

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 14, Number 10

October 1998



Repeater Report

Well, this isn't exactly about the repeater, but it's a repeater committee activity... Remember talk about SCCARA hosting the N0ARY BBS? Well, it's finally starting to happen! Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19 & 20, was spent by Wally KA6YMD and myself working on the move. The location is the Alexian Brothers hospital--it's the current location of our 440 repeater.

Unfortunately, there isn't room for another cabinet (see photo) and the only other larger cabinet available isn't quite deep enough to hold a Sun workstation. So, we had to improvise! The 440 cabinet was placed on the BBS cabinet and the two are bolted together. Also, there is bracing to the wall rail at the top. Despite its precarious look, it's fairly solid--once the bottom brace is finished, we expect the building will come down before this stack tips over.

We installed a new tri-band antenna for the BBS, but we still need to do some coax work. We have an uninterruptable power source (UPS) for the computer and rigs. The main power comes from the Hospital's supply which is backed up by a generator. The generator can take some time to kick in--long enough to be a problem for the computer, hence the need for the UPS. Also, two phone lines have just been installed.

Once finished, the BBS will continue to have its user ports at 2 M and 70 cm, and two forwarding ports at 1.25 M and 13 cm (new). The BBS will also continue to have internet and telephone ports.

Currently the BBS itself is still running at the original location, but only with the internet and telephone ports, the RF ports are inactive. The plan is to complete the move in the next week or two (except possibly for the 13 cm port).

Bob Arasmith N0ARY is contributing the workstation with BBS, rigs, cabinet, power supply, and the internet port. SCCARA is contributing the phone lines with modems, antenna, UPS, shared location with the repeater, and anything else that might be needed (now or later).

Calendar

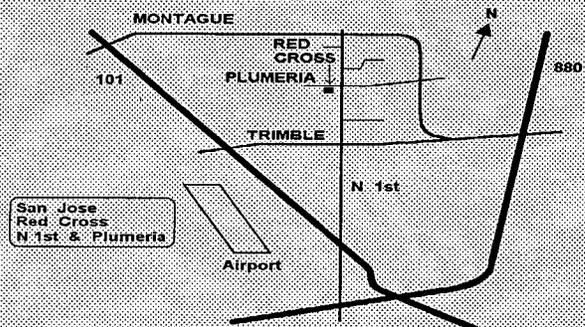
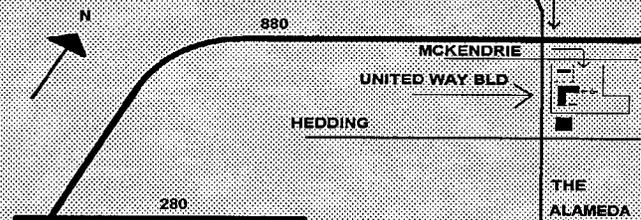
- 10/10 Foothill Flea Market
- 10/12 SCCARA General Meeting--Dinner!
- 10/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:00p, all are welcome)
- 11/9 SCCARA General Meeting--elections!

Next General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, October 12, 1998
- Time: 6:30 PM, (start eating at 7)
- Place: United Way Building
- Agenda: Lasagna dinner meeting, \$5 per person at the door. Square Dance Demo.

United Way Building 1922 The Alameda

From 880 in San Jose, take the Alameda turn-off South, left on McKendrie, then right into the parking lot (far end).



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 is W6UW.

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, KD6QEI	293-3847
Secretary		
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
Field Day	Dan Dietz, WM6M	458-3460

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). Coordinator: Don K6PBQ.

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

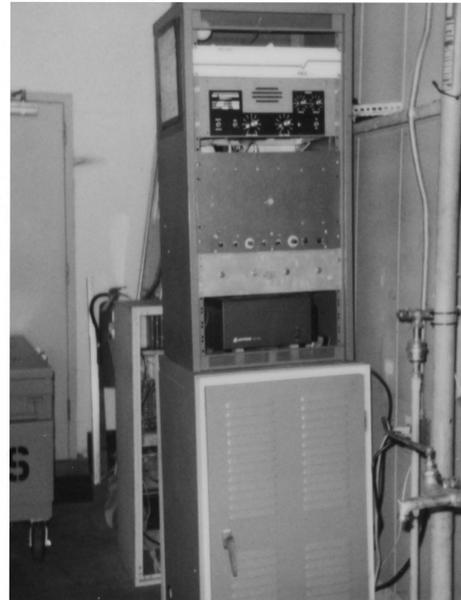
Visitors welcome to join in on the SCCARA nets.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

If anyone is interested in the BBS move/installation, the BBS itself, or whatever, please contact Wally KA6YMD or myself. Now that we have closer control over a packet BBS, it's a great opportunity for anyone interested in the packet world.

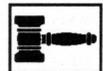
Gary, WB6YRU



This is the Alexian Brothers site, (inside the equipment shack on the roof). The 440 repeater, W6UU, is in the cabinet on top, the BBS is in the lower cabinet. (The cabinet in back is a pager.) The angle bracket bracing is visible at the right of the repeater cabinet. It's bolted to a metal rail (part of the structure) and both cabinets are bolted together.

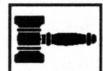
Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Sept. 14, 1998



{no minutes were received by the deadline. --Ed.}

Board Meeting, Sept. 21, 1998



{no minutes were received by the deadline. --Ed.}

December Meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting this year will be a luncheon instead of a dinner. It will be held on Saturday December 12 at the Hungry Hunter in Milpitas, Calaveras Blvd, near Hwy 680, (old yellow house location). Lunch is at 12 noon. Please note that on Saturday there isn't a regular bar, but you will be able to order a bottle of wine for the table.

Reservations need to be in by Friday Dec. 4 (see inside of back cover for sign up sheet). Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU, 146.385(+). Why not renew your membership at the same time (back cover)?

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

73, Don K6PBQ

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
Date: 20 Sep 98 00:34

From: AB7RG@K5LRS

To: FARCE@USA

Subject: MORE HUMAN STUPIDITY!

These are true accounts!

My friend called his car insurance company to tell them to change his address from Texas to Vermont. The woman who took the call asked where Vermont was. As he tried to explain, she interrupted and said, "Look, I'm not stupid or anything but what state is it in?"

Several years ago we had an intern who was none too swift. One day he was typing and turned to a secretary and said, "I'm almost out of typing paper. What do I do?" "Just use copier machine paper" she told him. With that, the intern took his last remaining blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make five blank copies.

I was working on the help desk. One day one of the computer operators called me and asked if anything "bad" would happen if she dropped coins into the opening of her PC. I asked her if this was something she was thinking of doing. She said, "Never mind." And hung up. So I got out my trusty tool kit and paid her a visit. I opened her CPU case and sure enough -- there was 40 cents.

This person had a broken lamp which he wanted to

discard. Unfortunately, the power cord ran under his refrigerator, making it impossible to move the lamp while the cord was attached. He decided to cut the cord, since the lamp was unusable anyway. He didn't remember to unplug it first. I found him in the hallway rolling back and forth.

I was in a car dealership a while ago when a large motor home was towed into the garage. The front of the vehicle was in dire need of repair and the whole thing generally looked like an extra in the movie "Twister". I asked the manager what had happened. He told me that the driver had set the cruise control, then went back to make a sandwich.

I worked with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and for the life of her could not understand why her system would not turn on.

1st Person: "Do you know anything about this fax-machine?"

2nd Person: "A little. What's wrong?"

1st Person: "Well, I sent a fax, and the recipient called back to say all she received was a cover-sheet and a blank page. I tried again, and the same thing happened."

2nd Person: "How did you load the sheet?"

1st Person: "It's a pretty sensitive memo and I didn't want anyone else to read it by accident, so I folded it so only the recipient would open it and read it."

I recently saw a distraught young lady weeping beside her car. "Do you need some help?" I asked. She replied, "I knew I should have replaced the battery in this remote door un-locker. Now I can't get into my car. Do you think they (pointing to a distant convenience store), would have a battery for this?" "Hmm, I don't know. Do you have an alarm too?" I asked. "No, just this remote thingy." She answered, handing it and the car keys to me. As I took the key and manually unlocked the door, I replied, "Why don't you drive over there and check about the batteries, it's a long walk."

Tech Support: "What does the screen say now?" Person: "It says, 'Hit ENTER when ready'." Tech Support: "Well?" Person: "How do I know when it's ready?"

I called a company and asked to speak to Bob. The person who answered said, "Bob is on vacation. Would you like to hold?"

Here's the set up: I rented a movie from Blockbuster. Before the movie begins a message comes on the screen saying, "This movie has been altered to fit your television screen." Comment from person: "How do they know what size screen I have?"

73 & May the FARCE be with you! Clinton, AB7RG.
AB7RG @ K5LRS.#NWAR.AR.USA.NOAM

ARRL Pacific Division Update

October 1998

License Restructuring Proposals

In the last six weeks, two major US Amateur Radio License Restructuring proposals have been announced - one, the most recent, by the FCC and an earlier one by the ARRL. Because of the current complex US license structure and these announcements, it is probably inevitable that there will be a major restructuring. It is now YOUR turn to express your views about the future of Amateur Radio licensing and related topics in the US!

FCC Proposal

As part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress mandated a "Biennial Review," -- "aimed at simplifying, eliminating or modifying regulations that are overly burdensome or no longer serve the public interest." Reviews are to be carried out for all services regulated by the FCC. The Biennial Review process for the Amateur Radio Service resulted in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), WT Docket 98-143, made public August 10, 1998. The FCC, in the NPRM, has proposed to phase out the Novice and Technician Plus class licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes, Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Commission also has asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no specific changes. They also asked for comments on the written examinations and on how to improve enforcement of rules. Comments on the NPRM are solicited by the FCC and are due no later than Dec. 1 of this year. This is an unusually long comment period for a NPRM. Also unusual is that comments will be accepted via the World Wide Web, or via email, as well as by the conventional hard copy comments by normal US mail. The long comment period, as well as the flexibility in the method that may be used to comment, provides a unique opportunity for ALL amateurs to give their opinions on a wide range of topics vital to the future of Amateur Radio.

In proposing to phase out the Novice and Tech Plus tickets, the FCC said "there appears to be an unnecessary overlap between the Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus license classes." The FCC also said that Technician and Tech Plus operators "predominantly" use FM and packet on VHF and UHF. In addition, the FCC said Novice applicants last year numbered fewer than 1000, while there were nearly 21,500 Technician applications.

Under the FCC plan, Novice and Tech Plus licensees

would retain current operating privileges, but no new Novice or Tech Plus licenses would be granted. For examination purposes, current examination Elements 2 and 3A would be combined into a new Element 3A. For administrative purposes, the FCC would combine the current Technician and Tech Plus databases into a single Technician database.

The FCC did not propose to change any operating frequencies or license privileges for amateurs. However, the FCC does seek comment on the disposition of the current Novice HF bands, which carry a 200 W output power limit for all licensees. The FCC invited comment on whether it would be "appropriate" to delete the Novice bands and the power restrictions on higher-class licensees and permit Novices to operate CW anywhere on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters at 200 W output.

The Commission asked for comments on Morse code testing from the amateur community. In particular, the Commission said it wants to know if hams prefer the current three-level system or would like to see it reduced to a one or two-tier system--and, if so, at what required speeds. The FCC asked whether hams would be willing to trade a reduction in Morse code requirements for additional written elements on newer digital technologies "which, in part, are replacing the Morse code." And, the Commission asked whether it should consider specifying Morse code examination methods, such as fill-in-the-blank or one minute of solid copy, instead of allowing VEs to determine the testing method.

The FCC also invited comments on whether it should change written examination requirements "to provide VEs and VECs additional flexibility in determining the specific contents of written examinations."

Referring to ARRL petition, RM-9150, the FCC invited comments on how it can improve its Amateur Radio enforcement processes. The FCC applauded the ARRL "for its creative thinking" in that petition, but said the specific proposal was "inconsistent" with the current statutory role of administrative law judges. The FCC raised the possibility of encouraging complainants to include a draft order "to show cause to initiate a revocation or cease and desist hearing proceeding." The FCC said it also wants to hear how it can better use the services of the Amateur Auxiliary in beefing up enforcement.

The FCC also seeks comments on how to deal with potential abuses of the current disability waiver for higher-speed Morse code tests. In RM-9196, the ARRL had asked the FCC to require anyone applying for an exemption pursuant to a doctor's certification to first attempt the higher-speed test before examination credit could be given. The League also asked that VECs have access to relevant medical information from the certifying physician. The FCC said the ARRL's proposal would place "an unfair burden on examinees" and raised serious privacy and confidentiality issues.

In other matters the FCC went along with another ARRL petition and proposed allowing Advanced class hams to be eligible to prepare and administer license examinations up through General class under the VE program. The FCC

also proposed to phase out Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations by not renewing their licenses. The FCC also took the occasion to clarify the definition of "power" as used in the RF exposure table in Section 97.13(c)(1). The FCC said it refers to peak envelope power (PEP) input to the antenna. It also made clear that no one holding an FCC-issued ham ticket may apply for a reciprocal permit to operate in the US if the individual also holds for a foreign amateur license.

Significantly, the FCC set a longer-than-normal comment period. The deadline for comments is December 1, 1998. The deadline for reply comments is January 15, 1999. The FCC is encouraging electronic comments via the WWW at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>; by email at ecfs@fcc.gov. For instructions on how to file using the ecfs address, send an email to ecfs with the words "Get form <your email address>" in the body of the message. Of course, written comments prepared in the traditional way and sent by US mail will also be accepted.

A copy of the complete NPRM has been posted on the ARRL Web page, <http://www.arrl.org>, and at the Pacific Division web page at <http://www.pdarrl.org>. The FCC NPRM can also be downloaded from the FCC Web site in Word Perfect 5.1 and text versions at <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.wp> and <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.txt> respectively.

October QST carries the full story starting on page 56 plus an excellent editorial on this matter on page 9. Please read both articles.

Latest Developments on the FCC NPRM

In a mid September announcement, the FCC issued some corrections and clarifications to the NPRM. The Errata document (available on the ARRL Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/98-143/Errata.htm> and on the FCC WWW site) addresses most of the questions and confusion raised by the original announcement.

The FCC said the corrections were issued "to conform the proposed rules to the proposals discussed in the text of the Notice." The FCC noted that in some instances the NPRM included sections of rules they did not propose to change. These have been deleted, and only sections of the rules where changes have been proposed remain.

A major change from the original rulemaking proposal was to effectively reinstate the language in Section 97.505(a)(10)--the provisions for a physician's certification that an applicant is unable to pass a 13 or 20 WPM telegraphy examination. In the NPRM text, the FCC invited comment on this issue and on an earlier ARRL proposal, RM-9196. The ARRL had asked the FCC to require anyone applying for an exemption pursuant to a doctor's certification to first attempt the higher-speed test before getting exam credit.

The Errata also clarify the Commission's intention to

retain the current 365-day time limit for a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) to remain valid.

The FCC also has added the words "Element 1(A), 1(B) or 1(C)" to Section 97.301(e), referring to the 5, 13, and 20 WPM code examination elements, respectively. While this clarifies the need to at least have credit for the 5 WPM Morse code examination to gain Novice/Tech Plus HF privileges, neither the original NPRM nor the Errata list Element 1(A)--the 5 WPM code test--as a specific requirement for any license class. The FCC appears to be proposing to provide that a Technician licensee could gain HF privileges by passing a 5 WPM code test, but how this would actually be done in practice remains unclear. The FCC describes elsewhere in its proposed rules how applicants may claim credit for Element 1(A), however. A proposed change at Section 97.507(d) that would have substituted the words "no less than 5 WPM" has been dropped. The current wording says "no less than the prescribed speed."

The FCC also addressed apparently inadvertent rules changes in the NPRM to Section 97.305. Under the Errata, no changes are proposed. Language in the NPRM would have eliminated Extra class phone and image privileges in the 20 and 15-meter Extra class phone subbands and data privileges in the 20 and 15-meter Extra class CW subbands. In addition, the NPRM would have dropped data privileges from Novices and phone privileges for current Tech Plus operators on 10 meters. The FCC also eliminated all proposed changes to Section 97.307, including wording that seemingly would have limited Novice CW operation to "only messages sent by hand."

The FCC's Errata also indicate that the Commission intended to retain the current 200 W PEP power limit on the current Novice/Tech Plus HF bands (and on the 30 meter band and on 7.050-7.075 MHz within Region 1 or 3) in Section 97.313. The NPRM had proposed imposing the 200 W PEP power restriction on HF only when the control operator is a Novice.

The FCC also made it clear that someone holding a Technician class license granted before February 14, 1991, could get examination credit for written Element 3(A). The Errata also add Element 1(B), the 13 WPM code test, to the elements that may be prepared by an Advanced class Volunteer Examiner.

The Errata also correct several apparent typographical errors and make other relatively minor changes to the original NPRM.

The Errata fail to address another discrepancy in the NPRM that was raised by the ARRL. The NPRM gives an applicant who held a Technician license (expired or otherwise) granted before March 21, 1987, examination credit for written Element 3(B). But the proposed rules do not extend similar credit to an applicant who had held a General or higher class license, once the grace period is past. There will be an article dealing with the Errata in the Nov. QST.

Thanks to the ARRL Letter, ARRL Bulletins and other sources.

ARRL Proposal

The ARRL Board delivered a license restructuring plan to FCC on July 22 (see ARRL Bulletins and the Special Edition of the Pacific Division Update for July 30, 1998). In brief, the plan is targeted toward 4 classes of licenses by renaming the Technician Class as Class D; would "grandfather" Novice and Tech Plus into Class C (General); expand phone bands on 80, 40, 15 meters; set Class C (General) code speed at 5 wpm - and Class B (Advanced) and Class A (Amateur Extra) at 12 wpm. Written examinations would be broader in scope and more comprehensive. The Board members were adamant that simplifying the structure should not come at the expense of privileges already earned by any amateurs.

The following key documents are available on the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/>

1. The announcement and outline of the plan itself.
2. Board meeting minutes (see Minute 53 for the details of the motion adopting the plan).
3. ARRL letter of transmittal of the plan to FCC on July 22.
4. Frequently Asked Questions about the plan.

The full story of the ARRL Plan, "License Restructuring for the Future", appears on page 48 in the Sept. QST. An excellent editorial on "Restructuring" by Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL Executive Vice President, is on page 9 in the same issue. Please read both articles. Also, many local club newsletters are reporting on this proposal in their current issues.

Thanks to the ARRL Letter, ARRL Bulletins and other sources.

Now it is YOUR Turn

I believe that the new NPRM from the FCC provides a unique opportunity to express our views on the direction that Amateur Radio will take in the US in the years ahead. I urge all of you to write and send your constructive comments to the FCC at one of the addresses noted above. To be effective, you should not only include your suggestions for change (or no change) in your letter, but should also include the rationale behind your suggestions. If you wish, please also send a copy to me at k6wr@arrl.org or at the address on page 10 of any QST!

Question Pool Changes Put on Hold

Citing "almost certain and imminent restructuring of licensing," the Question Pool Committee (QPC)--the group that formulates the questions that show up on Amateur Radio examinations--has put further changes to the question pool on hold until restructuring issues are settled.

ARRL/VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the decision includes postponing the Advanced class question pool update, scheduled for revision and release this year for implementation next July 1. The Committee says

restructuring could cause anything from making a few rules questions unusable to "total deletion of one or more question pools or even combination of two or more of the present question pools into a differently configured question pool."

The decision to put further revisions to the question pool on hold had majority support of the National Conference of VECs. The QPC will postpone its current question pool review schedule "until the direction of such restructuring is more certain," QPC Chairman Ray Adams, W4CPA, said in a statement.

Thanks to the ARRL Letter and ARRL Bulletins.

FCC Adopts Universal Licensing System

The FCC has adopted a new electronic licensing process. As this article is being written on Sept. 18, the details are not available; however, the following is understood to be true concerning the Universal Licensing System (ULS) and the Amateur Radio Service based on the FCC press release and other sources.

On Sept. 17, the Commission adopted rules that consolidate, revise, and streamline its license application procedures for radio services licensed by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Wireless Bureau). Specifically, the Report and Order (R&O) adopts rule changes that will implement ULS, the integrated database and automated processing system developed by the Wireless Bureau to facilitate electronic filing of wireless applications, licensing information, and public access to such information for all wireless radio services. This rulemaking is also the first R&O that is part of the Commission's 1998 biennial review of regulations pursuant to Section 11 of the Communications Act.

ULS will fundamentally change the way the Commission receives and processes wireless applications. It will eliminate the need for wireless carriers to file duplicate applications, and increase the accuracy and reliability of licensing information. ULS will enable all wireless applicants and licensees for the first time to file all licensing-related applications and other filings electronically, thus increasing the speed and efficiency of the application process. The enhanced information collection capabilities of ULS will, in turn, enable the Commission staff to easily monitor spectrum use and competitive conditions in the wireless marketplace and will promote effective implementation of spectrum management policies. Finally, ULS will enhance the availability of licensing information to the public, which will for the first time have access to all wireless licensing data on-line, including maps showing licensing areas and service providers.

Specifically, the Commission took the following actions in the R&O:

- The Commission adopted the following four consolidated ULS application forms for wireless services replacing over 40 existing forms: Form 601 is the Long-Form or FCC Application for Wireless Telecommunication Bureau Radio

Service Authorization; Form 602 is the FCC Ownership Disclosure Information for the Wireless Telecommunications Services; Form 603 is the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Application for Assignment of Authorization or Transfer of Control; Form 605 is the Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services. The Commission will allow continued use of existing forms for a transition period of six months after the effective date of these rules.

- Electronic filing in ULS will be mandatory for applicants and licensees in services that are licensed by auction, but not for applicants and licensees in other wireless services. As a result, all common carrier services (e.g., cellular) and geographically licensed services (e.g., PCS, LMDS) will be subject to mandatory electronic filing. However, public safety, private land mobile services on shared spectrum, Amateur Radio, GMRS, Ship and Aircraft, and Commercial Radio Operators will have the option of filing electronically or manually.
- Electronic filing in ULS will be mandatory for frequency coordinators regardless of the service, and by volunteer examiner-coordinators (VECs) in the Amateur service.
- These mandatory electronic filing requirements will take effect on July 1, 1999, or six months after the use of ULS in the particular service, whichever is later.
- The Commission took steps to ensure that ULS electronic filing and data programs are accessible to persons with disabilities in compliance with its program accessibility rules and the new requirements of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.
- The Commission adopted requirements for the submission of Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) in ULS consistent with the requirements of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. The Commission stated that all TIN information will be kept confidential.
- The Commission adopted proposals made in WT Docket 96-188 to authorize reciprocal operation by foreign amateur radio licensees by rule, pursuant to recent international reciprocal operating agreements. (Apparently this item means there will be no paper licenses issued rather only an electronic entry in a database.)

For more information on ULS the Commission's ULS web page can be accessed at: <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/>
Thanks to the ARRL Letter, ARRL Bulletin, and other sources.

Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act

On March 27, Representatives Michael Bilirakis (R-FL-9th) and Ron Klink (D-PA-4th) introduced HR 3572,

the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998.

The operational portion of the bill is Section 3 (see below), which, if passed, would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" if the Commission reallocates any primary or secondary Amateur Radio frequencies. You can look up the full text of the bill on the House THOMAS web site at:

[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572:](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572)

Our strategy is very simple - obtain as many House cosponsors as we can before the end of the legislative session and elections later this year. To date we have 68 cosponsors nationally including the following cosponsors in the Pacific Division: Patsy Mink (D-HI-2nd); Tom Campbell (R-CA-15th); John Doolittle (R-CA-4th); Barbara Lee (D-CA- 9th); George Miller (D-CA-7th).

Let's get more of the Pacific Division House Members to be cosponsors! Cosponsors don't vote against their own bills! Here is Section Three:

SEC. 3. FEDERAL POLICY REGARDING REALLOCATION OF AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM.

Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(y) Notwithstanding subsection (c), after July 1, 1998-

- (1) make no reallocation of primary allocations of bands of frequencies of the amateur radio service;*
- (2) not diminish the secondary allocations of bands of frequencies to the amateur radio service; and*
- (3) make no additional allocations within such bands of frequencies that would substantially reduce the utility thereof to the amateur radio service; unless the Commission, at the same time, provides equivalent replacement spectrum to the amateur radio service.*

Summary Other FCC News Items

- Lower fee levels for Vanity Calls: The vanity call sign application fee dropped to \$13 effective September 14, 1998. The new fee will be for the ten-year term, payable at the time of application for a new, renewed, or reinstated license.
- New address for Vanity call applications: Effective September 14, there's a new address at Mellon Bank for vanity call sign paper application filers who submit Form 610V and FCC Fee Remittance Form 159 with the vanity fee via the US Postal Service. The new address is FCC Wireless Bureau Applications, POB 358130, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5130. Electronic Form 610V Vanity Call Sign filers will continue to send Form 159 with the vanity fee to FCC Amateur Vanity, POB 358994, Pittsburgh PA 15251-5994.
- RM 9267, a Petition requesting access to the 70 cm Amateur Band and other non Amateur Radio spectrum was submitted by the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC), released for public comment by FCC on April 30, 1998.

The Comment and Reply Comment periods are over. The National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA), a part of the Department of Commerce, commented that no change to the 70cm allocation should be made. Such a comment must be taken seriously, for the 70cm band has the US government as primary user, and the NTIA acts as the "FCC" for Federal government activities. Several members of LMCC itself also commented to FCC that the 70 cm allocation should not be changed. These events should end this issue, but FCC has not said anything further thus far.

Detailed information on this Petition and Comments are available on the Pacific Division web site, www.pdarrrl.org, and the ARRL web site, www.arrl.org. See also the Editorial on page 9 of July QST.

- RM 9096, a Rule Making affecting the sharing of the 5 GHz band comment period ended on Sept. 14. ARRL and several Pacific Division hams commented in opposition to the ITS America proposal to become a co-primary user of the 5 GHz band. Details are on the ARRL WWW site.

Coming Events

- Livermore Swap Meet - 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, 7:00 AM to noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from the west, 145.35 from the east. Contact Noel Anklam, KC6QZK, (510) 447-3857 eves.

- Foothill Flea Market - 2nd Saturday of each month from March to October at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills.

- Placerville, every third Sunday, 3970 B Missouri Flat Rd #3, Placerville. Talk-in on 146.865 (-) PL 142.2; 440.700 (+) PL 88.5. Hwy 50 East take Missouri Flat off-ramp. Go over Hwy to 2nd light, into shopping center in front of Radio Shack. See <http://www.inforum.net/h&h/radioswap.html>; email jwilson@inforum.net, Jason Wilson KE6BUU.

- Ohlone Elementary School Ham Radio Swap Meet - Hercules, CA - 3rd Sunday through October. Address - 1616 Pheasant Dr, Hercules - from I-80, exit Hercules. Contact: Frank Bianchi, KE6EUA, (510) 799-0889, email at fbianchi@home.com or [www site - http://www.jps.net/ai3x/harc](http://www.jps.net/ai3x/harc).

- The Western States Weak Signal Society and The 50MHz and Up Group are sponsoring the WSWSS '98 Conference on October 3, 1998. It will be held at the Sunnyvale Hilton, Sunnyvale, CA from 9AM to 9PM. The advance fee of \$35 includes lunch. A banquet will be held at 6PM with special speaker Paul, N6TX of SETI. Tickets for the banquet are \$35. For tickets contact Jim Moss, 862 Somerset Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-2223. Call (408) 746-2789 for more info, or email to n9jim@aol.com, or see the web site at <http://www.qsl.net/wb9ajz/wswss98>

- The Amador County ARC First Annual Swap Meet is Saturday, October 10, 1998 at the Jackson (Martell) WALMART. Sale starts at 7 AM. Take Highway 49 to Jackson and turn west on 88 about 1.5 miles...WALMART will be on the left. Coming east on 88, WALMART will be on the right. Call Betty for reservations at 209-296-7685 or email to eahaley@volcano.net

- PACIFICON '98 - Convention sponsored by the Mount Diablo ARC is scheduled for Oct. 16 - 18 at the Airport Sheraton Hotel, Concord, CA. For information call (925) 932-6125; email PACIFICON98@designlink.com; or see the web site at <http://www.mdarc.org>. Mail reservations to PACIFICON'98 PO Box 272613, Concord CA 94527. Obtain hotel reservations at \$76 per night by calling 1-800-325-3535 (mention PACIFICON '98 to get this rate).

Brad Wyatt, K6WR
Director, ARRL Pacific Division

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Pacific Division Web site <http://www.pdarrrl.org>



Newsletter Notes

We have one photo in this issue--the BBS and 440 repeater. One might wonder why the cabinet isn't open to show the rigs or whatever. The shot was taken before that thought had occurred. Unfortunately, there was only one frame left. Once the BBS move is complete, we can try again.

One another topic... Remember I used to ask for articles from the membership and that I felt there wasn't enough of SCCARA in these pages? For some reason things have gone from bad to worse. Aside from the calendar and my articles, the only thing here that has anything to do with SCCARA is Don's note about the December meeting.

Is there something I'm not doing right? This is the SCCARA-GRAM, not the "GARY-GRAM." What can I say to convince some of you to contribute to YOUR club's newsletter? I still have some of those cards for a free one-year subscription to World Radio. Originally, one of those was to be given to the author of the best article each month. Then anyone who contributed an article at all would get one. Obviously, that still wasn't incentive enough. What will it take? Any ideas?

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

December Luncheon Meeting Sign-up

Our annual December christmas meeting will be a luncheon this time; on Saturday December 12, at the Hungry Hunter in Milpitas, Calaveras Blvd just east of Hwy 680 (old yellow house location), we've been there before. Luncheon is at 12 noon. Please note that on Saturday their isn't a regular bar. You will be able to order a bottle of wine for the table.

We will have a choice of three entrees. The regular lunch is \$13 each, children's choices are indicated below. Reservations need to be in by Friday, December 4. Talk-in on our repeater W6UU, 146.385(+). I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Why not renew your membership (back cover) at the same time? -- Don K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es):
From the regular menu, \$13 each:

_____ Prime Ribs of Beef	_____ Chicken Westwood
_____ Grilled Sword Fish	

From the Children's menu:

_____ Deli Burger, \$7.50	_____ Chicken Strips, \$7.50
_____ Fried Shrimp, \$8.75	Total for lunches: \$ _____

Please renew your membership (over) at the same time--combine both payments here -- GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Give this form (or copy) with payment to the Treasurer or mail to: SCCARA PO Box 6 San Jose CA 95103-0006

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, WB6YRU

Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU

Station set-up, equipment: AC6FU, K6PBQ

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

DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR

Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS

FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters): WA6VJY

HF operating techniques (SSB, CW):

WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ

Mobile operating: 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.,
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

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@aenet.net

S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 1999

(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 == _____ PLEASE DO NOT TEAR/CUT ==

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

PO BOX 6
San Jose CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

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