

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 13, Number 3

March 1997



## President's Prose

My apologies to all for missing the first two issues. Since submitting my name for the position of President, I also had a change in jobs! I am now employed full time at Ham Radio Outlet in Sunnyvale.

I thought a brief bio. might be in order: First licensed in 1954 as WN9GJU in Illinois (as a Novice). Upgraded to General the following year. Served in the U.S. Navy from 1957 to 1961 (ham ticket sure came in handy!). Took my discharge in San Francisco and moved down to Campbell in 1963. Got back on the air in 1965 as WB6IJY. Upgraded to Extra in late summer 1994 (wanted to be a VE). Although I had known of SCCARA's existence for many years, I first got involved in the summer of 1994 (Field Day).

In my short time as your Prez, I have run across several things I think need some work. I would like to discuss these with you in the next few columns and solicit ideas from you in response to mine.

As always, we can use all the help we can get - if anyone has a way to be of service to SCCARA, please call me or one of your board members. While you are on the 'phone, please tell them you appreciate their service to SCCARA - or tell them how you want them to serve SCCARA, if you don't appreciate what they are now doing!

73, Jack, AC6FU



## Dues are past Due!

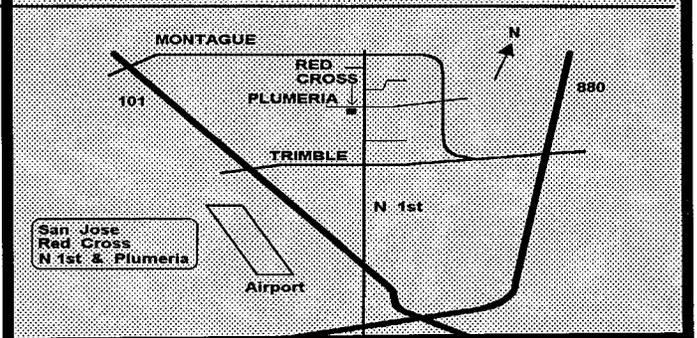
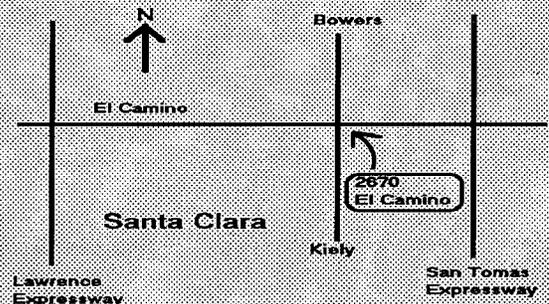
If you have renewed your SCCARA membership--thanks! If not, please do so soon.

## Calendar

- 3/10 SCCARA General Meeting--Dinner!
- 3/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:00p, all are welcome)
- 4/14 SCCARA General Meeting

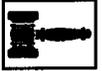
### Next General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, March 10, 1997
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Country Harvest Buffet
- Agenda: Dinner meeting. 2670 El Camino at Kiley in Santa Clara



# Meeting Minutes

## General Meeting, Feb. 10, 1996



The *SCCARA-GRAM* is published monthly by the SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, PO Box 6, San Jose CA 95103-0006. Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

SCCARA was formed as a general interest amateur radio club in 1921 and became a non-profit corporation in 1947. SCCARA is an affiliate of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

The club station, W6UW, is currently out of service.

The deadline for SCCARA-GRAM articles is one week before the last Monday of the month.

### OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President	Jack Ruckman, AC6FU	379-4846
Vice President	Barbara Britten, KE6QEI	293-3847
Secretary	Dan Dietz, WM6M	458-3460
Treasurer	Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI	225-6769
Station Trustee	Stan Getsla, WA6VJY	275-0735
Director	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	262-9334
Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847

### STAFF

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
Facilities	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789

### COMMITTEES

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
Youth Group	George Brady, AB6OZ	729-9012

### SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter:	146.385 +	PL 114.8 (none for basic use)
70 cm:	442.425 +	PL 107.2

Phone patch capability is available (auto-dial and auto-patch). 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.

### SCCARA NETS

On our two meter repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM; (not the second Monday--it's our meeting night). Net control: Joe WA6DXP.

On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally KA6YMD.

Visitors welcome to join in on the SCCARA nets.

### IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA HOTLINE:	249-6909
ARRL LICENSE (VEC) HOTLINE:	984-8353

Meeting was called to order at 7:38 by president Jack, AC6FU.

Customary self introductions of members and guests.

Past president Hugh, KD6EFL presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to our longtime club photographer Bob Keller, KB6OHO in gratitude for several years of excellent and tireless service to SCCARA.

Minutes of last general meeting (January 13, 1977) were accepted as printed in the SCCARA-GRAM in February issue.

Don KK6MX offered 3 passes to Wireless Convention and Exhibition in San Jose to any interested member.

Roy, K6VIP stated that although there is an offer to amateurs to renew their licenses for a fee, it is easy to renew for no charge if you have a FCC form 610. The form is available from the ARRL VE program, Ham Radio Outlet and other sources for no charge save the postage to mail the form.

Dan, WM6M read a letter from longtime member Doc, W6ZRJ. Doc has moved from the immediate area and states he has and will always enjoy and fondly remember his active membership days with SCCARA. He regrets that he will not be active in the club due to his relocation, and he sent his regards to all members and friends.

Lou, WA6QYS announced that SCCARA would host the Foothill Flea Market on Saturday, July 12, 1997. He urged members to be thinking about helping in our annual Flea Market participation and fund raiser. The new fee for 1997 is \$1000.00 and spaces are priced at \$15.00 per space.

Vice-president Barbara, KE6QEI introduced the program which was presented by Red Cross Disaster Action Team leader Dave Stone, KF6HJL and team members Wally, KA6YMD and Barbara. They spoke about participating in some local area disaster activities as members of this team and explained the ways amateur radio had assisted and permitted rescue and shelter work to be achieved.

Break at 8:33 PM.

Meetings resumed at 8:47 with a report from Barbara, KE6QEI on the possible use of Valley Villages as a meeting site. The site may be available pending acceptance by

management of Valley Village. It was noted that although the facility is quite suitable for our purposes, it is not available for Monday night meetings. Use of the Valley Village would require a membership vote to change meeting nights to Wednesday nights or some other night that does not interfere with the majority of membership activities. It was agreed that this is a major issue that we should fully discuss and think out before we take action. It was also agreed that we should continue the pursuit of this site or some other suitable site due to the amount of money we currently spend for a meeting site at United Way. The issue was tabled.

Treasurer Lloyd, KD6FJI reported that checking, savings and repeater funds totaled \$15,469.48.

Repeater chair Wally, KA6YMD reported that he had made repairs to restore the 2 meter repeater phone patch.

There was a discussion of the possible need for use of a PL on the repeater during emergency operation periods as some jamming has occurred during these times. Wally will investigate and advise if PL can be controlled remotely. This would enable the control operator to turn on PL during emergency operation periods.

Gary, WB6YRU solicited photographs for the newsletter

Barbara announced that the March 1997 meeting would be a dinner meeting held at the Country Harvest restaurant located at the corner of El Camino Real and Kiely in Santa Clara on Monday March 10, 1997.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:29 P.M.

Dan, WM6M  
SCCARA secretary

---

## Board Meeting, Feb. 17, 1996



*[Only part of these minutes were received by the deadline. They will appear in the next issue in their entirety. --Editor.]*

The board meeting was called to order by president Jack, AC6FU at 7:23 at Valley Villages conference room as arranged by Barbara, KD6QEI.

Attending were: Jack, AC6FU; Wally, KA6YMD; Barbara, KD6QEI; Lloyd, KD6FJI; Don, K6PBQ; Gary, WB6YRU; Lou, WA6QYS; Dan, WM6M; Clark, KE6KXO and Don, KK6NX.

Jack stated the clubs liability insurance had lapsed due to non-payment of fees. These fees were apparently not paid on Nov. 18, 1996 as we had thought. We will proceed immediately to apply to Wohlers Company for liability insurance coverage.

The minutes of the previous board meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Lloyd has spoken with Trish, WA6UBE concerning the telephone bill at her site for the club 2 meter repeater operations. Trish said that the bill is typically \$8.50 monthly. The board is willing to pay the phone line expenses as well as the electricity charges to operate the repeater at her location. The board stated that they need more precise information on the amount, and will, upon receipt of needed information take action to make payments.

Barbara, KD6QEI reported that the exact location of the Country Harvest restaurant, site of the March general meeting, is 2670 El Camino Real in Santa Clara at the corner of Kiely and El Camino.

Barbara, KD6QEI said that she is planning on having a Ladies' program for the May general meeting in the hope of having as many as possible lady members and guests participate. The club may provide corsages.

The June meeting will concern preparations for Field Day 1997. The club is seeking a chairperson for this annual event.

Dan, KK6MX said the situation of the probably move of the 2 meter repeater operation to the city vault still is in the decision process and still pending with city authorities. He hopes to have a report of action for the next meeting.

Gary, WB6YRU has a flat bed scanner and will utilize it to add photos or graphics to the newsletter. He also solicits any photos or articles for the newsletter.

Jack, AC6FU met with Scott Hensley regarding using the Red Cross radio room. The board expressed a solidary voice in wishing to move on this issue.

Don, KK6MX email address: APTEKK@aol.com

Gary, WA6YRU said the N0ARY BBS will move to one of  
*[unexpected end of file]*

---

## LEO's At It Again

From *The ARRL Letter*  
February 14, 1997

## Comments needed by March 4! ARRL opposes little LEO effort to include 219 to 225 MHz

Commercial satellite interests seeking access to bands below 1 GHz--including amateur allocations at 146 and 430 MHz--now have added 220 MHz to their "wish list." For the first time, Little LEO (low-earth orbiting satellite) interests have proposed including 219-225 MHz in their list of desired allocations for the non-voice, non-geostationary (NVNG) mobile-satellite service (MSS). The move was contained in the industry's so-called "flexible allocation proposal," delivered at the February 13, 1997, meeting of FCC Informal Working Group (IWG) 2A. Little LEO targets now include 146 to 148, 219 to 225 and 430 to 450 MHz. The ARRL and AMSAT were among those objecting to the concept, and the League is urging those who agree with their position to comment to the FCC by March 4. IWG-2A has been preparing draft proposals for the 1997 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-97). These will be reviewed during a March 5 meeting of the FCC's WRC-97 Industry Advisory Committee that is preparing draft proposals for consideration by the United States as it gets ready for WRC-97.

The ARRL and AMSAT statement said the latest proposal affecting amateur allocations in the 219 to 225 MHz segment came "at the last possible moment" and "without any technical support whatsoever." The League and AMSAT pointed out that the little LEO proponents have had more than a year to complete a technical study of the possibilities of sharing with the amateur services in the 144 to 148 MHz and 420 to 450 MHz bands. "They have not demonstrated compatibility for sharing these amateur bands but over the evolution of their document have proposed various 'new ideas' for use of these bands."

The little LEO flexible allocation strategy for WRC-97--submitted as IWG-2A/86 (Rev. 6)--is to propose broad allocations. The apparent theory is that most administrations would find reasons to oppose little LEO use of specific bands in the crowded spectrum below 1 GHz, but that a broad allocation would permit different implementations in different countries depending on local circumstances.

At the February 13 meeting, a coalition of spectrum interests--including land mobile, amateur, broadcasting, and military--opposed the flexible allocation concept on three grounds: that the concept is simply an invention to avoid performing technical sharing studies that would demonstrate the unfeasibility of sharing; that it is inconsistent with decades of ITU allocations practices; and that, if adopted, the concept would be counter to US interests. The coalition document is identified as IWG-2A/107.

The ARRL and AMSAT submitted a further statement of opposition, citing the absence of any technical studies that might support sharing with the amateur service or the

amateur-satellite service and pointing out that the little LEOs have completely mischaracterized the nature of ITU Resolution 640 regarding the use of certain amateur bands in the event of natural disasters. The ARRL/AMSAT paper, revised to reflect opposition to the late proposal to include 219-225 MHz, is identified as IWG-2A/108 (Rev. 1).

Amateurs also might find interesting the comments of the Department of Defense, identified as IWG-2A/101 (Rev. 1). These address the 430 to 450 MHz segment the Little LEOs seek to share.

Anyone wishing to register support for the ARRL/AMSAT submission should send a brief e-mail message to [wrc97@fcc.gov](mailto:wrc97@fcc.gov). The Subject line should say "Reference No. ISP-96-005 IWG-2A." A simple statement to this effect, "I support the ARRL/AMSAT opposition to the NVNG MSS flexible allocation proposal," will be included in the public record and will help to drive home the point that there is broad-based opposition to poorly conceived sharing proposals.

Please note! The proposals the League opposes are not FCC proposals, nor are they endorsed by any other branch of the government. They are industry proposals. The League's objective is to demonstrate there is broad citizen opposition to the industry proposals, so the government will not adopt them as US proposals. So, please don't "flame" the FCC if you comment.

Additional arguments or evidence also is welcome. Important! Comments should reach the FCC no later than March 4, 1997!

The complete ARRL/AMSAT opposition statement and other comments will be posted by February 15 on the ARRL Web page, <http://www.arrrl.org/> under Band Threat News.

---

## Flea Market

The Foothill Electronic Flea Market is starting up again. Here is the line up of sponsoring organizations for 1997:

March West Valley A. R. A. (WVARA)  
April Palo Alto Red Cross  
May Palo Alto A. R. A. (PAARA)  
June San Jose Red Cross  
July Santa Clara County A. R. A. (SCCARA)  
August Southern Peninsula Emergency Com. Sys.  
Sept. Electronic Museum A. R. C.  
Oct. Silicon Valley Emergency Com. Sys.

The flea markets are held on the second Saturday of each month from March through October. SCCARA's date of

July 12 is ideal from a weather standpoint, hopefully no rain. Mark your calendars and let me know you will be able to help make this the best SCCARA flea market ever.

Thanks, WA6QYS Lou

*Please note--starting this year, they have extended the flea market into October instead of ending with September. --Editor.*

---

## NiCd care & charging

From the ARNS newsletter:

You can quick-charge any nickel-cadmium battery (one-hour charging rate), but batteries differ greatly in their ability to withstand overcharging. This is a short review of NiCd battery behavior.

NiCd batteries take charging current easily--too easily for their own good! That's why constant-current, rather than constant-voltage, charging is best; it prevents them from taking so much current they self destruct (or burn out the charger).

### Construction

The positive electrode material is nickelic hydroxide (Ni+3 or Ni+4) when the battery is charged and nickelous hydroxide (Ni+2) when discharged. The negative plate is pure cadmium when charged and cadmium hydroxide when discharged.

So long as uncharged material remains on the electrodes (i.e. nickelous hydroxide on the plus and cadmium hydroxide on the negative electrode), charging current produces the desired result, but after the cell reaches capacity, the charging energy can no longer go into charging. It must do something, so it splits water in the electrolyte into hydrogen and oxygen--which is bad news, mixed hydrogen and oxygen being explosive.

To avoid that risk, battery manufacturers make the negative plate area larger than the positive electrode. That way the positive plate reaches full charge first and generates oxygen gas. That oxygen diffuses to the negative plate (via the "separator") and chemically "reduces" it, forming cadmium hydroxide. The cadmium hydroxide prevents the negative plate from reaching full charge, so it never produces hydrogen. So you can keep charging the cell ad nauseam.

### Overcharging

Oxygen can only diffuse through the separator so fast. If you supply too much current to an already-charged cell, pressure builds up from the accumulating oxygen. Even worse, if the amount of oxygen reaching the negative plate is insufficient, too little cadmium hydroxide is produced. Some of the current converts "excess" cadmium hydroxide to cadmium, releasing hydrogen again. At some point, the cell "vents," losing water, and damaging the cell.

### Fast-charge cells

Battery manufacturers try to prevent their cells from dying. New fast-charge cells contain activated carbon to act as an oxygen sponge. That reduces pressure buildup and enhances oxygen diffusion. But the carbon takes space, so fast-charge cells have less active material. That is why their amp-hour capacity is lower.

Overcharging also creates heat. NiCd cells remain cool during normal and even high-current charging. But if the full charging current continues after they reach their capacity, they heat up. If batteries run hot during charging, it's a sure sign of overcharging, usually because of a faulty charger cut-off mechanism.

### High-capacity cells

To increase capacity (amp-hours), manufacturers are using foam electrodes. Sure enough, that improves capacity by twenty percent over standard sintered-plate types, but the price is higher internal electrical resistance. So they don't perform well in high-drain applications, like transmitting. I believe the Millennium cells are of this type, as are the Panasonic 900 mA-hr and Sanyo 950 mA-hr AA cells.

So for high-current performance, stick with sintered-plate cells. The capacity champ in this category is the Sanyo KR-800 AA cell, at 800 mA-hr.

Also avoid "high-temperature" cells, unless you really need high-temperature performance. The NaOH electrolyte has higher resistance, so high-drain performance is poor.

### "Memory effect"

Whenever NiCd batteries don't perform up to snuff, people cite "memory effect." Does it really exist? Yes. Is it easy to reproduce? No. Memory effect was first noticed in spacecraft batteries subjected to repeated charge-discharge cycles over a fixed percentage of cell capacity. After many cycles, the battery failed to provide full capacity. "Memory" was attributed to changes in electrode structure. Under moderate charging currents, cadmium deposits in tiny crystal grains. Over time the grains coalesce to form larger crystals. Larger crystals make the cadmium less soluble. The result is increased resistance. The trick is to avoid very slow charging. But eventually, even under the best conditions, every NiCd cell becomes useless because its resistance is too high.

That does not mean you should cycle your battery each time you use it. That does more harm than good, because it risks destruction by reversing cells.

### Rejuvenation

When a NiCd battery's resistance grows too high, you have two choices: replace or rejuvenate. To rejuvenate a battery pack, run it down to its ninety-percent-discharged point (until its cells reach 1.0 volt under light or no load). Then recharge at its full-rated charging current; that's it.

### False memory

The most common "memory effect" isn't a memory effect at all. It's just voltage depression caused by overcharging. Overcharging changes the composition of the

nickelic hydroxide from beta-nickelic hydroxide to gamma-nickelic hydroxide. The electrochemical potential of the gamma form is 40 to 50 millivolts less than the beta, resulting in lower cell voltage by the same amount. In a 7.2-volt (six-cell) pack, that loss is 0.3 volts.

Leaving cells on a trickle charger encourages formation of the gamma form of NiOH. So don't trickle charge for long periods.

By "Ken from Internet," via the July 1994 Birmingham (Ala.) Amateur Radio Club newsletter, "The BirmingHAM."

---

## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the packet network:

-----  
Date: 1 Feb 97 02:07

From: N5LYG@F6CNB

To: QST@ARRL

Subject: ARLB005 ARRL members asked to comment  
-----

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT January 31, 1997  
To all radio amateurs

ARRL members are being invited to add their ideas, comments and recommendations to those of the ARRL WRC-99 Planning Committee, which has suggested sweeping--and potentially controversial--changes to the Amateur Radio licensing structure in the US. On the table for open discussion and debate are proposals that include:

- Elimination of the Novice license
- Creation of a new Intermediate license to replace the Technician Plus
- Greater hf privileges for intermediate licensees than for the existing technician plus, including phone on 160, 75 and 15 meters
- 10-wpm General CW test (with more stringent testing standards for all CW exams)
- expanded phone privileges for General-class and higher licensees

Details of the plan, discussed during the recent ARRL Board of Directors meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, will appear in March QST. The Board says it seeks comments from members to ensure that before any plan goes forward, it enjoys broad support from the amateur community. The Board will not act on the issue at least until its July meeting.

After its research revealed that as many as three Novices in four are inactive, the committee concluded that the Novice license is no longer useful. Although the

committee would end the Novice license, its plan provides current Novices with an easy means to upgrade (via an open-book test) to the new Intermediate class license, which would replace the current Technician Plus. All present Tech Plus licensees would become Intermediate licensees. The Basic license would supplant the Technician license--now the hobby's most-popular entry-level ticket--with no changes in privileges. In addition, the committee's plan would phase out the current Novice and Tech Plus bands on 80, 40 and 15 meters, and replace them with new Intermediate-class allocations. The committee's consensus plan for Intermediate-class licensees calls for new CW bands on 80, 40 and 15 meters starting 25 kHz up from the lower band edge, digital and phone-band privileges on 75 and 15 meters and a 50-kHz phone or CW segment at the top end of 160 meters, plus expanded Novice and Tech Plus CW and phone allocations on 10 meters.

According to the proposal, Intermediate CW bands would be 3525 to 3700 kHz, 7025 to 7050 kHz, 21025 to 21150 kHz and 28050 to 28300 kHz. Digital operation was suggested for 3600 to 3625, 21100 to 21125 and 28100 to 28189 kHz. Phone privileges would include 1950 to 2000, 3900 to 4000, 21350 to 21450, SSB from 28300 to 28500 and FM from 29500 to 29700 kHz. Transmitter power for Intermediate-class licensees would be limited to 200 W PEP output (other licensees using these bands would not be limited to 200 W, however).

General-class and higher amateurs also would benefit from the plan, if it's adopted according to the committee's outlines. General-class hams would get additional phone privileges 3800 to 3850, 7200 to 7225, and 21250 to 21300 kHz; Advanced-class hams would add 3725 to 3775, 7125 to 7150 and 21175 to 21225 kHz; Extra-class hams would also have 3700 to 3750, 7125 to 7150 and 21150 to 21200 kHz.

With the exception of 40 meters, where Novice and Tech Plus licensees already have privileges, the committee suggested no changes on the hobby's narrowest and most crowded bands--including 20 meters and the narrow WARC bands at 30, 17 and 12 meters.

The Intermediate CW test would be 5 words per minute (the same as the current Tech Plus requirement), but the committee proposed that the General class CW requirement be set at 10 wpm. There still would be no additional CW exam for the Advanced ticket, nor would there be any change in the 20-wpm requirement for the Extra. Exams for all classes would include a return to a sending test and the requirement for one minute of solid copy during a five-minute test--instead of the current method that tests on the content of the CW text.

Right now, these major changes are only in the talking stage. "Let us be very clear about this," said ARRL

Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, who characterized the committee's proposals as a starting point for discussion, not a done deal. "The changes are not ARRL policy; nothing has been proposed to, or by, the FCC, and the ARRL Board is committed to making no decision before its July 1997 meeting." Sumner said there is no timetable to complete the process. Only after there is an opportunity for in-depth consideration and discussion by the membership will the ARRL Board consider taking the next step--to approach the FCC with a rulemaking proposal--a process that automatically invites additional comments and suggestions.

Between the time they receive March QST and the end of May, members are asked to voice their opinions on the committee's suggestions to their directors, whose postal and e-mail addresses are listed on page 10 of QST. All suggestions and comments--positive and negative--are welcome.

---

## Need Help?

Amateurs have a long history of helping each other. An experienced amateur who helps another is traditionally called an "Elmer." If you have a question or problem, you are encouraged to ask one of SCCARA's Elmers. Below is a list of topics including who to contact for each.

If you consider yourself to be reasonably competent in at least one area of amateur radio and would be willing help others, please ask the club secretary for an Elmer survey form and fill it out.

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners:  
WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ, K6RQ, WB6YRU  
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU  
Station set-up, equipment: AC6FU, K6PBQ, K6RQ  
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU  
Homebrew projects, construction: AC6FU, KD6FJI, WB6YRU  
Computers: KB6NP; IBM PC: WN6U, WB6YRU  
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU  
Other digital modes (AMTOR, RTTY): WN6U  
Code operating and installations:  
WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ, K6RQ  
Contesting & techniques: K6RQ  
DX (long distance/propagation): WB6MER, K6RQ  
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS  
FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters): WA6VJY  
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW):  
WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ, K6RQ  
Mobile operating: K6RQ, WN6U  
NTS & traffic handling:  
QRP (HF low power, all modes): WN6U  
TEN-TEN (10 M only): AC6FU  
Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW, AC6FU  
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU  
SCCARA (club inner workings):  
K06HH, K6PBQ, WA6VJY, WB6YRU, WA6QYS  
Math applications: AC6FU  
Children's Discovery Museum, volunteer operator: K6PBQ

W6ACW, Ed Hajny, (408) 739-6105

WB6EMR, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,  
day: (408) 995-0621, evening & msg: (408) 945-1202

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns,  
day: (408) 299-8933, evening: (408) 225-6769  
packet: home BBS KB6MER

AC6FU, Jack L. Ruckman, (408) 379-4846

K06HH, Don Hayden, (408) 867-4643  
packet: home BBS NOARY

KB6NP, Jon Dutra, day & msg (408) 428-2058  
evening (408) 867-8654  
packet: home BBS NOARY  
internet: jad@aol.com

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999  
packet: home BBS NOARY

K6RQ, Frank Glass, (408) 356-1026

WN6U, Doug Eaton, (408) 377-3736  
packet: home BBS NOARY  
internet: wn6u@compuserve.com

WA6VJY, Stan Getsla, day: (408) 738-2888 x5929,  
evening & msg: (408) 275-0735

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, msg (408) 265-2336  
also (408) 269-2924  
packet: home BBS NOARY  
internet: wb6yru@arasmith.com

---

## Newsletter Notes

Here's a bit of good news: I just purchased a flat-bed scanner and can now print photos directly into the newsletter instead of pasting them on the finished copy and *hope* it makes it through the copier. The only catch is that my printer is an older HP IIP LaserJet, 300 dot-per-inch machine. In order to get the performance really needed, a 600 dot-per-inch printer is necessary.

We used to have our photos turned into half-tones and then paste those in the newsletter. Then we started using a copy machine with a half-tone photo mask mode built in, which did almost as well.

The original half-tone dot pitch was 85; this gave about the best result possible on a photocopier. My printer can't do that well, so the photos will be slightly lower resolution.

If you're not satisfied with the result, don't be afraid to give a negative comment. All we need now is for people to submit articles with photos!

73; Gary WB6YRU, editor

# ARRL Pacific Division Update

March 1997

## W6JZU Wins ARRL Award

I had the pleasure of making the following motion at the January 1997 ARRL Board meeting, which read in part: the ARRL Board of Directors "...hereby confers upon Dr. Robert C. Smithwick, W6JZU, and Mr. Ken Kirk-Bayley, GJ0KKB, co-founders of MediShare International, the ARRL International Humanitarian Award for 1996..."

The story of MediShare International and these two men is well-told starting on page 41 in the February 1997 QST.

Smitty is an Assistant Director and Past Vice Director of the Pacific Division. Congratulations, Smitty and Ken, for a fantastic effort!

## Avalanche of New Antenna Ordinances

There is a huge new wave of antenna ordinances being proposed by cities and counties. These ordinances are being driven by the spectrum purchases and by new and expanding Cellular and Personal Communications Services licenses.

All of us need to be aware of this trend. When you first sense any of this action in your community, contact your Section Manager, the ARRL Regulatory Information Branch, and me immediately so that we can get help to you and the rest of the hams in your community. The key to a successful defense is to separate the commercial interests from Amateur Radio in the minds of the city officials. It's vitally important that your city or county officials understand Amateur Radio involvement with emergency communications - this story must be told repeatedly, especially before the antenna ordinance crisis develops!

Just two examples of ARRL Volunteer Counsel (VC) action in this arena - Lee Dibble, KE6EAQ, VC in Santa Rosa, has been waging a successful battle for the hams in Sonoma Co. and its cities. Phil Kane, K2ASP, Division VC Coordinator in Redwood City, has been engaged in Millbrae, Hayward, and other areas.

## ARRL WRC-99 Report; Licensing Plan

The ARRL WRC-99 Committee Report has now been released. The full report is available on the ARRL Web site. A full discussion will appear in March QST at page 55.

The report is based in part on an analysis of the recent ARRL survey, as reported on page 54 of February QST. One of the results that is receiving a great deal of

attention is that most amateurs want to retain some form of code requirement for access to the HF bands. From ballots received for the Pacific Division, it is clear that we are very consistent with the nationwide results. Thanks to all in the Division who completed and returned the QST questionnaires.

Also appearing in the report is a proposal, still in the talking stages, for a new licensing structure for US hams. Remember, this is only a proposal. Please read this proposal and offer your comments to ARRL and to me.

## Thanks for Work During the Floods!

To all in the Division who helped during the floods, thanks! There are many great stories. Please get these reports to your Section Managers and to ARRL HQ (Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY at [n1tdy@arrl.org](mailto:n1tdy@arrl.org)).

## Pause in Issuance of Vanity Calls

Gate 2 for Extra Class licensees opened on Sept. 23, 1996, as has been reported previously. Gate 2 opened with a roar, with approximately 4,500 calls issued on Nov. 5, 1996, and many more in the days following. Then, on Dec. 19, 1996, FCC called a halt to the program, as they began to work off a large backlog of "problem" applications. There is no word as to when the program will resume. ARRL has established a one-stop vanity call sign page at <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/vanity.html>.

## Five Bands Under Active Challenge

### 2m/70cm Band Threats

The Little LEO folks have changed their strategy at 2 meters. They no longer appear to be studying the entire band from 144 to 148 MHz, but rather are now focusing on 146 to 148 MHz. This is because 144 to 146 MHz is an exclusive amateur allocation worldwide, while 146 to 148 MHz is not.

Meetings are held on a regular basis by the U.S. State Department, the FCC, and other governmental agencies, discussing the Little LEO proposals as well as a host of other matters. The purpose of the meetings is to establish formal U.S. policy on matters of this sort. The ARRL participates in these meetings, representing the interests of the amateur radio community. It now seems possible that the U.S. delegation position for WRC-97 may NOT include support for Little LEO access to these bands, but the threat could come from somewhere else. For more information, see the K1ZZ editorial on p. 9, Feb. QST; ARRL Letter, Vol. 16, No. 6, Feb. 7, 1997.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued a statement supporting the hams' continued use of the 2 meter and 70 cm bands. However, another challenger has appeared: NASA/JPL and other space

agencies are looking at the 70 cm band for a satellite-carried synthetic aperture radar system (see page 72 of January QST).

### 1296 MHz Band Threat

Nothing new to report since the February 1997 Pacific Division Update.

### 2300-2310 MHz Band Threat

The ARRL petition to keep our secondary status at 2305-2310 MHz and asking for primary at 2300-2305 MHz is still awaiting action by FCC. There seems to be a real chance that this just might work. See Jan. QST, p. 16; Feb. QST, p. 16 and the ARRL WWW site.

### 5800 MHz Band Threat -- New Sharing Services

The new sharing service described in the Pacific Division Update for February 1997 has not changed, so it appears this new plan for the unlicensed devices called a U-NII device (Unlicensed NII) will stand.

This additional sharing service comes as a result of NPRM ET Docket 96-102, based on petitions from Apple Computer and WINForum. The petitions asked for access to the 5725-5875 MHz band for the NII/SUPERNET proposal for free spectrum. They proposed to use the spectrum for very high data rate LANs and other services for schools, libraries, and hospitals. ARRL and many other commenters opposed this NPRM. There may yet be petitions for reconsideration filed.

For the latest news on this volatile issue, read QST, Pacific Division Update in hard copy. Read ARRL Letter, Pacific Division Update on e-mail; visit Pacific Division WWW site. Visit the ARRL home page at <http://www.arrl.org/> and select "Band Threat News."

Unfortunately, the future of these threats is uncertain. We won't be able to breathe easily about WRC-97 issues until the final gavel comes down on Nov. 21, 1997.

### Pacific Division WWW Site Revitalized

Through the efforts of webmaster Randy Foutch, KE6HCI, the Pacific Division Web Page has been revitalized. See - <http://www.pdarrrl.org/>.

### Awards and Scholarships

There are many awards and scholarships covering a wide range of situations available to licensed Amateurs. For example, the ARRL awards include the International Humanitarian; the Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year; Professional Educator of the Year; Professional Instructor of the Year; Excellence in Recruiting; Phil McGan Memorial Silver Antenna; Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial; Field

Organization Volunteer of the Year. Contact the Field Services Dept. at ARRL HQ for details.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. plans to administer sixty college scholarships for the academic year 1997-98 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1997 from: FAR Scholarships, 6903 Rhode Island Ave, College Park, MD 20740.

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association is now accepting applications for its 1997 college scholarships. Amateur Radio licensees graduating high school in 1997 are eligible for \$2000 scholarships. Interested students should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for an application to DARA Scholarships, 45 Cinnamon Crt, Springboro OH 45066.

### Coming Events

- Livermore Swap Meet - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, CA, 7:00 AM to noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from west, 145.35 from the east. Contact Noel Anklam, KC6QZK, (510) 447-3857 eves.
- The Kings ARC Hams and Hackers Swap Meet will be held starting at 9:00 AM at the Hanford Fraternal Hall in Hanford on Saturday, March 15. Contact Rick, WB6VFZ at (209) 945-2266 or 583-9377. Talk in 145.11, 147.33, 224.44, 441.900.
- Foothill Flea Market - 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from March to October at Foothill College, Los Altos CA.
- The 1997 International DX Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn, Centre Plaza, 233 Ventura St, Fresno CA 93271, (209) 268-1000, April 4-6, 1997. Contact Gordon Girton, W6NW, PO Box 60307, Sunnyvale CA 94088-0307 or [gordon@sypal.org](mailto:gordon@sypal.org) for details. Pre-reg. prior to Mar. 3 is \$60 including Saturday evening banquet; after Mar. 3 - \$65.
- The Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club, WB6DWY, is holding its annual ARRL Hamfest Saturday, April 26, 1997, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Sonoma Development Center, 15000 Arnold Dr., Glen Ellen, CA. Talk-in will be on 145.35-, PL 88.5. For more information call Darrel, WD6BOR, at 707-996-4494.

Brad Wyatt, K6WR  
Director, ARRL Pacific Division

18400 Overlook Rd. #5  
Los Gatos CA 95030-5850  
(408) 395-2501 (voice & fax)

Packet: K6WR @ N0ARY.#NCA.CA.USA.NOAM  
Internet: [k6wr@arrl.org](mailto:k6wr@arrl.org)  
Pacific Division WWW Home Page <http://www.pdarrrl.org/>



# S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 1997

(Fill in name and address if there is no mailing label below; make corrections if the label is incorrect)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: E A G T+ T N

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Licensed since (yr): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  New Member  I'm also an  
 Renewal  ARRL member

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Packet: \_\_\_\_\_

For family memberships (at the same address), please list other name(s) and call(s):

Annual membership dues are payable at the first of the year and expire the following December 31. New members joining on or after July 1, pay half the membership dues.

Annual Membership dues:  Individual \$15  Family \$20  Student (under 18) \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

I want \_\_\_\_\_ SCCARA badges @ \$3 ea. Badge name & call: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send the repeater Auto-Dial/Auto-Patch codes (no charge, circle): ..... Yes  
WE MUST BE ABLE TO VERIFY YOUR AMATEUR LICENSE  
BEFORE ANY REPEATER CODES WILL BE SENT TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below:

== PLEASE DO NOT TEAR/CUT ==

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

PO BOX 6  
San Jose CA 95103-0006

NONPROFIT ORG. US POSTAGE PAID SAN JOSE CA PERMIT NO 3318
---

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

**FORWARD & ADDRESS CORRECTION**