

New Licensees Tested November 19 2016: Dan kb6de relay

Tech.	Keith A. Blackburn	KM6GZA	Eureka
Tech.	Joyce A. Isherwood	KM6GZB	Eureka
Tech.	Jon Shell	KM6GZC	Eureka
Tech.	Gene L Bass	KM6GZD	Eureka
Tech.	Evan W Fox	KM6GZE	Eureka
Tech.	Derek L Shaw	KM6GZF	Arcata

Congratulations all!

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club Minutes of Meeting - December 6, 2016

Officers Present: Jim Armstrong KW6JIM, Pres.

Dan Eaton KB6DE, Secretary / Marcy Campbell KE6IAU, Treasurer

Peter Esko W6IES, V.P., Jaye Inabnit KE6SLS, Newsletter Editor Pro Tem., and Anthony Wiese KG6LHW, Events Planner, were absent.

Our President called the meeting to order at 1902 PDT at our new digs, the former Red Cross Headquarters located at 406 11th St. (11th & E St.) in Eureka, at the rear of the Municipal Auditorium. We share space with the nice Parks and Recreation folks. We don't have the keys just yet.

Jim told us a bit about the room and plans to put antennas on the roof. We will have access to the room after 1700 daily and on weekends. We plan to have our monthly general meetings (1st Tuesday), EMCOMM meetings (every 3rd Thursday) and scheduled special events on Saturdays. Our Eureka HARC repeater (145.470) is up and running in our meeting room.

We plan to make a "Wish List" of items we need to make our club house work. For a start at least we need chairs, tables, a better video screen, white boards and lots of stuff for the radio station.

Introductions were made and the log book was and passed. Twenty-three members attended this first meeting at our HARC Clubhouse. We especially welcomed new Technicians Jon Shell KM6GZC and Evan Fox KM6GZE.

Health and Welfare: Peter is on the mend from his back surgery and is now out and about. Clem Cantu WA6TUQ fell and injured his shoulder. Jim Falls K6FWT had a serious accident at work and broke his leg, ribs, and other things. He is at home now, somewhat mobile and he appreciates visits.

Secretary's Report: The November 1st minutes were passed around for review.

Del Freret W6KOZ made a motion to accept the minutes without change, seconded by Steve Isherwood KK6MPV. The club members voted to accept the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: The paperwork for the sale of the smaller HARC van earlier this year was corrected to the satisfaction of the new owner and the DMV. The matter is concluded. Marcy told us the current balance was \$3722.07 including sale of the EMCOMM van (Blood Mobile) for \$3500.

Jim told us the "Tale of the Sale." It seems the vehicle was put up for sale on Craig's List based on best information available. We thought the van had 29,xxx miles on it based on the odometer. We thought it was a 1991 vehicle based on the label on the van keys. The sale was concluded at night, in a parking lot, in the rain, for \$4500 cash. Jim and Steve did the deal and New Owners happily drove off into the night. Ignorance is bliss. On the way home, New Owners had a flat tire and had it fixed after a delay. Down the road a bit, New Owners had ANOTHER flat tire and had it fixed with a delay. New Owners, hair on fire, got home at about 2:00 in the AM. While inspecting the van New Owners discovered maintenance records which indicated the mileage was 129xxx and the VIN tag said 1987. The phone call Jim received in the morning was "unpleasant." The awkwardness was resolved, after Jim consulted with our HARC officers. The New Owners requested and received a \$1000 refund. We can all safely laugh about it now. Except Jim.

We may be looking into a trailer as a replacement EMCOMM mobile shack. Forrest Schafer KI6GRU suggested we might look at the newly outfitted Sheriff Posse communications trailer for ideas.

EMCOMM report: Don Nelson WA6NBB told us of the Eel Valley Emergency Exercise November 5th. Don N. was OES Net Control based in the Fortuna Fire Station. Our mission for this earthquake drill was to establish and maintain 2M simplex communications between various local fire stations and the OES for recovery, medical assistance and some fire dispatch. Simplex was not 100% so repeaters were used too.

We had eleven Hams at 6 locations. Highlights: A) Fortuna Fire in-house radio was non/op. Hams used their radios instead. B) Ferndale radio had limited range with an indoor mag-mount antenna. The Ferndale Fire radio speakers were very loud. We should bring headsets. Howard Lang KB6NN said Ferndale FD was very well organized. C) There was no in-house radio at Campton heights. Dan and Greg AA6GD made do with a handheld in-house and a mobile rig outside, communications being relayed between the two.

In the debriefing, Fortuna FD complained about communication delays and said few of the emergency events were reported on time or correctly. Don N. told us the Fire Dept folks did not use standard OES forms or plain language and this caused confusion and delay. 75 people participated in the two hour exercise.

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club December 6, 2016

Old Business:

a) Jim and Steve met with Reg Kennedy KJ6DXX (our local hydrologic meteorologist) at the National

Weather Service (NWS) on Dec. 2nd and discussed SKYWARN. Jim reported that Reg is considering our request to establish some sort of official relationship between our club and the NWS so we could man the radio station set up at their site on Woodley Island if we have a SKYWARN type event. We don't have a time frame for an answer.

New Business:

- a) Some members are looking forward to a 10M contest this coming weekend.
- b) Jim gave a slide show showing some possible EMMCOM trailer configurations including some with attached antenna towers. We will consider number of axels, generator choices, solar power and power storage options.

Past Event Report:

Jim and Steve participated in the annual SKYWARNS Recognitions Day event on Dec. 2nd and 3rd at the NWS. They made 16 contacts including Alaska, which was cool. About half the contacts were completed using ILRP.

Future Events:

- a) Dale Bridges KF6QIB reminded us about the annual Truckers' Parade to be held in Eureka on December 10th. We will be using the HARC repeater Freq.: 145.47. We seem to have enough volunteers for all the positions this year.
- b) Reminder: Nic Yancheff KK6UJH told us last month of plans to have a Ham Radio Demonstration at HSU on the first Wednesday of February (2-1-17). Anthony and Del have signed on for this educational event.

Break and Raffle: Great cookies and juice were brought by Marcy and Don Campbell KE6HEC. Raffle winners were: Harry Majors KJ6SYF, Forest S, Nic Yancheff KK6UJH, Joyce Isherwood KM6GZB (new call sign), and Jon Shell KM6GZC (new call sign).

Presentations:

- a) Marcy (ARRL Assistant Section Manager) and Don C. attended the annual ARRL Pacific Division Leadership conference on December 2-3. Don will make a summary of the meeting available as a supplement to the RAIN this month.
- b) Jim demonstrated WSPR 2.0 software which allows you to monitor propagation using your rig on low power (5 or 10W) and your computer. The results are linked to a map and the process is passive with no QSO. One of the uses is to compare the efficiency of your antennas. You can Google WSPR: <http://dev.wsprnet.org/drupal/> or WSPR 2.0 for more stuff

The Weak Signal Propagation Reporter Network is a group of amateur radio operators using K1JT's MEPT_JT digital mode to probe radio frequency propagation conditions using very low power (QRP/QRPp) transmissions. The software is open source, and the data collected are available to the public through this site.

Note to new or prospective Members: The club has an informal lunch every Thursday, 1130 at the Pantry Restaurant on Broadway in Eureka (next to the Motel 6). All are welcome.

Jim adjourned the meeting at 2057 PDT.

Minutes submitted by Dan Eaton KB6DE

Humboldt EmComm Report

December 18, 2016

The Emergency Communications (EmComm) Group resumed monthly meetings on Thursday, Dec 15, 2016 at the HARC Clubhouse in Eureka. We discussed two main projects to start off 2017.

There is continued interest in checking the existing stations that County Office of Emergency Services (HCOES) purchased for fire stations, schools, and other sites around the County. Some of the equipment may still be in boxes, in which case we'd be happy to assist with installation and equipment setup. It would be helpful if each entity had an emergency response plan that included how they want to use the ham stations, including routine testing.

Stations were purchased for nearly all the Humboldt County Schools; these are coordinated by the Office of Education. Each fire station and police station are responsible for the radio equipment at their locations. Local, non-County schools (such as Eureka, Arcata, Pacific Union) were not included in the County's equipment purchases. There are also stations at various other public facilities, such as the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District.

Starting with the signup list from the October HARC meeting, when more than a dozen hams expressed interest in "adopting a station," we'll attempt to determine contact information for the facilities where equipment should be installed, and then put interested hams in touch with the appropriate persons for access. We'll be posting a map in the Clubhouse showing locations of the stations. A form will be provided for hams to record station location, condition, test results, contact information, and plans. The second project is our next radio communications drill, tentatively set for Saturday, February 25, 2017. The plan for this drill currently includes setting up a main net and subnets, so that we can practice message handling as might be required in a real event. Traffic may include damage reports, health and welfare, and requests for assistance from local entities. As planned, we'll use our home and perhaps mobile stations on February 25. Later in the year, it'd be useful to try an exercise using the stations purchased by HCOES.

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 19, 2017, at 7:00 PM. The HARC Clubhouse is in the Eureka Municipal Auditorium, 11th and E Streets, Eureka. All hams are invited; in particular, we need hams in the Eel River Valley to help with the County-purchased stations there. For more information, contact Peter, W6IES, at 707-443-1409.

EmComm Update Jan 4, 2017, by Peter Esko

Due to a bad cold and incipient bronchitis, I had to miss the HARC meeting on January 3. Here are the announcements I'd have made at the meeting.

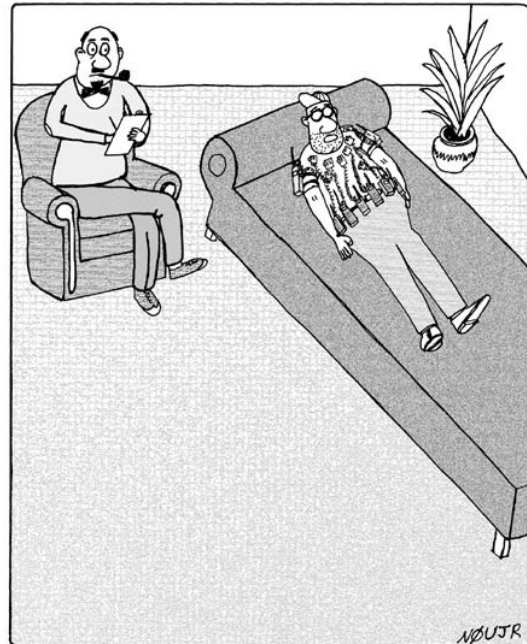
The next meeting of the Humboldt Emergency Communications Group will be Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the HARC meeting room in the Eureka Municipal Auditorium (11th and E Streets). Since the meeting on December 18, we've been discussing the possibility of developing an online map showing the location of licensed hams and their stations, a "ham station mapping project." We've heard concerns about confidentiality and permission (notwithstanding the FCC database with our names and addresses in it). Another issue is the likely lack of internet availability during the emergency that shuts down all communications except ham radio. We'll discuss this further at the January meeting.

Also on the January agenda is an outreach by mail (USPS) to hams in Humboldt County to sign up for email updates and become involved in the EmComm Group. If space on the postcard allows, we may

also be able to promote the Far West Repeater Association. And we'll talk about options for our next comms drill proposed for February 25.



"Sorry about the noise, I tripped...anyway, the name here is Roy...I am located near downtown Chicago, and I've been a ham now for 20 years..."



"Well it all started when I was a child...I felt that I had difficulty communicating with people..."

SB QST ARL ARLB002

ARLB002 FCC Dismisses Two Petitions from Radio Amateurs

The FCC has turned down two petitions filed in 2016, each seeking similar changes in the Part 97 Amateur Service rules. James Edwin Whedbee, NOECN, of Gladstone, Missouri, had asked the Commission to amend the rules to reduce the number of Amateur Radio operator classes to Technician, General, and Amateur Extra by merging remaining Novice class licensees into the Technician class and all Advanced class licensees into the Amateur Extra class. In a somewhat related petition, Jeffrey H. Siegell, WB2YRL, of Burke, Virginia, had requested that the FCC grant Advanced class license holders Morse code operating privileges equivalent to those enjoyed by Amateur Extra class licensees.

"Thus, Mr. Siegell's proposed rule change is subsumed within the changes Mr. Whedbee requests, so our analysis is the same for both proposals," the FCC said in dismissing the two petitions on January 5.

The FCC streamlined the Amateur Radio licensing system into three classes - Technician, General, and Amateur Extra - in 1999. While it no longer issues new Novice or Advanced class licenses, existing licenses can be renewed, and Novice and Advanced licensees retained their operating privileges.

"The Commission concluded that the three-class structure would streamline the licensing process, while still providing an incentive for licensees to advance their communication and technical skills," the FCC recounted in its dismissal letter to Whedbee and Siegell. It specifically rejected suggestions

that Novice and Advanced class licensees be automatically upgraded to a higher class, concluding that it would be inappropriate for these licensees to "receive additional privileges without passing the required examination elements." The FCC cited the same reason in 2005, when it denied requests to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General class and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra class, as part of a wide-ranging proceeding.

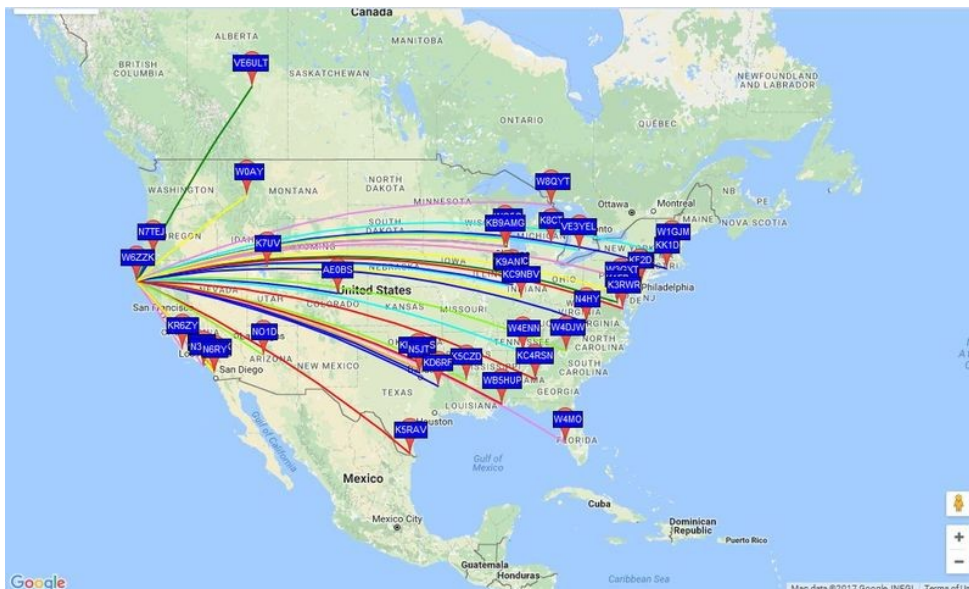
The FCC said the two petitions "do not demonstrate, or even suggest, that any relevant circumstances have changed that would merit reconsideration of those decisions."

Whedbee had argued that automatically upgrading current Novice and Advanced classes would simplify the rules and reduce the Commission's costs and administrative burden, but the FCC said Whedbee provided no evidence that an administrative problem exists. "Moreover, such benefits would not outweigh the public interest in ensuring that amateur operators have the requisite incentive to advance their skill and technical knowledge in order to contribute to the advancement of the radio art and improvement of the Amateur Radio Service," the FCC said.

"The Commission has already concluded that it will not automatically grant additional privileges to the discontinued license classes," the FCC said. "Consequently, we conclude that the above-referenced petitions for rulemaking do not warrant further consideration at this time."

HARC CHATTER **from Howard Lang kb6nn**

Thanks to the initiative of our fearless leader, Jim, the club station for HARC at the old Red Cross location in Eureka now has a new multiband HF dipole antenna on the roof (configured as an inverted vee). The attached screenshot shows what only 5 watts can do with a full size dipole on top of a 3-story building. Jim is a member of WSPR ("Whisper" Net). The image shows which stations heard his call on 40 meters (7.0386 MHz).



from Jim Armstrong kw6jim

Thanks to all who helped out with the Muni antenna project!

Anthony - KG6LHW

Howard - KB6NN

Steve - KK6MPV

Del - W6KOZ

Dexter - AG6DA

Keith - KD6VUH

Ben - KK6SYJ

We had great day. The 10, 15, 20, 40, 80m fan dipole is up and running. As Howard mentioned, we had an excellent WSPR test on 40m.

We are working on a new home for the HARC repeater that'll be upstairs and closer to the antenna. For that reason we have not yet replaced the repeater feedline yet.

Dexter and Steve unballbed the coax mess coming off the roof. And a special thanks to Anthony, Keith and Ben for providing and carrying the cinderblocks up a LOT of stairs! Dexter and Del did a great job getting the connectors on the coax.

I have attached a few pix. We neglected to get a group photo - damn! There are more pix that we'll share in February.

Thanks again to all who helped get it done!

(But wait! There is even more from Jim!)

The W6ZZK station is online! Thanks go to Steve KK6MPV and Jaye KE6SLS for their invaluable assistance! And thanks again to all who helped get the fan dipole in the air!

We are set up for HF and VHF/UHF. The Icom HF rig has an auto tuner attached. I have borrowed a vhf antenna (Red Cross) for the dual band rig.

My thought is to acquire a data cable and Signalink to attach to the hf rig followed by a new desktop computer and large monitor. I appreciate the offers of used computer donations but since we have lots of money I'd rather spend \$\$ on a nice new system rather than struggling with an old one. But, I am only one vote and we can discuss it further at the next meeting.

Additional item Wishlist...

40m bandpass filter to add to the triplexer we bought for Field Day. Since 10m is dead we could replace the 10m filter with the 40m. We could then use a second HF rig simultaneously on the fan dipole for weekend contesting!

I'm not suggesting the purchase of a second hf rig yet. We could use anything anyone wants to bring in to play with. Solid or hollow state!

I also suggest buying a couple pair of nice headphones. Maybe even a Heil Pro 7 for the hf rig. They are incredible. Again, we can talk more about it.

That's all for now. Steve KK6MPV and I leaving for Quartzfest on Sunday. We'll send pix during the week.

73

Jim Armstrong - KW6JIM

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club



HARC's New Operating station!



**From Dan kb6de, er From Greg aa6gd, er From Anthony kg6lhw!
Thanks for the relay guys (/ed)!**

Jan - Winter Field Day 28-29th

Clam Beach Run 28th

Feb - 25 Emcomm exercise (stay-at-home)

Feb - 24-25-26 (Wed-Thur-Fri) CERT Training, Fortuna

Mar - 12 Foggy Bottom Milk Run, Ferndale

Apr - 29 Rhody Parade, Eureka

May - 7 Avenue of Giants, Dyerville
May - 20 Tour of the Unknown Coast, Redway
May - 27-29 Kinetic Sculpture Race, Arcata-Eureka-Ferndale
Jun - 24-5 ARRL Field Day
Jul - 14 (3rd sat) Fort Humboldt Steam Up, Eureka
Jul 14-15 Relay for Life, Eureka
Aug - 5-6 Lighthouse Weekend
Aug - 21 Solar Eclipse, Salem OR
Sep - open
Oct - 15 Humboldt Redwoods Marathon, Garberville
Nov - 406 ARRL Sweepstakes CW
Nov - 18-20 ARRL Sweepstakes Phone
Dec - 9 Truckers Parade, Eureka

From Gary k6jxm

Ok, after chewing this over at Radio Geek Lunch at the Pantry today, I went home and printed out the offending CVC 23123.5 If we have any HAM attorneys, how about a lawyer check.

It looks like these Paragraphs may provide some relief.

(c) A handheld wireless telephone or electronic wireless communications device may be operated in a manner requiring the use of the driver's hand while the driver is operating the vehicle only if both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The handheld wireless telephone or electronic wireless communications device is mounted on a vehicle's windshield in the same manner a portable Global Positioning System (GPS) is mounted pursuant to paragraph (12) of subdivision (b) of Section 26708 or is mounted on or affixed to a vehicle's dashboard or center console in a manner that does not hinder the driver's view of the road.
- (2) The driver's hand is used to activate or deactivate a feature or function of the handheld wireless telephone or wireless communications device with the motion of a single swipe or tap of the driver's finger.

I think the single tap of a driver's finger on the PTT button activates and/or deactivates the Transmit/Receive feature of the communications device. I'm not sure if this would work as it is a push rather than a tap.

OK, maybe I am over analyzing this but Kalifornia seems to know better than all of us how to run our lives.

Now a Note from the Editor

It's been great seeing the activity on our Email list. It is just one more way of helping us stay connected and updated about our ham community. I also want to thank those sending in info for RAIN. Remember, I can't really go out and dig up information, I have to depend on you. Don't be shy, if you have an idea, write it up and send it in. Pictures are great too! This issue includes a number of pictures from all you guys getting things done in the field. Just to remind all the secretaries to get your minutes in ASAP.

Oh yeah, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Jaye Inabnit ke6sls, ke6sls@arrl.net

For more information, please visit our website <http://www.humboldt-arc.org>
or write to:

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club
BOX 5251
Eureka, CA 95502-5251



Humboldt Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes January 3, 2017

Officers Present: Jim Armstrong, President / Marcy Campbell, Treasurer

Officers Absent: Peter Esko, VP / Dan Eaton, Secretary

Secretary Pro tem: Greg Deja

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 PST. The Club met at its Eureka Municipal Auditorium (EMA) location.

Treasurer's Report:

Marcy reported a beginning balance of \$6,722.07; income of \$52.00; no expenses; for an ending balance of \$6,754.07. Del Freret moved to accept the report. Steve Isherwood seconded. The motion passed. None dissenting.

Secretary's Report:

Draft Minutes of the December meeting were distributed. The Minutes were approved as submitted.

Old Business:

The President reported that he, Anthony Wiese, and Steve Isherwood activated two sites on December 31, 2016; School House Peak (elev. 3000') and Prairie Creek. Joyce Isherwood joined the group at Prairie Creek.

Anthony updated the Club on the plans for a library at the EMA site. He envisions two components; a free library with no check-out requirement, and a check-out library. Anthony put out a call for bookcase units, one with lockable glass doors. Club members are encouraged to gather books for donation to the library. Once the cases are in place, Anthon will organize the library and set up the check-out system.

Anthony outlined plans for a map of the area that will show names and call-signs of members near where they live. The map will be of benefit to new hams by showing more experienced hams in the neighborhood. Participation in the map project is voluntary.

The Truckers' Parade was a success. No rain and good turnout for the event.

Several aluminum boxes that were donated to the Club by the City are still available for purchase. Jim estimated that sales to date have brought in \$400 to the treasury.

Jim reported that he purchased a fan dipole (\$149) and tripod (\$70) for installation at the EMA. He requested reimbursement for the purchases (plus tax and shipping). Del Freret motioned to reimburse Jim. Jaye Inabnit seconded. The motion passed. None dissenting.

Old Business, cont'd.:

The Club's purchase of a trailer was discussed and a volunteer committee organized to investigate options. Committee members are Jim Armstrong and Anthony Wiese. Esteemed advisors are Forrest Schafer and Steve Isherwood.

New Business:

Jim reported that coax was available for \$0.50/ft. through KJ6WDL.

Jim suggested the purchase of a hex-beam antenna for installation at the EMA.

Ben Adams, KK6SYJ, donated cinder blocks to be used for the antenna installation at the EMA.

Jim Falls is reported to be making progress in his recovery from fractures.

The President suggested establishing a net using the Club repeater housed at the EMA. Details to be determined.

A California law will go into effect on July 1, 2017 requiring hands-free use of electronic devices. The

impact on ham radio operators is not determined.

The President suggested that the Club operate a station at the Relay for Life event in July 2017, and made a request for organizers.

Howard volunteered to check on the availability of laminated counter tops for installation at the EMA.

Anthony Wiese, Events Planner, reported the following events in 2017:

January 28 and 29 – Winter Field Day (WFD), 11:00 local to 11:00 local; set-up can begin on Friday at 11:00, but cannot take more than 12 hours.

January 28 – Clam Beach Run, Trinidad

February 24, 25, 26 – CERT Training, Fortuna

February 25 – EmComm Exercise (stay-at-home)

March 12 – Foggy Bottom Run, Ferndale

April 29 – Rhody Parade, Eureka

May 7 – Avenue of the Giants, Dyerville

May 20 – Tour of the Unknown Coast

May 27, 28, 29 – Kinetic Sculpture Race, Arcata-Eureka-Ferndale

June 24 and 25 – Field Day

July 14 (3rd Saturday) – Fort Humboldt Steam Up, Eureka

July 14 and 15 – Relay for Life, Eureka

August 5 and 6 – Lighthouse Weekend

August 21 – Total Solar Eclipse, Salem OR and other central OR points (check the Web)

September – Open

October 15 – Humboldt Redwoods Marathon, Garberville

November 4, 5, and 6 – ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)

November 18, 19, and 20 – ARRL Sweepstakes (Phone)

December 9 – Truckers' Parade

Raffle Winners:

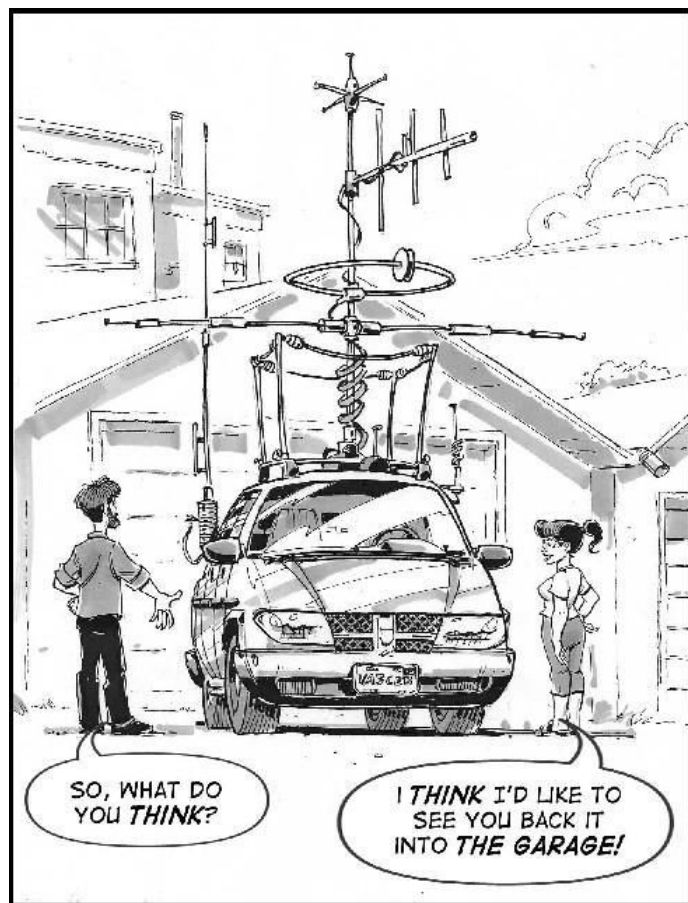
Steve Isherwood

Joyce Isherwood

Forrest Schafer (x2, including gift certificate for SDR)

Del Freret

Submitted by Dan kb6de



Wanted: Person who can make better RAIN graphics for the front page of RAIN!

Are you one of those types who make mundane text look great? Give it a go and send it in!

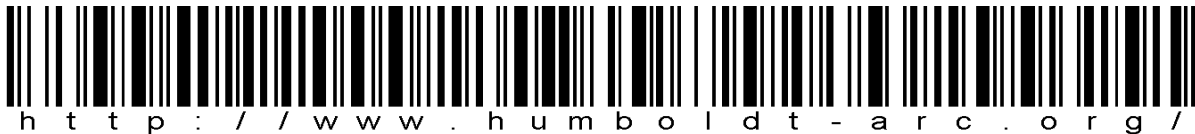


FWRA minutes and reports—nothing submitted to RAIN
RARC minutes and reports—nothing submitted to RAIN
SHARC minutes and reports—nothing submitted to RAIN

RAIN
Box 5251
Eureka, California, 95502-5251

North Coast Nets

Sunday	0800	North coast emergency net	3.855 MHz SSB
Monday	1900	Arcata Emergency simplex net	146.430 MHz
Monday	1900	Eel River Emergency net	147.090 PL103.5
Monday	1900	Eureka Emergency simplex net	146.460 MHz
Monday	1900	Southern Humboldt Emergency net	146.790 PL 103.5
Monday	1915	Eureka & north UHF Emergency net	444.400 +5000 PL103.5
Monday	1930	Humboldt county Emergency net (nearest FWRA repeater to you)	146.700 PL1031.5 147.000 PL1031.5 146.760 PL1031.5 146.610 PL1031.5
Monday	1945	Humboldt County HF emergency net	3.955 MHz SSB
Monday	2000	California State net	3.992 MHz SSB
Monday	2005	Humboldt HF Digital emergency net	3.582 USB
Tuesday	1930	ORCA digital operations net	3.581 MHz USB
Tuesday	1930	California-Mendocino net	3.915 MHz SSB
Wednesday	1000	California State net	7.230 MHz SSB
Wednesday	1930	FWRA net	146.760 PL103.5



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