

CLUB STATION
K6SON

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

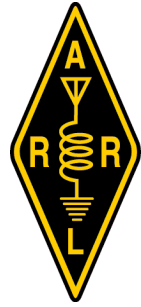
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<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

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Castle Rock: 147.315+ 156.7



REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 40, Number 2

February 2015



February SCRA Update

by Pat Coyle, KG6JSL
SCRA President

The New Year got off to a great start for SCRA with a giant auction of surplus club equipment at the January meeting. Thanks

to Doug, KF6LMB, and John, KE5RI, for organizing the sale and Dave, W6IBC, ace auctioneer, for conducting the auction. We netted over \$600.00 for the Club treasury.

On January 10 the Club Board, Committee Chairs and interested members held our annual planning meeting at which we discussed and planned the events and activities for the coming year. A schedule is published elsewhere in this issue. There is something for everyone this year. The Club's events and activities are always a work in progress as the year progresses so consult the Club calendar and listings of events on the Club website to keep up to date. And new ideas are always welcome so do not hesitate to bring up your suggestions. Thanks to Steve Bramble, KI6TUR, for hosting the Planning meeting.

The February meeting program will be High Frequency night and feature an introduction to High Frequency operations and equipment. One of our goals this year is to develop High Frequency activity by the Club members, including license upgrades. Getting on the air to "far away places with strange sounding names" is one of the great joys of ham radio. Just listening to the High Frequency bands on a big 1930's multi-band console radio as a kid in the '50's is what first interested me in radio. It seemed like magic then and it still does.

In response to member suggestions at the January meeting, we will shorten the Committee reports at meetings and devote a portion of the meeting to technical questions from the members. If you are having a problem or have a question about how to do something, bring it up. It helps not only you but others as well. Our members have a tremendous amount of radio knowledge to share and that is one of the major purposes of the Club.

And there are Club dues. This Club is so great that we have reduced dues for this year. However, you must pay them to be on the roster. Go to the website, Store, Membership, and pay online, or bring money to the February meeting.

Pat, KG6JSL

This Month's Meeting Program:

February Meeting Topic: Operating HF

While it's certainly possible to have a blast in ham radio on VHF and UHF, the greatest mysteries of ham radio await on HF. Worldwide contests. DX from places you may have never known even existed. Measuring your successes in terms of miles per milliwatt. And all this with nothing but ether between you and the other ham.

At our February meeting, Dave Harrison, W6IBC, will help to de-mystify HF for the as-yet uninitiated. And, I'm sure, even those already initiated will most likely learn a thing or two, as well. Come join us and see what's going on below 30 MHz.



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

Activities	Darryl Paule, KI6MSP	ki6msp@arrl.net
ARES Liaison	Brian Torr, N6IYY	n6iyy@arrl.net
DX/Contest	Kevin Alt, K6BSG	kalt@ieee.org
Education	Dave Harrison, W6IBC	w6ibc@arrl.net
Emergency Services	Brian Torr, N6IYY	n6iyy@arrl.net
Field Day	Brian Torr, N6IYY	n6iyy@arrl.net
License Trustee	John Felton, KE5RI	jrfke5ri@aol.com
Media	Sutter Laird, KI6ZON	ki6zon@me.com
Membership	Dan Ethan, WA6CRB	danethen@msn.com
Merchandise Programs	Iola Beckley, KK6HRE	ibeckley@srcity.org
Public Service	Brian Torr, N6IYY	n6iyy@arrl.net
Refreshments	Craig Gaever, K6XLT	k6xlt@sonic.net
Repeater	Robert Jones, WA6NIV	wa6niv@arrl.net
Volunteer Exam	Jack Christensen, K6ROW	K6ROW@sonic.net
	Brian Torr, N6IYY	n6iyy@arrl.net

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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

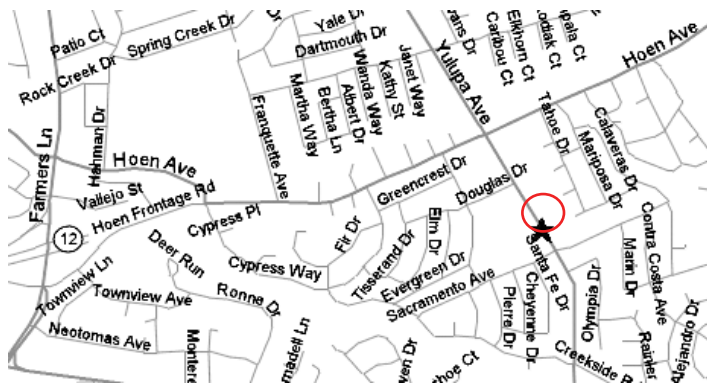
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SCRA Club Meetings

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 IHOP restaurant, 4th and Famers Lane, Santa Rosa.
 People start showing up at 5:15 PM.
 No RSVP is required.

See you there every month except December.

February Board Meeting Place Change

The February 2015 Board meeting will be held at the Round Table Pizza, Montgomery Village, Santa Rosa, CA, at 6:00 PM. All members are invited.

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—DAVE SANTORI, KF6CLG
Pat Coyle, KG6JSL

Former SCRA President Dave Santori, KF6CLG, died January 17 in Santa Rosa. Dave was an active ham and served SCRA as Director, and President during the 2009 and 2010 years when he provided firm leadership for the Club.

Dave and I worked many Public Service events together in the old Toaster and had a ball. We even got our picture in the Press Democrat once. <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/2302922-181/amateur-radio-operators-take-to?page=1> (They got it wrong, it is Dave on the left.) Another time was kind of exciting when we limped back to his house after a fan belt broke.

Dave was also active in High Frequency radio and he and John, KM6XO, spent many hours working on antennas at Dave's Rohnert Park home. Dave was also part of the "world famous" radio team in support of the Santa Rosa Police Department's Baker to Vegas effort.

So 73 Dave, you will be missed. SCRA clear on your final.

From the Press Democrat:

David Lee Santori, KF6CLG, passed away January 17, 2015 at 72 years old. Husband of Pam. Father and father-in-law of Jay and Chris Blair, Tony and Traci Santori. Grandfather to Zak, Lydiia and Talia Hoppensteadt and Julian, Christian and Allyson Santori. David was born August 13, 1942 to Katherine St. Clair and Silvio Santori. He graduated from Mission High in San Francisco in 1960. He joined the Navy in September 1962 and was in the Construction Battalion (aka the Seabees). After leaving the Navy, he went to work for PG&E from 1966 until his retirement in 2003. He was a Pack and Troop Leader for St. Elizabeth Seaton's Pack 1 and Troop 23. He coached Rohnert Park youth soccer and little league. He was an amateur radio operator with the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs. Dave served as a director (2008) and president

(2009-2010). Dave was first licensed as at the Tech level in 2001. He upgraded to General in 2010. Dave enjoyed DX contacts which included locations as far away as Japan and Brazil. He enjoyed camping, fishing and photography. Services were held Friday, January 23rd at St. Elizabeth Seaton Catholic Church 4595 Snyder Ln. Rohnert Park at 11:00 a.m. with a reception following. Nearly a dozen SCRA members attended to honor Dave. Donations may be made to your favorite charity. (Adapted from family obituary printed in the Press Democrat.)

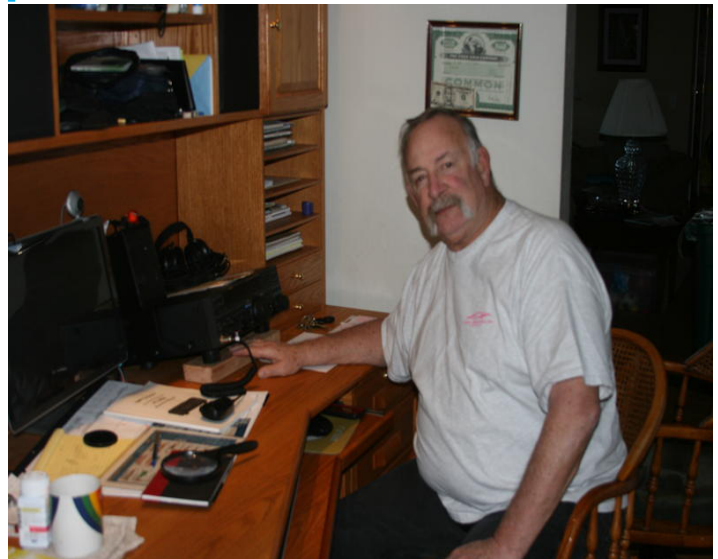


Photo of Dave Santori KF6CLG as posted by Dave in qrz.com.

CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Lots of contest activity in February with the ARRL CW International DX contest the third weekend of the month a highlight. For a change of pace try the Greek SSB, CW, and RTTY "triathlon" on the first weekend. Happy DX'ing!

31 Jan – 1 Feb – Worldwide EME Contest – Phone/CW, 2 – 0.7 meters.
See: www.dubus.org

31 Jan – 1 Feb – UBA Contest – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules



- 2 Feb – OK1WC Memorial Contest – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters.
See: www.memorial-ok1wc.cz.
- 3 Feb – ARS Spartan Sprint – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.arsqrp.blogspot.com.
- 4 Feb (weekly) – CWOps Weekly Mini-CWT Tests – CW, 160-10 meters.
See: www.cwops.org/cwt.html.
- 6 Feb – NS Weekly Sprint – CW, 160-20 meters. See: www.nccsprint.com.
- 6-8 Feb – YL-OM Contest – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.ylrl.org.
- 7 Feb – Triathlon DX Contest – all modes, 80-10 meters.
See: www.triathlon-dx-contest.gr.
- 7 Feb – Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.
- 7 Feb – FYBO Winter QRP Field Day – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters.
See: www.azscqrptions.org.
- 7 Feb – Minnesota QSO Party – all modes, 160-10 meters. See: www.w0aa.org.
- 7 Feb – Straight Key Party – CW, 80 meters.
See: www.agcw.de.
- 7-8 Feb – Vermont QSO Party – all modes, 160-2 meters. See: www.ranv.org.
- 7-8 Feb – YLISSB QSO Party – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.ylssystem.org.
- 7-8 Feb – Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Pty – SSB, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.
- 7-8 Feb – Black Sea Cup International – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.bscc.ucoz.ru.
- 7-8 Feb – British Columbia QSO Challenge – all modes, 160-10 meters.
See: www.orcadxcc.org.
- 7-8 Feb – XE Int'l RTTY Contest – 80-10 meters. See: www.rtty.fmre.mx.
- 7-8 Feb – AM QSO Party – Phone, 80-20 meters. See: www.antiquewireless.org.
- 8 Feb – North American Sprint – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com.
- 8 Feb – Milwaukee FM Simplex Contest – Phone, 6 meters – 70 cm.
See: www.w9rh.org.
- 8-9 Feb – Classic Exchange – Phone, 160-2 meters. See: www.classicexchange.org.
- 9-13 Feb – School Club Roundup – all modes, all bands.
See: www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup.
- 11 Feb – NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint – CW, 80—20 meters. See: www.naqcc.info.
- 14 Feb – Asia-Pacific Sprint – CW, 40-20 meters. See: www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt.
- 14 Feb – FISTS CW Winter Sprint – CW, 80-10 meters.
See: www.fists.org/operating.html#sprints.
- 14-15 Feb – PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint – Digital, 80-40 meters.
See: www.podxcs070.com.
- 14-15 Feb – CQ WW RTTY WPX – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.cqwpxrty.com.



14-15 Feb – Dutch PACC Contest – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.dutchpacc.com.

14-15 Feb – OMISS QSO Party – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.omiss.info.

14-15 Feb – New Hampshire QSO Party – all modes, 80-10 meters. See: www.w1wqm.org.

14-15 Feb – RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest – SSB/CW, 160 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org.

15 Feb – Maine 2m FM Simplex Challenge – Phone, 2 meters.
See: www.qsl.net/ws1sm/contest.html.

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

18 Feb – Semi-Automatic Key Evening – CW, 80 meters. See: www.agcw.de.

21 Feb – SARL Youth Day Spring – SSB, 40 meters. See: www.sarl.org.za.

21 Feb – Feld-Hell Bingo Sprint – digital, 160-6 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org.

21-22 Feb – ARRL Int'l CW DX Contest – CW, 160-10 meters.
See: www.arrl.org/contests.

21-22 Feb – REF Contest – SSB, 80-10 meters.
See: www.concours.ref-union.org/contest.

22 Feb – CQC Winter QSO Party – SSB/CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.cqc.org.

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

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 – Digital, 80-10 meters.
See: www.ncjweb.com.

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 Newline 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

February 7: VE Open session
 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

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, February 7, 9:00 am

Our next VE exam session is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, from 9:00 am until noon. The location will be the Bennett Valley Grange Hall, 4145 Grange Road, Santa Rosa. Walk-ins will be accepted and all test elements will be administered.

(<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/ve-testing.html>) .

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

Directions: From Hwy 101, take Highway 12 East to Farmers Lane. Turn right onto Farmers Lane and then left onto Bennett Valley Road. Stay on Bennett Valley Road approximately 4.1 miles and turn right onto Grange Road. Bennett Valley Grange Hall is 0.5 miles from Bennett Valley Road on the right.

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 CSEs (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



Financial Report

We have prepared the attached financial report for 2014 and proposed budget for 2015.

The report shows income of \$10,714 for 2014 with expenses of \$9,937, for a net income of \$777. Our budget actually predicted a loss for the year, but expenses came in less than expected.

The budget for 2015 shows \$9,150 in income and

\$9,085 in expenses for a net income of \$65. This includes adjustments for the lower rates for dues, expected lower wearables purchases and rent payment timing.

The Board has reviewed this proposed budget and is recommending approval by the membership. The membership will vote on the budget at the February Membership Meeting.

Mike Von der Porten, AD6YB, Treasurer.

category	2014 Report			2015 Proposed Budget		
	income	expense	Total	income	expense	Total
Administrative		\$ (239)	\$ (239)		\$ (250)	\$ (250)
Advertising	\$ 500		\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
ARES/em comm meetings		\$ -	\$ -		\$ (150)	\$ (150)
Asset Sale	\$ 25		\$ 25	\$ 700		\$ 700
Awards		\$ (96)	\$ (96)		\$ (100)	\$ (100)
Badges	\$ 245	\$ (261)	\$ (16)	\$ 300	\$ (325)	\$ (25)
Bank Fees		\$ (87)	\$ (87)		\$ (90)	\$ (90)
Donation	\$ 5,783	\$ (1,000)	\$ 4,783	\$ 4,000	\$ (450)	\$ 3,550
dues current year	\$ 1,967		\$ 1,967	\$ 1,600		\$ 1,600
dues next year	\$ 730		\$ 730	\$ 700		\$ 700
Education	\$ 150	\$ (993)	\$ (843)	\$ 200	\$ (1,200)	\$ (1,000)
Equipment		\$ (561)	\$ (561)		\$ (1,500)	\$ (1,500)
Events	\$ 301	\$ (1,109)	\$ (808)	\$ 600	\$ (1,850)	\$ (1,250)
Group Buy	\$ 90	\$ (95)	\$ (5)		\$ -	\$ -
Insurance		\$ (310)	\$ (310)		\$ (310)	\$ (310)
Interest		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Licenses		\$ (20)	\$ (20)		\$ (20)	\$ (20)
Membership		\$ (286)	\$ (286)		\$ (350)	\$ (350)
Misc		\$ -	\$ -		\$ (50)	\$ (50)
Other	\$ 74	\$ -	\$ 74	\$ -	\$ (100)	\$ (100)
Postage		\$ (58)	\$ (58)		\$ (200)	\$ (200)
Raffle	\$ 280	\$ (410)	\$ (130)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Refreshments	\$ 178	\$ (126)	\$ 52	\$ 150	\$ (250)	\$ (100)
Rent 2013		\$ (150)	\$ (150)		\$ -	\$ -
Rent 2014		\$ (600)	\$ (600)			\$ -
rent 2015		\$ (300)	\$ (300)		\$ (300)	\$ (300)
Repeaters		\$ (1,288)	\$ (1,288)		\$ (1,050)	\$ (1,050)
Subscriptions		\$ (40)	\$ (40)		\$ (40)	\$ (40)
trailer	\$ 11	\$ (416)	\$ (404)		\$ (100)	\$ (100)
Treasurer					\$ (100)	\$ (100)
Wearables	\$ 381	\$ (1,493)	\$ (1,112)	\$ 400	\$ (300)	\$ 100
Grand Total	\$ 10,714	\$ (9,937)	\$ 777	\$ 9,150	\$ (9,085)	\$ 65

MINUTES OF THE S.C.R.A. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF January 7, 2015

The General Membership Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by President Pat KG6JSL. All Board Members were present with the exception of Jeff KI6PBF. A quorum was present.

The new officers and directors for 2015 were introduced. New members and guests included Scott Johnson, no call sign, Dave WA6YWQ, Robert Decaueau, no call sign, and Dave DeShaver KK6OVH.

PROGRAM:

Eric McHenry, AA6EM – City of Santa Rosa Auxiliary Emergency Communication Service Director and Matt McGarey, KJ6LJI presented a program on the current status of the City of Santa Rosa's Emergency Communications Service (SR AECS). This new program is intended to supplement its emergency communications with professional, unpaid volunteer staff. Eric explained that hams could enroll in this program and residency in city of Santa Rosa is not required. Any applicants must have successful completion of ICS 100, 200, and 700, be willing to attend continuing educational programs, sign on to their Nets, and attend quarterly meetings. Eric and Matt answered several questions by membership.

President Pat KG6JSL thanked the presenters and turned the clubs' auction of miscellaneous radio and camping equipment over the Dave W6IBC. A lively one hour auction of said equipment was enjoyed by attending members and Treasurer Mike AD6YB reported the proceeds in excess of \$604+ to the club treasury.

BUSINESS MEETING:

The business meeting began at 8:40pm.

Minutes of the November 2014 Regular Meeting were approved on motion by Wells KK6EXC motion seconded by Charlie KZ6T. Motion passed.

Due to the length of the Auction and the lateness of the evening, President Pat, KG6JSL announced that all reports would be dispensed with in favor of an open discussion about the direction of the Club for the coming year.

John WB7FRZ reported that the Red Cross classrooms are available Friday evenings for three months at the Red Cross building. Would members show up? What types of classes do members want? Some suggestions were: Programming radios; build projects; mentoring; equipment swap. Trouble

shooting with radios; bringing old radio's back to life; small focus groups on specific topics; soldering; setting up radio's and getting on the air; expanding high frequency (HF) capabilities; General License class; Andreu KJ6YFD will compile a list of members and their level of license as approximately 90% of members in attendance have General or better license; progressive trainings at individual members homes; Get on the Air class two weeks following tech week-end classes with borrowed hand-held's for new licensees. Members invite new licensee to their home and listen in on the Tuesday night net; Technical questions; How to use an antenna tuner/analyzer; in advance of public service, how to prepare for public service events – HF. Expand and do more social types of things; good balance of radio/social events.

Old Business: None

New Business. Matt, KJ6LJI, participated in a 10 meter Contest. Matt was successful in contacting Hong Kong, as well as other far-off places.

The Planning meeting on Saturday will include discussions on: What we want to do, and 'how to get organized'. President Pat, KG6JSL, asked the members present how to better conduct the General Membership meetings to conserve on the time it takes for all Committee Chairpersons to report at meetings. Some of the suggestions were: Putting committee reports on 'blog'; only summary reports; Putting committee report in the Short Skip prior to the meeting, questions for clarification at meetings.

Public Service Chair needed. Contact Pat.

Net Control for:

January 13 – Matt, KJ6LJI
January 20 – Joe, K6AWA
January 27 – Andreu, KJ6YFD
February 3 – Darryl, KI6MSP

Darryl, KI6MSP moved to adjourn at 9:30pm. Wells, KK6EXC seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Iola Beckley, KK6HRE, Secretary



SCRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES — January 14, 2015

Regular Board Meeting called to order by President Pat KG7JSL at 6:00pm at IHOP Restaurant, Fourth Street at Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. Board Members in attendance included President Pat KG6JSL Vice President Brian N6IY, Secretary Iola KK6HRE, Past President Charlie KZ6T, Directors Jeff, KI6PBF and Joe K6AWA, Treasurer Mike AD6YB. Others attending the meeting were ShelleyRae KK6JXM, Doug KF6LMB; Darryl KI6MSP.

On motion from Jeff, KI6PAB and seconded by Mike AD6YB, previous meeting minutes were approval as printed in Short Skip.

Officer and Director Reports

PRESIDENT: Discussed the need for Committees working as committees rather than individually. Get more members involved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Budget and Annual Report Status. Mike presented 2014 Budget summary, and 2015 draft budget. The 2015 draft Budget, as presented, was accepted for submission to the membership on motion by Mike AD6YB and seconded by Charlie KZ6T.

Membership renewal: About 60 members have paid 2015 dues. Mike AD6YB will send out email and will stay on top of reminding membership.

JOE K6AWA: would like a current, updated list of members to update the sign-in sheet for members. Mike will email a complete list to Joe. Joe K6AWA listens to Bay Area Repeaters but SCRA repeater is non-active and wonders why.

SHELLEY KK6JVM: Need to recognize new members, find out what their background is, what they expect from the club. How can we get new members to get involved.

There was an extended discussions on getting and keeping members.

Committee Chair Confirmation:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Closed meeting at 7:07pm into Executive Session at the request of Charlie KZ6T.

Executive Session ended at 7:09pm. Regular Board meeting resumed at 7:10pm.

DX/Contest: Kevin, K6BSG

Education: Dave, W6IBC

Emergency Services: Brian, N6IY

Field Day: Brian, N6IY

License Trustee: John, KE5RI

Media: Sutter, KI6ZON

Membership: Dan, WA6CRB

Merchandise: Iola, KK6HRE

Programs: Brian, N6IY

Public Service: Craig, K6XLT

Refreshments: Bob, WA6NIV

Repeater: Jack, K6ROW

Members:

John Felton, KE5RI

Craig Gravert, K6XLT

Dave Harrison, W6IBC

Curt Helstrom, WA6TIP

Eric McHenry, AA6EM

Charlie Sikes, KZ6T

John Tracy, W6SB

Joe Fortuna K6AWA

Volunteer Exam: Brian, N6IY

Newsletter: Dave, KI6UGB

Mike AD6YB moved and Jeff KI6PBF seconded to accept the appointments as presented after adding Joe Fortuna K6AWA to the Repeater Committee. Motion passed.

Activities: Darryl KI6MSP, has the following activities scheduled: January 24, 2015, Brook Haven Elementary School, 8am – 1pm, Career Day; January 31, 2015, Coddington Mall, ilearn Fair 11am – 3pm; February 9-13, ARRL program – School Roundup. More specific information shortly.

Iola requested a change of venue to the Round Table Pizza so that the Activities Committee could present a more formal presentation for the ARRL Teachers Institute that they would like to bring to Sonoma County and to SCRA.

Continued on next page...



BOARD MEETING MINUTES continued.

Mike AD6YB moved that the Committee move the venue to the Round Table Pizza for the February Board meeting if Iola is successful in making reservations at the Round Table Pizza Restaurant. Jeff seconded, motion passed.

Old Business – No old business

New Business

Club Inventory and annual reports are due by April 30 to membership, plus a statement of assets, including Merchandise. Dave Harrison will have the old inventory.

Joe requested information on club equipment as he has a need to borrow the transceiver for a week.

Charlie has Brochures for new member's packet and will distribute it to board members for input before having the brochure printed.

Cut off dues is the end of January.

Calendar is out for members to look at and Charlie requests updated information.

Adjourn: Jeff KI6PBF moved and Brian N6IYY seconded to adjourn at 7:35pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Iola Beckley KK6HRE
Secretary

Repeaters

If you've always wondered about how repeaters work, February's QST has an informative article. It shows the layout of most repeaters, including SCRA's. It also covers offsets, CTCSS tones, linked repeaters and repeater courtesy. It's a good refresher. [Check it out on page 82.](#) (ARRL Website Login required to access Digital QST link)

Jack, K6ROW
Repeater Chairman

**Time to Get Organized – Field Day Is Just Under 5 Months Away!!**

ALERT!! Field Day is just under five months away and there is a lot of planning to be done!

What?? You've never heard of Field Day? For shame! It's perhaps the most unique of club activities. It's an odd mixture of contesting, public demonstration, a social event, a technical training session, class on how to set up stations and antennas (and take them down, safely), an acid test for our radios and antennas, and a time to hone our operating skills.

Whew!

And all that in one action-packed weekend! Specifically, the weekend beginning at around 5pm on Friday, June 26 and ending around 3pm on Sunday, June 28. The location will be the same as last year, Youth Community Park (aka Skateboard Park) at 1725 Fulton Rd, in Santa Rosa, across the road from Piner High School.

But in order to pull this off, we need help... lots of help! I am organizing a Field Day Committee. I would like to gather all those club members would be interested in participating.

To start with, I want to identify station captains. There will be one station captain per station. Last year, we had four stations (SSB, CW, VHF/UHF, and Get On The Air, or GOTA). We might want to add one or two stations this year. I also want to organize several teams to erect and take down the variety of antennas we will be using throughout the weekend. In the past, I've tried to manage all this effort, but the job is simply too large for one person.

There are also positions for Public Information Officer, Educational Activity, Site Management, Safety (we have a limited number of Band-Aids to use that weekend), Food (you will be hungry and you won't want to miss dinner on Saturday), and Solar Power.

I am adding one additional position this year: HF Operations Manager, who is responsible for recommending what bands each station will be using at the start of the event and to change to as the weekend progresses.

Continued on next page...



Field Day continued from page 9...

So, I want to hear from YOU if one or more of the following apply:

- You are interested in one of the Field Day Committee positions
- You have suggestions, any suggestions, regarding Field Day.
- You are curious to know more about Field Day
- You have equipment or ideas that could be put to use on Field Day
- You have a suggestion for the Educational Activity

I hope to have our first meeting in late February. I would like to hear from as many interested folks as possible.

Let's make Field Day 2015 the best one yet!

Brian Torr, N6IYY
Tel: (707) 575-5871
n6iyy@arrl.net

Operating Tip for HT's

With the Public Service season about to begin, here is a tip for those running late model HT's. If you are operating portable and using an enhanced antenna, like a Slim Jim, J-pole, beam, or anything that connects to your HT with a Coax, consider getting an adapter to strengthen up the SMA mount. If you put a length of coax with a straight SMA adapter on the end of it you are risking pulling the SMA plug right out of your radio. The SMA mounts are not designed to handle anything but the rubber ducky that came with your antenna or a 1/4 wave whip.



You can make a SMA patch jumper very inexpensively by using SMA fittings and RG316 coax. You will need a special crimping tool, but some of us have them to lend.

You can buy a ready made SMA patch cable. Radio Shack sells an SMA to BNC cable for around \$20, I bought mine from HSC (remember them) for a lot less.

Another option is an adapter specifically made for the job, and the radio. I picked up one a few years ago made by Stephen Guylas, KC2BHO. The adapter is designed to breakaway if too much force is put on the connection. Its hard to determine from Google if he is still making them or not. (Hmm, maybe a machinist in the club could be convinced to take on a new challenge.)

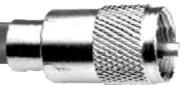
Diamond antenna makes an adapter as well. I have not seen one in action, but Diamond claims it is "simply the best". \$10 at HRO



Continued on next page...

There are a couple of options to look into.



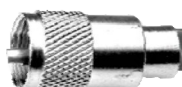


Operating Tip for HT's continued...



Any of these options is going to reduce the strain on the SMA connector and help extend the life of your radio.

Charlie, KZ6T





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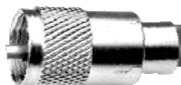


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