

CLUB STATION
K6SON

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0116 707-538-2931

<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

Repeaters:

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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 41, Number 1

January 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—JANUARY 2016



Happy New Year and Welcome to 2016!

Have you recovered from the many holiday parties and celebrations?

Have you recovered enough from our elections to realize that you now have a gray haired old lady as a president?

Too late now!!

Seriously, I want to thank you all for allowing me to serve the membership. I will not be able to do this job

without all of you pitching in and helping. If you have not yet been invited to join a committee, let me know and I will have our Membership Chairman find a committee where you will be the happiest. Keeping an organization alive and well takes an Army, so contact me [iolabeckley@att.net] and we will put you to work. The events will be numerous this year. Sometimes two or three a month, so we need to get more members trained, out of their comfort zones, and get them volunteering. Hay, if I can do it so can you.

A little back ground on my past careers so you will partially understand why I think I can handle this job. For 18 years I managed a very busy orthopaedic surgeon's office, and simultaneously, as a part time job, I was Executive Secretary to a group of Northern California Orthopaedic Surgeons, (for 17 years). My primary responsibility was to arrange annual Continuing Education three day weekend excursions to some of the finest golf or skiing resorts Northern California has to offer. Then I would certify the credits with the California Medical Association so the members could claim the necessary CME Credits they needed to hold on to their licenses. Not an easy job working with over one hundred physicians, arranging for up to 30 physician speakers per three day meeting, and arranging some 20 -30 exhibitors for the full three days, for 17 years! Of course there were the Board Meetings, and the Annual Meeting for elections, etc., so my interested in continuing education for advancing licensing has been a long time in the making. I bring that continuing education emphasis to SCRA. I have a long experience with Beta Sigma Phi Sorority (like over 45 years), of serving in all positions of chapter, city, regional and state boards, therefore, my appreciation for Roberts Rules, By Laws, and Policy and Procedure Manuals.

I came into SCRA through the Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness programs where I have a desire to prepare families

for disaster and recovery, and to give them the opportunity to connect with City government Emergency Operations Center to pass on Damage Assessment Reports. With the help of Lee Dibble (KE6EAQ) we got that movement on its feet. With the additional help of Jim Draeger (KI6REK) we established the radio net that caused me to pursue my own ham license. Eric McHenry (AA6EM) came on board and got the Fire Corps hams reorganized and added to, thus ACES/COPE Radio Net finally brought things full circle. I still work with neighborhoods and find individuals who want to get their license so they can represent their neighbors as the Radio Communicator on the Emergency Preparedness Team. In this capacity, some three years ago, Lee and I met with (Pat Coyle KG6JSL) and Charlie Sikes (KZ6T) in an effort to team up with SCRA as a means to train and license the neighborhood radio communicators.

So. Here I am as President of SCRA!!! Definitely was not on my horizon three years ago. The many nice people ~ and now friends ~ and the fun times I have had, has brought me to this level. I really think SCRA was ready for something new. (Old is new again!)

You won't get any technical articles from me. Clearly, I am not a technical person. I want to learn all I can about radio but it is not a priority at this time. However, I will be the first member to sign up for whatever classes the Educational Committee puts out there. My emphasis for the next year will be on increasing educational opportunities for all levels of licensees, for helping new hams to feel more comfortable with their new surroundings and equipment, and getting more members involved in the activities and events offered by SCRA. In order to accomplish all of this we need to have as many members being involved as possible. We will be publishing the list of committees shortly along with what we need to complete the list and fill in committees. It is my hope that each of you will give serious consideration to jumping in with both feet and help us meet our goals for 2016.

One very important activity for you to put on your calendar right now is the Planning Meeting, Saturday, January 9, 2016. 9am - 2pm (or thereabouts). You will have the opportunity to express what you, personally, want to get from your membership in SCRA. If you cannot be there, send me an email with what you want the board to consider and I will make sure your voice is heard. This meeting will be held at the clubhouse at the Rincon Valley Mobile Estates, address and directions in a meeting notice elsewhere in this issue of Short Skip. Hope to see you there.

Iola Beckley, KK6HRE
SCRA President 2016





2015 Club Officers

President	Iola Beckley	KK6HRE
Vice President	Brian Torr	N6IYY
Secretary	Dave Harrison	W6IBC
Treasurer	Wells Wagner	KK6EXC
Director	Joe Fortuna	K6AWA
	ShelleyRae O'Connor	KK6JXM
Past President	Patrick Coyle	KG6JSL

Committee Lineup/Contacts

Activities	Open	
Community Outreach	Darryl Paule, KI6MSP	ki6msp@arrl.net
DX/Contesting	Doug Payne, KF6LMB	dougpayne1@earthlink.net
Education	Dave Harrison, W6IBC	w6ibc@arrl.net
Emergency Services Liason	Pat Coyle, KG6JSL	coylaw@sonic.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	ShelleyRae O'Connor, KK6JXM	kk6jxm@cpr4biz.com
Merchandise	Kathy Wells, KK6KGW	bikeladyofconcord@gmail.com
Public Service	Charlie Sikes, KZ6T	kz6t@arrl.net
Refreshments	ShelleyRae O'Connor, KK6JXM	kk6jxm@cpr4biz.com
Repeater	Jack Christensen, K6ROW	K6ROW@sonic.net
VE Testing	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

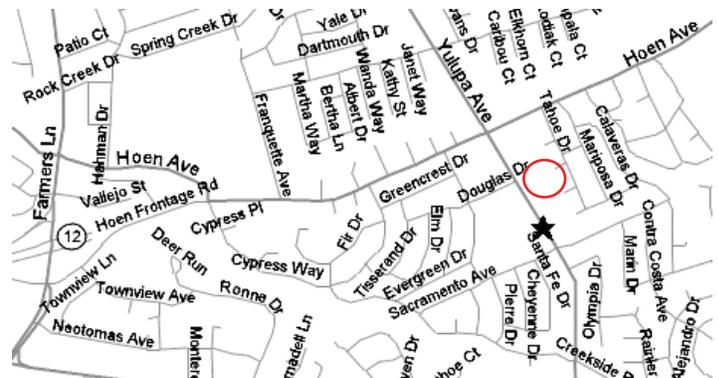
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SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month, socially at 6:30 pm, program starting at 7:15 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
 Union Hotel
 80 Mission Blvd.
 Santa Rosa, CA 95405
 No Host Dinner begins at 5:00 PM.

PLEASE NOTE: Venue for the Board of Directors Meeting to change periodically. Watch Short Skip, Pat's weekly Blog of Reminders, and listen to the Tuesday night nets for location, or call Iola @ 538-2931.



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

EMERGENCY VESTS

Anyone wanting an emergency vest with name and call sign contact Wells, KK6EXC, at sylvan1hills@gmail.com

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.



John, WB6FRZ, has his Morse Code training net immediately following the Service Net, on the Club Repeater



10 Meter Net

There will be a net on 10 meters hosted by Joe K6AWA at 8:00pm following the regular SCRA net Tuesday nights. Set your dial to 28,402.00 SSB, USB. (New Frequency) Please note that all license classes (including technician) are welcome.

2016 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Check the [Club website](#) for details

January~

3rd ~ Children's Museum Ham Radio demonstrations. Contact Darryl KI6MSP @ 544-8874 to volunteer.

6th ~ Regular Membership Meeting ~ 6:30pm (new time for social interactions. Meeting starts at 7:15) at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, Yulupa Ave.

8th ~ Morse Code class provided by John WB6FRZ starts. Class to be held at the Red Cross building, Class Room - Time 6:30 - 8:00pm every Friday night starting January 8th and finishing on April 8th. Location: Santa Rosa Red Cross Building, 5297 Aero Drive, Santa Rosa. It is located one block west from the intersection of Old Redwood Highway and Airport Blvd. Contact John WB6FRZ @ 271-1017

9th ~ 2016 Planning Meeting ~ 9:30am Rincon Valley Mobile Estates Club House, Hwy 12

13th ~ Board of Directors Meeting ~ 6:00pm. Union Hotel, 80 Mission Blvd. No-Host Dinner @ 5:00pm.
PLEASE NOTE: Venue for the Board of Directors Meeting to change periodically. Watch Short Skip, Pat's weekly Blog of Reminders, and listen to the Tuesday night nets for location, or call Iola @ 538-2931.

16th ~ Informal Audit of Treasurers Books ~ Home of new Treasurer Wells KK6EXC. Committee: Lee Dibble KE6EAQ, Chairman, Dan Drummond KK6VIQ, and Wells KK6EXC.

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>



CONTEST CORNER

by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. Time once again for Winter Field Day. 3000 bonus points for operating outside without commercial power. Also a good time to try 160 meters during the long winter nights. Happy DX'ing!

1 Jan – ARRL Straight-Key Night – CW, All bands. See: www.arrl.org/straight-key-night.

1 Jan – AGB New Year Snowball Contest – All modes, 80 meters. See: www.qsl.net/eu1eu/agb_nysb.htm.

1 Jan – SARTG New Year RTTY Contest – 80-40 meters. See: www.sartg.com/contest/nyrules.htm.

1 Jan – AGCW Happy New Year Contest – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.agcw.org/index.php/en.

1 Jan – AGCW UHF/VHF Contest – CW, 2 – 0.7 meters. See: www.qrparci.org/contests.

1 Jan – QRP ARCI New Year's Sprint – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.qrparci.org/contests.

2 Jan – POSXS 070 Club PSK Fest – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.podxs070.com.

2-3 Jan – WW PMC Contest – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.s59dcd.si/en10.

2-3 Jan – Original QRP Contest – CW, 80-20 meters. See: www.qrpcc.de/contestrules.

2-3 Jan – ARRL RTTY Roundup – 80-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup.

2-3 Jan – EUCW 160 Meter Contest – CW. See: www.eucw.org/eu160.html.

3 Jan – Kid's Day Contest – Phone, all bands. See: www.arrl.org/kids-day.

5 Jan – ARS Spartan Sprint – CW, 80-10 meters. See: arsgrp.blogspot.com.

6 Jan – UKEICC 80 Meter Contest – SSB, 80 Meters. See: www.ukeicc.com.

9 Jan – Old New Year Contest – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.radio.ru/cq.

9-10 Jan – SKCC Weekend Sprintathon – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

9-10 Jan – UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest – Digital, 80-10 meters. See: www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules.

9-10 Jan – North American QSO Party – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf.

10 Jan – NRAU-Baltic Contest – SSB/CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.nrau.net/nrau-baltic-contest.

10 Jan – DARC 10 Meter Contest – SSB/CW, 10 meters. See: www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest.

13 Jan – NAQCC CW Sprint – CW, 160 meters. See: naqcc.info/sprint201601_160.html.

13-17 Jan – AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest – CW, 160-40 meters. See: www.antiquewireless.org.

15 Jan – LZ Open Contest – CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.lzopen.com/lz-open-contest.

16-17 Jan – Hungarian DX Contest – SSB/CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.ha-dx.com/HADX.

16-17 Jan – North American QSO Party – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf.

16-17 Jan – Feld-Hell Sprint – Digital, 160-40 meters. See: www.feldhellclub.org/feldhellclub.

18 Jan – Run For the Bacon QRP Contest – CW, 160-10 meters. See: fpqrp.org/pigrun.

23 Jan – WAB 1.8 MHz Phone Contest – Phone, 160 meters. See: wab.intermip.net.

23-24 Jan – YL-ISSB QSO Party – SSB/CW, all bands. See: www.ylssystem.org/qsoparty.

23-24 Jan – BARTG RTTY Sprint – 80-10 meters. See: www.bartg.org.uk.

23-24 Jan – Montana QSO Party – All modes, 160-0.7 meters. See: www.fvarc.org/.

24 Jan – QRP ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.qrparci.org/contests.

27 Jan – SKCC Sprint – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

27 Jan – UKEICC 80 Meter Contest – CW, 80 meters. See: www.ukeicc.com.

29-31 Jan – CQ 160 Meter Contest – CW, 160 meters. See: www.cq160.com/rules.htm.

Continued on page 5...



...Contest Corner continued from page 4

30 Jan – Feld-Hell Sprint – Digital, 160-10 meters. See: sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub.

30-31 Jan – REF Contest – CW, 80-10 meters. See: concours.r-e-f.org/contest.

30-31 Jan – UBA DX Contest – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules.

30-31 Jan – Winter Field Day – All modes, all bands. See: <http://www.winterfieldday.com>.

30 Jan – 1 Feb – ARRL January VHF Contest – All modes, 6 meters and up. See: www.arrl.org/january-vhf.

31 Jan – 3 Feb – Classic Exchange – CW, 160-2 meters. See: www.classicexchange.org.

For additional contest calendars and resources check:

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)

[ARRL Contests Page](#)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES — DECEMBER 9, 2015

The December SCRA Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by President Pat Coyle KG6JSL. There was a quorum.

Those present included: Pat Coyle KG6JSL, Mike AD6YB, Joe K6AWA, Iola KK6HRE, Jeff KI6PBF, Brian N6IY, Charlie KZ6T.

Others present were: Shelley KK6JXM, Wells KK6EXC, Kathy KK6KGW, Doug KF6LMB, Jack K6ROW, Dar-ryl KI6MSP, Dave W6IBC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING: Wells KK6EXC moved, Joe K6AWA seconded, to approve minutes as corrected. Motion passed.

OFFICER AND DIRECTOR REPORTS: TREASURER ~ Mike AD6YB reported that we are close to the end of the year and we \$3358 positive gain for the year. Pat KG6JSL questioned Mike if we have to file some special form with the IRS if our bank balance goes over \$25,000. Kathy KK6KGW searched her smart phone and got an answer Pat's question. The special form is only necessary if we have a gross income for the year of \$25,000 or more. Our total monies-on-hand is under \$25,000.

Charlie KZ6T moved, Iola KK6HRE seconded to send

a \$400 donation to Newline. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND BUSINESS

Treasurer: Mike AD6YB reports that we have 44 paid members for 2016. Dues are now payable. The roster will be taken over by the new Membership Committee with periodic updates after March.

Education: Dave W6IBC reports that there were 29 new licenses issued following the SCRA classes this year. Next year there will be follow up classes for the new hams. Possibly a GOTA class.

Repeaters: Jack, all is well. No current problems.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

December Dinner Party. There were about 55 members and guests present with lots of great food. Dema Elgin KK6TAP was the winner of the radio and Dave Harrison was named Member of the Year for 2015.

There was no New Business.

Pat adjourned the 2015 Board of Directors Meeting at 6:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Iola Beckley KK6HRE
Secretary

PLANNING MEETING SCHEDULED

The Planning Meeting for 2016 is to be held at the Rincon Valley Mobile Estates Clubhouse, 4671 Circle Drive, on Saturday, January 9, 2016. Doors open at 9am, coffee and donuts at 9:15, meeting starts at 9:30am. Lunch of salad and pizza will be available. Estimate time of conclusion of meeting, 2pm. (but come and go if your time is limited.) ALL members are invited but the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs are encouraged to attend so we can get input from those who will be leading the charge!

Dress comfortably, bring your own food and/or drink if you have dietary needs. There is a full kitchen with refrigerator and microwave. Sorry, the pool and hot tub are closed for the winter. (Directions:) East on Hwy 12 to Rincon Valley, cross over Mission Boulevard, take the first left hand turn into Rincon Valley Mobile Estates ~ Cardinal Way ~ stay to the right on either Bluejay or Redwing Drives. Both streets will bring you around to Circle Drive. Clubhouse is the large permanent building with the large flag pole. (Google Maps and Garmen's direct you to Prospect Drive which takes you to the back gates that are not open. Use my directions.) Iola KK6HRE



2015 MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The 2015 SCRA Member of the Year was awarded to Dave Harrison, W6IBC, at the annual Holiday Party on December 2. Dave has been active in about every aspect of the Club for many years and this year accomplished outstanding results as Education Committee Chairman which conducted training classes for new licensees as well as providing timely advice and assistance to other Club events and activities.

Dave's wife Joy, KI6ASJ, participated in the award ceremony because Dave advises that nothing he does could be accomplished without her assistance and support. This was a joint award in a very real sense.

So congratulations to Dave and Joy and many thanks to both for their valuable contributions to the operation, functions and goals of SCRA.



Hi, i'm Selling 2 Model 20-50 Vari-Ten, LLC Antenna Tensioner I was not able to use them for my wire antenna setup i'm asking \$100 for both of them here is link link with more information about them <http://antennatensioner.com/drupal/wire-tensioner> any Questions please email me at bredalrv@aol.com

Thanks

Shon KJ6FNN



November 2015 Class at Bennett Valley Grange

30 New Hams in 2015 from SCRA Classes

By Dave Harrison W6IBC
SCRA Education Chair

Our club had a very successful 2015 insofar as training new hams is concerned. To begin with, we changed our study material over to the material authored by Gordon West and made available via the W5YI Group in Texas. This different approach enabled us to present all of the 426 Technician License Class questions within the question pool in 22 separate instruction blocks, taught by our team of seven instructors over a single weekend. We made the Friday night session an optional but highly useful introductory session which includes extended discussions of the more difficult subjects such as the relationship between frequency and wavelength. In 2015 we conducted three technician classes in March, July and November. Class size averaged 10 students, and our November class additionally included two licensed hams who took the class as a refresher course.

I want to thank our 2015 Education Committee instructor team: John Breckenridge WB6FRZ, Jeff Tonelli KI6PBF, Darryl Paule KI6MSP, Andru Luvisi KJ6YFD, Charlie Sikes KZ6T, and Dema Elgin KK6TAP for very effective work. It takes time to prepare for our classes and these volunteer instructors were very well prepared. I also want to acknowledge our excellent local Volunteer Examiner teams lead by our VE liaison Brian Torr N6IIY. Without their dedicated work, we wouldn't have the 30 new hams from our classes.

We plan to hold at least three Technician License classes in 2016 and are working out dates and locations as this note is being written. More information about our classes is available on the SCRA website.



ATTENTION MEMBERS: HELP NEEDED!

All of the committees have been assigned with the exception of the Activities position. I am appealing to members ~ new and old ~ to step up and volunteer for this most important job of planning membership events and meeting programs. Most of the activities and programs are 'traditional' so we need to fill in the year and I am willing to help in the planning process. We will have plenty of input from members at the Planning Meeting on January 9th, so coming up with suggestions will not be difficult.

Call me at 538-2931, before the January 6th Membership Meeting so I can make an announcement at the meeting.

Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to assist with this position.

Iola KK6HRE

SCRA 2016 President

Public Service Roundup for 2015

Once again, a year has passed and we have a pleasant retrospective of Public Service events to recap. SCRA was busy bringing the best in amateur radio communications to some of the more interesting events in what could arguably be one of the most scenic counties in the state. As most of you have experienced, providing communications in Sonoma (and sometimes Napa and Marin) can present major challenges. Once again, our many volunteers brought their best game out to assist with communications for these great events.

Look at this list!

SoNoMaS Mtn Bike Race (Best in the state)

Lake Sonoma 50 (world class event)

Wine Country Century (45 years!)

Human Race (longer than I know about)

Monte Rio Vineman

Terrible Two (35 years! And the premier double in the state)

Tour d'Organics

Waves to Wine

Levi's Gran Fondo (6000 riders!)

I keep in touch with Bruce Hopfengardner K6BDH, currently living in North Carolina. For comparison he describes the local club's big public service event being a bike ride of some 300 riders. Easy peasy.

Again, a big thank you to all of you for supporting these events, and big thank you to those that come from out of the area to work on these as well. Here's what I hope is a complete list of those that volunteered their time (some on

multiple events):

AA6EM
 AB6VU (Summit – Santa Cruz Cnty)
 AD6YB
 AE6SF
 AG6PN
 K6AWA
 K6BSG
 K6ETA
 K6HKY
 K6JQ (Fairfield)
 K6KBS
 K6ROW
 K6TTM (Alameda)
 K6WAV (Concord)
 K6XLT
 K7LVO
 KC6SOM
 KC7IID
 KD6FIL
 KD6SEJ (Summit – Santa Cruz Cnty)
 KE6EAQ
 KE6HID
 KE7JXI
 KF6KEN
 KF6LMB
 KG6BHI
 KG6GEX
 KG6JPU
 KG6JSI
 KG6JSL
 KG6UMP
 KI6JOP
 KI6MJC (Ukiah)
 KI6MSP
 KI6QWB
 KI6REK
 KI6TIB (Ukiah)
 KI6TIJ
 KI6UJJ
 KI6ZON
 KJ6FMQ
 KJ6LJI
 KJ6PBA
 KK6DPW
 KK6DPX
 KK6EXC
 KK6GCU
 KK6GJW

Continued on page 8...

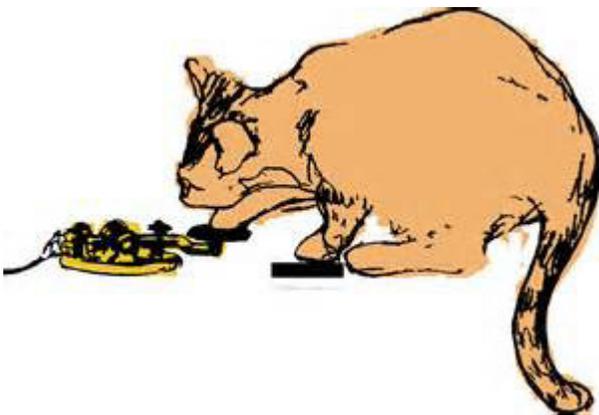


...PS Roundup Continued from page 7

KK6HRE
 KK6HZS
 KK6JLA
 KK6KGW (Concord)
 KK6LIW
 KK6OLL
 KK6QJK
 KK6UIS
 KK6VMZ
 KT6CRT
 KZ6T
 1AL
 N1AL
 N3SU
 N6AFL
 N6GY
 N6IY
 NX6DX
 W1EJ
 WE4MOO
 W6IBC
 WA6HMN
 WB6FRZ
 WB6JAO
 WB6YKU

For this next year, I will be stepping back from many PS duties – sadly my wife (non-smoker, fit and healthy) has been diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer and I need to be available for her. Charlie Sikes, KZ6T, will be stepping in to handle many of the events. I will participate behind the scenes and will likely handle some of the larger events (WCC, ToC, TT and LGF). If you want to support me and Charlie, do it by signing up early for the 2016 Public Service Events – there will be another full calendar of events to participate in.

Best to you in 2016
 Craig Gaevent, K6XLT



Repeater Committee 2015 Accomplishments

The committee took on some upgrading and expansion tasks in 2015, The old XP control computer at English Hill was replaced with a newer model and Windows 10 was installed. This included new custom equipment shelves to hold the computer, display, keyboard and mouse. Two new features were implemented as well. The UHF repeater was upgraded to a Yaesu DR-1X repeater and offers both traditional FM and C4FM digital capability along with continuing to provide IRLP connectivity. We were also able to install a Winlink 2000 station on VHF.

---Jack K6ROW

2015 HF Summary

This last year I headed up the mini DX for the club. (DX stands for distant transmissions, or traveling to far away areas.) We had about 7 members and headed out West of Garberville to just West of Honeydew. This was on the weekend for the North American QSO party. In this remote area we erected many types of antennas and utilized emergency power. Cw contacts were made, SSB contacts were made, and 2-meter contacts were made with Charlie on the SOTA check in. SOTA is for making contacts from mountaintops, and receiving bragging rights for your accomplishments. I also went to Dave Harrison's build it day at his house in Windsor. I brought my LMR400 cables and attempted attaching connectors. Other radio related 2 meter events were with Darryl at the Science Fair in Santa Rosa, and the Tour of Organics bike event North of Sebastopol, and the tour of the aircraft carrier Hornet in Alameda. I also assisted Charlie with the Annadel bike event manning the Lawndale site using my Elk log periodic antenna which worked well in this hard to make contact area with our repeater in Sebastopol. Another event was the Field Day with Brian. I assisted in placing the TH6 antenna, and the array of other antennas. On field day I assisted Joe at the GOTA station (get on the air station). And last was Craig's Waves to Wine bike event with my 2 meter station South of Cotati, and West of Petaluma. A very interesting year.

Submitted by Douglas Payne KF6MLB.



CODE CLASS

by John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ



Radio's rugged ranks in the Thirties
 Enlisted chaps like old G5BD
 Who never sat around wringing his hands
 About contributions and countries lists
 Or griped about slow factory service
 On a chrome-trimmed Superduper-IV.
 OM G5BD, with only one good arm
 Couldn't wring his hands anyway
 And had bigger problems to lick
 Like no a.c. mains and a 10-watt limit.
 Other things he had a-plenty
 Were guts and that old ham spirit
 So G5BD worked DX—and had a ball.
 (Photo via W2GP)

From the How's DX column, page 100, June 1967 issue of QST magazine.

Do you hold a Technician class license and want to use skywave on 80, 40, and 15 meters? You ALREADY have privileges on those bands!

Do you hold a General or Extra class license and want to take advantage of the lower frequency portions of your HF bands? Want to try making some HF code contacts hiking in the mountains?

Come learn code on Friday evenings beginning in January and make great use of the privileges the FCC has already granted you!

Pending approval by the Red Cross to use their Santa Rosa facility we will meet on Friday evenings from January 8th through April 15th.

This course is focused on beginners and assumes you know nothing about code but if you know some code already then you will be that much farther ahead!

I propose the class to meet from 6:30 until 8PM at the Santa Rosa Red Cross building, 5297 Aero Drive, Santa Rosa.

You will learn to send and receive code and how to make radio contacts using code. There will be home-

work but you knew that was the case anyway, didn't you?

It doesn't matter, we have a lot of fun in class and may even have code practice on the club repeater during the week!

I am soliciting code course interest beginning NOW! Serious, committed signups only please!

Do not sign up if you aren't ready to commit to attending at least most of the 13 class sessions and doing the homework required – 45 minutes every day from January 8th through April 15th.

I do all I can to make learning a fun experience but in the end it is your desire and commitment to working at learning the code that will accomplish the task.

Contact John Breckenridge, WB6FRZ, for more information:

wb6frz@arrl.net

707 217 1017

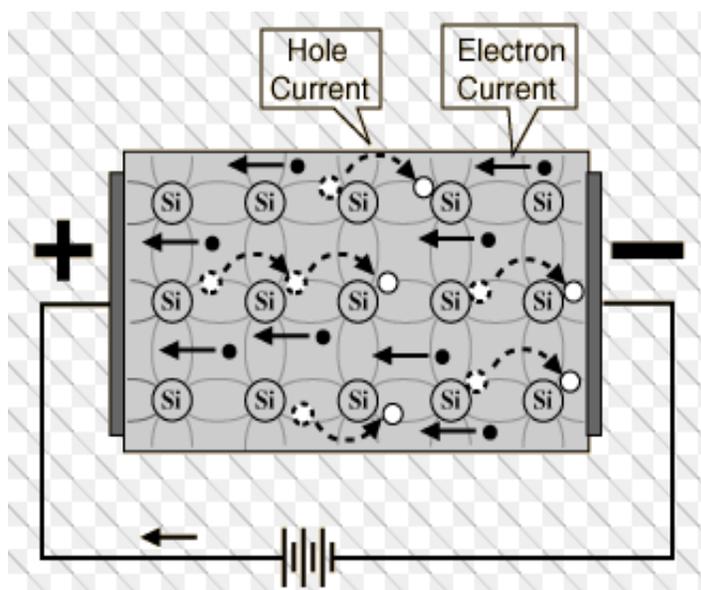


AWARDS ROUNDUP

The Intrepid-DX Group is looking for nominees to receive its Intrepid Spirit Award, an annual prize that honors the memory of Silent Key James McLaughlin, WA2EWE/T6AF. Honorees are recognized for their commitment to amateur radio in a manner that is, according to the group's recent announcement, courageous, dedicated, innovative and fearless, among other things. The award will be presented in April at the International DX Convention in Visalia, California. Nominations are due by Dec. 15 and may be sent via email to intrepiddxgroup@gmail.com

<http://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/1256345/26713372/1449169530287/nsln1988.txt?token=pX8RFyUTFmUCofbFGN37%2FeYAkA%3D>

Jim was active in our club.



More on Basic Electrical Theory

While continuing research into the background of the basic electrical theory as put forth in the November 2015 issue of Short Skip, I came upon this gem published 30 years ago right here in Short Skip which also hints at the importance of smoke in the operation of electronic circuits. As one who learned electronics in the Navy using electron flow (electrons flowing negative to positive) vs. the conventional flow (pos to neg) that the real world was using at the dawn of the transistor age, I found this interesting.

---Dave KI6UGB

SHORT SKIP

SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

JAN. 1985

ELECTRON HOLE THEORY (Tnx W6DTV)

Have you been amused and confused by the electron-hole theory? Do charges, valence bands, and the 3/2 power law make you nervous?

A startling discovery was recently made which invalidates all this clap-trap. Here is how electronic equipment really works.

For many years, young electronic technicians have been taught the "hole" theory of electronics. This theory explains how electrons move along conductors and semiconductors. The explanation has been good enough to satisfy or keep at bay anyone who might otherwise question the theory.

However, after many years of working in the field, I have come to realize that the "hole" theory may not be correct.

My theory, which has been proven time and again by personal observation is that electronics works on smoke! Yes, that's right, smoke. I recently learned that every manufacturer encapsulates a certain amount of smoke in every peice of electronic gear that he builds. The smoke is what does the work.

You have probably noticed that a component will quit working when the smoke leaks out. I've documented this many times, and it conclusively proves my theory. My theory sure beats the "hole theory. I've never seen holes in a wire, and why don't electrons pour out of the end of the wire, if the wire is broken?

I say the smoke theory is right. I've seen smoke many times, but I've never seen an electron.

(Tnx MSN Newsletter/ARNS)

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- IF Stage DSP • Backlit front key panel



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IC-7600 All Mode Transceiver

- 100W HF/6m Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15kHz • 5.8 in WQVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope



IC-V8000 2M Mobile Transceiver

- 75 watts • Dynamic Memory Scan (DMS)
- CTCSS/DCS encode/decode w/ tone scan • Weather alert • Weather channel scan • 200 alphanumeric memories

Analog + Digital Dual Bander D-STAR

ID-880H

- D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode)
- Wideband receiver



YAesu
The radio



FTDX-3000 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100 Watt HF/6 Meters • Large and wide color LCD display • High Speed Spectrum Scope built-in • 32 bit high speed DSP /Down Conversion 1st IF



FT-7900R 2M/440 Mobile

- 50W 2M, 45W on 440MHz • Weather Alert • 1000+ Memories • WIRES capability • Wideband receiver (cell blocked)

FT-60R 2M/440 5W HT

- Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/alpha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan



FT-450D 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M • Auto tuner built-in • DSP built-in
- 500 memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift



FT-857D Ultra Compact HF/VHF/UHF

- 100w HF/6M, 50W 2M, 20W UHF • DSP included
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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, or for general questions and /or suggestions, k6son@arrl.net

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