

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 15, Number 5

May 1999



QST from N6PCQ

One of the hardware problems when we try to communicate in crowded or noisy bands has always been that of getting enough selectivity in our receivers to keep out adjacent signals and not too much band-pass to have to wade through random noise (QRN).

We have gone to the trouble of multiple conversion receivers, multistage filters, Crystal-filters, filters at the audio stages but it seems that there will always be a challenge of getting the right mix of data-bandwidth and unwanted signal rejection.

To sum it up, If we know enough about the signal we wish to receive we can build a filter to help us in the detection process (within limits--mother nature in not totally forgiving. hihi)

The silicon valley gave us enormous computing power, cheaply and mathematicians gave us the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) which allows us to compute the required band-pass characteristics on the fly, of signals as they are received.

The Meeting of 10 May we will have Roy Rustin, W6II. Roy first became a ham in 1953 in Illinois and when he came to the Santa Clara Valley in 1972 he was in the Computer business, naturally based on work done in the Semiconductor Industry.

Roy will talk to us about the characteristics of what has been named "Digital Signal Processing." This technology is appearing in most of the top-of-line H.F. systems on the market and I expect that as Electronic costs fall it will become available in lower cost systems.

When I talked to Roy, he may have some comments on the new digital mode of PSK31 (Phase Shift Keyed, 31 bps) for RTTY). Always something new to learn.

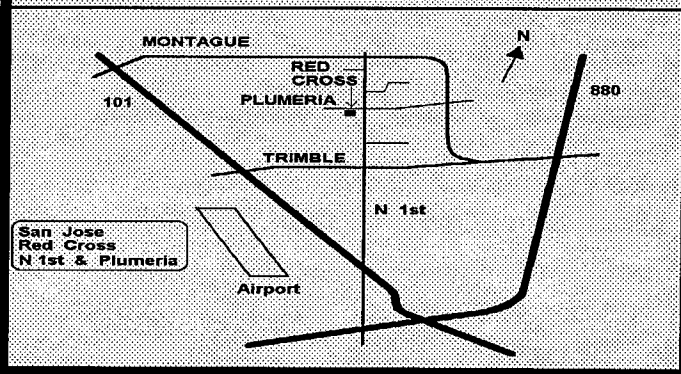
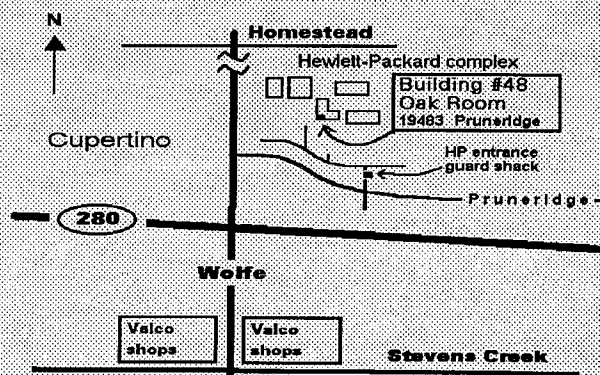
73 bob f. & see you at the meeting.

Calendar

- 5/8 Foothill Flea Market
- 5/10 SCCARA General Meeting
- 5/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

Next General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, May 10, 1999
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Hewlett-Packard's Oak Rm, Bld #48
- Featuring: Roy Rustin, W6II, will talk about digital signal processing.



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, our repeater is W6UU.

Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara>

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

OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF

President	Barbara Britten, KD6QEI	293-3847
Vice President	Bob Forster, N6PCQ	296-5509
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
Facilities	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789

COMMITTEES

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
Field Day	Dan Dietz, WM6M	(831) 430-9650

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.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (just east of down town San Jose). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telephone 408 259-8497, internet (by registration only, get info by sending e-mail to: info@n0ary.org). Sysop: Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, packet: wb6yru@n0ary.nca.ca.usa.noam, e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO: 408 243-8349
ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group: 408 243-8349
me-ae6z@worldnet.att.net

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 12, 1999



7:38 p.m. Meeting called to order by President Barbara, KD6QEI. Self introductions followed as is our custom.

Robert Forester, N6PCQ, began the meeting talking about the Y2K problem.

There was a discussion about getting a secretary and weather that position must be filled by a licensed ham or not.

Barbara, KD6QEI, announced that the field day dinner will be \$11.00 this year, a \$1.00 increase over last year. There will be a pot luck on the Friday of field day. SCCARA has contacted the San Jose Unified School District about setting up the SCCARA radio station.

Robert, N6PCQ, discussed getting a free e-mail address at ARRL. The board members present received a financial statement for 1995. Robert said that we need a mission statement for SCCARA. Barbara needs the budgets from everyone that has a budget.

Gary, WB6YRU, the cost of the newsletter may go down if we mail it first class. There was a discussion of cost cutting and the newsletter.

Barbara wants everyone to bring an activity idea to the next meeting. Lou, WA6QYS, suggests that we send the SCCARA-GRAM to new licensees and we should find a way to promote SCCARA.

Clark, KE6KXO, made a motion to adjourn. Second and passed.

8:54 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Lloyd KD6FJI

Board Meeting, April 19, 1999



Present: Barbara, KD6QEI; Wally, KA6YMD; Robert, N6PCQ; Don, K6PBQ; Lloyd, KD6FJI; Eleanor, (no call); Don, KK6MX; Gary, WB6YRU.

7:53 p.m. Meeting called to order by President Barbara, KD6QEI.

Don, KK6MX, gave \$17.00 to SCCARA, the money that was made from the sale of wall transformer that were donated to SCCARA. Terry Hepner, a vender at the Foothill Flea Market, donated some computer related books and some old computer stuff to SCCARA.

Wally, KA6YMD, said that the City is getting ready to do the antenna work at the vault. Wally also mentioned that We are taking measures to prevent interference to other repeaters on the same frequency.

Gary, WB6YRU, we need to put up an antenna for the 220 MHz backbone. We have the antenna, but it needs to be installed. It was brought to Gary's attention that there is no information about the BBS in the SCCARA-GRAM. Gary will put BBS information in the SCCARA-GRAM.

Treasures report: The bank accounts are expected to move from the Bank of the West to The Union Bank this week.

Barbara, KD6QEI, discussed getting KNTV channel 11 to cover field day. Barbara also wants to have a novice station this year. Dan WM6M, is the Field day chairman. The subject of Field Day food was brought up. \$400 is advanced to Barbara and at the end of field day there is money returned to the treasury.

Gary, WB6YRU, discussed last years financial statement. There were recommendations for bookkeeping procedures.

Don, KK6MX, said that he was offered \$0.40 for the wall transformers (wall warts) by a dealer at the Foothill Flea Market. It was suggested that we try to get \$0.50 for them.

Robert, N6PCQ, said that we need new business cards. There was a discussion of printing the cards ourselves or having a professional do them.

Don, K6PBQ, suggested that we make a calendar of the years events that SCCARA will be participating in for the year.

Motion By Don, KK6MX, to adjourn the meeting. Second and passed. 9:53 p.m. meeting adjourned.

Lloyd KD6FJI

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====

Date: 12 Jan 98 07:20
From: AB7RG@KB7FRV
To: FARCE@USA

Subject: QUOTES # 15 !!!

QUOTES 15:

=====

If you don't have a sense of humor, you don't have any sense at all!

All things considered, insanity may be the only reasonable alternative.

An honest politician: One who stays bought.

"We secretly replaced the Dilithium Crystals with Folger's Crystals..."

Biography: One of the terrors of death.

No one is ever all wrong, and no one is ever all right...

You can't repeat the crime if you are dead from capital punishment.

Dogmatism: Full grown Puppism.

I saw Elvis! He sat between me and bigfoot in the UFO.

Tumbleweed: Arizona Tribble.

Those who fail to repeat history are doomed to study it.

Psychic Convention: You know the time. You know the date.

I researched my family tree, and guess what? I don't exist!

Difficulty lies not in new ideas, but rather in giving up the old ones.

I'm not paranoid. That's just a rumor spread by my enemies...

I feel much better since I gave up all hope.

I tried to be subjective, but truth got in the way.

Ingeniously engineered: Incredibly difficult to install and service.

I'm not cynical, just experienced.

If you can't laugh at yourself, try laughing at others.

The right tools can turn ANY rental car into a convertible!

Red meat isn't bad for you, fuzzy green meat is.

Today is the tomorrow that we worried about yesterday.

Just because you think I'm telepathic doesn't mean that I am. Oops...

TV Truth: The murderer always hides in the backseat.

The Few. The Proud. The Registered.

Bacteria is the only culture that some people will ever have.

73 & May the FARCE be with you! Clinton,
AB7RG @ KB7FRV.AZ.USA.NOAM

=====

Date: 27 Mar 94 15:31

From: N0QMQ@K0JJV

To: HUMOR@USA

Subject: PLUMBERS & PIPE FITTERS

General information about pipes and fittings

1. All pipe is to be made of a long hole, surrounded by metal or plastic product concentric with the hole.
2. All pipe is to be hollow throughout the entire length.
3. The O.D. Of the pipe must exceed the I.D. Otherwise the hole will be on the outside.
4. All pipe is to be supplied without rust or corrosion as this can more readily be put on at the job site.
5. Acid-proff pipe must be manufactured of acid-proff materials.
6. All pipe over 100 feet long must have the words "long pipe" clearly painted on each end so that the fitter will know that it is long pipe.
7. Pipe over two miles long must have the words "long pipe" painted in the middle so that the fitter will not have to walk the full length of the pipe to determine if it is a long pipe or not.
8. Pipe over 6 inches I.D. Must have the words "large pipe" painted on it so that the fitter will not use it for small pipe.
9. All pipe closure's are to be open on one end or the other, not both.
10. All pipe fittings are to be made of the same stuff as the pipe.

11. Fittings come in all sorts of sizes and shapes. Be sure to specify the direction you are going when ordering.

12. No fitting shall be put on a pipe unless specified otherwise, straight pipe will become crooked pipe.

13. Flanges must be used on all pipe if fittings are not used. Flanges must have holes for bolts, quite separate from the big hole in the middle.

I picked this up while attending a water and wastewater treatment class. After reading it I thought you might enjoy it to.

Thanks for reading it and 73, de bob N0QMQ

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):

KO6HH, 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

Newsletter Notes

The club membership has been dropping in recent years. Enough so that we may switch to first-class postage on the *SCCARA-GRAM* to save money. This might sound contradictory, but it's true. There is a 200 piece minimum in order to use bulk-mail. Since we don't have 200 members, the rest is made up by sending issues to other clubs (we get their newsletters too) and certain others. That extra count not only acts to reduce the bulk-mail savings, but we need to print more newsletters. Although we'd pay more on postage by switching to first class, we could save money by paying much less on coping costs.

Of course, we wouldn't want to do this if it seems membership is going up. Another idea mentioned at the last meeting was that we could obtain the addresses of new amateurs and send them a complimentary newsletter.

If anyone has any comments or ideas about any of this, please mention it to me or any board member.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

News from the ARRL

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 2, 1999

ARRL REBUTS ARGUMENTS IN LF PROCEEDING

The ARRL has rebutted assertions that amateur LF allocations at 136 and 160 kHz could lead to interference with utility-operated power line carrier (PLC) systems. The unallocated and unlicensed Part 15 PLC systems are used by

electric utilities to send control signals, data and voice. At the same time, the League urged the FCC to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to open the LF bands up to amateurs.

Last October, the League petitioned the FCC to create low-frequency Amateur Radio allocations at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and 160 to 190 kHz. The ARRL proposed a maximum power level of 2 W effective isotropic radiated power. The utilities' PLCs operate between 10 and 490 kHz.

The comments in question--from four parties including Commonwealth Edison and ComEd employee Mark Simon--arrived at the FCC well beyond the December 23, 1998, comment and the January 7, 1999, reply comment deadlines. They also appear to be the only comments filed on behalf of the power industry.

The League has requested that the FCC strike the late-filed comments from the official record. But the ARRL also rebutted their substance in the event the FCC decides to accept them anyway.

The League debunked Simon's suggestion that ham interference could lead to dire consequences to unlicensed PLC systems and even lead to power outages. The League said Simon fails to explain why a marginal-level amateur signal would cause problems "where loud static crashes in the same bands do not." The League said PLC systems already have been shown to operate effectively "in an environment of extremely high power government stations using thousands of watts of EIRP."

The League also took ComEd to task for suggesting that hams be obliged to protect PLC systems against interference. The ARRL pointed out that PLCs have "no incumbent allocation status" and are not entitled to protection from licensed systems. An ARRL technical analysis submitted last fall indicated that amateur interference to PLCs was unlikely.

The League suggested that the utilities make available an industry database of PLC operating parameters that hams could consult as a guide to avoid interference and said it remains willing to address any interference cases that might arise. The ARRL urged the FCC to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the ARRL's request "without further delay."

AMSAT-FRANCE DISTANCES ITSELF FROM SPUTNIK

AMSAT-France wants to put some distance between itself and the latest, soon-to-be-launched mini-Sputnik satellite, which reportedly will transmit messages on behalf of a Swiss watchmaker Swatch. In a statement March 29, AMSAT-France President Bernard Pidoux, F6BVP, also called off future involvement with Russia in the educational venture.

At the center of the controversy is the nature of the messages that AMSAT-France says that Russian space authorities programmed on the satellite, expected to be launched sometime this month during a space walk by Mir cosmonauts. AMSAT-France's Gerard Auvray, F6FAO, says the new Sputnik-99 satellite will carry a 100-mW transmitter and have an expected battery life of 30 days. It will be able to transmit up to 10 different voice messages in addition to digital messages and telemetry. Data will include battery voltage and internal temperature.

AMSAT-Russia, with help from the Russian Space Flight Control Center (SCSC), had contracted with AMSAT-France last December to design and fabricate an RF module and electronics for another mini-Sputnik similar to the RS-17 and RS-18 satellites. Under the agreement, AMSAT-Russia was responsible for building the satellite frame, integrating the electronics, and programming the messages the satellite would transmit, Pidoux said.

Pidoux said AMSAT-France later found out that the SCSC had made a separate commercial contract with the Swatch watch company to put its messages on the satellite. AMSAT-France protested, citing contract provisions prohibiting "direct advertising" on the air.

"This company wanted to call the satellite 'Beatnik' and to send voice and HTML messages about Internet Beat time," Pidoux said in a posting to the AMSAT reflector. Swatch has been soliciting product-related voice and text messages via its Web site for a so-called "Beatnik Mission" satellite. The company says that, once in orbit the satellite will transmit a selection of these messages "to a worldwide audience (and beyond . . .)" between 145.800 and 146 MHz.

Pidoux said AMSAT-France was unsuccessful in breaking the agreement and subsequently made good on its part of the contract, to avoid a lawsuit.

Pidoux apologized for the situation and called on AMSAT organizations to refrain from describing the contents of the satellite's messages and to discourage listening "to this nonamateur-compliant satellite using our amateur band." He also asked that the Keplerian elements not be published by AMSAT. He said AMSAT-France is developing its own educational amateur satellite project with the help of French schools.

HAARP LISTENING TESTS GO OFF WITH A HITCH

HAARP was heard round the world the last weekend in March, but a few glitches injected a little intrigue to the research facility's 1999 listening test. The test on 6.99 and 3.39 MHz from the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Facility in Gakona, Alaska, was conducted March 26 and 27. Those who tuned in the first day to copy the test signals and CW message encountered what sounded like either severe

multipathing or deliberate interference. Some listeners were convinced that another station was sending CW right on top of the HAARP signal.

It proved to be a false alarm, however. The first-day "interference" turned out to be largely related to apparent technical problems with a little multipathing thrown in, according to HAARP Technical Manager Ed Kennedy, K3NS. HAARP is still looking into the matter, but Kennedy said it now appears that while some transmitters were being keyed properly, others were not being keyed at all. "The net effect was not only a change in transmitted power between on and off, but also a pattern change," Kennedy explained.

Kennedy said the keying problem combined with auroral multipath to produce CW that was intelligible to some listeners and with quite a bit of multipath to others. The problem seemed to be most severe for stations in the Northeast. Some stations in the western US were able to copy the complete CW message. On the March 27 test, the same situation existed during the 6.99 MHz call-up only, Kennedy said, but it was corrected immediately.

The announced plan also had called for some antenna-pattern "tapering" during the carrier signal-measurement periods on 6.99 MHz. It appears that might not have happened on the first day either. This also was fixed on Day 2, Kennedy says.

HAARP's plan had called for directing the array's main lobe vertically, which meant that anyone outside of Alaska heard the HAARP transmissions by virtue of one of the antenna pattern's sidelobes. Just which pattern or patterns were employed is not yet clear, and not all listeners noticed the tapering effects, although some reported dramatic differences in signal strength. Total power output was in the vicinity of 400 kW, about half-power for the present HAARP facility.

Kennedy says HAARP is still analyzing the results and reports that he plans to post some "quite detailed measurements" on the HAARP 1999 Listening Test Results Web site.

HAARP's huge signals literally were heard on the other side of the world. "Your signal on 3390 was very weak, and I had to use a narrow filter to be able to read your carrier and signals," reported Tony Magon, VK2IC, in Sydney, Australia. Stateside reports--many from hams--flowed in from Arizona, Michigan, Connecticut, Florida, Missouri, Maryland, and elsewhere.

Reception reports for the 1999 test are welcome. HAARP will provide an attractive QSL card only in response to listener reports mailed to High Frequency Active Auroral Research Facility, PO Box 271, Gakona, AK 99586.

HAARP is managed by the US Air Force and the US Navy. For more information, see "The High Frequency Active

Auroral Research Program" (QST, Sep 1996, p 33) or visit the HAARP Web site, <http://w3.nrl.navy.mil/haarp.html>

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 9, 1999

SWATCH INSISTS "BEATNIK" MESSAGES "NOT ADVERTISING"

The CEO of the Swatch Group Ltd says messages to be transmitted on 2 meters by the soon-to-be-launched Sputnik-99 satellite are "not advertising" but part of the watchmaker's campaign to institute the "Swatch beat" as an international unit of time measurement. Replying to the League's suggestion to scrap the launch, Swatch Group CEO Nicolas E. Hayek said if anyone profits from the so-called "Beatnik mission" satellite, it will be the Amateur Radio community "who will gain much more recognition worldwide for their important work."

On April 7, League Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, suggested that Swatch cancel the launch of the so-called "Beatnik" satellite and use a commercial satellite for its project instead. "The Amateur Radio community must stand against the 'Beatnik' satellite because it represents such an undesirable precedent," Sumner said. He cited international regulations defining the Amateur Service as one engaged in by "duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest."

In his faxed reply April 8, Hayek indicated the company planned to go ahead with the mission, despite the League's entreaty and numerous complaints from within the amateur community. He said the more than 400 messages programmed into the mini-Sputnik are not to advertise the company's products but to promote the company's concept to "improve time coordination in a separate and new way between all parts on Earth"--something, he said, that should interest hams.

An increasing number of voices within the amateur community have been raised in protest against plans for the "Beatnik mission." Rob Carlson, KC2AEI, has opened a "Swatch Protest and Boycott" site on the Internet at <http://wmbc.umbc.edu/rob/swatch-protest/> to collect opinions and as a clearing house for information on the topic.

Acknowledging "negative reactions from a few radio amateurs regarding the Swatch beatnik satellite project," Hayek said Swatch has received many more positive ones from "other interested users." Some of the e-mail messages are posted on the company's Web site, <http://www.swatch.com/beatnik/frameset.html>. Swatch also has opened an e-mail comment box on its Web site to gather opinions on "Should we send your messages into space?"

Swatch solicited more than 5000 messages via its Web site, including voice and text files, for possible transmission on the new satellite. Messages selected for use were supposed to include a reference to the "beat" theme.

Hayek said he planned to again review with Swatch management "what can be possibly done without jeopardizing the aims of the mission" while also not offending amateurs, and invited continuing dialogue with the League. Sumner expressed disappointment that Swatch has not yet decided to change course, but he welcomed the opportunity for further dialogue.

AMSAT-France, which contracted with AMSAT-Russia to build the electronics for the soon-to-be-launched mini-Sputnik, has since distanced itself from the project and apologized for its involvement. AMSAT-Russia President Eugene Labutin, RA3APR, also has apologized, saying the arrangements with Swatch were made without AMSAT-Russia's knowledge.

The new Sputnik-99 satellite arrived on Mir aboard a Progress rocket April 4 and is tentatively set for launch April 16 during a space walk by the Russian Mir crew. It will carry a 100-mW transmitter and transmit on or about 145.815 MHz. The satellite will have an approximately 30-day life span.

FCC OFFICIAL SATS OO's REALLY ARE "OFFICIAL"

The FCC's top amateur enforcer, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says that hams who receive notices from ARRL Official Observers (OO) should take them seriously or take the consequences. "Failure to take the notices seriously and to take corrective action where possible will not be tolerated by the Commission," Hollingsworth said in an enforcement-related letter to a South Carolina amateur. "The volunteer work of these Official Observers is a critical element of the Commission's enforcement program," he said, adding that failure to act on an OO notice could lead to fines and other sanctions.

Hollingsworth's comments were contained in an April 7 station-inspection follow-up letter to Richard Whiten, WB2OTK, of Easley, South Carolina. Hollingsworth and an FCC engineering team visited Whiten's station on January 22 after what Hollingsworth called "longstanding complaints" about the operation of Whiten's station. Whiten reportedly cooperated in the station inspection. According to the FCC letter, the Commission has received "numerous complaints" about Whiten "regarding profanity, obscenity, broadcasting extreme racial slurs, deliberate interference and failure to properly identify." Hollingsworth also said he'd heard complaints that Whiten had played recordings over the air "for the purpose of harassment or deliberate interference."

Hollingsworth noted that Whiten had "apparently ignored

notices from Official Observers," and pointed out that the volunteer OOs work "in accordance with an agreement between the Commission and the ARRL and in accordance with our statutory authority."

"One thing I have really picked up as I travel around to groups is the frustration of the OOs," Hollingsworth told the League this week. "We're going to correct that, pure and simple."

In his letter, he told Whiten that, although the FCC considers hams to be self-policing, "the success of that regulatory approach depends upon the adherence to notices of possible improper operation from other licensed amateurs who are recognized Official Observers." The FCC asked Whiten to list all notices from OOs he has received since the start of his license term on September 27, 1994, and any corrective actions taken in response.

The FCC also set aside a February 10, 1999, grant of the vanity call sign W2OTK to Whiten and said his license expiration date remains October 15, 2001.

Hollingsworth also took advantage of the opportunity provided by his letter to Whiten to spell out the FCC's position on obscene and indecent Amateur Radio transmissions. "Obscene speech is not protected by the First Amendment and cannot be broadcast at any time," he advised. Indecent speech also is not protected between 6 AM and 10 PM, in accordance with the so-called "safe harbor" policy the FCC uses with commercial broadcasters.

Hollingsworth said that while FCC personnel did not notice any technical violations during their January inspection, they did have "serious concerns" about a linear amplifier under construction that was capable of greater than legal output. Hollingsworth asked Whiten to provide details of the amplifier and how it's been used.

Hollingsworth also told Whiten he would be forwarding, under separate cover, tape recordings made of Whiten's transmissions last November on 20 meters. "You will be requested to provide a full explanation for those radio transmissions," he wrote.

"No decisions have been made yet in this case," Hollingsworth told the League. "We're still seeking information."

FCC ISSUES STRENGTHENED SCANNER RULES

The FCC has amended its rules to strengthen existing prohibitions on scanning receivers that can receive cellular telephone transmissions. While the new rules contain specific exemptions for the Amateur Service, they will have important ramifications for the manufacture of new Amateur Radio equipment that scans frequencies outside the ham bands.

The new rules--released March 31 in a Report and Order--broaden the definition of a scanning receiver to include receivers that automatically switch among two or more frequencies between 30 and 960 MHz that can stop at and receive a detected signal. Still exempted are receivers designed solely for operation as a part of a licensed station. In response to an ARRL request, the FCC clarified that the rules do not apply to Amateur Service receivers unless they cover frequencies outside the ham bands.

The FCC also widened its definition of "test equipment" exempted from the cellular reception restriction. The adopted definition defines test equipment by function, rather than by end user as proposed, thus permitting sale to the general public.

Receivers that allow reception of cellular frequencies because of their poor image response would be illegal under the new rules. As it proposed, the Commission adopted a 38 dB rejection standard for signals in the cellular bands "for any frequency to which the receiver can be tuned."

The FCC abandoned a proposal to require manufacturers to limit reception of cellular service frequencies by "direct pickup" through the cabinet. The FCC also backed away from a proposal that could have required epoxy potting and nonremovable components to prevent scanner modification. The League had argued that this could raise the cost of buying and repairing equipment and could preclude ham gear modification for CAP and MARS or for experimental purposes.

The FCC adopted a more generalized requirement that receivers be designed so that tuning, control circuits, and filtering be inaccessible, and that any attempted modifications render the receiver inoperative.

The new FCC rules also prohibit modification of scanning receivers as a business or on an ongoing basis "regardless of the date of manufacture or number of units modified." The Commission also said modification of any scanning receiver is prohibited and invalidates the equipment authorization. New, permanent labels on scanning receivers also will be required.

Kits for scanning receivers would be treated the same as assembled equipment. The League plans to look closely at this provision to make sure it will not prevent amateur manufacturers from producing legitimate transverting equipment.

The new rules become effective due 30 days after their publication in The Federal Register, but the FCC said it will include "transitional provisions" in its rules. A copy of the Report and Order is available on the ARRL Web site at <http://www2.arrl.org/announce/et98-RandO.html>

BROADCASTER FINED FOR SIGNAL AT 160 METERS

Broadcast station fined for 160-meter spurious: An AM station in Florida was fined \$7000 by the FCC for various technical violations including radiating an excessive signal on 1909 kHz--in the JA DX window. WINV in Inverness also was cited for EAS deficiencies and for not having its public file available. Well-known Georgia Top Band operator Tom Rauch, W8JI, had noticed the spurious on 1909 and contacted the station. "After four unsuccessful attempts to get them to correct the problem, their switchboard operator said, 'If we are bothering you way up in Georgia, why don't you just call the FCC and quit calling us?'" Rauch said "Just to be helpful, I did exactly what she asked!" He said it took the FCC just a week to visit the station following his complaint. "It's great to see the FCC is back in business!" he said.

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 16, 1999

SWATCH AWKWARD RETREAT: SPUTNIK WON'T FLY

Swatch Watch says the "Beatnik" satellite will not be sent into space today from the Russian Mir space station as planned. The watchmaker says "a virtual Beatnik" will carry the messages in cyberspace instead and invited "Beat" fans to "stay tuned and join the first cybermission!"

At the same time, both the Associated Press and Reuters are reporting that a satellite was launched by hand from Mir during a space walk by ESA astronaut Jean-Pierre Haignere, FX0STB, and Russian cosmonaut Viktor Afanasyev. If the reports are accurate, it's not clear whether the satellite launched was the planned "Beatnik" spacecraft or a spare mini-Sputnik that's been aboard Mir since 1997. Reuters said the satellite was one "built by French amateur radio enthusiasts." The report quotes Russian space center spokeswoman Vera Medvedkova as saying, "It is finished. They launched the satellite."

AP said the satellite put into space was one "made by Russian and French schoolchildren" that contained "a recording of their voices." The spare mini-Sputnik aboard Mir--a duplicate of the one launched in 1997 to mark the 40th anniversary of the original Sputnik--is believed to contain only a 2-meter beacon transmitter.

As of April 16, there have been no monitoring reports.

Swatch announced early April 16 on its Web site, <http://www.swatch.com/beatnik/frameset.html>, that the controversial messages the satellite was to have transmitted on the 2-meter amateur band would instead be read by a Russian cosmonaut aboard Mir during an April 22 videoconference, to be broadcast via the Internet.

The controversial messages, gathered via the Swatch Web site, related to the Swatch company's campaign to establish the "Swatch Beat" as a new "global concept of time." Swatch had solicited more than 5000 messages--including voice and text files--for possible transmission on the new satellite. Messages selected for use were supposed to include a reference to the "beat" theme.

But Amateur Radio operators around the world, citing international regulations, protested the plans because of their commercial connection.

Swatch pinned the blame for cancellation of its Beatnik satellite on the recent failure of the Luch 1/Gelios satellite the Mir crew uses for communication with Earth. "Swatch has decided to assist the Spaceflight Control Centre and donate the batteries supporting the Beatnik satellite to the Mir cosmonauts, thus canceling the possibility of any radio transmission from space," Swatch said in a brief statement on its Web site.

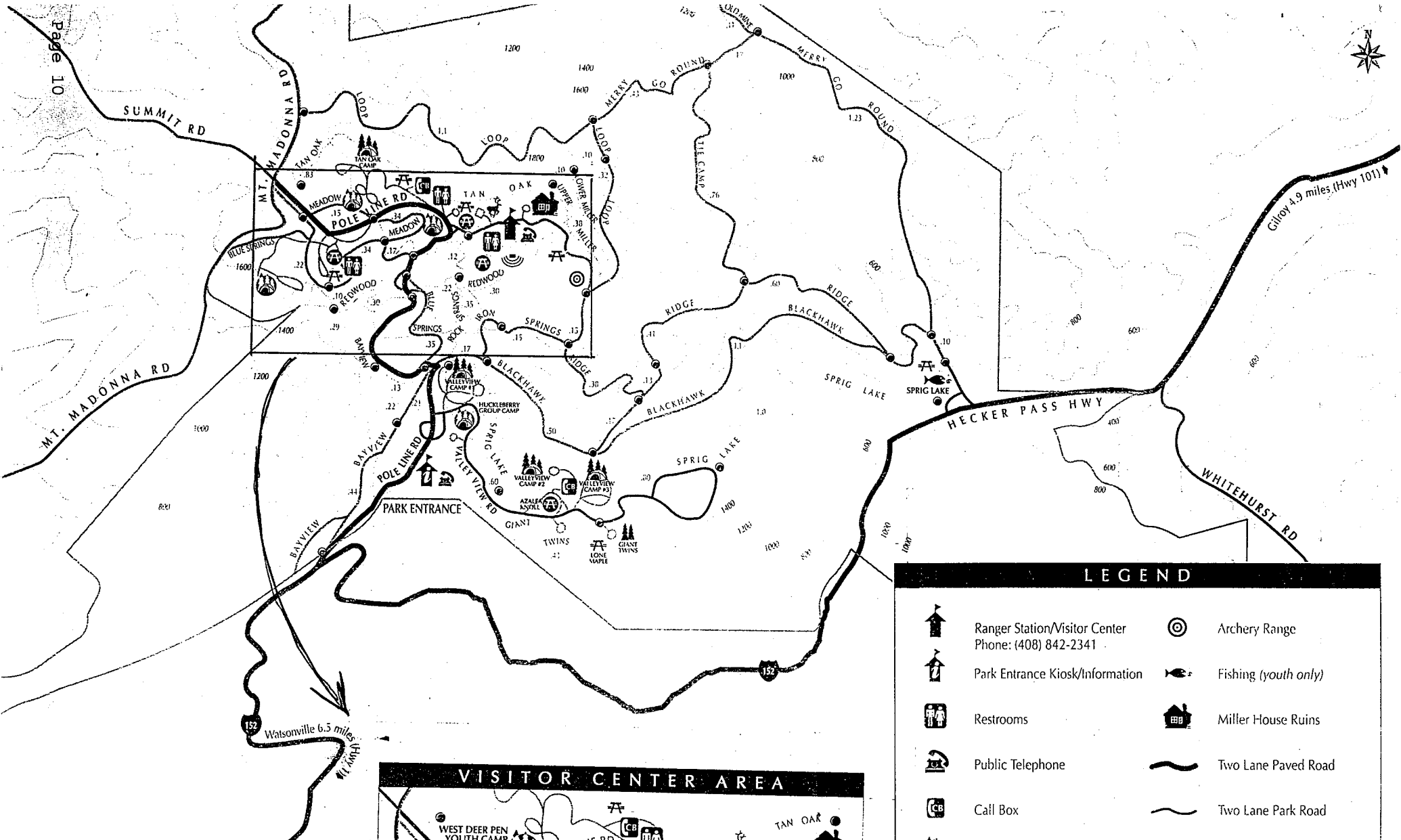
Full-page Swatch ads in today's New York Times and Los Angeles Times to announce the change in plans expand on the battery swap explanation. According to the Times ads, cosmonauts will use the batteries to run an onboard printer "which is the lifeline to earth through which the Cosmonauts receive their daily instructions and key operations points."

The Luch-1/Gelios, the only geostationary satellite available for Mir communications, suffered a technical failure April 12. Just how the nonrechargeable batteries now in the mini-Sputnik aboard Mir would remedy the Luch-1/Gelios satellite failure was unclear from the Swatch posting.

The ARRL weighed into the Beatnik satellite controversy April 7 by suggesting to Swatch Group CEO Nicolas E. Hayek that the Swiss firm cancel the launch and use a commercial satellite for its project instead. Sumner noted that international regulations define the amateur service as one engaged in by "duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest."

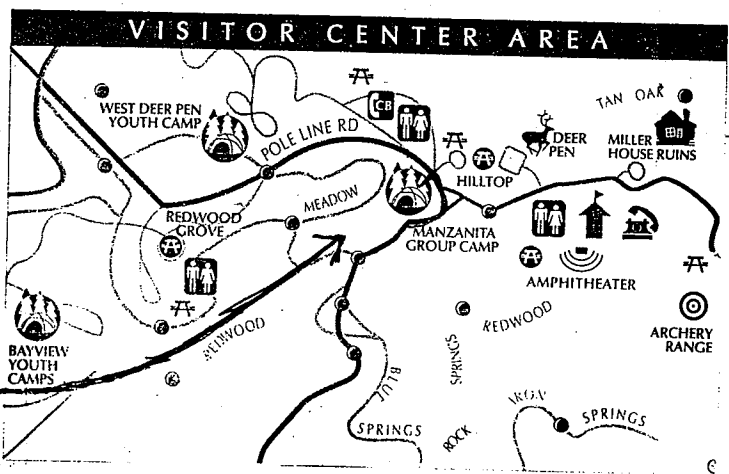
Although Swatch asserted the messages were not advertising, Sumner pointed out to Hayek that the commercial nature of the arrangements to transmit the messages on amateur frequencies was contrary to international law. "I think this was a new thought to him, frankly, because this is not the way they had been viewing it," Sumner said.

It's not yet known what will become of the mini-Sputnik itself. The satellite had arrived on Mir aboard a Progress rocket April 4 and was set for launch April 16 during a space walk.



Enter the Manzanita
camp area at the upper
right.

WE WILL BE HERE



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---------------------------|
| | Ranger Station/Visitor Center
Phone: (408) 842-2341 | | Archery Range |
| | Park Entrance Kiosk/Information | | Fishing (youth only) |
| | Restrooms | | Miller House Ruins |
| | Public Telephone | | Two Lane Paved Road |
| | Call Box | | Two Lane Park Road |
| | Reserved Campground | | One Lane Paved Road |
| | Campground | | Equestrian/Hiking Trail |
| | Reserved Group Picnic Area | | Footpath (hiking only) |
| | Picnic Area | | Elevation Contours (feet) |
| | Amphitheater | | Trail Distance (miles) |

Field Day is coming up!

1999 Field Day contest weekend is June 26 & 27. Mark your calendars!

For those who are new to Field Day or amateur radio: Field Day is one of the biggest radio contests of the year. The underlying idea is to give amateurs practice making contacts under disaster conditions. This means the participants are encouraged to set up and operate portable stations powered by something other than PG&E. You can operate at home, but it's better (worth more points) to "setup shop" elsewhere. For the past several years we have been going up to Mt. Madonna County Park (Southern end of the county). We usually have a variety of stations and antennas. The stations have included phone, CW, digital, novice, solar, VHF, etc. The antennas have been: beams on towers (one is a sizable crank-up on a specially made trailer), a long wire, and miscellaneous dipoles and verticals. The more exotic the power source, the better. We usually use batteries, generators, and solar cells. We operate under a classification where several transceivers are on the air at one time. We are allowed a certain amount of time to set up--that's why some of us go up Friday afternoon. 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 SCCARA Field Day weekend will again be held at Mt. Madonna County Park on June 26 & 27. Anyone who joins the set-up group going up on Friday, June 25 and stays through Sunday, helping with both setup and tear-down, will be able to stay for free. All others need to pay the camping fee of \$8.00 per night per vehicle. Those who won't be staying overnight will be responsible for paying the "day use" fee themselves at the Park entrance. Dan WM6M is the 1999 Field Day Committee Chairman. If you would like to get more involved, contact Dan by phone: 831 430-9650 or e-mail: dand@mrbattery.com.

The set-up group plans to meet for lunch on Friday, June 25 around 1 PM at Carl's Jr. at Branham and Almaden. We then take off in a convoy to Mt. Madonna, chatting along the way (this by itself is kind of fun). We'll be on our repeater 146.385(+), switching to simplex once we get into the mountains. Anyone may join the set-up group.

The club will be serving a BBQ dinner at 1:00 PM on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning. The Saturday dinner will be your choice of steak or chicken, plus all the "fix'ns." Please indicate your choice on this sign up sheet. The cost of the dinner is \$11 per person and the Sunday breakfast is \$5 per person. You must pay for these meals in advance so we'll know how much food to buy--Monday, June 21 is the cutoff date (Board meeting). All other meals are pot-luck (nobody goes hungry) or fend for yourself if you wish. (Barbara will be bringing CDF Chili again...very popular.)

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 set-up group going up Friday, then help tear-down Sunday.

_____ Saturday steak dinner(s) @ \$11.00 / person: \$ _____

_____ Saturday chicken dinner(s) @ \$11.00 / person: \$ _____

_____ Sunday breakfast(s) @ \$5.00 / person: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please fill out this sign up sheet (or copy) and get it to Barbara by Monday, June 21. Deliver it by hand at the next club meeting or mail it with your check (payable to SCCARA) to:

Barbara Britten, KD6QEI 585 S 14th ST San Jose CA 95112

Any questions? Call Barbara KD6QEI at 408 293-3847 or Dan WM6M at 831 430-9650.

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

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