

# SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Assn. (SCCARA)  
Volume 7 Number 3

Organized in 1921  
March 1990

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There was a time in the recent history of SCCARA that we stood on the brink of going the way that some other clubs have gone. There seemed to be a lack of interest, membership was declining and the Club's future looked somewhat uncertain. What a time to take on the challenge of running the Pacific Division Convention. But, run it we did! And it pulled us together, made us strong and exposed new leaders. In my opinion, that was a turning point for SCCARA. Since then, we have run the rest of the Pacific Division's conventions, and it appears that we're being called upon to do it again.

There are very few groups who have the expertise or desire to take on such a task. But, they don't have a Shorty Freitas, AE6Z on their side to pull the whole thing together. And, just as Pacificon was a turning point for SCCARA, I feel the changes that will be made to W6UU in the next two months, will someday, be looked upon as a turning point in the evolution of our repeater.

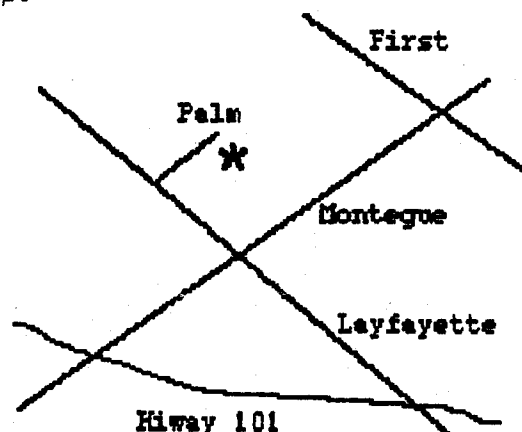
Under the leadership of Stan Getsla, WA6VJY with able assistance from Trish Gibbons, WA6UBE the Repeater Committee will be making significant improvements in our repeater in the next couple of months. I feel that our repeater will soon present a "face" to the Ham Radio World that SCCARA can be proud of. So keep your eyes on the events and your ears tuned to the repeater and you will witness history in the making.

And come to the Club meeting on

## NEXT MEETING

Date: Monday 03/12/90  
Time: 1930- 2200 approx.  
Place: Agnews Facility. Located on Palm Avenue just a bit East of the intersection of Montague and Lafayette.

Map:



## SPEAKER

Our guest speaker this month is S. Marti-Volkoff who is a

## FCC FIELD ENGINEER.

Learn about the FCC and what they do in our area.

lets see a good turnout to show that we are an interested group.

## MEETING AGENDA

- \* Field Day Update
- \* Pacificon

Monday, March 12th to witness the program that Jim, WE6V has arranged for us. It will feature a talk by FCC Field Engineer, S.Marti-Volkoff.

I look forward to seeing you there.

73, de WA6D

#### TREASURERS COLUMN

Well, here it is March already. As I told you in February's SCCARAGRAM, if I have not received you dues for 1990 by Feb 26, your call is listed below. SCCARA is really growing and becoming a very active club with a lot of activities. I know some of you will not renew for 1990, but please don't let that be YOU!! SCCARA needs you and we would all miss you. If your call is on this list and you remember paying, please let me know and I will look up the payment. I have checked the list already, but I may have missed your payment.

#### MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED FOR 1990

Students: Albert Herschback  
Ludovic Tandil  
Jorge Oliveira

Hams:	N6AZM	W5GAI	WBOMMR	N6TFX
	KC6BMU	KB6GHF	N6MXR	WA6UBE
	K6BQN	K6SGI	KB6NNZ	N6UMC
	KB6BW	AB7H	N6NRX	N6UOT
	W6CFK	KB6HRN	N6OHA	KB6VDO
	WA6CTP	KB6HSL	KB6OHQ	WA6VLY
	WD6DOK	AA6IG	KJ6PN	N6VOV
	KB6DPD	KA6IWK	AA6PV	WA0UVI
	N6EEZ	N6JYS	N6RCC	WB6VXA
	KC6FGW	KB6KEH	N6RIX	KJ6YB
	KB6FMN	KF6KV	KB6SZA	WB6YRS
	N6FZS	AA6KX	WA6TBT	KB6ZV
	WY6G	KB6LCU		

Now on to more exciting news. I went with Shorty to a meeting at the Le Baron Hotel to nail down the basic requirements needed for the convention. It is moving along nicely and Shorty is just getting geared up for full speed ahead. Pacificon '90 will start Friday, Oct 12 and run through Sunday Oct 14. Mark your calendar now, so you will be able to accept a work assignment

and also attend what promises to be the best convention ever.

#### Repeater Committee Report 2/23/90 de WA6VJY

In last month's SCCARA-Gram I mentioned PL'ing our repeater and specifically mentioned 107.2Hz as a probable frequency. Since then I have been reminded of our San Jose RACES connections. Our club has agreed to allow our repeater to be used in time of emergency by city RACES operators. Repeaters which are ARES/RACES affiliated and PL'ed are requested to use 100.0Hz as a "standard" emergency PL frequency. For that reason, we will be using 100.0 Hz for our PL.

Actually, we plan to use a variation on the standard PL idea as described in the ARRL Handbook. A dual squelch system will be installed. A strong signal without PL will still bring up the repeater, but a weak one WITH a PL will also be able to key up the repeater. For further information, see the page numbers of recent ARRL Handbooks listed in the table at the end of this column.

If there is a group of club members who use another PL frequency and aren't able to change from that frequency, a second PL decoder can be installed at the repeater so that either of the two PL tones will work equally well (an "OR" function). Contact me for more information on this.

I've checked with a number of places that might sell and/or install CTCSS tone encoders. HRO sells one or two models which should take care of most cases, but doesn't do installations. They also sell option PL encoders for current rigs. Shaver has gotten pretty much out of the ham radio scene and doesn't service or install CTCSS encoders. Quement's currently does not sell or install PL encoders, but keep your eyes open. There may be a change there. Robert Hall Electronics sells and installs CTCSS encoders for almost any rig out there. The typical cost will be around \$65, which includes the tone encoder

and installation (with checkout and deviation adjustment). Turn-around time is 2-3 working days. Robert Hall's phone number is: (408) 729- 8200. For those of you who have CTCSS (PL) encoders already installed but need a frequency counter to set them properly, contact myself or Trish WA6UBE. One of us should be able to help. A future club meeting could be designated as another "tune-up" night if enough members are interested.

We are again going to be making headway with our repeater improvements. By the time you read this, we should have a new RC-85 controller and 2M antenna on order. When all the hardware comes in, we'll integrate it and get it on the air. At that time the 2M and 440 repeaters will be split.

A linking scheme between the two repeaters will have to be worked out as the two will be physically a couple miles apart. The new location for the 2M repeater will be tested for coverage and interference over the next few months after the installation.

As always, if you have any questions regarding our repeater, give me a call on the repeater or the phone. My phone number is 275-0735.

73, Stan WA6VJY

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? ARRL Handbook CTCSS information ?

? ?

? Year Pages ?

? 1985 14-16,14-17 ?

? 1987 14-16,14-17 ?

? 1988 14-16,14-17 ?

? 1989 14-15,14-16 ?

? 1990 14-15,14-16 ?

? ?

??

Well done report Stan....Editor...

#### NEW MEMBERS & UPGRADES

Although I haven't received news of any upgrades this month, I know there must have been some. I went to JD's class meeting on Feb 20 and watched while they tested their current novice class. While some just used the code test for practice, three of them passed



NEW SCCARA MEMBERS

Standing L TO R: Scott Hensley KB6U00, Ralph Silveira N6UNE, Tom Margrave N6RED.

Seated L TO R: Don Apte (waiting new call), Mike Marneris K8ERL.

both parts of the novice test and are now waiting for their calls. Jim WE6V and Frank AA6LL have been keeping the class active in JD's absence and this proves they have been working hard to keep the new hams coming. CONGRATS to all in the class on your hard work.

SCCARA grew by 13 new members this month and 6 were from the class. They are Bob Lusk, Donald Apte (waiting for tech license in the mail), Bill Spurgeon, K6OKM (an inactive ham who is getting active once again), Jim Grant, Renie Malsack and Russell MacKenzie.

We also picked up 4 new members at the Feb SCCARA meeting. (If you were not there, you missed another good and lively meeting.) They are Mike Marneris K8ERL (Mike was a member several years back and has re-joined), Tom Margrave N6RED and his son Todd KB6UKN, and Scott Hensley KB6U00.

Finally, we signed up 3 new members who joined through the mail and who I hope to meet at the next meeting.

They are Michael Holliday N6DUU, Doug Williams KI6SR and Ben Marbury W6SKE.

Welcome to all our new members.

De Cathy KB6ICQ

I might add that we need to get to know the new people in our club. Make a special effort to say HELLO at our meetings and nets. Editor

# 1990 DUES ARE OVERDUE NOW

For those who haven't already sent in their dues, I want to remind you to do so. They are due Jan 1st each year and you can use the form below. - - - - -

## 1990 MEMBERSHIP DUES SIGN UP FORM

Call \_\_\_\_\_ Nov Tech Gen Adv Ex

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL? Yes No Send ARRL Information

Family Names, Calls and Class of License

Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00  
Students under 18 \$5.00

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: SCCARA Dues, PO Box 6,  
San Jose, CA 95103

### ATTENTION NON-MEMBERS OF SCCARA

This complimentary copy of the SCCARAGRAM is our invitation to join SCCARA. Be sure to make any corrections needed and add your phone #, license class, and ARRL membership status. Also list the same info along with their name(s) and call(s) of any family members wishing to join with you. The yearly dues are \$5.00 for students under 18, \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for families (hams living at the same address). The dues are 1/2 the yearly amount from July thru December. Let us also encourage you to come to a meeting or class (you need not be a member to attend). Our hotline at 408-249-6909 has more info on time and place.

73 de SCCARA



Bob Vickers WB6FRM demonstrated at the February meeting how his portable 2 meter quad can be used for a T-HUNT.

So were YOU at our February meeting? If you were, you would know a lot more about T-hunting. Many more interesting speaker are on tap for the future so TUNE US IN!!

### HAM RADIO OPERATORS WANTED

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER HAM RADIO OPERATORS TO OPERATE A HAM RADIO STATION AT THE NEW CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY MUSEUM IN SAN JOSE. THIS SHOULD PROVE TO BE A REWARDING EXPERIENCE FOR THE CHILD AS WELL AS THE HAM. WE WILL ALSO BE INVOLVED IN THE SAREX PROGRAM COMING UP THIS YEAR (SHUTTLE AMATEUR RADIO EXPERIMENT) WITH CHILDREN AT THE MUSEUM. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AND/OR WANT MORE INFO CONTACT:

BEN, W6SKE @ N6LDL, OR 395-4703,  
OR WB6ADZ/R OR

RANDY, KK6BO @ WB6ASR, OR 264-5870,  
OR WB6ADZ/R

I understand that this will be a "hands-on" exhibit with as many as 1500 kids a day coming through. The "plan" is still being formulated. Interested??? Editor...

February 2, 1990

Editor, The SCCARA-GRAM  
P.O. Box 6  
San Jose, CA 95103

Editor,

Perhaps you might find the following worthy of mention in the next issue of the SCCARA-GRAM. It is a brief review of a book that I am sure would be enjoyed by anyone in our hobby. The title is *QTC (I have a message for you)*. "A seagoing radio officer's scrapbook", By SPARKS, who is actually a seagoing radio officer by the name of Ray Redwood. Its a collection of many stories and accounts of early day radio history from the eyes of a radioman. His detailed account of the sinking of the Titanic from the logs of the radio operators is so well done that one can actually feel he is on duty as all takes place. To me it was some of the best radio related reading that I have ever had. Its available from Sequoia Press, 2502 Cockburn Dr., Austin, TX 78745. The price is \$8.95 in paperback. I also included \$1.50 for postage and my book arrived in less then 10 days. I am glad to add this book to my library.

As good a book as the above is I have to comment on what I think is a big rip-off that is being advertised as a "RADIO OPERATOR'S World Atlas. It sells for \$16.95 Postpaid. I found that it is first of all too small to be of any use to read. They call it compact, boy thats putting it mildly. It leads you to think that perhaps the pages are small but at 215 pages its all enlarged maps of countrys, while in fact one half of the book is useless. As far as I am concerned it would not even be a bargain at \$4.95 Postpaid. To tell you the truth I would be happy to sell mine at that as it is totally useless.

Best Regards.....

  
Dick Letrich, WB6WKM

Thanks Dick for the interesting reviews. Decided to print the whole letter. I might add that any of you that have purchased a new rig, bought a ham related book, gone to a ham fest or flea market etc., why not get it printed in this newsletter. Your insights would be good reading for our fellow members. EDITOR....

Field Day 1990

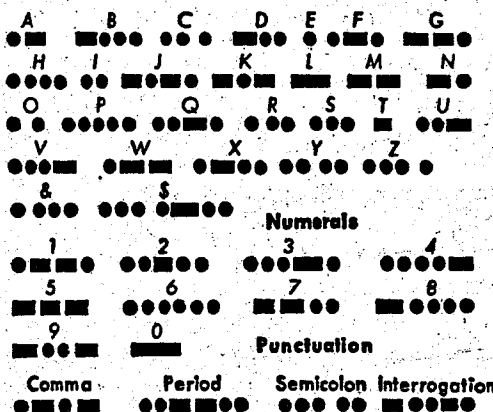
If you haven't already marked your calendar, why not mark it now for FIELD DAY. This year it will be June 23 and 24. Planning is moving along at a brisk pace. Facilities for housing the various stations has been lined up. (ie trailers, RVS etc.). Availability of rigs has been confirmed. There will be an antenna refurbishing party on a convenient Saturday prior to field day to clean up the antennas that can be used. We will again use the scheme of half hour operating increments that interested operators can sign up for. This will assure that everyone has a chance to operate. It has been suggested that the Saturday night meal be held a bit earlier, before the cold sets in. Possible we could call it a mid-afternoon meal. Special thanks to Cathy KB6ICQ for securing the Mt. Madonna site for this year. An act over and above the call of duty. She had to make two attempts at getting the club signed up. The first time was on a cold and dreary morning with an unreasonably long waiting line and

a broken reservation computer at the County Parks Reservation Facility. The next time under more favorable conditions she was able to get us signed up. Thanx Cathy. If you have any suggestions concerning Field Day or would like to get actively involved in the planning and execution there of, please give me a call. By all means invite your friends, ham and non-ham alike.

72 de Lou WA6QYS  
241-7999

*San Jose Mercury 11/14/88*

## No SOS for Morse code:



Source: World Book Encyclopedia

This form of Morse code was used for sending telegraph messages.

LONDON (AP) — World shipping leaders have given the go-ahead for the introduction of automatic communications that will mean the end of the Morse code for ships at sea.

The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System transmits and receives automatically, so Morse will no longer be a requirement for ships. Shipowners are expected to begin phasing out radio operators when the equipment is installed in ships, starting in 1993.

Some parts of the new technology, which includes satellite communications, are already in use on British ships. Starting in 1999 they will be compulsory on ships worldwide.

The decision was made Friday during a two-week London conference of the Inter-

## New technology hailed

national Maritime Organization, a United Nations agency for the safety of shipping and prevention of pollution by ships.

The 66 countries represented accounted for about 97 percent of the world's ships, spokesman Roger Kohn said.

A statement afterward called the decision "one of the biggest advances in maritime communications since the introduction of radio."

The new system allows the crew to send a distress signal by pushing a button, which should prevent ships from disappearing without a trace when a longer message cannot be sent in time.

Ships will also carry a radio beacon, which will give the ship's position and must be able to float free if the ship sinks suddenly.

Kohn said: "Morse has great romantic connotations with the gallant radio operator sending off distress calls as the ship sinks. But we are bringing in something that will be much better and which should save even more lives."

The Morse code, invented by American Samuel Morse and first used in 1844, has been the foundation of ship's distress and safety messages since the turn of the century. It is a series of long and short electronic "dots and dashes" representing letters of the alphabet.

Morse code was used to inform an incredulous world that the supposedly unsinkable oceanliner Titanic was sinking in the North Atlantic in 1912.

The Titanic sank swiftly; 1,500 people died.



## COMMENDATION

### CHAIRPERSON

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Council Member  
Los Altos  
415/948-8920

### VICE CHAIR

JUDY NADLER  
Council Member  
Santa Clara  
408/984-3250

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Council Member  
Gilroy  
408/842-3191

ROBERT HAMILTON  
Council Member  
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408/354-6832

MARK HANLON  
Council Member  
Sunnyvale  
408/730-7470

JIM LAWSON  
Council Member  
Milpitas  
408/942-2320

MIKE KOTOWSKI  
Council Member  
Campbell  
408/866-2100

ZOE LOFGREN  
County Supervisor  
408/299-2323

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Council Member  
San Jose  
408/277-5251

BARBARA ROGERS  
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RAY BUNT  
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Mayor  
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### COUNTY STAFF

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**WHEREAS**, when the Loma Prieta Earthquake struck Northern California on October 17, 1989, over 400 men and women of the Santa Clara County Operational Area Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services provided extraordinary relief assistance to the impacted areas throughout the San Francisco and Monterey Bay Areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the men and women of the Santa Clara County Operational Area Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services were mobilized immediately and provided support to the disaster areas within 30 minutes of the earthquake; and

**WHEREAS**, these outstanding men and women spent countless hours providing "shadows" and managing key positions throughout the communities in order to provide communications where none existed or was severely impacted and went far beyond the call of duty to provide these outstanding services; and

**WHEREAS**, the men and women of the Santa Clara County Operational Area Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services' selfless devotion to the disaster relief efforts, helped ease community anxiety immediately after the earthquake and provided a vital communications link where needed throughout Santa Clara County to residents and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the men and women of the Santa Clara County Operational Area Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services devoted thousands of hours of their own time to aid beleaguered residents and businesses during their hours of greatest need and displayed compassion and skill in the finest tradition of men and women of the United States who characteristically help their fellow man in times of great need, and whose humanitarian efforts and exemplary response will live forever in the memories of the grateful population they assisted during this critical time.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Emergency Preparedness Council of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, does hereby honor and commend

### THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICES

Penny Lave

Penny Lave, Chairperson  
Emergency Preparedness Council  
County of Santa Clara

Lou WA6QYS dropped off a copy of this commendation. Many members of SCCARA were involved in the earthquake effort. As you can see, your efforts didn't go unnoticed. EDITOR...

# SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

=====

## CLUB OFFICERS

President	George Allan	WA6O	927-9921
Vice President	Jim O'Keefe	WE6V	264-4987
Secretary	Don Village	K6PBQ	263-2789
Treasurer	Kathy Getsla	KB6ICQ	275-0735

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Bob Forster	N6PCQ
Shorty Freitas	AE6Z
Ed Rawlinson	WD6CHD
Lou Steirerr	WA6QYS

## REPEATER COMMITTEE

Wally Britten	KA6YMD
Keith Butts	KN6K
Stan Getsla	WA6VJY
Trish Gibbons	WA6UBE
Ed Mangan	KB6DLB

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## REPEATER INFO

Call	W6UU
2 Meter	146.385+
440	442.425+ (PL) 107.2

Nets are held every Monday evening at 1930 sharp, except for the second Monday which is our meeting night.

## STATION TRUSTEE

Jean "Doc" Gmelin W6ZRU

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**SCCARA HOTLINE 408-249-6909**

**ARRL VEC HOTLINE 408-984-8353**

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

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