

# SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 9, Number 4

April 1993

## President's Prose

Are you happy with what SCCARA has been doing? What should we do that we are not attempting now? What changes should we be making in our present operations?

The main things that we do now are:

- a) hold monthly meetings at the United Way (KK6ZE, speakers) or a special dinner meeting (K6PBQ)
- b) hold the weekly two meter net on Monday nights (WA6DXP)
- c) hold the weekly ten meter net on Thursday nights (KA6YMD)
- d) hold the monthly sale at the electronic flea market (WB6YRU)
- e) run the sale at the flea market annually (WA6QYS)
- f) enter the Field Day contest as a club (WN6U)
- g) have a high frequency station with capability for digital modes (WN6U, trustee)
- h) have a two meter repeater (WA6VJY, chair)
- i) have a new 440 repeater (WA6VJY, chair)
- j) training for new and upgrading hams (WE6V, CW and KB6LCJ, theory)
- k) we are now a special service club for the ARRL
- l) SCCARA members have included many ARRL vice directors, directors and national officers over the years and KB6ZV is now First Vice President of the ARRL, and K6WR is our Vice Director.
- m) publish the SCCARA-GRAM every month (WB6YRU)
- n) have a telephone hot line (N6PCQ)

The board of directors is considering sponsoring PACIFICON again, getting a VHF station, upgrading the books at local libraries, and

## Calendar

- 4/10 Foothill Flea Market
- 4/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 4/23 SVECS Breakfast
- 4/26 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, all are welcome)
- 5/8 Foothill Flea Market--We sponsor!
- 5/10 SCCARA General Meeting

### Next General Meeting

- Day: Monday, April 12, 1993  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Place: Colonial Inn Coffee Shop  
(Little John's)  
1140 Hillsdale Avenue
- Agenda: **DINNER MEETING!**  
Spouse and Family Night  
Young and Old Timers Alike

The menu will be your choice of Breast of Chicken, Halibut, Colonial Steak, or Prime Rib; including soup or salad. Price range \$10.50 - \$11.50, drinks and dessert are extra. Reservations are NOT required. For more information contact Don Village K6PBO (408) 263-2789.

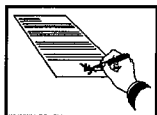
The Colonial Inn is located on Hillsdale Avenue at the South-West corner of Hillsdale and Almaden Expressway.

The San Jose Red Cross is located at the East end of McKendrie, across the I-880 freeway (South) from the San Jose Air Port. From I-880, take the Colman turn-off, head South, turn left (East) at the first road--that's McKendrie. From the South, go North on Colman, just past Heading turn right (East) on McKendrie.

SVECS quarterly breakfast will be held April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Adult Education Center, 1840 Benton Street in Santa Clara (same place as our class, but different room). Cost is \$5. Contact Lou Steirer WA6QYS for more information and reservations.

setting up a gateway station for long distance forwarding of packet messages. Let me or any board member know what you want to see done.

73, Don KC6WMM



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## Treasurer's Treatise

I am happy to report that the Repeater account is \$235 richer due to the efforts of Gary WB6YRU and Don KC6WMM. These guys did a great job selling at the March Foothill Flea Market, but they need your help. Come on out and join in.

At our monthly board meeting, we discussed the idea of simplifying our banking. Under the old system we had the club accounts spread over three different banks. On the surface this seems like a non-problem but as you *probably* know, signature cards need to be changed every year and each bank has its own criteria. There are other good reasons but that is the main reason for consolidating. We currently have our main checking account and the repeater checking account at Bank of the West, the club savings account is at San Francisco Federal, and lastly, the Pacificon account is at Great Western. The plan is to move the savings account to Bank of the West and link it to the main checking account. It will remain a separate account, but only one signature card will be required. We also plan to close out the Pacificon account and fold it into the savings account. We will end up with a much simpler banking scheme which will be greatly appreciated by myself and future treasurers.

SCCARA has three telephone lines. The first is our SCCARA Hotline which contains a recorded message about our club. The message is changed from time to time to reflect current events. Bob N6PCQ maintains this line and the club reimburses him. The second phone is supplied by the city of San Jose and is used for control of the 440 Mhz repeater. The city covers the cost of the line. The third is a line to our two meter repeater. It is used for repeater control and autopatch. This line is supported by Trish

WA6UBE and the club should reimburse her. The repeater will be moving in the next few months and this line will move with it. In round numbers, the lines are costing the club \$16-20 per month total.

Next month I will cover rental of our storage lockers.

73, Mike KB6LCJ, Treasurer

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## Repeater Report

Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Trish WA6UBE, Erik KC6SPV, Kathy KB6ICQ, and I headed for the roof of Alexian Brothers Hospital. The goals were to evaluate the hole in the side of the shelter (where our 440 repeater is located) for repair and to install a new version of firmware in the repeater controller.

The 2" diameter whole was punched by the hospital engineering staff for our antenna coax. We plugged it with a garbage bag when it was first put in; it has remained on our list of things to finish. The visit to the site was to determine just what materials and tools we needed for the installation of two "wall-thru" tubes. The job looks pretty straightforward and Erik has volunteered to head up the installation/repair effort.

The second reason for a visit to the site was to install a new version of firmware into the controller. It was version 3.0, with the installation of the new EPROM, it is now version 4.2. This is the same version as in our 2 meter repeater controller. The new version includes changes which, among others, increase vocabulary and expand macro capability. Macros are used to configure a wide range of parameters rapidly to predetermined settings with only a single code.

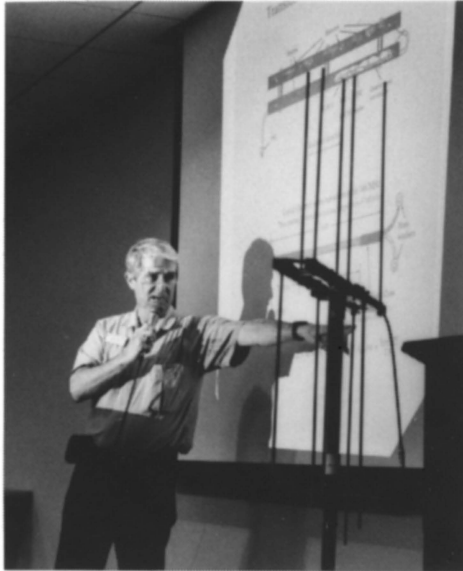
Last month I described an interference problem we were having with a repeater in the central valley. I am pleased to report that we no longer cause them a problem. Our change of PL is sufficient to keep us from timing out their machine when ducting conditions are good. We will be installing a directional antenna for the 2 meter repeater at the new sight, further reducing

the possibility of interference to other repeaters on our frequency pair.

73, Stan WA6VJY, repeater chairman

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## Thank You



Roger Gathers, N6GRF

Roger Gathers N6GRF gave a very informative talk at the March general meeting on the log periodic antenna and related topics.

Thanks Roger!



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## Flea Market

We did pretty well at the first electronic flea market of the season. After expenses, we cleared \$235 despite a lack of "high quality/price" items.

Once again, Don KC6WMM helped sell stuff, and because of his full-size pick-up truck, transported the bulk of the goodies. We could have used another vehicle; there were some items that had to be left behind in our locker.

Don tells me he probably won't be able to help out much more this year, so we have REAL

## New Members

SCCARA would like to welcome these new amateurs to the club:



Tom WB4WZW

Clint KM6UJ

If you guys have any questions, ideas, or comments about SCCARA or any activities, please don't hesitate to ask. There is a list of club "higher-ups" on the back of each SCCARA-GRAM.

NEED for transportation. Typically, we load stuff in the vehicles late afternoon the day before (Friday), then take off for the flea market quite early Saturday morning. We try to start setting up at 5:00--yes, that's AM. Believe it or not, business was booming well before 5 AM! It's important to catch these early birds--money tends to burn holes in their pockets. Afterward, around midday, we transport the left-overs back to the locker. We need help selling stuff too. SCCARA will pay all fees for those who transport stuff and/or significantly help sell--and we furnish refreshments. If you can help, please let me know.

Speaking of helping out, don't forget we will be sponsoring the flea market May 8<sup>th</sup>. Lou WA6QYS is heading up that effort. We will NOT have our regular booth at this one--it will take all our efforts running the show. Lou tells me that so far about one dozen people have volunteered; twice that many would be about right. This is a major fund raiser for SCCARA, please contact Lou if you are free that day--WE NEED YOU!

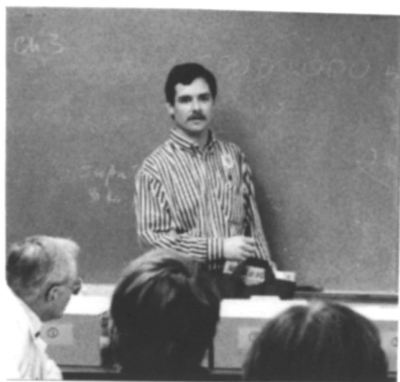
73, Gary WB6YRU

The SCCARA booth at the flea market. Yes, we get money for this stuff! Doesn't our banner look good? Behind the table (left to right) is Don KC6WMM, Don K6PBQ, and Gary WB6YRU.



## A Class Act

SCCARA's amateur radio class is moving right along... The class is "team taught."



Jay KD6PBH



Jim WE6V (he also teaches the code class)



The first session of the theory portion. The code portion is taught later.

## **MAY 8<sup>th</sup> SCCARA SPONSORS THE FOOTHILL FLEA MARKET**

**BE SURE TO CIRCLE MAY 8<sup>th</sup> ON  
YOUR CALENDAR FOR SCCARA's  
FOOTHILL FLEA MARKET DAY.** Last  
year's effort was enjoyed by all involved and a  
great boost for the club's coffers. Some of  
the jobs that need to be done are:

**GATE GUARDIANS  
GOURMET GRILLERS  
DRINK DISPENSERS  
MONEY MASTERS  
COFFEE CONCOCTERS  
DOUGHNUT DISTRIBUTORS  
CLEAN-UP COORDINATORS**

The jobs will be divided into two-hour  
(+/-) shifts. **IF YOU CAN HELP--PLEASE  
DO.** Let me know your preference of task  
and time. If you are willing to do more than  
one task/shift--so much the better. Shifts will  
be approximately:

0400-0600 --- Set-up, Registration  
0600-0800 --- Registration, Coffee,  
Doughnuts, Hot Dogs  
0800-1000 --- Registration, Coffee,  
Doughnuts, Hot Dogs,  
Drinks  
1000-1200 --- Doughnuts, Hot Dogs,  
Drinks  
1200-1400 --- Hot Dogs, Drinks  
1400-1500 --- Tear-down, Clean-up

**WE STILL NEED MANY MORE  
VOLUNTEERS, SO GIVE ME A CALL  
NOW AND GUARANTEE A  
SUCCESSFUL EVENT FOR SCCARA. I  
can be reached at (408) 241-7999.**

Thanks, Lou WA6QYS

## **Good and Welfare**

Have you ever thought what the above means? The way I have it, it's "for the Good of the order and Welfare of the members." Our SCCARA members joined for many reasons, but mainly for a sense of belonging to a group of people that enjoy a common hobby. When, for whatever reason, we can not enjoy that hobby, we hurt...and we miss the ones that share our hobby. That, my friends is why we have a Good and Welfare chairman, me, to let that member know we care. If you hear of someone who is sick or suffered a grievous loss, let me know so I can spread the word. My phone is (408) 264-2988; there is a message machine if I'm not there.

In that vein, let me elaborate on some of our members: Joe Bocanegra WA6YRU, one time SCCARA Secretary, has not been to meetings lately because he is suffering with double vision and can't drive. Bill Brothers N6ZPC has not been to a meeting lately because of serious illness in his family. Jack Russell WA6IER has just returned from the hospital after falling and breaking his hip. They've patched him up with plates, but the recovery is painful and arduous--probably up to six weeks recovery.

Give these guys a call and let them know YOU care. They are all good in the roster. And if you hear of anyone else, call me.

Ed WD6CHD

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## **Meeting Minutes**

**General Meeting held March 8, 1993**

Don KC6WMM, SCCARA President called the meeting to order. He welcomed all those present and started the round of self introductions as is the custom.

Brad Wyatt, K6WR, ARRL Vice Director

Pacific Division and a SCCARA member, spoke about some of the things that were happening with ARRL and The FCC:

1. The ARRL did not change its name.
2. There is now before the FCC a proposal to rewrite Section 97.113.
3. There is something in the works concerning getting back some portion of the 222 Mhz band, or getting some frequency to replace that portion of the band that was lost to Ham Radio.
4. There is a petition by Cornell University to make Puerto Rico a "Quiet Zone", i.e., no transmissions allowed.
5. There are two bills before congress. One concerns the auctioning of radio frequencies and the other is HR707 which deals with Amateur Radio frequencies.

The guest speaker was Roger Gathers, N6GRF. His subject was The Log Periodic Dipole Array (LPDA) and Yagi Antenna design. He talked about the design and building of a Yagi antenna using the information from the handouts he left, which included a computer program for designing your own LPDA antenna. One of the features of these antennas is that they are more broad banded than a dipole antenna.

#### BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING:

The April meeting will be held at the Colonial Inn, formerly Little John's Restaurant, which is located on Hillsdale Avenue at Almaden Expressway in San Jose. This will be on April 12, 1993 at 6:30 P.M.

SCCARA will host the May 8, 1993 Foothill Collage Flea Market.

The Amateur Radio Class sponsored by SCCARA has 19 students. The class meets at the Wilson Adult Education Center in the City of Santa Clara.

#### Treasures Report:

There are currently 127 members

SCCARA Flea Market Booth:  
Gary WB6YRU needs help.

#### RF EXPO WEST:

Thursday night, March 18, is an Amateur Radio reception. The EXPO will be held at the San Jose Convention Center from March 17-19.

#### Business from last month:

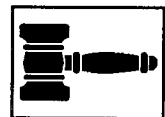
Last month Trish made a motion that we charge a \$2.00 fee per person per meeting to cover the cost of renting the United Way facility. The motion was amended by Wally KA6YMD that we: "Continue meeting at the United Way for an indefinite period and to pay for this by adjusting dues accordingly."

Lloyd KD6FJI, Secretary

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## Moved and Seconded

### March Board Meeting



It looks like the annual dues will go up (starting next year), mostly to cover the costs of meeting at the United Way. The Board will have to vote on the exact amount later, (the new dues will probably be \$20). If you have any ideas or opinions, contact one of the Board members.

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## Chess Anyone?

I'm looking for someone to play chess with over the air or in person. Please give me a call: (408) 354-7807.

73, Sol (Bernard S. Golosman) W6FSK

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## News Letter Notes

I would like to get a consensus as to when the SCCARA-GRAM should be mailed.

Currently, we are mailing it about one week before the General meeting. This means *most* people receive it a few days before the meeting. Unfortunately, due to the nature of bulk mail, some people receive it after the general meeting. This is why some people are paying extra (with their dues) for first class postage on their SCCARA-GRAM issues.

Personally, I strongly feel the club should NOT ask people to pay extra just to receive the news letter before the meeting. Also, the SCCARA-GRAM includes dates of up coming events. I think it's good to notify people about those things early, so they can plan accordingly.

On the other hand, some people feel the SCCARA-GRAM should act like an alarm clock--reminding everyone that a meeting is coming up. If it arrives much more than a few days before the meeting, it loses that effect.

So far, I've only spoken to a few people on this and the opinions run about 50-50. What I had in mind was to get it mailed perhaps one week sooner. If you have any feelings on this, one way or the other, please let me know. See me at any meeting, send me a message on packet (home BBS N0ARY), or give me a call (leave a message). I'm willing to go along with whatever the majority wants.

73, Gary WB6YRU

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## PACIFICON '93

For those who like to plan ahead, mark October 22-24 for the ARRL Pacific Division Convention (Pacificon '93). The Mt. Diablo ARC will again sponsor this event (the same group as last year). For more information, call their Pacificon Hotline: (510) 932-6125.

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## Packet News

If you are active on packet in the South Bay Area, then you probably know of the N0ARY BBS. There are now over 1000 users of this system! Some people believe it's the largest PBBS (Packet Bulletin Board System) in the U.S.

There are several "flavors" of PBBS programs around, but few rival the features and user friendliness of N0ARY. Unfortunately, this has lead to such heavy usage that N0ARY's 2 meter port (144.93) is sometimes crowded to the point of being nearly useless.

Bob N0ARY has started the ball rolling for the next step in PBBS's. The plan is to have the "front end" of the BBS running on the user's computer (commonly referred to as a client/server system). This would improve the user interface while allowing for much more efficient use of the frequency. Not only would data compression be used, but any repeated commands would be handled locally--not over the air. For example: Once a certain bulletin has been read, it will exit on the user's computer (the client program). The user will be able to read it again without having it re-transmitted by the BBS (the server).

The project has just started, there's no way to tell when something will be ready for beta testing. It could be as soon as this summer, but I think it may be more like fall.

So far, Bob N0ARY has lined up a few programmers: one to write a version for the Macintosh (Jim KE0PH), one for windows on a P.C. (Connie N6ZFJ), and one for a P.C. under DOS (your's truly). We still need experience programmers to write versions for other computers (Atari, Commidor). Later, we will also need people to beta test these programs. If you are interested in programming or beta testing, or know someone who might be interested, please contact Bob N0ARY.

73, Gary WB6YRU

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## **ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION UPDATE, April 1993**

by **Charles P. McConnell, W6DPD**, Director ARRL Pacific Division. 1658 W. Mesa Ave. Fresno, CA 93711-1944. 209-431-2038. Packet @ N6ZGY

**FCC PROPOSES NEW BAND.** In response to an ARRL request, the FCC has proposed in ET Docket 93-40 to establish a secondary allocation for the Amateur Service in the 219-220 MHz band. This band would be used for Amateur Auxiliary station (point to point) packet backbone networks and other Amateur point to point fixed communications. The FCC also proposed operating limits and other measures to ensure that such Amateur operations do not cause interference to primary operations in and adjacent to the 219-220 MHz band. The FCC said it believes this allocation will foster technological experimentation and innovation, particularly with higher data rates, and facilitate the construction of a nationwide packet data backbone network, relieve congestion in the 222-225 MHz band in certain geographic areas. The comment date will be known when the full text is published in the *Federal Register*.

**SPECTRUM BILL PASSED.** On March 2, 1993, H.R. 707, the Emerging Telecommunications Technologies Act of 1993, was passed by the House. It requires the Federal Government to release 200 MHz of frequency spectrum for commercial use to foster new technologies in the private sector, with at least 180 MHz to be below 5 GHz. The Senate version, S. 335, includes specific protections for the Amateur Service that were sought by the League during the previous session of Congress. If the Senate adopts S. 335 in something resembling its present form, the ARRL will encourage the conference committee that resolves the differences between the bills to include those protections.

**WIND PROFILER RADARS.** The FCC has agreed to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Notice of Inquiry on the subject of Wind Profiler Radars, ET Docket 93-59. The FCC has proposed to allocate the 449 MHz band for wind profiler radar systems (they look for wind shears around airports) and perhaps an allocation at 915 MHz for the wind profiler systems. The 449 MHz is currently allocated to Government relocation operations by the military on a primary basis and to Amateur and to government and non-government radio location systems for coastal radars. The comment date will be announced when the entire text of the docket is published in the *Federal Register*.

**LOCATION MONITORING SERVICE.** FCC has proposed new rules to allow greater use of the 902-928 MHz band for so-called automotive vehicle monitoring systems. The FCC proposes to expand the service to encompass location of all objects and allow licensees to provide service on a private carrier basis to individuals, the Federal Government, and Part 90 eligibles. FCC proposes to license wide band systems on the 904-912 and 918-926 MHz bands and narrow band systems on the 902-904, 912-918, and 926-928 MHz bands. The FCC believes wide band systems are capable of operating in a shared environment, with cooperation among the various licensees. The comment date will be announced when the full text is in the *Federal Register*.

**NEW RF RADIATION GUIDELINES PROPOSED.** The FCC has proposed changing its guidelines for evaluating RF radiation to reflect guidelines adopted in 1992 by ANSI and IEEE, Inc. Two tiers of exposure levels, one for controlled environments and another for uncontrolled environments. Watch the Amateur Press for more information.



# FIELD DAY SIGN UP SHEET

Field Day is coming up near the end of June. For those who are new to amateur radio: Field Day is one of the biggest contests of the year. The basic purpose is to give amateurs practice making contacts under disaster conditions. You can operate at home, but it's better (worth more points) to "setup shop" elsewhere; we usually go up to Mt. Madonna park. When operating as a group, we establish our selves under a classification where several transceivers are on the air at one time. The more exotic the power source, the better. Solar cells or generators running on something other than gasoline are worth more points. Once set up, we have 24 hours (starting at a specific time) to make as many contacts as possible. It's a lot of fun and a great way to hone those operating skills! Everyone is encouraged to participate. You can make a weekend of it or just show up for part of it, whatever you like.

The 1993 SCCARA Field Day weekend will again be held at Mt. Madonna county park on the last weekend in June, the 25<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. Club members who arrive on Friday and stay through Sunday and help with both setup and tear-down will be able to stay for free. All others will be charged \$8.00 per night per vehicle. Fees for those staying overnight may be paid in advance with this sign up sheet, or will be collected by the Treasurer on Field Day. Those who won't be staying overnight will be responsible for paying the "day use" fee at the Park entrance.

The club will be serving dinner at 2:00 PM on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning. The menu for Saturday dinner will be steak or chicken, please indicate your choice on this sign up sheet. The cost of either dinner with Sunday breakfast for one person is \$10.00. You must pay for the meals in advance so that we know how much food to buy. We're expecting a great Field Day this year, so please come join us!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Overnight camping fee @ \$8.00 / night / vehicle: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ I will join the group going up Friday to help set-up, then tear-down Sunday.

\_\_\_\_\_ Steak dinner(s) with Sunday breakfast @ \$10.00 / person: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken dinner(s) with Sunday breakfast @ \$10.00 / person: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this sign up sheet (or a copy) and bring it with you to the next club meeting or mail it with your check (payable to SCCARA) to me, the Field Day chairman:

Doug Eaton WN6U  
185 Union Ave. #22  
Campbell, CA 95008

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**OFFICERS and DIRECTORS**

President	Don Hayden, KC6WMM	867-4643
Vice President	Harold Welch, KK6ZE	578-3273
Secretary	Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI	225-6769
Treasurer	Mike Hastings, KB6LCJ	243-6745
Station Trustee	Doug Eaton, WN6U	377-3736

Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
Director	Doug Eaton, WN6U	377-3736
Director	Stan Getsla, WA6VJY	275-0735
Director	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336

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**STAFF**

Database	Joe Quirantes, WA6DXP	371-0959
Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
Facilities	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Mailman	Tony Sanchez, K6MOB	296-6676
Photographer	Bob Keller, KB6OHO	725-1034
Welfare	Ed Rawlinson, WD6CHD	264-2988

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**COMMITTEES**

Repeater	Stan Getsla, WA6VJY	275-0735
Flea Market, Monthly	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
Flea Market, <i>OUR Time</i>	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
Field Day	Doug Eaton, WN6U	377-3736

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**SCCARA REPEATERS**

SCCARA currently owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter:	146.385 +
70 cm:	442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone patch capability is available with a small subscription fee. The two meter repeater is located in the Mt. Hamilton foothills, Alum Rock area. The 70 cm repeater is located at the Alexian Brothers Hospital, North of 280 and 101.

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**SCCARA NETS**

Mondays at 1930, on our 2 meter repeater. Net control: Joe WA6DXP.

Thursdays at 2000, on 28.385 MHz USB. Net control: Wally KA6YMD.

Members and visitors alike are encouraged to join in on the SCCARA nets. Wally KA6YMD usually conducts the ten meter net from the SCCARA club station: W6UW, located at the San Jose Red Cross (just South from the San Jose Air Port).

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**IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

SCCARA HOTLINE:	249-6909
ARRL CLASS HOTLINE:	971-1424
ARRL VEC HOTLINE:	984-8353



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**SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

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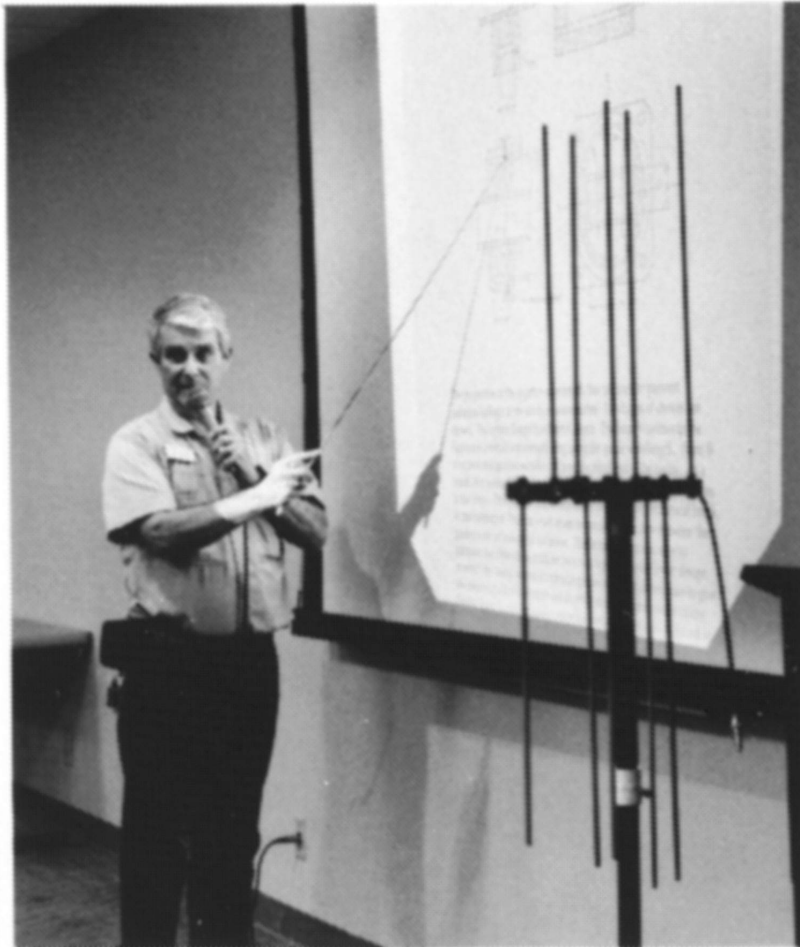
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# Extra

More photos were submitted than were actually published.  
Just for fun, this extra wasn't in the original SCCARA-GRAM:



Roger Gathers N6GRF, log periodic antenna talk (page 3)