

CLUB STATION
K6SON

Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

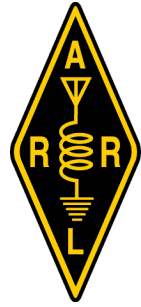
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REPEATER STATION
W6SON

Volume 41, Number 11

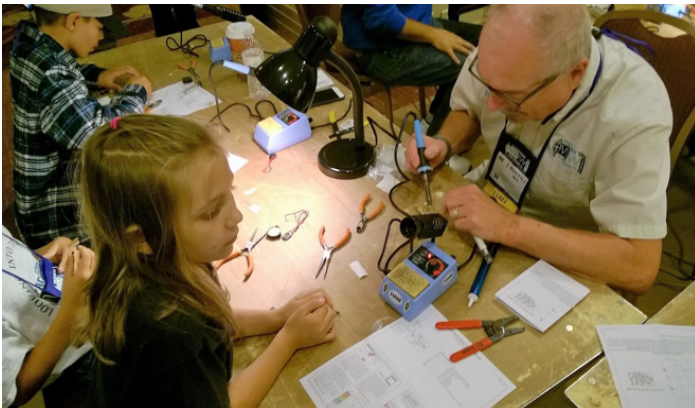
November 2016

PACIFICON 2016

ARRL Pacific Division Ham Radio Convention



Pacificon is a three day event. It is jam packed with activities including lectures and demonstrations of new products and developments in HAM Radio, license class, Jamboree-on-the-Air station and [more](#).



Build a kit Forum saw young and old visitors!



USS Hornet ARC display of jet cockpit and a few of the serious antennas on display.

Pacificon 2016 is Now History

by Iola KK6HRE

The Sonoma County Radio Amateur Club had about seven members attending for most, if not all, three days of the convention. Those attending were Ned KI6REQ; John WB6FRZ; Kathy KK6KGW; Bill WA6IOQ; Iola KK6HRE; Darryl KI6MSP; Gary KM6CPU; plus Section Manager Bill KH6GJV. I asked those who attended to send me their high points of the convention to share with the other members.

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Misa Siemons KJ6BUE. Pacificon Chair, in the middle. Misa's daughter, Emily AJ6OQ, on the left, Treavor WA6JAU, Past Chair



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE NOVEMBER 2016

November already! Where has this year gone? Elections this month; the Nominating Committee has been busy getting us an almost full slate to have an election. Still looking for someone to run for the Secretary's position, which is not as time consuming as you might think. Just two meetings

a month, with minutes due directly following the meetings for publishing in the Short Skip. Please consider stepping up to help your club stay strong and vibrant. Contact the Nominating Chairman, Aaron Marroquin kk6zdb, at aron.marroquin@gmail.com.

Public Service and Community Outreach events are over for this year; only Elections, one more Technician Class, the Holiday Dinner, and the Joint Board Meeting remain. What a ride this year has been. Have I had fun? Well, mostly. There has to be some bumps in the road but we got through them. I hope you have enjoyed the activities. If not, maybe you have suggestions for something different next year. Let me know. K6son@arrl.net.

What have been the highlights? Participating in the Public Service and Community Outreach Events, the Programs and Special Educational Activities, and, of course, Pacificon! and watching the club membership grow to 163 members. We brought in about 30 new members ~ some of them new to the area while some new to radio. SCRA members have a great responsibility to see that these new members feel welcome and part of the radio community. Pick a new member and be a mentor to them. Help them get acquainted and learn 'the ropes' so they can quickly become contributing members. You will have my sincere thanks for being that special Ambassador.

From where I am standing right now, it looks like we will have almost a totally new board. Watch for some new ideas to surface and don't be afraid of change. Business as usual can be pretty boring! Welcome the new board members and offer your services where you feel most comfortable volunteering. Try to get out of your comfort zone and grow with new adventures. You just might find new friends and discover new mountains to climb.

Welcome new members: Dave Pearson km6dvh; Ronald Ward kk6cph; Mike Huttinger wa5nle; and Mike Grummell ke6iid. If you need help with anything, check the SCRA website for our list of Elmers/Mentors, and find one to work with you. If all else fails, contact me ~ k6son@arrl.net.

The November Program will be a 35 minute video on Propagation while ballots are being counted. This video will have something for all levels of amateurs.

Special thanks goes to the Nominating Committee: Arron kk6zdb; Doug kf6lmb; Karen kk6gfw; Mike k6hcu; and Darryl ki6msp.

Best regards, and have a warm and fruitful Thanksgiving.

Iola kk6hre

President

NOVEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

ELECTIONS!

The November Program will be a 35 minute video on Propagation while ballots are being counted. This video will have something for all levels of amateurs.

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>

2016 Club Officers

President	Iola Beckley	KK6HRE
Vice President	Brian Torr	N6IY
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/Programs	Steve Bouchard, KK6VMZ	sb1112@outlook.com
Community Outreach	Darryl Paule, KI6MSP	ki6msp@arrl.net
DX/Contesting	Doug Payne, KF6LMB	dougpayne1@earthlink.net
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Emergency Services Liason	Pat Coyle, KG6JSL	coylaw@sonic.net
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Short Skip Advertising Rates

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Each Additional Quarter Column	\$4 per month
Full page (one side)	\$35 per month
Pre-printed inserts (each)	\$35 per month

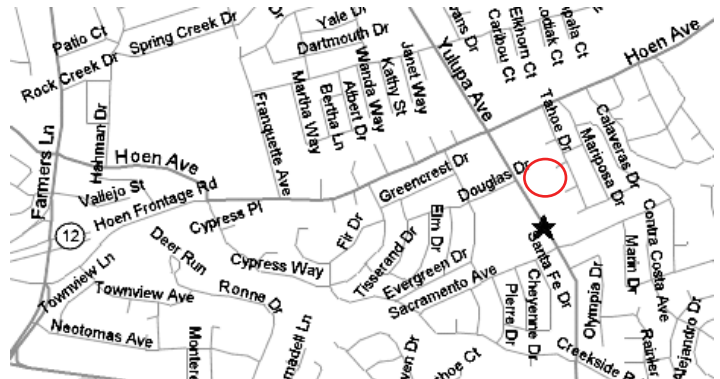
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SCRA Club Meetings

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

The SCRA Board of Directors will meet monthly on the Second Wednesday at the IHOP Restaurant, Fourth Street, Santa Rosa (in the Safeway/CVS Pharmacy center). All members are welcome to attend, no reservations necessary. Arrive around 5:15- 5:30pm for dinner. Meeting starts at 6:00pm.

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

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.

Tuesday Night Net

The Sonoma County Radio Amateurs' net meets Tuesday at 7:00 PM on the SCRA repeater, 147.315, positive offset, PL 88.5.

All members and guests are invited to check in. The Net includes updates on SCRA activities, and Newsline, the amateur radio community news service.

Anyone wishing to work as net control should contact lola kk6hre, at K6SON@ARRL.NET for assignment. Script and logs are available on the Website at <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/resources/net-script/>



10 Meter Net

There will be a net on 10 meters hosted by Joe K6AWA at 8:30pm (new time) following the regular SCRA net Tuesday nights. Set your dial to 28,402.00 SSB, USB. Please note that all license classes (including technician) are welcome.

2016 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Check the [Club website](#) for details

Sat, November 12 - VE Testing

Call For General Meeting Presentation Material

We are fast approaching the new year and our club needs volunteers for general club meeting presentations. Please contact if you have a "specialty" about radio. We have new members that enjoy the knowledge that you can provide. The presentation sessions are about an hour long. If you need to set up prior to the presentation, I will help you just before the meeting begins.

Steven Bouchard
KK6VMZ

I can be reached at, sb1112@outlook.com and (NEW PHONE NUMBER) 707 322-8724.

Kids Net

Kids Net meets Thursdays at 7:30 pm on the Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society repeater at 146.910 MHz - PL 88.5 Petaluma.

Hosted by Ellen KJ6BHG and Joseph KJ6BHH for kids of all ages. It is focused on kids still in school, but all are welcome. They said to bring jokes to share.



ARISS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station

I just found out that The target date for the ARISS contact is: April 17th-23rd

I've been working with Tim W6MU at the JC

I appreciate everyone's support.

Darryl
KI6MSP



CONTEST CORNER by Kevin Alt, K6BSG

Hello testers. The days grow shorter and colder. A great time to stay in your shack and work DX. ARRL sweepstakes is in November, or for a good challenge, try to work all 50 prefectures in Japan during the JIDX contest 12-13 November. Have a great Thanksgiving and happy DX'ing!

2 Nov – **UKEICC 80 Meter Contest** – SSB, 80 meters. See: www.ukeicc.com/which-contest.

3 Nov – **NRAU 10 Meter Activity Contest** – All modes. See: www.nrau.net/activity-contests.

5 Nov – **IPARC Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: www.iparc.de.

5 Nov – **RSGB International Sprint** – SSB, 80-20 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf.

5-6 Nov – **Ukrainian DX Contest** – CW/SSB, 160-10 meters. See: urdx.org/rules.php?english.

5-7 Nov – **ARRL Sweepstakes** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes.

6 Nov – **IPARC Contest** – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.iparc.de.

6 Nov – **EANET Sprint** – All modes, all bands. See: www.fediea.org.

6 Nov – **High Speed Club CW Contest** – CW, 80-10 meters See: www.highspeedclub.org.

6 Nov – **DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest** – Digital. See: <http://www.darc.de>.

8 Nov – **ARS Spartan Sprint** – CW, 80-10 meters. See: arsqrp.blogspot.com.

9 Nov – **RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint** – SSB. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf.

12-13 Nov – **WAE DX Contest** – RTTY, 80-10 meters. See: www.darc.de.

12-13 Nov – **10-10 Int. Fall Contest** – Digital, 10 meters. See: www.ten-ten.org.

12-13 Nov – **JIDX Phone Contest** – SSB, 80-10 meters. See: www.jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html.

12-13 Nov – **OK/OM DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: okomdx.crk.cz.

12-13 Nov – **SKCC Weekend Sprintathon** – CW, 160-6 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

12-13 Nov – **Kentucky QSO Party** – All modes, 160-6 meters. See: www.wkdx.com.

12-14 Nov – **CQ-WE Contest** – All modes, 160 meters – 70 cm. See: cqwe.cboh.org/rules.html.

17 Nov – **NAQCC CW Sprint** – CW, 80-20 meters. See: naqcc.info.

18 Nov – **YO International PSK31 Contest** – 80 meters. See: www.yo5crq.ro.

19 Nov – **Feld-Hell Sprint** – Digital, 160-6 meters. See: sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub.

19 Nov – **RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest** – CW, 160 meters. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf.

19-20 Nov – **ARRL EME Contest** – All modes, 6 meters – 23 cm. See: www.arrl.org/eme-contest-1.

19-20 Nov – **LZ DX Contest** – SSB/CW, 80-10 meters. See: lzdx.bfra.org/rulesen.html.

19-20 Nov – **All Austrian 160 Meter Contest** – CW, 160 meters. See: www.oevsv.at.

19-21 Nov – **ARRL Sweepstakes** – SSB, 160-10 meters. See: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes.

20 Nov – **Homebrew/Oldtime Equipment Party** – CW, 80-40 meters. See: www.qrpcc.de.

21 Nov – **Run For the Bacon QRP Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: qrpcontest.com/pigrun.

Continued on page 6...





Contest Corner continued from page 5...

23 Nov – **SKCC Sprint** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.skccgroup.com.

24 Nov – **RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint** – CW. See: www.rsgbcc.org/hf.

26-27 Nov – **CQ World Wide DX Contest** – CW, 160-10 meters. See: www.cqww.com/rules.htm.

30 Nov – **UKEICC 80 Meter Contest** – CW. See: www.ukeicc.com/which-contest.

For additional contest calendars and resources check:

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)

[ARRL Contests Page](#)

FOR SALE

All new .. opened boxes but not hooked up:

- Kenwood TS-480HX 200watt 10-160m plus 6M
- Kenwood control head extension cable kit
- Astron RM60M 60amp conventional power supply
- MFJ 949-E Antenna Tuner
- MFJ 1778 G5RV multi band wire antenna
- 100ft LMR400 (equivalent) with PL-259 connectors installed
- 2ft and 6ft RG-8X jumpers with PL-259 connectors installed.
- 500ft spool of Dacron
- Misc connectors, etc.
- Complete station(will not piece out) \$2200 cash, pick up in Leggett only.
- Contact: Len, WA6KLK or 707-459-1871

Also looking for inexpensive 2M mobiles with tones for new HAMs.

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DEFINITION OF A “YL”

There have been many controversies over the definitions of YL – versus XYL. The term YL was first defined in a Traffic Report signed The American Radio Relay League by E. C. Adams on May 13, 1920 to Miss M. Adaire Garmhausen, 3BCK. He was replying to her admission of an article submitted to QST on “How to Build a Wireless Station”.

In the response he called her “My Dear YL-“ and stated, “We have had to coin a new phrase for your benefit as you will readily see that OM will not fit and OL (Old Lady) would certainly be most inapplicable.” Even though Miss Garmhausen wasn’t the first YL ham radio operator, this is when the term was first applied specifically to label all women as Young Ladies no matter what their age.

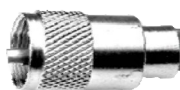
The article was published in the July 1920 issue of QST and a second article of hers followed in May 1921, but it wasn’t until the October 1922 had the column “Who’s Who in Amateur Radio Wireless” that M. Adaire’s picture was printed as she was honored along with another YL, Miss Winifred Dow, 7CP, from Tacoma, WA.

Many OM have used XYL (meaning Ex-Young Lady) to describe a wife versus a single lady, but some women, though not all, take offence at this term feeling that getting married does not mean a female is no longer a Young Lady.

In May 1940, the YLRL [Young Lady Radio League] set forth the policy for YL-Harmonics and YLRL that the term “YL” was to be used for all licensed amateur operators of the feminine sex. This meant they were all young ladies no matter what their marital status was. A licensed woman is a YL while an XYL is a non-licensed wife.

In the April 1925, QST, under Strays, it says, “8ACY says that 8UH has obtained a storm and strife with the insane idea of making an OW of her. We think it would be a much nicer idea to make her a YL. At any rate the Mrs. can do ten words per minute already.”

Taken from the YL Harmonics July/August 2016 publication, with permission of the Editor.





Minutes, SCRA October 5, 2016, Membership Meeting

The October 2016 regular Membership meeting of SCRA was called to order by President Iola KK6HRE at 7:03 PM, following a 32 minute social hour. A quorum of members was present.

The meeting was turned over to Director Joe K6AWA who presented the new club loaner radio, a Kenwood TS570SG. With a temporary "Slinky" inverted Vee antenna attached via coaxial cable transmission line, a number of contacts were made during the social hour including contacts with stations in Florida, Utah, Washington and with a local station in Santa Rosa. The package including a very quiet Samlex switching power supply was purchased for about \$1300.00. The radio has IF digital signal processing, filtering and noise reduction. The unit may be operated remotely over the internet with software available from Kenwood. The purpose of this equipment is to allow club members to borrow the equipment and get on the air in the high frequency spectrum. (Technicians have code privileges in parts of the 80, 40 and 15 meter bands, and have SSB privileges in part of the 10 meter band.) Rules covering lending and operation of this equipment have not yet been finalized by the SCRA Board of Directors.

Following Joe's presentation, the business meeting began at 7:15 PM. After introduction of officers and directors, new members and guests were introduced, including Curt KK6ALT, Mike KE6IID and Leland W6GEE. SCRA Mentors present at the meeting were asked to stand and be recognized.

Net Control Assignments for October are as follows:

October 11:	Darryl KI6MSP
October 18:	Joe K6AWA
October 25:	John WB6FRZ
November 1:	Ed W1EJ

The minutes of the September 2016 membership meeting were approved on motion by Joe K6AWA, second by Wells KK6EXC. Reports were presented by Treasurer Wells KK6EXC, Education Chair Dave W6IBC, Public Service by Iola KK6HRE on behalf of Charlie KZ6T. Iola noted that the 2016 public service calendar has been completed with the Gran Fondo bike event, which she noted was very successful. Repeater Chair Jack K6ROW reported that the repeaters are up and working. We are having problems with a time out issue with the new 220 MHz repeater. There also appears to be a problem with the

2 meter voter dithering between the receivers at English Hill and Castle Rock. Jack will be increasing the hysteresis to reduce this unwanted effect. Community Outreach Chair Darryl KI6MSP reported on club booth activity at Wings Over Wine Country and the Gran Fondo, with a number of people expressing interest in the November 2016 Technician Class. Darryl noted that upcoming events include the Bay Area Science Festival at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds on October 29th. He also noted the Scouting Jamboree on the Air, as well as the Pacific Division Convention, on October 15th. RFI Chair Pat displayed a newly arrived ultrasonic receiver for locating power poles that are arcing over. He announced the RFI Committee would meet at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building on Saturday October 8th for field trials of the new RF noise interference detection equipment.

In new business, Nominating Committee Chair Aaron KK6ZDB observed that the only incumbent seeking reelection is president Iola KK6HRE and that five vacancies will need to be filled for the 2017 Board of Directors. Bill WA6IOQ reported that the Marine Radio Historical Society had re-obtained its KPH license and planned to activate its Medium Wave station at Pt. Reyes on Saturday October 8th. He noted that MRHS serves as a volunteer examiner for commercial telegraph licensing, and that amateur Extra class operators who passed the 20 word per minute code test could easily qualify for a commercial telegraph license. Darryl KI6MSP noted that the ARRL has published its preliminary review of the new California Distracted Driver Law. Short Skip Editor Dave KI6UGB requested members send their photos of the Gran Fondo to him for inclusion in the next Short Skip. Terry K6TER noted that 10 meters is showing signs of life from time to time. The business meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM

A flea market sale of amateur radio equipment followed the business meeting, with members each presenting up to three items for sale. Many sales, including some real bargains, were completed to the satisfaction of the participants.

Respectfully submitted,
David Harrison, W6IBC
Secretary





Minutes

SCRA Board of Directors Meeting October 12, 2016

The October 2016 Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Iola KK6HRE at 6:03 PM at IHOP restaurant, 2745 4th Street, Santa Rosa. SCRA Board members present included President Iola KK6HRE, Vice President Brian N6IYY, Treasurer Wells KK6EXC, Secretary Dave W6IBC, Director Shelley KK6JXM, and Past President Pat KG6JSL. Director Joe K6AWA was absent. Other SCRA members in attendance included Doug KF6LMB, Steve KK6VMZ, Darryl KI6MSP, Charlie KZ6T, Jeff KI6PBF, Cornell W6HMN, Aaron KK6ZDB, and John KE5RI.

Minutes of the September 2016 Board Meeting were approved on motion by Pat KG6JSL, second by Shelley KK6JXM.

Treasurer Wells KK6EXC presented a detailed written report of actual receipts and expenditures compared to 2016 budget amounts for major categories. Currently, receipts exceed expenses by \$115.00.

Outreach Chair Darryl KI6MSP noted that he has sufficient volunteers for the upcoming Sonoma County Science Festival. Darryl will be speaking about his STEM activities at Pacifcon this coming weekend.

Activities Chair Steve KK6VMZ circulated an email from the Press Democrat, inviting input and press releases for our noteworthy club activities. He reported one member wanted Echolink installed on our repeater system. He suggested SCRA arrange for a booth at local events such as parades. He suggested programs for 2017 including a program in January by Keith AG6CI about sunspots and their effect on high frequency propagation. Matt KJ6LJI offers to speak in February about digital modes. And, Brian N6IYY offers to speak on a subject to be determined in March. A discussion about the role of the January 2017 planning meeting ensued.

Public Service Chair Charlie KZ6T noted that public service activities are complete for 2016. He also announced that he would not serve as public service chair in 2017, but would continue to participate in events.

RFI Committee Chair Pat KG6JSL reported that while the new ultrasonic detection equipment was used at a field event at the County Memorial Veterans Hall last Saturday, no noisy power poles were located, although other noise sources were located. Pat plans further field trips to locate actual noise sources interfering with ham radio operations.

Website Manager Shelley KK6JXM requested the Board to approve moving the SCRA website from CDS to GoDaddy for five years at a cost of \$65.88 per year, and a \$100 non recurring migration fee. This request was approved on motion by Dave W6IBC, second by Pat KG6JSL. Shelley noted that she and Dave KI6UGB will serve as website co-chairs, with occasional assistance as needed from Sutter KI6ZON.

Repeater Trustee John KE5RI reported that Calsites has requested that SCRA remove lead acid storage batteries from the equipment cabinet at English Hill and confine its occupancy to a single rack space. The subject of paying Calsites a monthly rental fee was discussed. The Board has referred this matter to Repeater Chair Jack K6ROW, Repeater Trustee John KE5RI and President Iola KK6HRE who will contact Calsites and attempt to resolve the issue.

Education Chair Dave W6IBC reported he presently expects about 13 students for the November Technician License Class at Bennett Valley. Outreach Chair Darryl KI6MSP will be contacting other people who have expressed interest in the class.

Membership Chair Shelley KK6JXM discussed pros and cons of the low-cost Alpine membership database management software Charlie KZ6T found on line. After discussion, The Board asked the President to contact other ham club users of the software about their level of satisfaction with the program. The need for a club laptop computer was also discussed. The President will see if the Computer Recycling Center will provide SCRA with a suitable laptop.

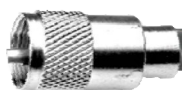
In Unfinished Business, Past President Pat KG6JSL moved, and Secretary Dave W6IBC seconded a motion to adopt a set of amended rules proposed by Director Joe K6AWA governing loaning out of the new Kenwood high frequency equipment. After an extended discussion, the motion was unanimously defeated. The Board felt that the proposed rules were far too restrictive and legalistic, did not include Technician Class Licensee members of the club (over 30 percent of our members), did not provide a complete station including e.g. a 10 meter antenna and feedline, and lacked any offer of mentoring and instruction in connection with the equipment. The Board expressly thanked Joe K6AWA for his considerable efforts in obtaining and demonstrating the equipment at the October membership meeting. The Board felt that any adoption of lending rules was premature at this point.

Nominating Committee Chair Aaron KK6ZDB reported that there are candidates for all positions except secretary.

In New Business, Brian N6IYY agreed to manage the SCRA Christmas Party for 2016. Pat KG6JSL agreed to investigate a suitable door prize for the event. Volunteers are requested.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David Harrison W6IBC
Secretary



Pacificon continued from page 1...



Gary Batchelor, K6CPU wrote: "I had a great time. The sessions below are the ones I attended that stick out in my mind. The ones I enjoyed the most were Introduction to PSK-31 and the New Ham Seminar on Sunday. It was nice to have a lot of vendors in one place. What I missed was not seeing anyone selling keys – or maybe I just missed it. The food at the event was good and the organizers did a great job.

~ The Antenna Seminar on Friday ~ SDR Based Test Equipment for under \$50 ~
 Introduction to PSK-31 ~ DMR Code Plug 101 - ~
 Building a Code Plug from scratch ~ New
 ham Seminar - Ham Radio 101/201 .



Kathy kk6kgw and Iola kk6hre

Iola Beckley, kk6hre, visited booths on Friday including ARRL, Young Ladies Radio League, Ed Fong, and did a Club Visitation at the MDARC meeting with Kathy kk6kgw,

and John wb6frz was also in attendance at this meeting. On Saturday I had Breakfast with Gordo (Gordon West was the guest speaker). At 8am I went to the ARRL Public Information Officer (PIO) Class, Part 1. I thought this was a one hour class but it ended up being four hours, Modules 1-4 of the 13 modules needed for an ARRL certification as PIO! Karma works in mysterious ways. I plan on completing the other 9 modules in November. However, this program prevented me from attending Darryl ki6msp's talk on STEM. In the afternoon I volunteered at the Registration Will Call table and helped make artificial flowers for the Saturday night banquet' dignitaries, and in doing so, met several of the MDARC members working the conference. The banquet foot was excellent, and we had a report from ARRL on their budget planning for next year. I saw Bill Hillendahl, Gary Batchelor, John Breckenridge, at the banquet. Brian Torr came down for the day, as did Ned Scott. Sunday I visited vendors again and purchased a leather cover for my HT, some T-shirts, and a circular coax cutter. Will I go again? Most certainly! I am happy to talk to anyone in more detail, but this should do it for now.



Bill KH6GJV at dinner

continued on page 10...

Pacificon continued from page 9...



John Brechenridge wb6frz, had a lot to say!

I had a blast at Pacificon. I did not attend last year. The seminars, forums and other things I attended were:

The Antenna Seminar all day **Friday**:

“Antenna Modeling for Radio Amateurs: by Steve Stearns, K6OK

“Principles of Directional Antennas” by Paul Zander, AA6PZ

“The Role of Antennas in Magnetic Resonance Imaging” by John Pauly, AG6WH

“Project Sandy” by Tom Schiller, N6BT

“Making a Homebrew 2M Eggbeater Antenna” by Werner Vavken, WB6RAW

“Smith Chart Software” by Ward Harriman, AE6TY

The MDARC Club meeting Friday evening:

On Saturday:

“The Joy of Matching” by Steve Stearns, K6OIK

“Design and Operation of Small Solar PV Systems for Portable Operation” by Sam Vigil, WA6NGH

“The Practical Guide to Portable HF Radio Ops” by George Zafiroopoulos, KJ6VU

“Emergency Communications and AF MARS” by Craig Hartman, AFA9CH/AI6DJ

“Another Look at Transmission Lines” by Glenn Elmore, N6GN

“Finding and Killing RF Noise – If You Can’t Hear Them, You Can’t Work Them!” by Jim Brown, K9YC

I visited the vendor booths and groups in the two rooms and up and down the hallways

USS Hornet ARC display of jet cockpit in parking lot

Banquet Dinner

On Sunday:

The swap meet in the parking lot.

Some comments and observations.....

I was humbled by the depth of knowledge shared by the forum presenters. Wow, if I could only spend some one-on-one time with these folks over a period of several years I would be much more knowledgeable than I am now.

I liked all the forums but the information I received from three of them will help me the most:

“Finding and Killing RF Noise...”

Jim presented some electromagnetic theory here but mostly he showed what different types of noise looked and sounded like, why some methods of tracking down the noise are better than others, and practical methods of eliminating or reducing that noise when you find the source. In our modern society there are MANY sources of interfering RF noise that will completely obscure HF signals and make operating HF nearly impossible. I shared the web site with Pat Coyle to improve the effectiveness of the club RFI committee.

“Smith Chart Software” and “Antenna Modeling for Radio Amateurs”

The Smith Chart is a tool used to characterize antennas over a range of frequencies. It is also useful in designing matching networks for antennas. This is the work that I am now involved with because I am building an antenna range operating at 3.5 GHz to demonstrate the patterns of different antenna types at different heights above “ground” for teaching purposes. Antenna modeling software will work hand-in-hand with the Smith Chart software for this design and build work.

Of course I took in bits of information from all the forums I attended. “Another Look at Transmission Lines” was an eye-opener. Glenn used a single wire and matching devices at both ends of the wire to demonstrate that RF propagates down the wire very

Continued on page 11...



Pacificon continued from page 10...

efficiently and it does not radiate. This is a very special way to get signals from HF frequencies though microwave frequencies to a distant antenna with very little loss.

I enjoyed looking at the new gear and gadgets in the vendor booths and also the swap meet on early Sunday morning. I bought some LED lighting fixtures from one of the vendors in the room and a couple of digital volt/amp meters from a vendor at the swap meet. I didn't buy any radios or equipment this year.

I looked around for others that I know from Sonoma County but there weren't that many of us there this year. I suppose there is a limit to how many amateur radio events you can do in a year and SCRA offers MANY chances to be involved. Maybe many are just tuckered out by October to attend just one more amateur radio event.

Pacificon has forums and activities for amateur radio operators of all experience and abilities. If you're a newcomer there were forums put together just for you including an area where you could learn how to solder and build your first kit. Regardless of your experience in amateur radio Pacificon is the place to be.

73, John WB6FRZ

What I missed during this weekend was the opportunity to get the SCRA members who attended in one place at the same time. Next year I want to plan a get-together, possibly coffee in the morning, lunch on Saturday, maybe a table at the banquet. Something where we could share notes on what we saw and did, and just have a few laughs. I could have told Gary that there was at least one vendor selling keys because I saw another attendee with one he just purchased.

This was my first radio conference. The breakout sessions were intimidating to me (there were 85 forum to choose from!) so I took the easy road and volunteered to help the conference volunteers. Next year I will be ready to take on the Saturday Forums.

Thanks for reading this far, and hope to see more of

you at Pacificon next year!

Iola, kk6hre

SCRA Website Forum

So how many of you know that the SCRA website has a forum page? Its there for all members to use. There is a Section for Activities, Announcements and News, Public Service, and Technical Issues. To visit the site,

Navigate to the SCRA website,
Log in as a member
Click on Member Area, then [Forums](#)

While you are on the individual Forum pages, make sure to click on SUBSCRIBE. This will send you an email when a new question gets posted. Don't worry about your inbox getting flooded with junk emails. Only valid members can post to the site.

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This forum contains 22 topics and 10 replies, and was last updated by wb6jao 4 months ago.

Viewing 15 topics - 1 through 15 (of 22 total)

Topic	Voices
Free to a good home - Old (1970-80s) Radio Gear	1





Next Exam Session:

Our next exam session is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, from 9:00 am until noon. The location will be the Bennett Valley Grange Hall, located at 4145 Grange Rd, in 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 to Bennett Valley Grange Hall:

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 CSCEs (if applicable)
- #2 Pencil and eraser
- \$15.00 exam fee. Checks may be made payable to "ARRL-VEC"

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

Good Luck!

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

Technician License Class November Introductory

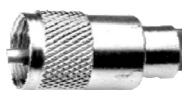
Registration Required

Our next Technician License class will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2016 and Sunday, November 20, 2016. The Saturday class will begin at 8:00AM and continue until 6PM. The Sunday class will begin at 8:00AM and end at 3:00PM when the Technician License Examination will be conducted by our team of SCRA Volunteer Examiners. We will have frequent, short breaks during the class, and 45 minutes for a lunch break each day. There will be an introductory class meeting on Friday, November 18, from 6:00PM to 9:00PM to cover some of the class material in greater depth; and, we will also conduct a practice examination to provide you with useful feedback before the formal class. Location for the class will be at the Bennett Valley Grange Hall, 4145 Grange Road, in southeast Santa Rosa, CA. [More info.](#)

To Register contact:

Dave Harrison W6IBC, SCRA Education Chair
Sonoma County Radio Amateurs

w6ibc@arrl.net





by Dave KI6UGB

With rain imminent in the forecast, the SCRA crew fired antenna lines into the sky in preparation for Scout Jamboree on the Air on October 15. SCRA members in attendance were Charlie KZ6T, Doug KF6LMB, Bob WE6L, Pat KG6JSL, Steve KK6VMZ, Maeve KK6HQY and myself. In addition to Bob and myself who overlap , we had radio operators from Boy Scouts, Eric AI6SX and Mike Polkinghorn.



Pat, Eric, Doug and Steve - you can't have too many control operators. Contacts in Arizona and Wyoming.



Our first scout operator with Bob and Pat.



This scout contacted North Dakota and Arizona.



Scouts from Troop 134 manned the Jamboree on the Internet stations.

Continued on page 14...





Jamboree on the Air continued from page 13...



Pat helping a Bear scout make contact with San Antonio, Texas. His dad, Jerry KK6ZDW is carefully hidden behind the post.

So here's what worked, the 67' inverted V. If you look really close you might be able to see it in the top of the tree with storm clouds hanging above.



Between scouts we made contacts in Alberta and Mexico.





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(Please print this, fill it out, and send it in with your check.)

Name _____ Callsign _____ License Class _____
Mailing Address _____ Phone _____ Cell _____
City _____ Zip _____ New Application _____ Renewal _____
E-mail (if any) _____ Add to Roster (Yes)___ (No) ___

Please Send Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ()YES! () No thanks

FAMILY MEMBERS, CALL SIGNS & EMAIL ADDRESSES:

1. Name _____ Callsign _____ License Class _____ Add to Roster (Yes)___ (No) ___
E-mail _____ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ()YES! () NO
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SCRA Dues: The renewal date for SCRA dues is January 1st. Dues are \$20/year for individual, \$30/year for families, and \$15/year for youth (under 18).

PRO-RATED DUES for new members only: Reduce standard dues rate by \$5.00 per quarter. (ie. Second Quarter, April – June \$15.00; Third Quarter – July – September \$10.00; Fourth Quarter, October – December \$5.00 to end of December of current year or \$25.00 through December of the following year)

I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

() Public Service Events () Acting as club Net Control Station
() ARES Emergency Services () Helping with VEC license exams
() Taking a Novice or Technician class () Field day, other operating
() Teaching a Novice or Technician class () Helping with Short Skip Newsletter
() Taking an upgrade class () Other _____
() Teaching an upgrade class

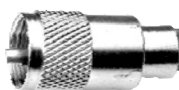
SCRA DUES: Individual \$20, Family \$30, Youth, under 18, \$15 + _____
Name Badge (complete info below) \$10 each Circle: Magnet or Clip attachment + _____

Name Badge Information Fill in exactly as you want it to appear on your badge.
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Total: \$ _____

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

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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, shortskipeditor@gmail.com or for general questions and /or suggestions, k6son@arrl.net

SHORT SKIP NEEDS YOUR INPUT

SHORT SKIP ARTICLES WANTED

Dave, KI6UGB, our Short Skip editor is always looking for articles of interest. They can be technical, a good (or bad) experience that other members may learn from, hints or kinks that worked for you in solving a problem, or just about anything ham radio related. Send your contributions to Dave at shortskipeditor@gmail.com

