

CLUB STATION  
K6SON

# Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

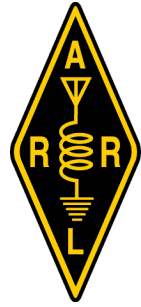
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<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

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English Hill: 147.315+ 88.5 / 224.180+ 88.5 /  
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REPEATER STATION  
W6SON

Volume 40, Number 7

July 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—JULY 2015



We are half way through the year and things are going well. Membership is up, finances are in good shape and we have good attendance at the meetings. Committee activities are well organized and fulfilling the plans made early in the year. My thanks to all officers, directors, Committee Chairs and primarily thanks to all the members for their support of the Club.

June Public Service featured the Terrible Two, a 16 hour test not only of the bike riders but radio communications skills. The event, and radio operations, went very smoothly. The Club, and Public Service Chair Craig, K6XLT, has really developed a first class Public Service capability. Check out the Public Service section of the Website and sign up for events for the rest of the year. Public Service is great radio practice and just plain fun to get out of the house and use your equipment for the benefit of the community.

Field Day of course was the big radio event of the month and probably the year. The turnout was great, participation was excellent and a good time was had by all. Congratulations to Brian, N6IHY, for putting together a great Field Day.

Our Education Committee, chaired by Dave, W6IBC, has really ramped up the license classes. The first one this year was filled, and it looks like the July class will be filled as well. Beyond that, Dave and the Education Committee is offering individual mentoring for anyone wanting to study for a license upgrade to General or Extra. The advantage of individual mentoring is directed study meeting individual needs. Anyone wishing to upgrade should contact Dave.

Darryl, KI6MSP, continues with his community outreach programs that introduces the Club to the Community and is a valuable part of recruiting new hams and new members. Check the Activities section of the Website for future events and pitch in and help out.

Jack, K6ROW, and the Repeater Committee have the new Yeasu digital repeater up and running on UHF, and there will be some classes in the future on how to utilize digital radio.

The July meeting program will feature a two part presentation by Joe, K6AWA, talking about antennas and power supplies at the practical level. Pat, KG6JSL, will show and tell about "tools, gadgets and junk" for the ham shack. This will be

an entertaining and informative Program with practical applications being featured.

So it is onward and upward for SCRA for the rest of the year. I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer and that propagation is good.

Pat, KG6JSL

## This Month's Meeting Program: Radio Tech

July is a two part program that will feature Joe, K6AWA, talking and taking questions about antenna design, take off angles, safety and lightning grounding, RF grounding, impedance matching, antenna relays, power supplies, batteries, solar power, fusing, etc. Joe's specialty is antenna installation and solar power supplies.

Pat, KG6JSL, will be showing and talking about tools, gadgets and junk you should have around the ham shack.

Both presentations will be oriented to practical applications that can be put to immediate use.

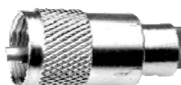
## JOIN ARRL, THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

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/>



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>



**2015 Club Officers**

President	Patrick Coyle coylaw@sonic.net	KG6JSL
Vice President	Brian Torr	N6IYY
Treasurer	Mike Von der Porten	AD6YB
Secretary	Iola Beckley	KK6HRE
Director	Joe Fortuna	K6AWA
	Jeff Tonelli	K16PBF
Past President	Charlie Sikes	KZ6T

**Committee Lineup/Contacts**

Activities	Darryl Paule, K16MSP	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
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Field Day	Brian Torr, N6IYY	n6iyy@arrl.net
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Public Service	Brian Torr, N6IYY	n6iyy@arrl.net
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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**

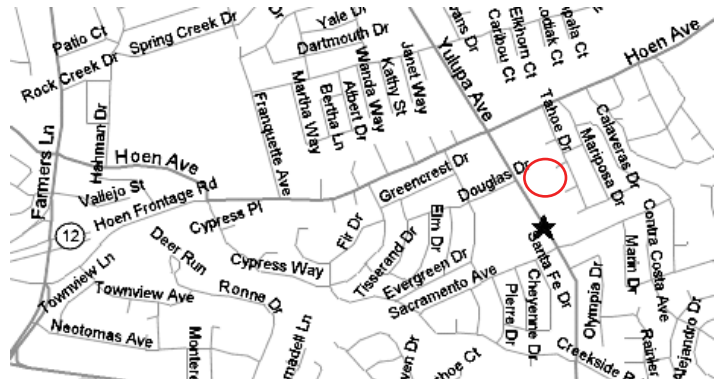
Business Cards	\$12 per month
1st Quarter Column	\$13 per month
Each Additional Quarter Column	\$4 per month
Full page (one side)	\$35 per month
Pre-printed inserts (each)	\$35 per month

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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 Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. People start showing up at 5:15 PM. No RSVP is required.

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Second Wednesday of the month, 6:00 PM at  
 IHOP Restaurant  
 2745 4th Street  
 Flamingo One Stop Shopping Center  
 Santa Rosa, CA 95405  
 No Host Dinner begins at 5:30 PM.  
 Members get a 15% discount on meals.

**Committee Meetings**

Meetings are TBA this month.  
 Check SCRA blogs for announcements.

## SCRA LOANER RADIOS

SCRA has a Yeasu 2900 VHF radio available for use by members as a loaner. Contact Charlie, KZ6T, at [charliesikes@me.com](mailto:charliesikes@me.com)

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## EMERGENCY VESTS

Anyone wanting an emergency vest with name and call sign contact Wells, KK6EXC, at [sylvan1hills@gmail.com](mailto:sylvan1hills@gmail.com)

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## UPGRADE TO GENERAL OR AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS

Get more privileges and enjoyment from your Ham Radio Hobby. Mentoring assistance is available. Contact Dave W6IBC, SCRA Education Chair, at 707-838-8155 or [w6ibc@arrl.net](mailto:w6ibc@arrl.net).

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## Education Report

SCRA will hold its second Technician Licensing class on July 11th and 12th in Santa Rosa. Anyone interested in obtaining the entry level amateur radio license should contact me directly for more information. If you know of anyone who might be interested in obtaining a license, please provide me with their contact information or refer them to the SCRA website (select "Classes" under the "Events" tab).

We continue to offer mentoring on an individual basis for anyone interested in upgrading their license class. Let us know you are interested in upgrading.

Dave W6IBC  
SCRA Education Chair  
[w6ibc@arrl.net](mailto:w6ibc@arrl.net)  
707-838-8155



## 10 Meter Net

There will be a net on 10 meters July 28 hosted by Joe K6AWA at 8:00pm following the regular SCRA net. Set your dial to 28,400 USB.

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## STEM Update

I want to thank Keith AG6CI, Mike AD6YB, and Iola KK6HRE for their assistance helping me with students at the different STEM program classes. The students got to build different flashing LED kits, [squishy circuits](#), radio telescopes, how to wind coils for electric motors. students also learned Ohm's law to put a resistor in the circuit for the squishy circuits.

In the upcoming school year, Fall 2015. I'll be continuing to work with basic electronics, as well as exploring other programs. one of these programs will be [Astronaut Training](#).

If you are interested in working with me in these programs that enrich our children's education, please contact me: New email : [ki6msp2gmail.com](mailto:ki6msp2gmail.com)

Thanks,  
73  
Darryl M Paule  
KI6MSP  
[KI6MSP@gmail.com](mailto:KI6MSP@gmail.com)



## CONTEST CORNER

by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. I hope that everyone enjoyed Field Day. Plenty of weekly CW sprints as usual in July plus the CQ Worldwide VHF contest. Also several RTTY contests if you'd like to try your hand at digital contesting. Happy DX'ing!

1 Jul – RAC Canada Day Contest – CW, 160-2 meters. See: [www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests](http://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests).

1-2 Jul and weekly – CWops Weekly Mini-CWT Test – CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.cwops.org/cwt.html](http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html).

2 Jul – NRAU 10 Meter Activity Contest – All modes, 10 meters. See: [www.nrau.net/activity-contests](http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests).

3 Jul and weekly – NCCC RTTY Sprint – RTTY, 80-15 meters. See: [www.ncccsprint.com/rtty.html](http://www.ncccsprint.com/rtty.html).

3 Jul and weekly – NCCC Sprint – CW, 160-15 meters. See: [www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html](http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html).

4 Jul and weekly – FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint – CW, 80-10 meters. See: [fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints](http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints).

4-5 Jul – DL-DX RTTY Contest – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: [www.drcg.de/index.php/en/dl-dx-rtty-contest](http://www.drcg.de/index.php/en/dl-dx-rtty-contest).

4-5 Jul – Marconi Memorial HF Contest – CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.arifano.it/contest-marconi.html](http://www.arifano.it/contest-marconi.html).

4-5 Jul – Original QRP Contest – CW, 80-20

meters. See: [www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/oqrpr.html](http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/oqrpr.html).

4-5 Jul – PODXS 070 Club 40 Meter Fire-cracker Sprint – Digital, 40 meters. See: [www.podxs070.com/o70-club-sponsored-contests](http://www.podxs070.com/o70-club-sponsored-contests).

5 Jul – WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone – Phone, 2 meters. See: [wab.intermip.net/Contests.php](http://wab.intermip.net/Contests.php).

5 Jul – DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest – Digital, 10 meters. See: [www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport/corona](http://www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport/corona).

5 Jul – QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint – CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.qrparci.org](http://www.qrparci.org).

6 Jul – RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, CW – CW, 80 meters. See: [www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/r80mcc.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/r80mcc.shtml).

7 Jul – ARS Spartan Sprint – CW, 80-10 meters. See: [www.arsqrp.blogspot.com](http://www.arsqrp.blogspot.com).

11-12 Jul – IARU HF World Championship – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: [www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship](http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship).

11-12 Jul – SKCC Weekend Sprintathon – CW, 160-6 meters. See: [www.skccgroup.com](http://www.skccgroup.com).

12 Jul – CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush – CW, 20 meters. See: [www.cqc.org/contests/gold2015.htm](http://www.cqc.org/contests/gold2015.htm).

15 Jul – RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, SSB – SSB, 80 meters. See: [www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/r80mcc.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/r80mcc.shtml).

*Continued on page 5...*



...Contest Corner continues from page 4

16 Jul – NAQCC CW Sprint – CW, 80-20 meters. See: [naqcc.info/sprint201507.html](http://naqcc.info/sprint201507.html).

18 Jul – Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge – CW/Digital, 160-40 meters. See: [www.vkcc.com/australian-vk-contests](http://www.vkcc.com/australian-vk-contests).

18 Jul – Feld-Hell Sprint – Digital, 160-6 meters. See: [sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests](http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests).

18-19 Jul – DMC RTTY Contest – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: [www.digital-modes-club.org/index.php/en/contests-en](http://www.digital-modes-club.org/index.php/en/contests-en).

18-19 Jul – North American QSO Party RTTY – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: [www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf](http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf).

18-19 Jul – CQ Worldwide VHF Contest – all modes, 6-2 meters. See: [www.cqww-vhf.com](http://www.cqww-vhf.com).

19 Jul – RSGB Low Power Contest – CW, 80-40 meters. See: [www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/rqrp.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/rqrp.shtml).

20 Jul – Run For the Bacon QRP Contest – CW, 160-10 meters. See: [fpqrp.org/pigrun](http://fpqrp.org/pigrun).

23 Jul – RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship, Data – Digital, 80 meters. See: [www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/r80mcc.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/r80mcc.shtml).

25-26 Jul – RSGB IOTA Contest – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: [www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/riota.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/riota.shtml).

25-26 Jul – County Hunters CW Contest – CW, 80-10 meters. See: [www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com).

26 Jul – ARS Flight of the Bumblebees – CW, 40-10 meters. See: [www.arsqrp.blogspot.com](http://www.arsqrp.blogspot.com).



### BAOFENG USERS

The Inland Empire Radio Amateurs of Spokane, WA, has excellent instructions on how to manually program your Baofeng UV5RA dual band radio. Their site is <http://www.vhfclub.org/> Click banner to download the instructions in .pdf format.



## 2015 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Check the [Club website](#) for details

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 13-16: Mini-DX  
 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

## DIGITAL ED 101

Now that digital Fusion digital repeaters are popping up around us, we will be forming a focus user group to support this new technology. The Yaesu Fusion line of radios seem quite capable but also complex and perhaps a bit intimidating. Let us know if you would like to participate on a regular basis to swap means, methods, procedures, data, etc. Are you having issues programming or operating digital?

Maybe you need help with APRS? We may not be experts, but if enough of us put our heads together we might be able to figure things out more to take full advantage of the capabilities of the Fusion system.

If you have, or are thinking about purchasing one of the following radios, Fusion Digital is in your future: FTM400R, FTM100DR, FT1DR, FT2DR, FT-991.

Initially we will concentrate on the Fusion repeater and radio but will be expanding to cover all things digital, such as APRS, Winlink, PSK, DMR and other digital platforms. So if you are interested, please send me an email and I will add you to the mailing list.

73,  
 Charlie, KZ6T [kz6t@arrl.net](mailto:kz6t@arrl.net)

Currently on the list are:  
 Dave, W6IBC  
 Matt, KJ6LJI  
 Jeff, KD6RC  
 Adam, KD6POC  
 Eric, M6EM  
 Kathy, KK6KGW



Yaesu System Fusion Introduction On YouTube:  
<https://youtu.be/tNjgHUhhMmA>



## 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.



## Next Open VE Session: Saturday, September 12, 9:00 am

Our next open VE exam session is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12, 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](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.

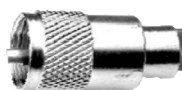
### Candidates should bring the following:

- 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





## SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETING JUNE 3, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER 7:03PM**

### **OFFICERS AND BOARD INTRODUCTIONS:**

Pat, KG6JSL; Mike, AD6YB; Iola, KK6HRE; Doug, KF6LMB; Jeff, KI6PBF; Charlie, KZ6T.

### **NEW MEMBER AND VISITOR INTRODUCTIONS:**

Carol, KK6OLL and Peter, KG6JSI Lucic, Keith KK6TAV. Cymi KI6HTT, Dan Drummond and Bill Simon (non-hams) from Brookwood Mobile Home Park.

**PROGRAM:** Brian, N6IIY, Field Day, June 26 – June 28, 2015. The plan is to spread the stations out more. This is a QSO Operating Event, part social, educational, experimental, but most of all – fun! Darryl, KI6MSP is the Public Information Officer for the event. Darryl KI6MSP reports that Ephren Corerro, County Supervisor, may attend which would give the event an additional 100 points. Some items needed are tables, chairs, power strips, and coax cable (being sure to identify the cables with length and ownership).

**BREAK :** 8:20-8:35pm

### **BUSINESS MEETING:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Dave W6IBC moved and Joe K6AWA seconded. Minutes approved as published in the Short Skip monthly newsletter.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEW CALLS AND UPGRADES, LIES AND BRAGS:**

Gary N2BBB – Serba Antenna information is on the back table for anyone interested. Also, the generator information that was passed on at the last meeting from Jim K6HKY, resulted in a \$200 donation to SCRA for the generator. Jim Draeger KI6REK, Picnic, weekend after

Labor Day. Need volunteers to put on a picnic. If no volunteers, no picnic.

Joe K6AWA, shared a Field battery purchased from, Harbor Freight \$60.00, weight approximately 10 pounds.

Wells KK6EXC, badge for Keith, Safety vests are available for field day.

Brian, N6IIY, Field Day signup sheets were passed around for signing up.

Doug KF6LMB - Annual Mini DX August 14,15,16. Park fee \$20 per day. Two breakfasts. John Breckenridge. Contact from an old QSO contact via email

Kathy KK6KGW, got her antenna up. Found a spot where she can transmit and connect to the clubs net.

### **OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**REPEATERS:** Fred AE6SF: Repeater meeting at Charlie's office.

**ACTIVITIES:** ARRL Children's Kits Day at Children's Museum. Tours of ships, nothing has happened. Field Day, need 4-5 people working the PI booth. Tour d'Organics, August 9th. PCAM air show. Terrible Two coming up, 20th of June.

**EDUCATION:** Dave W6IBC: We will have a full class at the next Technician licensing class. Class will be held at the Red Cross facility, River Road and Old Redwood Highway on Friday night. Saturday at the First American Title Company, then back to Red Cross for Sunday. Gordon West 'General' Book 2015-2019 is now available.

**FIELD DAY:** Joe KA6AWA: Field Day signups. List was passed around.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** Pat KG6JSL: Would like early signups for the Mendo Rally. Link on our website: Practice 10 am July 5th. Santa Rosa Marathon is also coming up.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

*Continued on page 9...*







...Meeting Minutes continued from page 8

### NEW BUSINESS:

Charlie KZ6T – should we be thinking of a replacement for the NewsLine? Bryan does not have any information at this time about when or if the NewsLine will continue.

TECHNICAL Q & A - None

### NET CONTROL:

June 9

Joe K6AWA

16

John WB6FRX

23

Cornell WA6HMN

30

Frank NQ6E

The next meeting is July 1st. Program, The Joe and Pat Show. Antenna's and/or power supplies. Tools, gadgets, and junk around the shack.

**ADJOURN** - 9:06

Respectfully Submitted by Iola Beckley,  
KK6HRE, Secretary

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS June 10, 2015 MEETING

**Call to order.** There was a Quorum present: Pat KG6JSL, Iola KK6HRE, Brian N6IIY, Jeff KI6PBF, Joe K6AWA, Mike AD6YB.

**Visitors Present:** ShelleRae O'Connor KK6JXM, Doug KF6LMB, Darryl KI6MSP, John WB6FRZ, Fred AE6S. Previous meeting minutes approval as published in Short Skip.

**Officer and Director Reports:** Treasurer, Mike AD6YB reported that the balance of the SCRA account.

### Committee Reports:

**Activities:** Darryl KI6MSP, a) Ship Tours on the Hornet are available but no date has been set. Joe K6AWA moved, seconded by Iola KK6HRE to schedule the ship tour on the Hornet either July 25 or 26, 2015. Motion carried.

b) Coming up is the kids museum, radio telescope and satellite tracking, PCAM, Tour d'Organics (SAG's needed), and the County Fair.

c) Waves to wine is scheduled for September 26 and 27th.

d) Darryl KI6MSP requests that interested members sign in to the website and sign up for activities that they would like to participate in.

**Education:** Dave W6IBC reports that the next Technician class is full.

**Field Day:** Brian N6IIY reports that Field Day is shaping up pretty well. TF-6 parts arrived and a meeting re networking the computers has not yet happened. Brian N6IIY and one or two others will be laying out coordinates for placement of stations. They have plenty of tables and chairs. There will be three HF Tri-flexor stations on different bands. Insurance and permits have all been taken care of and he needs to inform the City NOT to lock the gate at night. Plenty of help will be needed to set up the equipment and antennas.

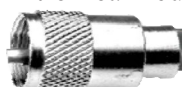
**PIO** Darryl KI6MSP will ask Eric AA6EM to invite City Council members to Field Day. Darryl KI6MSP reports that he is using the Brian N6IIY approved press releases. The educational project has 28 members signed up to build the antenna's.

The video from last year's Field Day was discussed as a possible press release.

**Repeaters:** Jack K6ROW reports there will be a meeting on the 24th to cleanup and tie down at the repeater shack. He was asked if visitations were allowed at the repeater shack. Some doubt was expressed but he will ask at the next meeting who would be interested in a tour of the repeater shack. Charlie KZ6T, the IRLP system is back up and running on the UHF repeater. 441.375 PL +88.5. For information on how to operate, go to the website. Look under Repeaters/IRLP, or send an email to Charlie. Kz6t@arrl.net

**Old Business** – The status of a membership committee was discussed. The purpose of this Ad Hoc committee was established to organize the Membership Committee that would bring all the membership related business under one Chairmanship. Duties of this committee are combined with other positions with some members doubling up on duties. Mike AD6YB will prepare a chart of where these responsibilities are at regarding the Treasurers position.

*Continued on page 10...*





...BOARD MEETING Minutes continued from page 9

## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS AND SIGN UPS

**New Business** 1) Joe K6AWA reported that a 10 meter mini-net experiment had about seven people participate. 2) Charlie KZ6T reports that about 18 months ago he had suggested a group build of a Satellite Tracking system that would communicate back to a laptop. Charlie KZ6T reports that he built the system and it work! He felt that this would be a great educational display. Charlie KX6T will work up a budget for this project and come back to the Board of Directors for approval.

**Announcement:** Jeff KI6PBF is looking for a 200 watt antenna tuner to purchase. Tuner must be stable and reliable.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Iola Beckley, Secretary,

KK6HRE

18-19 July – Mendocino Rally, contact Pat, KG6JSL, coy law@sonic.net or, sign up directly at <http://rally-data.com/> Fast cars on dirt roads in Lake County. The radio action gets fast as we track cars that go missing.

1 August – Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century. Not an official SCRA event, but the event comes into southern Sonoma County and we like to help our fellow hams from Marin County. Contact [http://w6sg.net/site/?page\\_id=227](http://w6sg.net/site/?page_id=227)

9 August – Tour d’Organics, contact Darryl, KI6MSP, or sign up directly at [http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/public-service-signup/?sheet\\_id=16](http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/public-service-signup/?sheet_id=16)

23 August – Santa Rosa Marathon. 3500 runners from Julliard Park to River Road, qualifying for the Boston marathon, or just having fun. Contact Pat, KG6JSL, at coy law@sonic.net or sign up directly at [http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/public-service-signup/?sheet\\_id=20](http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/public-service-signup/?sheet_id=20) HT friendly with easy site access. A good event for beginners.

26-27 September – MS Society’s Waves to Wine: A two day event from San Francisco into Sonoma County Wine Country. Contact Craig, k6xlt@sonic.net

3 October – Levi’s Gran Fondo, contact Craig, K6XLT or sign up directly at [http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/public-service-signup/?sheet\\_id=13&task\\_id=121&date=2015-10-03](http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/public-service-signup/?sheet_id=13&task_id=121&date=2015-10-03) The ultimate bicycle event. 7500 international riders try Sonoma County’s best (or worst) roads.

Check the Public Service page of the SCRA Website for more detail. <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/public-service/>

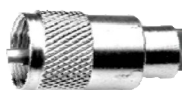
## 2015 MINI-DX

By Doug Payne, KF6LMB

Darryl Paule, KI6MSP, Activities Chairman, has asked me to assist him in setting up the Mini DX for this year. Preliminary groundwork has been put in place. The event will be August 13, 14, 15, and leave on the 16th, at the A.W. Way county park west of Garberville. That will be Thursday arrival, Friday, Saturday and leave on Sunday, but come anytime that works for you.

In past years this seems to meet our requirements for group camping, and setting up remote radio stations. This will be in conjunction with the North American QSO party, and will enhance the contact probability. A positive response to this event has been received from many club members and their significant others. It just doesn’t get better than friends, food, and HF Radio in the wild. All are invited, and your involvement is encouraged.

Contact Doug, KF6LMB, at dougpayne1@earthlink.net for information and signup.





## PUBLIC SERVICE

## THE TERRIBLE TWO

A couple of Pics from the Terrible Two, Rancheria Rest Stop.



## ARRL amateur radio Kids Day at the Children's Museum



Darryl Paule KI6MSP with Children's Museum supervisor, Efren Carrillo and children.

## About Kids Day

Twice a year, ARRL offers an event designed to promote Amateur Radio to our youth. Share the excitement with your kids or grandkids, a Scout troop, a church or the general public!

Kids Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to young people and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children.

-from ARRL.com, more at <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

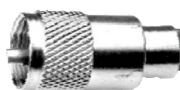
## A MAKERS INTRODUCTION TO HAM RADIO

Here's a link to an article on the Make Magazine web site called "A Maker's Introduction to Ham Radio": <http://makezine.com/2015/06/30/a-makers-introduction-to-ham-radio/>

I thought you all might enjoy it. And, if you don't know about Make Magazine, you should. Poke around the site some. I check it almost every day for project ideas.

'73

Keith, AG6CI





# Field Day 2015

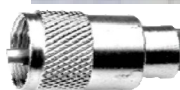
## PREPARATION- TH6 Resurrection Project

The TH6 resurrection get together was held at Doug Payne's residence in the Valley of the Moon on June 13 at 09:00 hours. Those in attendance were; Keith Marchando K6TAX, Darryl Paule KI6MSP, Doug Payne KF6LMB, John Felton KE5RI, John Breckenridge WA6FRZ, Wells Wagner KK6EXC, Frank Oddy NQ6E, Fred Seitel AA6SF, Iola Beckley KK6HRE, and Pat Coyle KG6JSL .

Restoration on the TH6 was long overdue. Corrosion at the radial connectors was cleaned off on the slide in parts, with new clamps at each connection. Before the old connections were opened, each section was marked to assure correct alignment was made when re-installed. Each size of bolts was marked with

their size to ease members when tightening the many different sizes of bolts. Additional color coded tape was placed to assure future installation would be correct. The elements had their type marked with a label maker with their type. John Felton did a quick check with an antenna analyzer, and indicated that for being 3 feet above the ground it was sound.

Work was started at 09:00 hours sharply and continued at a good pace. By 11:30, the shade from the redwood trees began to diminish. A short sandwich break was taken after 12:00. Work was completed by 14:00 hours. Iola, and Darryl took some pictures for the Short Skip. This was a great club activity and was a good educational event conveying reading of plans, and techniques for restoration.





SCRA June 2015 Work Day in preparation for the 2015 Field Day.

IN ATTENDANCE;

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Fred AE6SF    | Doug KF6LMB  |
| Darryl KI6MSP | John F KE5RI |
| John B WB6FRZ | Iola KK6HRE  |
| Wells KK6EXC  | Keith AG6CI  |
| Frank NQ6E    | Pat KG6JSL   |





## Field Day 2015 Recap

As I write this, it is only a few hours since we left the Field Day site. I still haven't -unpacked my truck. I don't have the final QSO count, but all stations did well. The SSB and CW stations easily bested last year's number of contacts. And this year we added over 100 digital contacts. This will really help boost our score!

The GOTA station, in addition to serving as a means to getting those curious to know about ham radio a taste of what it's all about, served as our alternate power station. The transmitter was powered solely by solar panels and a solar-charged battery. The GOTA station captain, Joe, K6AWA, also set up a 3-element 6m beam which the VHF team used to their advantage.

Sure, we had some hiccups doing the setup. Such as one of the guy stakes for the crank-up tower almost coming out of the ground (with the TH-6 at full elevation, no less). And the TH-6 itself was slightly out of tune on 20m and 15m (not ideal, but usable) and way out of tune on 10m (we'll need to do some more work on that).

We experienced some interference issues in the early going, but those were quickly resolved. We learned that one of our sub-band filters for 40m is out-of-tune. That will be fixed before next Field Day.

The Volunteers Coordinators did a good job keeping everyone busy and making maximum use of the folks that showed up.

The Educational Activity was awesome! In less than 2 hours the students with the help of three teachers assembled and tested over 20 antennas. We did have an issue at the outset with the deep cycle battery and inverter not having enough oomph to power all the soldering irons (I didn't expect so many). So we switched to using a 5kw generator. Overkill, yes, and noisy, yes, but it got the job done.

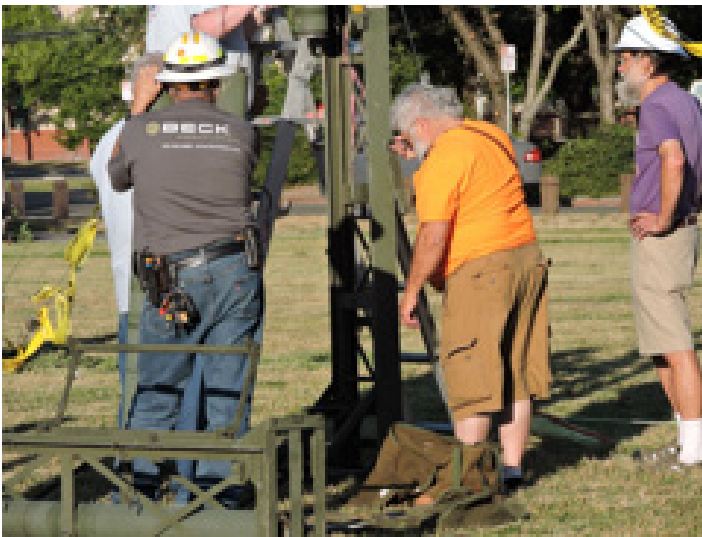
The weather cooperated. Well, mostly; there was a brief rain shower in the wee hours of Sunday morning. But otherwise, not too cold, not too hot.

My thanks go out to all those who helped make Field Day 2015 a reality and to those who have e-mailed me photos for this issue of Short Skip. Field Day is a team effort and we've got a pretty awesome team!

We'll be planning a Field Day Debrief meeting soon. If you have comments and suggestions for next year, please let me know and we can make Field Day 2016 even better.

Regards,  
Brian Torr, N6IYY  
SCRA Field Day 2015 Chairman

## Antennae Up...





Antennae continued from page 14



# Stations



*CW Crew*



*SSB Station 1*

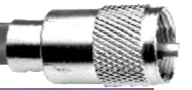


*The Boss and SSB Station 2*



*GOTA Station running VHF*





*...Stations continued from page 15*



*GOTA Station working through the last minute*



*The sun sets over the CW tent as the crickets try to keep up.*

## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY



*Assembly*



*Extra Power for the soldering irons*



*Test and Tune*







*Chef KG6JSL*



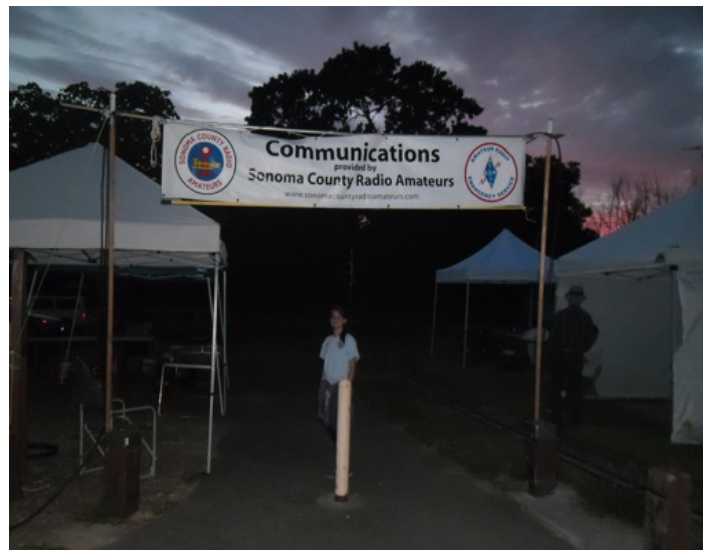
*Whew!*



*Information Booth*



*What goes up must come down.*



*The End*

*A Big Thank You to everyone who submitted photos! I couldn't fit them all in this issue, but there will be more in the August issue. - The Editor*



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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.

[\(Click Me\)](#)

**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](mailto:dave@kraybill.org), or for general questions and /or suggestions, [k6son@arrl.net](mailto:k6son@arrl.net)

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