iola KK6HRE; 4pm, Brian 8pm. The Nets will most likely take about 15 minutes per nets on the 315 frequency.

EVENTS: Darryl KI6MSP and Doug KF6LMB, participated in the Ilearn Festival at Coddingtontown last Saturday. They had one person to sign up for the radio class.

MERCHANDISE: Iola KK6HRE reports that Wells KK6EXC has agreed to take over the Merchandise Chair. T-shirts are available in all colors and all sizes. Safety Vests can be personalized.

MEMBERSHIP: Mike AD6YB reported that we have 96 paid members as of this meeting. Pat KG6JSL reminded members present that dues must be paid before the membership roster is printed.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: John KE5RI - repeater business: What is required to update repeater. Need digital mode to replace voice mode. Suggests purchasing a repeater for about \$500 to be compatible. Eric AA6EM: City of Santa Rosa main repeater is problematic, as well, and will suggest the City buying one of these \$500 repeaters.

TECHNICAL Q & A:

We did this last year and it has been decided to make this a monthly feature with our panel of experts. If you have a technical question, bring them to the meeting. Kathy – KK6KGW, had a question on putting up an antenna at her condo.

NET CONTROL:

February 10, Joe K6AWA; February 17, Iola KK6HRE; February 24, Keith AG3C; March 3, Brian N6IYY.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Jerry Curry passed away. Obituary was in Press Democrat. Several members went Dave Santori’s memorial service and the family was very appreciative. A one-time change in venue for the next Board of Directors meeting will be at Montgomery Village Round Table Pizza, 2424 Magowan Drive, Santa Rosa, 6:00pm. No host dinner and social starting at 5:00pm. All members are welcome. Charlie KZ6T, motioned to adjourn, Mike AD6YB seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted: Iola Beckley, Secretary KK6HRE

SCRA Board of Directors Minutes February 11, 2015

The Regular meeting of the SCRA Board of Directors was called to Order by President Pat KG6JSL at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, held at the Montgomery Village Round Table Pizza. Board members present in addition to President Pat were Vice President Brian, N6IYY, Secretary Iola, KK6HRE, Treasurer Mike, AD6YB, Director Jeff, KI6PBF, Director Joe, K6AWA and Past President Charlie, KZ6T. Other members present were John, KE5RI, Darryl, KI6MSP, Shelley Rae, KK6XJM, Jack, K6ROW, Dave, W6IBC and Wells, KK6EXC.

Minutes of the January Board Meeting were amended to show that Darryl, KI6MSP, was appointed Activities Chair, and as amended were approved as otherwise published in the February Short Skip.

Treasurer Mike presented a Resolution to add Brian, N6IYY, and Iola, KK6HRE as authorized signitors on the Club Bank account, and to remove Dave, W6IBC and John, KE5RI as authorized signitors. Motion moved, seconded and approved. Mike will make arrangements with the bank and new signitors to get the signature cards changed.

Mike further noted that he had obtained new Club patches for \$1.20 each, and over 100 members have paid dues for 2015.

Brian, N6IYY, reported that he has obtained the Club tax ID number and has submitted paperwork for Field Day to the City of Santa Rosa.

President Pat presented receipts for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the Club, being \$57.00 for coffee and donuts for the Planning Meeting, and \$120.66 for flowers for the service for Dave Santori.

Charlie, KZ6T, brought up that Yeasu is offering its new digital repeater for sale to clubs at the reduced rate of \$500.00. A discussion ensued in which it was noted that shipping and taxes would be extra. Because the Board is only authorized to spend \$500.00 without membership approval, it was moved, seconded and approved to authorize Charlie \$500.00 to order the

repeater on his credit card, and to ask the membership for approval of any extra taxes and shipping charges at the March membership meeting. President Pat requested that the Minutes reflect that he thinks the proper procedure is to request membership approval of the entire charges rather than piecemeal authorizations.

It was moved, seconded and passed to appoint Wells, KK6EXC, as Merchandise Chairman. A discussion ensued regarding coordination of Membership payments, merchandise orders and new member packets. Iola, KK6HRE volunteered to form a temporary committee to investigate the membership processes and procedures, including listing of memberships on the website, and make recommendations at the next Board meeting.

A discussion was held regarding Committee Webpages and committee listings and event signups on the website. Charlie and Pat will talk with Sutter about possibilities.

Treasurer Mike noted that Short Skip archives have been posted on a linked website and that current Short Skip issues had been on the SCRA website. The webmaster has removed the current issues. By consensus, the Board determined that all copies of Short Skip including the current issues should be made available on the linked site. Mike will do that publishing.

President Pat brought up that the 2015 activities calendar that seems to have a great number of items that are directed to the public and not many for the members. He noted that Field Day is the only HF activity and the Holiday Party and the Education Build Classes are the only items that are member directed. A discussion ensued. Darryl will look into a field trip to the Hornet as a club activity.

Joe, K6AWA, requested that the SCRA net script include a listing of members alphabetically by first name. Mike noted that when the final roster is made up such a listing can be made.

Joe, K6AWA, also commented on the 10 meter

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Board Minutes - Continued from page 8...

communications test conducted after one of the Storm Net sessions. A discussion ensued and Joe will proceed to develop experiments of 10 meters as an alternative band for emergency communication, hopefully in the 10 Technician voice band plan.

Darryl, KI6MSP, ShelleyRae KK6XJM and Iola, KK6HRE presented to the Board a proposal to coordinate the presentation of the ARRL T1 Teachers Training Program in Sonoma County. An extended discussion was had including cost, money raising, time lines and logistical issues. The Board's consensus was that while having an ARRL Teacher's Institute in Sonoma County would be good, the uncertainties regarding costs and scheduling preclude SCRA sponsoring or coordinating this at this time. President Pat advised Darryl and the Committee to not use the Club name or their Club status in raising money, and he will advise ARRL that SCRA will not be coordinating the Teachers Institute.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Iola Beckley, KK6HRE



Board Planning Meeting January 2015



Santa Rosa AECS testing the radio at Fire Station 4 on February 2, 2015. -- Mike AD6YB

EMERGENCY DEPLOYMENTS

Some basic guidelines to observe while operating on Emergency Deployments.

1. *Things to avoid saying on the air, Number 1*

"Okay, I'll do it. But it's not actually my job. The guy who's supposed to do that is always away from the table doing something else." The other operator doesn't want to hear any of that and it ties up the frequency.

Make a note of your complaints in your log and bring them up at the debriefing, but keep them off the air.

2. *The value of tactical call signs*

Tactical call signs such as "Shelter 5", "Net Control", and "EOC" are descriptive and give immediate information. They can be very useful during planned events and during emergencies.

Do not, however, forget to include your FCC call sign at ten minutes intervals and at the end of each contact.

3. *Never alter a message*

Do not alter a message, even to correct a typographical error. What you think is right may actually be wrong. Moreover, any change you make might subtly alter the meaning of the message. Send or write it exactly as you receive it.

Continued on page 10...

**EMERGENCY DEPLOYMENTS ...**

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4. Do not use VOX

VOX stands for voice activated transmitter. VOX devices are handy gadgets, but should not be used in an emergency setting. Ambient noise might activate the transmitter and tie up the frequency. Also, you do not want your casual comments to go out over the air.

5. You are your own safety officer

When setting up or operating a station of any size, the very first thing on your mind should be, "is it safe? Am I going to irradiate anyone with RF energy? Could my battery spill acid? Can it fall on anyone's foot? Have I created an electrical hazard? Could anyone trip over my feedline or get poked in the eye by my antenna?" The safety of your station is your responsibility. Make sure that it cannot harm you or anyone else.

6. Every piece of equipment can break, including you

We all have limits. Don't overtax yourself during a deployment. Watch for signs of fatigue, stress, adverse reactions to the environment and so forth. Stop and take a break if you need one. It is better to have a silent radio than a fresh casualty.

7. Listen to the Net Controller's instructions

One of the most common mistakes on regular nets is that operators assume that they know what the Net Controller is going to say. They miss the Net Controller's instructions and wind up giving inappropriate responses.

This can be calamitous in an emergency situation.

One way to develop the habit of paying attention is to write down the key elements of what the Net Controller is saying. You might be surprised to find that it's not always the same thing.

8. Keep it brief

Air time is precious, especially when there are numerous operators on the same frequency.

Refrain from over-explaining things, engaging in personal greetings and chats, and anything else that might prevent important traffic from getting through.

9. Are you following procedures?

Operating procedures are developed from many hours of examining what went wrong during disasters.

Familiarize yourself with the procedures and practice them in exercises. Arriving at a disaster scene and trying to freestyle it will only cause problems.

10. Check the transceiver for overheating

Digital modes are great for sending forms, long lists, images and so forth. They also use a lot more duty cycles of your transceiver than ordinary voice communications. Check to make sure that your rig is not overheating. Reduce the transmit power level if your unit feels hot.

11. Have fuses handy

Much of your equipment has one or more fuses. Check each item, make a list of the fuses you might need, then put together a small fuse kit. Be sure to replace any fuses you wind up using.

12. Yes, you are ready to participate

Caution is good, but don't let it prevent you from participating and volunteering. Everyone makes mistakes on their first try, or first dozen tries, and everyone survives them. You will find that most other hams will be sympathetic and supportive of your efforts.

13. Don't avoid the exercises

It's a mistake to ignore an exercise because you are already familiar with what it is about.

There are always surprises, new elements, and things that you've forgotten. Your presence will also help those participants who are less familiar with the exercise's concepts.

14. Keep learning

Everything is dynamic, including emergency communications. Procedures and techniques that were standard ten years ago are out of date today. Never sit back and feel that you've learned everything you'll need to know.

15. You brought your radio to the emergency, but will you be able to power it?

Antenna connectors are fairly generic, but what about power connections? ARES groups around the country use Anderson Powerpoles as the standard power connector on their equipment.

16. Push THEN Talk

Pause for a second after keying up your transmitter. It may be slower to react than you realize. (ESPECIALLY WHEN USING LINKED REPEATERS OR SYSTEMS!)

17. Maintain a fire extinguisher near your battery charging station

This applies primarily to larger batteries, but every battery is a chemical device and you will be pumping energy into it. Having a fire extinguisher handy is a reasonable precaution.

Continued on page 11...





EMERGENCY DEPLOYMENTS ...

Continued from page 10

18. Mark your equipment

Be sure that every piece of your equipment is marked with at least your name and call sign.

After the emergency, you'll want any property you left behind to find its way back to you.

19. It's going to be noisy, so have a set of headphones

It's always a good idea to have a set of headphones around, but it may be an absolute necessity in an emergency. You may be placed in an area where other operators are working on different bands, you may be out in the open, or you may even be in the middle of a noisy shelter. A headset should be a vital part your equipment. You can't communicate if you can't hear.

20. Outdoors isn't indoors

Even in an urban or suburban setting, working outdoors isn't like working indoors. You may have taken your equipment into consideration, but don't forget yourself. Think about your allergies, the sun, heat, cold, bugs and everything else that might affect you. Treat your outside deployment or exercise as if it were a camping trip and prepare for it accordingly.

21. Think about next time

During every deployment or exercise, think about the next time. You will always find that something is missing, broken, doesn't work as expected, wasn't planned for and so forth. Keep a mental record, or better still a written one of everything that is wrong. Be sure to look it over carefully after the event so you will be better prepared next time.

22. Eat

Do not skip meals just because things are busy. You may not think that you need to eat anything, but volunteers have suddenly fainted without feeling any early symptoms that something was wrong. At the very least, consume an energy bar or a quick snack.

23. Is no one responding on the secondary frequency?

If you have a transceiver capable of handling two frequencies simultaneously and no one is responding on that second channel, the problem may be as simple as the volume has been turned down.

A big thanks to: Gary Ross Hoffman KB0H, John Weis N0UFB, Jim Conley N0OBG, and the ARRL!

Rick Sealock N6GY

Sonoma County Department of Fire and Emergency Services/ACS

SOUTH COUNTY- Assistant Unit Leader

AMATEUR HF TERMINOLOGY

Here is a collection of terminology you may encounter when operating in the HF bands with some simple explanations.

- S.W.R. -- A term, applied to any part of the antenna system, which means: "Savings-to-Watt Ratio". Based on the inverse relationship of dollars in the bank and effective radiated power. Characteristic Impedance. The usual reaction of your spouse when told about the proposed antenna system.
- Traps -- Devices installed in antennas to collect rain-water, to keep it from running further down the antenna.
- Wind Loading -- The measure of how much more awkward it gets to handle a big beam as you ascend the tower.
- Balun -- (Pronounced: "balloon" by many). An anti-surveillance device, installed in coaxial lines at the antenna, to prevent nosy neighbors from eavesdropping on you through their TV sets.
- Transmatch -- A device mistakenly believed to decrease S.W.R.. The premise is that this device allows you to load up into a mis-matched antenna. Unfortunately, it the cost of one that lowers your S.W.R.
- House Bracket -- A device which secures the house and the tower together. It lets the tower do double-duty by holding up the house during severe windstorms.
- Rotator Control Box -- A device which is designed to let you monitor antenna "windmilling".
- Windmilling -- A technique whereby prevailing winds are allowed to rotate the antenna, enabling the operator to "scan" the radio horizon.
- Dummy Load -- A measure of the stress exerted on a tower by a ham who climbs the tower without a safety belt.
- Coax -- (Usually mis-pronounced as two syllables). A term applied to the maneuvering of a piece of transmission line through the attic or walls of a house.

Continued on page 13...





AMATEUR HF TERMINOLOGY

Continued from page 12

- Db's Gain -- A bunch of yellow-jacketed wasps found a great place to build their nest, at the bottom of the rotator housing on my tower.
- Db's Loss -- Fortunately, lightning struck the tower and the wasps were totally destroyed.
- Vertical -- A much-maligned antenna, said by some critics to "radiate equally poorly in all directions". This is not true, as many who have built one know. In fact, the vertical can have directional characteristics, and not radiate at all in some directions. I hope this clears up that myth once and for all!
- Sloper -- A variation of the vertical, where high winds have affected thin-walled aluminum tubing used in the construction.
- Inverted Vee -- A clever, but inferior, reverse adaptation of the true, "upright Vee", which allows the use of a single support instead of the usual two.
- Dipole -- Another modification of the true "Vee", and used where it is not possible to get the center feed point close to the ground.
- Ground Plane -- Usually, an array of 1/4-wavelength arms extending from the base of some verticals (or "slopers"). These arms are not recommended unless a rotator is also used, to take advantage of their directional features.
- Directional Coupler -- A device inserted into the transmission line which monitors the environment outside the shack, by utilizing the antenna as a remote sensor. For example, when the antenna responds to weather conditions such as severe icing or heavy winds, the coupler will produce indications of these responses. A special directional coupler has even been designed, presumably, to tell you when BIRDS are sitting on your antenna!
- Smith Chart -- An alias, to be used when you don't want people to know what chart you really used to design your antenna.
- Long Path -- The direction you are told to aim your antenna, to work a rare DX station, as suggested by the other fellows in the pileup.
- Element Spacing -- A critical antenna design factor which is optimized to place the tunable traps on a beam as far out of reach as possible, from the tower.
- Diversity Effect -- A property in which the quad-type antenna far excels over the yagi-type antenna.

It relates to the number of directions an antenna can collapse into, under heavy winds.

- Selective Fading -- A quirk of propagation, whereby a signal arrives at a distant point by multipath, and where the different signal components arrive with varying phase relationships. This causes the signal to be "cancelled out" at some points. This wonderful effect helps eliminate some of the QRM from distant DX stations when you are trying to copy the pileup.
- "Off the back of the Antenna" -- A technique used by more experienced DX-ers, where the antenna is pointed away from the station being contacted. This creates a challenge similar to running QRP.
- QRP -- Restricting final input power to the transmitter to anything less than 500 watts, on 20 meters.
- Speech Processor -- A "state of the art" device which permits one to communicate with as many others at the same time as possible. However, beginner operators need to learn how to use one properly, to expand the signal beyond a narrow, 3 KHz bandwidth.
- "IMOKINCALLBK" -- An expression used in a CW QSO, to say: "you send me your QSL card first, turkey, and then I'll send you mine".
- IRC -- An economic instrument, administered by the Postal Service, to control the balance-of-trade deficit.
- Parasitic Element -- A person who takes lists for DX-stations.
- LISTS -- A method of making DX contacts, where some self-appointed person takes a list "on the air" (aka: his buddies on 2-meters) of people who wish to "work" a person in some DX location. This makes it easy for hams who do not have the patience or time to learn real DX skills to get a quick, easy contact. In fact, if you can't hear the actual report from the foreign station, the list-controller will often help ("...OK, there, WB6xxx, did you hear Jose give you a '59' signal report?").
- QSL Manager -- The station you worked in Juan De Nova tells you to send a "Green Stamp" to a ham in Germany who is called a "QSL Manager". It is his duty to send your card to a ham in California, who then (after holding it for 8 months) sends you a QSL card.





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<p>RESISTORS</p> <p>FIXED: VARIABLE: PHOTO: </p> <p>ADJUSTABLE: TAPPED: THERMISTOR: </p>			<p>CAPACITORS</p> <p>FIXED: NON-POLARIZED: SPLIT-STATOR: </p> <p>ELECTROLYTIC: VARIABLE: FEED-THROUGH: </p>			<p>INDUCTORS</p> <p>AIR-CORE: IRON-CORE: FERRITE-BEAD: </p> <p>ADJUSTABLE: OR: RFC: </p> <p>PHASING: </p>			<p>METERS</p> <p></p> <p>* = V, mV, A, mA, mA</p>		
<p>WIRING</p> <p>CONDUCTORS NOT JOINED: CONDUCTORS JOINED: </p> <p>TERMINAL: ADDRESS OR DATA BUS: SHIELDED WIRE OR COAXIAL CABLE: MULTIPLE CONDUCTOR CABLE: </p>			<p>SWITCHES</p> <p>SPST TOGGLE: SPDT: NORMALLY OPEN: NORMALLY CLOSED: </p> <p>MULTIPOINT: MOMENTARY: THERMAL: </p>			<p>BATTERIES</p> <p>SINGLE CELL: MULTI CELL: </p>			<p>GROUNDS</p> <p>CHASSIS: EARTH: A-ANALOG D-DIGITAL: </p>		
<p>DIODES</p> <p>LED (DSR): VOLTAGE VARIABLE CAPACITOR: THYRISTOR (SCR): BRIDGE RECTIFIER: ZENER: SCHOTTKY: TUNNEL: TRIAC: DIODE (DR): </p>				<p>TRANSFORMERS</p> <p>AIR-CORE: ADJUSTABLE INDUCTANCE: ADJUSTABLE COUPLING: </p> <p>WITH CORE: WITH LINK: 3-PIN CERAMIC RESONATOR: </p>			<p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>ANTENNA: FUSE: QUARTZ CRYSTAL: HAND KEY: MOTOR: ASSEMBLY OR MODULE (OTHER THAN IC): </p>				
<p>TRANSISTORS</p> <p>PNP: P-CHANNEL: P-CHANNEL: P-CHANNEL: P-CHANNEL: P-CHANNEL: </p> <p>NPN: N-CHANNEL: N-CHANNEL: N-CHANNEL: N-CHANNEL: N-CHANNEL: </p> <p>BJT: UJT: JUNCTION FET: SINGLE-GATE DEPLETION MODE MOSFET: DUAL-GATE: SINGLE-GATE ENHANCEMENT MODE MOSFET: </p>						<p>LOGIC (UJ)</p> <p>AND: NAND: OR: NOR: XOR: INVERT: SCHMITT: OTHER: </p>					
<p>RELAYS</p> <p>SPST: SPDT: DPDT: </p> <p>THERMAL: </p>			<p>INTEGRATED CIRCUITS (UJ)</p> <p>GENERAL AMPLIFIER: OTHER: OP AMP: </p>			<p>CONNECTORS</p> <p>COMMON CONNECTIONS: LABEL: PHONE JACK: PHONE PLUG: </p> <p>CONTACTS: MALE: FEMALE: </p> <p>COAXIAL CONNECTORS: FEMALE: MALE: </p> <p>MULTIPLE MOVABLE: MULTIPLE FIXED: </p> <p>340-V FEMALE: GROUND: </p> <p>FEMALE 120 V: MALE 120 V: MALE CHASSIS-MOUNT 120 V: </p>					
<p>TUBES</p> <p>TRIODE: PENTODE: CRT: </p> <p>INCANDESCENT LAMPS: NEON (AC) LAMPS: </p>			<p>TUBE ELEMENTS</p> <p>ANODE: HEATER OR FILAMENT: GRID: GAS FILLED: CATHODE: GOLD CATHODE: DEFLECTION PLATES: </p>								



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SHORT SKIP ARCHIVES AVAILABLE

Mike, AD6YB, has set up archives for past and present issues of Short Skip. They are available on the Web site, log into Members Area, Short Skip, click on the first sentence. Mike has scanned in the old paper issues and it is really interesting to browse through them to see what those guys were doing. There are historical photos as well. An important record of our history and ham radio in general. Good Stuff.

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DIDN'T FIND WHAT YOU NEEDED?

If you are looking for something more on a topic or your topic of interest hasn't been covered lately, let us know. Something you'd like to see in Short Skip?

Contact the editor, dave@kraybill.org, or for general questions and /or suggestions, k6son@arrl.net

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